

New problems

for today are  
on Canvas.

Theme: Asymptotics

Big O notation

•  $f(x) = O(g(x))$  tells  
you that  $f$  grows  
no faster than  $g$   
 $\exists C_1, \exists C_2$  s.t.

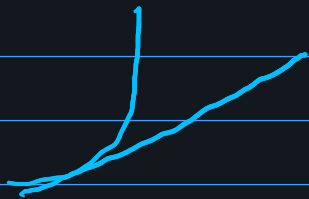
$\forall x > C_2,$

$$|f(x)| \leq C_1 |g(x)|$$

$f$  eventually smaller  
than some multiple  
of  $g$

Thm: if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right| < \infty$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = O(g(x))$$



Applications: Computer  
Science

esp when talking  
about algorithms.

Say you have two  
sorting algorithms.

• Alg. 1 sorts a list  
of length  $n$  in  
 $O(n^2)$  steps.

$\Rightarrow$  # steps grows no faster  
than a multiple  
of  $x^2$

- Alg 2 takes

$O(n \log n)$  steps.

ie, for  $n$  large, takes  
 $\leq$  multiple of  $n \log n$   
steps.

Expect algorithm 2  
to be better.

Since  $n \log n$  grows  
more slowly than  $n^2$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n \log n}{n^2}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log n}{n}$$

$$\text{L'H} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/n}{1} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow n \log n = o(n^2)$$



Since  $f(x) = o(g(x))$

$$\text{iff } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right| = 0.$$

Show that if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$   
then  $f(x) + \sin x = \Theta(f(x))$ .

Pf:  $\Theta(f(x))$  means

$$O(f(x)) \checkmark \text{ \& } \Omega(f(x))$$

↑  
grows slower

↑  
grows faster

$\Rightarrow$  ie, grows just as  
quickly as  $f(x)$ .

show  $f(x) + \sin(x) = O(f(x))$

by Thm, show

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x) + \sin(x)}{f(x)} \right| < \infty$$

$$\left| \frac{f(x) + \sin(x)}{f(x)} \right| = \left| 1 + \frac{\sin x}{f(x)} \right|$$

$$\leq \left| 1 + \left| \frac{\sin x}{f(x)} \right| \right|$$

$$\leq \left| 1 + \frac{1}{|f(x)|} \right| \quad \text{since } |\sin x| \leq 1$$

$$\rightarrow < \infty \text{ as } x \rightarrow \infty$$



show  $f(x) + \sin x = O(f(x))$

$f(x) = O(g(x))$  if  $g(x) = O(f(x))$

ie, show  $f(x) = O(f(x) + \sin x)$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x)}{f(x) + \sin x} \right|$$

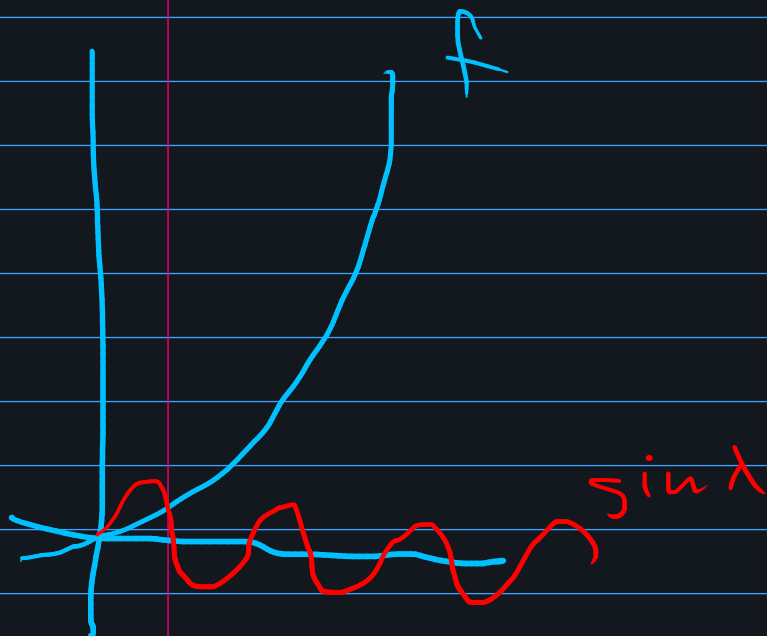
$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sin x}{f(x)}} \right| = 1 < \infty$$

since  $|\sin x| \leq 1$ ,  $\{f(x) \rightarrow \infty\}$

$$\left| \frac{\sin x}{f(x)} \right| \rightarrow 0$$

$\Rightarrow f(x)$  is  $O(f(x) + \sin x)$

Q.E.D.



H.W:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(x+2)\cos^2 x}{x}$

DNE but  $(x+2)\cos^2 x = O(x)$ .

Thm: limit exists

$\Rightarrow f(x) = O(g(x))$

~~( $\Rightarrow$ )~~

$\frac{x+2}{x} \rightarrow 1$ ,  $\cos^2 x \rightarrow$  DNE  
oscillates  
between 0 & 1

$$\frac{(x+2)\cos^3 x}{x} = \frac{x\cos^3 x}{x} + \frac{2\cos^3 x}{x}$$

$$= \cos^3 x + \frac{2\cos^3 x}{x}$$

$\downarrow$   $\downarrow$   
 doesn't 0  
 converge as  
 as  $x \rightarrow \infty$   $x \rightarrow \infty$

$\Rightarrow$  limit DNE

but  $|(x+2)\cos^3 x| \leq |x+2|$

since  $|\cos^3 x| \leq 1$

Show  $|x+2| \leq C|x|$   $\Rightarrow$   
 for some  $C$

4. you don't know  $P$ ,  
but you can ask  
for  $P(1)$ ,  $P(2)$ ,  
etc.

\* can only ask for  
 $P(a)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$

**Exercise 1.** (a) Let  $f(x) = ax + b$  and  $g(x) = cx + d$  where  $a, c \neq 0$ . Show that  $f(x) = O(g(x))$ .

From the definition, wts  $\exists C_1, C_2$

st  $\forall x > C_2,$

$$|f(x)| \leq C_1 |g(x)|.$$

This inequality holds iff

$$\left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right| \leq C_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left| \frac{ax+b}{cx+d} \right| \leq C_1$$

The LHS tends to  $\left| \frac{a}{c} \right|$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,

so there exists some

$$C_2 \text{ s.t. } x \geq C_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{ax+b}{cx+d} \right| \leq 2 \left| \frac{a}{c} \right|$$

$$\text{set } C_1 = |2a/c| \quad \square$$

(b) Let  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ,  $a > 0$ . Show that  $f(x) = \Omega(x^2)$ .

from definition, wts  $\exists C_1, C_2$   
s.t.  $\forall x \geq C_2 \quad |f(x)| \geq C_1 x^2$

This inequality holds if

$$|ax^2 + bx + c| \geq C_1 x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{|ax^2 + bx + c|}{x^2} \geq C_1$$

The LHS tends to  $|a|$  as

$x \rightarrow \infty$ , so  $\exists c_2$  s.t.

$$\forall x > c_2, \frac{|ax^2 + bx + c|}{x^2} > \frac{1}{2}|a|$$

$$\text{Set } c_1 = \frac{1}{2}|a|. \quad \text{★}$$

(c) Show that  $\sin x = \Theta(1)$ .

Show  $\sin x = O(1)$  &  $\sin x = \Omega(1)$ .

$O(1)$ : show  $\exists c_1, c_2$  s.t.  $\forall x > c_2$ ,  
 $|\sin x| \leq c_2$

since  $|\sin x| \leq 1 \quad \forall x$ ,

can set  $c_2 = 0$  &  $c_1 = 1$



$\Omega(1)$ :  $\sin x > -1$ , so

$$\sin(x) = \Omega(1).$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin(x) = \Theta(1). \quad \square$$

**Exercise 2.** Prove the following.

(a)  $x^2 + \sqrt{x} = O(x^2)$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x^2 + \sqrt{x}}{x^2} \right| = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| 1 + \frac{1}{x^{3/2}} \right|$$

$$= 1 < \infty$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + \sqrt{x} = O(x^2)$$

$$(c) \ k^2 2^k = O(e^{2k}).$$

$$\text{write } 2^k = (e^{\log 2})^k$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{k^2 2^k}{e^{2k}} \right| = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{k^2}{\exp[(2 - \log 2)k]} \right|$$

$$= 0$$

since  $2 - \log 2 > 0$ .  $\square$

$$(d) \ N^{10} 2^N = O(e^N).$$

$$2^N = (e^{\log 2})^N$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{N^{10} 2^N}{e^N} \right| = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{N^{10}}{\exp[(1 - \log 2)N]} \right|$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{since } 1 - \log 2 > 0$$

$\square$

**Exercise 3.** Prove the following.

- (a) We often say that a sequence of events  $E_n$  happens "with high probability" if  $\Pr[E_n] = 1 - o(1)$ . Why does this make sense?

a function is  $o(1)$

if it tends to 0.

$$\Pr[E_n] = 1 - o(1)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \Pr[E_n] \rightarrow 1$$

Since the probability of  $E_n$  occurring tends to 1, it makes sense to say it happens "with high probability."

(b) If  $f(x) = o(g(x))$  then  $f(x) = O(g(x))$ . If  $f(x) = \omega(g(x))$  then  $f(x) = \Omega(g(x))$ . Give examples to show that the converses to these statements are false.

• if  $f(x) = o(g(x))$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right| = 0, \text{ which is finite, so}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right| < \infty \Rightarrow f(x) = O(g(x)).$$

• if  $f(x) = \omega(g(x))$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right| = \infty > 0, \text{ so}$$

$$f(x) = \Omega(g(x)).$$

•  $x^2 = O(x^2)$  since  $\frac{x^2}{x^2} = 1 \rightarrow 1$ ,

but  $x^2 \neq o(x^2)$  since  $\frac{x^2}{x^2} \not\rightarrow 0$ .

similarly,  $x^2 = \Omega(x^2)$ ,  $x^2 \neq \omega(x^2)$ .

$$(c) k^{300} = o(2^k).$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k^{300}}{2^k} \stackrel{\text{L'Hopital + induction}}{=} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(300)!}{(\log 2)^{300}} \frac{1}{2^k} = 0.$$

$$(d) k^{0.001} = \omega((\log k)^{375}).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k^{0.001}}{(\log k)^{375}} &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{k}{(\log k)^{375000}} \right)^{0.001} \\ &= \left( \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k}{(\log k)^{375000}} \right)^{0.001} \\ &= (\infty)^{0.001} = \infty \quad \square \end{aligned}$$