

Big O Notation

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These slides introduce big-O notation

Big O Notation

- Big O Notation
 - Describes the limit of a function
 - Provides an asymptotic upper (lower) bound of the function
 - In programming
 - Mathematical tool to measure the cost of an algorithm
 - Cost can be
 - Operations to execute (not time)
 - Memory Needed
 - Energy required to complete

Big O Notation

- Rules
 - Create a function to represent the value (cost) you want to measure
 - Remove all terms except the primary term
 - Ignore constants of proportionality (multiplying constants)
 - Determine the limit of the function as the input reaches a specific value (usually infinity)

$$\text{cost} = 4n^2 + 2n + 4095$$

$$\text{cost} \approx 4n^2$$

$$\text{cost} \approx n^2$$

primary term ($n \rightarrow \infty$)

no constants

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

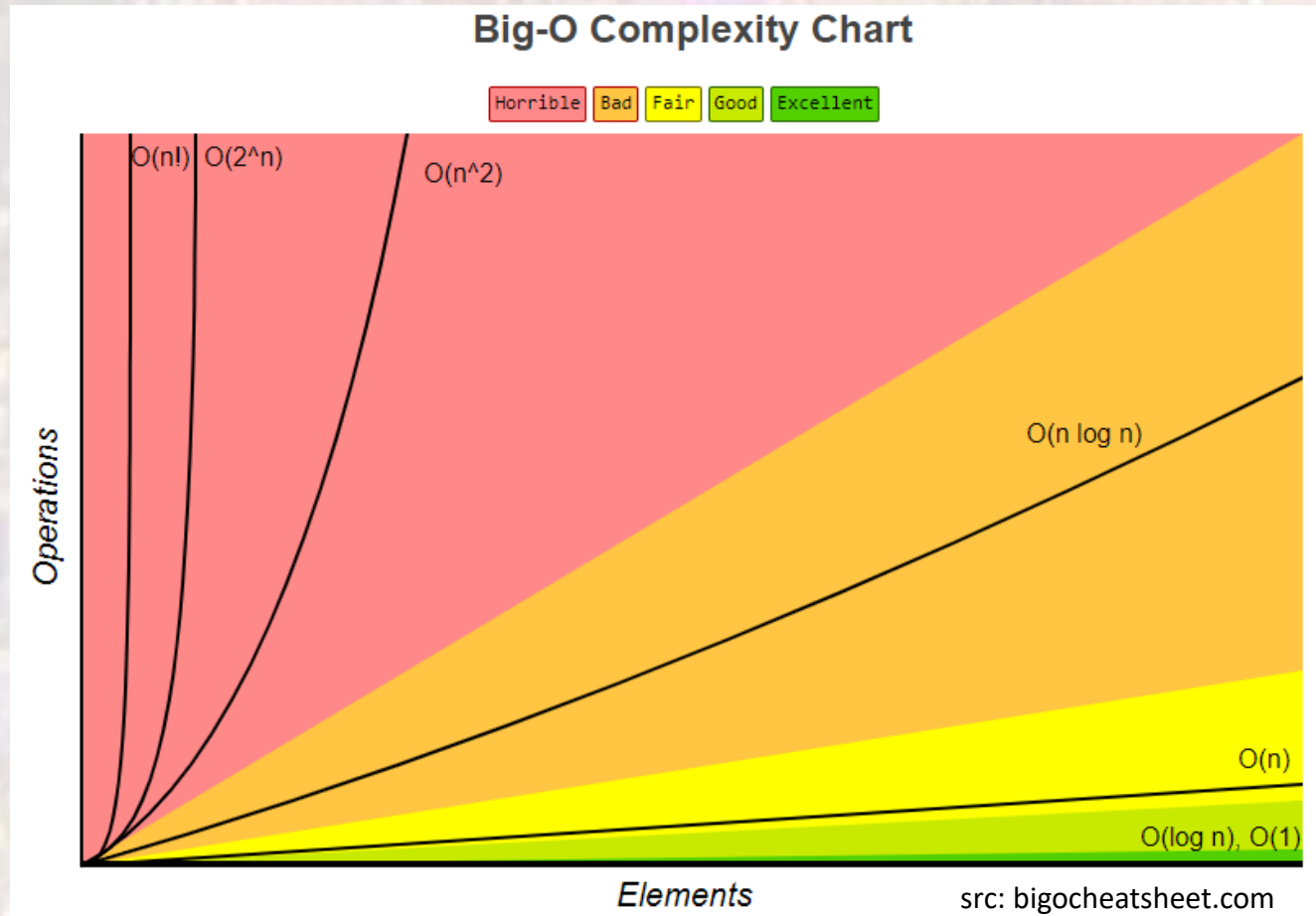
Big O Notation

- Examples
 - Operations to read an individual array value $\rightarrow O(1)$
 - Operations to print an entire 1-d array $\rightarrow O(n)$
 - Operations to print a 2-d array $\rightarrow O(n)$
 - Note: n here is defined as the number of elements
 - Operations to print all pairs of values in a 1-d array $\rightarrow O(n^2)$
 - Operations to calculate Fibonacci sequence recursively $\rightarrow O(2^n)$
 - Operations to calculate Fibonacci sequence with a for loop $\rightarrow O(n)$

Remember the caveat in the recursion notes

Big O Notation

- Relative Complexity (growth)



Big O Notation

- Common Structures

Common Data Structure Operations

| Data Structure | Time Complexity | | | | | | | | Space Complexity |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | Average | | | | Worst | | | | Worst |
| | Access | Search | Insertion | Deletion | Access | Search | Insertion | Deletion | |
| <u>Array</u> | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Stack</u> | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Queue</u> | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Singly-Linked List</u> | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Doubly-Linked List</u> | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(n)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Skip List</u> | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n \log(n))$ |
| <u>Hash Table</u> | N/A | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(1)$ | $\theta(1)$ | N/A | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Binary Search Tree</u> | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Cartesian Tree</u> | N/A | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | N/A | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>B-Tree</u> | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Red-Black Tree</u> | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>Splay Tree</u> | N/A | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | N/A | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>AVL Tree</u> | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ |
| <u>KD Tree</u> | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $\theta(\log(n))$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |

src: bigocheatsheet.com

Note: If n is not in the function, we get $O(1)$