

Introduction to Algorithms

(Time Complexity)

- Efficiency of an Algorithm
- Constant and Logarithmic Time
- Linear & Quadratic Time
- Quasilinear Time
- Exponential Time
- Determining Complexity

Algorithm - A set of steps a program takes to finish a task.

Guidelines :-

- Clearly defined problem statement, input and output.
- The steps in the algorithm need to be in very specific order.
- The steps also need to be distinct
- The algorithm should produce a result
- The algorithm should complete in a finite amount of time.

Big O Notation - “**O(n)**” - Theoretical definition of the complexity of an algorithm as a function of the size.

- **O(n)** - A function of the size (it measures complexity as the input size grows)
- **O(n)** - upper bound (This means how algo performs in worst case scenario)
- Complexity is relative. (This means it is always compared to other)

Linear search - **O(n)**

Binary search - **O(log n)**

Merge sort - **O(n log n)**

Linear time - **O(n)**

Logarithmic Time - **O(log n)**

Quadratic Time - **O(n²)**

Quasilinear Time - **O(n log n)**

Polynomial Runtime - **O(n^k)**

Exponential runtimes -

- **O(Xⁿ)**

- **O(n!)**

Iterative & Recursive

- **Python hates recursive**
- **Python does not implement tail call optimization.**
- **Swift handles it well.**