

What Is Time Complexity?

- 📦 Why Does It Matter?
- 🕒 Big-O Notation
- 🔧 Example: Linear vs. Quadratic
- 🕒 Key Takeaways

Time complexity is a way to describe how the running time of an algorithm increases as the size of the input grows. Think of it as a **mathematical estimate** of how much time your code will take to run, especially when dealing with **large amounts of data**.

📦 Why Does It Matter?

Imagine sorting a list of 10 names vs. 10 million names. You want to know:

- Will your algorithm still be fast?
- Will it slow down a little or a lot?

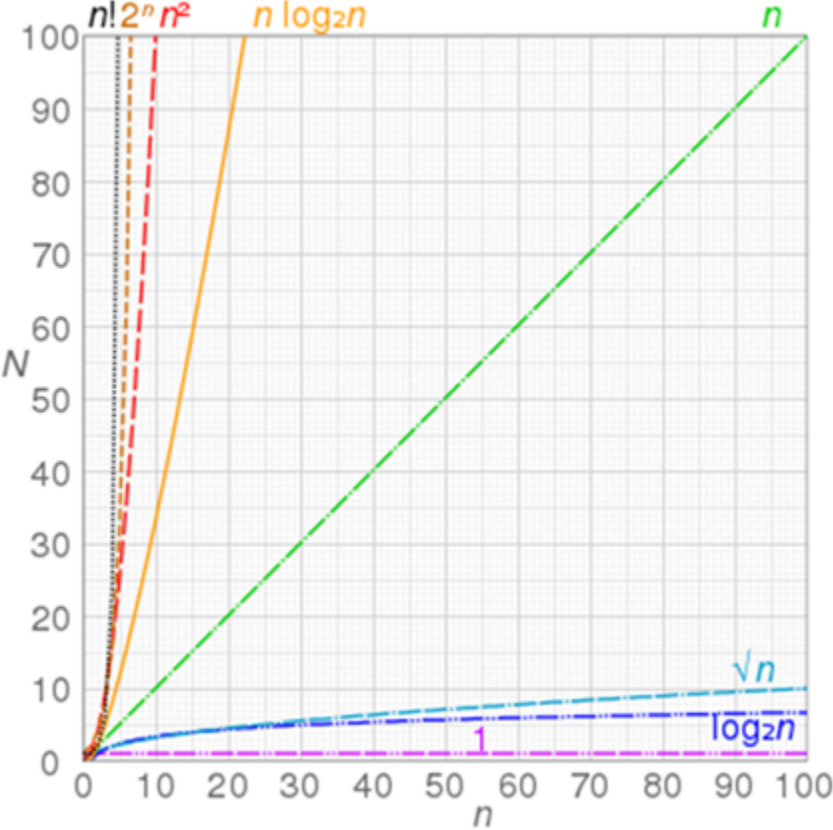
Time complexity helps you **predict performance** without actually running the program.

🕒 Big-O Notation

We use **Big-O notation** to express time complexity. It describes the **upper bound** of an algorithm’s running time.

Here are some common time complexities:

Big-O Notation	Name	Example Scenario
O(1)	Constant time	Accessing an array element
O(log n)	Logarithmic time	Binary search
O(n)	Linear time	Looping through an array
O(n log n)	Log-linear time	Merge sort, Quick sort (average)
O(n^2)	Quadratic time	Nested loops (e.g., bubble sort)
O(2^n)	Exponential time	Recursive algorithms (e.g., brute force)



🔧 Example: Linear vs. Quadratic

Let’s say you have a list of `n` numbers:

- A **linear algorithm** (like finding the max) checks each number once → ($O(n)$)
- A **quadratic algorithm** (like comparing every pair) does ($n \times n$) comparisons → ($O(n^2)$)

So if `n = 1,000` :

- Linear: ~1,000 steps
- Quadratic: ~1,000,000 steps 😱

🕒 Key Takeaways

- Time complexity helps you **compare algorithms**.
- It focuses on **growth rate**, not exact time.
- Lower time complexity = better scalability**.

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🔍 Markdown Viewer

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- [Markdown Viewer](#)

🧠 Lecture Practices

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- [Day 4](#)
- [Day 5](#)
- [Day 6](#)

🔍 Lecture Quizzes

Here are the lecture quizzes...

- [Day 4](#)
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- [Maps](#)
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