

Big-O Notation	Running Time	Meaning
$O(1)$	Constant	Running term is independent of the input size. We would get the same run time regardless of what we put in.
$O(\log n)$	Logarithmic	Running time grows as the log of at least one of the inputs. Typically, we assume it is \log_2 . Every time the size of the input doubles, the algorithm performs one additional step.
$O(n)$	Linear	Usually algorithms dealing with lists and sequences as they touch each element of the sequence a constant number of times (i.e. comparing two strings). If you have to “touch” every element (including reindexing).
$O(n \log n)$	Log-linear	Many practical algorithms are log linear. In the worst-case scenario, <i>sorting</i> is log-linear.
$O(n^c)$	Polynomial	Run time is the power of the input. Can be quadratic $O(n^2)$ or cubic $O(n^3)$. This is what happens in nested loops, and why they are so inefficient.
$O(c^n)$	Exponential	Dangerous territory. Generally considered impractical as they are too slow. Many important problems are inherently exponential i.e. Fibonacci.