

## ◆ What is Time Complexity?

**Time Complexity** means **how much time** a program or function takes **as the input size grows**.

### ✓ Real-life Example:

Imagine you're searching for your name in a list of people.

- If the list has 5 names, you may find it quickly.
- If the list has 10,000 names, it will take longer.

Time Complexity helps estimate **how much longer it takes as the list gets bigger**.

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## ◆ What is Space Complexity?

**Space Complexity** means **how much memory (RAM)** a program uses **as the input size grows**.

### ✓ Real-life Example:

Think of writing names in a notebook.

- If you write 1 name, it takes 1 line.
- If you write 1000 names, you need more pages.

Space Complexity tells how much **extra memory** your code needs when input increases.

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## Common Time Complexities (From Best to Worst):

Complexity	Name	Example	Meaning
$O(1)$	Constant Time	Accessing <code>arr[0]</code>	Always takes same time no matter input size
$O(\log n)$	Logarithmic Time	Binary Search	Cuts the problem in half each time
$O(n)$	Linear Time	Loop through a list	Time grows linearly with input size
$O(n \log n)$	Log-linear Time	Merge Sort, Quick Sort	Faster than quadratic but slower than linear
$O(n^2)$	Quadratic Time	Nested loop (e.g., bubble sort)	Time grows <b>very fast</b> with input size
$O(2^n)$	Exponential Time	Recursive Fibonacci	Time doubles every time; very slow
$O(n!)$	Factorial Time	Solving permutations	Extremely slow as input grows

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## Common Space Complexities:

Complexity	Meaning	Example
$O(1)$	Uses same amount of space	Swapping variables
$O(n)$	Space grows with input	Storing input in an array
$O(n^2)$	Space grows as square of input	2D matrix storage

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## Code Examples:



### Example 1: $O(1)$ Time

```
def get_first_element(arr):  
    return arr[0]
```

- ♦ No matter how big `arr` is, it just returns the first item →  **$O(1)$**
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### **Example 2: $O(n)$ Time**

```
def print_all(arr):  
    for item in arr:  
        print(item)
```

- ♦ Goes through the entire list →  **$O(n)$**
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### **Example 3: $O(n^2)$ Time**

```
def print_pairs(arr):  
    for i in arr:  
        for j in arr:  
            print(i, j)
```

- ♦ Every element pairs with every other →  **$O(n^2)$**
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### **Example 4: $O(\log n)$ Time (Binary Search)**

```
def binary_search(arr, target):  
    low = 0  
    high = len(arr) - 1  
    while low <= high:  
        mid = (low + high) // 2  
        if arr[mid] == target:  
            return mid  
        elif arr[mid] < target:  
            low = mid + 1  
        else:  
            high = mid - 1  
    return -1
```

- ♦ Cuts the array in half each time →  **$O(\log n)$**
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## Tips to Analyze Time & Space

1. **Loops:** Each loop =  $O(n)$ . Nested =  $O(n^2)$ .
  2. **Recursion:** Consider how many times it recurses.
  3. **Auxiliary space:** Extra arrays, hash maps, etc.
  4. **Ignore constants:**  $O(2n) = O(n)$ ,  $O(5n^2) = O(n^2)$
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## Summary

Term	Meaning
Time Complexity	How long your code takes
Space Complexity	How much memory your code uses
$O(1)$	Constant, super fast
$O(n)$	Grows with input
$O(n^2)$	Bad for big inputs
$O(\log n)$	Good! Cuts problem in half

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