

# Recurrence Relations

Algorithm with loops  $\rightarrow$  use summation/graph analysis to analyze runtime

Recursive algorithm  $\rightarrow$  use recurrence relations

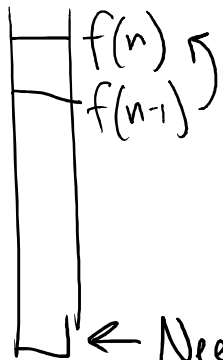
Recurrence: a function that calls itself

recurrence

$$f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

base case

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



$\leftarrow$  Need base case!

$$f(1) = 1$$

$$f(2) = (\text{use recurrence})$$

$$= 2f(1) + 1$$

$$= (\text{use base case})$$

$$= 2 + 1 = 3$$

$$f(3) = 2 \cdot f(2) + 1$$

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

$\vdots$

Q: What is a recurrence relation for the runtime of this algorithm?

Thing( $n$ )

if  $n=1$  or  $n=2$ : return  $n$

for  $i=1$  to  $n^2$

Print: "meh"

return Thing( $n-1$ ) + Thing( $n-2$ )

A)  $T(1) = O(1)$ ;  $T(n) = T(n-1) * T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

B)  $T(1) = O(n)$ ;  $T(2) = O(1)$ ;  $T(n) = T(n-1) * T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

C)  $T(1) = O(1)$ ;  $T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

D)  $T(1) = O(1)$ ;  $T(2) = O(1)$ ;  $T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

Q: What is a recurrence relation for the runtime of this algorithm?

Thing(n)

if  $n=1$  or  $n=2$ : return  $n$   $\leftarrow O(1)$

for  $i=1$  to  $n^2$

Print: "meh"

$\left. \vphantom{\text{for } i=1 \text{ to } n^2} \right] \leftarrow O(n^2)$

multiplication,  
return  
↓

return Thing( $n-1$ ) \* Thing( $n-2$ )  $\leftarrow T(n-1) + T(n-2) + O(1)$

A)  $T(1) = O(1); T(n) = T(n-1) * T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

B)  $T(1) = O(n); T(n) = T(n-1) * T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

C)  $T(1) = O(1); T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

D)  $T(1) = O(1); T(2) = O(1); T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + O(n^2)$

need 2 base cases because otherwise fall off the bottom of ladder

If only one base case

•  $T(1) = O(1)$

•  $T(2) = T(1) + T(0) + O(2^2)$

⇕

Fall off bottom of ladder