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Big-O Notation

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Big-O Notation*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C52089.

A theoretical measure of the execution of an algorithm, usually the time or memory needed, given the problem size n , which is usually the number of items; a mathematical notation used to describe the asymptotic behavior of functions. More precisely, it is used to describe an asymptotic upper bound for the magnitude of a function in terms of another, usually simpler, function. (from NIST)