

Complexity and Performance

Alternative Big O notation:

$O(1) = O(\text{yeah})$

$O(\log n) = O(\text{nice})$

$O(n) = O(\text{ok})$

$O(n^2) = O(\text{my})$

$O(2^n) = O(\text{no})$

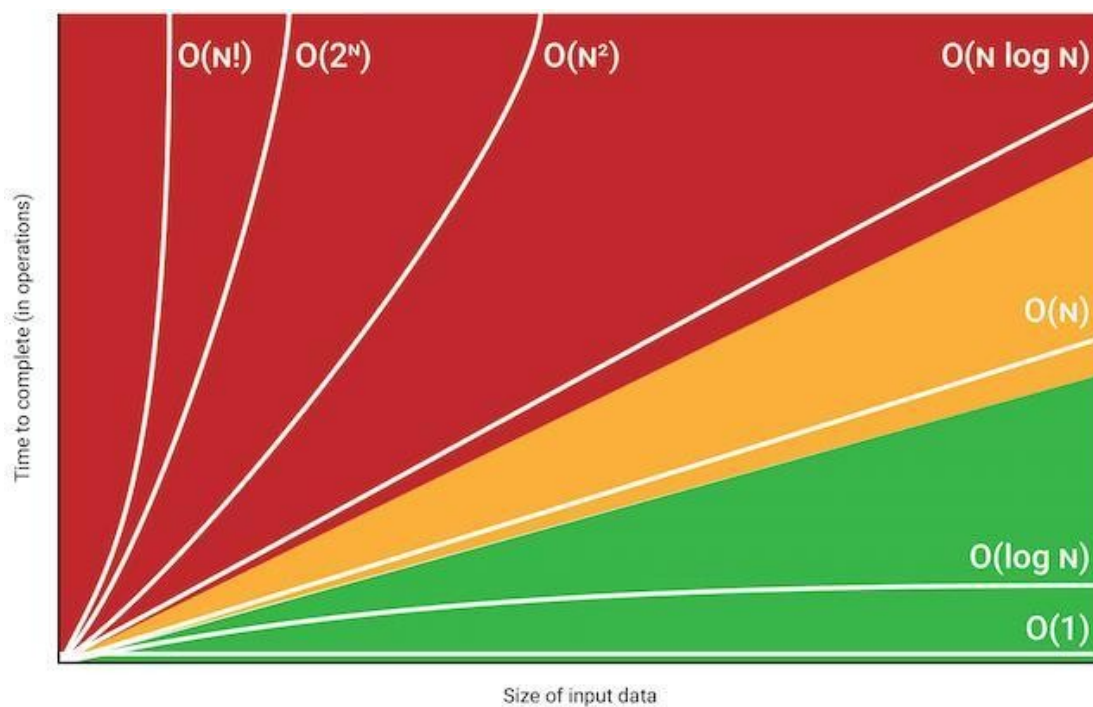
$O(n!) = O(\text{mg!})$

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You're far enough along in the course to have a decent understanding of why paying attention to performance is important. Just using the most straightforward approach can lead to long run times and extensive memory usage – even crashes!



1. Big O complexity is a way to describe both time and space (memory usage) performance in relation to input. Please read through the following article before continuing:

<https://www.interviewcake.com/article/c/big-o-notation-time-and-space-complexity>

2. Look through some practice questions to make sure you understand algorithm complexity.

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/practice-questions-time-complexity-analysis/>

3. Consider the phone book problem. You're searching for a certain name in a very long list of names. There are quite a few approaches to this problem. As a group, discuss several different approaches and the time complexity for each. Is there any difference in space complexity? You can watch the clip from Harvard's CS50 course, below, for a visual if you'd like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2LqhHoAXxl> (a good visual from Harvard's CS50 course)

Other Resources

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/analysis-algorithms-big-o-analysis/> (gets more mathy)