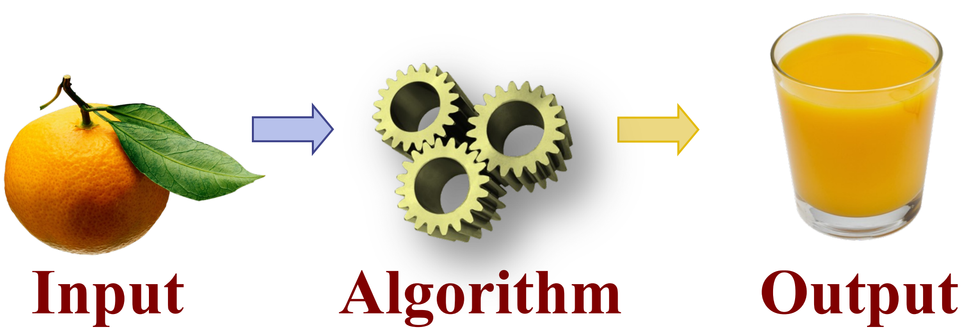
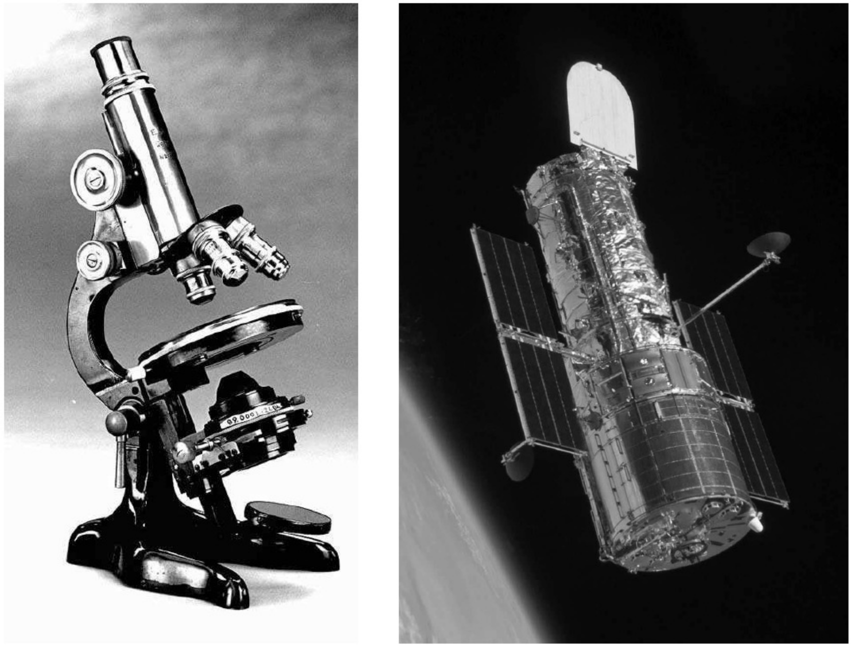
Algorithm Analysis

Michael T. Goodrich
CS 165
Univ. of California, Irvine



Scalability

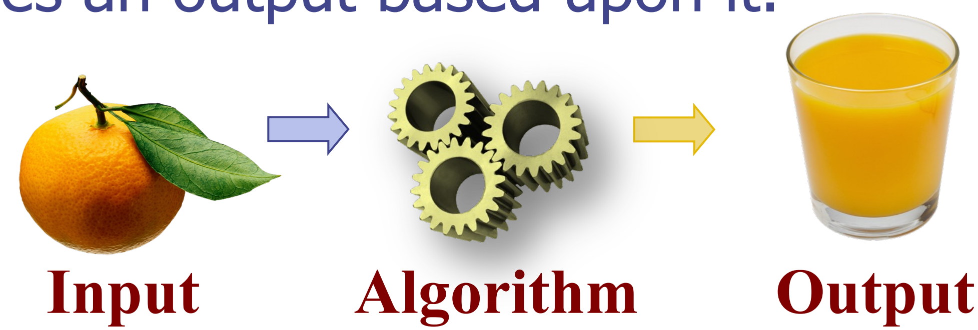
- Scientists often have to deal with differences in scale, from the microscopically small to the astronomically large.
- Computer scientists must also deal with scale, but they deal with it primarily in terms of data volume rather than physical object size.
- **Scalability** refers to the ability of a system to gracefully accommodate growing sizes of inputs or amounts of workload.



Microscope: U.S. government image, from the N.I.H. Medical Instrument Gallery, DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research. Hubble Space Telescope: U.S. government image, from NASA, STS-125 Crew, May 25, 2009.

Algorithms and Data Structures

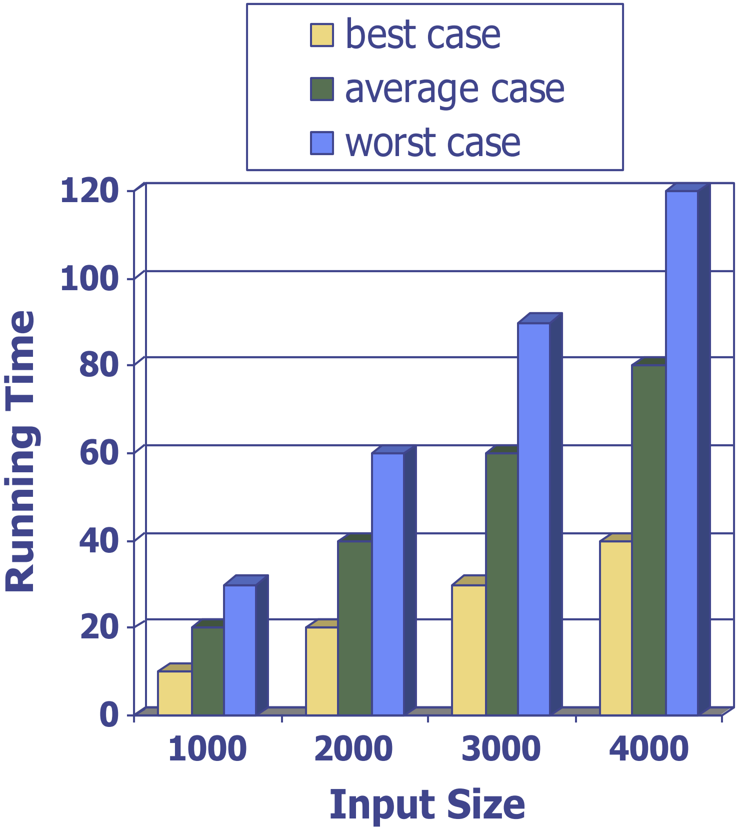
- An **algorithm** is a step-by-step procedure for performing some task in a finite amount of time.
  - Typically, an algorithm takes input data and produces an output based upon it.



- A **data structure** is a systematic way of organizing and accessing data.

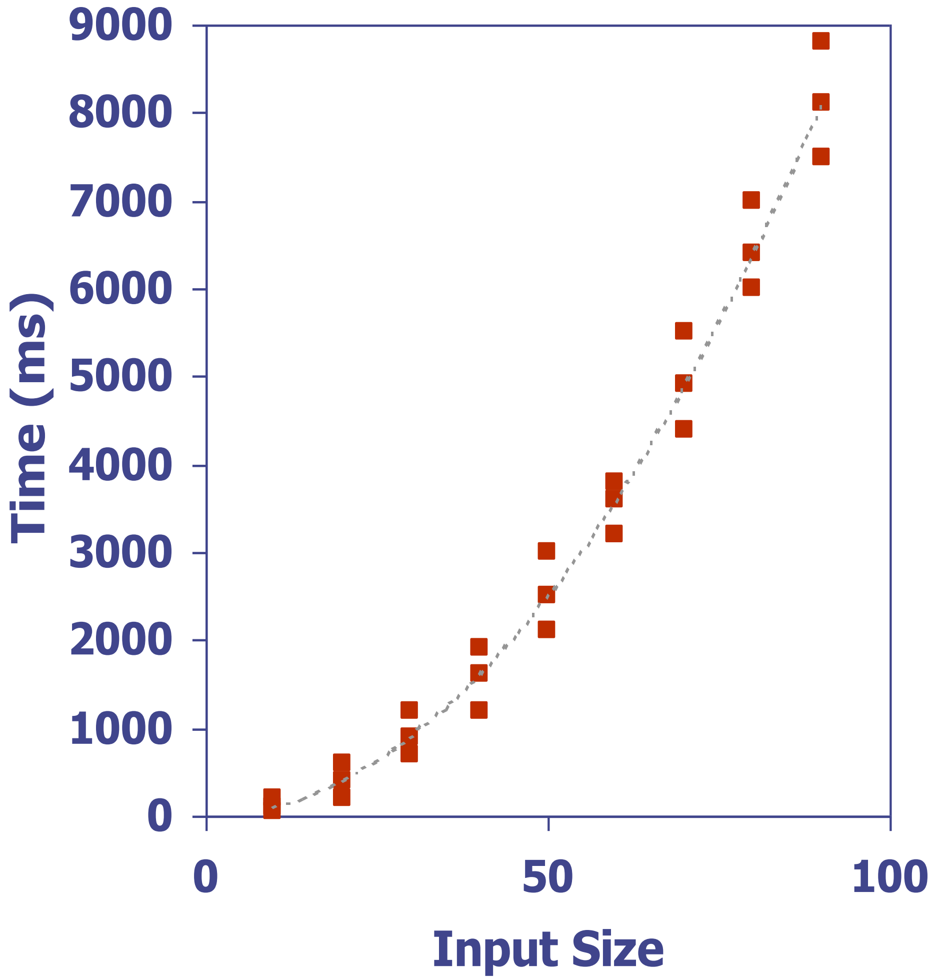
Running Times

- Most algorithms transform input objects into output objects.
- The running time of an algorithm typically grows with the input size.
- Average case time is often difficult to determine.
- We focus primarily on the **worst case running time**.
  - Theoretical analysis
  - Might not capture real-world performance



Experimental Studies

- Write a program implementing the algorithm
- Run the program with inputs of varying size and composition, noting the time needed:
- Plot the results
- Try to match a curve to the times



Choose the Right Type of Plot

- Linear growth

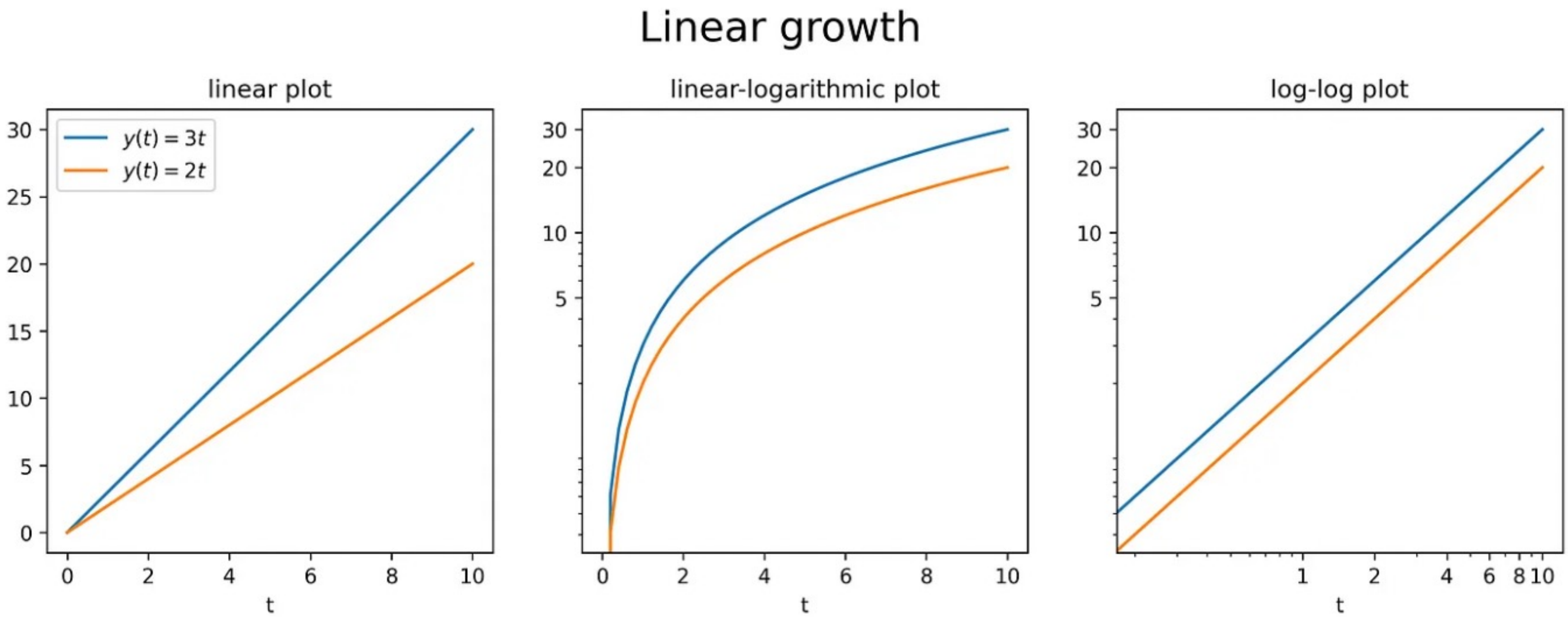


Image from https://medium.com/@scajanus/types-of-growth-and-how-to-show-them-4de77918dc2e

Choose the Right Type of Plot

- Polynomial growth

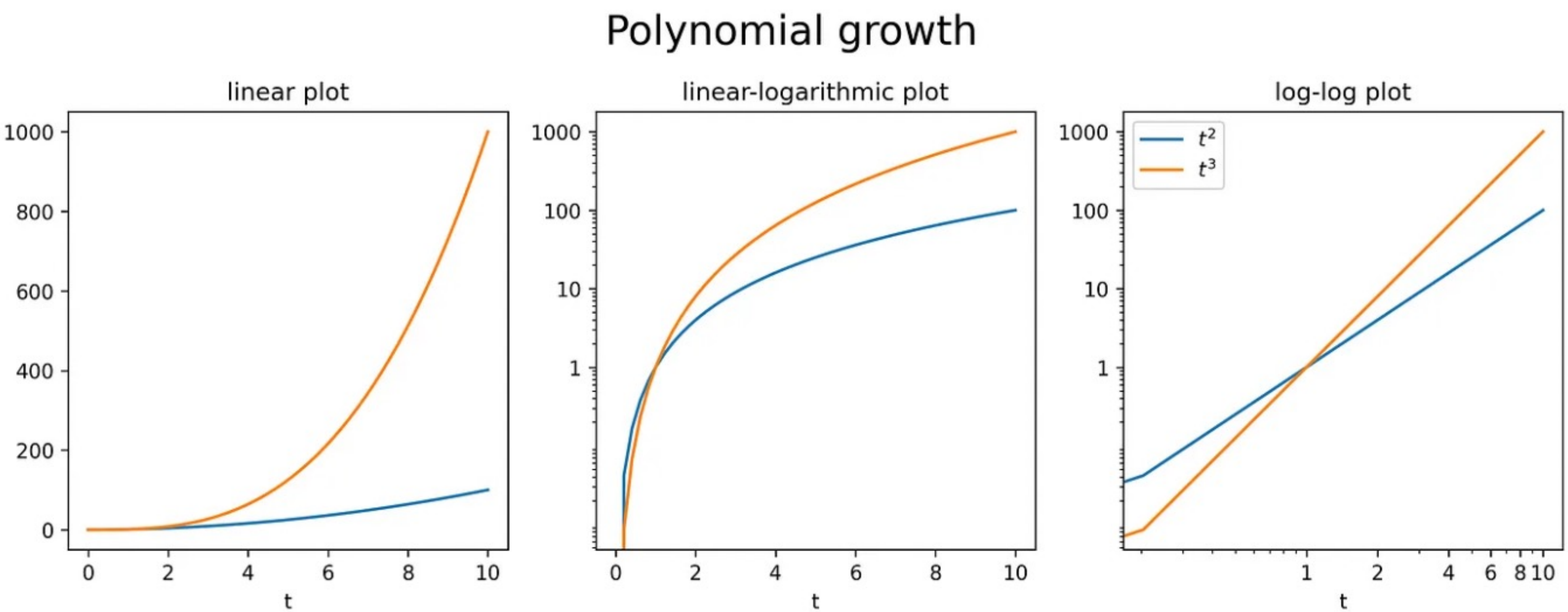


Image from https://medium.com/@scajanus/types-of-growth-and-how-to-show-them-4de77918dc2e

Choose the Right Type of Plot

- Exponential growth

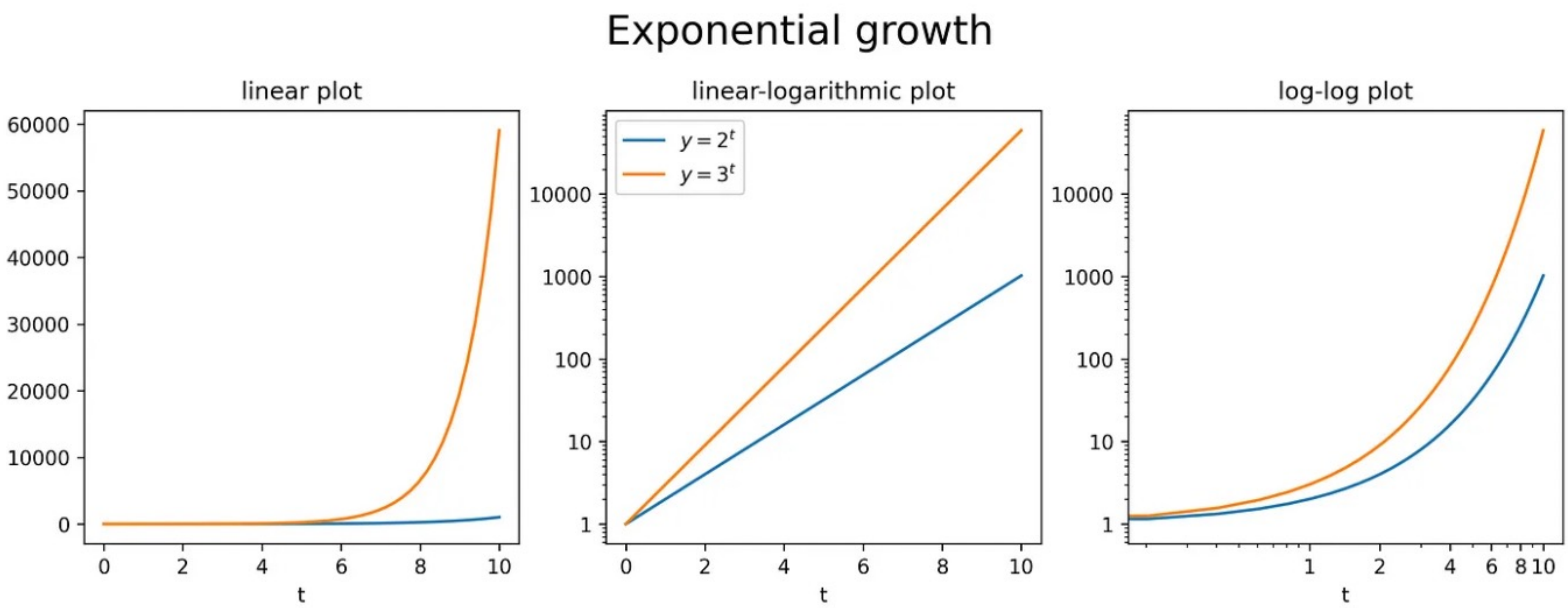
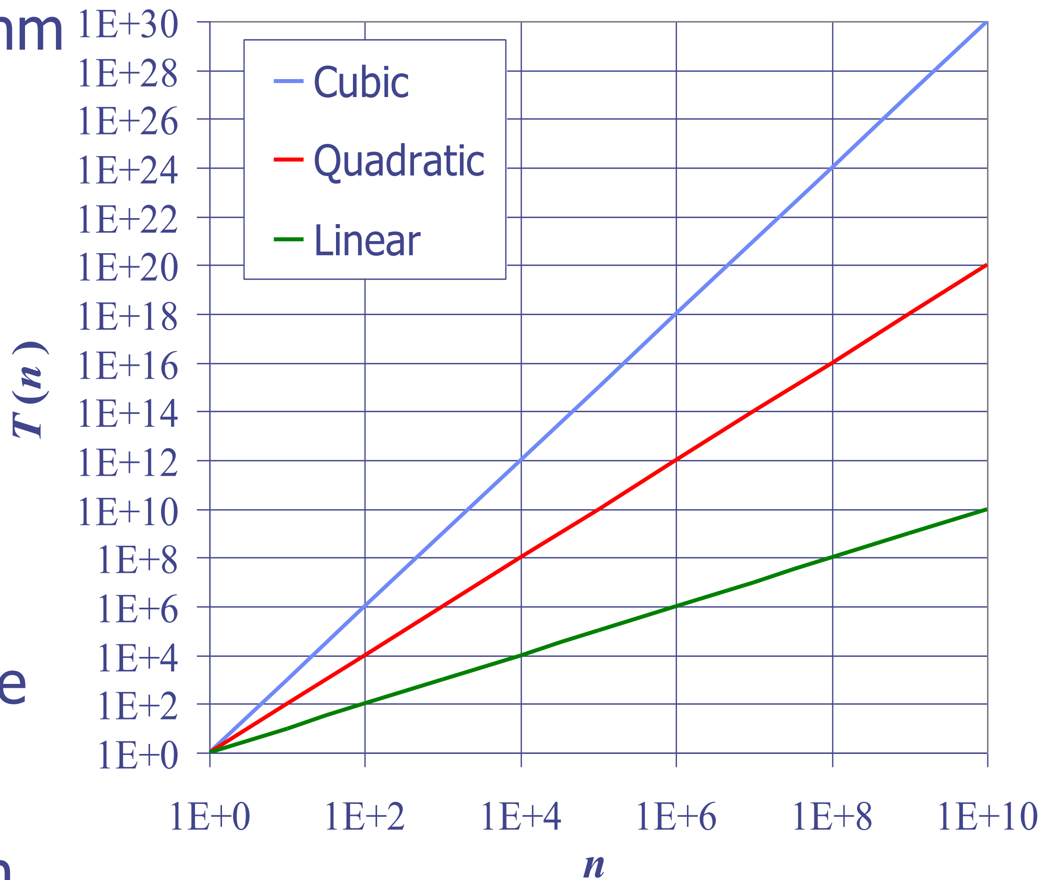


Image from https://medium.com/@scajanus/types-of-growth-and-how-to-show-them-4de77918dc2e

Seven Important Functions

- Seven functions that often appear in algorithm analysis:
  - Constant ≈ 1
  - Logarithmic ≈ $\log n$
  - Linear ≈ n
  - N-Log-N ≈ $n \log n$
  - Quadratic ≈ n^2
  - Cubic ≈ n^3
  - Exponential ≈ 2^n

- In a **log-log chart**, the slope of the line corresponds to the exponent in the growth rate



Slope in a log-log plot

- The reason the slope of a straight line in a log-log plot corresponds to the exponent in the running time:

$$y = n^c$$

$$\log y = \log n^c$$

$$\log y = c*\log n$$

Slide by Matt Stallmann included with permission.

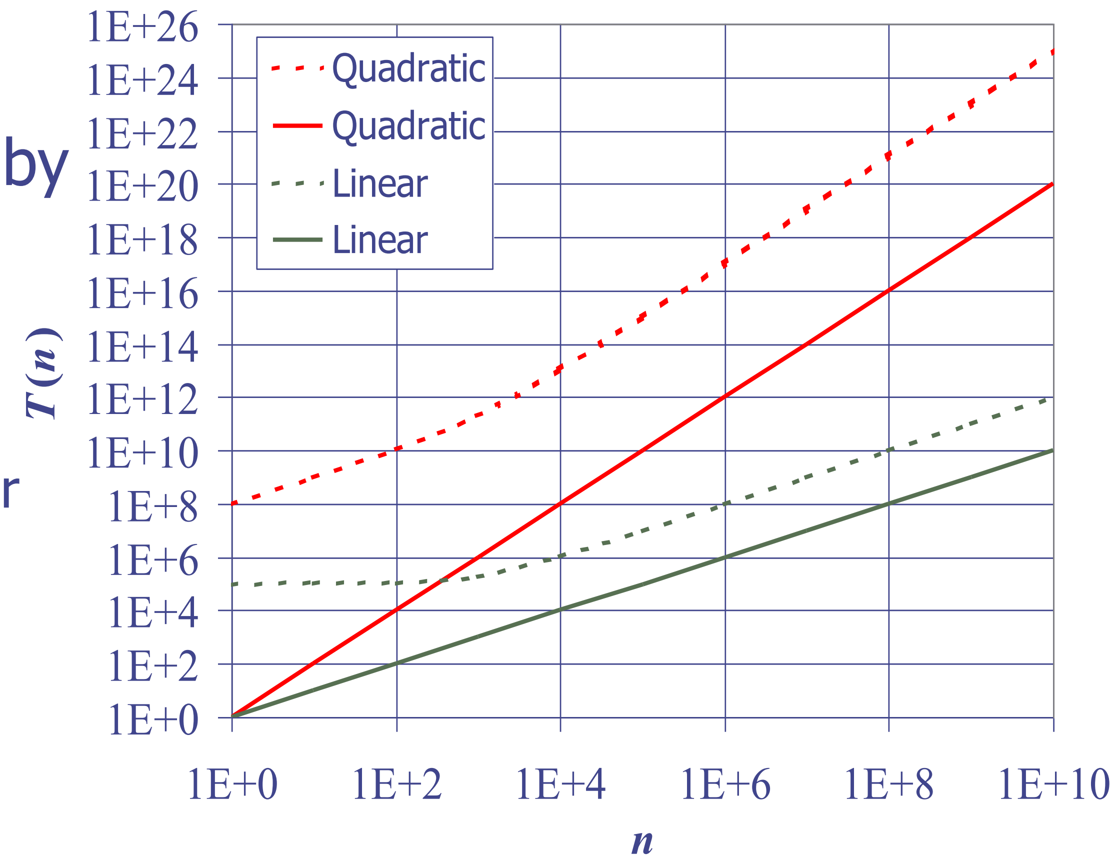
Why Growth Rate Matters

if runtime is...	time for n + 1	time for 2 n	time for 4 n
$c \lg n$	$c \lg (n + 1)$	$c (\lg n + 1)$	$c(\lg n + 2)$
$c\, n$	$c\, (n + 1)$	$2c\, n$	$4c\, n$
$c\, n \lg n$	$\sim c\, n \lg n + c\, n$	$2c\, n \lg n + 2cn$	$4c\, n \lg n + 4cn$
$c\, n^2$	$\sim c\, n^2 + 2c\, n$	**$4c\, n^2$**	$16c\, n^2$
$c\, n^3$	$\sim c\, n^3 + 3c\, n^2$	$8c\, n^3$	$64c\, n^3$
$c\, 2^n$	$c\, 2^{n+1}$	$c\, 2^{2n}$	$c\, 2^{4n}$

runtime quadruples when problem size doubles

Constant Factors (log-log plot)

- The growth rate is minimally affected by
  - constant factors or
  - lower-order terms
- Examples
  - $10^2 n + 10^5$ is a linear function
  - $10^5 n^2 + 10^8 n$ is a quadratic function

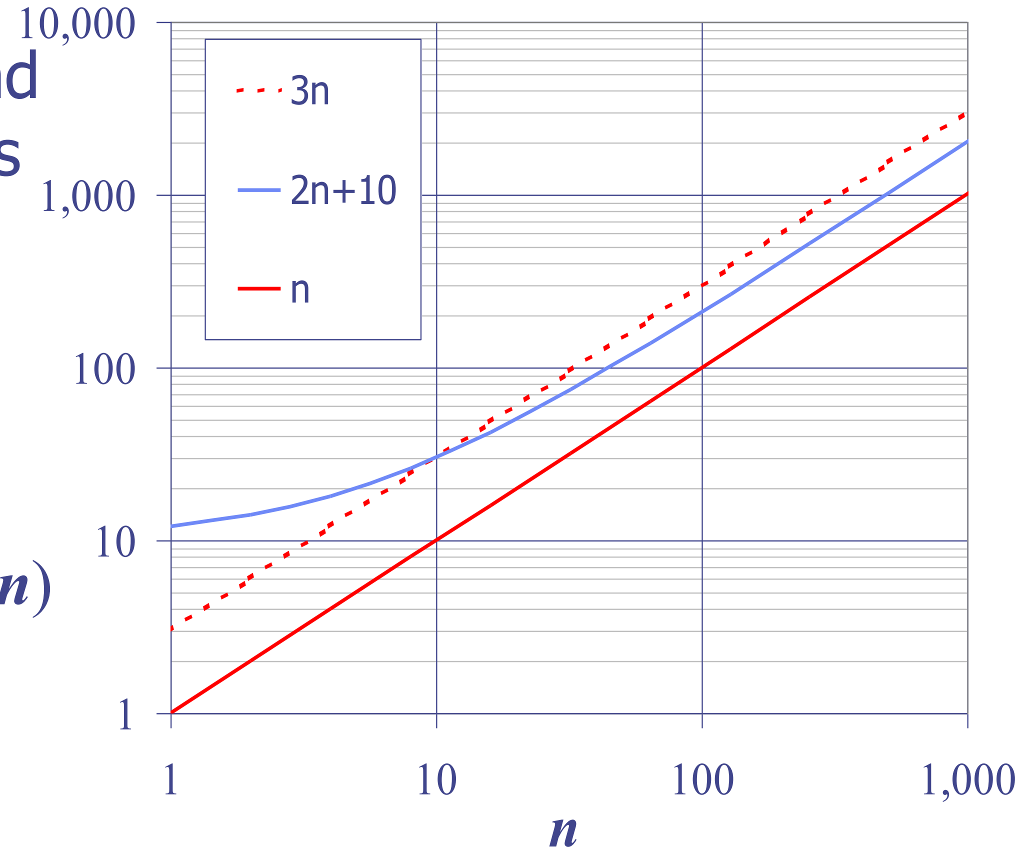


Big-Oh Notation

- Given functions $f(n)$ and $g(n)$, we say that $f(n)$ is $O(g(n))$ if there are positive constants c and n_0 such that

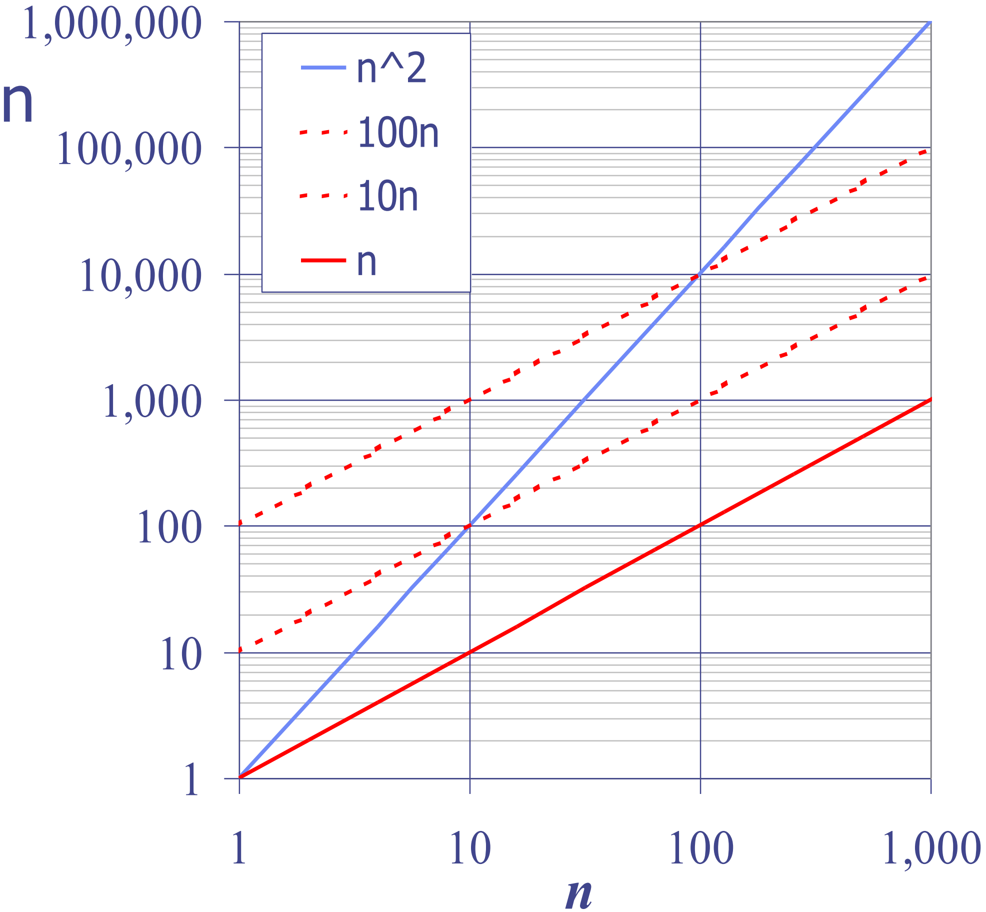
  $f(n) \le cg(n)$ for $n \ge n_0$

- Example: $2n + 10$ is $O(n)$
  - $2n + 10 \le cn$
  - $(c - 2)\, n \ge 10$
  - $n \ge 10/(c - 2)$
  - Pick $c = 3$ and $n_0 = 10$



Big-Oh Example

- Example: the function n^2 is not $O(n)$
  - $n^2 \leq cn$
  - $n \leq c$
  - The above inequality cannot be satisfied since c must be a constant



Big-Oh Rules

- If is $f(n)$ a polynomial of degree d, then $f(n)$ is $O(n^d)$, i.e.,
    1. Drop lower-order terms
    2. Drop constant factors
- Use the smallest possible class of functions
    - Say "$2n$ is $O(n)$" instead of "$2n$ is $O(n^2)$"
- Use the simplest expression of the class
    - Say "$3n + 5$ is $O(n)$" instead of "$3n + 5$ is $O(3n)$"

Relatives of Big-Oh

big-Omega

- $f(n)$ is $\Omega(g(n))$ if there is a constant $c > 0$ and an integer constant $n_0 \geq 1$ such that

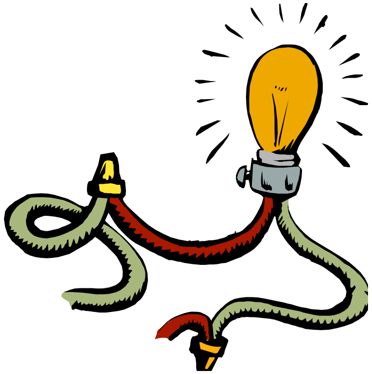
$$f(n) \geq c\, g(n) \text{ for } n \geq n_0$$

big-Theta

- $f(n)$ is $\Theta(g(n))$ if there are constants $c' > 0$ and $c'' > 0$ and an integer constant $n_0 \geq 1$ such that

$$c'g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c''g(n) \text{ for } n \geq n_0$$

Intuition for Asymptotic Notation



big-Oh

- f(n) is O(g(n)) if f(n) is asymptotically less than or equal to g(n)

big-Omega

- f(n) is Ω(g(n)) if f(n) is asymptotically greater than or equal to g(n)

big-Theta

- f(n) is Θ(g(n)) if f(n) is asymptotically equal to g(n)