

Sorting

Introduction

If we were to manage big databases, we would need a way to quickly navigate these databases. For example, a database that had millions of entries would need a **sorting algorithm** to function correctly. Searching for a name in an unorganized database could potentially take forever. Because of this, computer scientists seek simple solutions that considers **rate of growth** and **complexity**.

Example

Consider the following code:

```
1  for(int i=0; i<n; i++)  
2      for(int j=0; j<n; j++)  
3          System.out.println("HelloWorld");
```

If we were to define n as 5, we would have 25 prints. For 10, 100 prints. The number of operation increases equal to n squared. The **complexity** of this function is $O(n^2)$. The **rate of growth**, as we may guess, is n squared. Keep in mind that when we define complexity, we **only consider the variable. Any constant is ignored when writing complexity.** For example, if we were to replace the ending condition $j < n$ with $j < n/10$, the complexity would still be $O(n^2)$.