

CSC165, Winter 2015  
 Assignment 3  
 Sample Solutions

IMPORTANT: You **must** use the proof structures and format of this course. Otherwise, you won't get full mark even if your answers are correct.

1. **Prove** or **disprove** each of the following claims.

You may assume that  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$  and  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ .

- (a) Let  $f(n) = n \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ , and  $g(n) = n^2 - 2n + 1$ .

Then  $f \in \Theta(g)$ .

**Solution:**

Let  $c_2 = 1$ ,  $B_2 = 4$ . Then  $c_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $B_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Assume  $n$  is a typical integer and  $n \geq B_2$ .

Then  $n^2 - 4n + 2 \geq 0$ . #  $n \geq B_2 \geq 4$

Then  $2n^2 - 4n + 2 \geq n^2$ . # add  $n^2$  to both sides

Then  $n^2 - 2n + 1 \geq n^2/2$ . # divide both sides by 2

Then  $n^2 - 2n + 1 \geq n \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ . # since  $n^2/2 \geq n \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$

Then  $c_2 g(n) \geq f(n)$ . #  $c_2 = 1$

Then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B_2 \Rightarrow f(n) \leq c_2 g(n)$ . # introduce  $\forall$  and  $\Rightarrow$

Let  $c_1 = 1/3$ ,  $B_1 = 3$ . Then  $c_1 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $B_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Assume  $n$  is a typical integer and  $n \geq B_1$ .

Then  $n^2 + 4n \geq 14$ . #  $n \geq B_1 \geq 3$

Then  $3n^2 - 12 \geq 2n^2 - 4n + 2$ . # add  $2n^2 - 4n - 12$  to both sides

Then  $\frac{n^2}{2} - 2 \geq \frac{n^2 - 2n + 1}{3}$ . # divide both sides by 6

Then  $n \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \geq \frac{n^2 - 2n + 1}{3}$ . # since  $n \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \geq \frac{n^2}{2} - 2$

Then  $c_1 g(n) \leq f(n)$ . #  $c_1 = 1/3$

Then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B_1 \Rightarrow c_1 g(n) \leq f(n)$ . # introduce  $\forall$  and  $\Rightarrow$

Let  $B = \max(B_1, B_2)$ .

Then  $\exists c_1 \in \mathbb{R}^+, \exists c_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+, \exists B \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B \Rightarrow c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n)$ . # introduce  $\exists$

- (b) Let  $f(n) = n^4 + 3n^3 + n^2 - 1$ , and  $g(n) = n^5 - 8n^3 - n$ .

Then  $f \in \Theta(g)$ .

**Solution:**  $f$  is not in  $\Theta(g)$  since  $f$  is not in  $\Omega(g)$ .

Assume  $f \in \Omega(g)$ . # to derive contradiction

Then  $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}^+, \exists B \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B \Rightarrow \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \geq c$ . # by definition of  $\Omega$

Also,  $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}^+, \exists n' \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq n' \Rightarrow \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < c$ . # by definition of limits and since

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0$

Contradiction! #  $\frac{f(n)}{g(n)}$  cannot be satisfy the above two statements at the same time

Then  $f \notin \Omega(g)$ . # assuming otherwise leads to contradiction

(c) Let  $f(n) = n^n$ , and  $g(n) = n^{n-5}$ .

Then  $f \in \Theta(g)$ .

**Solution:**  $f$  is not in  $\Theta(g)$  since  $f$  is not in  $\mathcal{O}(g)$ .

Assume  $c \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , assume  $B \in \mathbb{N}$ . # arbitrary values

Then  $\exists n' \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq n' \implies f(n) > c.g(n)$ . # definition of  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n)/g(n) = \infty$

Let  $n_1$  be such that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq n_1 \implies f(n) > c.g(n)$ . # instantiate  $n'$

Let  $n_0 = \max(B, n_1)$ . Then  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Then  $n_0 \geq B$ . # by definition of max

Then  $f(n_0) > cg(n_0)$ . # by the assumption above  $f(n) > cg(n)$ , since  $n_0 \geq n_1$

Then  $n_0 \geq B \wedge f(n_0) > cg(n_0)$ . # introduce  $\wedge$

Then  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B \wedge f(n) > cg(n)$ . # introduce  $\exists$

Then  $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}, \forall B \in \mathbb{N}, \exists n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B \wedge f(n) > cg(n)$ . # introduce  $\forall$

Then  $f \notin \mathcal{O}(g)$ . # the above statement is the negation of the definition of  $\mathcal{O}$

2. Prove a **tight bound** on the worst-case running time of each of the following algorithms

```
(a) def mystery1(L):
    """ L is a non-empty list of length len(L) = n. """
    if L[0] is even:
        i=0
        while i <n^2:
            L[0] = L[0] + L[i/n]
            i=i+1
    else:
        i=0
        while i < n-1:
            L[0] = L[0] - L[i]
            i=i+1
```

**Solution:** See the sample solutions to Tutorial 7.

```
(b) def mystery2(L):
    """ L is a non-empty list of length len(L) = n. """
    step = 1
    index = 0
    while index < len(L):
        index = index + step
        step = step + 1
```

**Solution:**

Intuition: The number of iterations of the loop on any input  $L$  of length  $n$  will depend on the value of the variable `index`. And the value of `index` depends on the value of variable `step`. The variable `step` increases by 1 on each iteration of the loop. The variable `step` takes on the values:

$$step = 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow \dots$$

The variable `index` takes on the values:

$$index = 0 \rightarrow 0 + 1 \rightarrow 0 + 1 + 2 \rightarrow 0 + 1 + 2 + 3 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 0 + 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k \rightarrow \dots$$

The value of `index` after the  $k$ th iteration of the loop is  $0 + 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k = k(k + 1)/2$ .

The number of iterations of the loop will be  $m$ , where  $m$  is such that  $m(m + 1)/2 > n$  (to get out of the loop) while  $(m - 1)((m - 1) + 1)/2 < n$ . (To have a  $m$ th iteration of the loop, we need  $(m - 1)((m - 1) + 1)/2 < n$  or  $(m - 1)m/2 < n$ ) So we have  $m(m - 1) < 2n$  and  $m(m + 1) > 2n$ . Hence, there will be  $m \approx \lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil$  iterations. (There wont be more than  $\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil$  iterations. There wont be fewer than  $\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor$  iterations.) We can justify this last conclusion more rigorously.

Consider the expression  $m(m - 1)$ . We want  $m(m - 1) < 2n$ . Suppose  $m = \lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil + 1$ . Then, considering  $m(m - 1)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil + 1)((\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil + 1) - 1) &= (\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil + 1)(\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil) \\ &= (\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil)^2 + (\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil) \\ &\geq (\sqrt{2n})^2 + (\sqrt{2n}) \\ &= 2n + (\sqrt{2n}) \\ &> 2n \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $m \leq \lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil$  since otherwise  $m(m-1) \not\leq 2n$ .

Similarly, we want  $m(m+1) \geq 2n$ . Suppose  $m = \lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor - 1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor - 1)((\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor - 1) + 1) &= (\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor - 1)(\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor) \\ &= (\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor)^2 - (\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor) \\ &\leq (\sqrt{2n})^2 - (\sqrt{2n}) \\ &= 2n - (\sqrt{2n}) \\ &< 2n \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $m \geq \lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor$ , since otherwise  $m(m+1) \not\geq 2n$ .

Since the number of steps per iteration is constant, and the number of steps performed only depends on the length of the list  $L$ , we have that the worst-case runtime of the algorithm is  $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$ , where  $n = \text{len}(L)$ .

To prove this conclusion in a detailed way, we need to put the above arguments in a formal proof that follows the usual structure.

Let  $I$  be the set of possible inputs to the algorithm. That is,  $I$  is the set of nonempty lists of numbers.

Let  $c_0 = 4\sqrt{2} + 7$  and  $B_0 = 1$ .

Then  $c_0 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $B_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Assume  $L \in I$  is an arbitrary list of length  $n \geq B_0$

Then the algorithm executes 4 statements for each iteration of the loop (lines 4,5,6,7), and loops for at most  $\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil$  iterations.

In addition, the algorithm has 2 initialization statements and the last evaluation of the loop condition.

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} t(L) &\leq 4\lceil \sqrt{2n} \rceil + 3 \\ &\leq 4(\sqrt{2n} + 1) + 3 \\ &= 4\sqrt{2n} + 7 \\ &\leq 4\sqrt{2n} + 7\sqrt{n} \\ &\leq (4\sqrt{2} + 7)\sqrt{n} \\ &\leq c_0\sqrt{n} \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\forall L \in I, \text{size}(L) \geq B_0 \implies t(L) \leq c_0\sqrt{n}$ . #  $\text{size}(L) = n$

Then  $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}^+, \exists B \in \mathbb{N}, \forall L \in I, \text{size}(L) \geq B \implies t(L) \leq c\sqrt{n}$ .

Then  $T(n) \in \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$ .

Let  $c_0 = \sqrt{2}$  and  $B_0 = 1$ .

Then  $c_0 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $B_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Assume  $L \in I$  is an arbitrary list of length  $n \geq B_0$

Let  $L_0 = [1, 2, 3, \dots, n]$ . Then  $L_0 \in I$  and  $\text{size}(L_0) = n$ . Then the algorithm executes 2 steps followed by at least  $\lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor$  iterations of at least one statement. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} t(L_0) &\geq \lfloor \sqrt{2n} \rfloor + 2 \\ &> \sqrt{2n} \\ &= c_0\sqrt{n} \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\exists L \in I, \text{size}(L) = n \wedge t(L) \geq c_0\sqrt{n}$ .

Then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B_0 \implies \exists L \in I, size(L) = n \wedge t(L) \geq c_0\sqrt{n}$ .  
Then  $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}^+, \exists B \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq B \implies \exists L \in I, size(L) = n \wedge t(L) \geq c\sqrt{n}$ .  
Then  $T(n) \in \Omega(\sqrt{n})$ .  
Then  $T(n) \in \Theta(\sqrt{n})$ .

3. Prove each of the following statements by induction (in all parts, assume that  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ )

(a)  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) = \frac{n(5n-3)}{2}, n \geq 1$ .

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  denotes  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) = \frac{n(5n-3)}{2}$ .

**Prove  $P(1)$ :**  $(5n - 4) = 1$  and  $\frac{n(5n-3)}{2} = \frac{1(5-3)}{2} = 1$ . So  $P(1)$  is true.

**Prove  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n) \implies P(n + 1)$ :**

Assume  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . # arbitrary natural number

Assume  $P(n)$ , that is  $1 + 6 + 11 + 16 + \dots + (5n - 4) = \frac{n(5n-3)}{2}$ . # antecedent

Then  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) + (5(n + 1) - 4) = \frac{n(5n-3)}{2} + (5(n + 1) - 4)$ . # add  $(5(n + 1) - 4)$  to both sides

Then  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) + (5(n + 1) - 4) = \frac{5n^2 - 3n + 10n + 10 - 8}{2}$ . # algebra

Then  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) + (5(n + 1) - 4) = \frac{5n^2 - 7n + 2}{2}$ . # algebra

Then  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) + (5(n + 1) - 4) = \frac{5n^2 - 7n + 2}{2}$ . # algebra

Also we have  $(n + 1)(5(n + 1) - 3) = 5n^2 + 5n - 3n + 5n + 5 - 3$ . # algebra

So  $1 + 6 + 11 + \dots + (5n - 4) + (5(n + 1) - 4) = \frac{(n+1)(5(n+1)-3)}{2}$ . # by the two previous lines

Then  $P(n + 1)$ . # by the previous line

Then  $P(n) \implies P(n + 1)$ . # introduce  $\implies$

Then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n) \implies P(n + 1)$ . # introduce  $\forall$

(b) For all natural numbers  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$4^3 + 4^4 + 4^5 + \dots + 4^n = \frac{4(4^n - 16)}{3}.$$

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  denotes  $4^3 + 4^4 + 4^5 + \dots + 4^n = \frac{4(4^n - 16)}{3}$ .

**Prove  $P(3)$ :**  $4^3 = 64$  and  $\frac{4(4^3 - 16)}{3} = \frac{4(64 - 16)}{3} = 64$ . So  $P(3)$  is true.

**Prove  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n) \implies P(n + 1)$ :**

Assume  $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 3$ . # arbitrary natural number

Assume  $P(n)$ , that is  $4^3 + 4^4 + 4^5 + \dots + 4^n = \frac{4(4^n - 16)}{3}$ . # antecedent

Then  $4^3 + 4^4 + 4^5 + \dots + 4^n + 4^{n+1} = \frac{4(4^n - 16)}{3} + 4^{n+1}$ . # add  $4^{n+1}$  to both sides

Then  $4^3 + 4^4 + 4^5 + \dots + 4^n + 4^{n+1} = \frac{4^{n+1} + 3 \cdot 4^{n+1} - 4 \cdot 16}{3}$ . # algebra

Then  $4^3 + 4^4 + 4^5 + \dots + 4^n + 4^{n+1} = \frac{4(4^{n+1} - 16)}{3}$ . # algebra

Then  $P(n + 1)$ . # by the previous line

Then  $P(n) \implies P(n + 1)$ . # introduce  $\implies$

Then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n) \implies P(n + 1)$ . # introduce  $\forall$

(c)  $\sqrt{n} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, n \geq 2$ .

**Solution:**

First note that  $(\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n})(\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}) = (\sqrt{n+1})^2 + (\sqrt{n})^2 = (n+1) - n = 1$ . Therefore,  $\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}}$ , and so  $\sqrt{n+1} = \sqrt{n} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}}$ .

Let  $P(n)$  denotes  $\sqrt{n} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ .

**Prove  $P(2)$ :**  $\sqrt{2} \approx 1.4$  and  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \approx 1.7$ , so  $P(2)$  is true.

**Prove  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n) \implies P(n+1)$ :**

Assume  $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 2$ . # arbitrary natural number

Assume  $P(n)$ , that is  $\sqrt{n} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ . # antecedent

Then  $\sqrt{n} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ . # add  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$  to both sides

Then  $\sqrt{n+1} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ . #  $\sqrt{n+1} = \sqrt{n} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$

Then  $\sqrt{n+1} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}}$ . #  $\sqrt{n+1} < \sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}$ , so  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}} > \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$

Then  $P(n+1)$ . # by the previous line

Then  $P(n) \implies P(n+1)$ . # introduce  $\implies$

Then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n) \implies P(n+1)$ . # introduce  $\forall$