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- Running time should be expressed by simple functions.

Asymptotic Notation

Formal Definition

Let f, g denote functions from $\mathbb{N}$ to $\mathbb{R}^+$.

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There is an equivalent definition using limes notation (assuming that the respective limes exists). f and g are functions from $\mathbb{N}_0$ to $\mathbb{R}_0^+$.

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4. People write $\mathcal{O}(f(n)) = \mathcal{O}(g(n))$, when they mean $\mathcal{O}(f(n)) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(g(n))$. Again this is not an equality.

Asymptotic Notation in Equations

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Note that $\Theta(n)$ is on the right hand side, otw. this interpretation is wrong.

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How do we interpret an expression like:

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Regardless of how we choose the anonymous function $f(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n)$ there is an anonymous function $g(n) \in \Theta(n^2)$ that makes the expression true.

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How do we interpret an expression like:

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“It is understood” that every occurence of an $\mathcal{O}$-symbol (or $\Theta, \Omega, o, \omega$) on the left represents one anonymous function.

Hence, the left side is **not** equal to

$$\Theta(1) + \Theta(2) + \cdots + \Theta(n-1) + \Theta(n)$$

Asymptotic Notation in Equations

We can view an expression containing asymptotic notation as generating a set:

$$n^2 \cdot \mathcal{O}(n) + \mathcal{O}(\log n)$$

represents

$$\Big\{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}^+ \mid f(n) = n^2 \cdot g(n) + h(n) \text{ with } g(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n) \text{ and } h(n) \in \mathcal{O}(\log n) \Big\}$$

Asymptotic Notation in Equations

Then an asymptotic equation can be interpreted as containement btw. two sets:

$$n^2 \cdot \mathcal{O}(n) + \mathcal{O}(\log n) = \Theta(n^2)$$

represents

$$n^2 \cdot \mathcal{O}(n) + \mathcal{O}(\log n) \subseteq \Theta(n^2)$$

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Lemma 1

Let f, g be functions with the property $\exists n_0 > 0\, \forall n \geq n_0 : f(n) > 0$ (the same for g). Then

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The expressions also hold for Ω. Note that this means that
$f(n) + g(n) \in \Theta(\max\{f(n), g(n)\})$.

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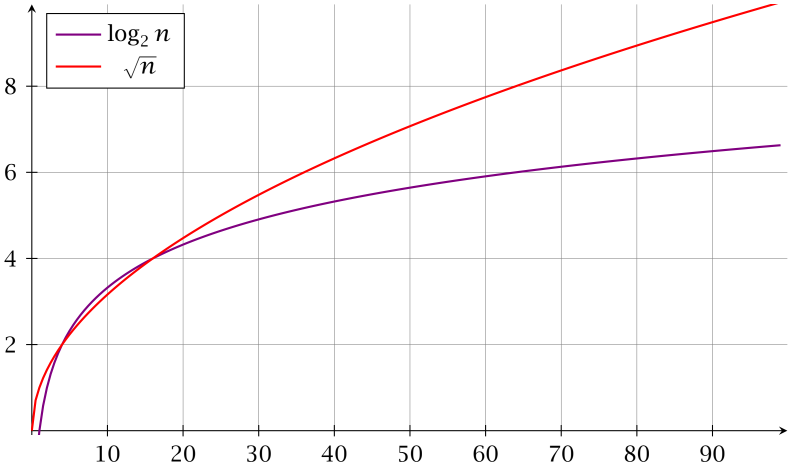
- For any constants a, b we have $\log_a n = \Theta(\log_b n)$. Therefore, we will usually ignore the base of a logarithm within asymptotic notation.
- In general $\log n = \log_2 n$, i.e., we use 2 as the default base for the logarithm.

Funktionen



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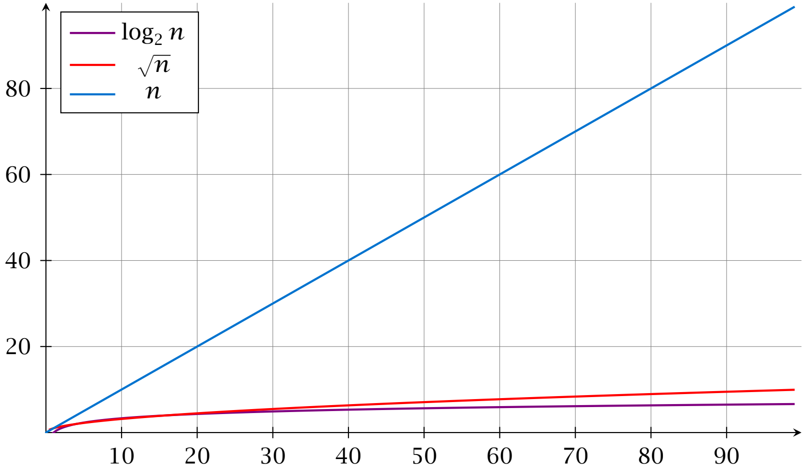

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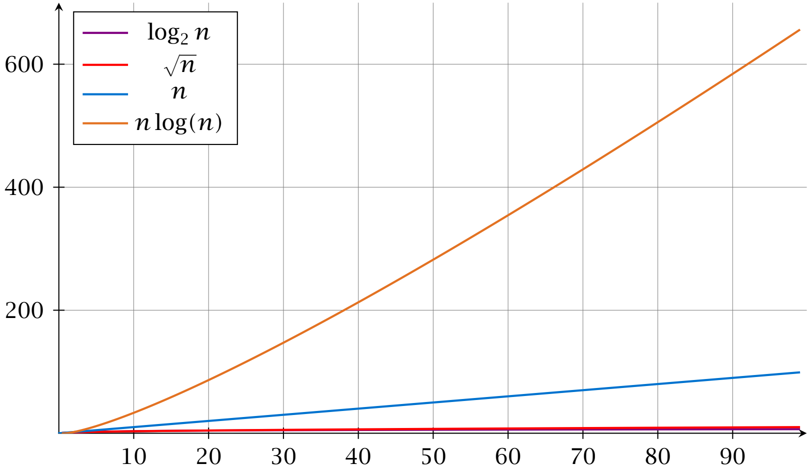

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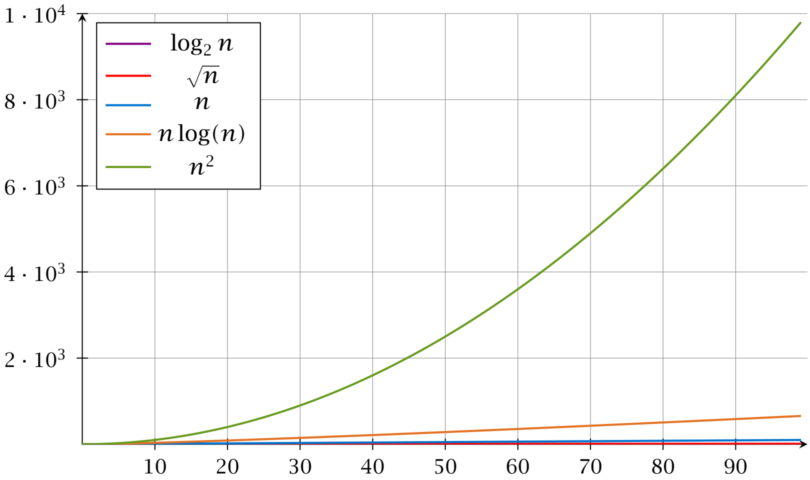
$1 \cdot 10^4$
$8 \cdot 10^3$
$6 \cdot 10^3$
$4 \cdot 10^3$
$2 \cdot 10^3$
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
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$\sqrt{n}$
n
$n \log(n)$
n^2

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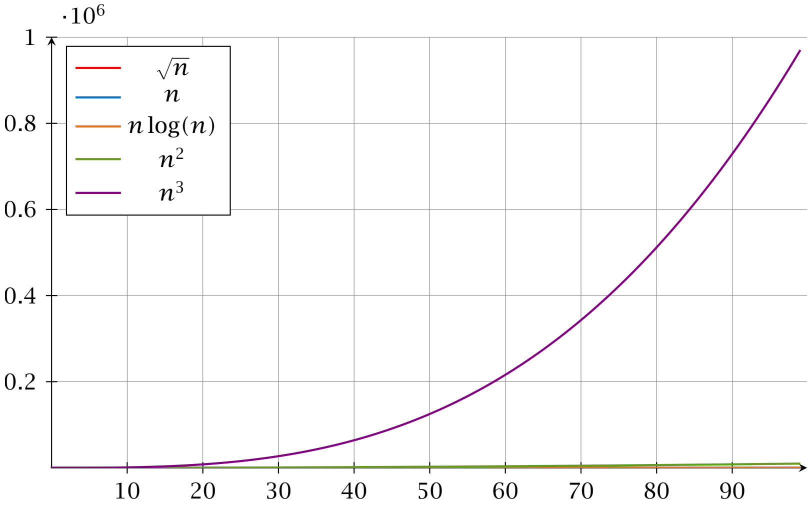

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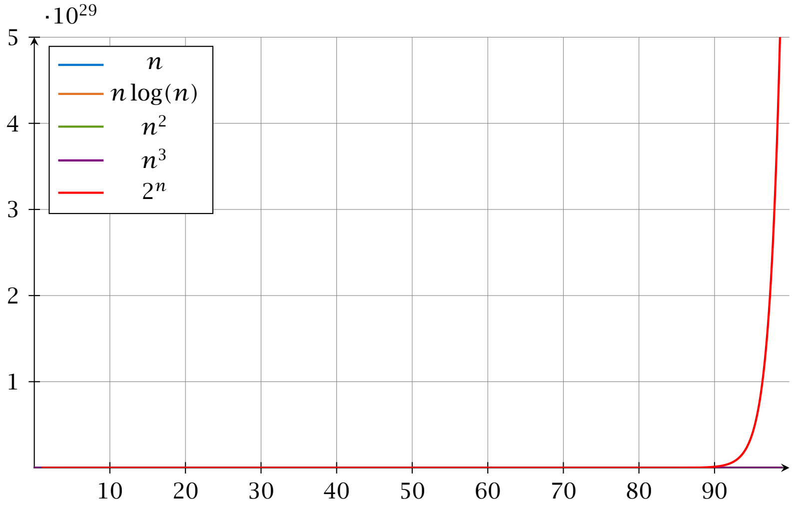

Laufzeiten

Funktion $f(n)$	***Eingabelänge n*** 10	10^2	10^3	10^4	10^5	10^6	10^7	10^8
$\log n$	33ns	66ns	0.1μs	0.1μs	0.2μs	0.2μs	0.2μs	0.3μs
$\sqrt{n}$	32ns	0.1μs	0.3μs	1μs	3.1μs	10μs	31μs	0.1ms
n	100ns	1μs	10μs	0.1ms	1ms	10ms	0.1s	1s
$n \log n$	0.3μs	6.6μs	0.1ms	1.3ms	16ms	0.2s	2.3s	27s
$n^{3/2}$	0.3μs	10μs	0.3ms	10ms	0.3s	10s	5.2min	2.7h
n^2	1μs	0.1ms	10ms	1s	1.7min	2.8h	11d	3.2y
n^3	10μs	10ms	10s	2.8h	115d	317y	$3.2 \cdot 10^5$y	
1.1^n	26ns	0.1ms	$7.8 \cdot 10^{25}$y					
2^n	10μs	$4 \cdot 10^{14}$y						
$n!$	36ms	$3 \cdot 10^{142}$y						

1 Operation = 10ns; 100MHz

Alter des Universums: ca. $13.8 \cdot 10^9$y

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In general asymptotic classification of running times is a good measure for comparing algorithms:

- If the running time analysis is tight and actually occurs in practise (i.e., the asymptotic bound is not a purely theoretical worst-case bound), then the algorithm that has better asymptotic running time will always outperform a weaker algorithm for large enough values of n.

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  Clearly $f = o(g)$. However, as long as $\log n \leq 1000$ Algorithm B will be more efficient.

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- $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$, $f(n,m) = 1$ und $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$, $g(n,m) = n - 1$

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