

Defn

Let $g(n)$ be a function. The set

$$O(g(n)) = \{f(n) \mid \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0, \forall n \geq n_0: 0 \leq f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)\}$$

i.e. $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ iff

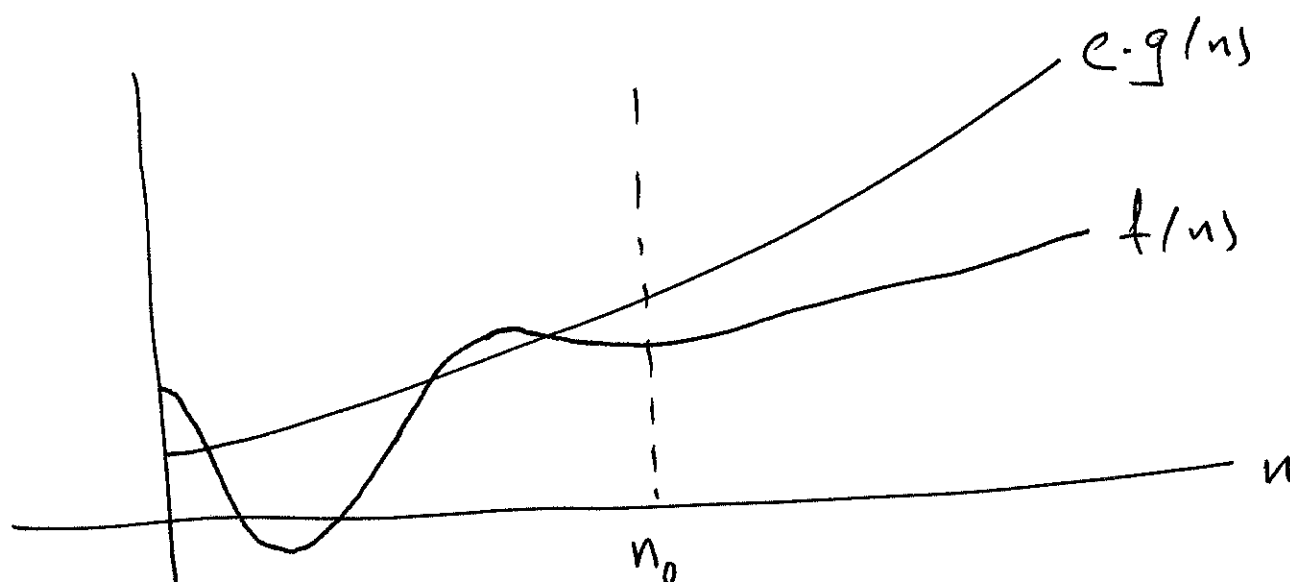
there exist positive c, n_0 such that
for all $n \geq n_0$, we have

$$0 \leq f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$$

notation: $f(n) = O(g(n))$

means: $f(n)$ grows at most as fast
as $g(n)$.

Picture:



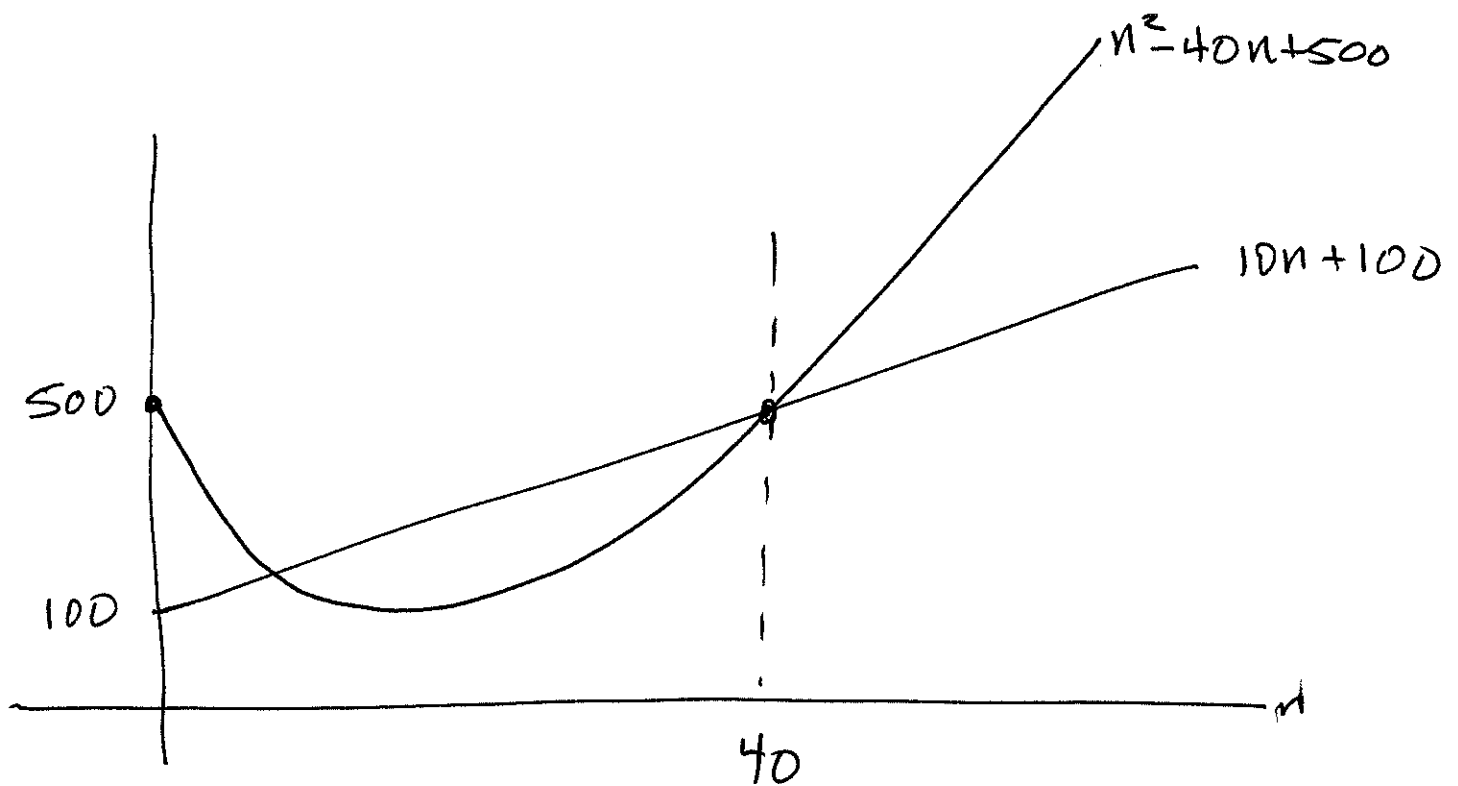
we say: $g(n)$ is an asymptotic upper bound to $f(n)$

Ex. $10n + 100 = O(n^2 - 40n + 500)$

why? because $0 \leq 10n + 100 \leq 1(n^2 - 40n + 500)$

for all $n \geq 40$. so $n_0 = 40$ and

$c = 1$.



- In fact $an + b = O(cn^2 + dn + e)$ for any a, b, c, d, e with $a > 0, c > 0$.
- If $P(n), Q(n)$ are polynomials with $\deg(P(n)) \leq \deg(Q(n))$, then

$$P(n) = O(Q(n))$$

Defn

let $g(n)$ be a function.

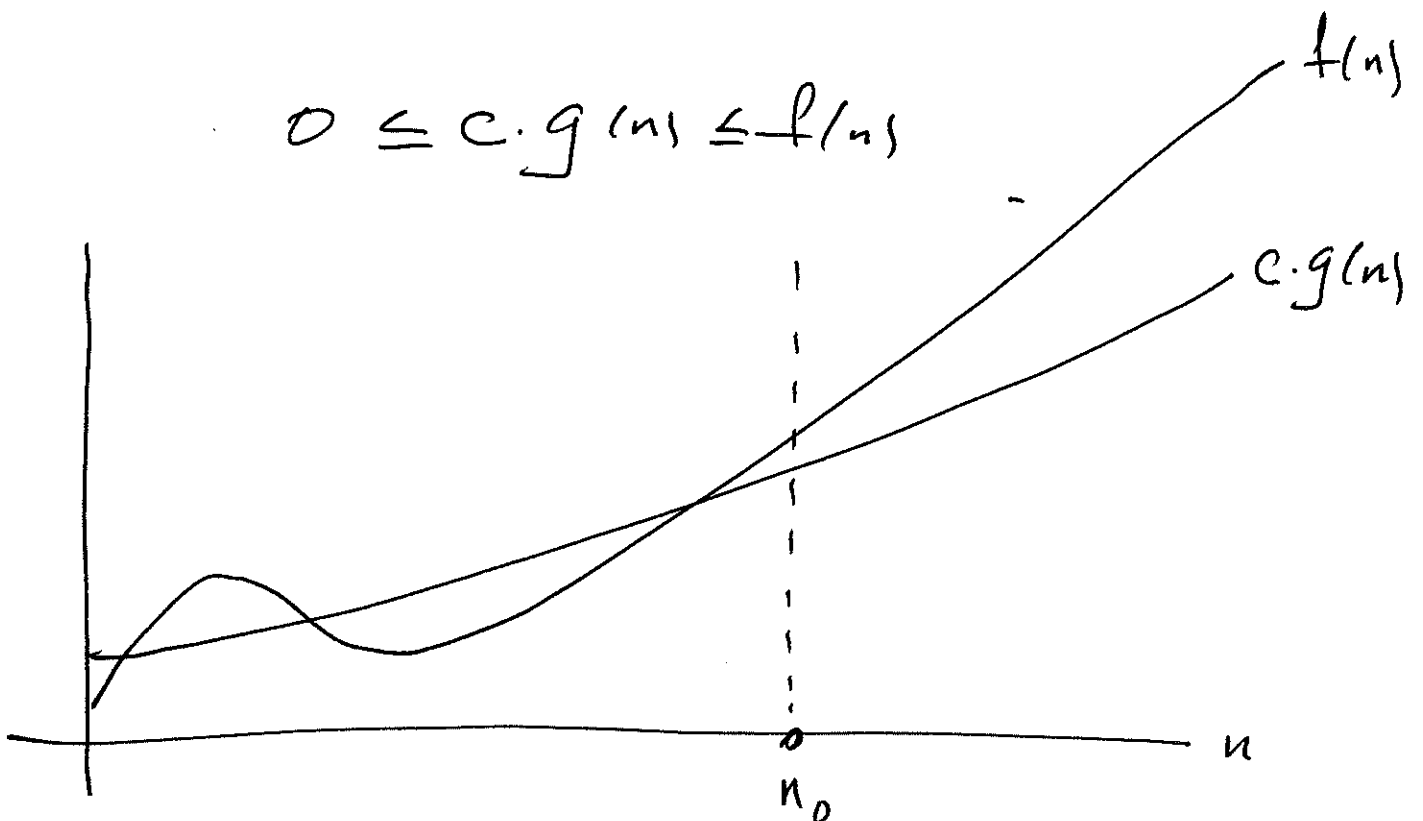
$$\Omega(g(n)) = \{f(n) \mid \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0, \forall n \geq n_0: 0 \leq c \cdot g(n) \leq f(n)\}$$

i.e. $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ iff

there exist positive c, n_0 s.t.

for all $n > n_0$, we have

$$0 \leq c \cdot g(n) \leq f(n)$$



We say $g(n)$ is an asymptotic lower bound for $f(n)$.

meaning: $f(n)$ grows no slower than $g(n)$.

Theorem

$f(n) = O(g(n))$ $\iff$ $g(n) = \Omega(f(n))$
 $\leftarrow$ exercise.

Proof of $\implies$:

If $f(n) = O(g(n))$ then there exist pos. c, n_1 st. $0 \leq f(n) \leq c, g(n)$ for all $n \geq n_1$. We must show that

there exist positive c_2, n_2 s.t.
 $0 \leq c_2 f(n) \leq g(n)$ for all $n \geq n_2$.

Let $c_2 = \frac{1}{c_1}$ and $n_2 = n_1$. Then
 if $n \geq n_2$, we have $n \geq n_1$, hence

$0 \leq f(n) \leq c_1 g(n)$, therefore

$0 \leq \frac{1}{c_1} f(n) \leq g(n)$, whence we have

$0 \leq c_2 \cdot f(n) \leq g(n)$, as required. ■

note:

- we say $f(n)$ is asymptotically non-negative iff there exists $n_0 > 0$ s.t. for all $n \geq n_0$, we have $f(n) \geq 0$.
- we say $f(n)$ is asymptotically positive iff there exists $n_0 > 0$ s.t. for all $n \geq n_0$, we have $f(n) > 0$.