

1. [7 points] *Understanding asymptotic notation*

For each of the following statements, prove that it is true or give a counterexample to prove that it is false. If you give a counterexample, you still have to prove that your example is, indeed, a counterexample.

- (a) If  $f(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  then  $g(n)$  is  $O(f(n))$ .
- (b) If  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$  are both monotonically nondecreasing and asymptotically positive, and  $f(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$ , then  $\lg f(n)$  is  $\Theta(\lg g(n))$ .
- (c) If  $f(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$ , then  $2^{f(n)}$  is  $\Theta(2^{g(n)})$ .
- (d) If  $f(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  then  $g(n)$  is  $\Omega(f(n))$ .
- (e)  $f(n)$  is  $\Theta(f(n/2))$ .
- (f) If  $g(n)$  is  $o(f(n))$  then  $f(n) + g(n)$  is  $\Theta(f(n))$ .
- (g) If  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$  are both (asymptotically) positive, then  $f(n) + g(n)$  is  $\Theta(\max(f(n), g(n)))$ .

**Answer:**

- (a)  $f(n) \in O(g(n)) \implies f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$  for some  $c > 0, n \geq n_0$   
 Let  $g(n)$  be  $n^2$ .  
 $\therefore f(n) = O(n^2) = 1$

Now, if  $g(n) = O(f(n)) \implies g(n) \leq c' \cdot f(n)$  for some  $c' > 0, n \geq n_0$ ,  
 which might be true for some cases.  
 But, in our case above,  $n^2 \leq O(1)$  i.e.  $n^2 \leq c'$   
 which is not possible, as  $n^2$  can be bigger than some constant  $c'$ .

**Hence, given statement is FALSE.**

- (b)  $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n)) \implies c_1 \cdot g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 \cdot g(n)$ ,  
 for some  $c_1, c_2 > 0, n \geq n_0, c_1 < c_2$   
 Taking log:  $\lg c_1 \cdot g(n) \leq \lg f(n) \leq \lg c_2 \cdot g(n)$

As both  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$  are monotonously nondecreasing and asymptotically positive, and both constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are positive, this modified inequality will also hold true.

$\therefore$  We can rewrite it as -  
 $c'_1 \cdot g(n) \leq \lg f(n) \leq c'_2 \cdot \lg g(n) \implies \lg f(n) = \Theta(\lg g(n))$

**Hence, given statement has been proved TRUE.**

- (c)  $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n)) \implies c_1 \cdot g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 \cdot g(n)$ ,  
 for some  $c_1, c_2 > 0, n \geq n_0, c_1 < c_2$

Lets split this into two bounds - Upper and lower.  
 If  $O()$  and  $\Omega()$  holds true, then  $\Theta()$  would hold true as well.

Let  $g(n) = n, f(n) = 2n$

Hence,  $2n = O(n)$

But,  $2^{2n} \neq O(2^n)$

As the upper ( $O()$ ) bound does not hold true, the  $\Omega()$  bound will also not hold.

**Hence, given statement is FALSE.**

$$(d) \quad f(n) \in O(g(n)) \quad \implies \quad f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n), \quad \text{for some } c > 0, n \geq n_0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Dividing by } c: & \quad \frac{1}{c} \cdot f(n) \leq g(n) \\ \text{Let } k = \frac{1}{c}, & \quad k \cdot f(n) \leq g(n) \\ \text{i.e.} & \quad g(n) \geq k \cdot f(n) \\ \implies & \quad g(n) = \Omega(f(n)) \end{aligned}$$

**Hence, given statement has been proved TRUE.**

- (e) If  $f(n) \in \Theta(f(n/2))$ ,  
then, it will also be true that  $f(n) = O(f(n/2))$ , considering the upper bound.  
Let  $f(n) = n^2$   
Then,  $2^n \leq c \cdot 2^{n/2}$ , for some  $c > 0$ ,  $n \geq n_0$   
 $\therefore 2^{n/2} \leq c$   
which is not true for all cases,  
as  $2^{n/2}$  is an exponentially growing, unbounded term; whilst  $c$  is a fixed constant.

**Hence, given statement is FALSE.**

$$(f) \quad g(n) \in o(f(n)) \quad \implies \quad g(n) \leq c \cdot f(n), \quad \text{for some } c > 0, n \geq n_0$$

$$\therefore \frac{g(n)}{f(n)} < c$$

Adding 1 to both sides, and let  $c' = c + 1$ ,

$$1 + \frac{g(n)}{f(n)} < c'$$

$$\frac{f(n) + g(n)}{f(n)} < c'$$

$$\text{Multiplying by } f(n): \quad c' \cdot f(n) \leq f(n) + g(n) \quad \text{or} \quad f(n) + g(n) \leq c' \cdot f(n)$$

$$\therefore f(n) + g(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$

**Hence, given statement has been proved TRUE.**

$$(g) \quad f(n) \text{ and } g(n) \text{ are both asymptotically positive.} \quad \therefore f(n) > 0 \quad = \quad g(n) > 0$$

$$\text{Now, let } \max(f(n), g(n)) = \begin{cases} f(n) & \text{if } f(n) \geq g(n) \\ g(n) & \text{if } g(n) > f(n) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{If } f(n) \geq g(n), & \quad \text{then } f(n) + g(n) \geq \max(f(n), g(n)) > 0, & \quad \text{i.e. } f(n) + g(n) \geq h(n) > 0 \\ \text{and if } g(n) \geq f(n), & \quad \text{then } f(n) + g(n) \geq \max(f(n), g(n)) > 0, & \quad \text{i.e. } f(n) + g(n) \geq g(n) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, if we assume } c_1 = 1 \text{ in, } & f(n) + g(n) \geq c_1 \cdot \max(f(n), g(n)), \\ \text{then, we can write - } & f(n) + g(n) \in \Omega(\max(f(n), g(n))) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Also, if } f(n) \geq g(n), \quad \text{then,} \quad \max(f(n), g(n)) \geq g(n) > 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{and if } g(n) \geq f(n), \quad \text{then,} \quad \max(f(n), g(n)) \geq f(n) > 0 \quad (3)$$

Adding (2) and (3):

$$0 < f(n) + g(n) \leq 2 \cdot \max(f(n), g(n))$$

Now, if we assume  $c_2 = 2$  in,  $f(n) + g(n) \geq c_2 \cdot \max(f(n), g(n))$ ,  
then, we can write -  $f(n) + g(n) \in O(\max(f(n), g(n)))$  (4)

From (1) and (4):

$$f(n) + g(n) \in \Theta(\max(f(n), g(n)))$$

**Hence, given statement has been proved TRUE.**