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# Complexity of Algorithm

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# Outline

- Big- $\Omega$  Notation
- Big- $\theta$  Notation
- Complexity of Algorithm



# Review Big-Oh

- Let  $f$  and  $g$  be functions. We say that  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  if there are constants  $c$  and  $k$  such that

$$|f(x)| \leq C |g(x)|$$

whenever  $x > k$

- Big-Oh notation is used to estimate the number of operations needed to solve a problem using a specified procedure or algorithm.

# Big- $\Omega$ and Big- $\theta$ Notation

- Big-O notation does not provide a lower bound for the size of  $f(x)$  for large  $x$ , for this we use big-Omega (Big- $\Omega$ ) notation.
- When we want to give both, an upper and lower bound on the size of a function  $f(x)$ , relative to a reference function  $g(x)$ , we use big-Theta (Big- $\theta$ ) notation.

# Formal Definition of Big-Ω

- Let  $f$  and  $g$  be function from the set of integers or the set of real numbers to the set of real numbers. We say that  $f(x)$  is  $\Omega(g(x))$  if there are **positive constants  $C$  and  $k$**  such that

$$|f(x)| \geq C |g(x)| \text{ whenever } x > k$$

- This is read as “ $f(x)$  is big-Omega of  $(g(x))$ ”.
- Alternatively, we can say that:

$$\exists k \in \mathbf{R}, \exists C \in \mathbf{R}, \forall x \in \mathbf{R}, x > k \Rightarrow |f(x)| \geq c |g(x)|$$

# Example Big- $\Omega$ Problem

- The function  $f(x) = 8x^3 + 5x^2 + 7$  is  $\Omega(g(x))$ , where  $g(x)$  is the function  $g(x) = x^3$ .
- $f(x) = 8x^3 + 5x^2 + 7$  is  $\Omega(x^3)$ .
  - since  $8x^3 + 5x^2 + 7 > 8x^3$  for all  $x > 0$ .
- $f(x) = \Omega(g(x))$  is equivalent to  $g(x) = O(f(x))$

# Formal Definition of Big- $\theta$

- Let  $f$  and  $g$  be function from the set of integers or the set of real numbers to the set of real numbers. We say that  $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$  if  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  and  $f(x)$  is  $\Omega(g(x))$ .
- When  $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$  we say that “ $f(x)$  is big-Theta of  $(g(x))$ ” and we also say that  $f(x)$  is of order  $(g(x))$
- When  $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$ , it is also the case that  $g(x)$  is  $\theta(f(x))$ .
- Note that  $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$  if and only if  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  and  $g(x)$  is  $O(f(x))$ .

# Proof

- $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$  if and only if  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  and  $g(x)$  is  $O(f(x))$ .
- If  $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$ , then there exist constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  with  $C_1 |g(x)| \leq |f(x)| \leq C_2 |g(x)|$ .
- It follows that  $|f(x)| \leq C_2 |g(x)|$  and  $|g(x)| \leq 1/C_1 |f(x)|$  for  $x > k$ .
- Thus  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  and  $g(x)$  is  $O(f(x))$ .
- Conversely, suppose that  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  and  $g(x)$  is  $O(f(x))$ , then there exist constants  $C_1, C_2, k_1, k_2$  such that  $|f(x)| \leq C_1 |g(x)|$  for  $x > k_1$  and  $|g(x)| \leq C_2 |f(x)|$  for  $x > k_2$ .
- We can assume that  $C_2 > 0$  (we can always make  $C_2$  larger). Then we have  $1/C_2 |g(x)| \leq |f(x)| \leq C_1 |g(x)|$  for  $x > \max(k_1, k_2)$ . Hence  $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$ .



# Example Big- $\theta$ Problem

- Show that  $3x^2 + 8x \log x$  is  $\theta(x^2)$
- Solution:
  - $f(x)$  is  $\theta(g(x))$  if  $f(x)$  is  $O(g(x))$  and  $f(x)$  is  $\Omega(g(x))$
  - We can find  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that  $c_1 |g(x)| \leq |f(x)| \leq c_2 |g(x)|$ .
  - $3x^2 + 8x \log x$  is  $\theta(x^2)$ 
    - $3x^2 + 8x \log x < c \cdot x^2$
    - $3x^2 + 8x^2 < 11x^2$  for  $x > 1$ 
      - $\therefore 3x^2 + 8x \log x = O(x^2)$ .
    - $3x^2 + 8x \log x > x^2$  for  $x > 1$ 
      - $\therefore 3x^2 + 8x \log x = \Omega(x^2)$ .

# Complexity of Algorithm

- How can the efficiency of an algorithm be analyzed?
- One measure of efficiency is the time used by a computer to solve a problem using the algorithm when input values are of specified size → time complexity
- A second measure is the amount of computer memory required to implement the algorithm when input values are of specified size → space complexity
- In this section we will discuss the time complexity.

# Comparison of running times

- Searches
  - Linear:  $n$  steps
  - Binary:  $2 \log n$  steps
- Sorts
  - Bubble:  $n^2$  steps
  - Insertion:  $n^2$  steps

## Time Complexity of Max Element Algorithm

- The number of comparisons will be used as the measure of the time complexity since comparisons are the basic operations used.
- Two comparisons are used for each of the second through the  $n$ th elements and one more comparison to exit the loop when  $i = n + 1$ , exactly  $2(n - 1) + 1 = 2n - 1$ .
- Hence the algorithm for finding max element of a set of  $n$  elements has time complexity  $\theta(n)$ , measured in terms of the number of comparisons used.

## Time Complexity of Linear Search Algorithm

- At each step of the loop, two comparisons are performed – one to see whether the end of the loop has been reached and one to compare the element  $x$  with a term in the list. One more comparison is made outside the loop.
- Consequently, if  $x = a_i$ ,  $2i + 1$  comparisons are used.
- The most comparison,  $2n + 2$ , are required when the element is not in the list –  $2n$  comparisons are used to determine that  $x$  is not  $a_i$ , an additional comparison is used to exit the loop, and one more comparison outside the loop.
- Hence, a linear search algorithm requires at most  $\theta(n)$ . This is worst case complexity.
- **Worst case analysis** tells us how many operations an algorithm requires to guarantee that it will produce a solution.

## Time Complexity of Binary Search Algorithm

- Binary search requires at most  $2 \log n + 2$  comparisons when the list being searched has  $2^k$  elements, where  $k = \log n$ .
- If  $n$  is not a power of 2, the original list is expanded with  $2^{k+1}$  terms, where  $k = \lfloor \log n \rfloor$  and the search requires at most  $2 \lfloor \log n \rfloor + 2$  comparisons .
- Consequently, binary search requires at most  $\theta(\log n)$  comparisons.
- This is **average case complexity**  $\rightarrow$  the average number of operations used to solve the problem over all inputs of a given size.

## Average Case Performance of Linear Search Algorithm

- If  $x$  is  $i$ th term in the list,  $2i + 1$  comparisons are needed.
- The average number of comparisons used equals:

$$\frac{3 + 5 + 7 + \dots + (2n + 1)}{n} = \frac{2(1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n) + n}{n}$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}$$

- Hence, the average number of comparisons used by linear search algorithm (when  $x$  is known to be in the list) is  $\frac{2[\frac{n(n+1)}{2}]}{n} + 1 = n + 2$ , which is  $\theta(n)$

# Worst Case Complexity of Two Sorting Algorithms

- ◉ **Bubble sort:**

- ◉ Total number of comparisons used by bubble sort to order a list of  $n$  elements is:

$$(n - 1) + (n - 2) + \dots + 2 + 1 = \frac{(n - 1)n}{2}$$

- ◉ So it has  $\theta(n^2)$  worst case complexity

- ◉ **Insertion sort:**

- ◉ Total number of comparisons used by insertion sort to order a list of  $n$  elements is:

$$2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2} - 1$$

- ◉ So it has  $\theta(n^2)$  worst case complexity



# Commonly Used Terminology for Complexity of Algorithms

Complexity	Terminology
$\theta(1)$	Constant complexity
$\theta(\log n)$	Logarithmic complexity
$\theta(n)$	Linear complexity
$\theta(n \log n)$	$n \log n$ complexity
$\theta(n^b)$	Polynomial complexity
$\theta(b^n)$ , where $b > 1$	Exponential complexity
$\theta(n!)$	Factorial complexity