# Algorithmns and Datastructures O-Notation, L'Hopital

Prof. Dr. Rolf Backofen

Bioinformatics Group / Department of Computer Science

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## Structure

### **O**-Notation

Motivation / Definition Examples

#### $\Omega$ -Notation

### Θ-Notation

### Runtime

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## *O*-Notation Motivation

#### We are interested in:

- Example: sorting
  - ▶ Runtime of Minsort "is growing as"  $n^2$
  - ▶ Runtime of HeapSort "is growing as" n log n

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- Growth of a function in runtime T(n)
  - ▶ The role of constants (e.g. 1ns) is minor
  - ▶ it is enough if relation holds for some  $n \ge ...$

## $\mathcal{O} ext{-Notation}$

#### Motivation

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- Example: sorting
  - ► Runtime of Minsort "is growing as"  $n^2$
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- Growth of a function in runtime T(n)
  - ► The role of constants (e.g. 1ns) is minor
  - ▶ it is enough if relation holds for some  $n \ge ...$
- Describe the growth of the function more formally
  - ▶ By the means of Landau-Symbols [Wik]):
    - $\triangleright$   $\mathcal{O}(n)$  (Big O of n),
    - ▶  $\Omega(n)$  (Omega of n),
    - ▶  $\Theta(n)$  (Theta of n)

- ▶ Consider the function:  $f: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}, n \mapsto f(n)$ 
  - $ightharpoonup \mathbb{N}$ : Natural numbers ightarrow input size
  - $ightharpoonup \mathbb{R}$ : Real numbers ightarrow runtime

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## Example:

- f(n) = 3n
- $f(n) = 2 n \log n$
- $f(n) = \frac{1}{10}n^2$

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- $f(n) = \frac{1}{10}n^2$   $f(n) = n^2 + 3 n \log n 4 n$

## Big $\mathcal{O}$ -Notation:

• Given two functions f and g:

$$f,g:\mathbb{N}\to\mathbb{R}$$

- ▶ Given two functions f and g:  $f,g: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$
- ▶ **Intuitive:** f is Big-O of g (f is  $\mathcal{O}(g)$ )
  - ... if f relative to g does not grow faster than g
  - ▶ the growth rate matters, not the absolute values

# $\mathcal{O}$ -Notation Definition

 $\textbf{Big}~\mathcal{O}\textbf{-Notation:}$ 

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"set of all functions"

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"set of "for which" "it exists" "for all" "such that" all functions"

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## $\mathcal{O} ext{-Notation}$

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## $\mathcal{O} ext{-Notation}$

#### Examples

## Illustration of the Big O-Notation:

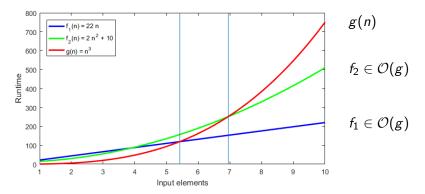


Figure: Runtime of two algorithms  $f_1, f_2$ 

### **Example:**

- ► f(n) = 5 n + 7, g(n) = n⇒  $5 n + 7 \in \mathcal{O}(g)$ ⇒  $f \in \mathcal{O}(g)$
- Intuitive:

$$f(n) = 5 n + 7 \rightarrow \text{linear growth}$$

#### Attention

 $f(n) \le g(n)$  is not guaranteed, better is  $f(n) \le C \cdot g(n) \ \forall n > n_0$ .

We have to proof:  $\exists n_0, \exists C, \forall n \geq n_0$ :  $5n + 7 \leq C \cdot n$ .

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$$5n+7 \leq 5n+n \text{ (for } n \geq 7)$$

We have to proof:  $\exists n_0, \exists C, \forall n \geq n_0$ :  $5 n + 7 \leq C \cdot n$ .

$$5 n + 7 \le 5 n + n \text{ (for } n \ge 7)$$
  
=  $6 n$ 

We have to proof:  $\exists n_0, \exists C, \forall n \geq n_0$ :  $5n + 7 \leq C \cdot n$ .

$$5 n + 7 \le 5 n + n \text{ (for } n \ge 7)$$
  
=  $6 n$ 

$$\Rightarrow n_0 = 7, C = 6$$



 $\mathcal{O} ext{-Notation}$ 

$$5n+7 \le 5n+7n \text{ (for } n \ge 1)$$

$$5 n + 7 \le 5 n + 7 n \text{ (for } n \ge 1)$$
  
= 12 n

$$5 n + 7 \le 5 n + 7 n \text{ (for } n \ge 1)$$

$$= 12 n$$

$$\Rightarrow n_0 = 1, C = 12$$

#### Examples

## **Big O-Notation:**

- We are only interested in the term with the highest-order, the fastest growing summand, the others will be ignored
- ▶ f(n) is limited from above by  $C \cdot g(n)$

## Examples:

$$2 n^{2} + 7 n - 20 \in \mathcal{O}(n^{2})$$

$$2 n^{2} + 7 n \log n - 20 \in$$

$$7 n \log n - 20 \in$$

$$5 \in$$

$$2 n^{2} + 7 n \log n + n^{3} \in$$

# $\mathcal{O}$ -Notation Examples

### Harder Example:

- ► Polynomes are simple
- More problematic: combination of complex functions

$$2\sqrt{x} + 3\ln x \in \mathcal{O}(??)$$

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# $\Omega$ -Notation

Definition

### **Omega-Notation:**

- Intuitive:
  - $f \in \Omega(g)$ , f is growing at least as fast as g
  - ▶ So the same as Big-O but with at-least and not at-most

Formal: 
$$f \in \Omega(g)$$
  
 $\Omega(g) = \{f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} \mid \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}, \exists C > 0, \forall n > n_0 : f(n) \geq C \cdot g(n)\}$ 

"in  $O(n)$ 
we had  $<$ "

Proof

### **Example:**

Proof of 
$$f(n) = 5n + 7 \in \Omega(n)$$
:

$$\underbrace{5n+7}_{f(n)} \geq \underbrace{1 \cdot n}_{g(n)} \quad (\text{for } n \geq 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow n_0 = 1, C = 1$$

# $\Omega$ -Notation

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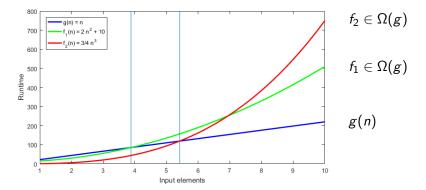


Figure: Runtime of two algorithms  $f_1, f_2$ 

# $\Omega$ -Notation

#### Examples

### **Big Omega-Notation:**

- We are only interested in the term with the highest-order, the fastest growing summand, the others will be ignored
- ▶ f(n) is limited from underneath by  $c \cdot g(n)$

# **Examples:**

$$2 n^{2} + 7 n - 20 \in \Omega(n^{2})$$

$$2 n^{2} + 7 n \log n - 20 \in$$

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$$2 n^{2} + 7 n \log n + n^{3} \in$$

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# $\Theta$ -Notation

#### Definition

#### Theta-Notation:

- ▶ **Intuitive**: *f* is Theta of *g* . . .
  - ightharpoonup ... if f is growing as much as g
  - $f \in \Theta(g)$ , f is growing at the same speed as g

Formal: 
$$f \in \Theta(g)$$

$$\Theta(g) = \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(g) \cap \Omega(g)}_{Intersection}$$

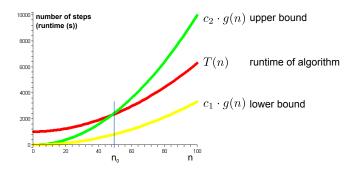
#### **Example:**

$$f(n) = 5 n + 7, \ f(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n), \ f(n) \in \Omega(n)$$
  
$$\Rightarrow f(n) \in \Theta(n)$$

Proof for  $\mathcal{O}(g)$  and  $\Omega(g)$  look at slides 11 and 17

# $\Theta$ -Notation

#### Graphs



▶ f and g have the same "growth"

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#### Landau-Symbol Summary

# **Big O-Notation** $\mathcal{O}(n)$ :

- f is growing at most as fast as g
- ▶  $C \cdot g(n)$  is the upper bound

# Big Omega-Notation $\Omega(n)$ :

- f is growing at least as fast as g
- $C \cdot g(n)$  is the lower bound

# Big Theta-Notation $\Theta(n)$ :

- f is growing at the same speed as g
  - $ightharpoonup C_1 \cdot g(n)$  is the lower bound
  - $C_2 \cdot g(n)$  is the upper bound

# Runtime

#### Common Runtimes

Table: Common runtime types

Runtime	Growth
$f \in \Theta(1)$	constant time
$f \in \Theta(\log n) = \Theta(\log_k n)$	logarithmic time
$f \in \Theta(n)$	linear time
$f \in \Theta(n \log n)$	n-log-n time (nearly linear)
$f \in \Theta(n^2)$	squared time
$f \in \Theta(n^3)$	cubic time
$f \in \Theta(n^k)$	polynomial time
$f \in \Theta(k^n), f \in \Theta(2^n)$	exponential time

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- So far discussed:
  - ► Membership in O(...) proofed by hand: Explicit calculation of  $n_0$  and C
  - ▶ However: Both hint at limits in calculus

Limit / Convergence

#### Definition of "Limit"

- ▶ The limit L exists for an infinite sequence  $f_1, f_2, f_3, \ldots$  if for all  $\epsilon > 0$  one  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  exists, such that for all  $n \geq n_0$  the following holds true:  $|f_n L| \leq \epsilon$
- ▶ A function  $f: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$  can be written as a sequence  $\Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n = L$

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# The limit is converging:

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \ \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \geq n_0 \colon |f_n - L| \leq \epsilon$$

#### Limit / Convergence

- Example for the proof of a limit
- Function  $f(n) = 2 + \frac{1}{n}$  with limes  $\lim_{n \to \infty} f(n) = 2$
- "Engineering" solution: use  $n = \infty$

$$\frac{1}{\infty} = 0 \Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} f(n) = \lim_{n \to \infty} 2 + \frac{1}{n} = 2$$

#### Limit / Convergence

- Now a more formal proof for  $\lim_{n\to\infty} 2 + \frac{1}{n} = 2$
- ▶ We need to show: for all given  $\epsilon$  there is an  $n_0$  such that for all  $n \ge n_0$

$$\left|2 + \frac{1}{n} - 2\right| = \left|\frac{1}{n}\right| \le \epsilon$$

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▶ E.g.: for  $\epsilon = 0.01$  we get  $\frac{1}{n} \le \epsilon$  for  $n \ge 100$ 

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- In general

$$n_0 = \left\lceil \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\rceil$$

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- In general

$$n_0 = \left\lceil \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\rceil$$

Then we get:

$$\left|\frac{1}{n}\right| = \frac{1}{n} \le \frac{1}{n_0} = \frac{1}{\left\lceil \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\rceil} \le \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} = \epsilon \quad \Box$$

#### Limit / Convergence

Let  $f, g: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$  with an existing limit

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{f(n)}{g(n)}=L$$

Hence the following holds:

$$f \in \mathcal{O}(g)$$
  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < \infty$  (1)

$$f \in \Omega(g)$$
  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} > 0$  (2)

$$f \in \Theta(g)$$
  $\Leftrightarrow$   $0 < \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < \infty$  (3)

#### Limit / Convergence

$$f \in \mathcal{O}(g) \iff \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < \infty$$

# Forward proof $(\Rightarrow)$ :

$$f \in \mathcal{O}(g) \overset{\text{def. of } \mathcal{O}(n)}{\Rightarrow} \exists n_0, \ C \ \forall n \ge n_0 : \ f(n) \le C \cdot g(n)$$

$$\Rightarrow \exists n_0, \ C \ \forall n \ge n_0 : \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \le C$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \le C \quad \Box$$

#### Limit / Convergence

# Backward proof (⇐):

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < \infty$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = C \qquad \text{For some } C \in \mathbb{R} \text{ (Limit)}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{def. limes}}{\Rightarrow} \exists n_0, \ \forall n \ge n_0 : \qquad \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \le C + \varepsilon \quad (e.g. \ \varepsilon = 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \exists n_0, \ \forall n \ge n_0 : \qquad f(n) \le \underbrace{(C+1)}_{O-notation \ constant} \cdot g(n)$$

$$\Rightarrow f \in \mathcal{O}(g) \quad \square$$

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#### Intuitive:

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- With L'Hôpital:
  - ▶ Let  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$

If 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} f(n) = \lim_{n \to \infty} g(n) = \infty/0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f'(n)}{g'(n)}$$

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Holy inspiration

you need a doctoral degree for that

The limit can not be determined in the way of an Engineer:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{\ln(n)}{n}=\frac{\lim_{n\to\infty}\ln(n)}{\lim\limits_{n\to\infty}n}\qquad \stackrel{\text{plugging in}}{\longrightarrow}\qquad \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

Determine the limit with using L'Hôpital:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{f(n)}{g(n)}=\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{f'(n)}{g'(n)}$$

# Using L'Hôpital:

Numerator:  $\mathbf{f(n)} : n \mapsto \ln(n)$ Denominator:  $\mathbf{g(n)} : n \mapsto n$   $\Rightarrow f'(n) = \frac{1}{n}$  (derivation from Numerator)  $\Rightarrow g'(n) = 1$  (derivation from Denominator)

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{f'(n)}{g'(n)}=\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{n}=0\ \Rightarrow\ \lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{f(n)}{g(n)}=\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{\ln(n)}{n}=0$$

# What can we take for granted without proofing?

- Only things that are trivial
- It is always better to proof it

### **Examples:**

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$
 is trivial 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 0$$
 is trivial 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\log(n)}{n} = 0$$
 use L'Hopital

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# Runtime

Summary
Limit / Convergence
L'Hôpital / l'Hospital

Practical use

# O-Notation Practical use

#### Practical use:

- It is much easier to determine the runtime of an algorithm by using the  $\mathcal{O} ext{-Notation}$ 
  - 1. Computing rules
  - 2. Practical use

#### Characteristics

Transitivity:

$$f \in \Theta(g) \land g \in \Theta(h)$$
  
 $f \in \mathcal{O}(g) \land g \in \mathcal{O}(h)$   
 $f \in \Omega(g) \land g \in \Omega(h)$ 

#### Characteristics

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Reflexivity:

$$f \in \Theta(f)$$
  $f \in \Omega(f)$   $f \in \mathcal{O}(f)$ 

#### Calculation Rules

Trivial:

$$f \in \mathcal{O}(f)$$
  
 $k \cdot \mathcal{O}(f) = \mathcal{O}(f)$   
 $\mathcal{O}(f+k) = \mathcal{O}(f)$ 

Addition:

$$\mathcal{O}(f) + \mathcal{O}(g) = \mathcal{O}(\max\{f, g\})$$

Multiplication:

$$\mathcal{O}(f) \cdot \mathcal{O}(g) = \mathcal{O}(f \cdot g)$$

#### Runtime Complexity

- ▶ The input size for all examples is *n*
- Basic operations

$$i1 = 0$$
  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ 

Sequences of basic operations

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{i1} &= 0 \\ &\text{i2} &= 0 \\ &\dots \\ &\text{i327} &= 0 \end{aligned} \qquad \qquad \begin{aligned} &\mathcal{O}(1) \\ &\mathcal{O}(1) \\ &\dots \\ &\mathcal{O}(1) \end{aligned}$$

#### Runtime Complexity

#### Loops

#### Runtime Complexity

#### Loops

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{for i in range}(0, \ n): \\ \text{for j in range}(0, \ n-1): \\ \text{a1[i][j]} = 0 \\ \dots \\ \text{a137[i][j]} = 0 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c|c} \mathcal{O}(n) \\ \hline \mathcal{O}(n-1) \end{array} \begin{array}{c|c} \mathcal{O}(n) \cdot \mathcal{O}(n) \\ \hline \mathcal{O}(n-1) \end{array} \begin{array}{c|c} \mathcal{O}(n) \cdot \mathcal{O}(n) \\ \hline \mathcal{O}(n-1) \end{array} \begin{array}{c|c} \mathcal{O}(n) \cdot \mathcal{O}(n) \\ \hline \mathcal{O}(n) \cdot \mathcal{O}(n^2) \\ \hline \mathcal{O}(n) \end{array}$$

#### Runtime Complexity

#### Conditions

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{if } \mathsf{x} < 100: \\ \mathsf{y} = \mathsf{x} \\ \text{else}: \\ \mathsf{for} \ \mathsf{ii} \ \mathsf{nrange}(0, \ \mathsf{n}): \\ \mathsf{if} \ \mathsf{a}[\mathsf{i}] > \mathsf{y}: \\ \mathsf{y} = \mathsf{a}[\mathsf{i}] \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{O}(n) \\ \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{O}(n) \cdot \mathcal{O}(1) \\ = \mathcal{O}(n) \end{array}$$

#### Arithmetic mean

- ▶ Input: List *x* with *n* numbers
- ▶ Output: a[i] is the arithmetic mean of x[0] to x[i]

```
def arithMean(x):
    a = [0] * len(x)
    for i in range(0, len(x)):
        s = 0
        for j in range(0, i+1):
            s = s + x[j]
        a[i] = s / (i+1)
```

# O-Notation Runtime complexity

► How often will the instructions in the loop be executed, when the problem has size *n*?

$$1+2+\ldots+n=\frac{n\cdot(n+1)}{2}\in\mathcal{O}(n^2)$$

## Way of speaking:

- ▶ With the  $\mathcal{O}$ -Notation we look at the behavior of a function when  $n \to \infty$
- ▶ We only analyze the runtime when  $n \ge n_0$
- ▶ We talk about asymptotic analysis, when we discuss cost, runtime, etc. as  $\mathcal{O}(\ldots)$ ,  $\Omega(\ldots)$  or  $\Theta(\ldots)$

#### **Attention:**

- If you are using **asymptotic analysis**, you can not make any predictions about the runtime of smaller input sizes  $(n < n_0)$
- For small input sizes (mostly n < 10), the runtime is predictably small
- $\triangleright$   $n_0$  does not necessarily have to be small

# $\mathcal{O}$ -Notation

Discussion

#### **Examples:**

- Let A and B be algorithms
  - A has the runtime f(n) = 80 n
  - ▶ B has the runtime  $f(n) = 2 n \log_2 n$
- ▶ So  $f = \mathcal{O}(g)$  but **not**  $\Theta(g)$ 
  - ightharpoonup  $\Rightarrow$  A is asymptotic faster than B
  - ▶ ⇒ There is a  $n_0$  for that  $n \ge n_0$ :  $f(n) \le g(n)$

# $\mathcal{O}$ -Notation

#### Discussion

#### When is A faster then B?

We search the minimal  $n_0$ :

$$f(n_0) = g(n_0)$$

$$80 n_0 = 2 n_0 \log_2 n_0$$

$$40 = \log_2 n_0$$

$$n_0 = 2^{40}$$

$$= (2^{10})^4 = (1024)^4$$

$$\approx (10^3)^4 = 10^{12}$$

$$\approx 1 \text{ trillion}$$

A ist faster than B if  $n_0$  has more than 1 trillion elements

## Runtime Examples

#### Continued

Logarithm of different bases differ only by a constant

$$\log_a n = \frac{\log_b n}{\log_b a} = \frac{1}{\log_b a} \cdot \log_b n$$

- ▶ Hence:  $\log_a n \in \Theta(\log_b n)$
- For exponent this does not hold

$$3^n \notin \Theta(2^n)$$

▶ Proof: Use equation (1) from Slide 31

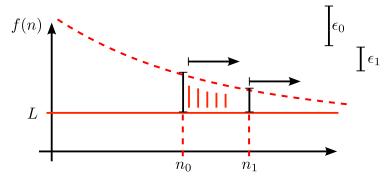
$$3^n \in \mathcal{O}(2^n) \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{3^n}{2^n} < \infty$$

However:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{3^n}{2^n} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n = \infty$$

# Additional Figure

▶ Figure for slide 28



## Further Literature

#### General

[MS08] Kurt Mehlhorn and Peter Sanders.
Algorithms and data structures, 2008.
https://people.mpi-inf.mpg.de/~mehlhorn/ftp/Mehlhorn-Sanders-Toolbox.pdf.

## Further Literature

## ▶ Big O notation

```
[Wik] Big O notation https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_O_notation
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