

Give proof by induction for Theorem 3: If $T(n)$ is a polynomial of degree x , then $T(n) = O(n^x)$.

$T(n)$ is a polynomial of degree x ,
 $T(n) = a_x n^x + a_{x-1} n^{x-1} + \dots + a_1 n + a_0$.

Given the definition of asymptotic notation, $f(n) \in O(g(n))$, There exist $c > 0$ and $n_0 > 0$ such that, $(\forall n > n_0)(0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n))$.

Base Case

$n = 1$, evaluate $T(1)$:

$$T(1) = a_x 1^x + a_{x-1} 1^{x-1} + \dots + a_1 1 + a_0$$

Considering this is a sum of constants, we can assume there is a constant C such that:
 $T(1) \leq C(1^x)$ thus, the base case is true.

Inductive Hypothesis

We assume true for $n = k$, and therefore have our inductive hypothesis as the following:

$$T(k) \leq Ck^x.$$

Our goal now is to show that $n = k + 1$, holds true for all n . Given our induction hypothesis, we can say that,

$$T(k + 1) \leq C(k + 1)^x,$$

And since lower-order terms grow slower than k^x , we have proven that for any n ,
 $T(n) = O(n^x)$.