

1. (a) *Claim.* $3x$ is $O(\frac{x^2}{x+2})$.

Proof. Consider $c = 5$ and $k = 100$. Suppose that $x \geq k = 100$. Then, for any x , $3x \leq x^2$. So, $6x \leq 2x^2$, $3x^2 + 6x \leq 5x^2$, and $3x(x + 2) \leq 5x^2$. Then $3x \leq 5(\frac{x^2}{x+2}) = c(\frac{x^2}{x+2})$. So, by definition of big-O, $3x$ is $O(\frac{x^2}{x+2})$. \square

(b) *Claim.* $\frac{2x^3}{x+1}$ is not $O(x)$.

Disproof. Suppose not, that is, suppose that $\frac{2x^3}{x+1}$ is $O(x)$. Then, consider $k = 10$ such that $x \geq k = 10$. Then $x \leq x^3$, $2x \leq 2x^3$, and $2x^2 + 2x \leq 2x^3 + 2x^2$. Factoring the left side, $2x(x + 1) = 2x^3 + 2x^2$ and dividing the by the left side, we get $\frac{2x^2(x+1)}{x+1} \geq 2x$. Simplifying the fraction, $2x^2 \geq 2x = cx$. Then that means $2x \geq c$. But this fails for $x < \frac{c}{2}$. \square

2. (a)

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(n) &= f(n - 7) + 4 \\
 &= (f(n - 14) + 4) + 4 \\
 &= ((f(n - 21) + 4) + 4) + 4 \\
 &= (((f(n - 28) + 4) + 4) + 4) + 4 \\
 &\quad \vdots \\
 f(n) &= f(n - 7i) + 4i \\
 &= f(n - 7i) + \sum_{k=1}^i 4
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 n - i = 7 &\Leftrightarrow i = \frac{n}{7} \\
 f(n) &= f(0) + 4\left(\frac{n}{7}\right) \\
 &= 4 + 4\left(\frac{n}{7}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

but because there are multiple base cases...

$$f(n) = 4 + 4\lfloor \frac{n}{7} \rfloor$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}g(n) &= g\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + 21 \\ &= \left(g\left(\frac{n}{9}\right) + 21\right) + 21 \\ &= \left(\left(g\left(\frac{n}{27}\right) + 21\right) + 21\right) + 21 \\ &= \left(\left(\left(g\left(\frac{n}{81}\right) + 21\right) + 21\right) + 21\right) + 21 \\ &\quad \vdots\end{aligned}$$

$$f(n) = g\left(\frac{n}{3^i}\right) + \sum_{k=1}^i 21$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{n}{3^i} = 1 &\Leftrightarrow \log_3 n = i \\ f(n) &= 21 * \log_3 n\end{aligned}$$

3. *Proof.* By strong induction on n .

Base.

$$\begin{aligned}f(0) &= 0 \\ &= \frac{2^0 + (-1)^{0+1}}{3} = \frac{1 - 1}{3} = 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}f(1) &= 1 \\ &= \frac{2^1 + (-1)^{1+1}}{3} = \frac{2 + 1}{3} = 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}f(2) &= 1 \\ &= \frac{2^2 + (-1)^{2+1}}{3} = \frac{4 - 1}{3} = 1\end{aligned}$$

Induction. Suppose that $f(k) = \frac{2^k + (-1)^{k+1}}{3}$ is true for all $1 \dots k$. Then, we need to show that $f(k+1) = \frac{2^{k+1} + (-1)^k}{3}$.

We start with the definition of the function:

$$f(k+1) = 2f(k) + f(k-1) - 2f(k-2)$$

Since we know our inductive hypothesis is true for $k \geq 1$:

$$f(k+1) = 2f\left(\frac{2^k + (-1)^{k+1}}{3}\right) + f\left(\frac{2^{k-1} + (-1)^k}{3}\right) - 2f\left(\frac{2^{k-2} + (-1)^{k-1}}{3}\right)$$

The resulting equation can be simplified:

$$\begin{aligned} f(k+1) &= \frac{2^{k+1}}{3} + \frac{2(-1)^{k+1}}{3} + \frac{2^{k-1}}{3} + \frac{(-1)^k}{3} + \frac{(-1)(2)(2)^{k-2}}{3} + \frac{(-1)(2)(-1)^{k-1}}{3} \\ 3f(k+1) &= 2 * 2^k + (-2)(-1)^k + \frac{1}{2}2^k + (-1)^k + -\frac{1}{2}(2)^k + 2 * (-1)^k \\ 3f(k+1) &= 2^{k+1} + (-1)^k \\ f(k+1) &= \frac{2^{k+1} + (-1)^k}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Which is what we needed to show. So by mathematical induction, $\forall n, f(n) = \frac{2^n + (-1)^{n+1}}{3}$.
□

4. (a) *Proof.* By induction on n .

Base. $a_2 \geq a_1$
 $a_2 = 3 - \frac{1}{1} \geq 1 = a_1$
 $2 \geq 1$ which is true.

Induction. Suppose $a_{k+1} \geq a_k$ is true, that is $3 - \frac{1}{a_k} \geq 3 - \frac{1}{a_{k-1}}$. We need to show that $a_{k+2} \geq a_{k+1}$ is true; that $3 - \frac{1}{a_{k+1}} \geq 3 - \frac{1}{a_k}$.

We can start with what we're trying to prove, and see if it is equivalent to a true statement.

$$\begin{aligned} a_{k+2} \geq a_{k+1} &\Leftrightarrow 3 - \frac{1}{a_{k+1}} \geq 3 - \frac{1}{a_k} \\ &\Leftrightarrow -\frac{1}{a_{k+1}} \geq -\frac{1}{a_k} \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{a_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{a_k} \end{aligned}$$

We can substitute in for a_{k+1} and a_k using their definitions:

$$\frac{1}{3 - \frac{1}{a_k}} \leq \frac{1}{3 - \frac{1}{a_{k-1}}}$$

And that can be simplified to:

$$3 - \frac{1}{a_k} \geq 3 - \frac{1}{a_{k-1}}$$

By the inductive hypothesis that is true statement, and so by mathematical induction, $\forall n, a_{n+1} \geq a_n$. □

(b) *Proof 1.* By induction on n , we will prove $a_n \geq 1$ first.

Base. $a_1 = 1 \geq 1$, which is true.

Induction. Suppose that $a_k \geq 1$ for all k . Then we need to show that $a_{k+1} \geq 1$ is true, also.

From part (a), we know that $a_{k+1} \geq a_k$. We also know from the inductive hypothesis that $a_k \geq 1$ for all k . So, $a_{k+1} \geq a_k \geq 1$. Then $a_{k+1} \geq 1$, which is what we needed to show. So, by mathematical induction, $a_n \geq 1$ for all n .

Proof 2.

We know that $a_k = 3 - \frac{1}{a_{k-1}}$. Since $a_{k-1} \geq 1$ by what we proved in Proof 1, $\frac{1}{a_{k-1}} \leq 1$. Since $\frac{1}{a_{k-1}} \leq 1$ and $a_{k-1} \geq 1$, then $3 - \frac{1}{a_{k-1}}$ must be less than 3; and so $a_n < 3$ for all n . \square