

# Big-O, Big-Omega, and Big-Theta Notations

## Overview

Asymptotic notations are used to describe the performance of algorithms in terms of time and space as input size grows.

### 1. Big-O Notation ( $O$ )

Big-O represents the **worst-case** time or space complexity of an algorithm. It defines an upper bound on the growth rate.

#### Example:

A loop that runs  $n$  times has time complexity  $O(n)$ .

### 2. Big-Omega Notation ( $\Omega$ )

Big-Omega represents the **best-case** time or space complexity. It defines a lower bound on the growth rate.

#### Example:

Accessing the first element in an array is  $\Omega(1)$ .

### 3. Big-Theta Notation ( $\Theta$ )

Big-Theta represents the **average or exact bound**. It means the algorithm grows at the same rate in both best and worst cases.

#### Example:

A loop that always runs  $n$  times is  $\Theta(n)$ .

## Comparison Summary

$O(n)$  → Worst case

$\Omega(n)$  → Best case

$\Theta(n)$  → Tight bound

## Why These Notations Matter

They help developers choose efficient algorithms and compare performance independently from hardware or programming language.