

5 Asymptotic Notation

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- ▶ A linear speed-up (i.e., by a constant factor) is always possible by e.g. implementing the algorithm on a faster machine.
- ▶ Running time should be expressed by simple functions.

Asymptotic Notation

Formal Definition

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

- ▶ $\mathcal{O}(f) = \{g \mid \exists c > 0 \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}_0 \forall n \geq n_0 : [g(n) \leq c \cdot f(n)]\}$
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(set of functions that asymptotically grow **faster** than f)

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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^+ .

▶ $g \in \mathcal{O}(f): 0 \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g(n)}{f(n)} < \infty$

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

Asymptotic Notation in Equations

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.

Asymptotic Notation in Equations

How do we interpret an expression like:

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How do we interpret an expression like:

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

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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“It is understood” that every occurrence of an Θ -symbol (or $\Theta, \Omega, o, \omega$) on the left represents **one anonymous function**.

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

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

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

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

Asymptotic Notation in Equations

Then an asymptotic equation can be interpreted as containment 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

- ▶ $c \cdot f(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$ for any constant c

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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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Comments

- ▶ Do not use asymptotic notation within induction proofs.

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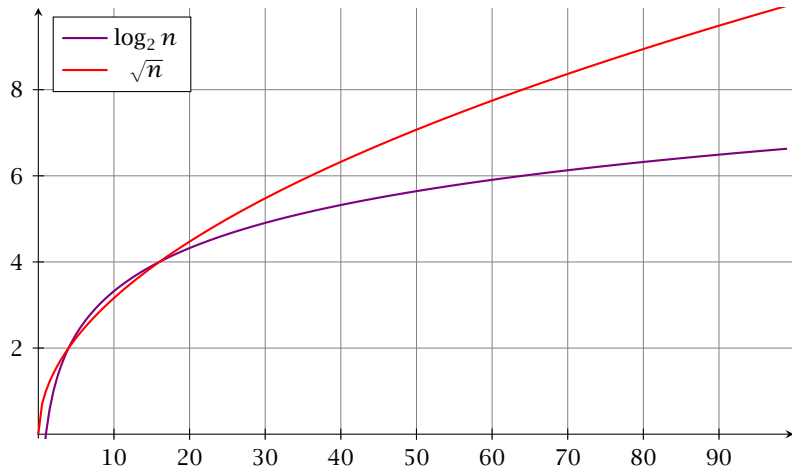
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- ▶ For any constants a, b we have $\log_a n = \Theta(\log_b n)$.
Therefore, we will usually ignore the base of a logarithm within asymptotic notation.

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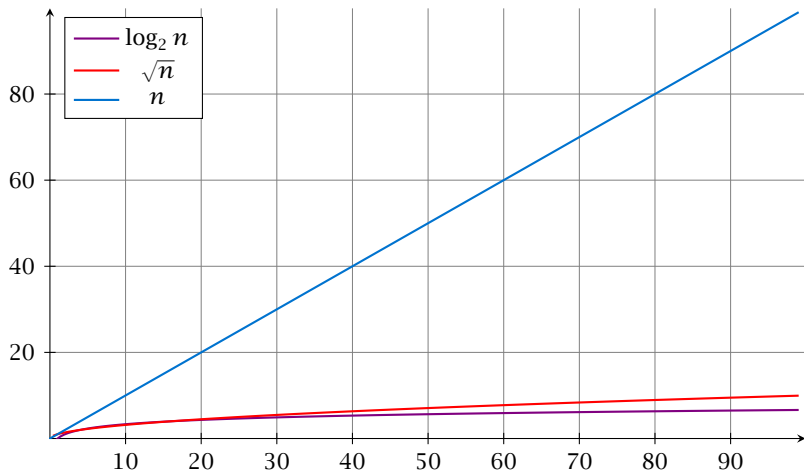
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- ▶ In general $\log n = \log_2 n$, i.e., we use 2 as the default base for the logarithm.

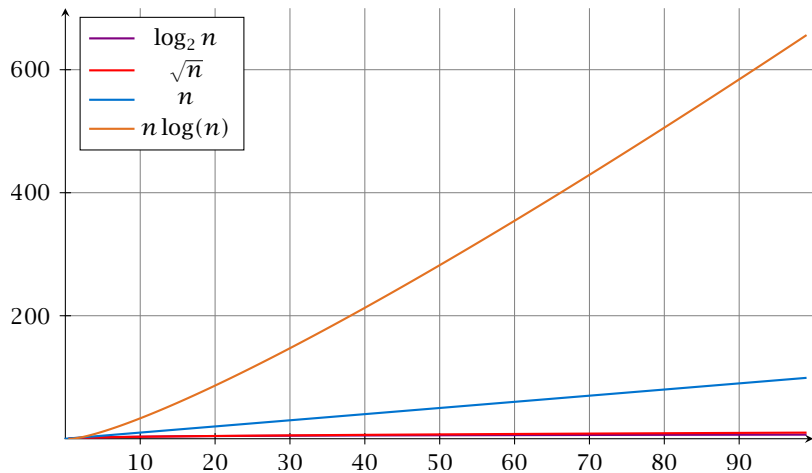
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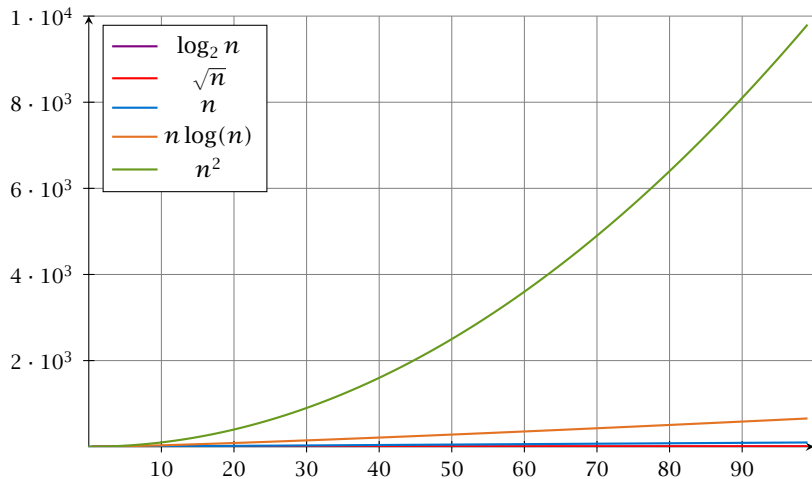
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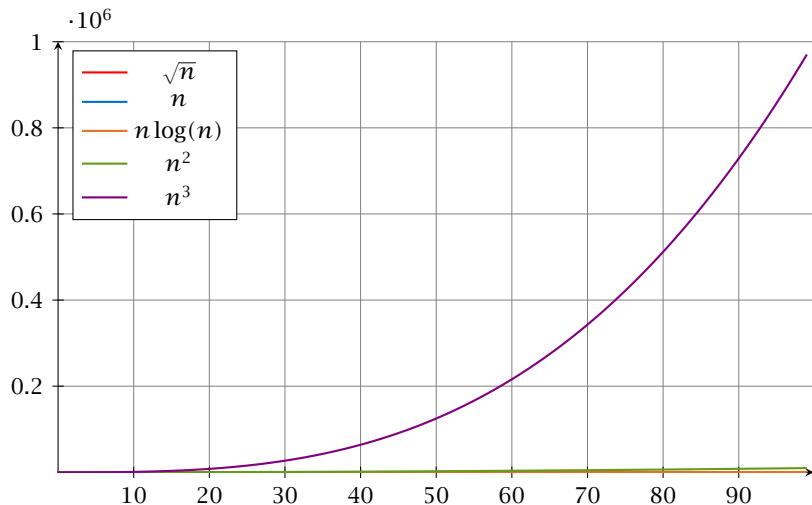
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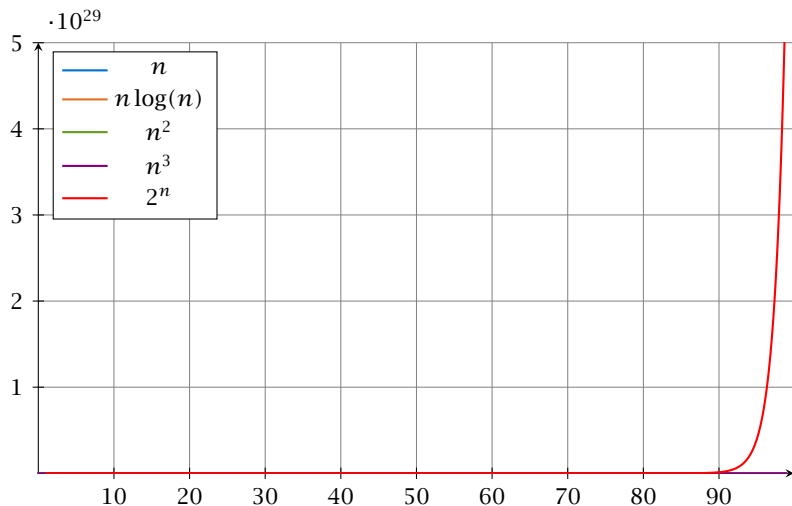
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Laufzeiten

Funktion	Eingabelänge n							
	10	10^2	10^3	10^4	10^5	10^6	10^7	10^8
$\log n$	33ns	66ns	0.1 μ s	0.1 μ s	0.2 μ s	0.2 μ s	0.2 μ s	0.3 μ s
\sqrt{n}	32ns	0.1 μ s	0.3 μ s	1 μ s	3.1 μ s	10 μ s	31 μ s	0.1ms
n	100ns	1 μ s	10 μ s	0.1ms	1ms	10ms	0.1s	1s
$n \log n$	0.3 μ s	6.6 μ s	0.1ms	1.3ms	16ms	0.2s	2.3s	27s
$n^{3/2}$	0.3 μ s	10 μ s	0.3ms	10ms	0.3s	10s	5.2min	2.7h
n^2	1 μ s	0.1ms	10ms	1s	1.7min	2.8h	11d	3.2y
n^3	10 μ s	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	10 μ s	$4 \cdot 10^{14}$ 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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Let f, g denote functions from \mathbb{N}^d to \mathbb{R}_0^+ .

$$\blacktriangleright \mathcal{O}(f) = \{g \mid \exists c > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N}_0 \forall \vec{n} \text{ with } n_i \geq N \text{ for some } i : [g(\vec{n}) \leq c \cdot f(\vec{n})]\}$$

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Example 2

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

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