

# Chapter 1

## Big-Oh From Code

- We grow an array by increasing its length by 1 each time.

```
double[] numbers = new double[1];
for ( int i = 0 ; i < n ; i++ ) {
    if ( i >= numbers.length ) {
        numbers = Arrays.copyOf(numbers, numbers.length+1);
    }
    numbers[i] = Math.random();
}
```

Outside (before) the loop is just simple operations, so that contributes  $\Theta(1)$ .

For the loop, observe that everything in the loop body is  $\Theta(1)$  except `Arrays.copyOf()`, which we expect to take time proportional of the number of elements copied i.e.  $\Theta(\text{numbers.length})$ . The total amount of time taken for the loop is the sum of the time taken by each iteration. Step through the code: on the first iteration  $i = 0$ , `numbers.length` = 1, and the `if` condition is false so nothing is copied and `numbers.length` doesn't change. On the next iteration  $i = 1$ , `numbers.length` = 1, and the `if` condition is true so `numbers` is copied and its length increases by 1. And so forth:

$i$	0	1	2	3	4	5	...	$n - 1$
<code>numbers.length</code>	1	1	2	3	4	5	...	$n - 1$
work to copy	0	1	2	3	4	5	...	$n - 1$
other work	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(1)$	...	$\Theta(1)$

The total time taken is the sum of the “work to copy” and “other work” entries:  $\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} j + n \Theta(1)$ .

Using the sums table gives  $\Theta(n^2)$  for the sum, which is faster-growing than  $n$ , so the overall running time is  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

- We grow an array by doubling its length each time.

```
double[] numbers = new double[1];
for ( int i = 0 ; i < n ; i++ ) {
    if ( i >= numbers.length ) {
        numbers = Arrays.copyOf(numbers, 2*numbers.length);
    }
    numbers[i] = Math.random();
}
```

Outside (before) the loop is just simple operations, so that contributes  $\Theta(1)$ .

For the loop, observe that everything in the loop body is  $\Theta(1)$  except `Arrays.copyOf()`, which we expect to take time proportional of the number of elements copied i.e.  $\Theta(\text{numbers.length})$ . The total amount of time taken for the loop is the sum of the time taken by each iteration. Step through the code: on the first iteration  $i = 0$ , `numbers.length` = 1, and the `if` condition is false so nothing is copied and `numbers.length` doesn't change. On the next iteration  $i = 1$ , `numbers.length` = 1, and the `if` condition is true so `numbers` is copied and its length is doubled. And so forth:

$i$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	...	$n - 1$
<code>numbers.length</code>	1	1	2	4	4	8	8	8	8	16	...	
work to copy	0	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	8	0	...	
other work	$\Theta(1)$	...	$\Theta(1)$									

The total time taken is the sum of the “work to copy” and “other work” entries. For “work to copy”, observe that it is a sum of powers of 2:  $\sum_{j=0}^{\log n - 1} 2^j$ . But what’s the upper limit for the sum? Assume  $n$  is a power of 2, so the last time the array grows and is copied is when  $2^j = n/2$ . Solving for  $j$  yields  $j = \log n - 1$ .

Thus, the total time taken is  $\sum_{j=0}^{\log n - 1} 2^j + n\Theta(1)$ . This is a “geometric increase” sum, so using the sums table yields  $\Theta(2^{\log n - 1}) + n\Theta(1)$ .  $2^{\log n - 1}$  simplifies to  $n/2$ , so the total time is  $\Theta(n)$ .

(This means that over the time it takes to insert  $n$  elements, doubling the array results in only  $O(n)$  additional work in total — while the worst case behavior of a single insert is  $O(n)$ , when the growing time is spread over a series of  $n$  operations (a process called *amortized analysis*) each insert is effectively  $O(1)$ .)

```

• void hanoi ( int n, int src, int dst, int spare ) {
    if ( n == 1 ) {
        System.out.println("move disk from "+src+" to "+dst);
    } else {
        hanoi(n-1,src,spare,dst);
        System.out.println("move disk from "+src+" to "+dst);
        hanoi(n-1,spare,dst,src);
    }
}

```

Let  $T(n)$  be the time for `hanoi(n, ...)`. Then

$$T(1) = \Theta(1)$$

For the recursive case, the time taken is the time for two `hanoi(n-1, ...)` calls plus  $\Theta(1)$  additional time — the only non-simple steps in the body of `hanoi` are the recursive calls. This means

$$T(n) = 2T(n-1) + \Theta(1)$$

Using the recurrence relations table gives  $\Theta(a^{n/b}) = \Theta(2^n)$ .

- Mergesort.

```

void mergesort ( int[] arr, int left, int right ) {
    if ( right > left ) {
        int middle = (left+right)/2;
        mergesort(arr,left,middle);
        mergesort(arr,middle+1,right);
        merge(arr,left,middle,right);
    }
}

void merge ( int[] arr, int left, int middle, int right ) {
    int[] merged = new int[right-left+1];
    int i = left, j = middle+1, k = 0;
    for ( ; i <= middle && j <= right ; k++ ) {
        if ( arr[i] < arr[j] ) { merged[k] = arr[i]; i++; }
        else { merged[k] = arr[j]; j++; }
    }
    for ( ; i <= middle ; i++, k++ ) {
        merged[k] = arr[i];
    }
    for ( ; j <= right ; j++, k++ ) {
        merged[k] = arr[j];
    }
    System.arraycopy(merged,0,arr,left,merged.length);
}

```

For `mergesort`, the base case is  $\Theta(1)$  (only the `if` condition is checked). For the recursive case

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n)$$

where  $n = \text{right} - \text{left} + 1$ . (`right` and `left` denote the range of `arr` being sorted.) For `merge`, observe that every loop iteration increments either `i` or `j` and that `i` counts from `left` to `middle` (inclusive) and `j` counts from `middle+1` to `right` (inclusive) — thus the total work for the three loops is  $\Theta(n)$ . `System.arraycopy` is also  $\Theta(n)$  making `merge`  $\Theta(n)$  overall.

Using the recurrence relations table gives  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$ .