

Running times for algorithms

We talk about algorithms being “polynomial time” if their worst case running times are $O(p(n))$ for some polynomial p .

Examples:

- ▶ Bubblesort is $O(n^2)$
- ▶ Mergesort is $O(n \log n)$
- ▶ Longest Increasing Subsequence is $O(mn)$ (where the two strings have length m and n)

But the following are also true:

- ▶ Bubblesort is $O(n^3)$
- ▶ Mergesort is $O(n^5)$