

Dropping Constants

The big idea:

When iterating over the same set of data twice in a single algorithm it may be tempting to label the algorithm as $O(2N)$, but this would be incorrect.

Take these two examples, which one of them is slower?

```
1 let min = Number.POSITIVE_INFINITY
2 let max = Number.NEGATIVE_INFINITY
3 let arr = [10, 4, 2, 7, 9]
4
5 arr.forEach(num => {
6   if (num < min) min = num
7   if (num > max) max = num
8 })
```

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```

Figuring this out for every algorithm we would write would ultimately be unproductive.

Remember that the ultimate goal of Big O is to determine the major impacts on the runtime of an algorithm as the input scales.

In reality, $O(N)$ algorithms aren't the same as one another, but **they scale in the same way as their inputs grow or shrink.**

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