

**DSC 40B**

***Lecture 3 : Nested  
Loop (dependent).***

***Mic!***

## Careful!

- **Not every nested loop has  $\Theta(n^2)$  time complexity!**
- In general, if:
  - outer loop iterates  $a$  times;
  - inner loop iterates  $b$  times for each outer loop iteration
    - *We are assuming here that the number of inner loop iterations doesn't depend on which outer loop iteration we're in!*
  - then the innermost loop body is executed  $a \times b$  times.

```
for x in range(n):  
    for y in range(n**2):  
        print(x + y)
```

# ***Dependent Nested Loops***

## Example 3: Tallest Snowman, Again

- Our previous algorithm for the tallest snowman computed height for each ordered pair of people.
  - $i = 3$  and  $j = 7$  is the same as  $i = 7$  and  $j = 3$

- **Idea:** consider each *unordered* pair only once:

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(i + 1, n):
```

- What is the time complexity?

## *Pictorially*

```
for i in range(4):  
    for j in range(4):  
        print(i, j)
```

(0,0)	(0,1)	(0,2)	(0,3)
(1,0)	(1,1)	(1,2)	(1,3)
(2,0)	(2,1)	(2,2)	(2,3)
(3,0)	(3,1)	(3,2)	(3,3)

## *Pictorially*

```
for i in range(4):  
    for j in range(i + 1, 4):  
        print(i, j)
```

(0,1) (0,2) (0,3)  
 (1,2) (1,3)  
 (2,3)

```
def tallest_snowman_2(heights):  
    max_height = -float('inf')  
    n = len(heights)  
    for i in range(n):  
        for j in range(i+1, n):  
            height = heights[i] + heights[j]  
            if height > max_height:  
                max_height = height  
    return max_height
```

- **Goal:** How many time does line `height = heights[i] + heights[j]` run in total?
- Now inner nested loop **depends** on nested outer loop



## Independent

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(n): ...
```

- Inner loop doesn't depend on outer loop iteration #.
- **Just multiply**: inner body executed  $n \times n = n^2$  times.

## Dependent

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(i,n): ...
```

- Inner loop depends on outer loop iteration #.
- Can't just multiply: inner body executed ??? times.

## Dependent Nested Loops

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(i + 1, n):  
        height = heights[i] + heights[j]
```

- **Idea:** find formula  $f(\alpha)$  for “number of iterations of inner loop during outer iteration  $\alpha$ ”

- Then total:  $\sum_{\alpha=1}^n f(\alpha)$

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(i + 1, n):  
        height = heights[i] + heights[j]
```

- On outer iter. # 1, inner body runs \_\_\_\_\_ times. ( $i = 0$ )
- On outer iter. # 2, inner body runs \_\_\_\_\_ times.
- On outer iter. #  $\alpha$ , inner body runs \_\_\_\_\_ times.
- The outer loop runs \_\_\_\_\_ times.

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(1, n): #i = 0  
        height = heights[i] + heights[j]
```

- On outer iter. # 1, inner body runs  $n - 1$  times. ( $i = 0$ )
- On outer iter. # 2, inner body runs  $\quad ? \quad$  times. ( $i = 1$ )
- On outer iter. #  $\alpha$ , inner body runs  $\quad$  times.
- The outer loop runs  $\quad$  times.

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range(2, n): #i = 1  
        height = heights[i] + heights[j]
```

- On outer iter. # 1, inner body runs  $n - 1$  times. ( $i = 0$ )
- On outer iter. # 2, inner body runs  $n - 2$  times. ( $i = 1$ )
- On outer iter. #  $\alpha$ , inner body runs  $?$  times. ( $i = \alpha$ )
- The outer loop runs \_\_\_\_\_ times.

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range( $\alpha$ , n): #i =  $\alpha$   
        height = heights[i] + heights[j]
```

- On outer iter. # 1, inner body runs  $n - 1$  times. ( $i = 0$ )
- On outer iter. # 2, inner body runs  $n - 2$  times. ( $i = 1$ )
- On outer iter. #  $\alpha$ , inner body runs  $n - \alpha$  times. ( $i = \alpha$ )
- The outer loop runs  $?$  times.

```
for i in range(n):  
    for j in range( $\alpha$ , n): #i =  $\alpha$   
        height = heights[i] + heights[j]
```

- On outer iter. # 1, inner body runs  $n - 1$  times. ( $i = 0$ )
- On outer iter. # 2, inner body runs  $n - 2$  times. ( $i = 1$ )
- On outer iter. #  $\alpha$ , inner body runs  $n - \alpha$  times. ( $i = \alpha$ )
- The outer loop runs  $n$  times.

## ***Totalling Up***

- On outer iteration  $\alpha$ , inner body runs  $n - \alpha$  times.
  - That is,  $f(\alpha) = n - \alpha$
- There are  $n$  outer iterations.
- So we need to calculate:

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n f(\alpha) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$



$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$
$$=$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$

=

$$\underbrace{(n - 1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} +$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$

=

$$\underbrace{(n - 1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n - 2)}_{\text{2nd outer iter}} + \dots$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$
$$=$$

$$\underbrace{(n - 1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n - 2)}_{\text{2nd outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n - \alpha)}_{\text{kth outer iter}} +$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$

$$=$$

$$\underbrace{(n-1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-2)}_{\text{2nd outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-\alpha)}_{\text{kth outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-(n-1))}_{\text{(n-1)th outer iter}} +$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$

$$=$$

$$\underbrace{(n-1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-2)}_{\text{2nd outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-\alpha)}_{\text{kth outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-(n-1))}_{\text{(n-1)th outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-n)}_{\text{nth outer iter}}$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$

=

$$\underbrace{(n-1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-2)}_{\text{2nd outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-\alpha)}_{\text{kth outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-(n-1))}_{\text{(n-1)th outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-n)}_{\text{nth outer iter}}$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (n-3) + (n-2) + (n-1)$$

=

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (n - \alpha)$$

=

$$\underbrace{(n-1)}_{\text{1st outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-2)}_{\text{2nd outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-\alpha)}_{\text{kth outer iter}} + \dots + \underbrace{(n-(n-1))}_{\text{(n-1)th outer iter}} + \underbrace{(n-n)}_{\text{nth outer iter}}$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (n-3) + (n-2) + (n-1)$$

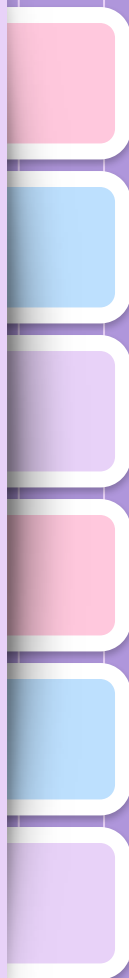
=

$$n(n-1)/2$$



## *Aside: Arithmetic Sums*

- $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (n-1) + n$  is an arithmetic sum.
- Formula for total:  $n(n + 1)/2$ .
- **You should memorize it!**



## ***Time Complexity***

- `tallest_snowman_2` has  $\Theta(n^2)$  time complexity
- Same as original `tallest_snowman`
- Should we have been able to guess this? Why?

## ***Reason 1: Number of Pairs***

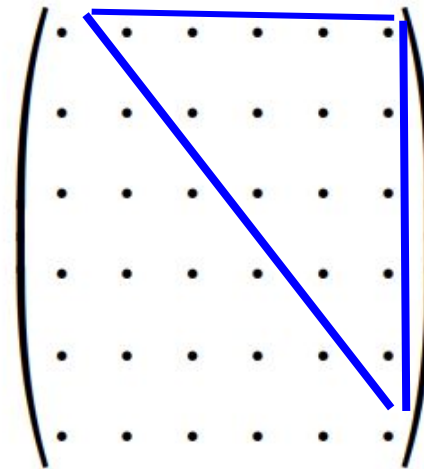
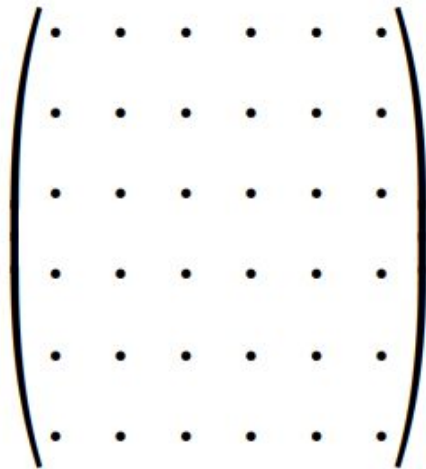
- We're doing constant work for each unordered pair.
- Recall from 40A: number of pairs of  $n$  objects is

$$\binom{n}{2} = \frac{n!}{2!(n-2)!} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

- So  $\Theta(n^2)$

## Reason 2: Half as much work

- Our new solution does roughly half as much work as the old one.
- But  $\Theta$  doesn't care about constants:  $1/2 \Theta(n^2)$  is still  $\Theta(n^2)$ .



## *Main Ideas*

1. If the loops are **dependent**, you'll usually need:
  - a. to write down a summation,
  - b. evaluate.
2. Halving the work (or thirding, quartering, etc.) doesn't change the time complexity.

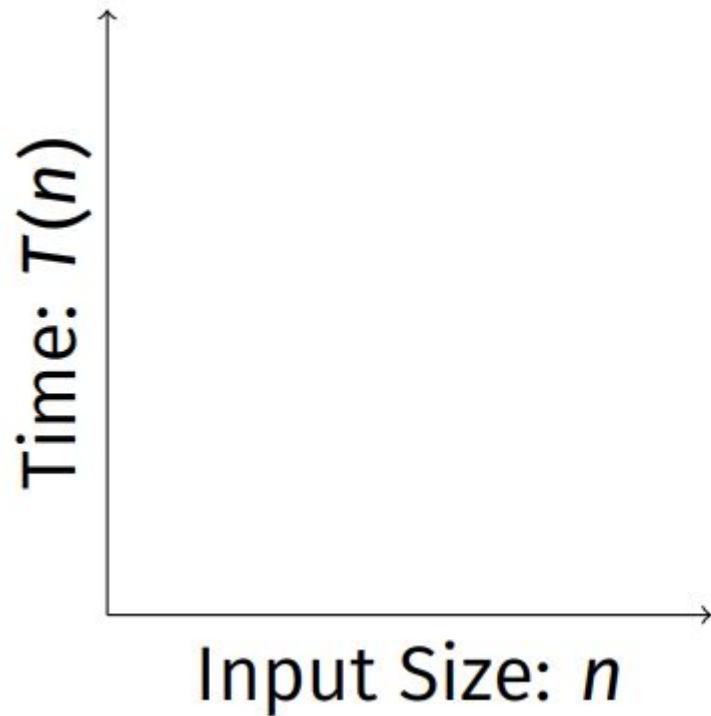
## ***Exercise***

Design a **linear** time algorithm for this problem.

# ***Growth Rates***

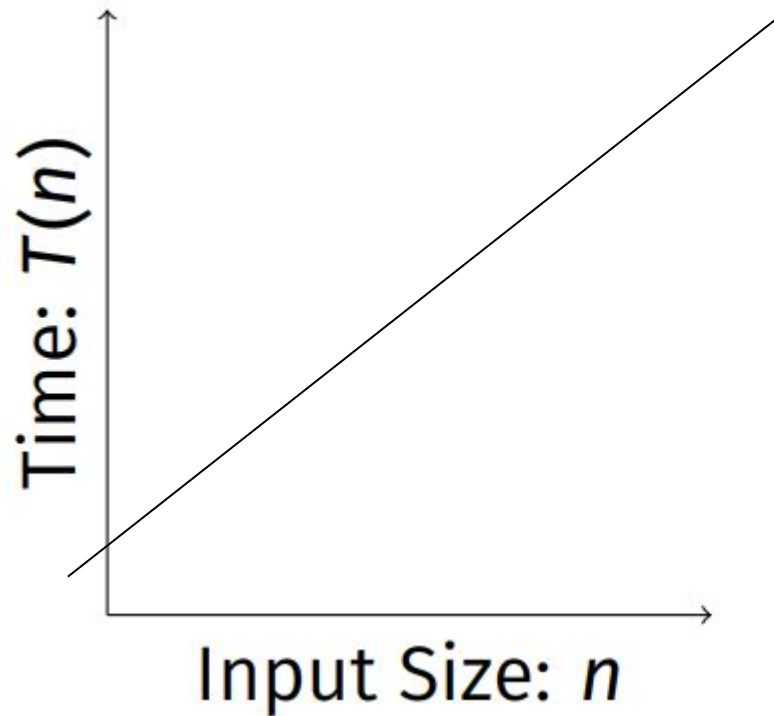


## *Linear vs. Quadratic Scaling*



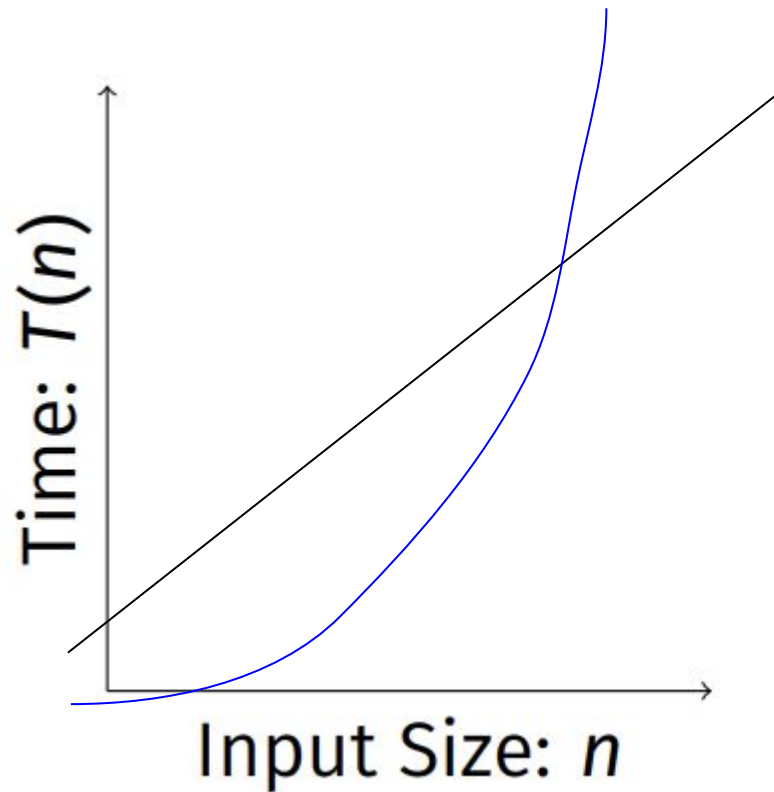
- ▶  $T(n) = \Theta(n)$  means “ $T(n)$  grows like  $n$ ”
- ▶  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$  means “ $T(n)$  grows like  $n^2$ ”

## Linear vs. Quadratic Scaling



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# Linear vs. Quadratic Scaling



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- ▶  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$  means “ $T(n)$  grows like  $n^2$ ”

## ***Definitions***

1. An algorithm is said to run in **linear** time if  $T(n) = \Theta(n)$ .
2. An algorithm is said to run in **quadratic** time if  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$ .

## *Linear Growth*

- If input size doubles, time roughly doubles.
- If code takes 5 seconds on 1,000 points...
- ...on 100,000 data points it takes  $\approx$  500 seconds.
- i.e., 8.3 minutes

## Quadratic Growth

- If input size doubles, time *roughly* **quadruples**.
- If code takes 5 seconds on 1,000 points...
- ...on 100,000 points it takes  $\approx 50,000$  seconds.
- i.e.,  $\approx 14$  hours

## ***In data science...***

- Let's say we have a training set of 10,000 points.
- If model takes **quadratic** time to train, should expect to wait minutes to hours.
- If model takes **linear** time to train, should expect to wait seconds to minutes.
- These are rules of thumb only.

# Exponential Growth

- Increasing input size by **one** *doubles* (triples, etc.) time taken.
- **Grows very quickly!**
- **Example:** brute force search of  $2^n$  subsets.

```
for subset in all_subsets(things):  
    print(subset)
```



# Logarithmic Growth

- To increase time taken by one unit, must *double* (triple, etc.) the input size.
- **Grows very slowly**
- $\log n$  grows slower than  $n^\alpha$  for any  $\alpha > 0$ 
  - I.e.,  $\log n$  grows *slower* than  $n$ ,  $\sqrt{n}$ ,  $n^{1/1,000}$ , etc.

## Exercise

What is the asymptotic time complexity of the code below as a function of  $n$ ?

```
i = 1
while i <= n:
    i = i * 2
```

**A: Constant**

**B: Log**

**C: Linear**

**D: Quadratic**

## Solution

- Same general strategy as before: “how many times does loop body run?”

```
i = 1
while i <= n:
    i = i * 2
```

<i>n</i>	# iters.
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

## Solution

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```

<i>n</i>	# iters.
1	1
2	2
3	2
4	3
5	3
6	3
7	3
8	4



# Common Growth Rates

- 
- ▶  $\Theta(1)$ : constant
  - ▶  $\Theta(\log n)$ : logarithmic
  - ▶  $\Theta(n)$ : linear
  - ▶  $\Theta(n \log n)$ : linearithmic
  - ▶  $\Theta(n^2)$ : quadratic
  - ▶  $\Theta(n^3)$ : cubic
  - ▶  $\Theta(2^n)$ : exponential

## Question

- Which grows **faster**,  $n!$  or  $2^n$  ?

$$n! = 1 * 2 * 3 * \dots * n$$

$$2^n = 2 * 2 * 2 \dots * 2$$

A:  $n!$

B:  $2^n$

C: Same

D: Impossible to tell



# ***Thank you!***

**Do you have any questions?**

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