

# Asymptotic Analysis

- way to compare speed of two possible solutions to the same problem.
- Basic idea is to think of the rate of growth of the running time of an algorithm.
  - How much slower does the algorithm gets if we double the input size?
  - we try to ~~not~~ focus on big inputs.
- for asymptotic analysis, we will first define what is the rate of growth of a function.  
(Big Oh and related defs)
- In other words, asymptotic analysis is a way to describe the efficiency of algorithms by examining how their performance grows as the input becomes very large. (Trying to get a big picture, ignoring small details)

Key concept of asymptotic analysis will be the definition of growth rates, of functions  $f$  and  $g$ , and how these growth rates compare.

### Big O

Def: Let  $f, g : \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ , we say that  $f$  grows no faster than  $g$  if there exist constant  $c > 0$  and  $n_0 \geq 0$  s.t

$$\forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$$

In this case, we write

$$f(n) \text{ is } O(g(n)) \text{ or } f(n) = O(g(n))$$

The intuition behind  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  is that, for all large enough  $n$ , we have  $f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$

Example:  $f(n) = 3n^2 + 2$  is  $O(n^2)$

$$f(n) \leq c \cdot n^2$$

Def Big O says

If  $f(n) = O(g(n))$ , Then

$$[\exists c > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : \forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)]$$

WTS  $3n^2 + 2 \leq c \cdot n^2$

$$\underline{\forall n \geq 1 : 2 \leq 2n^2}$$

$$\underline{\forall n \geq 1 : 3n^2 + 2 \leq 3n^2 + 2n^2}$$

$$\forall n \geq 1 : \underbrace{3n^2 + 2}_{f(n)} \leq \underbrace{5n^2}_{g(n)}$$

Pick  $c = 5$ ,  $n_0 = 1$ , then

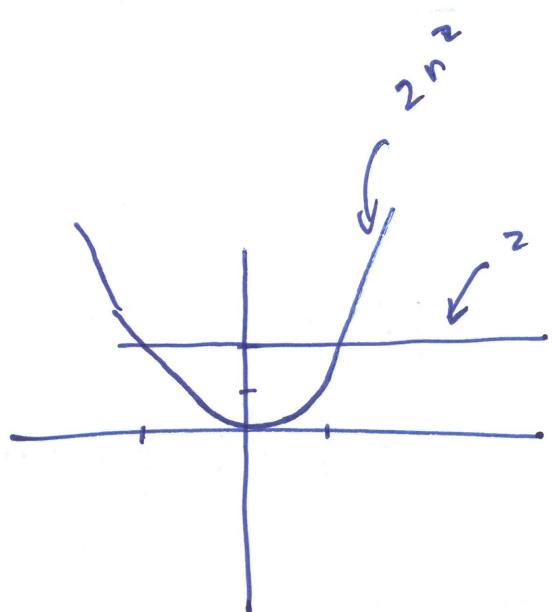
$$\underline{\forall n \geq 1 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)}$$

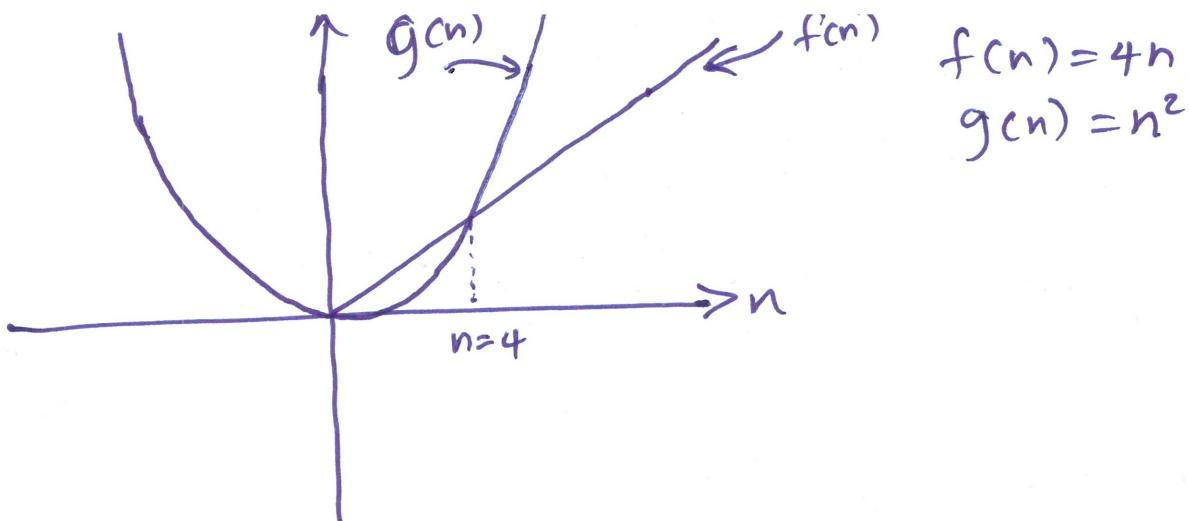
Ex:  $f(n) = 4n$

(claim):  $f(n) = O(n^2)$   $\left( f(n) = O(n) \right)$

We must show a  $c > 0, n_0 \geq 0$  s.t

$$\forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$$





pick  $c=1, n_0=4$

$$\forall n \geq 4 : 4n \leq 1 \cdot n^2$$

Q: is  $4n = O(4n^2)$  yes

is  $3n^2 + 2 = O(\frac{1}{2}n^2)$

pick  $c=100$

$$\forall n \geq 50 \quad 3n^2 + 2 \leq 100 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot n^2$$

Ex! ~~Is~~ Is  $n^3 = O(n^2)$  (no)

can we find  $c > 0, n_0 \geq 0$  s.t  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{we} \\ \text{cannot} \end{array} \right.$   
 $\forall n \geq n_0 : n^3 \leq c \cdot n^2$

$n^3$  is not  $O(n^2)$   $\leftarrow$  How to prove this?

If  $n^3 = O(n^2)$ , then

$\exists c > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : \forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$

since this is incorrect, the negation of this  
~~claim~~ should be true.

$$\neg [\exists c > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : \forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)]$$

$$\neg [\exists x \in S : P(x)] \equiv [\forall x \in S : \neg P(x)]^* \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Predicate} \\ \text{logic} \\ \text{theorems.} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\neg [\forall x \in S : P(x)] \equiv [\exists x \in S : \neg P(x)]^*$$

$$\rightarrow [\forall c > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : \neg [\forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)]]$$

$$[\forall c > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : [\exists n \geq n_0 : \neg (f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n))]]$$

$$[\forall c > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : [\exists n \geq n_0 : f(n) > c \cdot g(n)]]$$

$\forall c > 0, n_0 \geq 0$ : I need to show the existence of  $n$  s.t.

$$n^3 > c \cdot n^2$$

$$f(n) > c \cdot g(n)$$

what if we pick  $n = c+1$

$$(c+1)^3 > c \cdot (c+1)^2$$

$$n = \max(n_0, c+1)$$

when  $n = \max(n_0, c+1)$ ,  $\forall c > 0, n_0 \geq 0, f(n) > c \cdot g(n)$

$\therefore f(n)$  is not  $O(n^2)$

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Note that

$$f(n) = 4n^3 + 4n + 5$$

$$f(n) = \cancel{O(n^3)}$$

$$f(n) = O(n^4)$$

$$f(n) = O(n^5)$$

However, the tightest  $O(\cdot)$  function for  $f(n)$  is  $O(n^3)$

Note: When we write the Big O function for  $f(n)$ , we ~~don't~~ want to use the tightest bound, as it is more useful.

(common distinct functions.

Name	Example fcn)	generic fcn)	tightest O(.)
constant	$f(n) = 10$	$f(n) = c, c \in \mathbb{R}^{>0}$	$O(1)$
log	$f(n) = 2 \log_{10}(n)$	$c \log_b n, b \in \mathbb{R}^{>1}, c \in \mathbb{R}^{>0}$	$O(\log n)$
linear	$f(n) = 10 \cdot n$	$cn, c \in \mathbb{R}^{>0}$	$O(n)$
n log n	$f(n) = 8n \log_{12}(n)$	$cn \log_b n$	$O(n \log n)$
quadratic	$f(n) = 12n^2$	deg-2 polynomial	$O(n^2)$
cubic	$f(n) = 20n^3$	deg-3 polynomial	$O(n^3)$
deg-k polynomial		$f(n) = a_1 n^k + a_2 n^{k-1} + \dots + a_n \cdot 1$	$O(n^k)$
exponential	$f(n) = 3 \cdot 2^n$	$2^n$	$O(2^n)$
	$f(n) = 5 \cdot 3^n$	$3^n$ ⋮	$O(3^n)$

functions later on this list  $\neq O(\text{functions earlier on this list})$

$$2^n \neq O(n^{100})$$

$$3^n \neq O(n)$$

- However,

functions earlier =  $O(\text{functions later on the list})$

$$n = O(2^n)$$

$$n^{100} = O(2^n)$$

$$n^{100} = O(3^n)$$

Other asymptotic notations.

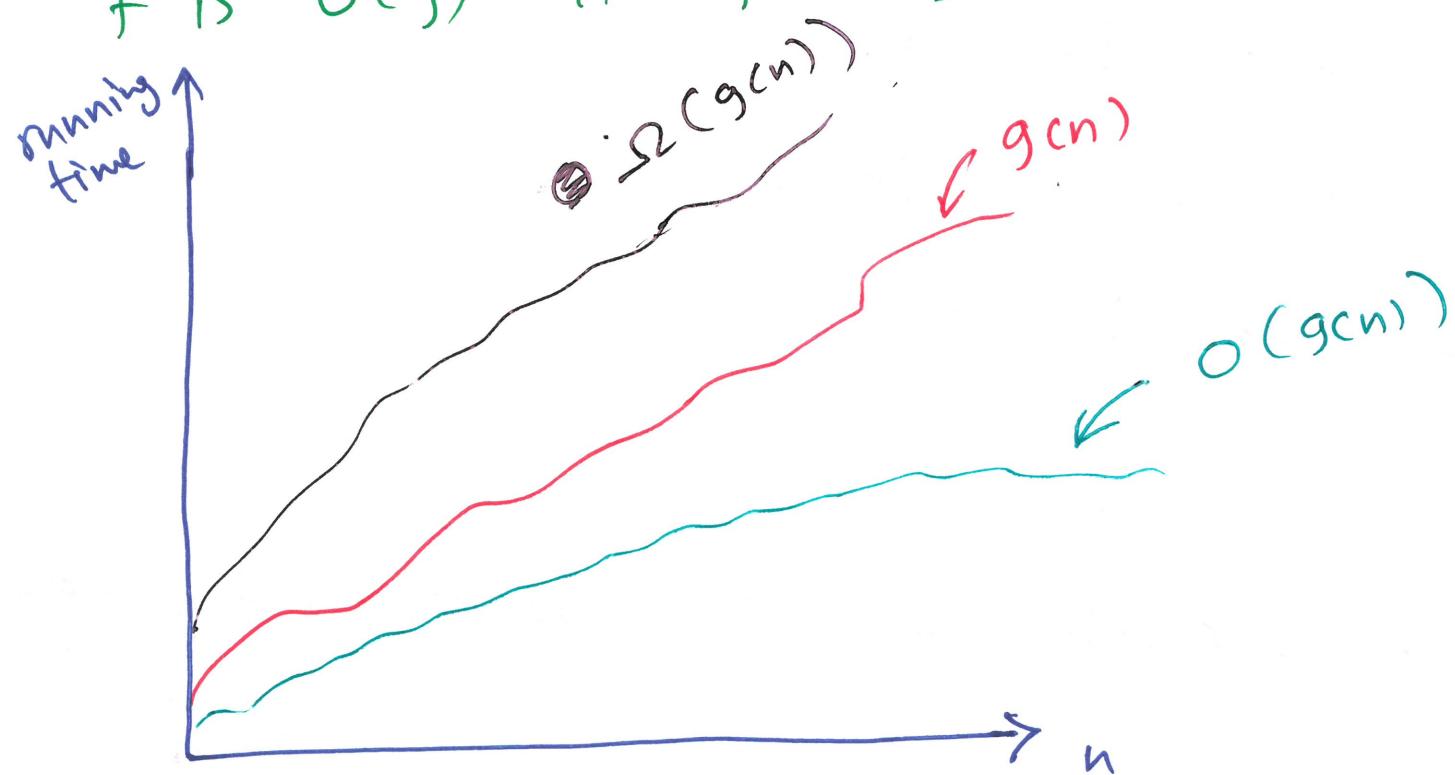
## Def, Big-Omega ( $\Omega$ )

Given two functions  $f$  and  $g$ , we say  $f$  grows no slower than  $g$ ,  $f$  is  $\Omega(g)$  if,

$$\exists d > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : \forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \geq d \cdot g(n)$$

## Def, Big-Theta ( $\Theta$ )

Given two functions,  $f$  and  $g$ , we say  $f$  is  $\Theta(g)$  if  $f = O(g)$  and  $f = \Omega(g)$



claim:  $f(n) = n^3 + 2n + 5$  is  $\Omega(n^3)$

WTS:  $\exists d > 0, n_0 \geq 0 : \forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \geq c \cdot n^3$

Pick  $d = 1$

$$\forall n \geq 0 : n^3 + 5 \geq n^3$$

$$\forall n \geq 0 : \underbrace{n^3 + 2n + 5}_{\geq n^3} \geq n^3 + 5 \geq n^3$$

$$\forall n \geq 0 : f(n) \geq n^3$$

$$\forall n \geq 0 : f(n) \geq 1 \cdot n^3$$

so pick  $d = 1, n_0 = 0$

$$\forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) \geq 1 \cdot n^3$$

$\therefore f(n)$  is  $\Omega(n^3)$

$$f(n) = O(n^3)$$

$$f(n) = \cancel{O(n^3)} \quad \text{and} \quad f(n) = \Omega(n^3) \Rightarrow f(n) = \cancel{\Theta(n^3)}$$

## Properties of Big O

Lemma 6.2 Asymptotic equivalence of max and sum

We have:

$$f(n) = O(g(n) + h(n)) \iff f(n) = O(\max(h(n), g(n)))$$

Ex:  $f(n) = n^2 + n = O(n^2 + n) \iff f(n) = O(\max(n^2, n)) = O(n^2)$

Lemma 6.3 Transitivity of  $O(\cdot)$

If  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  and  $g(n) = O(h(n))$ , then  
 $f(n) = O(h(n))$

In other words,

$$[f(n) = O(g(n))] \wedge [g(n) = O(h(n))] \Rightarrow [f(n) = O(h(n))]$$

Lemma 6.4

Addition & multiplication preserve  $O(\cdot)$ -ness

$$[f(n) = O(h_1(n))] \wedge [g(n) = O(h_2(n))] \Rightarrow f(n) + g(n) = O(h_1(n) + h_2(n))$$

and

$$f(n) \cdot g(n) = O(h_1(n) \cdot h_2(n))$$

Ex:  $f(n) = n^2 + 1 \quad h_1(n) = n^3$

$$g(n) = n^4 + 2 \quad h_2(n) = n^4$$

$$f(n) = O(n^3) \quad g(n) = O(n^4)$$

$$f(n) + g(n) = n^3 + n^2 + 1 = O(n^3 + n^4) = O(n^4)$$

$$f(n) \cdot g(n) = (n^2 + 1)(n^4 + 2) = n^6 + 2n^2 + n^4 + 2 = O(n^6 \cdot n^4) = O(n^{10})$$

Lemm 6.5

$$\text{Let } f(n) = \sum_{i=0}^k a_i n^i = a_0 n^0 + a_1 n^1 + a_2 n^2 + \dots + a_k n^k$$

be a deg-k polynomial, then

$$f(n) = O(n^k)$$

- To measure runtime of an algorithm
1. find  $f(n)$  by counting the # of steps
  2. find the simplest  $g(n)$  s.t  
 $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$

- Worst case running time analysis.

Example

for  $i=1$  to  $n$  do  $(1 + \text{inner ops})$

    for  $i=1$  to  $n$  do  $(1 + \text{inner ops})$

        for  $k=1$  to  $n$   $(1 + \text{inner ops})$

$\text{sum} = \text{sum} + 1 \leftarrow 3 \text{ ops}$

return sum

$$f(n) = n \cdot (1 + n(1 + n(1 + 3)))$$

$$= n + n^2(1 + n + 3)$$

$$= n + 4n^2 + n^3$$

Ex 2

while  $n > 1$  do  $(n-1) \cdot (2 + \text{inner ops})$   
 $n = \frac{n}{2}$   $\leftarrow 3 \text{ ops}$

return  $n$ .

$$f(n) = (n-1) \cdot (2 + 3)$$
$$= 5n - 1$$

ex!

while  $n > 1$  do  $(\log_2 n)$  times  
 $n = \frac{n}{2}$   $\leftarrow 3 \text{ ops}$

$$f(n) = 4 \cdot \log n$$

What if the running time depends on specific input of size  $n$ .

linearSearch( $A[1 \dots n]$ ,  $x$ ):

Input: an array  $A[1 \dots n]$  and an element  $x$

Output: is  $x$  in the (possibly unsorted) array  $A$ ?

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1 for  $i := 1$  to  $n$ :  
2   if  $A[i] = x$  then  
3     return True  
4 return False
```

(a) Linear Search.

$A = (2, 3, 7, 8)$      $x = 5$  ← worst possible input.

$A = (1, 6, 2, 5 \cancel{, 8})$      $x = 6$

$A = (7, 6, 5, 8)$      $x = 7$  ← best possible input

All of these arrays are of same length.  
However # of steps that we execute are different.

Note!