

## Big O Notation

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**“Measuring programming progress by lines of code is like measuring aircraft building progress by weight.”** -- Bill Gates

Nabil M. Al-Rousan

## Example

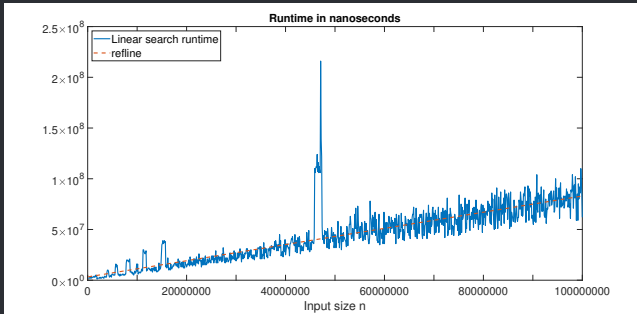
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## Example

*How much time does it take to run this function?*

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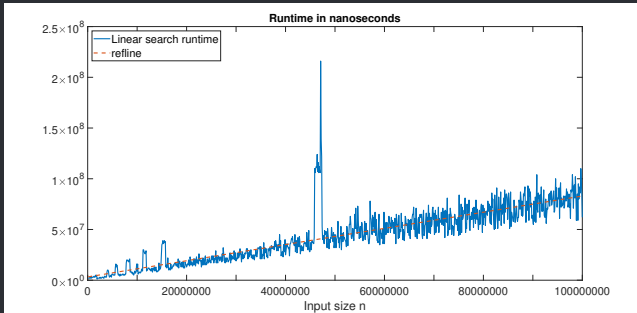
# Absolute Time vs. Time Growth<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>runtime: time it takes to execute a piece of code

<sup>2</sup>a.k.a Complexity

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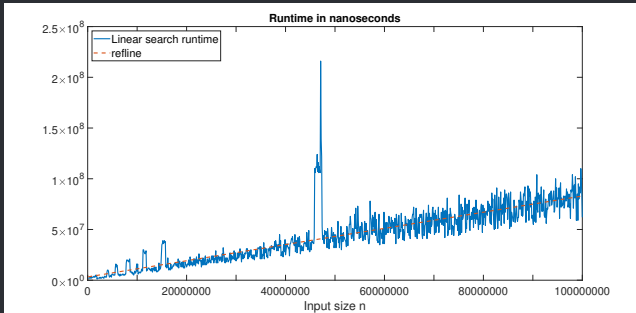
Answer: .1 seconds for  $100 \times 10^6$  array size

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# Absolute Time vs. Time Growth<sup>2</sup>



1. How much time does it take to run this function?

Answer: .1 seconds for  $100 \times 10^6$  array size

2. How does the runtime<sup>1</sup> of this function grow?

Answer: **Linear**

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## Runtime Growth Analysis: Linear

*Can we analyze code to find runtime growth?*

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$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= \overbrace{a \times n} + b \\ &< a \times n \\ &< n \\ &= \mathcal{O}(n) \end{aligned}$$

1. add different steps
2. drop non-dominate terms
3. drop constants

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Constant time

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## Runtime Growth in terms of Big O

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Runtime Growth	Big O Notation
constant	$\mathcal{O}(1)$
logarithmic	$\mathcal{O}(\log n)$
linear	$\mathcal{O}(n)$
loglinear	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$
quadratic	$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$
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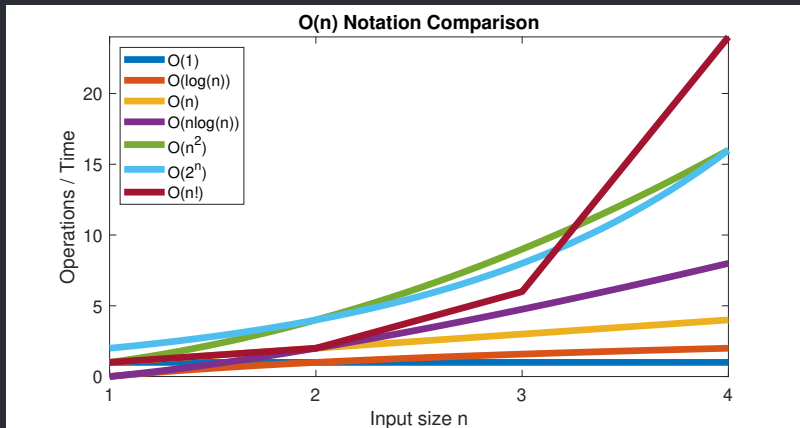
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# Big O Comparison



Growth of different Big  $O$  notations

$$100 \stackrel{?}{=} 10 \times 10$$

*How much increasing the input affect the growth rate?*

Big O Notation	Operations for input size 10	Operations for input size 100
$\mathcal{O}(1)$	1	1
$\mathcal{O}(\log n)$	3.3219	6.6439
$\mathcal{O}(n)$	10	100
$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$	33.219	664.39
$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	100	10000
$\mathcal{O}(2^n)$	1024	1267650600228229 401496703205376
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Runtime Growth  $\rightarrow$  Time Efficiency  
**Big O Notation**

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- compares the performance of different algorithms
  - searching (linear search vs. binary search)
  - sorting (insertion sort, bubble sort, merge sort etc.)
- describes the worst-case scenario of an algorithm

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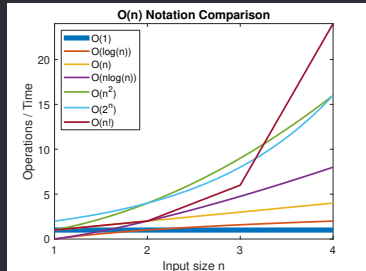
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## $O(1)$ - Constant time

- Algorithm executes in the same execution time regardless of the size of the data set.
- Examples:

• determining if a number is even or odd

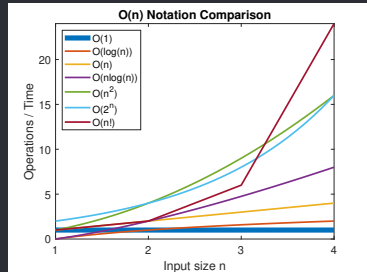
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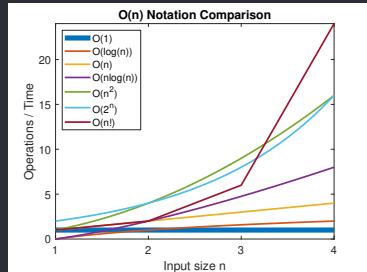
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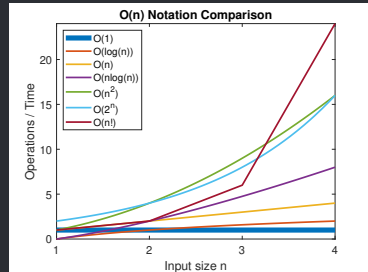
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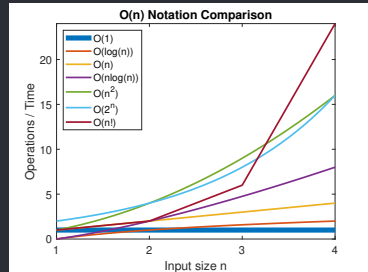


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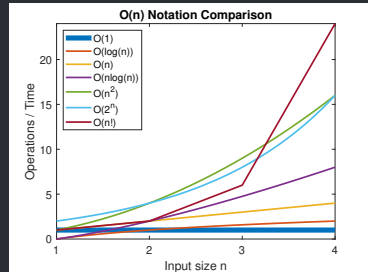
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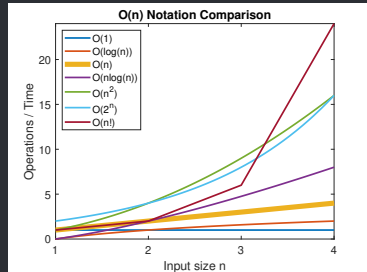
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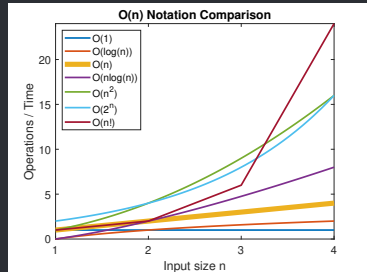
- Traversing an array
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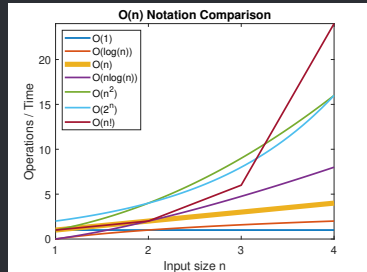
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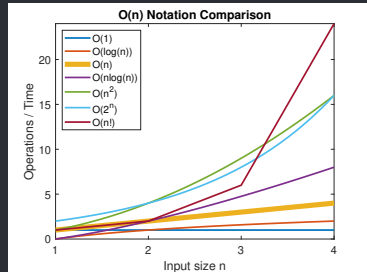
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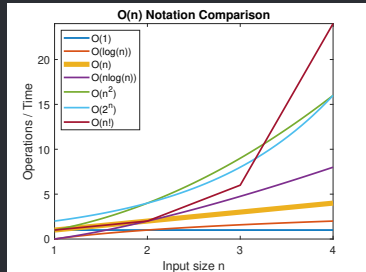
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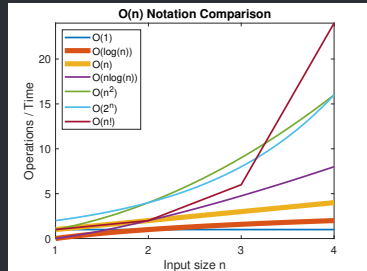
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## $O(\log n)$ - Logarithmic time

- Algorithm cuts the problem space in half in each iteration.
- Examples:

Traversing a sorted array using binary search

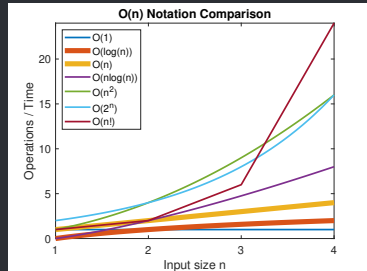
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int binary_search(int[] arr, int target, int start, int finish) {  
    int mid = start + (finish - start) / 2;  
    if (finish >= start) { // recursive steps  
        if (arr[mid] == target)  
            return mid;  
        else if (arr[mid] > target)  
            return binary_search(arr, target, start, mid - 1);  
        else  
            return binary_search(arr, target, mid + 1, finish);  
    }  
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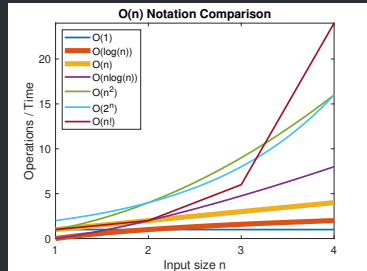
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## $O(\log n)$ - Logarithmic time

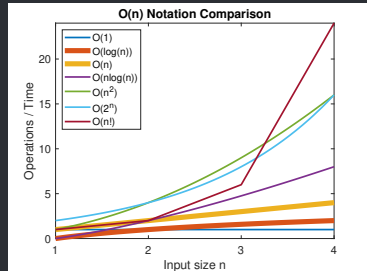
- Algorithm cuts the problem space in half in each iteration.
- Examples:
  - Traversing a sorted array using binary search



```
int binary_search(int[] arr, int target, int start, int finish) {
    int mid = start + (finish - start) / 2;
    if (finish >= start) { // recursive steps
        if (arr[mid] == target)
            return mid;
        else if (arr[mid] > target)
            return binary_search(arr, target, start, mid - 1);
        else
            return binary_search(arr, target, mid + 1, finish);
    }
    return -1; // base case
}
```

## $O(\log n)$ - Logarithmic time

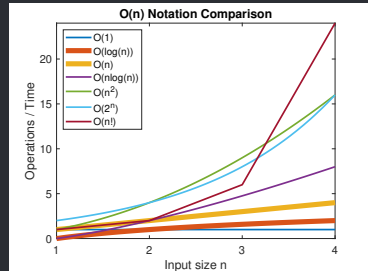
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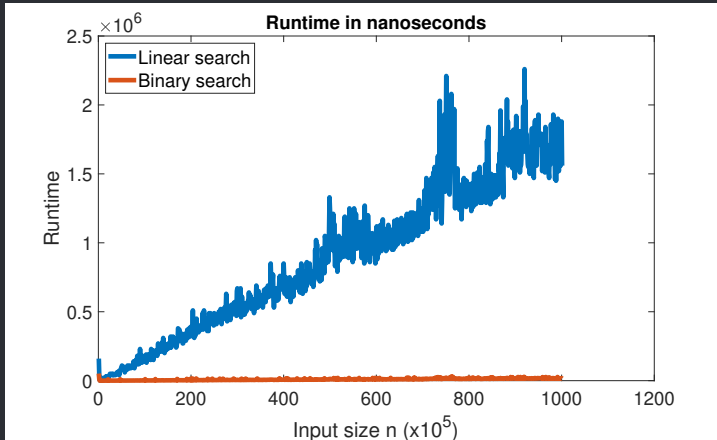
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# $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ vs $\mathcal{O}(n)$

Binary Vs. Linear search



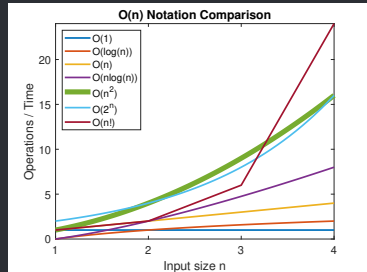
1559975 vs. 15576 ns at last input size

## $O(n^2)$ - Quadratic time

- Execution time of an algorithm  $\propto$  square of the size of the data  $n$ .
- Examples:

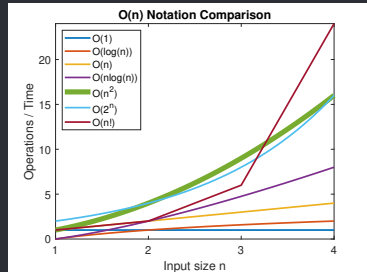
• Bubble Sort, Selection Sort, and Insertion Sort.

```
boolean duplicates_exist(int[] arr) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {  
        for (int j = i + 1; j < arr.length; j++) {  
            if (arr[i] == arr[j])  
                return true;  
        }  
    }  
    return false;  
}
```



## $O(n^2)$ - Quadratic time

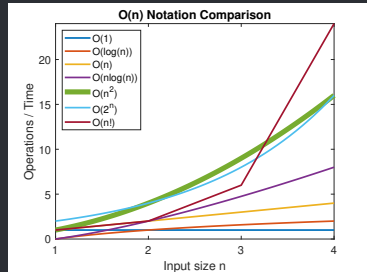
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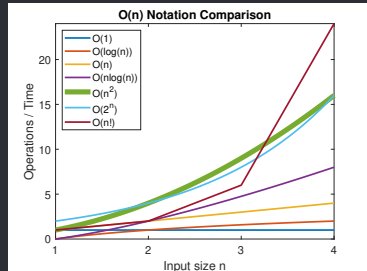


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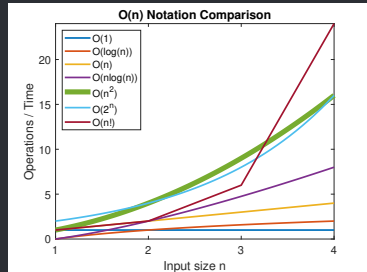
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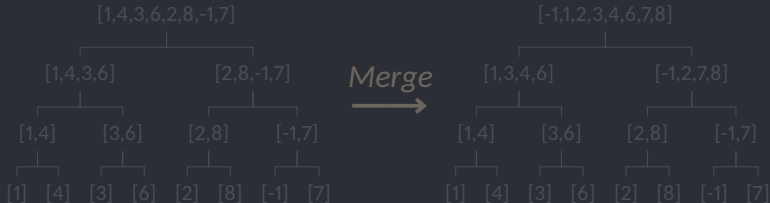
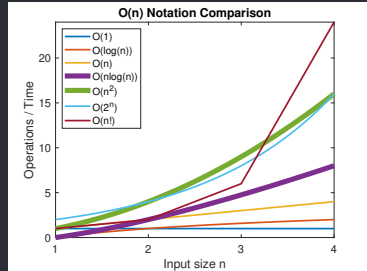


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```

# $O(n \log n)$ - Loglinear Time

- For every element in a collection of size  $n$ ,
  - $\log n$  operations are performed.
- Examples:

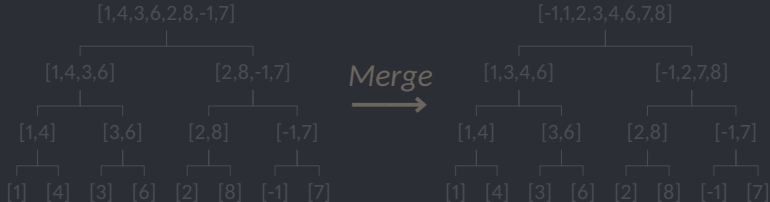
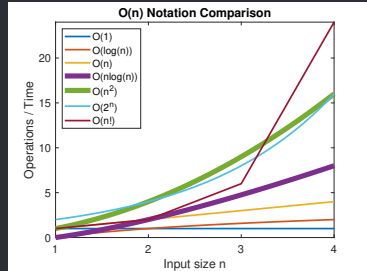
• Merge sort:  $\log n$  levels with linear work  $n$  for each level.



# $O(n \log n)$ - Loglinear Time

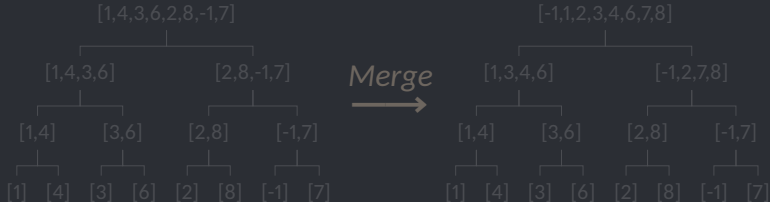
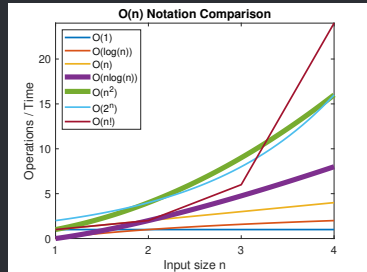
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- Examples:

Merge sort:  $\log n$  levels with  $n$  operations per level with  $n$  for each level.



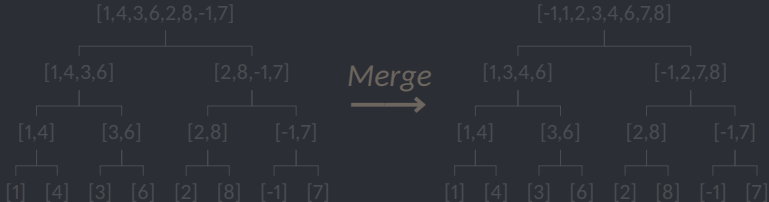
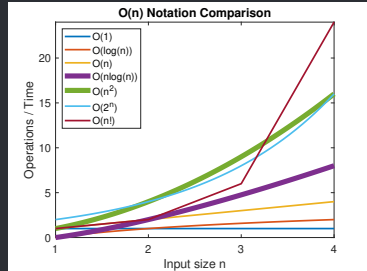
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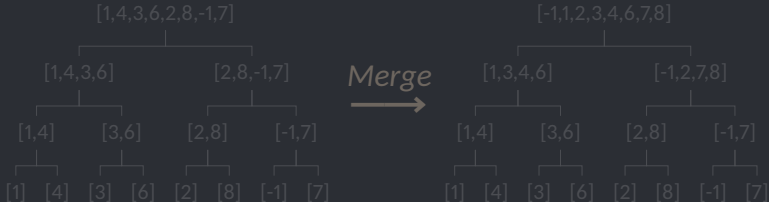
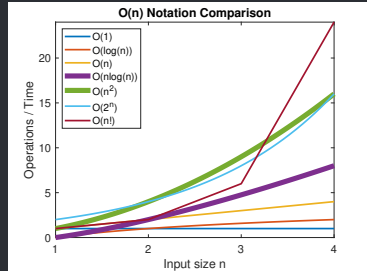
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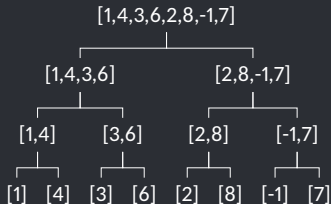
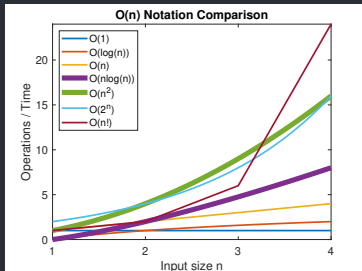
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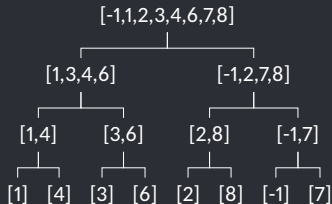


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Merge  
→





## $O(2^n)$ - Exponential time

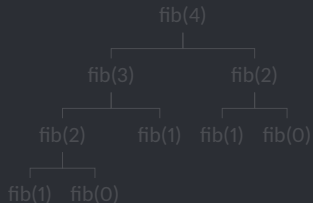
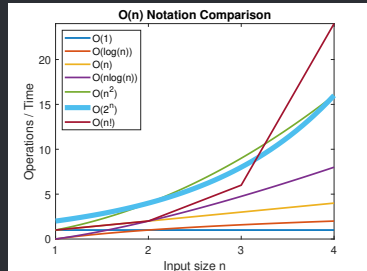
- describes an algorithm whose growth doubles with each addition to the data set.
- Examples:

• Brute force algorithm

• Fibonacci series

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8

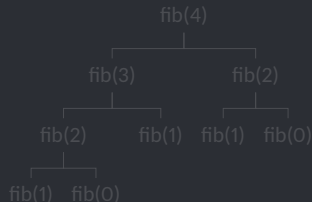
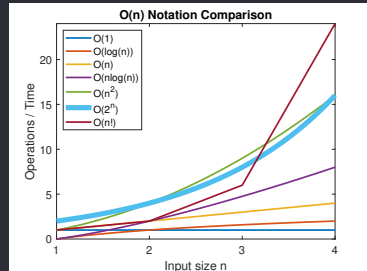
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public static int fibonacci(int n) {  
    if (n == 0 || n == 1) {  
        return n; // base cases  
    } else {  
        return fibonacci(n-1) +  
            fibonacci(n-2); // recursive  
            step  
    }  
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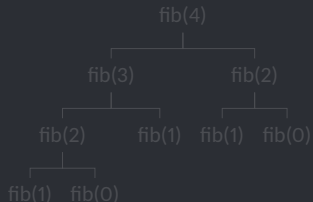
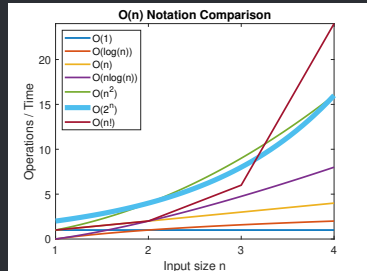
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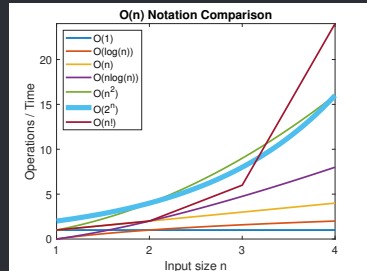
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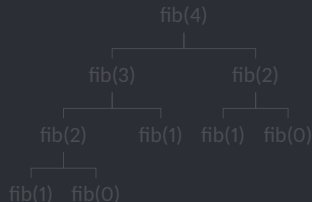


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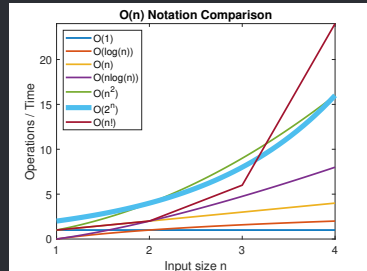


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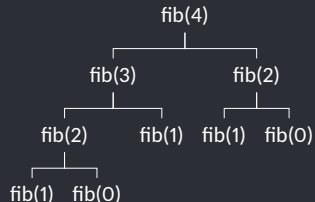
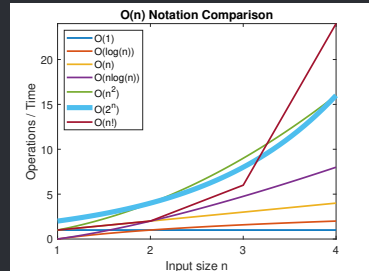
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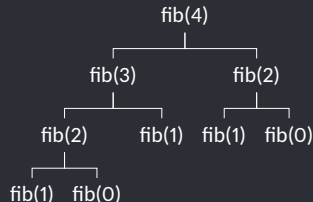
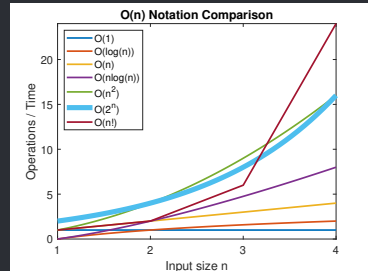
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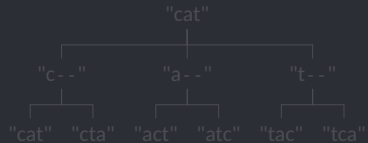
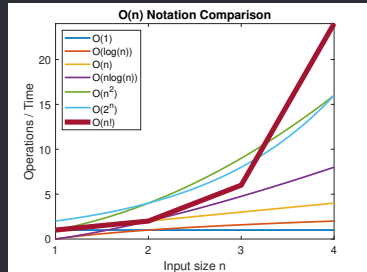
# $O(n!)$ - Factorial time

- Execution time of an algorithm  $\propto$  to the product of all numbers included in input size (hence factorial!)

- Examples:

• Permutation problems

```
void permutation(String str) {  
    permutation("", str);  
}  
void permutation(String prefix, String str) {  
    int n = str.length();  
    if (n == 0) System.out.println(prefix);  
    else {  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
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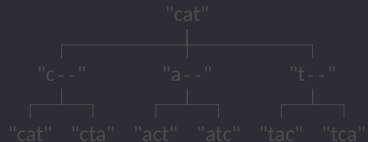
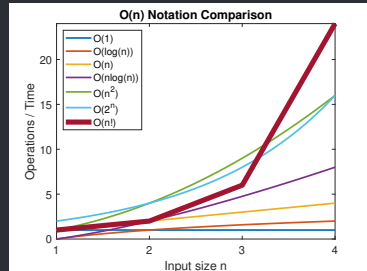




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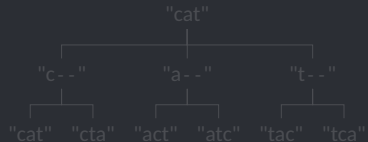
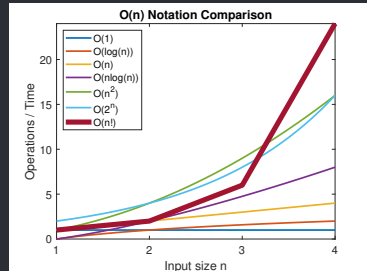
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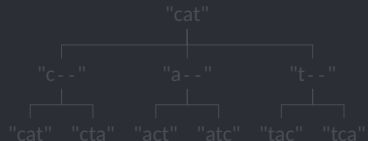
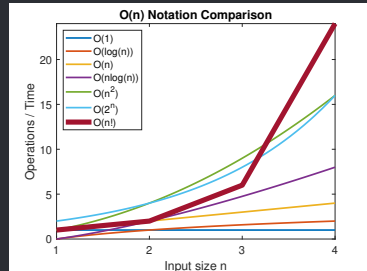
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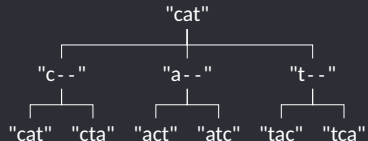
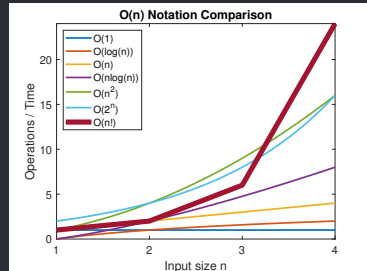
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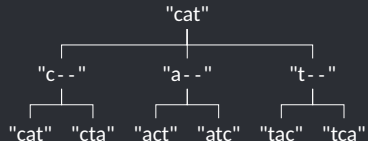
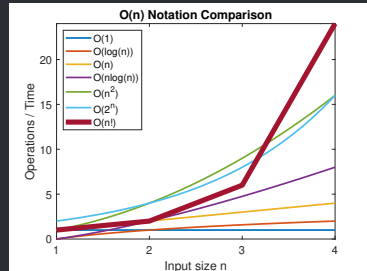
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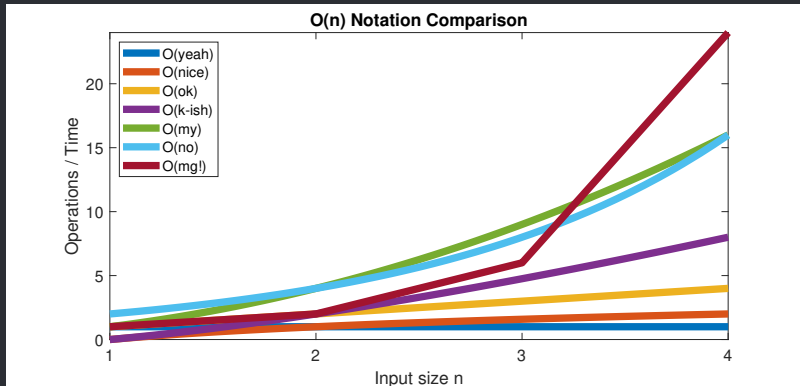
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        );  
    else {  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
            permutation(prefix + str.  
                charAt(i), str.substring  
                    (0, i) + str.substring(i  
                        +1, n));  
    }  
}
```



Thank You!



Alternative Big  $\mathcal{O}$  Notations