

Session 38: Advanced Big-O Facts

- Big-O for more functions
- Big-O for combined functions

More big-O facts

$\forall n > m, n, m$ constant:

x^m is $O(x^n)$ but x^n is not $O(x^m)$

$\forall a > 0, b > 0, n > m, a, b, n, m$ constant:

$\log_b(x^m)$ is $O(\log_a(x^n))$

$\log_a(x^n)$ is $O(\log_b(x^m))$

and they are all $O(\log(x))$

Big-O Estimates for the Factorial Function

Factorial function

$$f(n) = n! = 1 \times 2 \times \cdots \times n .$$

$$n! = 1 \times 2 \times \cdots \times n \leq n \times n \times \cdots \times n = n^n$$

$n!$ is $O(n^n)$ taking $C = 1$ and $k = 1$.

Logarithm of factorial function: $\log n!$

Given that $n! \leq n^n$ then $\log(n!) \leq n \log(n)$.

Hence, $\log(n!)$ is $O(n \log(n))$ taking $C = 1$ and $k = 1$.

Combinations of Functions

If $f(x)$ is $O(g(x))$ and $g(x)$ is $O(h(x))$ then $f(x)$ is $O(h(x))$

If $f_1(x)$ is $O(g_1(x))$ and $f_2(x)$ is $O(g_2(x))$ then $(f_1 * f_2)(x)$ is $O(g_1(x) * g_2(x))$

If $f_1(x)$ and $f_2(x)$ are both $O(g(x))$ then $(f_1 + f_2)(x)$ is $O(g(x))$

If $f_1(x)$ is $O(g_1(x))$ and $f_2(x)$ is $O(g_2(x))$ then $(f_1 + f_2)(x)$ is
 $O(\max(|g_1(x)|, |g_2(x)|))$

Combinations of Functions

Proof for

If $f_1(x)$ is $O(g_1(x))$ and $f_2(x)$ is $O(g_2(x))$ then $(f_1 + f_2)(x)$ is $O(\max(|g_1(x)|, |g_2(x)|))$

Summary

- Big-O for powers, logarithms and factorials
- Big-O for sum and product of functions