

# Revising Big-Oh notation

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions. Then

$$f(x) = \mathcal{O}(g(x)) \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow \infty$$

if and only if there exists a value  $M$  and some  $x_0$  so that

$$|f(x)| \leq M|g(x)| \quad \text{for all } x \geq x_0$$

Want to bound  
 $f(x)$  by a function  
 $g(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$

- complexity

- time

(and how the  
grow as

dimension of  
problem

increases)

$$f(x) = x^2 + 3x^4$$

$x \rightarrow \infty$

this term grows faster  
(dominant)

$$|f(x)| \leq Mx^4 \longrightarrow$$

$$f(x) = \mathcal{O}(x^4)$$

# Revising Big-Oh notation

or ... think about  $x \rightarrow a$

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions. Then

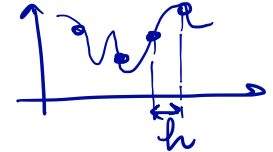
$$f(x) = \mathcal{O}(g(x)) \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow a$$

if and only if there exists a value  $M$  and some  $\delta$  so that

$$|f(x)| \leq M|g(x)| \quad \text{for all } x \text{ where } 0 < |x - a| < \delta$$

most often we have  
 $x \rightarrow 0$

(For example, how does the error decay when we decrease the value of the interval  $h$  ( $h \rightarrow 0$ ) between points when interpolating a function?)



$$f(x) = \underbrace{x^2}_{\text{dominant term}} + \underbrace{3x^4}_{\text{this term goes to zero faster}}, \quad x \rightarrow 0$$

dominant term

$$|f(x)| \leq M x^2$$

$$\longrightarrow \boxed{|f(x)| = \mathcal{O}(x^2)}$$

# Another example...

Consider the function  $f(x) = 2x^2 + 27x + 1000$

1)  $x \rightarrow 0$ :  $f(x) = \underbrace{2x^2 + 27x}_{\substack{\text{go to} \\ \text{zero faster}}} + \underbrace{1000}_{\substack{\text{constant} \\ \text{(dominant)}}} \rightarrow f(x) = O(1)$   
 $x \rightarrow 0$

2)  $x \rightarrow \infty$ :  $f(x) = \underbrace{2x^2}_{\substack{\text{dominant} \\ \text{term when } x \rightarrow \infty}} + 27x + 1000 \rightarrow f(x) = O(x^2)$   
 $x \rightarrow \infty$

# Clicker question

Suppose that the truncation error of a numerical method is given by the following function:

$$E(h) = \underbrace{5h^2}_{\text{goes to zero faster}} + \boxed{3h} \quad |E(h)| \leq Mh \quad \text{dominant}$$

Which of the following functions are Oh-estimates of  $E(h)$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$

- 1)  $O(5h^2)$
- 2)  $O(h)$  ✓
- 3)  $O(5h^2 + 3h)$  ✓
- 4)  $O(h^2)$

Mark the correct answer:

- A) 1 and 2
- B) 2 and 3
- C) 2 and 4
- D) 3 and 4
- E) NOTA

$$|5h^2 + 3h| \leq M(5h^2) \quad \underline{\underline{\text{NO}}}$$

$$|5h^2 + 3h| \leq Mh \quad \checkmark$$

$$|5h^2 + 3h| \leq M(5h^2 + 3h) \quad \checkmark$$

$$|5h^2 + 3h| \leq Mh^2 \quad \underline{\underline{\text{NO}}}$$

# Clicker question

Suppose that the complexity of a numerical method is given by the following function:

$$c(n) = \boxed{5n^2} + 3n$$

*dominant term*  
 $|c(n)| \leq M n^2$

Which of the following functions are Oh-estimates of  $c(n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

- 1)  $O(5n^2 + 3n)$  ✓ Mark the correct  
2)  $O(n^2)$  ✓ answer:  
3)  $O(n^3)$  ✓ A) 1,2,3  
4)  $O(n)$  ✗ B) 1,2,3,4

C) 4

D) 3

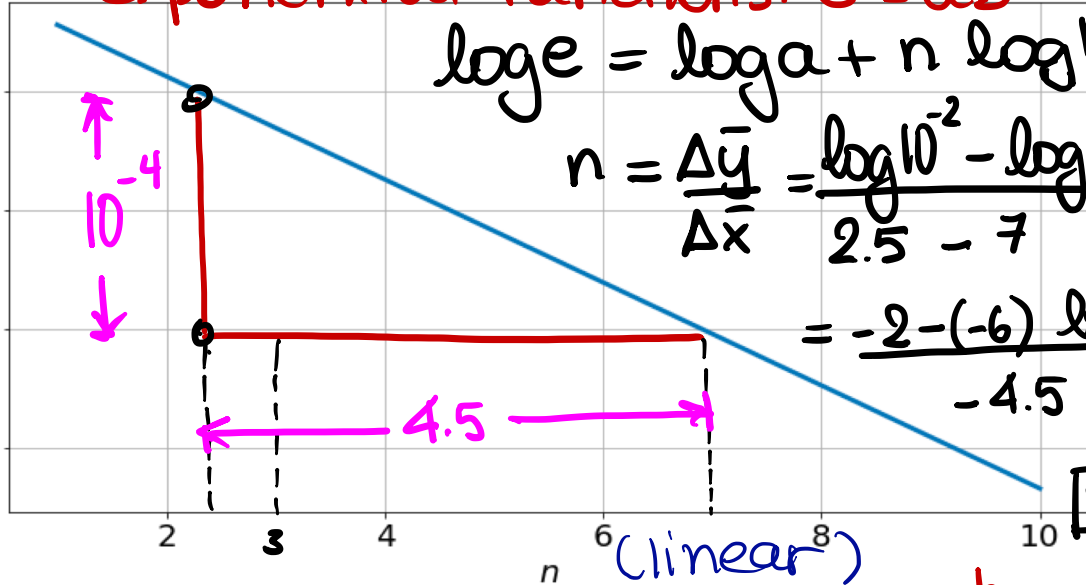
E) NOTA

\*sorry about lack of thick marks

Select the function that best represents the decay of the error as  $n$  increases

exponential functions:  $e = ab^n \rightarrow$  semi-log plot

(log)



$$\log e = \log a + n \log b$$

$$n = \frac{\Delta \bar{y}}{\Delta \bar{x}} = \frac{\log 10^{-2} - \log 10^{-6}}{2.5 - 7}$$

$$= \frac{-2 - (-6) \log 10}{-4.5}$$

$$n \approx -2.04$$

A)  $e^{-2n}$

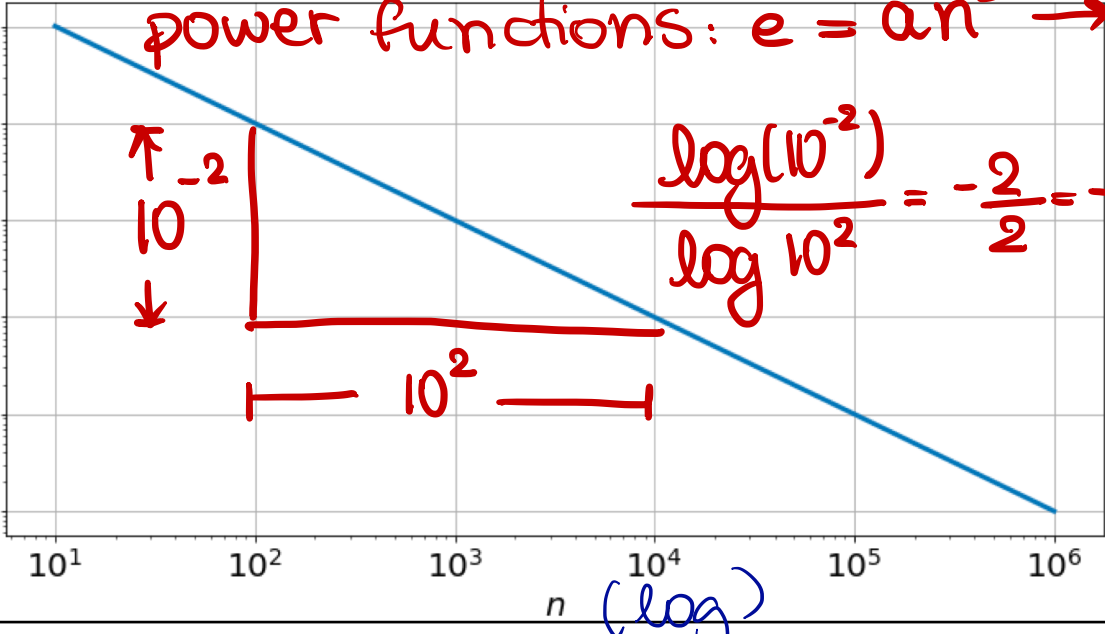
B)  $e^{-n}$

C)  $n^{-1}$  ✗

D)  $n^{-2}$  ✗

(log)

power functions:  $e = an^b \rightarrow$  log-log plot



$$\frac{\log(10^{-2})}{\log 10^2} = \frac{-2}{2} = -1$$

A)  $e^{-2n}$  ✗

B)  $e^{-n}$  ✗

C)  $n^{-1}$

D)  $n^{-2}$

n (log)

$$y = e^{\alpha n}$$

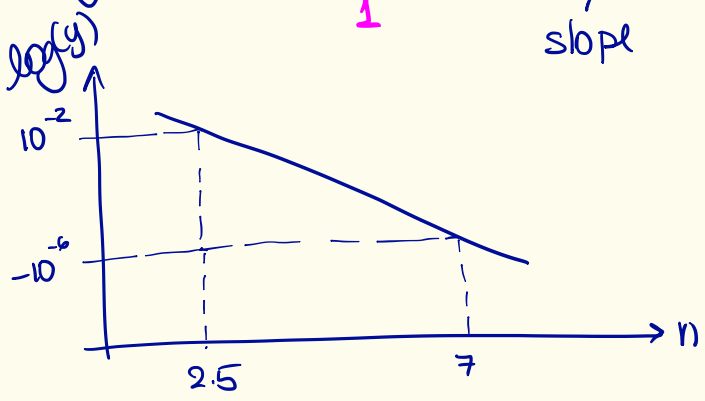
$$\log(y) = \alpha n \log e$$

$$\log(y) = \alpha \underbrace{\log(e)}_1 n = \underline{\underline{\alpha}} n$$

↑  
slope

if log is base e

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$$\alpha = \frac{\log 10^{-2} - \log 10^{-6}}{2.5 - 7} = \frac{(-2+6)\log(10)}{-4.5}$$

$\alpha = -2.04$

if considering base 10 ...

this is now the slope

$$\log(y) = \alpha \log(e) n$$

$$\alpha \log(e) = \frac{4 \log(10)}{-4.5} \Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{4 \log(10)}{-4.5 \log(e)}$$

0.434

$$\alpha = -2.04 //$$