



Data Structure

(Course Code: 25B11CI318)

Asymptotic Notations

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Algorithm Analysis

Definition

Algorithm Analysis is the process of determining the resources required by an algorithm as a function of the input size.

The two primary resources are:

- ① **Time** – How much computational work is performed?
- ② **Space** – How much memory is required?

Goal

Compare algorithms and determine which algorithm is more efficient for a given problem.

Why Analyze Algorithms?

Consider two algorithms for the same problem.

$$T_1(n) = 100n$$

$$T_2(n) = n^2$$

For small n , both may appear efficient.

Why Analyze Algorithms?

Consider two algorithms for the same problem.

$$T_1(n) = 100n$$

$$T_2(n) = n^2$$

For small n , both may appear efficient.

However, as n increases:

$$100n \ll n^2$$

- Algorithm analysis helps predict performance.
- It allows us to compare algorithms independently of hardware.
- It helps select an appropriate algorithm for large inputs.

Key Idea

Input Size

The efficiency of an algorithm depends on the size of its input.

Let:

n = size of the input

Examples:

- Array of n elements $\rightarrow n$ is the number of elements.
- String of n characters $\rightarrow n$ is the string length.
- Graph $\rightarrow n$ may represent number of vertices.
- Matrix $\rightarrow n$ may represent number of rows/columns.

Important

The definition of input size depends on the problem being solved.

Time Complexity

Definition

Time Complexity describes how the running time of an algorithm grows as a function of the input size n .

We express running time as:

$$T(n)$$

where n is the input size.

Examples:

$$T(n) = 5$$

$$T(n) = 3n + 2$$

Counting Basic Operations

Consider:

```
sum = a + b;
```

The statement performs a constant amount of work.

$$T(n) = c$$

Therefore:

$$T(n) = O(1)$$

For:

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    sum = sum + a[i];  
}
```

Example: Constant Time

```
int first = A[0];
```

Only one array element is accessed. Number of operations does not depend on n .

$$T(n) = c$$

Therefore:

$$T(n) = O(1)$$

Examples

- Accessing an array element
- Assigning a value
- Arithmetic operation
- Comparing two values

Example: Linear Time

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    printf("%d", A[i]);  
}
```

The loop executes:

n times

Therefore:

$$T(n) = cn$$

$$T(n) = O(n)$$

Pattern

One loop that runs from 0 to $n - 1$ usually gives linear complexity.

Example: Quadratic Time

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    for(j = 0; j < n; j++)  
    {  
        printf("*");  
    }  
}
```

Outer loop:

n iterations

Inner loop:

n iterations for each outer iteration

Total:

$$n \times n = n^2$$

Therefore:

$$T(n) = O(n^2)$$

Space Complexity

Definition

Space Complexity is the amount of memory required by an algorithm as a function of the input size.

Space can include:

- Input storage
- Variables
- Auxiliary data structures
- Function call stack
- Dynamically allocated memory

Example:

```
int sum;
```

Only a constant amount of extra memory is required.

$$S(n) = O(1)$$

Time Complexity vs Space Complexity

Time Complexity	Space Complexity
Measures computational work	Measures memory usage
Depends on input size	Depends on input size
Represented by $T(n)$	Represented by $S(n)$
Example: $O(n)$	Example: $O(n)$

Trade-off

Sometimes we use more memory to reduce running time.

More Space $\iff$ Less Time

Best, Average and Worst Case

An algorithm may behave differently for different inputs of the same size.

Best Case: Minimum time required.

Average Case: Expected time over typical inputs.

Worst Case: Maximum time required.

Example: Linear Search

Search:

10, 20, 30, 40, 50

Best, Average and Worst Case

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Best Case: Minimum time required.

Average Case: Expected time over typical inputs.

Worst Case: Maximum time required.

Example: Linear Search

Search:

10, 20, 30, 40, 50

Searching for:

- 10 → Best Case
- 30 → Average Case
- 50 → Worst Case

Linear Search: Complexity

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    if(A[i] == key)  
        return i;  
}
```

Best Case:

$O(1)$

Element is found at the first position.

Linear Search: Complexity

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    if(A[i] == key)  
        return i;  
}
```

Best Case:

 $O(1)$

Element is found at the first position.

Worst Case:

 $O(n)$

Element is at the last position or absent.

Linear Search: Complexity

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    if(A[i] == key)  
        return i;  
}
```

Best Case:

 $O(1)$

Element is found at the first position.

Worst Case:

 $O(n)$

Element is at the last position or absent.

Average Case:

 $O(n)$

Asymptotic Analysis

Definition

Asymptotic analysis studies the growth of an algorithm's running time as the input size n becomes very large.

It ignores:

- Machine-dependent constants
- Programming language details
- Lower-order terms

For example:

$$T(n) = 3n^2 + 5n + 10$$

For large n :

$$T(n) \approx 3n^2$$

Ignoring the constant:

Why Ignore Constants?

Consider:

$$T_1(n) = 10n$$

and

$$T_2(n) = 100n$$

Both have:

$$\boxed{O(n)}$$

The constants may affect actual running time, but they do not change the growth rate.

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Both have:

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The constants may affect actual running time, but they do not change the growth rate.
Similarly:

$$T(n) = 5n^2 + 20n + 100$$

has:

Big-O Notation

Definition

Big-O notation provides an **asymptotic upper bound** on the growth of a function.

We write:

$$f(n) = O(g(n))$$

if $f(n)$ does not grow faster than a constant multiple of $g(n)$ for sufficiently large n .

Examples:

$$3n + 5 = O(n)$$

$$2n^2 + 3n + 1 = O(n^2)$$

Formal Definition of Big-O

We say:

$$f(n) = O(g(n))$$

if there exist positive constants c and n_0 such that:

$$0 \leq f(n) \leq c g(n)$$

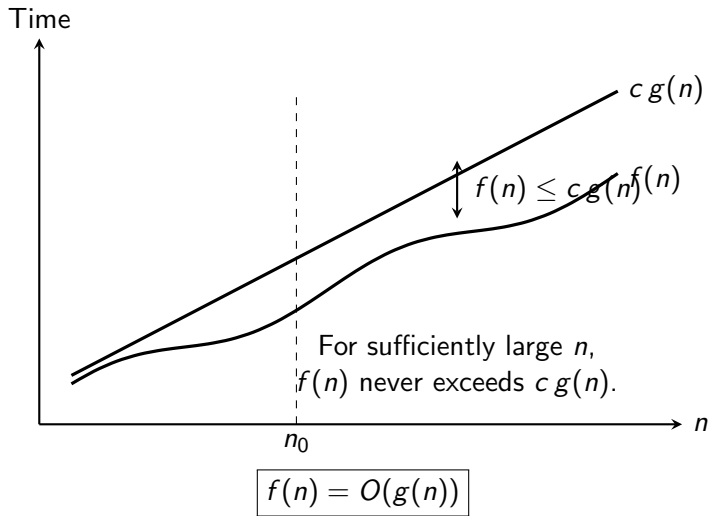
for all:

$$n \geq n_0$$

Interpretation

For sufficiently large n , $f(n)$ is bounded above by a constant multiple of $g(n)$.

Big-O Notation



Big-Ω Notation

Definition

Big-Ω notation provides an **asymptotic lower bound** on the growth of a function.

We write:

$$f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$$

if there exist positive constants c and n_0 such that:

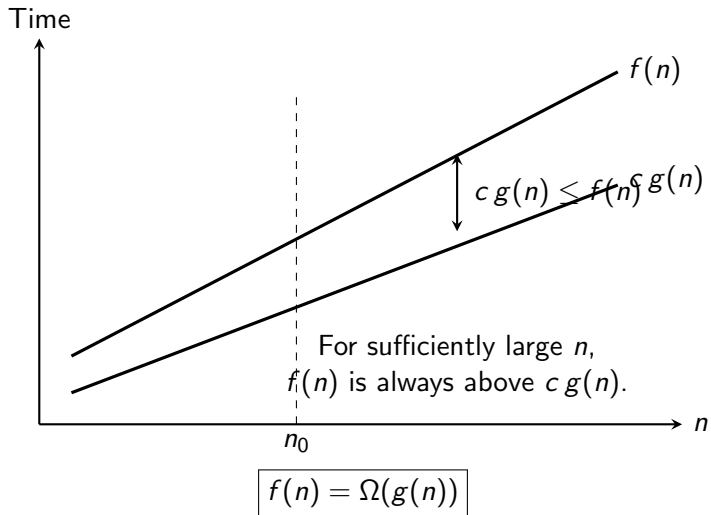
$$0 \leq c g(n) \leq f(n)$$

for all:

$$n \geq n_0$$

Example:

Big- Ω Notation



Big- Θ Notation

Definition

Big- Θ notation provides a **tight asymptotic bound**.

We write:

$$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$$

if there exist positive constants c_1, c_2, n_0 such that:

$$0 \leq c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n)$$

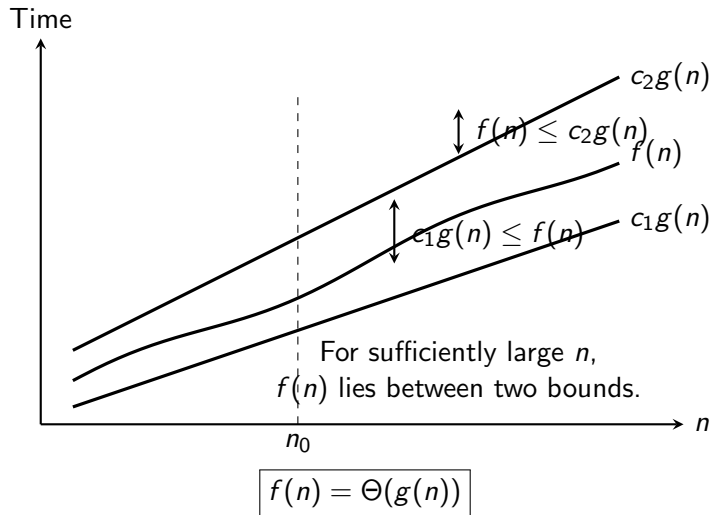
for all:

$$n \geq n_0$$

Example:

$$3n^2 + 5n + 2 = \Theta(n^2)$$

Big- Θ Notation



Big-O, Big- Ω and Big- Θ

Notation	Meaning	Bound
$O(g(n))$	Upper bound	At most
$\Omega(g(n))$	Lower bound	At least
$\Theta(g(n))$	Tight bound	Both

For:

$$f(n) = 3n^2 + 5n + 10$$

we can say:

$$f(n) = O(n^2)$$

$$f(n) = \Omega(n^2)$$

$$f(n) = \Theta(n^2)$$

Common Asymptotic Growth Rates

From slower growth to faster growth:

$$O(1) < O(\log n) < O(n) < O(n \log n) < O(n^2) < O(n^3) < O(2^n) < O(n!)$$

Complexity	Common Example
$O(1)$	Array access
$O(\log n)$	Binary Search
$O(n)$	Linear Search
$O(n \log n)$	Merge Sort
$O(n^2)$	Bubble Sort
$O(2^n)$	Recursive subset generation
$O(n!)$	Permutation generation

Growth Rate: Intuition

For large values of n :

$$O(1)$$

remains almost constant.

$$O(\log n)$$

grows very slowly.

$$O(n)$$

grows linearly.

$$O(n^2)$$

grows much faster.

$$O(2^n)$$

becomes impractical very quickly.

Key Idea

Asymptotic analysis helps us understand which algorithms remain practical as input size increases.

Rule 1: Drop Constants

Consider:

$$T(n) = 5n$$

Ignoring the constant:

$$O(n)$$

Another example:

$$T(n) = 100n + 20$$

Therefore:

$$O(n)$$

Rule

Constant multipliers are ignored in asymptotic notation.

Rule 2: Drop Lower-Order Terms

Suppose:

$$T(n) = 3n^2 + 5n + 10$$

The dominant term is:

$$n^2$$

Therefore:

$$T(n) = O(n^2)$$

Similarly:

$$7n^3 + 4n^2 + 10n + 5$$

becomes:

$$O(n^3)$$

Rule 3: Sequential Statements

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    statement1;  
}  
  
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    statement2;  
}
```

First loop:

$$O(n)$$

Second loop:

$$O(n)$$

Total:

$$O(n) + O(n) = O(2n)$$

Therefore:

$$O(n)$$

Rule 4: Nested Loops

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    for(j = 0; j < n; j++)  
    {  
        statement;  
    }  
}
```

Outer loop:

n

Inner loop:

n

Therefore:

$$n \times n = n^2$$

$$O(n^2)$$

Rule 5: Dependent Nested Loops

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    for(j = 0; j < i; j++)  
    {  
        statement;  
    }  
}
```

Number of executions:

$$0 + 1 + 2 + \dots + (n - 1)$$

Using:

$$\frac{n(n - 1)}{2}$$

Therefore:

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

Ignoring constants and lower-order terms:

$$O(n^2)$$

Rule 6: If-Else Statements

```
if(condition)
{
    // O(n)
}
else
{
    // O(n^2)
}
```

Only one branch executes. Therefore, take the larger complexity:

$$\max(O(n), O(n^2))$$

$$O(n^2)$$

Rule

For an if-else structure, consider the branch with the largest asymptotic complexity.

Rule 7: Logarithmic Loop

```
for(i = 1; i <= n; i = i * 2)
{
    statement;
}
```

Values of i are:

$$1, 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots, n$$

After k iterations:

$$2^k = n$$

Taking logarithm:

$$k = \log_2 n$$

Therefore:

$$O(\log n)$$

Example 1: Analyze the Algorithm

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    printf("%d", i);  
}
```

Example 1: Analyze the Algorithm

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    printf("%d", i);  
}
```

The loop executes n times.

Therefore:

$$T(n) = cn$$

$$T(n) = O(n)$$

Example 2: Analyze the Algorithm

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    for(j = 0; j < n; j++)  
    {  
        printf("*");  
    }  
}
```

Example 2: Analyze the Algorithm

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    for(j = 0; j < n; j++)  
    {  
        printf("*");  
    }  
}
```

Number of executions:

$$n \times n = n^2$$

Therefore:

$$T(n) = O(n^2)$$

Example 3: Analyze the Algorithm

```
i = 1;

while(i < n)
{
    printf("%d", i);
    i = i * 2;
}
```

Values:

1, 2, 4, 8, ..., n

Example 3: Analyze the Algorithm

```
1 i = 1;  
2  
3 while(i < n)  
4 {  
5     printf("%d", i);  
6     i = i * 2;  
7 }
```

Values:

1, 2, 4, 8, ..., n

Therefore:

$$2^k = n$$

$$k = \log_2 n$$

$$T(n) = O(\log n)$$

Example 4: Analyze the Algorithm

```
for(i = 0; i < n; i++)  
{  
    statement1;  
}  
  
for(i = 0; i < n*n; i++)  
{  
    statement2;  
}
```

First loop:

$$O(n)$$

Second loop:

$$O(n^2)$$

Total:

$$O(n) + O(n^2)$$

Therefore:

$$O(n^2)$$

Asymptotic Analysis: Summary

Three Important Notations

$$O(g(n))$$

Upper Bound

$$\Omega(g(n))$$

Lower Bound

$$\Theta(g(n))$$

Tight Bound

- Ignore constant factors.
- Ignore lower-order terms.
- Focus on the dominant term.
- Analyze growth as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Understanding Big-O: What Does $O(n^3)$ Mean?

Important Idea

Big-O describes an **upper bound** on the growth rate of an algorithm.

Suppose an algorithm has:

$$T(n) = 5n^3 + 10n^2 + 20n + 50$$

Therefore:

$$T(n) = O(n^3)$$

But note:

$O(n^3)$ is not only n^3

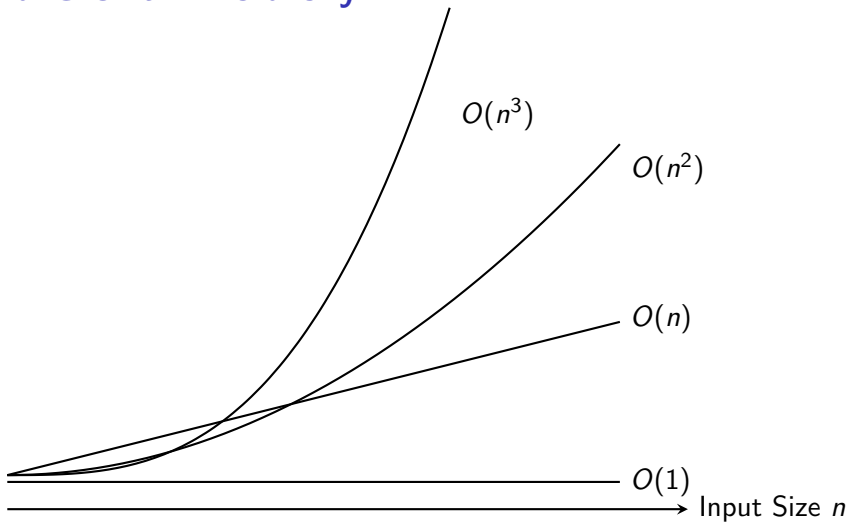
It represents a class of functions that grow **no faster than** a constant multiple of n^3 .

Examples of functions that are also:

$O(n^3)$:

$$O(1), \quad O(\log n), \quad O(n), \quad O(n \log n), \quad O(n^2), \quad O(n^3)$$

Big-O as a Growth Hierarchy



Understanding O , Ω and Θ

Consider:

$$f(n) = 3n^2 + 5n + 10$$

For large n , the dominant term is n^2 .

Therefore:

$$f(n) = \Theta(n^2)$$

Since $\Theta(n^2)$ gives both an upper and lower bound:

$$f(n) = O(n^2)$$

and

$$f(n) = \Omega(n^2)$$

Key Takeaways

- 1 Algorithm analysis measures resource requirements.

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- ② Time complexity measures computational work.

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- 1 Algorithm analysis measures resource requirements.
- 2 Time complexity measures computational work.
- 3 Space complexity measures memory requirements.
- 4 Best, average and worst cases describe different input scenarios.
- 5 Asymptotic notation describes growth for large n .
- 6 O gives an upper bound.
- 7 Ω gives a lower bound.
- 8 Θ gives a tight bound.

Remember

Good algorithm design means controlling the growth of computational resources as input size increases.

Thank You

Questions?