

**Theorem (3.2.13).** *Let  $f$  be the function defined by  $f(n) = 2^n$ , and let  $g$  be the function defined by  $g(n) = 3^n$ .  $f(n)$  is  $\mathcal{O}(g(n))$ , but  $g(n)$  is not  $\mathcal{O}(f(n))$ .*

*Proof.*  $f(n)$  is  $\mathcal{O}(g(n))$  trivially follows from the fact that  $|2^n| \leq |3^n|$ , for all  $n > 1$ .

If it were that  $g(x) \in \mathcal{O}(f(x))$ , then there would exist constant witnesses  $C$  and  $k$  such that  $3^n \leq C \cdot 2^n$ , for all  $n > k$ . This inequality also means that  $\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n \leq C$ , for all  $n > k$ . Clearly, no constant  $C$  exists such that  $\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n \leq C$ , for all  $n > k$ . Thus,  $g(n) \notin \mathcal{O}(f(n))$ . ■