



TLE Eliminators

Time Complexity

- ↗ CP
- ↖ DSA
- ↘ Interviews

- Viraj Chandra



Goal

To understand:

- ✓ • Elementary Operations
- ✓ • Time Complexity
- ✓ • Big-O Notation
- ✓ • Evaluating TC of an algorithm
- ✓ • Evaluating expected TC based on constraints of the problem

$O(100)$



What is an Elementary Operation?

An operation that takes **constant time** is called elementary operation.

- ✓ • **Arithmetic Operations**
 - $A + B$, $A - B$, $A * B$, A / B
- ✓ • **Comparison of Primitive Datatypes (int, float, char etc.)**
 - $A > B$, $A < B$, $A == B$
- ✓ • **Input and Output of Primitive Datatypes (int, float, char etc.)**
 - `cin >> A` , `cout << A`

NOTE: 10^8 elementary operations \approx 1 second of time



Quiz 1

Is the following an elementary operation?



```
1 int a, b, c, d;  
2 cin >> a >> b >> c >> d;  
3 cout << (a + b * c) / d << endl;
```

YES



```
1 string s, t;  
2 cin >> s >> t;  
3 if (s < t)  
4     cout << "s is smaller than t" << endl;
```

NO

$n \rightarrow 1000, 10000 \quad TC = O(n^2)$



What is Time Complexity?

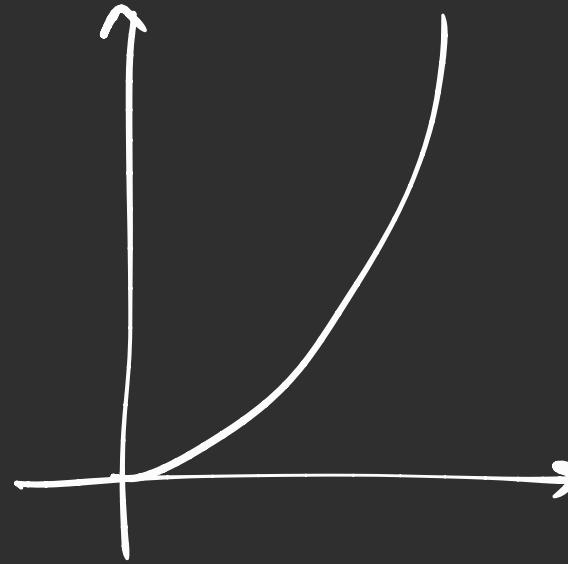
Time complexity is a function to describe the approximate amount of operations an algorithm requires for the given input.

We can calculate approximate execution time of code using time complexity and constraints.

We will understand more about calculating time complexity in the next slides.

$$f(x) = x^2$$

↓
input ↓
 output



input

$$n \rightarrow 1 \leq n \leq 1000$$

Constraints

$$a[i] \rightarrow 1 \leq a[i] \leq 10^6$$

no. of elementary operations wrt to n

3 ways

① atleast \lceil

② almost n^2

③ average $\frac{n^2+1}{2}$

```
for( 1 to n ) }  
{ for( 1 to n ) } }  
{ if( rand == 10 ) → stop  
    { // come out of everything }  
}
```

Big-O

Notation

$O(n)$

atmost

worst

upperbound

1 to 10



Theta

Notation

$\Theta(n)$

avg
middle



Omega

Notation

$\Omega(n)$

atleast

best

lowerbound

$X = 10$

$$n + n + n + n + \dots + n$$



n times

$$\Rightarrow \textcircled{n^2}$$



Big-O Notation

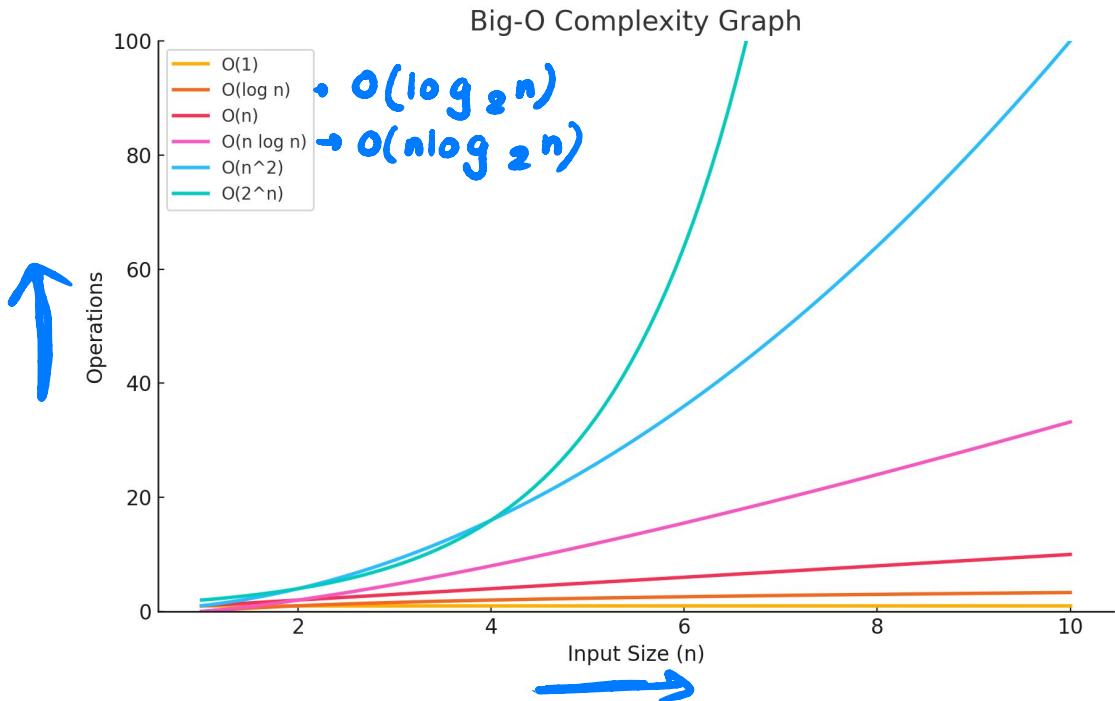
Big-O of an algorithm is a function to **calculate the worst case time complexity** of the algorithm.

It is written as **O(worst case time complexity)**

Big-O is used to calculate the approximate **upper bound** of the algorithm. It expresses how the run time of the algorithm grows relative to the input.



Big-O Notation





Rules for Big-O Notation

- ✓ • Should not have constants.
 - $O(N + K) = O(N)$
- ✓ • Should not have constant factors.
 - $O(N/2) = O(N)$
- ✓ • Only include the fastest growing function for each variable.
 - $O(N^2 + N) = O(N^2)$
- ✓ • Can never be 0. Has to be at least $O(1)$.

Example: $\underline{2N^2} + \underline{4N} + \underline{4(M^3+5)} + 10 = ?$ $O(N^2 + M^3)$



Quiz 2

① $(N + M) / K \rightarrow O(N+M)$

② $N * (N + 1) / 2 \rightarrow O(N^2 + N / 2) \rightarrow O(N^2)$

③ $N + MN^2 + M^2N + M \rightarrow O(MN^2 + M^2N)$

④ $\underline{N^3 / 64 + 20N + (32NM)^2} \rightarrow O(\underline{N^2M^2} + \underline{N^3})$



Calculate TC of an Algorithm

Time complexity usually depends on:

- **Loops**
- **STL** - to be covered in the upcoming classes
- **Recursion**

Time Complexity of recursive algorithms will not be covered.



Calculate TC of an Algorithm

In Big-O notation, when you have nested loops, the total time complexity is calculated by **multiplying the number of iterations of each loop**. The time complexity here is $O(n*m)$.

```
● ● ●  
1  int n = 5, m = 3;  
2  // Outer loop runs 'n' times  
3  for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
4      // Inner loop runs 'm' times for each iteration of the outer loop  
5      for (int j = 0; j < m; j++) {  
6          cout << "*";  
7      }  
8      cout << "\n";  
9  }
```

$O(n*m)$



Quiz 3

Find the time complexity of the following code snippets in Big-O notation

```
● ● ●  
1  for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
2  {  
3      for (int j = 0; j < n / 2; j++)  
4      {  
5          // Elementary Operation  
6      }  
7  }
```

$$O\left(n * \frac{n}{2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow O(n^2)$$



Quiz 3

● ● ●

```
1  for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
2  {
3      for (int j = 0; j < n; j++)
4      {
5          for (int k = 0; k < n; k++)
6          {
7              // Elementary Operation
8          }
9      }
10 }
```

$O(n^3)$



Quiz 3



```
1  for (int i = 12; i <= n - 123; i += 5)
2  {
3      for (int j = 6; j <= m * 2; j += 321)
4      {
5          for (int k = 4023; k > 23; k -= 16)
6          {
7              // Elementary Operation
8          }
9      }
10 }
```

$O(n*m)$



Quiz 3

$i = \overbrace{1, 2, 4, 8, 16}^{\text{2}^x} \dots \dots \dots 2^x < n$



```
1 for (int i = 1; i < n; i *= 2)
2 {
3     // Elementary Operation
4 }
```

$$2^x \approx n$$

$$\log_2 2^x \approx \log_2 n$$

$$\underline{x \approx \log_2 n}$$

CheatSheet



Expected Time Complexity

Feasible Big-O Function	Maximum N	Example Algorithms
$O(N!)$	10	All permutations of a list
$O(N^3)$	400	Multiplication of two matrices
$O(N^2)$	5000	Square grid, bubble sort, insertion sort
$O(N\sqrt{N})$	10^5	Usually related to factoring
$O(N \log N)$	10^6	Merge sort, binary search for N times
$O(N)$	10^7	Linear search, reversing an array, string comparison
$O(\sqrt{N})$	10^{12}	Factors of a number
$O(\log N), O(1)$	10^{18}	Binary search, Constant time formulas



Points to Note

- ✓ • Identify the variables that contribute to time complexity.
- ✓ • Just because constraints allow slower solutions, doesn't mean we cannot optimise it.
 - **For $n = 1000$** , both $O(n^2)$ and $O(n)$ will work.
- ✓ • Test cases matter, unless there's a limit explicitly imposed in the constraints.
 - **Example:** “The sum of n over all test cases do not exceed X ”
- ✓ • The constants and constant factors removed when calculating Big-O still matter.



Important Links

- <https://towardsdatascience.com/essential-programming-time-complexity-a95bb2608cac>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TlHvipP5yA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SgLBjXqwd4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10DTkS1L2k>
- <https://adrianmejia.com/most-popular-algorithms-time-complexity-every-programmer-should-know-free-online-tutorial-course/>
(advanced)