

Part I: (1 point)

Formally prove that $2^n + 1$ is in $O(4^n - 16)$.

HINT: You may assert without proof that, for all $n \geq 1$, $2^n \geq 1$.
(You may also assert without proof that 4^n and 2^n are monotonically increasing, if you find it useful.)

Solution:

Let $T(n) = 2^n + 1$, and $f(n) = 4^n - 16$

Choose $c = 1$, and $N = 3$.

Then we know $T(n)$ is in $O(f(n))$ if we can prove or equivalently, $T(n) \leq c f(n)$, for all $n \geq N$

we also know that $2^{n-4} \geq 4 > 1$, and $2^n + 1 < 2^{n+4}$, for all $n \geq 3$

so $T(n) = 2^n + 1 \leq (2^{n+4}) (2^{n-4}) = c f(n)$ for all $n \geq 3$

Part II: (1 point)

Formally prove that if $f(n)$ is in $O(g(n))$, and $g(n)$ is in $O(h(n))$, then $f(n)$ is in $O(h(n))$.

NOTE: The values of c and N used to prove that $f(n)$ is in $O(g(n))$ are not necessarily the same as the values used to prove that $g(n)$ is in $O(h(n))$. Hence, assume that there are positive c' , N' , c'' , and N'' such that

$$\begin{array}{ll} f(n) \leq c' g(n) & \text{for all } n \geq N', \text{ and} \\ g(n) \leq c'' h(n) & \text{for all } n \geq N''. \end{array}$$

Solution:

$f(n)$ is in $O(g(n))$ means $f(n) \leq c_1 * g(n)$

$g(n)$ is in $O(h(n))$ means $g(n) \leq c_2 * h(n)$

Let $c_1 * c_2 = c_3$, therefore,

$$f(n) \leq c_1 * g(n) = c_1 * c_2 * h(n) = c_3 * h(n)$$

$$f(n) \leq c_3 * h(n) \text{ means } f(n) = O(h(n))$$

Part III: (2 points)

Formally prove that $0.01 n^2 - 1$ is NOT in $O(n)$.

We need to show that, no matter how large we choose c and N , we will never obtain the desired inequality. We cannot prove this by picking a specific value of c and N . Instead, we must study how the two functions behave as n approaches infinity.

Let $T(n) = 0.01 n^2 - 1$, and let $f(n) = n$. Prove that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c f(n)}{T(n)} = 0,$$

no matter how large we choose c to be. You will need to scale both the numerator and the denominator by a well-chosen multiplier to get the result.

Use this result to show that there are no values c , N such that $T(n) \leq c f(n)$ for all $n \geq N$.

Solution:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (c n) / (0.01 n^2 - 1) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (100c) / (n - (100/n)) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (100c) / n = 0$$