

# Lecture 5 Worksheet: Complexity Analysis

A **step** is any unit of work with bounded execution time (it doesn't keep getting slower with growing input size).

We classify algorithm complexity by classifying the **order of growth** of a function  $f(N)$ , where  $f$  gives the number of steps the algorithm must perform for a given input size.

Big O definition: if  $f(N) \leq C * g(N)$  for large  $N$  values and some fixed constant  $C$ , then  $f(N) \in O(g(N))$

1

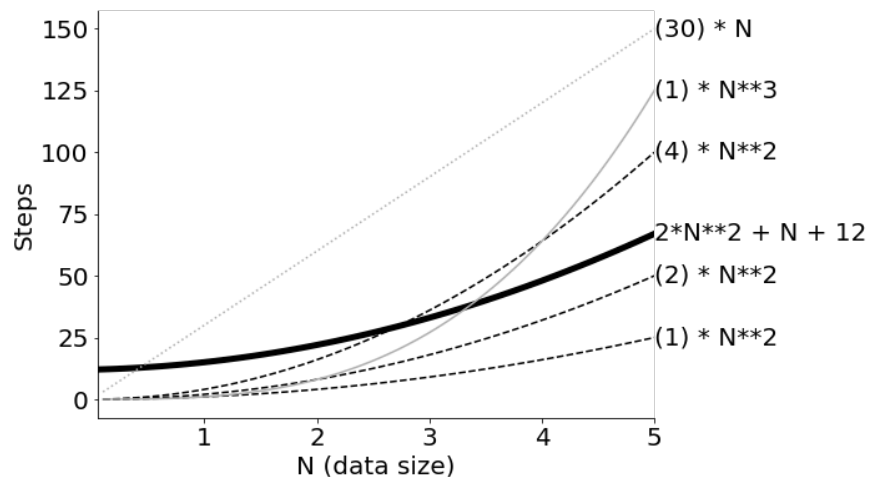
Let  $f(N) = 2N^2 + N + 12$

If we want to show  $f(N) \in O(N^3)$ , what is a good lower bound on  $N$ ? Let's have  $C=1$ .

If we want to show  $f(N) \in O(N^2)$ , do we pick 1, 2, or 4 for the  $C$ ? After picking  $C$ , should we choose for  $N$ 's lower bound?

What is more informative to show?  
 $f(N) \in O(N^3)$  or  $f(N) \in O(N^2)$ ?

Somebody claims  $f(N) \in O(N)$ , offering  $C=30$  and  $N>0$ . Suggest an  $N$  value to counter their claim.



2

Each of the following list operations are either  $O(1)$  or  $O(N)$ , where  $N$  is  $\text{len}(L)$ . Circle those you think are  $O(N)$ .

`L.insert(0, x)`    `L.pop(0)`    `x = L[0]`    `x = max(L)`    `x = len(L)`  
`L.append(x)`    `L.pop(-1)`    `L2.extend(L)`    `x = sum(L)`    `found = x in L`

3

```
def search(L, target):
    for x in L:
        if x == target: #line A
            return True
    return False
```

*assume this is asked unless otherwise stated*

Let  $f(N)$  be the number of times line A executes, with  $N=\text{len}(L)$ . What is  $f(N)$  in each case?

**Worst Case** (target is at end of list):  $f(N) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

**Best Case** (target is at beginning of list):  $f(N) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

**Average Case** (target in middle of list):  $f(N) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

4

```
def selection_sort(L):
    for i in range(len(L)):
        idx_min = i
        for j in range(i, len(L)):
            if L[j] < L[idx_min]:
                idx_min = j
        L[idx_min], L[i] = L[i], L[idx_min] # swap values at i and idx_min
```

if this runs  $f(N)$  times, where  $N=\text{len}(L)$ , then  $f(N) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

```
nums = [2, 4, 3, 1]
selection_sort(nums)
print(nums)
```

The complexity of selection sort is  
 $O(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})$

5

# assume L is already sorted, N=len(L)

```
def binary_search(L, target):
    left_idx = 0 # inclusive
    right_idx = len(L) # exclusive
    while right_idx - left_idx > 1:
        mid_idx = (right_idx + left_idx) // 2
        mid = L[mid_idx]
        if target >= mid:
            left_idx = mid_idx
        else:
            right_idx = mid_idx
```

```
return right_idx > left_idx and L[left_idx] == target
```

how many times does this step run  
when N = 1? N = 2? N = 4? N = 8?

If  $f(N)$  is the number of times this step runs, then  $f(N) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

The complexity of binary search is  
 $O(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})$

6

```
def merge(L1, L2):
    rv = []
    idx1 = 0
    idx2 = 0

    while True:
        done1 = idx1 == len(L1)
        done2 = idx2 == len(L2)

        if done1 and done2:
            return rv

        choose1 = False
        if done2:
            choose1 = True
        elif not done1 and L1[idx1] < L2[idx2]:
            choose1 = True

        if choose1:
            rv.append(L1[idx1])
            idx1 += 1
        else:
            rv.append(L2[idx2])
            idx2 += 1

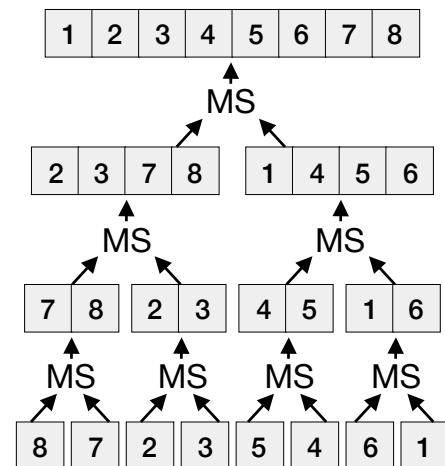
    return rv
```

`merge([1, 3], [2, 4])` will return                     .

`merge(L1, L2)` implements an  $O(N)$  algorithm. But how  
can we measure the size of the input?  $N = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

```
def merge_sort(L):
    if len(L) < 2:
        return L
    mid = len(L) // 2
    left = L[:mid]
    right = L[mid:]
    left = merge_sort(left)
    right = merge_sort(right)
    return merge(left, right)
```

`merge_sort([4, 1, 2, 3])`



If we double the list size, there will be       
more level(s). Level count grows  
 $O(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})$ . Work per level is  $O(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})$ .  
merge\_sort complexity:  $O(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})$

7

```
nums = [...]
```

```
first100sum = 0
```

```
for x in nums[:100]:
    first100sum += x
print(x)
```

If we increase the size of nums from 20 items to 100 items, the code  
will probably take          times longer to run.

If we increase the size of nums from 100 to 1000, will the code take  
longer? Yes / No

The complexity of the code is  $O(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})$ , with  $N=\text{len}(\text{nums})$ .