

# Time Complexity

## → What is time Complexity

• Time complexity is a way of talking about how fast or slow a computer program runs. It helps us understand if our program will still work well as we give it more and more data to process.

• A good time complexity means our program stays fast even with a lot of data, while a bad one might make it slow down too much.

## → Big $\Theta$ Notation

Big  $\Theta$  notation is like using a simple label to describe the maximum time an algorithm might take in the worst-case scenario.

→ We can express algorithmic complexity using the big- $\Theta$  notation. For a problem of size  $N$

• A constant-time function/method is "order 1":  $\Theta(1)$

↳ When there is no dependence on the input size  $n$  (primitive operations)

• A linear-time function/method is "order  $N$ ":  $\Theta(N)$

↳ When the running time increases linearly with the length of the input (loops)

↳ To determine the time complexity of our code, we must examine it line by line, taking notes of the following factors:

- Assignments<sup>and</sup> math operators are all basic operations
- Loops and nested loops

!! Whenever we calculate the big O complexity of any algorithm, we can throw or ignore the constant:

$$O(2n) \rightarrow O(n)$$

$O(1 + n/2 + 100)$  simplifies to just  $O(n)$