

# Big-Oh Notation

# Exercise 1

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Recall that  $f(n) = 6n$ , and thus we find  $c = 6$  such that

$f(n) \leq 6 \cdot n$  when  $n > 0$ .

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$$f(n) = 6n \leq c \cdot n^2 \quad (\text{pick } c = 1)$$

$$\rightarrow 6n \leq n^2 \quad (\text{omit } n \text{ from both sides})$$

$$\rightarrow 6 \leq n \quad (n_0 = 6)$$

So that  $f(n) \leq n^2$  when  $n \geq 6$ .

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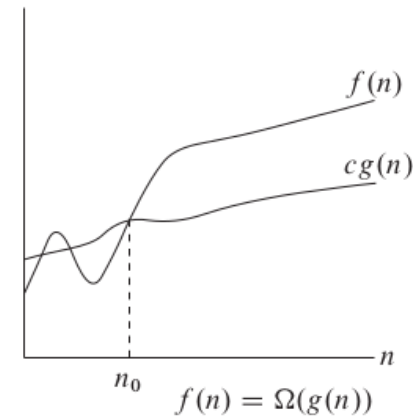
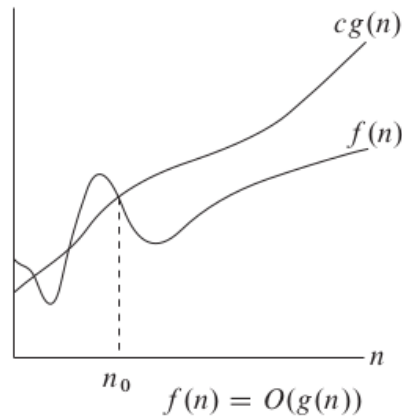
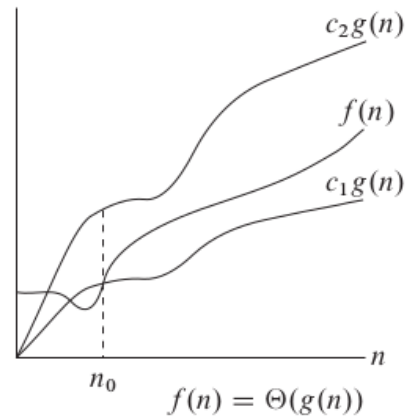
$O(n)$ . Because Big-Oh defines the upper bound of an algorithm, and we want to limit the upper bound as small as possible.

Think about a set  $S = \{5, 14, 23, 40\}$  and upper bounds 100000000 vs. 40

By using  $O(n)$ , we know that for the worst-case scenario, the Fibonacci algorithm takes linear time.

# Exercise 2

- Suppose that an algorithm  $A$  for some problem takes time asymptotic to  $n^2$  with one input  $I_0$  of size  $n$ , where there are many other inputs of sizes  $n$ . Use *Big-X* ( $\Theta$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $O$ ) notations to answer the following questions:
  - *Q1. How would you describe  $A$ 's best-case complexity?*
  - *Q2. How would you describe  $A$ 's worst-case complexity?*
  - *Q3. How would you describe  $A$ 's average-case complexity?*





# Exercise 2

Q1. We know of one input that results in  $n^2$ , but there may be better ones. Suppose  $f(n)$  is the best-case complexity of A, then  $f(n) \leq n^2$  for any  $n$ ,  $n^2$  provides an upper bound of  $f(n)$ .

Big-O notation applies:  $f(n) \leq cn^2$  and  $f(n) = O(n^2)$ .

Q2. In opposition to Q1, suppose  $f(n)$  is the worst-case complexity of A. we know  $f(n) \geq n^2$  for any  $n$ .  $n^2$  provides a lower bound of  $f(n)$ .

Big-Omega notation applies:  $f(n) \geq cn^2$  and  $f(n) = \Omega(n^2)$ .

Q3. It cannot be determined as we only have the information for one input. We need more information (probability distribution, etc.) of the inputs to answer the average-case complexity.