

Question 6: Derive the $O()$ for the Recursive vs. Non-Recursive Fibonacci Function. See repository.

Given: Function `fibArray()` with an argument of integer N , and the function `fibLoop()` with an argument of integer N .

fibArray(int n) Approach: There are two main parts to consider when taking the BigO of the `fibArray` function. The first being the array `"int array[n+1]"` on line 66. This array is created with size $n + 1$, which means that the time it takes to allocate the memory for the size is directly related to the size n , making this operation timing $O(n)$.

The second important part to consider with regards to BigO is the functions for-loop. This loop, `"for(int i=2;i<=n;i++)"`, performs constant time operations related to the size of the input n . The inner operations of the loop, `"array[i]=array[i-1]+array[i-2]"`, are also a constant number of operations related to argument n . Both aspects run at a constant time related to size n , meaning that the operation timing is $O(n)$.

fibRec(int n) Approach: The recursive countertype of the Fibonacci algorithm differs drastically despite being a shorter function (see repository). The drastic increase in computation time comes from `"fibRec(n-1)+fibRec(n-2)"`, which creates two recursive calls to `fibRec` of inputs n until a base case is met. For a better example, the next recursion to find `fibRec(n-1)` calls `fibRec()` twice, for `fibRec(n-2)` and `fibRec(n-3)`. This can be visualized as something of a tree pattern, creating two nodes for each call n . The greatest takeaway being for each n , there are two 2 recursive calls being made. That leads to the operation timing being $O(2^n)$.

Therefore The conclusion can be made that the function `fibArray()` with argument `n` computes at $O(n)$ timing, and the function `fibRec()` with argument `n` computes at $O(2^n)$.