

More Recurrences

David Kauchak
cs140
Spring 2024



1

Administrative

Group sessions

Assignment 1



2

Recurrence

A function that is defined with respect to itself on smaller inputs

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$$

$$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n$$

$$T(n) = 2T(n-1) + n^2$$



3

The challenge

Recurrences are often easy to define because they mimic the structure of the program

But... they do not directly express the computational cost, i.e. n , n^2 , ...

We want to remove self-recurrence and find a more understandable form for the function



4

Three approaches

Substitution method: when you have a good guess of the solution, prove that it's correct

Recursion-tree method: If you don't have a good guess, the recursion tree can help. Then solve with substitution method.

Master method: Provides solutions for recurrences of the form:

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

5

Recursion Tree

Guessing the answer can be difficult

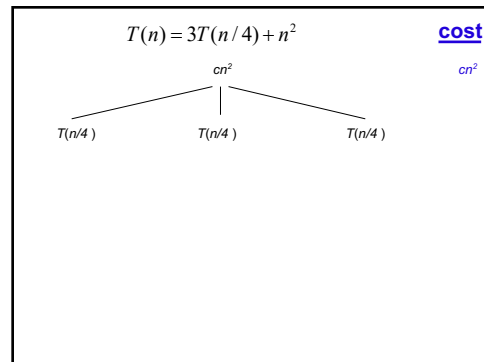
$$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n^2$$

$$T(n) = T(n/3) + 2T(2n/3) + cn$$

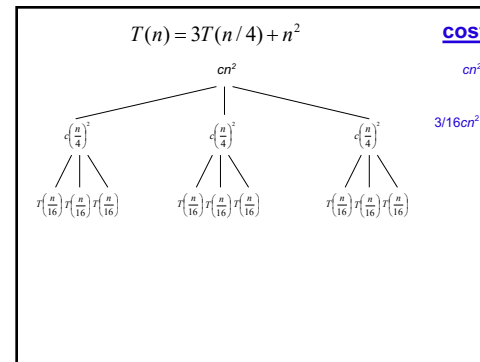
The recursion tree approach

- Draw out the cost of the tree at each level of recursion
- Sum up the cost of the levels of the tree
- Find the cost of each level with respect to the depth
- Figure out the depth of the tree
- Figure out (or bound) the number of leaves
- Verify your answer using the substitution method

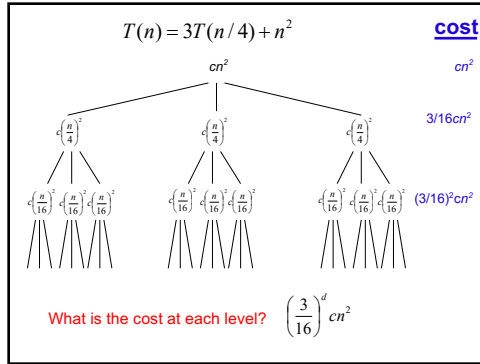
12



13



14



15

What is the depth of the tree?

At each level, the size of the data is divided by 4

$$\frac{n}{4^d} = 1$$

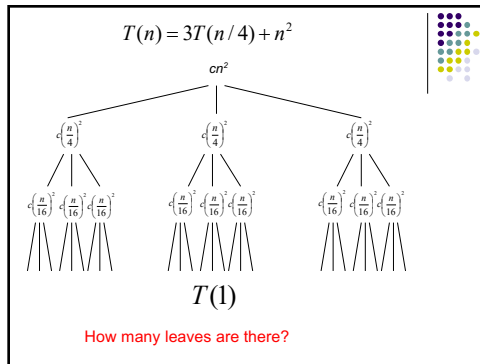
$$\log\left(\frac{n}{4^d}\right) = 0$$

$$\log n - \log 4^d = 0$$

$$d \log 4 = \log n$$

$$d = \log_4 n$$

16



17

How many leaves?

How many leaves are there in a complete ternary tree of depth d ?

$$3^d = 3^{\log_4 n}$$

18

Total cost

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= cn^2 + \frac{3}{16}cn^2 + \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^2 cn^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^{d-1} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &= cn^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 1} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &< cn^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 1} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 - (3/16)} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &= \frac{16}{13} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \quad ?
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^i = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

let $x = 3/16$

19

Total cost $T(n) = \frac{16}{13}cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n})$

$$\begin{aligned}
 3^{\log_4 n} &= 4^{\log_4 3^{\log_4 n}} \\
 &= 4^{\log_4 n \log_4 3} \\
 &= 4^{\log_4 n^{\log_4 3}} \\
 &= n^{\log_4 3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Assignment 0!

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= \frac{16}{13}cn^2 + \Theta(n^{\log_4 3}) \\
 T(n) &= O(n^2) \quad \star
 \end{aligned}$$

20

Recursion tree

If you went through the exact calculation (like we just did), you can be done!

Often, this isn't feasible (or desirable)

Instead, use the recursion tree to get a good guess

21

Verify solution using substitution

$$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n^2$$

Assume $T(k) = O(k^2)$ for all $k < n$
 Show that $T(n) = O(n^2)$

Given that $T(n/4) = O((n/4)^2)$, then

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$T(n/4) \leq c(n/4)^2$$

22

$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n^2$

To prove that Show that $T(n) = O(n^2)$ we need to identify the appropriate constants:

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. some constant c such that $T(n) \leq cn^2$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 3T(n/4) + n^2 \\ &\leq 3c(n/4)^2 + n^2 \\ &= cn^2 \cdot 3/16 + n^2 \\ &= cn^2 - cn^2 \cdot \frac{13}{16} + n^2 \quad \text{residual} \end{aligned}$$

a constant exists if $-cn^2 \cdot \frac{13}{16} + n^2 \leq 0$

23

$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n^2$

To prove that Show that $T(n) = O(n^2)$ we need to identify the appropriate constants:

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. some constant c such that $T(n) \leq cn^2$

$$\begin{aligned} -cn^2 * \frac{13}{16} + n^2 &\leq 0 \\ cn^2 * \frac{13}{16} &\geq n^2 \\ c &\geq \frac{16}{13} \end{aligned}$$

24

Master Method

Provides solutions to the recurrences of the form:

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

25


$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 16 & n^{\log_b a} &= n^{\log_4 16} \\ b &= 4 & &= n^2 \\ f(n) &= n & & \end{aligned}$$

is $n = O(n^{2-\epsilon})$?
 is $n = \Theta(n^2)$? **Case 1: $\Theta(n^2)$**
 is $n = \Omega(n^{2+\epsilon})$?

26




$$T(n) = T(n/2) + 2^n$$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$a = 1$ $n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 1}$
 $b = 2$ $= n^0$
 $f(n) = 2^n$ $= n^0$

is $2^n = O(n^{0-\epsilon})$? **Case 3?**
 is $2^n = \Theta(n^0)$? is $2^{n/2} \leq c2^n$ for $c < 1$?
 is $2^n = \Omega(n^{0+\epsilon})$?

27




$$T(n) = T(n/2) + 2^n$$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

is $2^{n/2} \leq c2^n$ for $c < 1$?

Let $c = 1/2$
 $2^{n/2} \leq (1/2)2^n$
 $2^{n/2} \leq 2^{-1}2^n$ **$T(n) = \Theta(2^n)$**
 $2^{n/2} \leq 2^{n-1}$

28




$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$a = 2$ $n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 2}$
 $b = 2$ $= n^1$
 $f(n) = n$ $= n^1$

is $n = O(n^{1-\epsilon})$?
 is $n = \Theta(n^1)$? **Case 2: $\Theta(n \log n)$**
 is $n = \Omega(n^{1+\epsilon})$?

29



$$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n!$$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$a = 16$ $n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_4 16}$
 $b = 4$ $= n^2$
 $f(n) = n!$ $= n^2$

is $n! = O(n^{2-\epsilon})$? **Case 3?**
 is $n! = \Theta(n^2)$? is $16(n/4)! \leq cn!$ for $c < 1$?
 is $n! = \Omega(n^{2+\epsilon})$?

30

$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n!$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

is $16(n/4)! \leq cn!$ for $c < 1$?

Let $c = 1/2$
 $cn! = 1/2n!$
 $> (n/2)!$

therefore,
 $16(n/4)! \leq (n/2)! < 1/2n!$

$T(n) = \Theta(n!)$

31

$T(n) = \sqrt{2}T(n/2) + \log n$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$a = \sqrt{2}$
 $b = 2$
 $f(n) = \log n$

$n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 \sqrt{2}}$
 $= n^{\log_2 2^{1/2}}$
 $= \sqrt{n}$

is $\log n = O(n^{1/2 - \epsilon})$?
 is $\log n = \Theta(n^{1/2})$? **Case 1: $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$**
 is $\log n = \Omega(n^{1/2 + \epsilon})$?

32

$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$a = 4$
 $b = 2$
 $f(n) = n$

$n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 4}$
 $= n^2$

is $n = O(n^{2 - \epsilon})$?
 is $n = \Theta(n^2)$? **Case 1: $\Theta(n^2)$**
 is $n = \Omega(n^{2 + \epsilon})$?

33

Recurrences

$T(n) = 2T(n/3) + d$ $T(n) = 7T(n/7) + n$

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$T(n) = T(n-1) + \log n$ $T(n) = 8T(n/2) + n^3$

34

Why does the master method work?

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

35

What is the depth of the tree?

At each level, the size of the data is divided by b

$$\frac{n}{b^d} = 1$$

$$\log\left(\frac{n}{b^d}\right) = 0$$

$$\log n - \log b^d = 0$$

$$d \log b = \log n$$

$$d = \log_b n$$

36

How many leaves?

How many leaves are there in a complete a -ary tree of depth d ?

$$a^d = a^{\log_b n}$$

$$= n^{\log_b a}$$

37

Total cost

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$T(n) = cf(n) + af(n/b) + a^2f(n/b^2) + \dots + a^{d-1}f(n/b^{d-1}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^2})$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n - 1} a^i f(n/b^i) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^2})$$

Case 1: cost is dominated by the cost of the leaves

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n - 1} a^i f(n/b^i) < \Theta(n^{\log_b a^2})$$

38

Total cost

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$T(n) = cf(n) + af(n/b) + a^2 f(n/b^2) + \dots + a^{i-1} f(n/b^{i-1}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^3})$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n - 1} a^i f(n/b^i) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

Case 2: cost is evenly distributed across tree

As we saw with mergesort, $\log n$ levels to the tree and at each level $f(n)$ work

39

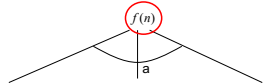
Total cost

if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
 if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$ and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for $c < 1$
 then $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$T(n) = cf(n) + af(n/b) + a^2 f(n/b^2) + \dots + a^{i-1} f(n/b^{i-1}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^3})$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n - 1} a^i f(n/b^i) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

Case 3: cost is dominated by the cost of the root



40

Other forms of the master method

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + O(n^d)$$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} O(n^d) & \text{if } d > \log_b a \\ O(n^d \log n) & \text{if } d = \log_b a \\ O(n^{\log_b a}) & \text{if } d < \log_b a \end{cases}$$

41

Changing variables

$$T(n) = 2T(\sqrt{n}) + \log n$$

Guesses?

We can do a variable change: let $m = \log_2 n$
 (or $n = 2^m$)

$$T(2^m) = 2T(2^{m/2}) + m$$

Now, let $S(m) = T(2^m)$

$$S(m) = 2S(m/2) + m$$

42


Changing variables

$$S(m) = 2S(m/2) + m$$

Guess? $S(m) = O(m \log m)$

$$T(n) = T(2^m) = S(m) = O(m \log m)$$

substituting $m = \log n$

$$T(n) = O(\log n \log \log n)$$


43