

1.

- a) Choose  $n_0 = 0$  and  $c = 1$ . Because  $a \leq b$ , then  $n^a \leq cn^b$ . Therefore  $n^a$  is  $O(n^b)$ .
- b) Suppose there are witnesses  $n_0$  and  $c > 0$  such that  $n^a$  is  $O(n^b)$  if  $a > b$ . Then  $n^a \leq cn^b$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ . But  $n^a/n^b$  becomes arbitrarily large as  $n$  increases since  $a > b$ . Thus  $n^a/n^b \leq c$  contradicts  $c$  being constant.
- c) Choose  $n_0 = 0$  and  $c = 1$ . Since  $1 < a \leq b$ , then  $a^n \leq cb^n$ . Therefore  $a^n$  is  $O(b^n)$ .
- d) Suppose there are witnesses  $n_0$  and  $c > 0$  such that  $a^n \leq cb^n$  if  $1 < b < a$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ . From the big-oh inequality we must have  $1 \leq cb^n/a^n$ . But  $b^n/a^n$  approaches 0 as  $n$  increases. For large  $n$  we would have  $1 \leq 0$ , a contradiction.
- e) Exponentials grow faster than polynomials. We can likely choose  $c = 1$ , but the general  $n_0$  would be too difficult to find, however,  $n_0$  must be large. Therefore  $n^a$  is  $O(b^n)$  for any  $a$  and for any  $b > 1$ .
- f)