

**3. Big-oh and Little-oh.** Use the definitions of  $O(f(n))$  and limit facts about  $o(f(n))$  given in class to decide whether each of the following is true or false, and in each case, prove your answer.

**A.  $1 + 4n^2$  is  $O(n^2)$**

Solution

Let  $c = 5$  and  $n_0 = 1$ . Then, whenever  $n \geq n_0$ ,

$$1 + 4n^2 \leq n^2 + 4n^2 = 5n^2 = cn^2.$$

Hence,  $1 + 4n^2$  is  $O(n^2)$   $\rightarrow$  **True**

**B.  $n^2 - 2n$  is not  $O(n)$**

Solution

Let proof by contradiction that  $n^2 - 2n$  is  $O(n)$ , so that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2 - 2n}{n}$  is finite

$$f(n) = n^2 - 2n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2 - 2n}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n - 2}{1} = \infty \rightarrow \text{not finited, so "f(n) is not } O(n)\text{" is } \mathbf{true}.$$

**C.  $\log(n)$  is  $o(n)$**

Solution

$$f(n) = \log n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log n}{n} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} \text{ is undefined, so lets use L'Hopital's rule}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\log n)'}{(n)'} = \frac{1/(n \ln 2)}{1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1/n) \log e = 0 \rightarrow \log(n) \text{ is } o(n) \text{ is } \mathbf{true}.$$

**D.  $n$  is not  $o(n)$**

Solution

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1} = 1 \neq 0 \rightarrow "n \text{ is not } o(n)" \text{ is } \mathbf{true}.$$