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- Running time should be expressed by simple functions.



Formal Definition

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

• $\mathcal{O}(f) = \{g \mid \exists c > 0 \ \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}_0 \ \forall n \geq n_0 : [g(n) \leq c \cdot f(n)] \}$ (set of functions that asymptotically grow not faster than f)

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- Note that for the version of the Landau notation defined here, we assume that f and g are positive functions.
- There also exist versions for arbitrary functions, and for the case that the limes is not infinity.

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Abuse of notation

1. People write $f = \mathcal{O}(g)$, when they mean $f \in \mathcal{O}(g)$. This is **not** an equality (how could a function be equal to a set of functions).

2. In this context f(n) does not mean the function f evaluated at n, but instead it is a shorthand for the function itself (leaving out domain and codomain and only giving the rule)

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- 3. People write e.g. h(n) = f(n) + o(g(n)) when they mean that there exists a function $z: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}^+, n \mapsto z(n), z \in o(g)$ such that h(n) = f(n) + z(n).

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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.
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How do we interpret an expression like:

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

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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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Careful!

The $\Theta(i)$ -symbol on the left represents one anonymous function $f: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}^+$, and then $\sum_i f(i)$ is computed.

How do we interpret an expression like:

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Careful!

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

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

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

 $\Theta(1) + \Theta(2) + \cdots + \Theta(n-1) + \Theta(n)$ does not really have a reasonable interpreta-

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

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

represents

$$\left\{ f: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}^+ \mid f(n) = n^2 \cdot g(n) + h(n) \right.$$
 with $g(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n)$ and $h(n) \in \mathcal{O}(\log n) \right\}$ Recall that according to the previous slide e.g. the expressions $\sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{O}(i)$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{n/2} \mathcal{O}(i) + \sum_{i=n/2+1}^n \mathcal{O}(i)$ generate different sets.

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

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

Note that the equation does not hold.

Lemma 1

Let f,g be functions with the property

$$\exists n_0 > 0 \ \forall n \ge n_0 : f(n) > 0$$
 (the same for g). Then

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14/25

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

14/25

Comments

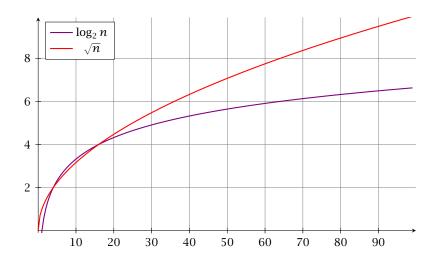
Do not use asymptotic notation within induction proofs.

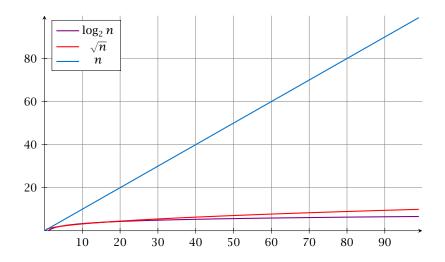
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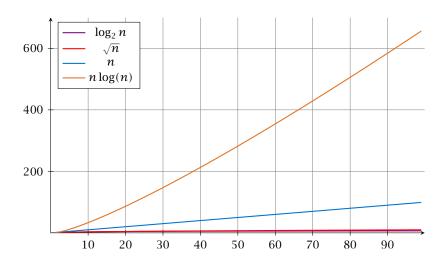
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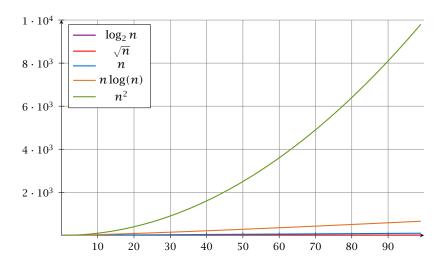
- Do not use asymptotic notation within induction proofs.
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- In general $\log n = \log_2 n$, i.e., we use 2 as the default base for the logarithm.



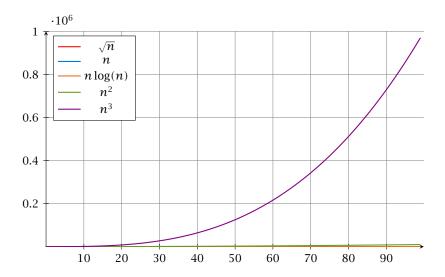


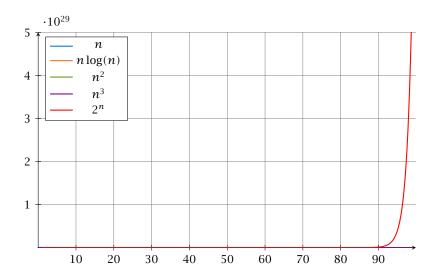












Laufzeiten

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

1 Operation = 10ns; 100MHz

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

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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25. Oct. 202

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



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Example 2

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