

# Complexity Analysis

How the algo is going to behave  
as the number of inputs  $\rightarrow \infty$

eg. Inventory  $\rightarrow$  processes every transaction in every store in the USA.  
 $\rightarrow$  10000 ms to read the inventory from the disk.  
 $\rightarrow$  10 ms to process each transaction  
 $n$  transactions  $\Rightarrow$

$$(10000 + 10n) \text{ ms}$$

As  $n \rightarrow \infty$  ?



## Big-Oh Notation (Upper bound)

Abstract relationship between two functions.

Let  $n$  be the size of program input

$\hookrightarrow$  # of bits

$\hookrightarrow$  # of elements/items

$\hookrightarrow$  Some value.

Let  $T(n)$  be a function representing running time

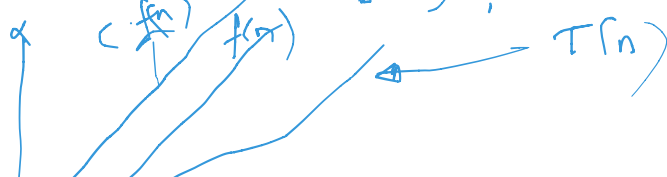
Let  $f(n)$  be another function  $\rightarrow$  preferably simple

$T(n) \in O(f(n))$  iff

$$T(n) \leq c \cdot f(n) \text{ for some const. } c$$

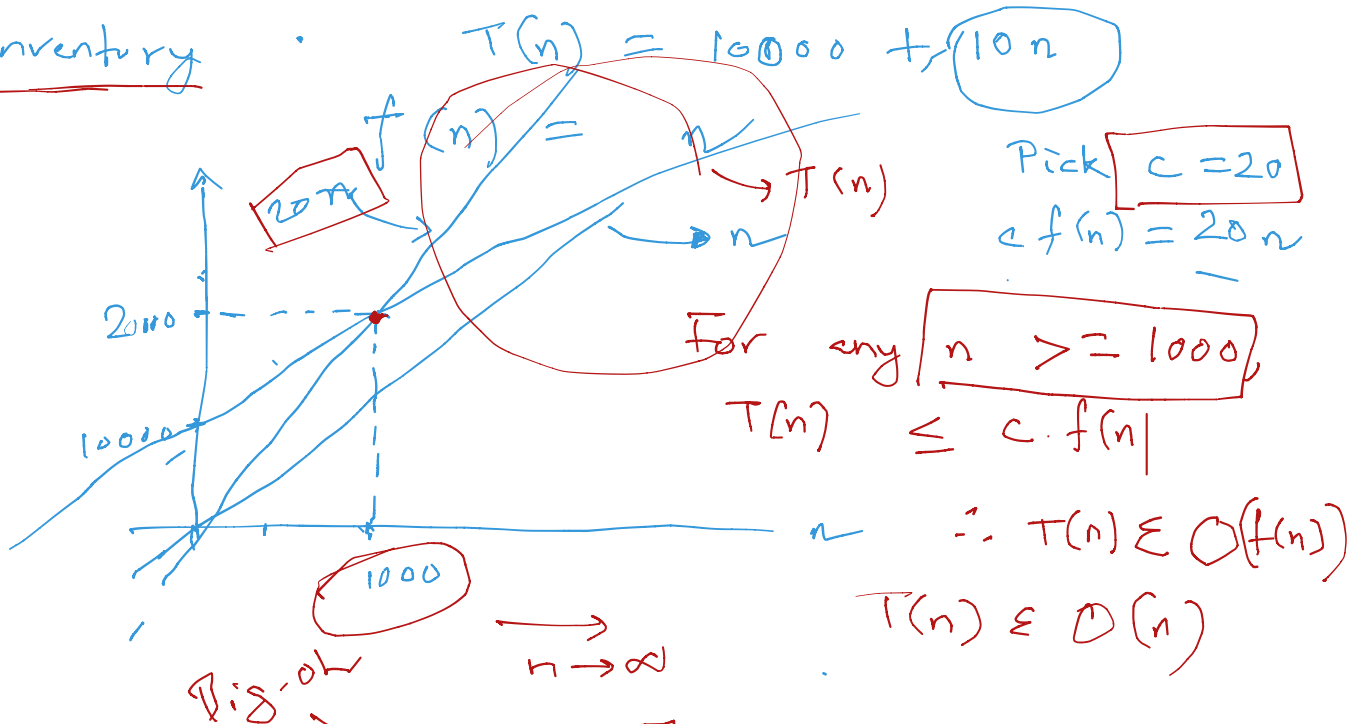
whenever  $n$  is  $\gg c$  for some large constant  $c$

Big enough to make  $T(n)$  fit under  $c \cdot f(n)$ .



$$y = mx + b$$

Inventory



Formally :  $O(f(n))$  is the SET of all functions  $T(n)$  that satisfies:  
 There exist positive constants  $c$  and  $N$  such that for all  $n \geq N$ ,  
 $T(n) \leq c \cdot f(n)$

eg.  $1000000n \in O(n)$

Proof : Choose  $c = 1000000$   
 $N = 0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Big-oh notation does not care about the constant factor.

Abstracted out algorithmic speed independent of the underlying architecture, OS, compiler.

$\therefore$  unnecessary to write  $O(2n)$

2

$$n \in O(n^3)$$

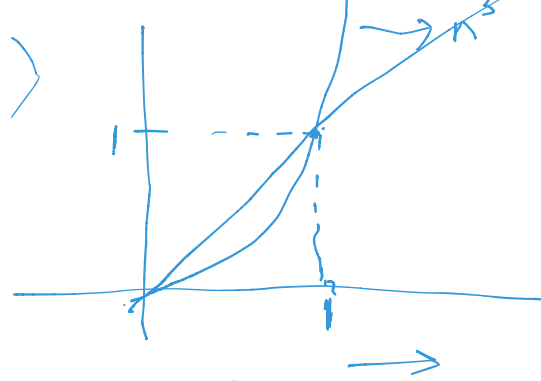
Proof:  $c=1, N=1$

∴ Time is  $O(n^3)$

does not mean our algo is slow.

Big-oh → UPPER BOUND

⇒ can say something is FAST but cannot say something is SLOW.



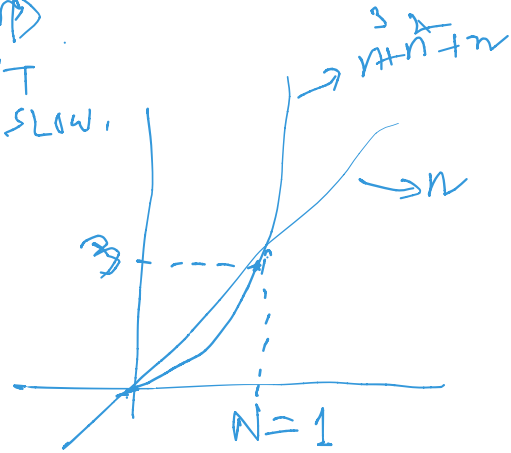
3

$$n^3 + n^2 + n \in O(n^3)$$

Proof:  $c=3, N=1$

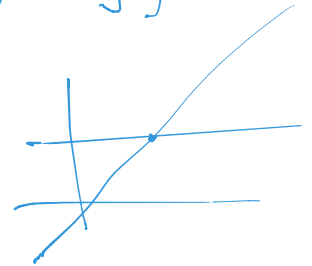
$$\boxed{n^3} + \boxed{n^2} + \boxed{n} \leq \boxed{c \cdot n^3}$$

$$3n^3$$



Big-oh notation is usually used to indicate dominating (fastest growing) term

Table of important Big-oh sets  
(smallest to largest)



	Function	Common name	
Useful	$O(1)$	Constant	
	$O(\log n)$	Logarithmic	
	$O(\log^2 n)$	Log-squared	
	$O(\sqrt{n})$	root-n	$2^n < e^n < n!$
	$O(n)$	Linear	$n^2$
	$O(n \log n)$	$n \log n$	
Useless	$O(n^2)$	Quadratic	$n < 100$
	$O(2^n)$	Exponential	

$n \rightarrow \infty$

10000

$\rightarrow$

10<sup>8</sup>

# of operations

```
for (n) {
  for (n) {
    |
  }
}
```

$\rightarrow$  Useless

$n$   
 $P$   
 $r$

$\rightarrow$  # of permutations.  
abcde...

$n, r$

abc

$n=3$   
 $r=1$

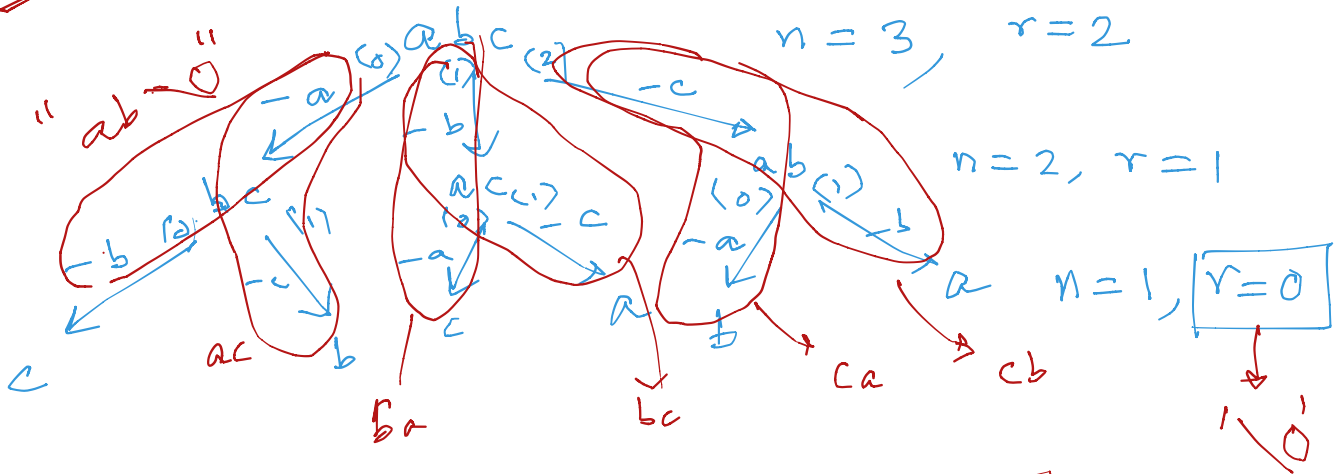
a, b, c

"abc"

$n=3$   
 $r=2$

Output:

ab, bc, ac, ba, cb, ca



char\*

"abc"