

Roadmap

Asymptotic notation

Asymptotic notations

 Θ , O, and Ω ('big theta', 'big omicron', and 'big omega').

 $f = \Theta(g)$ f is of order of g.

f = O(g) f is of order at most g.

 $f = \Omega(g)$ f is of otder at least g.

Big Theta

We say that f is of order g, and write $f = \Theta(g)$, if there are positive constants C and D and a number n_0 such that, for all $n > n_0$,

$$Cg(n) \le f(n) \le Dg(n)$$

Examples

$$n(n+1)/2 = \Theta(n^2)$$

$$n^3 + n^2 + nlogn = \Theta(n^3)$$

$$n(1+1/2+1/3+\ldots) = \Theta(nlogn)$$

We write $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$ or $f = \Theta(g)$ or $f \in \Theta(g)$.

Example: head(list), it is $\Theta(1)$.

Big Omicron

We say that f is of order at most g, and write f = O(g), if there are positive constants C and a number n_0 such that, for all $n > n_0$,

$$f(n) \leq Cg(n)$$

In particular, O(1) stands for an anonymous function whose values are bounded above by some positive constant.

The running time of *takeWhile* on a list of length n is O(n) steps, assuming the test takes constant time.

In the worst case the running time is $\Theta(n)$ steps but in the best case, when the first element does not pass the test, the running time is $\Theta(1)$ steps.

Big Omega

A running time of $O(n^2)$ does not imply that the running time is not also O(n).

We say that f is of order at least g, and write $f = \Omega(g)$, if there is a positive constant C and a natural number n_0 such that

$$f(n) \geq Cg(n)$$

It follows that $f = \Theta(g)$ if and only if f = O(g) and $f = \Omega(g)$.