

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?

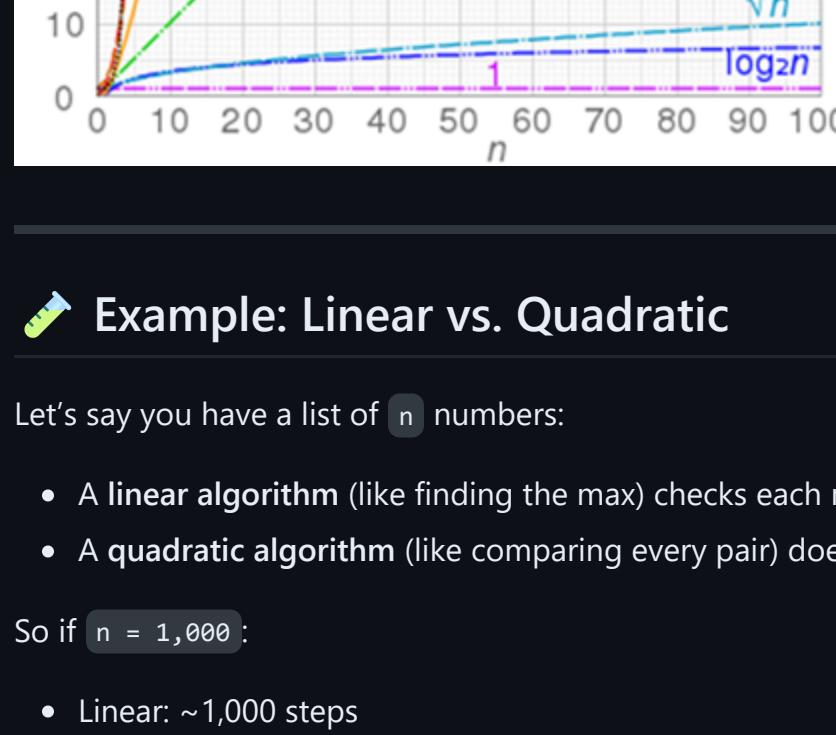
Time complexity helps you predict performance without actually running the program.

⌚ 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 $\rightarrow (O(n))$
- A quadratic algorithm (like comparing every pair) does $(n \times n)$ comparisons $\rightarrow (O(n^2))$

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.

Footer Separator

Markdown Viewer

How to view the markdown files in a browser...

- Markdown Viewer

🗣 Lecture Practices

Here are the lecture Practices...

- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6

Weekly Topics

Here are the topics for the week...

- Recursion
- Pseudocode
- Sorting
- Searching
- Maps
- Time Complexity