



Big-O

Time Complexities

Typical average-case complexities with good hash functions and balanced trees.

Java Collections

Python Built-ins

JS Standard Objects

Performance

What We'll Cover

Analysis Scope

We focus on **average-case** time complexities for standard implementations. We assume **good hash functions** (minimizing collisions) and **balanced trees** (like Red-Black trees) where applicable.

Data Structures

Comparison covers four main categories across languages:

- Lists / Sequences
- Sets & Uniqueness
- Maps / Dictionaries
- Queues & Deques

Notation Key:

`n` = container size
`m` = size of other collection
`k` = slice size / subset

01

Java Collections

ArrayList, LinkedList, HashMap, TreeMap, Sets

02

Python Built-ins

CPython implementations: list, dict, set, tuple

03

JavaScript Structures

V8/Engine Typical: Array, Object, Map, Set

04

Cross-Language Summary

Key takeaways and performance patterns

Java Collections Time Complexities

$O(1)$ Constant

$O(\log n)$ Logarithmic

$O(n)$ Linear

Typical average-case performance. *Amortized time.

☰ List Interface

STRUCTURE	ACCESS	SEARCH	INS/REM	NOTES
ArrayList	$O(1)$	$O(n)$	$O(n)$	Append is $O(1)^*$. Slow insert/remove at middle (array shift).
LinkedList	$O(n)$	$O(n)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$ insert/remove only if node reference is known (ends).

☰ Set Interface

STRUCTURE	ADD	CONTAINS	REMOVE	NOTES
HashSet	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	Unordered. Worst $O(n)$ on heavy collisions.
LinkedHashSet	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	Preserves insertion order. Slightly more memory.
TreeSet	$O(\log n)$	$O(\log n)$	$O(\log n)$	Sorted order. Red-Black tree backed.

🔑 Map Interface

STRUCTURE	GET/PUT	CONTAINS	ITERATE	NOTES
HashMap	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(n)$	No order guarantee. Key must implement hashCode/equals correctly.
LinkedHashMap	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(n)$	Insertion or access order. Good for LRU caches.
TreeMap	$O(\log n)$	$O(\log n)$	$O(n)$	Sorted by key. Lower throughput than HashMap.

↔ Queue / Deque

STRUCTURE	ADD FIRST/LAST	POLL FIRST/LAST	PEEK	NOTES
ArrayDeque	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	Circular buffer. Faster than Stack. No nulls.
LinkedList	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	More memory overhead per node than ArrayDeque.
PriorityQueue	$O(\log n)$	$O(\log n)$	$O(1)$	Heap structure. Accesses min/max element.

Python Built-ins Time Complexities

$O(1)$ Constant

$O(k)$ k =slice size

$O(n)$ Linear

Values for CPython (Standard Implementation). Dictionary/Set are Hash Table based.

List (Dynamic Array)

OPERATION	AVERAGE TIME	NOTES
Index <code>[i]</code>	$O(1)$	Fast random access.
<code>append()</code>	$O(1)$	Amortized. Expansion is $O(n)$.
<code>pop()</code>	$O(1)$	Remove from end.
<code>pop(0)</code> / <code>insert(0)</code>	$O(n)$	Shifts all elements.
<code>find</code>	$O(n)$	Linear search.

Dict (Hash Map)

OPERATION	AVERAGE TIME	NOTES
Get / Set Item	$O(1)$	Very fast avg case.
Delete Item	$O(1)$	<code>del d[k]</code>
<code>k in d</code>	$O(1)$	Key membership.
Iteration	$O(n)$	Over keys/values.
Copy / Hash table	$O(n)$	Depends on dict size.

Set (Hash Set)

OPERATION	AVERAGE TIME	NOTES
Add / Remove	$O(1)$	No duplicates allowed.
<code>x in s</code>	$O(1)$	Fast membership check.
Union <code>(s t)</code>	$O(m+n)$	Depends on size of both.
Difference <code>(s-t)</code>	$O(n)$	Depends on size of <code>s</code> .

Tuple & Deque

OPERATION	AVERAGE TIME	NOTES
Tuple Index	$O(1)$	Same as list, but immutable.
Tuple Iteration	$O(n)$	Linear scan.
Deque append	$O(1)$	Both ends (left/right).
Deque <code>pop(0)</code>	$O(1)$	Much faster than list <code>pop(0)</code> .

JS JavaScript Time Complexities

$O(1)$ Constant

$O(\log n)$ Logarithmic

$O(n)$ Linear

Typical performance in modern engines (V8, SpiderMonkey).

Array

OPERATION	TIME	NOTES
Index Access [i]	$O(1)$	Direct memory access.
push() / pop()	$O(1)$	End of array. Amortized.
shift() / unshift()	$O(n)$	Front of array (re-indexing required).
includes() / find()	$O(n)$	Linear search.

Object (as Map)

OPERATION	TIME	NOTES
Property Access	$O(1)$	Average case. Hash-map backed.
Insert / Delete	$O(1)$	Can degrade if used as sparse array.
key in obj	$O(1)$	Prototype chain check included.
Object.keys()	$O(n)$	Creates new array of keys.

Map

OPERATION	TIME	NOTES
get() / set()	$O(1)$	Optimized hash table. Any key type.
delete()	$O(1)$	Constant time removal.
has(key)	$O(1)$	No prototype conflicts.
Iteration	$O(n)$	Guaranteed insertion order.

Set

OPERATION	TIME	NOTES
add()	$O(1)$	Stores unique values only.
delete()	$O(1)$	Removes specific value.
has(value)	$O(1)$	Much faster than Array.includes().
Iteration	$O(n)$	Guaranteed insertion order.