

The mathematical basis for advanced  
Computer Science (minus the  
graph theory)

See syllabus

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## Recurrences

What should you already know?

Solving  $T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$

Reference: Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest  
Introduction to Algorithms

## Methods

- Repeated substitution & inspection
- Tree method (graphical)
- Master Theorem

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

# of subproblems      of size  $\frac{n}{b}$

recombination cost

Compare  $n \log_b a$  to  $f(n)$

the bigger one wins, in  
case of a tie, multiply by  
 $\lg n$

# Master Theorem (Method)

Case 1: if  $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^{\log_b a - c})$ ,  $c > 0$   
then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

Case 2: if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then

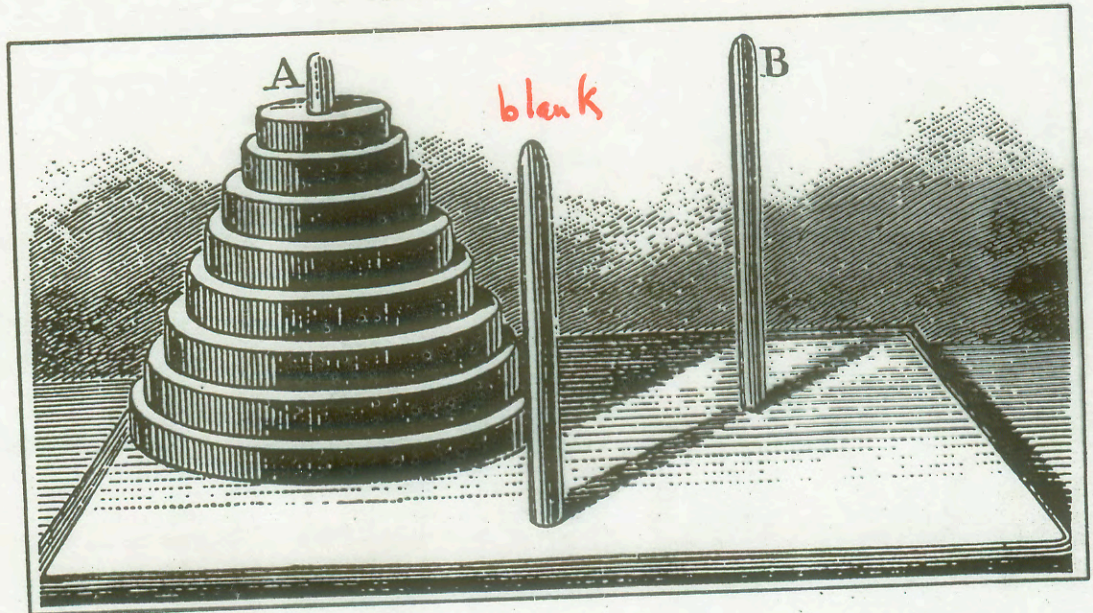
$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= \Theta(f(n) \lg n) \\ &= \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg n) \end{aligned}$$

Case 3: if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + c})$ ,  $c > 0$

and  $a f(\frac{n}{b}) \leq cn$ ,  $0 < c < 1$ ,  
then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

# Some Problems

## Tower of Hanoi



$T_n =$  minimum number of moves required  
to move a tower of " $n$ " disks  
( $T(n)$ ?)

By playing around

$$T_1 = 1 \quad (\text{duh!})$$

$$T_2 = 3 \quad \text{by inspection}$$

With a tower of  $n$ , we must move  
 $n-1$  from A to blank, biggest from A to B

and then the  $n-1$  from blank to B.

This means  $T_n \leq 2T_{n-1} + 1 \quad n > 0$

Can also argue

$$T_n \geq 2T_{n-1} + 1 \quad n > 0$$

We must eventually move the largest disk, to do this the  $n-1$  smaller must be on a single spindle, taking  $T_{n-1}$  in the best case. We then must move the disk to B and continue.

$$T_0 = 0$$

Note: Recurrences have two parts:

$$T_0 = 0 \quad \text{boundary condition}$$

$$T_n = 2T_{n-1} + 1 \quad n > 0 \quad (\text{iteration})$$

Note: This does not fit into the master's method rubrik!

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

$$= 2T\left(n \cdot \frac{n-1}{n}\right) + 1$$

a b?

no b must be constant

How do we solve this?

$$T_0 = 0$$

$$T_1 = 1$$

$$T_2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 1 = 3$$

$$T_3 = 2 \cdot 3 + 1 = 7$$

$$T_4 = 2 \cdot 7 + 1 = 15$$

$$T_5 = 2 \cdot 15 + 1 = 31$$

Computer Scientists should recognize the pattern:

$$T_n = 2^n - 1, \quad n \geq 0$$

This is a guess, must prove by induction.

$$T_0 = 0 \quad 0 = n_0, \text{ the basis}$$

$$\text{Assume } T_{n-1} = 2^{n-1} - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= 2 \cdot T_{n-1} + 1 = 2 \cdot (2^{n-1} - 1) + 1 \\ &= 2^n - 2 + 1 = 2^n - 1 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Note :  $U_0 = 1$

$$U_n = 2 U_{n-1}, \quad n > 0$$

$$U_n = T_n + 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad T_n = U_n - 1$$

$$T_0 + 1 = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{n+1} &= 2 T_{n-1} + 1 + 1 \\ &= 2 T_{n-1} + 2 = 2 (T_{n-1} + 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$U_n = 2^n \quad \text{so} \quad T_n = 2^n - 1$$

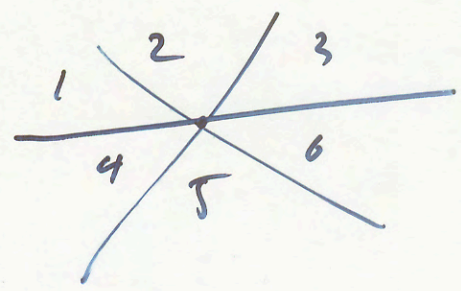
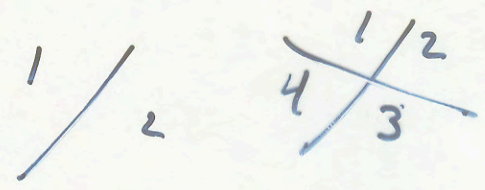
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Second warmup problem  
Lines in the plane

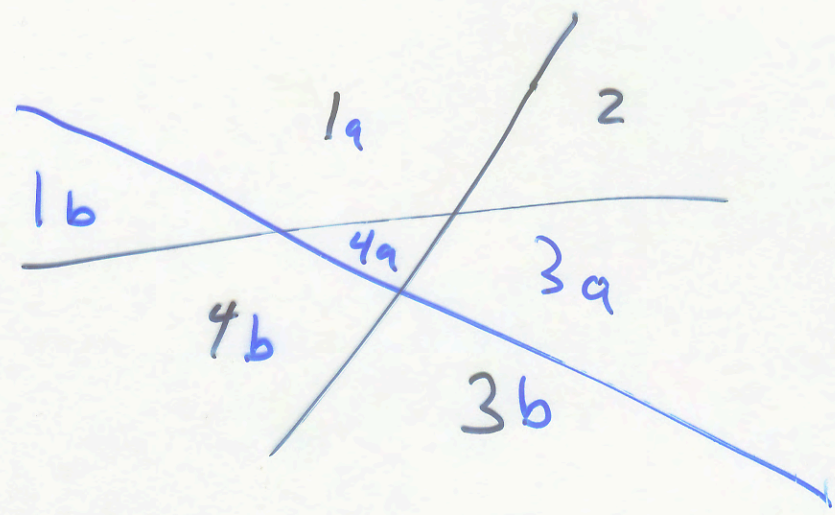
Problem posed by Steiner in 1826.

Compute  $L_n$ , the maximum number of regions the plane (pizza) can be cut by  $n$  straight lines

$L_0 = 1$      $L_1 = 2$      $L_2 = 4$      $L_3 = ?$



can do better



$L_3 = 7$  note: above fails because the new line intersects the old lines at only a single point.



What if our construction always adds a line that intersects each of the other lines at least once. Doable? Yes by ensuring the new line is not parallel to the existing lines.

$$L_n = L_{n-1} + n \quad n > 0$$

$$L_0 = 1 \quad (\text{B.C.})$$

$$L(n) = L\left(n \cdot \frac{n-1}{n}\right) + n$$

↖ not constant

$$L_0 = 1$$

$$L_1 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$L_2 = 2 + 2 = 4$$

$$L_3 = 4 + 3 = 7$$

this is not so helpful

$$L_n = L_{n-1} + n$$

$$= L_{n-2} + n + (n-1)$$

$$= L_{n-3} + n + (n-1) + (n-2)$$

$$= L_0 + n + (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 1$$

$$= 1 + S_n$$

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$L_n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + 1$$

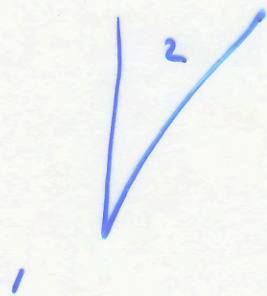
Proof:  $L_0 = 1$  holds

$$L_{n-1} = \frac{(n-1)(n-1+1)}{2} + 1 = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} + 1$$

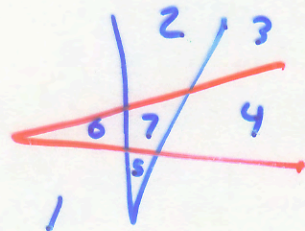
$$\begin{aligned} L_n &= \frac{n(n-1)}{2} + 1 + n = \frac{n^2 - n}{2} + \frac{2n}{2} + 1 \\ &= \frac{n^2 + n}{2} + 1 = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + 1 \end{aligned}$$

□

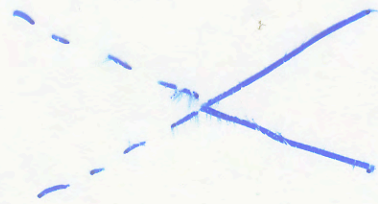
Consider



$$z_1 = 2$$



$$z_2 = 7$$



This is like the previous problem  
but with two lines and merging.

$$Z_n = L_{2n} - 2n$$

double lines

loss from merging

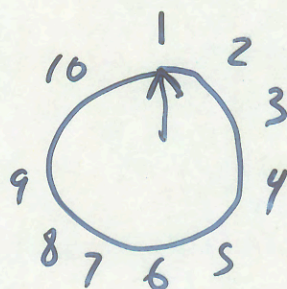
$$\begin{aligned} Z_n &= \frac{2n(2n+1)}{2} + 1 - 2n \\ &= 2n^2 + n + 1 - 2n \\ &= 2n^2 - n + 1, \quad n \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$Z_n = \Theta(n^2)$$

$$L_n = \Theta(n^2)$$

not really surprising.

# The Josephus Problem



eliminate in order 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 3, 7, 1, 9  
with 5 surviving.

$J(10) = 5$  is implied,  $J(n) = \frac{n}{2}$  ?

$n$	1	2	3	4	5	6
$J(n)$	1	1	3	1	3	5

, no!

Since by convention we always start with 2, we always eliminate all the evens. Thus if we have  $2n$  (an even number) of people

$$J(2n) = 2J(n) - 1$$

just solve on problem twice a small and re-number.

$$\text{So } J(10) = 2J(5) - 1 = 2 \cdot 3 - 1 = 5$$

checks out. Also

$$\begin{aligned} J(20) &= 2J(10) - 1 = 2 \cdot 5 - 1 = 9 \\ &= 2(2J(5) - 1) - 1 \\ &= 4J(5) - 3 = 4 \cdot 3 - 3 = 9 \end{aligned}$$

Can prove (by induction):

$$J(5 \cdot 2^m) = 2^{m+1} + 1$$

basis :  $m=0$       $J(5) = 3 = 2^{0+1} + 1$  ✓

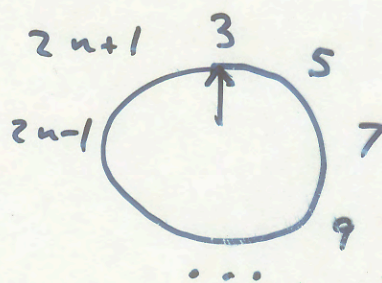
$$\begin{aligned} J(5 \cdot 2^m) &= 2 \cdot J(5 \cdot 2^{m-1}) - 1 \\ &= 2 \cdot (2^m + 1) - 1 \\ &= 2^{m+1} + 2 - 1 = 2^{m+1} + 1 \end{aligned}$$

*induction hypothesis*

With  $2n+1$  people (odd)

we wipe out first all the evens and then

1 :



Thus

$$J(2n+1) = 2J(n) + 1$$

(Check it yourself)

Combining we get the recurrence:

$$J(1) = 1 \quad (\text{B.C.})$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} J(2n) &= 2J(n) - 1 \\ J(2n+1) &= 2J(n) + 1 \end{aligned} \right\} n \geq 1$$

Can use this as a "fast leap-ahead"

$n$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
$J(n)$	1	1	3	1	3	5	7	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	1

Note the grouping by powers-of-two!

$$n = 2^m + l, \quad 0 \leq l < 2^m$$

↑ largest power-of-two in  $n$

Seems  $J(n) = 2l + 1$

Induction on  $m$ :

$$m=0 \quad n = 2^0 + l \\ = 1 \quad \leftarrow l=0$$

$$J(1) = 2 \cdot 0 + 1 = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

Since the recurrence has two formulas, we must use both:

$$\begin{aligned} J(2^m + l) &= 2 J(2^{m-1} + \frac{l}{2}) - 1 \\ &= 2 \left( 2 \frac{l}{2} + 1 \right) - 1 \quad \text{even case} \\ &= 2l + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2 J(2^{m-1} + \frac{l-1}{2}) + 1 \\ &= 2 \cdot \left( 2 \frac{l-1}{2} + 1 \right) + 1 \quad \text{odd case} \\ &= 2 \cdot (l-1) + 2 + 1 \\ &= 2l + 1 \end{aligned}$$

This is a closed-form solution.  
Consider

$$n = (b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_2 \text{ in base } 2$$

Note  $b_m = 1$  (Why?)

$$l = (0 b_{m-1} b_{m-2} \dots b_1 b_0)_2$$

$$2l = (b_{m-1} b_{m-2} \dots b_1 b_0 0)_2$$

$$2l+1 = (b_{m-1} b_{m-2} \dots b_1 b_0 1)_2$$

$\uparrow$   
 $b_m$

So  $J((b_m \dots b_0)_2) = (b_{m-1} \dots b_0 b_m)_2$

is a one-bit left cyclic shift.

$$n = 100 = (1100100)_2$$

$$J(n) = (1001001)_2 = 64 + 8 + 1 = 73$$

$$100 = 64 + 36 \quad 2l+1 = 72 + 1 = 73$$

$\uparrow$   
 $l$

One oddity,  $n = 13 = (1101)_2$

$$J((1101)_2) = (1011)_2; \quad J((1011)_2) = (0111)_2$$

$\uparrow$   
gets dropped

This is because  $J(n) < n$ .

If we iterate  $J(\cdot)$  what happens?



"We squeeze the 0's out" and eventually get a fixed point  $T(n) = n$

with  $n = (1111 \dots 1)_2 = 2^{r(n)} - 1$

$r(n) = \text{pop\_count}(n)$  (# of 1's in binary  $n$ ).

What about the original conjecture:

$T(n) = \frac{n}{2}$  holds when?

$\rightarrow 2l+1 = \frac{1}{2}(2^m+l) = 2^{m-1} + l/2$

$\frac{3}{2}l = 2^{m-1} - 1$

$l = \frac{1}{3}(2^m - 2)$

IF  $l$  is an integer then  $n = 2^m + l$  will solve

this.  $2^m - 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \Rightarrow m$  odd

- 110 = 6 ✓
- 1010 = 10 ✓
- 10010 = 18 ✓
- 100010 = 34 ✓

$m$	$l$	$n = 2^m + l$	$T(n) = \frac{n}{2}$	$n$ (base 2)
1	0	2	1	10
3	2	10	5	1010
5	10	42	21	101010
7	42	170	85	10101010

# Generalize

$$f(1) = \alpha \quad (1)$$

$$f(2n) = 2f(n) + \beta \quad (-1)$$

$$f(2n+1) = 2f(n) + \gamma \quad (1)$$

n	f(n)
1	$\alpha$
2	$2\alpha + \beta$
3	$2\alpha + \gamma$
4	$4\alpha + 3\beta$
5	$4\alpha + 2\beta + \gamma$
6	$4\alpha + \beta + 2\gamma$
7	$4\alpha + 3\gamma$
8	$8\alpha + 7\beta$
9	$8\alpha + 6\beta + \gamma$

$$f(n) = A(n)\alpha + B(n)\beta + C(n)\gamma$$

where here :

$$A(n) = 2^m$$

$$B(n) = 2^m - 1 - l$$

$$C(n) = l$$

$$n = 2^m + l$$

as before

(\*)

Consider the special case

$$\alpha = 1, \beta = \gamma = 0$$

(\*)

$$A(1) = 1$$

$$A(2n) = 2A(n) \Rightarrow A(2^m + 1) = 2^m$$

$$A(2n+1) = 2A(n)$$

What values,  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ , give us  $f(n) = 1$ ?

$$f(1) = 1 = \alpha$$

$$(1, -1, -1)$$

$$f(2n) = 2f(n) + \beta$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f(2n) = 2f(n) + \beta \\ 1 = 2 \cdot 1 - 1 \end{array} \right\} \beta = -1$$

$$1 = 2 \cdot 1 - 1$$

(\*)

$$f(2n+1) = 2f(n) + \gamma \Rightarrow \gamma = -1$$

$$A(n) - B(n) - C(n) = 1$$

$$(1, 0, 1)$$

try  $f(n) = n$

$$f(1) = 1 = \alpha$$

$$2n = 2 \cdot n + \beta \Rightarrow \beta = 0$$

$$2n+1 = 2n + \gamma \Rightarrow \gamma = 1$$

(\*)

(\*)

$$A(n) = 2^m$$

(\*)

$$A(n) - B(n) - C(n) = 1$$

(\*)

$$A(n) + C(n) = n$$

}  $\Rightarrow$  (\*)

This is the "repertoire method" for solving recurrences.

1. Find settings for special parameters where we know the solution.
2. Combine the particular solutions to give the general solution

Works often for linear recurrences.

Shift - Property:

$$J((b_m \dots b_0)_2) = (b_{m-1} \dots b_0 b_m)_2$$

$b_m = 1$

Does this carry over to the generalized problem:

$$f(1) = \alpha$$

$$f(2n+j) = 2f(n) + \beta_j \quad j=0,1, n \geq 1$$

$(\beta_0 = \beta, \beta_1 = \gamma)$

$$f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_2)$$

$$= 2 f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1)_2) + \beta_{b_0}$$

$$= 4 f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_2)_2) + 2\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0}$$

$f(n)$

$$= 2^m \alpha + 2^{m-1} \beta_{b_{m-1}} + \dots + 2\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0}$$

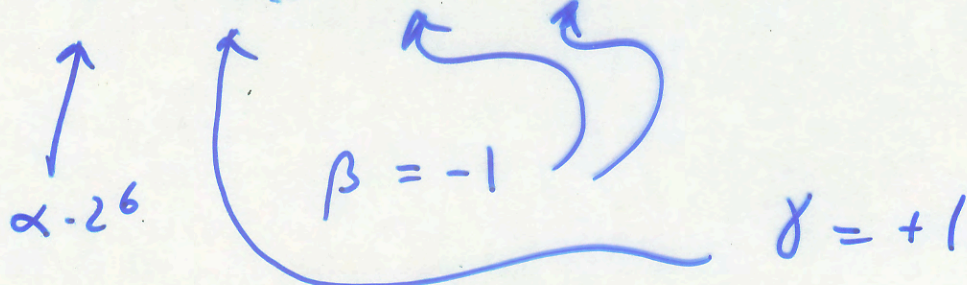
This works in general with  $\beta_0 = \beta$ ,  $\beta_1 = \gamma$

$n$	$f(n)$	$(n)_2$
1	$\alpha$	1
2	$2\alpha + \beta$	10
3	$2\alpha + \gamma$	11
4	$4\alpha + 2\beta + \beta$	100
5	$4\alpha + 2\beta + \gamma$	101
6	$4\alpha + 2\gamma + \beta$	110
7	$4\alpha + 2\gamma + \gamma$	111

$$f(100) = f((1100100)_2)$$

$$n = (1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0)_2 = 100$$

$$f(n) = +2^6 + 2^5 - 16 - 8 + 4 - 2 - 1 = 73$$



One more generalization

$$f(cj) = \alpha_j \quad 1 \leq j < d$$

$$f(dn + j) = c f(n) + \beta_j \quad 0 \leq j < d$$

We start with number in radix  $d$   
and end with them in radix  $c$ .

$$f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_d) = (\alpha_{b_m} \beta_{b_{m-1}} \dots \beta_{b_1} \beta_{b_0})_c$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f(1) &= 34, & f(2) &= 5, & f(3n) &= 10f(n) + 76 \\ & & & & f(3n+1) &= 10f(n) + -2 \\ & & & & f(3n+2) &= 10f(n) + 8 \end{aligned} \right\} n \geq 1$$

$$d = 3$$

$$c = 10$$

$$f(19) = f((201)_3)$$

$$= (5 \ 76 \ -2)_{10}$$

$$= 500 + 760 - 2$$

$$= 1258$$