

# Review of Running Time Analysis

© 2019 by Jay Balasundaram and Sam Toueg. This document may not be posted  
on the internet without the written permission of the copyright owners.



# Time Complexity

Given some algorithm A (for example, Bubble Sort):

What is the time complexity of A?



# Worst-case Time Complexity

Given some algorithm A (for example, Bubble Sort):

What is the worst-case time complexity of A?



# Worst-case Time Complexity

Given some algorithm A (for example, Bubble Sort):

What is the worst-case time complexity of A? ©

How do we define this?



# Worst-case Time Complexity

Given some algorithm A (for example, Bubble Sort):

What is the worst-case time complexity of A?

Intuitively it is:

**maximum** number of “steps” algorithm A takes



# Worst-case Time Complexity

Given some algorithm A (for example, Bubble Sort):

What is the worst-case time complexity of A?

Intuitively it is:

**maximum** number of “steps” algorithm A takes on inputs of “size” n



# Worst-case Time Complexity

Given some algorithm A (for example, Bubble Sort):

What is the worst-case time complexity of A?

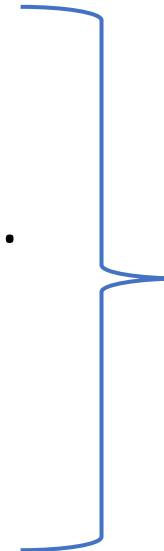
Intuitively it is:

**maximum number of “steps”** algorithm A takes on inputs of “size” n



# What do we mean by a “step”?

- Arithmetic operations:  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $*$ ,  $/$ , ...
- Data Movement operations: load, store, copy, ...
- Comparison operations:  $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $==$
- .
- .
- .



Each operation takes a **constant** amount of time.



# What do we mean by input “size”?

- It could be
  - Number of elements in the input array  
(e.g. sorting algorithms)



# What do we mean by input “size”?

- It could be
  - Number of elements in the input array  
(e.g. sorting algorithms)
  - Number of edges and vertices of the input graph  
(e.g. graph algorithms)



# What do we mean by input “size”?

- It could be
  - Number of elements in the input array  
(e.g. sorting algorithms)
  - Number of edges and vertices of the input graph  
(e.g. graph algorithms)
  - Number of bits used to represent the input  
(e.g. algorithms to test if the input number is a prime)



# Why Worst-Case Time Complexity?

- We often want “worst-case guarantees” on an algorithm’s running time
- Example of a worst-case guarantee:

“For **every** input of size  $n$ , algorithm A takes **at most**  $7n^3$  steps”



# Definition of Worst-Case Time Complexity

Let A be an algorithm (e.g. Bubble Sort)



# Definition of Worst-Case Time Complexity

Let A be an algorithm (e.g. Bubble Sort)

Let  $t(x) = \text{number of steps taken by algorithm A on input } x$



# Definition of Worst-Case Time Complexity

Let A be an algorithm (e.g. Bubble Sort)

Let  $t(x)$  = number of steps taken by algorithm A on input x

Worst-Case Time Complexity of A is a function of the input size n:

$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x)$$



# Definition of Worst-Case Time Complexity

Let A be an algorithm (e.g. Bubble Sort)

Let  $t(x)$  = number of steps taken by algorithm A on input x

Worst-Case Time Complexity of A is a function of the input size n:

$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$



# Definition of Worst-Case Time Complexity

Let A be an algorithm (e.g. Bubble Sort)

Let  $t(x)$  = number of steps taken by algorithm A on input x

Worst-Case Time Complexity of A is a function of the input size n:

$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

$T(n)$  = maximum number of steps taken by A on inputs of size n



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	
$x_2$	
.	
.	
$x_i$	
.	
.	



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	$t(x_1) = k_1$
$x_2$	
.	
.	
$x_i$	
.	
.	



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	$t(x_1) = k_1$
$x_2$	$t(x_2) = k_2$
.	
.	
$x_i$	
.	
.	



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	$t(x_1) = k_1$
$x_2$	$t(x_2) = k_2$
.	
.	
$x_i$	$t(x_i) = k_i$
.	
.	



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	$t(x_1) = k_1$
$x_2$	$t(x_2) = k_2$
.	
.	
$x_i$	$t(x_i) = k_i$
.	
.	

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x_1), t(x_2), \dots, t(x_i), \dots\}$$



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	$t(x_1) = k_1$
$x_2$	$t(x_2) = k_2$
.	
.	
$x_i$	$t(x_i) = k_i$
.	
.	

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x_1), t(x_2), \dots, t(x_i), \dots\}$$

$$T(n) = \max \{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_i, \dots\}$$



$$T(n) = \max_{\substack{\text{All input } x \\ \text{of size } n}} t(x) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

Input of size n	# steps A takes
$x_1$	$t(x_1) = k_1$
$x_2$	$t(x_2) = k_2$
.	
.	
$x_i$	$t(x_i) = k_i$
.	
.	

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x_1), t(x_2), \dots, t(x_i), \dots\}$$

$$T(n) = \max \{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_i, \dots\}$$

$T(n)$  = maximum number of steps algo A takes on inputs of size n



# Worst-Case Time Complexity

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3 \text{ (upper bound)}$$



# Worst-Case Time Complexity

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3 \text{ (upper bound)}$$

$$T(n) \geq 3n^2 \text{ (lower bound)}$$



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers

$\text{Max}(S)$ : maximum element of  $S$



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers

$\text{Max}(S)$ : maximum element of  $S$

Let  $c$  be some constant



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers

$\text{Max}(S)$ : maximum element of  $S$

Let  $c$  be some constant

$\text{Max}(S) \leq c$



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers

$\text{Max}(S)$ : maximum element of  $S$

Let  $c$  be some constant

$$\text{Max}(S) \leq c \iff \forall e \in S : e \leq c$$



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers

$\text{Max}(S)$ : maximum element of  $S$

Let  $c$  be some constant

$$\text{Max}(S) \leq c \iff \forall e \in S : e \leq c$$

$$\text{Max}(S) \geq c \iff$$



# An abstraction

Let  $S$  be a set of integers

$\text{Max}(S)$ : maximum element of  $S$

Let  $c$  be some constant

$$\text{Max}(S) \leq c \iff \forall e \in S : e \leq c$$

$$\text{Max}(S) \geq c \iff \exists e \in S : e \geq c$$



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3$$

(upperbound)



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3$$

(upperbound)



$$\max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\} \leq 7n^3$$



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3$$

(upperbound)



$$\max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\} \leq 7n^3$$



For **every** input of size  $n$ , A takes **at most**  $7n^3$  steps.



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \geq 3n^2$$

(lowerbound)



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

How do we show the following?

$$T(n) \geq 3n^2$$

(lowerbound)



$$\max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\} \geq 3n^2$$



Recall that

$$T(n) = \max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\}$$

How do we show the following?

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\geq 3n^2 \\ (\text{lowerbound}) \end{aligned}$$



$$\max \{t(x) \mid x \text{ is an input of size } n\} \geq 3n^2$$



For **some** input of size  $n$ , A takes **at least**  $3n^2$  steps.



# In Summary,

$T(n) \leq 7n^3$   
(upperbound)



For **every** input of size  $n$ , A takes  
**at most**  $7n^3$  steps.

$T(n) \geq 3n^2$   
(lowerbound)



For **some** input of size  $n$ , A takes  
**at least**  $3n^2$  steps.



# Issue 1: Constant factors

- What if

$T(n) \leq 7n^3$     **NOT TRUE**



# Issue 1: Constant factors

- What if

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3 \quad \text{NOT TRUE}$$
$$T(n) \leq 100n^3 \quad \text{TRUE}$$



# Issue 1: Constant factors

- What if

$$T(n) \leq 7n^3 \quad \text{NOT TRUE}$$

$$T(n) \leq 100n^3 \quad \text{TRUE}$$

- What if

$$T(n) \geq 3n^2 \quad \text{NOT TRUE}$$

$$T(n) \geq n^2/10 \quad \text{TRUE}$$



# Issue 1: Constant factors

We would like to say something like

$$T(n) \leq n^3$$

within a  
constant  
factor

$$T(n) \geq n^2$$

within a  
constant  
factor



# Issue 2: Quantifying over n

- What if

For every  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$     **NOT TRUE**



# Issue 2: Quantifying over n

- What if

For every  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$     **NOT TRUE**

For *sufficiently large*  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$     **TRUE**



# Issue 2: Quantifying over n

- What if

Say,  $n \geq 200$

For every  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$       NOT TRUE

For *sufficiently large*  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$       TRUE

---



# Issue 2: Quantifying over n

- What if

Say,  $n \geq 200$

For every  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$       **NOT TRUE**

For sufficiently large  $n$ ,  $T(n) \leq 7n^3$       **TRUE**

- What if

For every  $n$ ,  $T(n) \geq 3n^2$       **NOT TRUE**

For sufficiently large  $n$ ,  $T(n) \geq 3n^2$       **TRUE**



# Combining Issues 1 and 2

We would like to say something like

$$T(n) \leq n^3$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n

$$T(n) \geq n^2$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n

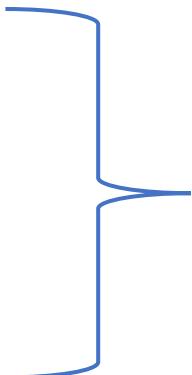


# Combining Issues 1 and 2

We would like to say something like

$$T(n) \leq n^3$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n



**Big O !**

$$T(n) \geq n^2$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n



# Combining Issues 1 and 2

We would like to say something like

$$T(n) \leq n^3$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n

$T(n)$  is  $O(n^3)$

$$T(n) \geq n^2$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n

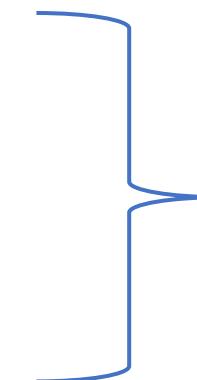


# Combining Issues 1 and 2

We would like to say something like

$$T(n) \leq n^3$$

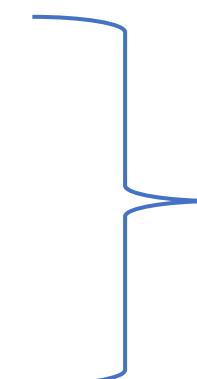
within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n



$T(n)$  is  $O(n^3)$

$$T(n) \geq n^2$$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large n



$T(n)$  is  $\Omega(n^2)$



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$

**Intuitively  
Means**

$T(n) \leq g(n)$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large  $n$



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$

**Intuitively  
Means**

$T(n) \leq g(n)$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large  $n$

Formally,

$T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :  
 $T(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$

**Intuitively  
Means**

$T(n) \leq g(n)$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large  $n$

Formally,

$T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :  
 $T(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :  
For **every** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at most**  $c \cdot g(n)$  steps



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$

**Intuitively  
Means**

$T(n) \geq g(n)$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large  $n$



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$

**Intuitively  
Means**

$T(n) \geq g(n)$

within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large  $n$

Formally,

$T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :  
 $T(n) \geq c \cdot g(n)$



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$  **Intuitively**  $T(n) \geq g(n)$   
Means  
within a  
constant  
factor  
&  
for  
sufficiently  
large  $n$

# Formally,

$$T(n) \text{ is } \Omega(g(n)) \iff \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0, \text{ such that } \forall n \geq n_0: T(n) \geq c \cdot g(n)$$

$\Leftrightarrow \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :

For **some** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at least**  $c, g(n)$  steps



# In Summary,

$T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$   
(upperbound)  $\iff \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :  
For **every** input of size  $n$ , A takes  
**at most**  $c.g(n)$  steps.

$T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$   
(lowerbound)  $\iff \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ , such that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ :  
For **some** input of size  $n$ , A takes  
**at least**  $c.g(n)$  steps.



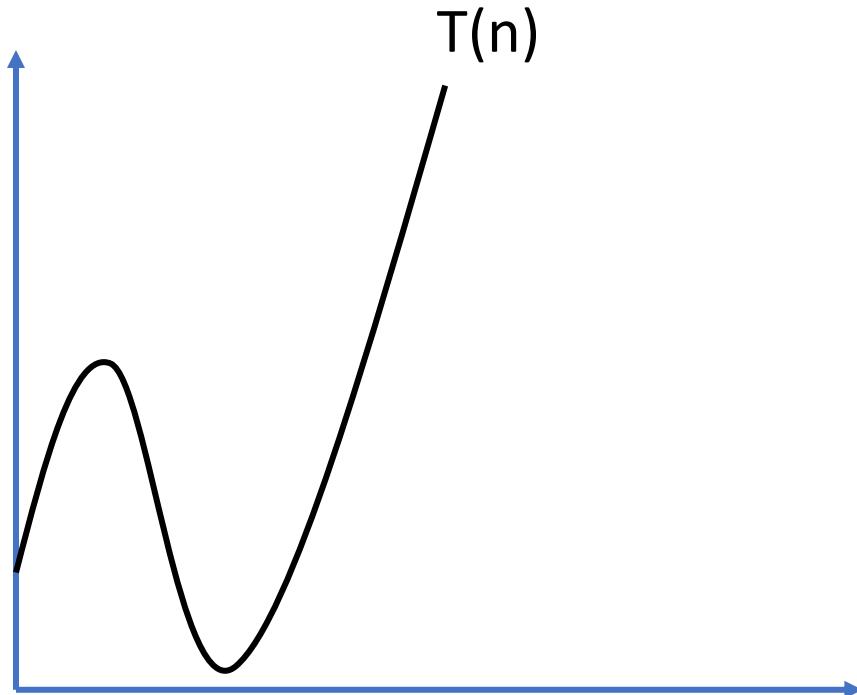
# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  **and**  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$



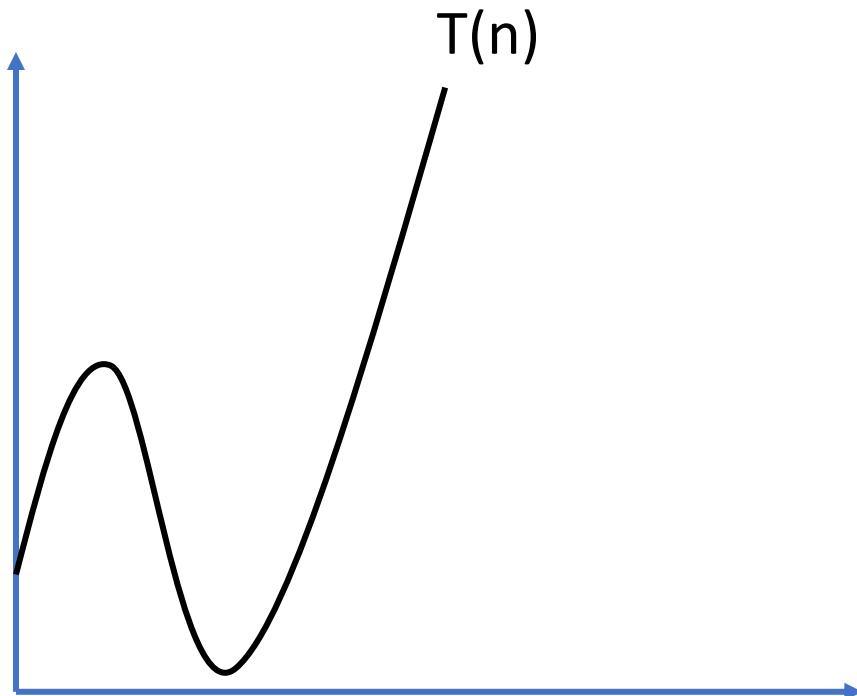
# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  and  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$



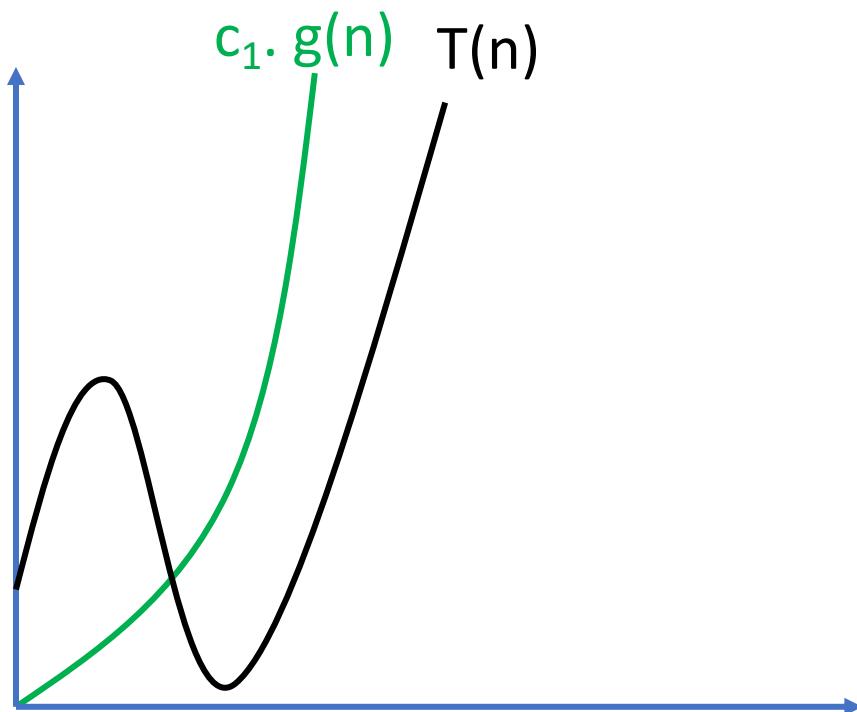
# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  and  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$



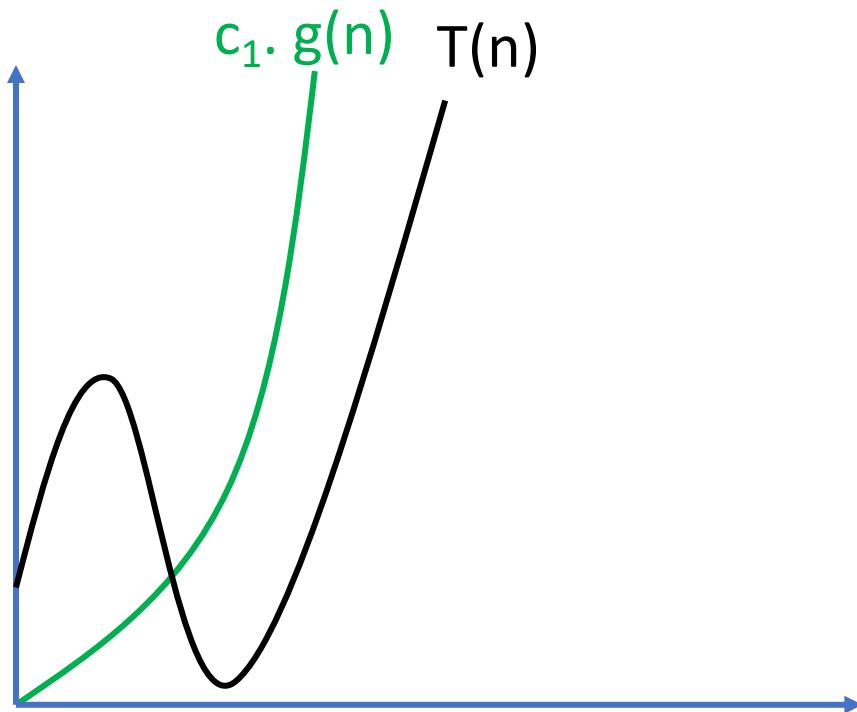
# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  and  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$



# Big O notation

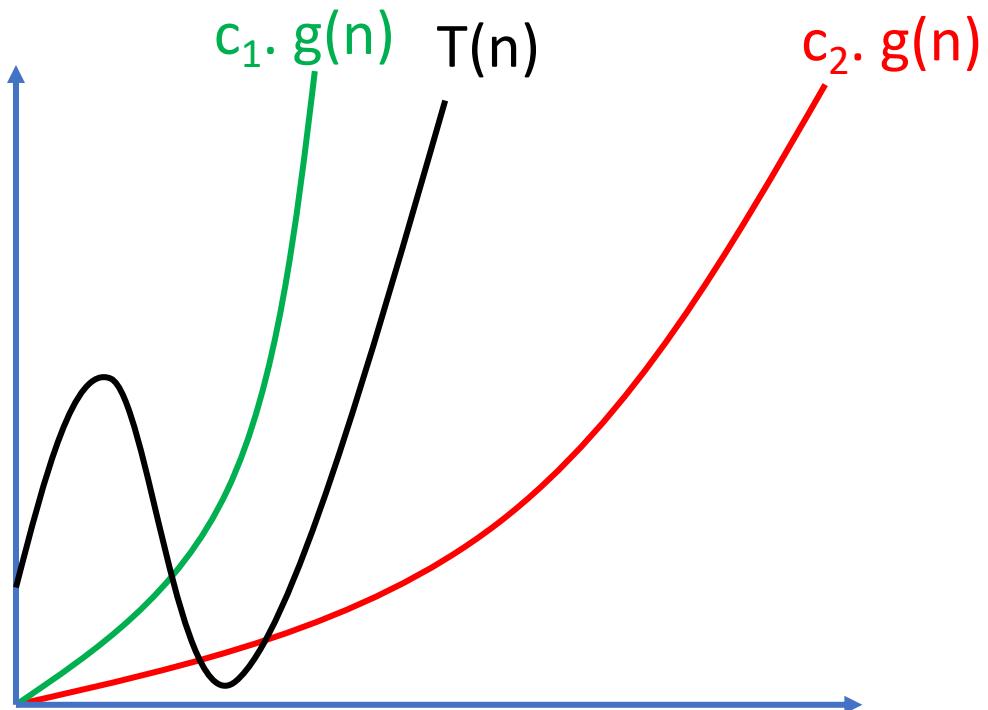
$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  and  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$



# Big O notation

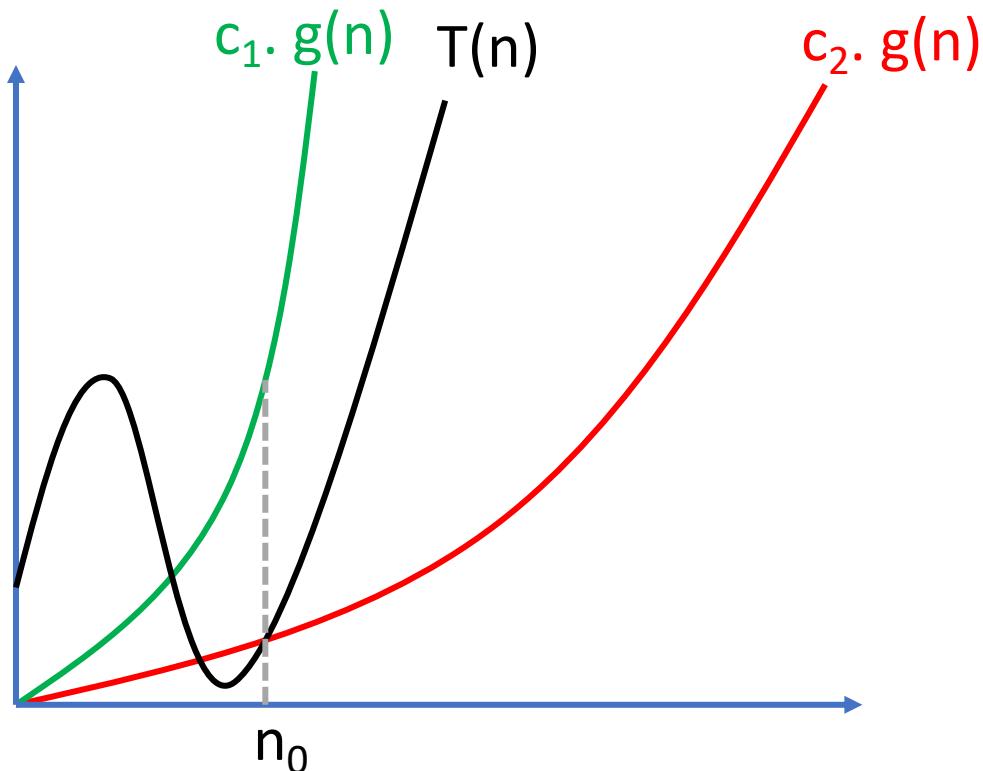
$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  and  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$

---



# Big O notation

$T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$        $\Leftrightarrow$        $T(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  and  $T(n)$  is  $\Omega(g(n))$



# What is the Worst-Case Time Complexity of Bubble Sort?

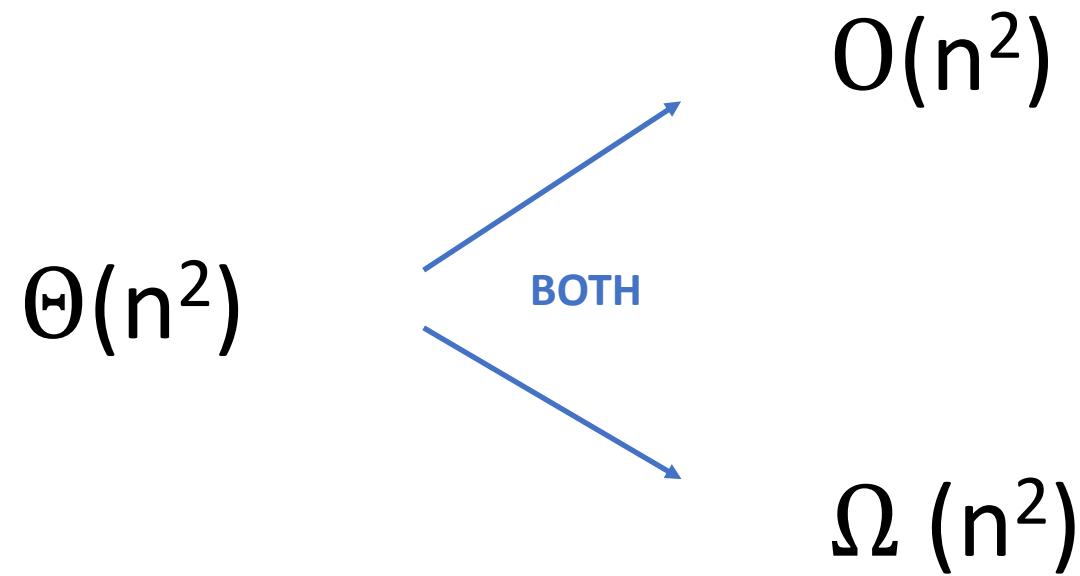


# What is the Worst-Case Time Complexity of Bubble Sort?

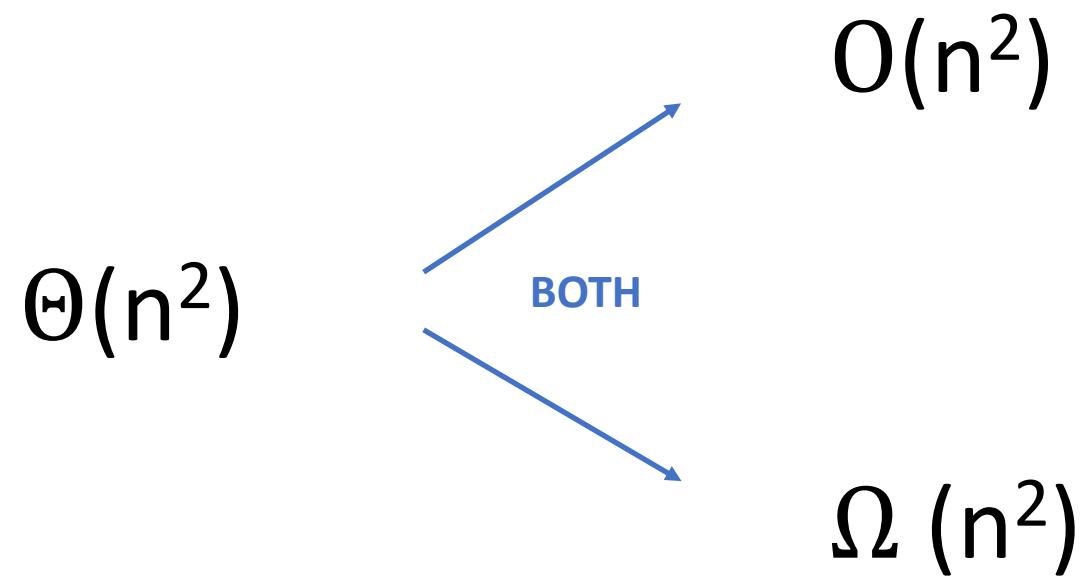
$$\Theta(n^2)$$



# What is the Worst-Case Time Complexity of Bubble Sort?



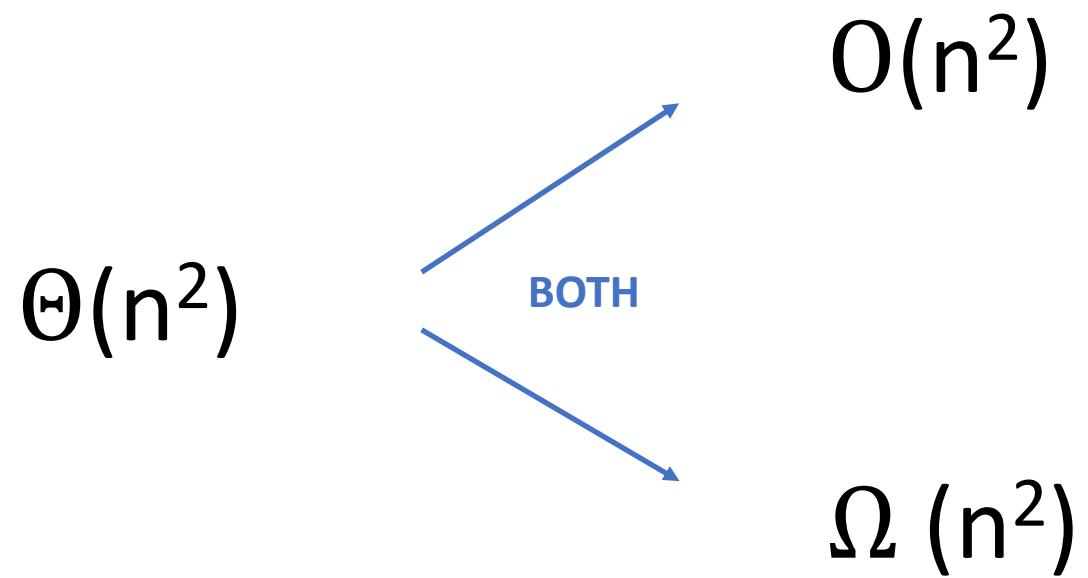
# What is the Worst-Case Time Complexity of Bubble Sort?



(ROUGHLY STATED)  
For **every** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at most**  $c_1 \cdot n^2$  steps.



# What is the Worst-Case Time Complexity of Bubble Sort?



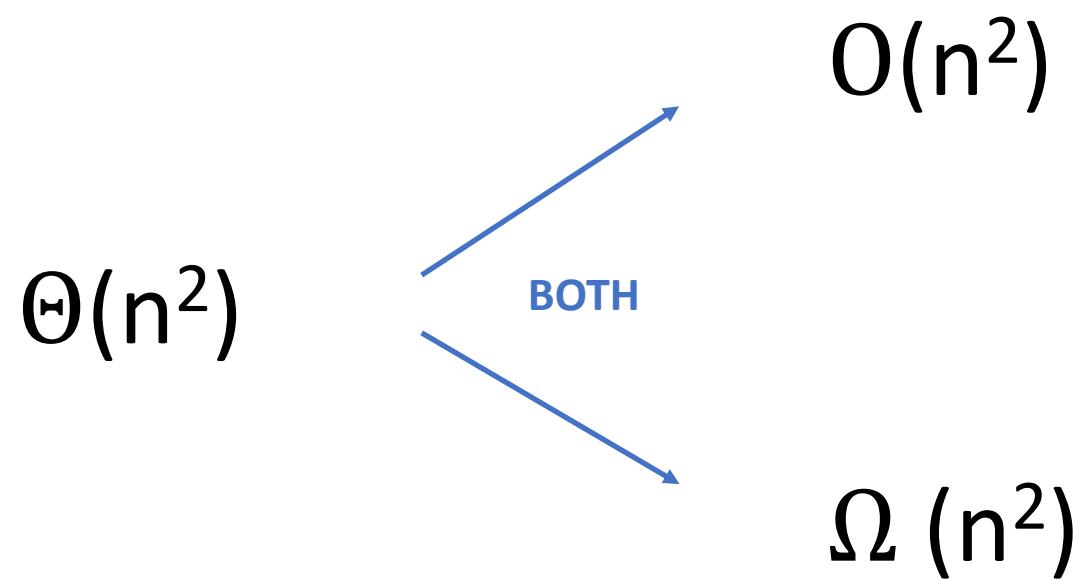
(ROUGHLY STATED)  
For **every** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at most**  $c_1 \cdot n^2$  steps.

(ROUGHLY STATED)  
For **some** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at least**  $c_2 \cdot n^2$  steps.



# What is the Worst-Case Time Complexity of Bubble Sort?

**There exists  $c_1 > 0, c_2 > 0$ , such that for sufficiently large  $n$**



For **every** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at most**  $c_1 \cdot n^2$  steps.

For **some** input of size  $n$ ,  
the algorithm takes  
**at least**  $c_2 \cdot n^2$  steps.

