# Recurrence Relations & Code Snippets

**Readings**

- [Lecture Notes Chapter 6: Analyzing Runtime of Code Snippets](#)
- [Lecture Notes Chapter 7: Divide & Conquer and Recurrence Relations](#)

## Review: Recurrences

Recurrences are equations that can help us describe the running time of recursive algorithms. There are a few different methods to solve recurrences:

**Iteration/Expansion:** We compute $T(n)$ by using substitution to expand $T(n)$ fully and/or until we notice a pattern that has a formula (geometric series, consecutive integers, etc.) that we can use to simplify it further.

**Induction:** We can “guess” what the asymptotic bound on $T(n)$ is and prove that it holds true via induction, often strong induction, on $n$.

**Recursion Trees:** To confirm our bound, we can draw the recursive calls to $T(n)$ in a tree format, count the amount of work done in each level of the tree, and sum this up to compute or estimate $T(n)$.

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## Review: Code Snippets

We can also apply our knowledge of Big-$O$ and summations to find the running time of code snippets. Besides recursion, nested iteration/for-loops is another area where our code’s efficiency can be bottlenecked. There are a few different methods to analyze the running time of code snippets:

**Superset/Subset Method:** To find a Big-$O$ bound, since we are upper bounding, we can take supersets of the values that variables take on in the code snippet and analyze the runtime on these supersets. To find a Big-$\Omega$ bound, since we are lower bounding, we can take subsets of the values that variables take on in the code snippet and analyze the runtime on these subsets.

**Summation (Direct Equality) Method:** We can convert nested for-loops into nested summations and then evaluate the nested summations to find our bounds. Usually this entails finding the number of iterations each loop runs and the amount of work done inside of the nested loops.

**Table Method:** We can use a table to explore how the values of the variables change during iterations. After exploring this, we usually use the table method with the summation method to analyze runtime.
Problems

Problem 1
Assume \( n \) is a power of 2.

\[
T(n) = \begin{cases} 
2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n^2 & n > 1 \\
1 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

Problem 2
Provide a running time analysis of the following loop. That is, find both Big-O and Big-Ω:

```java
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
    for (int j = n; j > 0; j--)
        for (int k = 1; k <= j - i; k++)
            System.out.println(k)
```

Problem 3
Provide a running time analysis of the following loop:

```java
for (int i = 4; i < n; i = i * i)
    for (int j = 2; j < Math.sqrt(i); j = j+j)
        System.out.println("\\");
```