

E-commerce Platform Search Function

1. Explain Big O notation and how it helps in analyzing algorithms.

Big O notation describes how the runtime of an algorithm grows with input size (n). It helps analyze efficiency and scalability of algorithms.

For example:

$O(1)$ → Constant time (best)

$O(\log n)$ → Logarithmic time

$O(n)$ → Linear time

$O(n \log n)$ → Linearithmic time

$O(n^2)$ → Quadratic time (inefficient for large inputs)

2. Describe the best, average, and worst-case scenarios for search operations

Linear Search:

Best case: $O(1)$

Average case : $O(n)$

Worst case: $O(n)$

Binary Search:

Best case: $O(1)$

Average case : $O(\log n)$

Worst case: $O(\log n)$

3. Compare the time complexity of linear and binary search algorithms.

Linear Search:

Best case: $O(1)$

Average case : $O(n)$

Worst case: $O(n)$

Binary Search:

Best case: $O(1)$

Average case : $O(\log n)$

Worst case: $O(\log n)$

4. Discuss which algorithm is more suitable for your platform and why.

- For small datasets or unsorted data, linear search is simpler and sufficient.
- For large and frequently queried datasets, binary search is better:
Requires one-time sorting $O(n \log n)$
After that, search is fast $O(\log n)$