

Q: Use the informal definitions of  $O$ ,  $\Theta$ , and  $\Omega$  to determine whether the following assertions are true or false.

- a.  $n(n + 1)/2 \in O(n^3)$
- b.  $n(n + 1)/2 \in O(n^2)$
- c.  $n(n + 1)/2 \in \Theta(n^3)$
- d.  $n(n + 1)/2 \in \Omega(n)$

A:

- a. True  
Quadratic function  $n(n + 1)/2$  has a lower order of growth than cubic polynomial function  $n^3$
- b. True  
Quadratic function  $n(n + 1)/2$  has the same order of growth as  $n^2$
- c. False  
Quadratic function  $n(n + 1)/2$  does not have the same order of growth as cubic polynomial function  $n^3$
- d. True  
Quadratic function  $n(n + 1)/2$  has a higher order of growth than a linear function  $n$

Q: Use the informal definitions of  $O$ ,  $\Theta$ , and  $\Omega$  to determine whether the following assertions are true or false.

- e.  $n(n+1)/2 \in O(n^3)$
- f.  $n(n+1)/2 \in O(n^2)$
- g.  $n(n+1)/2 \in \Theta(n^3)$
- h.  $n(n+1)/2 \in \Omega(n)$

A:

- e. True

Let  $c = 1$  and  $k = 2$

$$f(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$g(n) = n^3$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \leq c \cdot n^3 \text{ whenever } n \geq 2$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \leq n^3 \text{ whenever } n \geq 2$$

$$\frac{2(2+1)}{2} \leq 8 \rightarrow \frac{6}{2} \leq 8 \rightarrow 3 \leq 8 \quad \text{TRUE}$$

- f. True

Let  $c = 1$  and  $k = 2$

$$f(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$g(n) = n^2$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \leq c \cdot n^2 \text{ whenever } n \geq k$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \leq n^2 \text{ whenever } n \geq 2$$

$$\frac{2(2+1)}{2} \leq 4 \rightarrow \frac{6}{2} \leq 4 \rightarrow 3 \leq 4 \quad \text{TRUE}$$

- g. False

- h. True

Let  $c = 1$  and  $k = 1$

$$f(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$g(n) = n$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \geq c \cdot n \text{ whenever } n \geq k$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \geq n \text{ whenever } n \geq 1$$

$$\frac{1(1+1)}{2} \geq 1 \rightarrow \frac{2}{2} \geq 1 \rightarrow 1 \geq 1 \quad \text{TRUE}$$