

Consider the following justification that the Fibonacci function,  $F(n)$  (see Proposition 3.20) is  $O(n)$ :

Base case ( $n \geq 2$ ):

$F(1) = 1$  and  $F(2) = 2$ .

Induction step ( $n > 2$ ):

Assume claim true for  $n' < n$ . Consider  $n$ .

$F(n) = F(n-2) + F(n-1)$ .

By induction,  $F(n-2)$  is  $O(n-2)$  and  $F(n-1)$  is  $O(n-1)$ .

Then,  $F(n)$  is  $O((n-2) + (n-1))$ , by the identity presented in Exercise R-3.11.

Therefore,  $F(n)$  is  $O(n)$ .

What is wrong with this justification?

I will show by example that Fibonacci function,  $F(n)$  is not  $O(n)$ .

For now let's try to prove that  $F(n)$  is  $O(n)$  and that means:

$$F(n) \geq c \cdot n, \text{ for } c = \{c \in \mathbb{R} \mid c > 0\}, n \geq 1.$$

Firstly we need to find a constant that matches to our function.

$F(1) = 1$

$F(2) = 1$

$F(3) = 2$

$F(4) = 3$

Let  $c$  be 120.

Base cases:

$n$	$F(n)$		$120n$
1	1	<	120
2	1	<	230
3	2	<	360

Inductive hypothesis:

$F(k) \geq ck$  for some  $k \geq n_0$ ,

and we want to show  $F(k) \geq ck$  for every  $k$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(k) &= F(k-1) + F(k-2) \\
 &\leq c(k-1) + c(k-2), \text{ by inductive hypothesis} \\
 &= c(k-1) + c(k-2) \\
 &= c(2k-3) \\
 &= 2ck - 3c \\
 &< 2ck, \text{ since } 0 > -3c \\
 &\not\geq ck
 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $F(n)$  can not be  $O(n)$  because I have proved that by example? ■