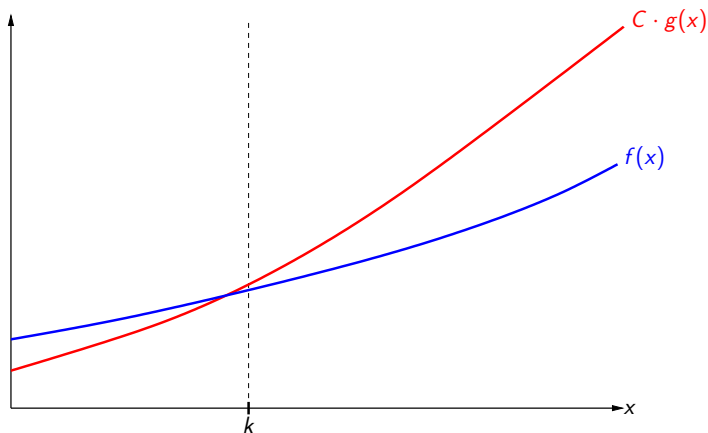


## Illustration of big-O notation

- ▶  $f$  is  $O(g)$  if  $\exists C, k > 0 : f(x) \leq C \cdot g(x)$  for all  $x \geq k$

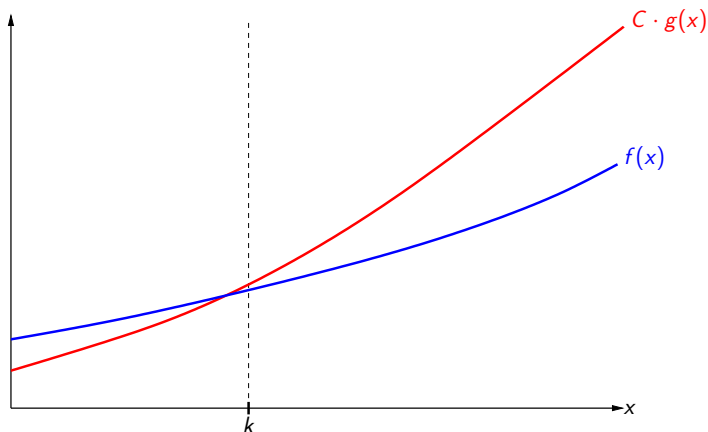
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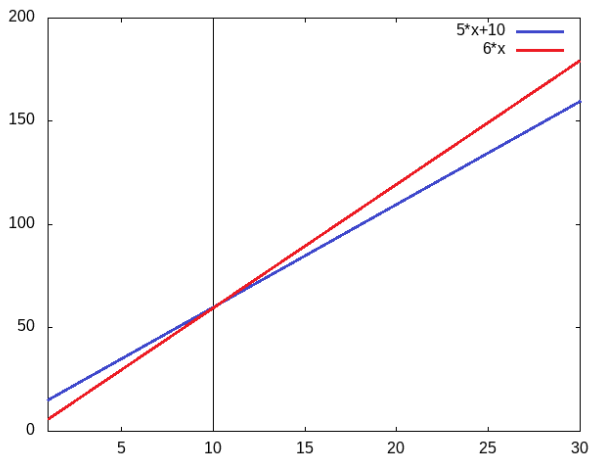
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# Illustration of witnesses that work

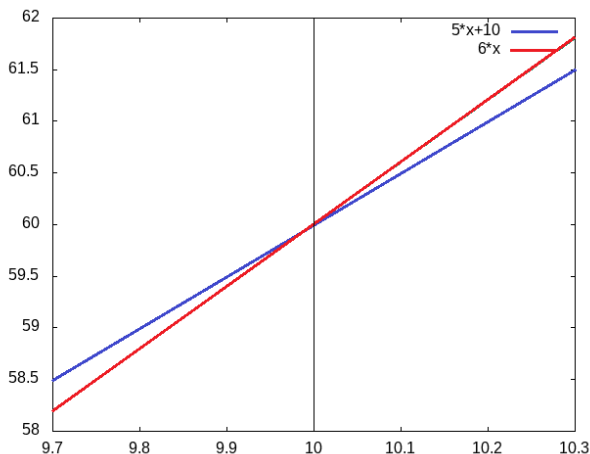
- ▶  $C = 6$ ,  $k = 10$  are witnesses for showing that  $5x + 10$  is  $O(x)$



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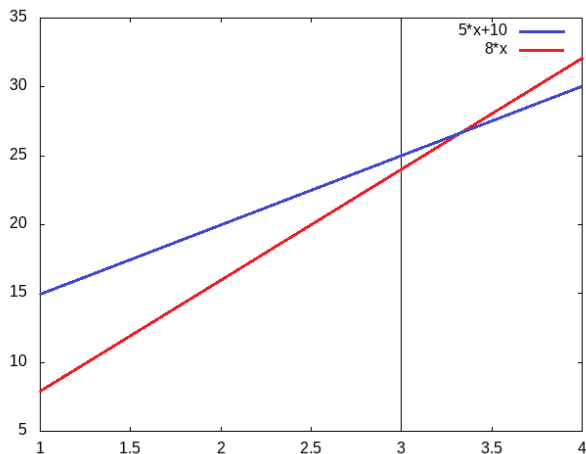
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# Illustration of witnesses that don't work

- ▶  $C = 8, k = 3$  are **NOT** witnesses for  $5x + 10 = O(x)$



- ▶ At  $x = 3$ ,  $5x + 10 = 25$  exceeds  $8 \cdot x = 24$ .

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## Using big-O notation in a natural way

If the time complexity of our algorithm is:

$$12 + 17\sqrt{n} + 5n + 17n \log n$$

How should we express this with big-O notation? Should we say that the time complexity is in:

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- ▶  $O(n^2)$ : correct but **not natural**: why give a larger bound than necessary?