EXERCISES 7.6

Comparisons with the Exponential e^x

1. Which of the following functions grow faster than e^x as $x \to \infty$? Which grow at the same rate as e^x? Which grow slower?

a. $x + 3$

b. $x^3 + \sin^2 x$

c. $\sqrt{x}$

d. 4^x

e. $(3/2)^x$

f. $e^{x/2}$

g. $e^x/2$

h. $\log_{10} x$

2. Which of the following functions grow faster than e^x as $x \to \infty$? Which grow at the same rate as e^x? Which grow slower?

a. $10x^4 + 30x + 1$

b. $x \ln x - x$

c. $\sqrt{1 + x^4}$

d. $(5/2)^x$

e. e^{-x}

f. xe^x

g. $e^{\cos x}$

h. e^{x-1}

Comparisons with the Power x^2

3. Which of the following functions grow faster than x^2 as $x \to \infty$? Which grow at the same rate as x^2? Which grow slower?

a. $x^2 + 4x$

b. $x^5 - x^2$

c. $\sqrt{x^4 + x^3}$

d. $(x + 3)^2$

e. $x \ln x$

f. 2^x

g. $x^3 e^{-x}$

h. $8x^2$

4. Which of the following functions grow faster than x^2 as $x \to \infty$? Which grow at the same rate as x^2? Which grow slower?

a. $x^2 + \sqrt{x}$

b. $10x^2$

c. $x^2 e^{-x}$

d. $\log_{10}(x^2)$

e. $x^3 - x^2$

f. $(1/10)^x$

g. $(1.1)^x$

h. $x^2 + 100x$

Comparisons with the Logarithm ln x

Exercises

5. Which of the following functions grow faster than $\ln x$ as $x \to \infty$? Which grow at the same rate as $\ln x$? Which grow slower?

a. $\log_3 x$ **b.** $\ln 2x$
c. $\ln \sqrt{x}$ **d.** $\sqrt{x}$
e. x **f.** $5 \ln x$
g. $1/x$ **h.** e^x

6. Which of the following functions grow faster than $\ln x$ as $x \to \infty$? Which grow at the same rate as $\ln x$? Which grow slower?

a. $\log_2 (x^2)$ **b.** $\log_{10} 10x$
c. $1/\sqrt{x}$ **d.** $1/x^2$
e. $x - 2 \ln x$ **f.** e^{-x}
g. $\ln (\ln x)$ **h.** $\ln (2x + 5)$

Ordering Functions by Growth Rates

7. Order the following functions from slowest growing to fastest growing as $x \to \infty$.

a. e^x **b.** x^x
c. $(\ln x)^x$ **d.** $e^{x/2}$

8. Order the following functions from slowest growing to fastest growing as $x \to \infty$.

a. 2^x **b.** x^2
c. $(\ln 2)^x$ **d.** e^x

Big-oh and Little-oh; Order

Exercises

9. True, or false? As $x \to \infty$,

a. $x = o(x)$ **b.** $x = o(x + 5)$
c. $x = O(x + 5)$ **d.** $x = O(2x)$
e. $e^x = o(e^{2x})$ **f.** $x + \ln x = O(x)$
g. $\ln x = o(\ln 2x)$ **h.** $\sqrt{x^2 + 5} = O(x)$

10. True, or false? As $x \to \infty$,

a. $\frac{1}{x + 3} = O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ **b.** $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2} = O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$
c. $\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^2} = o\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ **d.** $2 + \cos x = O(2)$
e. $e^x + x = O(e^x)$ **f.** $x \ln x = o(x^2)$
g. $\ln (\ln x) = O(\ln x)$ **h.** $\ln (x) = o(\ln (x^2 + 1))$

11. Show that if positive functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ grow at the same rate as $x \to \infty$, then $f = O(g)$ and $g = O(f)$.

12. When is a polynomial $f(x)$ of smaller order than a polynomial $g(x)$ as $x \to \infty$? Give reasons for your answer.

13. When is a polynomial $f(x)$ of at most the order of a polynomial $g(x)$ as $x \to \infty$? Give reasons for your answer.

14. What do the conclusions we drew in Section 2.4 about the limits of rational functions tell us about the relative growth of polynomials as $x \to \infty$?

Other Comparisons

T **15.** Investigate

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln (x + 1)}{\ln x} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln (x + 999)}{\ln x}.$$

Then use l'Hôpital's Rule to explain what you find.

16. (*Continuation of Exercise 15.*) Show that the value of

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln (x + a)}{\ln x}$$

is the same no matter what value you assign to the constant a. What does this say about the relative rates at which the functions $f(x) = \ln (x + a)$ and $g(x) = \ln x$ grow?

17. Show that $\sqrt{10x + 1}$ and $\sqrt{x + 1}$ grow at the same rate as $x \to \infty$ by showing that they both grow at the same rate as $\sqrt{x}$ as $x \to \infty$.

18. Show that $\sqrt{x^4 + x}$ and $\sqrt{x^4 - x^3}$ grow at the same rate as $x \to \infty$ by showing that they both grow at the same rate as x^2 as $x \to \infty$.

19. Show that e^x grows faster as $x \to \infty$ than x^n for any positive integer n, even $x^{1{,}000{,}000}$. (*Hint:* What is the nth derivative of x^n?)

20. The function e^x outgrows any polynomial Show that e^x grows faster as $x \to \infty$ than any polynomial

$$a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0.$$

21. a. Show that $\ln x$ grows slower as $x \to \infty$ than $x^{1/n}$ for any positive integer n, even $x^{1/1{,}000{,}000}$.

T **b.** Although the values of $x^{1/1{,}000{,}000}$ eventually overtake the values of $\ln x$, you have to go way out on the x-axis before this happens. Find a value of x greater than 1 for which $x^{1/1{,}000{,}000} > \ln x$. You might start by observing that when $x > 1$ the equation $\ln x = x^{1/1{,}000{,}000}$ is equivalent to the equation $\ln (\ln x) = (\ln x)/1{,}000{,}000$.

T **c.** Even $x^{1/10}$ takes a long time to overtake $\ln x$. Experiment with a calculator to find the value of x at which the graphs of $x^{1/10}$ and $\ln x$ cross, or, equivalently, at which $\ln x = 10 \ln (\ln x)$. Bracket the crossing point between powers of 10 and then close in by successive halving.

T **d.** (*Continuation of part (c).*) The value of x at which $\ln x = 10 \ln (\ln x)$ is too far out for some graphers and root finders to identify. Try it on the equipment available to you and see what happens.

22. The function $\ln x$ grows slower than any polynomial Show that $\ln x$ grows slower as $x \to \infty$ than any nonconstant polynomial.

Algorithms and Searches

23. a. Suppose you have three different algorithms for solving the same problem and each algorithm takes a number of steps that is of the order of one of the functions listed here:

$$n \log_2 n, \quad n^{3/2}, \quad n(\log_2 n)^2.$$

Which of the algorithms is the most efficient in the long run? Give reasons for your answer.

T **b.** Graph the functions in part (a) together to get a sense of how rapidly each one grows.

24. Repeat Exercise 23 for the functions

$$n, \quad \sqrt{n} \log_2 n, \quad (\log_2 n)^2.$$

T **25.** Suppose you are looking for an item in an ordered list one million items long. How many steps might it take to find that item with a sequential search? A binary search?

T **26.** You are looking for an item in an ordered list 450,000 items long (the length of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*). How many steps might it take to find the item with a sequential search? A binary search?