

Recall: Let f, g be functions from \mathbb{Z} or \mathbb{N} or \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} .

We say that $f(x)$ is $O(g(x))$ if there are constants C and k such that

$$|f(x)| \leq C|g(x)|$$

whenever $x > k$.

If f is $O(g)$, then g is $\Omega(f)$

If f is $O(g)$ and g is $O(f)$, then f is $\Theta(g)$

Ex 3.2.9: Show that $f(x) = (x+1) \log(x^2+1)$ is $\Theta(x \log x)$

Pf: We show that a) $f(x)$ is $O(x \log x)$ and b) $x \log x$ is $O(f(x))$

b) Notice that $\log x$ is an increasing function.

Let $k=1, C=1$. Then if $x > k$,

$$x \log x \leq x \log(x^2) \quad (\text{since } x^2 \geq x)$$

$$\leq x \log(x^2+1) \quad (\text{since } x^2+1 \geq x^2)$$

$$\leq (x+1) \log(x^2+1) \quad (\text{since } x+1 \geq x)$$

$$= O(|f(x)|),$$

so $x \log x$ is $O(f(x))$.

a) Let $k=3$, $C=6$. Then if $x > k$,

$$f(x) = (x+1) \log(x^2+1) \leq (x+1) \log(2x^2) \quad (\text{since } x^2 \geq 1)$$

$$= (x+1)(\log 2 + \log x + \log x) \quad (\text{by log rules})$$

$$\leq (x+1) 3 \log x \quad (\text{since } x > 2, \text{ so } \log x > \log 2)$$

$$< (2x) \cdot 3 \log x \quad (\text{since } x > 1)$$

$$= 6x \log x.$$

Therefore, $f(x) = O(x \log x)$.

□

Ex 11: Let $f(n) = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n$. Show that f is $\Theta(n^2)$.

Pf: We show that a) f is $O(n^2)$ and b) f is $\Omega(n^2)$.

a) Let $k = 1$. Then if $n > k$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(n) &= 1 + 2 + \dots + n \\ &\leq n + n + \dots + n \quad (\text{since } 1, 2, \dots, n-1 \leq n) \\ &= n^2 \\ &= C |n^2|, \end{aligned}$$

so f is $O(n^2)$.

b) Let $k = 1$, $C = 1/4$. Then if $n > k$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(n) &= 1 + \dots + \lceil n/2 \rceil + \lceil n/2 \rceil + 1 + \dots + n \\ &\geq \lceil n/2 \rceil + \lceil n/2 \rceil + 1 + \dots + n \quad (\text{throw out first terms}) \\ &\geq \lceil n/2 \rceil + \lceil n/2 \rceil + \dots + \lceil n/2 \rceil \quad (\text{since } \lceil n/2 \rceil < \lceil n/2 \rceil + 1, \dots, n) \\ &\geq n/2 + n/2 + \dots + n/2 \quad (\text{since } \lceil n/2 \rceil \geq n/2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\geq (n/2)(n/2) \quad \left(\text{since there are } \geq n/2 \text{ integers} \right. \\ \left. \text{in the range } \lceil n/2 \rceil, \dots, n \right)$$

$$= n^2/4$$

$$= O(n^2)$$

Thus, $f(n)$ is $\Omega(n^2)$.

□

Scratch work:

$$1 + 2 + \dots + \lceil n/2 \rceil + \lceil n/2 \rceil + 1 + \dots + n$$

\geq (indicated by a bracket and arrow pointing to the next line)

$$\geq \underbrace{\lceil n/2 \rceil + \lceil n/2 \rceil + \dots + \lceil n/2 \rceil}_{\geq \frac{n}{2} \text{ terms each of which is } \geq n/2}$$

$\geq \frac{n}{2}$ terms each of
which is $\geq n/2$

e.g.

$$1 + 2 + \underbrace{3 + 4 + 5}$$

$$1 + 2 + \underbrace{3 + 4 + 5 + 6}$$

$$\geq \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)$$

$$= \frac{n^2}{4}$$

§5.1: Mathematical Induction

Ex 1: Show that if n is a positive integer, then

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Let's check a couple of cases:

$$n=1: 1 = \frac{1 \cdot 2}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

$$n=2: 1+2=3 = \frac{2 \cdot 3}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

$$n=3: 1+2+3=6 = \frac{3 \cdot 4}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

Seems like it probably works

In this case, there's a trick:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1+2+\dots+n \\ + \quad n+n-1+\dots+1 \\ \hline n+1+n+1+\dots+n+1 = n(n+1) \end{array} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{r} 1+2+\dots+n \\ + \quad n+n-1+\dots+1 \end{array}} \right\} 2 \cdot \text{LHS}$$

But in general, we want a better tool

$$n = 3 : LHS = 1 + 2 + 3$$

$$RHS = \frac{3 \cdot 4}{2}$$

↓

$$n = 4 : LHS = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4$$

$$RHS = \frac{4 \cdot 5}{2}$$

bigger by 4

bigger by

$$\frac{4 \cdot 5}{2} - \frac{3 \cdot 4}{2} = \frac{4}{2}(5 - 3) = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$$

What about for general n ?

Assume that

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad (*)$$

WTS:

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n + n + 1 = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$$

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n + n + 1 = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n + 1 \quad (\text{by } *)$$

$$= \frac{n(n+1) + 2(n+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

So if the equation holds for $n = 1$ AND whenever it holds for n it holds for $n+1$, it must hold for all n .

Let $P(n)$ be a statement (true or false) depending on the positive integer n .

Want to show that $P(n)$ is true for all n

Principle of Mathematical Induction:

$P(n)$ is true for all n if and only if

- $P(1)$ is true (base case)
- If we assume $P(k)$ is true (for arbitrary k), then $P(k+1)$ is true (induction step)

Ex 1 (cont).

Pf: Let $P(n)$ be the statement

$$1 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

We prove $P(n)$ is true for all n by induction on n .

Base case: When $n=1$,

$$1 = \frac{1 \cdot 2}{2}, \text{ so } P(1) \text{ is true.}$$

Inductive step: Assume that $P(k)$ is true. Then,

$$1 + \dots + k + (k+1) = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k+1 \quad (\text{by } P(k))$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1) + 2(k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2},$$

so $P(k+1)$ is true. Therefore, $P(n)$ is true for all n by induction.

□

Def: The statement $P(k)$ in the inductive step is called the inductive hypothesis (since we assume it's true)

Remark: The textbook has more on the history/philosophy of induction

Ex 2: Find and prove a formula for the sum of the first n odd integers $1 + 3 + \dots + (2n-1)$

$$n=1: 1$$

$$n=2: 1 + 3 = 4$$

$$n=3: 1 + 3 + 5 = 9$$

$$n=4: 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 = 16$$

Let $P(n)$ be the statement:

$$1 + 3 + \dots + (2n-1) = n^2$$

We prove $P(n)$ for all n by induction

Base case: $1 = 1^2$, so $P(1)$ is true.

Inductive step: Assume that $P(k)$ is true. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + 3 + \dots + (2k-1) + (2k+1) &= k^2 + (2k+1) && \text{(by the inductive hypothesis } P(k)) \\ &= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\ &= (k+1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

So $P(k+1)$ is true, and so $P(n)$ is true for all n by induction. \square