

# Computational Complexity

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# Learning Objectives



- Introduction to data structures and algorithms
- Understand how to measure performance of algorithms
- Understand the asymptotic analysis of algorithms
- Understand the difference between orders of growth

# Data Structure



"Get your data structures correct first, and the rest of the program will write itself."

*- David Jones*

# Data Structure

- A *Data Structure* is:
  - an implementation of an ADT *and*
  - is a way of organizing and storing data in a computer so that it can be accessed and manipulated efficiently.

# Data Structure

- Data Structures will have 3 core operations
  - a way to add things
  - a way to remove things
  - a way to access things
- Details of these operations depend on the data structure
  - Example: List, add at the end, access by location, remove by location
- More operations added depending on what data structure is designed to do

# Data Structure

- why so many data structures?
- The study of data structures is the study of tradeoffs. That's why we have so many of them!
  - time vs. space
  - generality vs. simplicity

# Algorithm

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- An **algorithm** is a detailed step-by-step method for solving a problem
- *Properties of algorithms*
  - Steps are precisely stated
  - Determinism: based on inputs, previous steps
  - Algorithm terminates
  - Also: correctness, generality, efficiency, usability, robustness, debuggability

# Algorithm

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- How to describe an algorithm?
  - Problem Definition: objective, inputs, outputs
  - Algorithm Steps: initialization, processing, termination
  - Pseudo code
  - Flow chart



# Algorithm

## Algorithm

**Purpose:** To find the smallest value in a list of numerical values.

1. **Check if the List is Empty:** If the list is empty, return an error message
2. **Initialize the Minimum Value:** Set the initial minimum value to the first element of the list
3. **Iterate Through the List:** Traverse each element of the list starting from the second element
4. **Compare and Update Minimum Value:**
  - i. For each element, compare it with the current minimum value
  - ii. If the element is smaller than the current minimum value, update the minimum value
5. **Return the Minimum Value:** After traversing all elements, return the minimum value

## Pseudo code

Input: list - a list of numerical values

Output: minValue - the smallest value in the list

```
if length(list) == 0 then
    return "Error: The list is empty" // or some other indication of an
empty list
end if

minValue = list[0] // Assume the first element is the minimum

for i from 1 to length(list) - 1 do
    if list[i] < minValue then
        minValue = list[i]
    end if
end for

return minValue
```

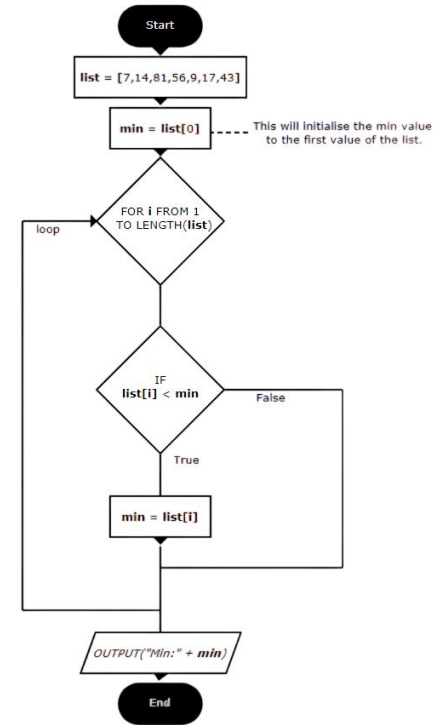
# Algorithm

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## Flowchart



# Algorithm Efficiency

how much time or space you use! is most important

- The efficiency of an algorithm is a **measure of the amount of resources consumed in solving a problem of size  $n$ .**
  - CPU (time) usage, memory usage, disk usage, network usage, ....
- In general, what we care about is
  - Time Efficiency (How much time our algorithm takes to solve problem of size  $n$ ?)
  - Memory Efficiency (How much memory does our algorithm use to solve problem of size  $n$ ?)

# Algorithm Efficiency

- We need to estimate the time and memory requirements of the algorithm.
  - Memory is cheap and abundant, making space complexity analysis less common
  - Time is “expensive”. This is why our **primary focus will be on analyzing time complexity.**

*“The biggest difference between time and space is that you can't reuse time.”*

*- Merrick Furst*

# Ways to Measure Algorithm Efficiency

- Empirical Analysis (i.e, Benchmarking) requires implementation
- Asymptotic Analysis mathematical way to eval efficiency as n goes to ininity, not require implementation

# Ways to Measure Algorithm Efficiency

- **Benchmarking** involves **implementing the algorithm** and then assessing its efficiency by **executing it with specific inputs** and **measuring the amount of processor time** required to produce the correct result.

# Ways to Measure Algorithm Efficiency

- Benchmarking has several limitations:
  - to benchmark an algorithm, it is necessary to implement and test it.
  - it is performed using the same hardware and software environments.
  - it measures efficiency for a specific case and may not predict performance with different datasets.
  - it is not suitable for mathematically analyzing the general properties of algorithms.

# Ways to Measure Algorithm Efficiency

- Our goal is to develop an approach to analyzing algorithm efficiency that:
  - takes into account all possible inputs
  - dependent on the nature of the input (best-case, worst-case, and average)
  - evaluates the efficiency of an algorithm independent of the hardware and software environment
  - is performed by studying a high-level description of the algorithm without needing implementation



# Ways to Measure Algorithm Efficiency

- Asymptotic analysis is a method used to describe the **efficiency of algorithms as the input size grows towards infinity.**

# Asymptotic Analysis

- For an algorithm with input size  $n$ , define running time  $T(n)$  as
  - the amount of time an algorithm takes to complete (time complexity) as a function of the input size  $n$
- The purpose of asymptotic analysis is to evaluate the rate of growth of  $T(n)$  as  $n$  approaches infinity. mathematically look at rate of growth of  $n$  as it goes to efficiency

# Asymptotic Analysis

- An pseudocode of an algorithm for searching an element in a list of size  $n$

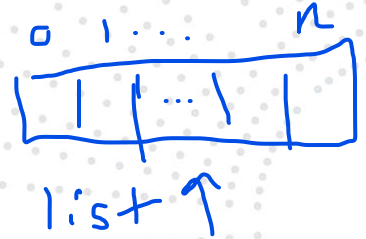
```
SequentialSearch(ArrayA, targetElement)
  for i = 1 to ArraySize(ArrayA) do
    if ArrayA[i] == targetElement
      return i
  return -1
```

**What is the running of this algorithm?**

# Asymptotic Analysis

- An pseudocode of an algorithm for searching an element in a list of size  $n$

```
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```



**What is the running time of this algorithm?**

**when? Best case? Average case? Or worst case?**

# Different Scenarios of Algorithm Performance

- **Best case:** Minimum operations (i.e., executable statements) required; fastest execution time.    like looking for 100 in the list and it is the first element, as it checks element by element
- **Average case:** Expected performance over all possible inputs; typical scenario.    100 is the middle element, and it checks each element
- **Worst case:** Maximum operations required; slowest execution time.  
like looking for 100 in a list and it is the last element in the list

# Asymptotic Analysis

- An pseudocode of an algorithm for searching an element in a list of size n

**What is the running time of this algorithm in best case?** reframed the question

SequentialSearch(ArrayA, targetElement)	Cost	Times
for i = 1 to ArraySize(ArrayA) do	c1	1
if ArrayA[i] == targetElement	c2	1
return i	c3	1
return -1		

$$T(n) = c1 + c2 + c3$$

The running time is constant independent of size of list (n)

# Asymptotic Analysis

- An pseudocode of an algorithm for searching an element in a list

**What is the running time of this algorithm in worst case?**

SequentialSearch(ArrayA, targetElement)

```
for i = 1 to ArraySize(ArrayA) do
    if ArrayA[i] == targetElement
        return i
return -1
```

Cost

c1  
c2  
c3  
c4

Times

$$\sum_{i=1}^n 1 = n$$
$$\sum_{i=1}^1 1 = 1$$

element in the last spot or it is not in the list, iterate through whole array

go whole list

only implemented when found

in list

not in list

$$T(n) = c1 \cdot n + c2 \cdot n + \text{c3} \text{ or } T(n) = c1 \cdot n + c2 \cdot n + \text{c4}$$

The running time is linear function of n

# Asymptotic Analysis

- An pseudocode of an algorithm to calculate the sum of all elements in a list of size n

SumListElements(listA)

```
1 total = 0
2 for i = 1 to length(list)
3     total += list[i]
4 print(total)
```

What is the running time of this algorithm

in **best, average, and worst case?** always frame like this

iterate over whole array in every case because it is a sum!



# Asymptotic Analysis

- Given an algorithm to calculate the sum of all elements in list of size n. **what is the running time of this algorithm in best/average/worst cases?**

THE SAME IN EVERY CASE

SumListElements(listA)

1 total = 0

2 for i = 1 to length(list)

3 total += list[i]

4 print(total)

Cost

c1

c2

c3

c4

Times

1 runs once

$\sum_{i=1}^n 1 = n$  over whole array

$\sum_{i=1}^n 1 = n$  over whole list

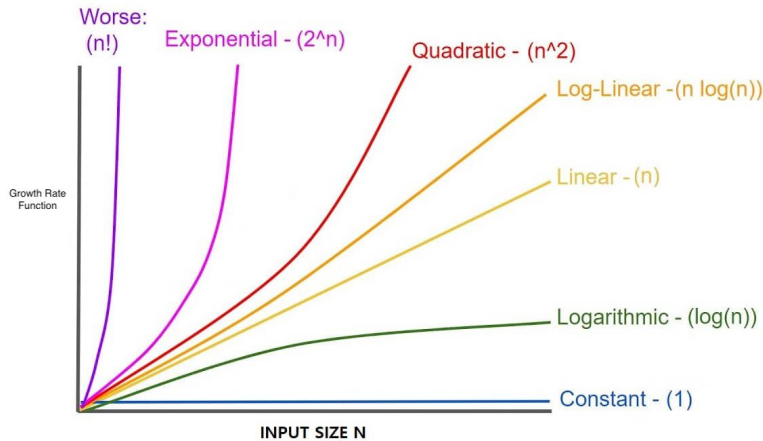
1 prints once

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= c1 + c2 n + c3 n + c4 \\ &= c1 + c4 + (c2 + c3)n \end{aligned}$$

The running time is a linear function of n

# Common Growth Rates

- The asymptotic growth rate for an algorithm is the rate at which the cost of the algorithm grows as the size of its input grows.



very slow

Fast

Function	Common Name
$n!$	Factorial
$2^n$	Exponential
$n^d, d > 3$	Polynomial
$n^3$	Cubic
$n^2$	Quadratic
$n\sqrt{n}$	$n$ Square root $n$
$n \log n$	$n \log n$
$n$	Linear
$\sqrt{n}$	Root - $n$
$\log n$	Logarithmic
1	Constant

**Rule of thumb:** the slower the asymptotic growth rate, the better the algorithm

# Common Growth Rates - Discussion

- Given two functions

$$f(n) = 100n$$

$$g(n) = n^2 + 5$$

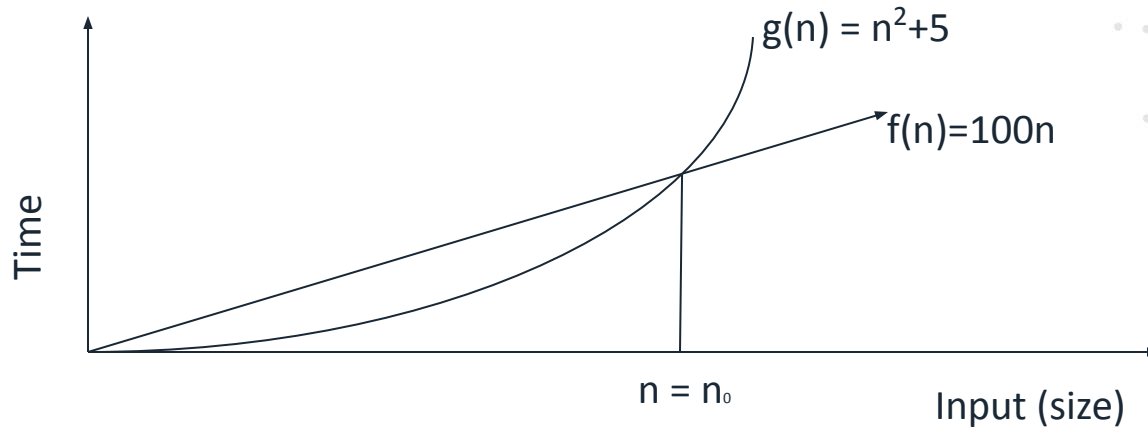
- When  $n$  is small, which is the bigger function?
- When  $n$  is large, which is the bigger function?
- can we say  $g(n)$  grows faster than  $f(n)$ ? NOOOO

$n=5$ ,  $g$  is better, smaller

$n=100$ ,  $f$  is slightly better, smaller

# Common Growth Rates - Discussion

- As size of input ( $n$ ) gets larger, any algorithm of a smaller order will be more efficient than an algorithm of a larger order

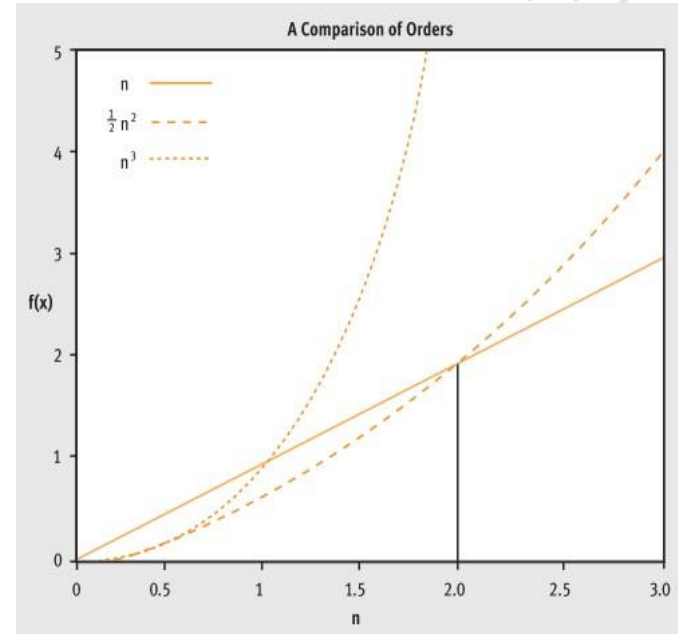


# Asymptotically Superior Algorithm

- If we choose an **asymptotically superior algorithm** to solve a problem, we will not know exactly how much time is required, but we know that as the problem size increases there will always be a point beyond which **the lower-order method takes less time than the higher-order algorithm**
- Once the problem size becomes sufficiently large, the asymptotically superior algorithm always executes more quickly
- The next figure demonstrates this behavior for algorithms of order  $n$ ,  $n^2$ , and  $n^3$

# Asymptotically Superior Algorithm

- For small problems, the choice of algorithms is not critical – in fact, the growth rate  $n^2$  or  $n^3$  may even be superior!
- However, as  $n$  grows large (larger than 2.0 in this case) the algorithm with growth rate of  $n$  always has a superior running time and *improves as  $n$  increases*



# Asymptotic Notations

trying to measure efficiency as  $n$  goes to infinity

Trying to bound the efficiency

- **Asymptotic notations** are mathematical tools used to express the growth rate, allowing us to classify and compare algorithms based on their efficiency
- They help us to reason about our algorithms with various cases like best case, worst case, and average case.
- Three main asymptotic notations
  - **Big-O Notation** ( $O$ -notation) - Upper bound
  - **Omega Notation** ( $\Omega$ -notation) - Lower bound
  - **Theta Notation** ( $\Theta$ -notation) - Tight bound

bounds between upper (best efficiency) and a lower bound (worst)

# Big-O Notation

t could = f but not have to

- Given two functions  $t(n)$  &  $f(n)$  for input  $n$ , we say  $t(n)$  is in  $O(f(n))$  iff there exist positive constants  $c$  and  $n_0$  such that

is there a function bounding it, so my function is never bigger

$$t(n) \leq c f(n) \text{ when } n \geq n_0$$

$n_0$  is a value for  $n$

- $n$  is the size of the dataset the algorithm works on
- $t(n)$  is the actual growth rate of the algorithm
- $f(n)$  is a function that characterizes an upper bounds on  $t(n)$ 
  - it is the function that bounds the growth rate (It is a limit on the running time of the algorithm)
- $c$  and  $n_0$  are constants. The choices for  $c$  and  $n_0$  are not unique



# Big-O Notation

$f(n)$  and

need this to hold:  
 $T(n) \leq c f(n)$  for this case make them the same:  
 $5n+2 \leq c(5n+2)$  where  $c$  is 1 and  $n$  is 1  
or like  $100n \leq c(n^2+5)$

## • Example

- $t(n) = 5n+2 = O(f(n)) = O(n)$  for what value of  $c$  and  $n_0$ ?
  - $t(n) \leq 6n$ , for  $n \geq 3$  ( $c=6, n_0=3$ )
- $t(n) = n/2 - 3 = O(f(n)) = O(n)$  for what value of  $c$  and  $n_0$ ?
  - $t(n) \leq 0.5n$  for  $n \geq 0$  ( $c=0.5, n_0=0$ )
- $t(n) = n(n+1)/2 = O(f(n)) = O(n^2)$  for what value of  $c$  and  $n_0$ ?
  - $n(n+1)/2 \leq n^2$  for  $n \geq 0$  ( $c=1, n_0=0$ )

looking for a starting point  $n_0$  so that  
as  $n$  goes to infinity, the equation is  
satisfied

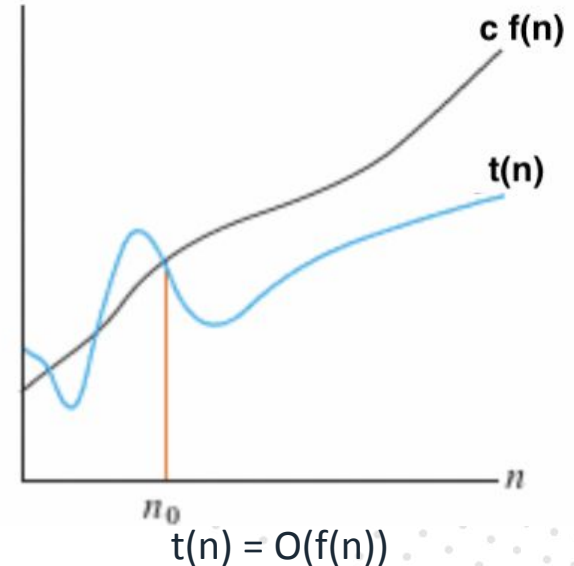
tight bound is better than loose bound, as long as satisfying the equation you are good

minimum upper bound is  $O(n)$

# Big-O Notation

- $t(n)$  is  $O(f(n))$  if  $t(n)$  is asymptotically **less than or equal** to  $f(n)$ 
  - it is correct to say  $7n - 3$  is  $O(n^2)$  or  $O(n^3)$ , a better statement is  $7n - 3$  is  $O(n)$ , make the approximation as tight as possible
- $t(N)$  may not necessarily equal  $f(N)$ 
  - **constants and lesser terms ignored** because it is a *bounding function*

if function describing growth rate, take the highest term



note starting at  $n_0$ , then  $c f(n)$  bounds  $t(n)$

# Big-O Notation

## Big-Oh Rules

- If a function that describes the growth of an algorithm has several terms, its order of growth is determined by the **fastest growing term**
  - If  $t(n)$  is a polynomial of degree  $d$ , then  $t(n)$  is  $O(n^d)$ , (i.e.,  $a_m n^m + a_{m-1} n^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 n + a_0 = O(n^m)$ )
    - Drop lower-order terms
    - Drop constant factors
    - Example:  $7n^3 + 20n^2 + 4n$  is  $O(n^3)$
- Use the smallest possible class of functions
  - Say “ $2n$  is  $O(n)$ ” instead of “ $2n$  is  $O(n^2)$ ”
- Use the simplest expression of the class
  - Say “ $3n + 5$  is  $O(n)$ ” instead of “ $3n + 5$  is  $O(3n)$ ”

# Big-O Notation

- $t(n) = n^4 + 100n^2 + 10n + 50$ 
  - $t(n) = O(n^4)$
- $t(n) = 10n^3 + 2n^2$ 
  - $t(n) = O(n^3)$
- $t(n) = n^3 - n^2$ 
  - $t(n) = O(n^3)$
- $t(n) = 10$ 
  - $t(n) = O(1)$

# Big-O Notation

- **Caution!** Constants sometimes make a difference
  - An algorithm running in time  $1,000,000 n$  is still  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  but might be less efficient on your dataset than one running in time  $2n^2$ , which is  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$

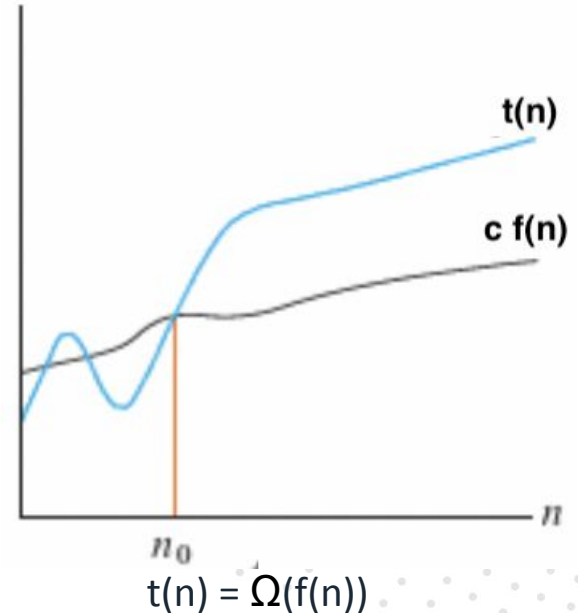
# Big-Omega Notation

omega and big O are inverse

- Given two functions  $t(n)$  &  $f(n)$  for input  $n$ , we say  $t(n)$  is in  $\Omega(f(n))$  iff there exist positive constants  $c$  and  $n_0$  such that

$$t(n) \geq c f(n) \text{ when } n \geq n_0$$

- Big Omega is just opposite to Big O => If  $t(n)$  is  $O(f(n))$  then  $f(n)$  is  $\Omega(t(n))$
- $f(n)$  is a function that characterizes an lower bounds on  $t(n)$
- $t(n)$  is  $\Omega(f(n))$  if  $t(n)$  is asymptotically greater than or equal to  $f(n)$



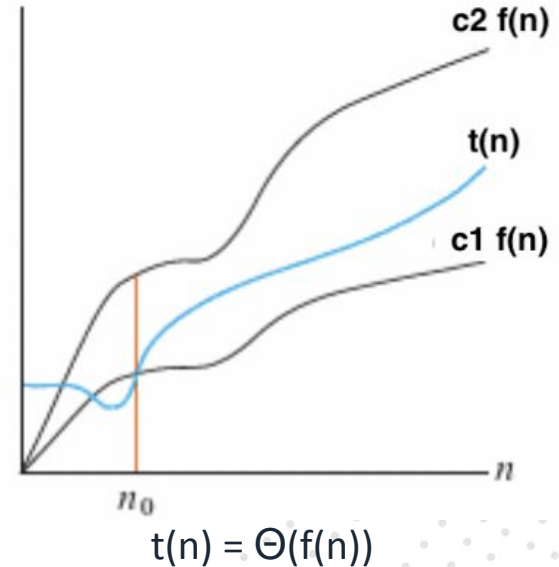
# Big-Theta Notation

tied bound:  $T(n)=O(n)=\omega(n)=\theta(n)$

- The function  $t(n)$  is  $\Theta(f(n))$  iff there exist two real positive constants  $c_1 > 0$  and  $c_2 > 0$  and a positive integer  $n_0$  such that:

$$c_1 f(n) \geq t(n) \geq c_2 f(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0$$

- For any two functions,  $f$  and  $t$ ,  $t(n) = \Theta(f(n))$ , iff  $t(n) = O(f(n))$  AND  $t(n) = \Omega(f(n))$
- $t(n)$  is  $\Theta(f(n))$  if  $t(n)$  is asymptotically **equal** to  $f(n)$



# Summary of Asymptotic Notations

Analysis Type	Mathematical Expression	Relative Rates of Growth
Big O	$T(N) = O( F(N) )$	$T(N) \leq c F(N)$
Big $\Omega$	$T(N) = \Omega( F(N) )$	$T(N) \geq c F(N)$
Big $\theta$	$T(N) = \theta( F(N) )$	$c_1 F(n) \geq T(n) \geq c_2 F(n)$

ineff upper  
bound

tightest



# What does all this means?

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- If  $t(n) = \Theta(f(n))$  we say that  $t(n)$  and  $f(n)$  grow at the same rate, asymptotically same order
- If  $t(n) = O(f(n))$  and  $t(n) \neq \Omega(f(n))$ , then we say that  $t(n)$  is asymptotically slower growing than  $f(n)$ . like not same order (power)
- If  $t(n) = \Omega(f(n))$  and  $t(n) \neq O(f(n))$ , then we say that  $t(n)$  is asymptotically faster growing than  $f(n)$ .

# Which Notation to Use?

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- To express the efficiency of our algorithms which of the three notations should we use?
- As data scientist we generally like to express our algorithms as big O.

Why?

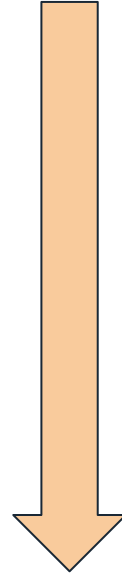
because we need to now upper bound because is most inefficient growth rate

# Do Not Be Confused

- Best-Case does not imply  $\Omega(f(n))$
- Average-Case does not imply  $\Theta(f(n))$
- Worst-Case does not imply  $O(f(n))$
- Best-, Average-, and Worst- are specific to the algorithm
- $\Omega(f(n))$ ,  $\Theta(f(n))$ ,  $O(f(n))$  describe functions
  - you can have an  $\Omega(f(n))$  bound of the worst-case performance
  - you can have a  $\Theta(f(n))$  of best-case

# Common Order Classes - Big O

- $O(1)$  – constant time
- $O(\lg n)$  – logarithmic time
- $O(n)$  – linear time
- $O(n \lg n)$  – log-linear time
- $O(n^2)$  – quadratic time
- $O(n^3)$  – cubic time
- ....
- $O(2^n)$  – exponential time



Increasing  
Complexity

# $O(1)$ – Constant time

- The algorithm requires a fixed number of steps regardless of the size of the task (input)
- Examples
  - Push and Pop operations for a stack data structure (size  $n$ )
  - Insert and Remove operations for a queue
  - Conditional statement for a loop
  - Assignment statements

# $O(1)$ – Constant time

- `listA[Index]`  $O(1)$  -> Accessing an element in list
- `num = 110`  $O(1)$  -> Assignment statement
- Conditional Statement

```
1 ▾ if(num>=0):  $O(1)$  -> condition check
2     print ("num is non negative")  $O(1)$  -> print function
3 ▾ else:
4     print("num is negative")  $O(1)$  -> print function
```

# $O(1)$ – Constant time

```
1 num = 5
```

$O(1)$  -> assignment statement

since this is constant, then  $O(\text{num})=O(1)$   
if the assignment can be changed or grown,  
then it is truly  $O(\text{num})$

```
2 for i in range(num):
```

$O(\text{num}) = O(5) = O(1)$

```
3     print(i)
```

$O(\text{num}) = O(5) = O(1)$

If the value of num is fixed (i.e., 5), then time complexity is  $O(1)$

If the value of num can grow to  $n$ , then time complexity is  $O(n)$

# Quiz

---

What is the worst case time complexity for the following lines? assuming  $n$  goes to infinity

```
1 mystr = "a" * n
```

string of  $n$  number of a's

iterate over the list, so  
is  $O(n)$

```
for i in range(n)
    mylist.append("a")
```

```
1 mylist = [0] * n
```

this is also  $O(n)$  for the same reason

```
for i in range(n)
    mylist.append(0)
```



# $O(\log n)$ – Logarithmic time

- Operations involving dividing the search space in *half* each time (taking a list of items, cutting it in half repeatedly until there's only one item left)
- It works for both recursive and non recursive
- Examples
  - Binary search of a sorted list of  $n$  elements
  - Insert and Find operations for binary search tree (BST) with  $n$  nodes

# $O(\log n)$ – Logarithmic time

- This algorithm calculates the number of digits in the binary representation of a number ( $n$ ). The worst case time complexity is  $O(\log_2 n)$

```
1 if n <= 0:      O(1) -> condition check    constant time= O(1)
2     print ("Input must be greater than 0") O(1) -> print function
3 count = 0      O(1) -> assignment           time it takes is
4 while n > 1:    O(log2n) -> Each iteration of the loop divides n by 2    independent of the size of
5     n //= 2       $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} O(1) = \log_2 n \cdot O(1) = O(\log_2 n)$     my whole program=O(1)
6     count += 1   $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} O(1) = \log_2 n \cdot O(1) = O(\log_2 n)$     each time divides by
                                                    n/2, n/4, n/8=1 since 3
                                                    iterations (8=2^3)
```

# $O(\log n)$ – Logarithmic time

- An pseudocode of an algorithm calculates the largest power of 2 that is less than or equal to  $(n)$ . The worst case time complexity  $O(\log_2 n)$

```
1 power = 1  $O(1)$  -> assignment statement
```

```
2 while power <= n:  $O(\log_2 n)$ 
```

-> Each iteration of the loop multiplies power by 2 until it exceeds n (2,4,8,16,...)

-> number of iterations = num of times power doubled (k)- > starts at  $2^0$  until it gets  $2^k$ , where  $k > n$

->  $2^k > n \Rightarrow 2^k \approx n \Rightarrow k \approx \log_2 n$

```
6 power *= 2  $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} O(1) = \log_2 n \cdot O(1) = O(\log_2 n)$ 
```

```
8 power = power // 2  $O(1)$  -> return statement
```

# $O(\log n)$ – Logarithmic time

- Each recursive call approximately halves the value of  $n$ . Thus, the function will continue making recursive calls until  $n$  becomes 0.
- The number of recursive calls is approximately  $\log_2 n$ , since each call reduces  $n$  by a factor of 2.
- This results in a recursion depth of  $O(\log_2 n)$

```
1 def logn(n):  
2     if(n==0):  
3         return ("Done")  
4     n = n//2  
5     return logn(n)
```

```
1 def largest_power_of_2(n):  
2     if n <= 1:  
3         return 1  
4     half = largest_power_of_2(n // 2)  
5     return half * 2
```

# $O(\log n)$ – Logarithmic time - Quiz

What is the worst case time complexity for the following code snippet?

```
1 while (n>0)
2     n = n / m
```

worst time complexity is:  $\log_m(n)$

is  $n/m^0, n/m^1, n/m^2$  etc until  $n/m^k \leq 1$

# $O(n)$ – Linear time

list, sequential, finding min or max, etc

- The number of steps increase in proportion to the size of the task (input)
- Examples
  - Traversal of a list or an array... (size  $n$ )
  - Sequential search in an unsorted list of elements (size  $n$ )
  - Finding the max or min element in a list

# $O(n)$ – Linear time

- The function iterates through each element of the array exactly once.
- Therefore, if the size of the array is  $n$ , the time complexity of the function for worst case is  $O(n)$

**Assume arr is of size n**

```
1 def count_occurrences(arr, value):
2     count = 0     $O(1)$  -> assignment
3     for num in arr:     $O(n)$  -> n iterations in the loop
4         if num == value:     $\sum_{i=1}^n O(1) = n \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
5             count += 1     $\sum_{i=1}^n O(1) = n \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
6     return count     $O(1)$  -> return statement
```

exec n times

```
1 def find_max_min(arr):
2     if len(arr) == 0:     $O(1)$  -> condition check
3         print("List is empty")     $O(1)$  -> print function
4
5     max_val = arr[0]     $O(1)$  -> assignment
6     min_val = arr[0]     $O(1)$  -> assignment
7
8     for element in arr:     $O(n)$ 
9         if element > max_val:     $\sum_{i=1}^n O(1) = n \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
10             max_val = element
11         if element < min_val:     $\sum_{i=1}^n O(1) = n \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
12             min_val = element
13
14     return max_val, min_val     $O(1)$  -> return statement
```

# $O(n)$ – Linear time - Quiz

What are the worst case time complexity for the following code snippets?

```
1 def sequentialSearch(arr, target):  
2     for element in arr:  $O(n)$   
3         return element == target  $O(n)$   
.
```

so overall, most complex is  $O(n)$

```
1 def sequentialSearch2(arr, target):  
2     return target in arr
```

$O(n)$



# $O(n \lg n)$ – Log-linear time

- Typically describing the behavior of divide-and-conquer approaches and more advanced sorting algorithms
- **Examples**
  - Quicksort
  - Mergesort

# $O(n \lg n)$ – Log-linear time

What are the worst case time complexity for the following pseudocode?

$O(n \log_2 n)$

```
1  y = n       $O(1)$  -> assignment statement
2  while n > 1:  $O(\log_2 n)$  -> Each iteration of the loop divides  $n$  by 2
3      n = n // 2   $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} O(1) = \log_2 n \cdot O(1) = O(\log_2 n)$ 
4  for i in range(y):  $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} O(n) = \log_2 n \cdot O(n) = O(n \log_2 n)$ 
5      print(i)  $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} O(n) = \log_2 n \cdot O(n) = O(n \log_2 n)$ 
```

because  
for each  
interaction  
of outer,  
inner  
executes  
 $n$  times

# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time

- Running time grows proportionally to the square of the input size  $n$ 
  - For a task of size 10, the number of operations will be 100
  - For a task of size 100, the number of operations will be 100x100 and so on...
- **Examples**
  - A selection sort of  $n$  elements
  - Finding duplicates in an unsorted list of size  $n$
  - *Think: doubly nested loops*

# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time

What is the worst case time complexity for the following pseudocode?

$O(n^2)$

```
1 for i in range(n):  $O(n)$ 
2     for j in range(n):  $\sum_{i=1}^n O(n) = n \cdot O(n) = O(n^2)$ 
3         print (i*j)
```

# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time

What is the time complexity of worst case for the following pseudocode?

$O(n^2)$

each inner iteration going from  $i$  to  $n$  like 1 to  $n$  then 2 to  $n$  etc

```
1 for i in range(n):  
2     for j in range(i, n):  
3         print(i*j)
```

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n (n-i) = (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 0 \\ & = \text{represents the sum of the first } n \text{ natural numbers} \\ & = \text{sum of an arithmetic series} \\ & = \frac{n \times (n-1)}{2} \\ & = O(n^2) \end{aligned}$$

each going from  $i$  to  $n$

# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time

What is the time complexity of worst case for the following pseudocode?

$O(n^2)$

```
1 for i in range(n):  $O(n)$  from 0 to n-1: 0,1,2,3,...n-1
2     for j in range(0, n, 2):  $\sum_{i=1}^n O(n/2) = n \cdot O(n/2) = O(\frac{n^2}{2}) = O(n^2)$ 
3         print(i*j)
```

this is 0,2,4,6,,8 etc

# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time

The time complexity for the best-case scenario in insertion sort?  $O(n)$

```
1 insertionSort(arr):  
2     for i in range(1, len(arr)):  $O(n)$   
3         key = arr[i]  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} O(1) = (n-1) \cdot O(1) = O(n)$   
4         j = i-1  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} O(1) = (n-1) \cdot O(1) = O(n)$   
5         while j >= 0 and key < arr[j]:  
6             arr[j+1] = arr[j]  $\text{if the list is already sorted, the body of while}$   
7             j -= 1  $\text{loop will not execute at all because arr[j] <= key}$   
8         arr[j+1] = key  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} O(1) = (n-1) \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
```

Therefore, in the best case, the time complexity is:  $O(n)$

# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time

The time complexity for the worst-case scenario in insertion sort  $O(n^2)$

```
1 insertionSort(arr):
2     for i in range(1, len(arr)):  $O(n)$ 
3         key = arr[i]  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} O(1) = (n-1) \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
4         j = i-1  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} O(1) = (n-1) \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
5         while j >= 0 and key < arr[j]:  $\sum_{i=1}^n O(i-1) = 0 + 1 + 2 + \dots + (n-2) + (n-1)$ 
6             arr[j+1] = arr[j]  $= \text{represents the sum of the first } n \text{ natural numbers} =$ 
7             j -= 1  $= \frac{n \times (n-1)}{2} = O(n^2)$ 
8         arr[j+1] = key  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} O(1) = (n-1) \cdot O(1) = O(n)$ 
```

Therefore, in the average/worst case, the time complexity is:  $O(n^2)$



# $O(n^2)$ – Quadratic time - Quizz

---

The time complexity of insertion sort is  $O(n^2)$  in all cases (best, average, and worst) ?(True or False)

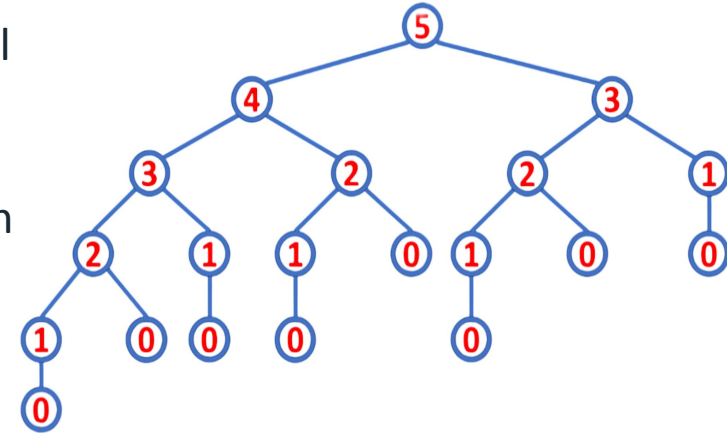
# $O(a^n)$ ( $a > 1$ ) – Exponential time

BAD TO HAVE THIS! like factorial

- Many interesting problems fall into this category...
- **Examples**
  - Recursive Fibonacci implementation
  - Towers of Hanoi
  - ... many more!

not dig deeper

- ```
1 def fibonacci(n):
2     if n <= 1:
3         return n
4     return fibonacci(n - 1) + fibonacci(n - 2)
```



# Quiz

---

- For most simple programs or small datasets, efficiency doesn't really matter (True or False)

string=immutable

## Quiz

WE will start with this!

[ "Welcome", "to", "UVA" ]  
result = ""  
1 → welcome  
2 → welcome to  
3 → welcome to UVA

- For most simple programs or small datasets, efficiency doesn't really matter (True or False)
- But this will not always be true — especially in the data sciences!

```
1 #Concatenate a list of strings
2 #Input: The list of strings to concatenate
3 #Output: The concatenated string
4 def concatenate_strings(strings_list):
5     return ' '.join(strings_list)
```

checks length, allocates memory, then adds  
 $O(1)$ ?

```
1 #Concatenate a list of strings
2 #Input: The list of strings to concatenate
3 #Output: The concatenated string
4 def concatenate_strings_with_loop(strings_list):
5     result = ""
6     for string in strings_list:
7         result += string
8     return result
```

UVA DATA SCIENCE (In memory, adds new space (location) each time)  $\sum O(n) = n \cdot O(n)$