

## - Asymptotic notations

measure roughly how fast a function grows

function:  $f(n)$ : running time of an algorithm on an input of size  $n$

## - Definitions

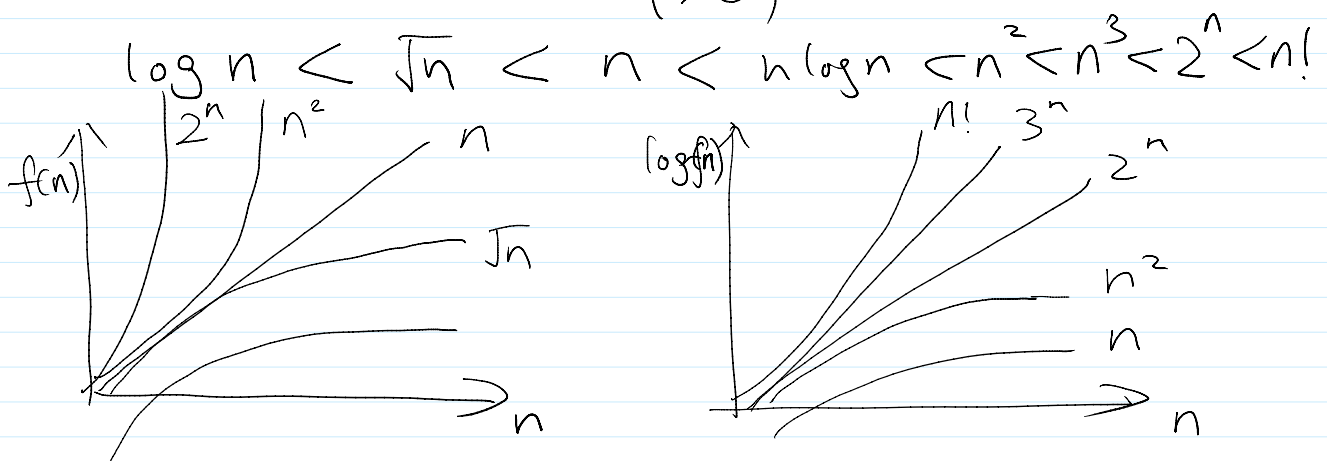
-  $f(n) = O(g(n))$ , if there exists constants  $C > 0, n_0 > 0$   
s.t. for every  $n \geq n_0$ ,  $f(n) \leq C \cdot g(n)$

$(\leq)$  (upperbound on  $f(n)$ )

-  $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ , if there exists constants  $C > 0, n_0 > 0$   
s.t. for every  $n \geq n_0$ ,  $f(n) \geq C \cdot g(n)$

$(\geq)$  (lowerbound on  $f(n)$ )

-  $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$  if  $f(n) = O(g(n))$ , and  $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$   
 $(\approx)$



## - Examples

①  $f(n) = 3n^2 + 6n$ ,  $f(n) = O(n^2)$

Proof: Choose  $C = 9$ ,  $n_0 = 1$

for every  $n \geq n_0 = 1$ ,  $n^2 \geq n$

$$f(n) = 3n^2 + 6n \leq 9n^2 = \underset{\uparrow}{9} \underset{\uparrow}{n^2} = \underset{\uparrow}{9} \underset{\uparrow}{g(n)} \quad \square$$

②  $f(n) = n \log_2 n$ , then  $f(n) \neq O(n)^{c \cdot n^2}$

Proof Idea: need to prove

for every  $C > 0, n_0 > 0$ , can find  
some  $n$  s.t.  $n \geq n_0$ , but  $n \log_2 n > C \cdot n$   
 $\Downarrow$   
 $\log_2 n > C$   
 $n > 2^C$

Proof: for every  $C > 0, n_0 > 0$   
can choose  $n$  s.t.  $n \geq n_0, n > 2^C$   
for this  $n, n \log_2 n > C \cdot n$ , this contradicts  
with the definition of  $f(n) = O(g(n))$   $\square$

- reason to use asymptotic notation

for  $i = 1$  to  $n-1$

for  $j = i+1$  to  $n$

do something |

$$f(n) = (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 1$$

$$f(n) = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

$$\underline{f(n)} \leq \underbrace{n + n + \dots + n}_{n-1} = n(n-1) = O(n^2)$$

- Euclid's algorithm

- greatest common divisor (gcd)

gcd(a, b): largest number  $c$  that divides  
both  $a$  and  $b$

$$\text{gcd}(12, 20) = 4 \quad 12/4 = 3 \quad 20/4 = 5$$

gcd(a, b)

if  $b == 0$  then return(a)

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else return  $\text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{gcd}(12, 20) &= \text{gcd}(20, 12) = \text{gcd}(12, 8) = \text{gcd}(8, 4) \\ &= \text{gcd}(4, 0) \\ &= 4\end{aligned}$$

proof idea: recursion  $\Rightarrow$  induction

do induction on  $b$

(IH) induction hypothesis: whenever  $b \leq n$ ,  $\text{gcd}(a, b)$  returns the correct greatest common divisor of  $a, b$ .

base case:  $n=0$ ,  $\text{gcd}(a, 0)$  returns the correct number.  
greatest common divisor of  $a, 0$  is  $a$

induction step: Suppose IH is true for  $n$

want to prove IH is also true for  $n+1$

if  $b = n+1$   $\text{gcd}(a, b)$  returns  $\text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b)$   
by IH,  $\text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b)$  is the greatest common divisor of  $b$  and  $(a \bmod b)$

need:  $\text{gcd}(a, b) = \text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b)$

going to prove: any  $k$  that divides  $a, b$   
also divides  $b, a \bmod b$ , and vice versa

$k$  divides  $a, b \Rightarrow k$  divides  $b, a \bmod b$

$\frac{a}{k}$   $\frac{b}{k}$  are integers

$a \bmod b = a - h \cdot b$  for some integer  $h$

$$\frac{a \bmod b}{k} = \frac{a - hb}{k} = \frac{a}{k} - h \cdot \frac{b}{k} = \text{integer}$$

↑            ↑            ↑  
integers

□

complete proof:

complete proof:

Prove using induction.

Induction hypothesis: for any  $b \leq n$ ,  $\text{gcd}(a, b)$  computes the greatest common divisor correctly.

base case: if  $b=0$ , then  $\text{gcd}(a, 0)$  outputs  $a$ , which is correct.

induction: suppose IH is true for  $b \leq n$ , when  $b = n+1$

algorithm outputs  $\text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b)$

since  $0 \leq a \bmod b \leq n$ , by IH we know Euclid's algorithm computes  $\text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b)$  correctly.

Therefore we only need to show  $\text{gcd}(b, a \bmod b) = \text{gcd}(a, b)$

we do that by showing the set of common divisors for  $(a, b)$  and  $(b, a \bmod b)$  are the same, which is to say

① if  $k$  is a common divisor of  $(a, b)$ , then  $k$  is also a common divisor of  $(b, a \bmod b)$

② if  $k$  is a common divisor of  $(b, a \bmod b)$ , then  $k$  is also a common divisor of  $(a, b)$

Proof of ①: by definition we know  $a \bmod b = a - zb$  for some integer  $z$ .

$$\text{now: } \frac{a \bmod b}{k} = \frac{a - zb}{k} = \frac{a}{k} - z \cdot \frac{b}{k}$$

since  $k$  is a common divisor of  $(a, b)$ ,  $\frac{a}{k}, \frac{b}{k}$  are integers.

hence  $\frac{a \bmod b}{k} = \frac{a}{k} - z \cdot \frac{b}{k}$  is also an integer

Proof of ②:  $k$  divides both  $b$  and  $a \bmod b$ .  
by definition we know  $a \bmod b = a - zb$  for some integer  $z$ .

$$\text{now: } \frac{a}{k} = \frac{(a \bmod b) + zb}{k} = \frac{a \bmod b}{k} + z \frac{b}{k}$$

since  $k$  is a common divisor of  $(b, a \bmod b)$ ,  $\frac{b}{k}, \frac{a \bmod b}{k}$  are integers

hence  $\frac{a}{k} = \frac{a \bmod b}{k} + z \frac{b}{k}$  is also an integer

$k$  divides both  $a$  and  $b$ .

□