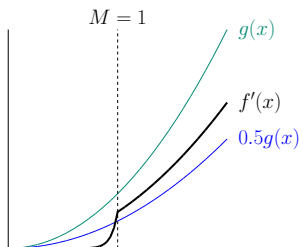


Big Omega

Lower bounding from below:



$f'(x) \geq \frac{1}{2}g(x)$ as long as $x > 1$,

$f'(x)$'s lower-bound family, written

$$f'(x) \in \Omega(g(x)),$$

though $f(x) < g(x)$ everywhere.

We also have $f'(x) \in O(g(x))$ and $f(x) \in \Omega(g(x))$, so

$$f(x), f'(x) \in \Theta(g(x)).$$

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Intuition on Meaning of Growth

How many problems can you solve in a given time?

The following table, left column shows time in microseconds to solve a problem as a function of problem size N .

How about the size of problem that can be solved in a second, (31 days), and century, for various relationships between time and problem size.

Problem size

Time for size N	1 second	Max N Possible in 1 hour	1 month	1 century
$10^{3000000}$		$10^{10000000000}$	$10^{8 \cdot 10^{11}}$	$10^{9 \cdot 10^{14}}$
10^6		$3.6 \cdot 10^9$	$2.7 \cdot 10^{12}$	$3.2 \cdot 10^{15}$
63000		$1.3 \cdot 10^8$	$7.4 \cdot 10^{10}$	$6.9 \cdot 10^{13}$
1000		60000	$1.6 \cdot 10^6$	$5.6 \cdot 10^7$
100		1500	14000	150000
20		32	41	51

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Be Careful

Remember that the worst-case time is $O(N^2)$, since $N \in O(N^2)$ and bounds are loose.

The best-case time is $\Omega(N)$, since $N \in \Omega(N)$, but that does not mean the loop always takes time N , or even $K \cdot N$ for some K .

We are just saying something about the function that maps the largest possible time required to process an array of size N .

As much as possible about our worst-case time, we should try to find a bound: in this case, we can: $\Theta(N)$.

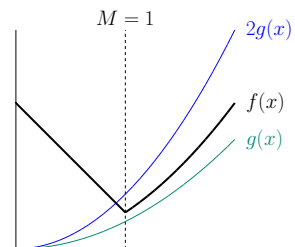
That still tells us nothing about best-case time, which we find X at the beginning of the loop. Best-case time is $\Theta(1)$.

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Big Oh

Upper bounding from above:



$f(x) \leq 2g(x)$ as long as $x > 1$,

$f(x)$'s upper-bound family, written

$$f(x) \in O(g(x)),$$

though $f(x) > g(x)$ everywhere.

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Why It Matters

Scientists often talk as if constant factors didn't matter because of the difference of $\Theta(N)$ vs. $\Theta(N^2)$.

We do, but at some point, constants always get swamped.

\sqrt{n}	n	$n \lg n$	n^2	n^3	2^n
1.4	2	2	4	8	4
2	4	8	16	64	16
2.8	8	24	64	512	256
4	16	64	256	4,096	65,536
5.7	32	160	1024	32,768	4.2×10^9
8	64	384	4,096	262,144	1.8×10^{19}
11	128	896	16,384	2.1×10^9	3.4×10^{38}
:	:	:	:	:	:
32	1,024	10,240	1.0×10^6	1.1×10^9	1.8×10^{308}
:	:	:	:	:	:
1024	1.0×10^6	2.1×10^7	1.1×10^{12}	1.2×10^{18}	$6.7 \times 10^{315,652}$

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Using the Notation

Order notation for any kind of real-valued function.

Use them to describe cost functions. Example:

```
position of X in list L, or -1 if not found. *(
List L, Object X) {
```

```
    c = 0; L != null; L = L.next, c += 1)
```

```
    if (X.equals(L.head)) return c;
```

```
    return -1;
```

Representative operation: number of `.equals` tests.

Number of `L`, then loop does at most N tests: worst-case tests.

Total # of instructions executed is roughly proportional to worst case, so can also say worst-case time is $O(N)$, if units used to measure.

Need a special provision (in defn. of $O(\cdot)$) to handle empty list.

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Division and Recurrences: Fast Growth

of recursion. In the worst case, both recursive calls

```
if X is a substring of S */
occurs(String S, String X) {
    equals(X) return true;
    length() <= X.length() return false;
```

```
{S.substring(1), X} ||
{S.substring(0, S.length()-1), X};
```

to be the worst-case cost of occurs(S,X) for S of fixed size N_0 , measured in # of calls to occurs. Then

$$C(N) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } N \leq N_0, \\ 2C(N-1) + 1 & \text{if } N > N_0 \end{cases}$$

grows exponentially:

$$N-1 + 1 = 2(2C(N-2) + 1) + 1 = \dots = \frac{2(\dots 2 \cdot 1 + 1) + \dots + 1}{N-N_0}$$

$$2^{N-N_0} + 2^{N-N_0-1} + 2^{N-N_0-2} + \dots + 1 = 2^{N-N_0+1} - 1 \in \Theta(2^N)$$

Another Typical Pattern: Merge Sort

```
if (L.size() < 2) return L;
// L and L1 of about equal size;
// L1 = sort(L1);
// Merge of L0 and L1
```

Merge ("combine into a single ordered list") takes time proportional to size of its result.

at size of L is $N = 2^k$, worst-case cost function, $C(N)$, merge time (\propto # items merged):

$$\begin{aligned} C(N) &= \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } N < 2; \\ 2C(N/2) + N, & \text{if } N \geq 2. \end{cases} \\ &= 2(2C(N/4) + N/2) + N \\ &= 4C(N/4) + N + N \\ &= 8C(N/8) + N + N + N \\ &= N \cdot 1 + \underbrace{N + N + \dots + N}_{k = \lg N} \\ &= N + N \lg N \in \Theta(N \lg N) \end{aligned}$$

$\Theta(N \lg N)$ for arbitrary N (not just 2^k).

Effect of Nested Loops

often lead to polynomial bounds:

```
i = 0; i < A.length; i += 1)
for (int j = 0; j < A.length; j += 1)
    if (i != j && A[i] == A[j])
        return true;
return false;
```

is $O(N^2)$, where $N = A.length$. Worst-case time is

efficient though:

```
i = 0; i < A.length; i += 1)
for (int j = i+1; j < A.length; j += 1)
    if (A[i] == A[j]) return true;
return false;
```

Worst-case time is proportional to

$$-1 + N - 2 + \dots + 1 = N(N-1)/2 \in \Theta(N^2)$$

Worst-case time unchanged by the constant factor).

Binary Search: Slow Growth

```
X is an element of S[L .. U]. Assumes
ascending order, 0 <= L <= U-1 < S.length. */
boolean isInRange(String X, String[] S, int L, int U) {
    return false;
}
// X.compareTo(S[M]);
// < 0) return isInRange(X, S, L, M-1);
// > 0) return isInRange(X, S, M+1, U);
return true;
```

Worst-case time, $C(D)$, (as measured by # of string comparisons on size $D = U - L + 1$).

Ignore $S[M]$ from consideration each time and look at half the size $D = 2^k - 1$ for simplicity, so:

$$\begin{aligned} C(D) &= \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } D \leq 0, \\ 1 + C((D-1)/2), & \text{if } D > 0. \end{cases} \\ &= \underbrace{1 + 1 + \dots + 1 + 0}_k \\ &= k = \lceil \lg D \rceil \in \Theta(\lg D) \end{aligned}$$