

cs141 Workshop: Asymptotic Notation

Asymptotic Notation

Big O:

$$O(g(n)) = \{f(n) : \exists c, n_0 > 0 \text{ st. } 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \forall n \geq n_0\}$$

Omega:

$$\Omega(g(n)) = \{f(n) : \exists c, n_0 > 0 \text{ st. } 0 \leq cg(n) \leq f(n) \forall n \geq n_0\}$$

Theta:

$$\Theta(g(n)) = \{f(n) : \exists c_1, c_2, n_0 > 0 \text{ st. } 0 \leq c_1g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2g(n) \forall n \geq n_0\}$$

Examples:

1) Show that $20n^3 + 10n \log n + 5$ is $O(n^3)$.

choose $c = 35$ and $n_0 = 1$ such that:

$$20n^3 + 10n \log n + 5 \leq 35n^3, \text{ for } n \geq 1$$

2.) Show that 2^{100} is $O(1)$.

choose $c = 1$ and $n_0 = 1$ such that:

$$2^{100} \leq 2^{100} \cdot 1, \text{ for } n \geq 1$$

3) Show that $5n^3 + 3n + 8$ is $\Theta(n^3)$.