# Big-O

Part b: The Formal Definition

lan Ludden

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- For specific functions f and g, identify whether f is O(g) and/or  $\Theta(g)$ .

#### Definition

Given functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we say f(n) is O(g(n)) if (and only if)

$$\exists c, k \in \mathbb{R}^+ \ \forall n \geq k, \ 0 \leq f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n).$$

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## Example: Cubic vs. Quadratic

$$h(n) = n^2$$
 versus  $q(n) = n^3 - 6n^2 + 5n + 20$ 

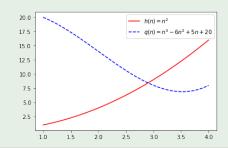
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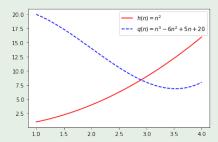
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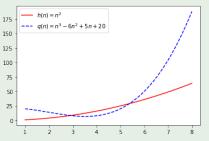
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#### Definition

If f(n) is O(g(n)) and g(n) is O(f(n)), then we say f(n) is  $\Theta(g(n))$  (and vice versa).

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Define what it means for a function f to be O(g) and  $\Theta(g)$ , where g is another function.
- For specific functions f and g, identify whether f is O(g) and/or  $\Theta(g)$ .