

- ⇒ Find the approximate (eye ball it) location of "n_0" . Do this by zooming in on your plot and indicating on the plot where n_0 is and why you picked this value. Hint: I should see data that does not follow the trend of the polynomial you determined in #2.
- ⇒ Answer:

Step 1: Understanding n_0 in Asymptotic Notation

n_0 is the threshold where our fitted polynomial $T(n) \approx an^2 + bn + c$ starts accurately representing the algorithm's runtime. Before n_0 , lower-order effects and system noise (e.g., CPU caching, OS scheduling) might cause deviations from the expected n^2 growth.

Step 2: Identifying n_0 Using the Plot

- **Zooming into the lower n values:** At small n , the measured execution time might **not** follow the expected n^2 curve because:
 - The function executes too quickly to measure accurately.
 - Overhead (like loop setup) dominates.
- **Looking for deviations:** n_0 is where the measured data **starts aligning** with the fitted quadratic trend.

Step 3: Finding n_0 on the Plot

- In the **MATLAB or Python plot**, zoom into small values of n (e.g., $n=1$ to $n=20$).
- Identify the **first n where the measured time consistently follows $\Theta(n^2)$**
- **Mark n_0 visually:** Use a **vertical line** to indicate where the behavior shifts.

Step 4: Updating the Code to Visualize n_0

```
plt.axvline(x=10, color='green', linestyle='--', label='n_0') # Adjust based on observations
plt.legend()
```

Step 5: Conclusion

- n_0 is found by inspecting where the measured data **begins to align** with the quadratic trend.

- Before n_0 , runtime fluctuations occur due to **hardware and system noise**.
- After n_0 , the algorithm follows $\theta(n^2)$ growth.

Final Answer: n_0 is typically **around 10-20**, but you should **eyeball it** by zooming into the plot and marking the transition point.