

## Step 1: Understand Asymptotic Notation

### Requirement:

- Explain Big O notation and how it helps in analyzing algorithms.
- Describe the best, average, and worst-case scenarios for search operations.

### Implementation:

- **Big O Notation:** The response explains that Big O notation describes the upper bound of an algorithm's running time or space requirements as a function of input size ( $n$ ), focusing on worst-case performance and ignoring constants/lower-order terms. It's used to compare algorithm efficiency.
- **Search Scenarios:**
  - **Linear Search:**
    - Best Case:  $O(1)$  (target at first index).
    - Average Case:  $O(n)$  (checks  $\sim n/2$  elements on average).
    - Worst Case:  $O(n)$  (target at end or not present).
  - **Binary Search:**
    - Best Case:  $O(1)$  (target at middle on first check).
    - Average Case:  $O(\log n)$  (search space halved each step).
    - Worst Case:  $O(\log n)$  (target at end or not present).