ESC101N Fundamentals of Computing

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Growth of functions

- Efficiency of a program (or function) is measured by its *time complexity*
- Time complexity is measured for large inputs
- Input size is in the limit
- Provides a way to study asymptotic complexity of functions
- Generally, algorithms that are better for large inputs are better in most cases except very small sized inputs

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- $f(n) = 3n = O(n^2)$
- $f(n) = 6n^3 \neq O(n^2)$
- o(g(n)): for any positive constant c > 0, $0 \le f(n) < cg(n)$
- f(n) is asymptotically smaller than g(n) if f(n) = o(g(n))



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- $f(n) = 6n^3 = \Omega(n^2)$
- $f(n) = 3n \neq \Omega(n^2)$
- $\omega(g(n))$: for any positive constant c > 0, $0 \le cg(n) < f(n)$
- f(n) is asymptotically larger than g(n) if $f(n) = \omega(g(n))$



Asymptotic tight bound: Θ -notation

- $\Theta(g(n)) = \{f(n) : \exists c_1, c_2, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that} \\ \forall n \ge n_0, \ 0 \le c_1 g(n) \le f(n) \le c_2 g(n)\}$
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• Choose
$$c_1 = 1/14, c_2 = 1/2, n_0 = 7$$

Other choices may also exist



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$$f(n) = 6n^3 \neq \Theta(n^2)$$

• Requires $n \le c_2/6$ which is not true for all large *n* since c_2 is constant



• Searching an array of size *n*

```
for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
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    return i;</pre>
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- Also $\Omega(n^2)$ and $\Theta(n^2)$
- Accessing an element of an array of size n a[i] = value;
- Constant time, denoted as O(1) since it only requires address calculation and does *not* depend on the size of the array
- Also $\Omega(1)$ and $\Theta(1)$