

CSE 332

Data Structures & Parallelism

Recurrence Relations

Melissa Winstanley
Spring 2024

Today

- Analyzing Recursive Code
- Solving Recurrences

Analyzing code

Basic operations take “some amount of” **constant time**

- Arithmetic
- Assignment
- Access one Java field or array index
- Etc.

(This is an *approximation of reality*: a very useful “lie”.)

Consecutive statements	Sum of time of each statement
Loops	Num iterations * time for loop body
Conditionals	Time of condition plus time of slower branch
Function Calls	Time of function’s body
Recursion	Solve recurrence equation

Linear search

5	8	13	42	75	79	88	90	95	99
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

```
// requires array is sorted
// returns whether k is in array
boolean find(int[]arr, int k){
    for(int i=0; i < arr.length; ++i)
        if(arr[i] == k)
            return true;
        return false;
    }
}
```

Best case: 6-ish steps = $O(1)$

Worst case:

5-ish steps * (arr.length) = $O(n)$

Analyzing Recursive Code

- Computing run-times gets interesting with recursion
- Say we want to perform some computation recursively on a list of size n
 - Conceptually, in each recursive call we:
 - Perform some amount of work, call it $w(n)$
 - Call the function **recursively** with a **smaller** portion of the list
- So, if we do $w(n)$ work per step, and reduce the problem size in the next recursive call by 1, we do total work:

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

- With some base case, like $T(1) = 5 = O(1)$

Example Recursive code: sum array

Recursive:

- Recurrence is some constant amount of work $O(1)$ done n times

```
int sum(int[] arr){
    return help(arr,0);
}
int help(int[]arr,int i) {
    if(i==arr.length)
        return 0;
    return arr[i] + help(arr,i+1);
}
```

Each time `help` is called, it does that $O(1)$ amount of work, and then calls `help` again on a problem one less than previous problem size

Recurrence Relation: $T(n) = c_1 + T(n-1)$

Base case? $T(0) =$

Today

- Analyzing Recursive Code
- Solving Recurrences

Solving Recurrence Relations

- Say we have the following recurrence relation:

$$T(n) = 6 \text{ "ish"} + T(n-1)$$

$$T(1) = 9 \text{ "ish"} \text{ base case}$$

Solving Recurrence Relations

- Say we have the following recurrence relation:

$$T(n) = 6 \text{ "ish"} + T(n-1)$$

$$T(1) = 9 \text{ "ish"} \text{ base case}$$

- Now we just need to solve it; that is, reduce it to a closed form.
- Start by writing it out:

$$T(n) = 6 + T(n-1)$$

$$= 6 + 6 + T(n-2)$$

$$= 6 + 6 + 6 + T(n-3)$$

$$= 6 + 6 + 6 + \dots + 6 + T(1) = 6 + 6 + 6 + \dots + 6 + 9$$

$$= 6k + T(n-k)$$

Solving Recurrence Relations

$$T(n) = 6k + T(n-k)$$

- We set k equal to $n-1$, because in order to reach the base case (1):

$$\begin{aligned}n - k &= 1 \\n &= 1 + k \\n - 1 &= k\end{aligned}$$

- We expanded it out $n-1$ times, so

$$\begin{aligned}T(n) &= 6k + T(n-k) \\&= 6(n-1) + T(1) = 6(n-1) + 9 \\&= 6n + 3 = \mathbf{O(n)}\end{aligned}$$

We'll usually just use a constant (eg c_1 or c_2) instead of the literal "6" and "9"

Solving Recurrence Relations: Unrolling Method

1. Write out your recurrence relation
2. Unroll it several times
3. Write the unrolled function in terms of some variable k (or i , whatever you like)
4. Figure out what k has to equal when you hit the base case (for instance, when you reach $T(1)$).
5. Solve!

Binary Search

```
// requires array is sorted
// returns whether k is in array
boolean find(int[]arr, int k){
    return help(arr,k,0,arr.length);
}
boolean help(int[]arr, int k, int lo, int hi) {
    int mid = (hi+lo)/2; //i.e., lo+(hi-lo)/2
    if(lo==hi)         return false;
    if(arr[mid]==k)    return true;
    if(arr[mid]< k)    return help(arr,k,mid+1,hi);
    else               return help(arr,k,lo,mid);
}
```

Recurrence Relation:

Base Case:

Solving Recurrence Relations

1. Determine the recurrence relation. What is the base case?

$$T(n) = c_2 + T(n/2) \quad T(1) = c_1$$

2. “Expand” the original relation to find an equivalent general expression in terms of the number of expansions.

3. Find a closed-form expression by setting the number of expansions to a value which reduces the problem to a base case

Solving Recurrence Relations

1. Determine the recurrence relation. What is the base case?

$$T(n) = c_2 + T(n/2) \quad T(1) = c_1$$

2. “Expand” the original relation to find an equivalent general expression in terms of the number of expansions.

$$T(n) = c_2 + c_2 + T(n/4)$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + c_2 + c_2 + T(n/8)$$

$$T(n) = c_2 k + T(n/(2^k)) \quad (\text{where } k \text{ is the number of expansions})$$

3. Find a closed-form expression by setting the number of expansions to a value which reduces the problem to a base case

$$n/(2^k) = 1 \quad \text{means} \quad n = 2^k \quad \text{means} \quad k = \log n$$

$$T(n) = c_2 \log n + c_1 \quad (\text{get to base case and do it})$$

$$T(n) \text{ is } O(\log n)$$

Another example: a binary version of sum

```
int sum(int[] arr){
    return help(arr,0,arr.length);
}

int help(int[] arr, int lo, int hi) {
    if(lo==hi) return 0;
    if(lo==hi-1) return arr[lo];
    int mid = (hi+lo)/2;
    return help(arr,lo,mid)
        + help(arr,mid,hi);
}
```

Recurrence?

Another example: a binary version of sum

```
int sum(int[] arr){
    return help(arr,0,arr.length);
}
int help(int[] arr, int lo, int hi) {
    if(lo==hi) return 0;
    if(lo==hi-1) return arr[lo];
    int mid = (hi+lo)/2;
    return help(arr,lo,mid)
        + help(arr,mid,hi);
}
```

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

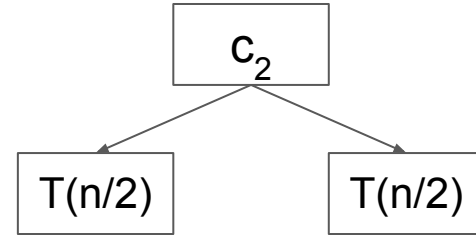
$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$

Another example: a binary version of sum: tree method

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$

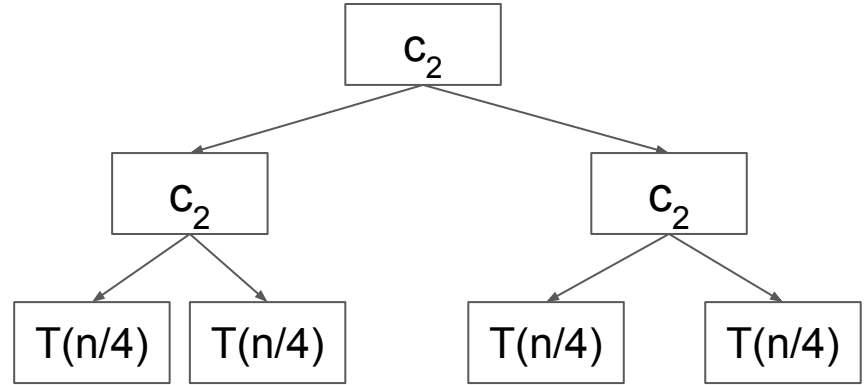


Another example: a binary version of sum

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$

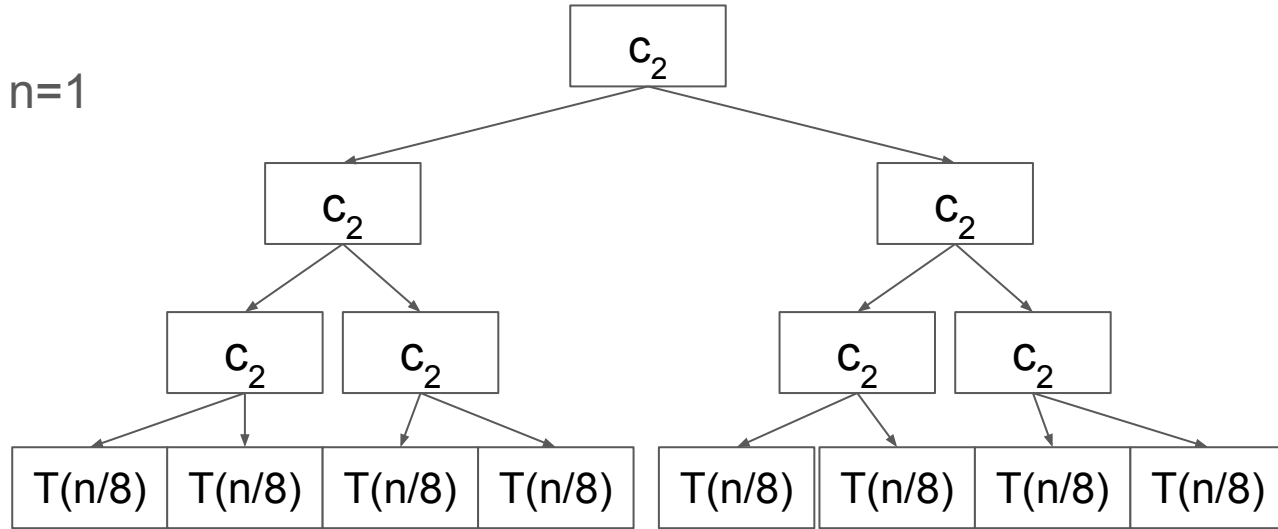


Another example: a binary version of sum

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$

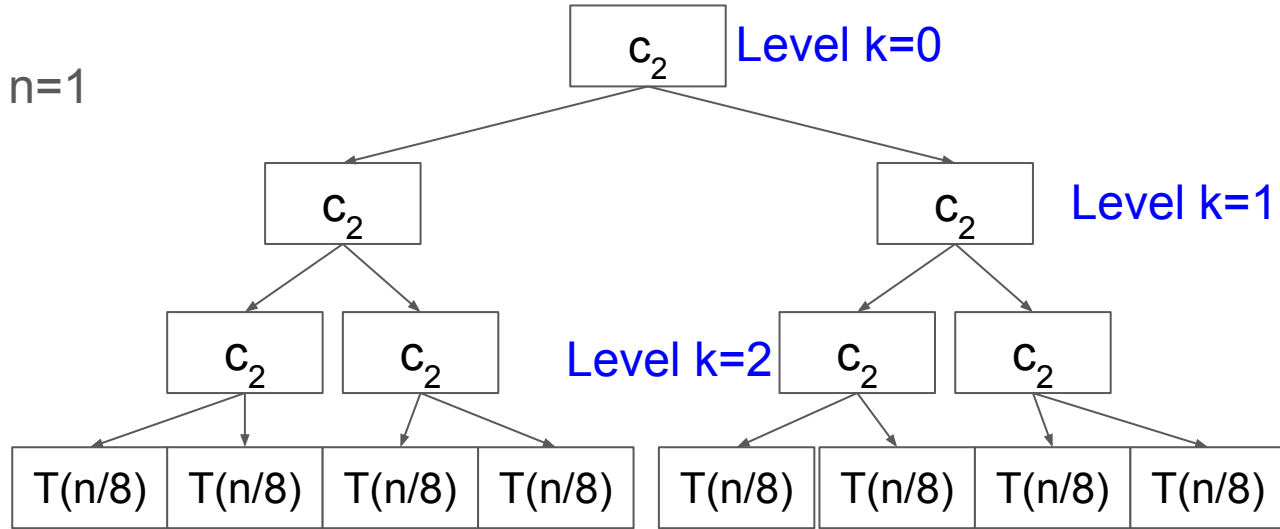


Another example: a binary version of sum

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$



At each level, we have $2^k * c_2$ work, where k is the depth of the level (plus base case)

$$c_2 * (1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots)$$

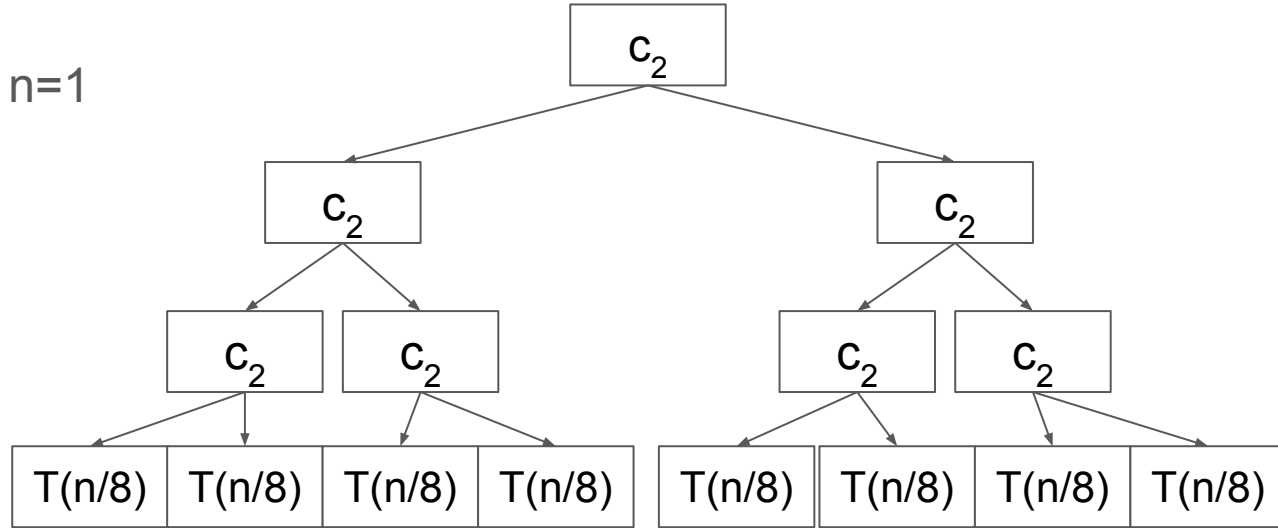
$$T(n) = c_2 * (\text{sum to } k \text{ of } 2^k) + \text{base case}$$

Another example: a binary version of sum

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$



What is the maximum k in terms of n ? When does our recurred case hit $T(1)$?

$$n / 2^k = 1$$

$$2^k = n$$

$$k = \log n$$

Another example: a binary version of sum

Recurrence:

$$T(n) = c_1 \quad \text{for } n=0 \text{ and } n=1$$

$$T(n) = c_2 + 2T(n/2)$$

$$c_2 * (1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots)$$

for $\log n$ times (plus the base case)

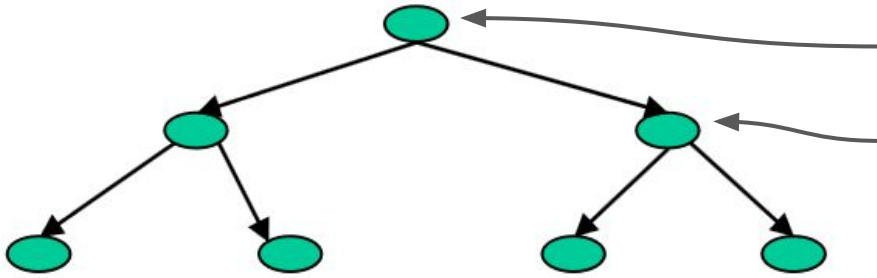
$$T(n) = c_1 n + \sum_{k=0}^{\log(n)-1} c_2 2^k = c_1 n + c_2 \sum_{k=0}^{\log(n)-1} 2^k$$

More on Perfect Trees

Perfect tree: Every row is completely full

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^h 2^i = 2^{h+1} - 1$$

See Weiss 1.2.3 (p4)



Perfect Tree

Height (h)	# nodes (n)	# leaves
0	1	1
1	3	2
2	7	4
3	15	8
h	$2^{h+1} - 1$	2^h

Another example: a binary version of sum

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^h 2^i = 2^{h+1} - 1$$

$$= c_1 n + c_2 \sum_{k=0}^{\log(n)-1} 2^k$$

$$= c_1 n + c_2 (2^{\log(n)-1+1} - 1)$$

$$= c_1 n + c_2 (2^{\log(n)} - 1)$$

O(n)!!!

$$= c_1 n + c_2 (n - 1) = c_1 n + c_2 n - c_2$$

Solving Recurrence Relations: Tree Method

1. Write out your recurrence relation
2. Diagram it out as a *tree* several times
3. Write the unrolled function in terms of some variable k (or i , whatever you like)
4. Figure out what k has to equal when you hit the base case (for instance, when you reach $T(1)$).
5. Solve! Often using math.

SECTION!!!!

Magic (i.e. log rules):

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

Finite Geometric Series:

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

The Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } n < 3 \\ 2F\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + n + 2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

It's still really hard to tell what the big-O is just by looking at it.

But fancy mathematicians have a formula for us to use!

Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} d & \text{if } n \text{ is at most some constant} \\ aF\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \Theta(n^c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $\log_b a < c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c)$

If $\log_b a = c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c \log n)$

If $\log_b a > c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

$$a=2 \quad b=3 \quad \text{and} \quad c=1$$

$$y = \log_b x \text{ is equal to } b^y = x$$

$$\log_3 2 = x \Rightarrow 3^x = 2 \Rightarrow x \cong 0.63$$

$$\log_3 2 < 1$$

We're in case 1

$$T(n) \in \Theta(n)$$

Understanding The Master Theorem

Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} d & \text{if } n \text{ is at most some constant} \\ a F\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \Theta(n^c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $\log_b a < c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c)$

If $\log_b a = c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c \log n)$

If $\log_b a > c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

- **A** measures how many recursive calls are triggered by each method instance
- **B** measures the rate of change for input
- **C** measures the dominating term of the non recursive work within the recursive method
- **D** measures the work done in the base case

Understanding The Master Theorem

Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} d & \text{if } n \text{ is at most some constant} \\ a F\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \Theta(n^c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $\log_b a < c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c)$

If $\log_b a = c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c \log n)$

If $\log_b a > c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

The log of a < c case

- Recursive case does a lot of non recursive work in comparison to how quickly it divides the input size
- Most work happens in beginning of call stack
- Non recursive work in recursive case dominates growth, n^c term

Understanding The Master Theorem

Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} d & \text{if } n \text{ is at most some constant} \\ a F\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \Theta(n^c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $\log_b a < c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c)$

If $\log_b a = c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c \log n)$

If $\log_b a > c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

The log of a = c

- Recursive case evenly splits work between non recursive work and passing along inputs to subsequent recursive calls
- Work is distributed across call stack

Understanding The Master Theorem

Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} d & \text{if } n \text{ is at most some constant} \\ a F\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \Theta(n^c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $\log_b a < c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c)$

If $\log_b a = c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c \log n)$

If $\log_b a > c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

The log of a > c case

- Recursive case breaks inputs apart quickly and doesn't do much non recursive work
- Most work happens near bottom of call stack

Understanding The Master Theorem

Master Theorem

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} d & \text{if } n \text{ is at most some constant} \\ a F\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \Theta(n^c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $\log_b a < c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c)$

If $\log_b a = c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^c \log n)$

If $\log_b a > c$ then $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

**NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR
KNOWING HOW TO
UNROLL / TREE!**

We may ask you that on
exams, etc

But the Master Theorem is
good for checking your
work