

Big Oh Time Efficiency* Examples

$O(1)$ — constant

- finding a median value in a sorted array
- push, pop, peek, & isEmpty methods in Stack
- add, remove, peek, & isEmpty methods in PriorityQueue
- finding a key in a lookup table
- finding a key in an efficient, sparsely populated hash table
- retrieving a target value in an efficient, sparsely populated hash table
- adding an element to the end of an ArrayList
- addFirst, addLast, getFirst, getLast, removeFirst, & removeLast methods in LinkedList
- put, get, containsKey, & size methods in HashMap
- add, remove, contains, & size methods in HashSet

$O(\log n)$ — logarithmic

- Binary Search (array must be sorted)
- searching a balanced binary search tree (worst case is $O(n)$ if BST is unbalanced)
- inserting a node into a binary search tree
- add and remove methods in PriorityQueue (implemented as a heap)
- containsKey, get, & put methods in TreeMap

$O(n)$ — linear

- traversing a List (e.g. finding max or min)
- sequential search through an array or ArrayList
- calculating the sum of n elements in an array, ArrayList, List, or Set
- calculating n -factorial with a loop
- calculating Fibonacci numbers with a loop
- traversing a tree with n nodes

$O(n \log n)$ — “ $n \log n$ ” time

- Mergesort
- Quicksort
- Heapsort
- creating a binary search tree if nodes inputted in random order leading to a balanced BST (worst case is $O(n^2)$)

$O(n^2)$ — quadratic

- Selection Sort
- Insertion Sort
- Bubble Sort
- traversing a two-dimensional array
- finding duplicates in an unsorted list of n elements (using nested loops)

$O(a^n)$ (where $a > 1$) — exponential time

- Recursive Fibonacci implementation
- Towers of Hanoi
- Generating all permutations of n letters

* most efficiencies are best case or average case unless noted