Problem 1. Explain what it means for \( f \) to be in \( O(g) \) in your own words.

Solution 1. For all but finitely many \( n \), \( f(n) \) is bounded above by \( g(n) \) times some positive constant.

Problem 2. Order the below functions so that if \( f \) appears before \( g \), then \( f \in O(g) \).

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
  n! & n \log n & \log n! & \log^* n & n^n & \log_3 n & n^3 & 0 \\
  \log 2n & n^2 & \log n & 1 & 2^n & 3^n & n & n^\frac{3}{2}
\end{array}
\]

Unless otherwise specified, you may assume that \( \log = \log_2 \). Also, \( \log^* n \) is the iterated logarithm. It is the number of times you must take the logarithm to get a number between 0 and 1. For example,

\[
\begin{align*}
  \log^* 1 &= 0 & \log^* 2 &= 1 & \log^* 4 &= 2 & \log^* 16 &= 3 & \log^* 65536 &= 4 & \log^* 2^{65536} &= 5
\end{align*}
\]

Solution 2.

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
  0 & 1 & \log^* n & \log n = \log 2n = \log_3 n & n & n \log n & \log n! & n^n
\end{array}
\]

Problem 3. Prove that \( 3n^2 + 2n - 77 \in O(n^2) \).

Solution 3. When \( n \geq 1 \), we have

\[
\begin{align*}
3n^2 + 2n - 77 &\leq 3n^2 + 2n^2 - 77 \\
&\leq 3n^2 + 2n^2 \\
&= 5n^2
\end{align*}
\]

Since the only restriction we needed to place on \( n \) was \( n \geq 1 \) to bound \( n \) above by \( n^2 \), we can pick \( c = 5 \) and \( N = 1 \).

Problem 4. Prove that if \( f_1 \in O(g) \) and \( f_2 \in O(g) \), then \( f_1 + f_2 \in O(g) \).

Solution 4. Since \( f_1 \in O(g) \), it follows that there is a \( c_1 > 0 \) and an \( N_1 > 0 \) such that when \( n \geq N_1 \), \( f_1(n) \leq c_1 g(n) \). Since \( f_2 \in O(g) \), it follows that there is a \( c_2 > 0 \) and an \( N_2 > 0 \) such that when \( n \geq N_2 \), \( f_2(n) \leq c_2 g(n) \).

If we pick \( N = \max(N_1, N_2) \), then when \( n \geq N \), both of the inequalities above hold. Then we have

\[
\begin{align*}
f_1(n) + f_2(n) &\leq c_1 g(n) + c_2 g(n) \\
&= (c_1 + c_2) g(n)
\end{align*}
\]

To conclude the proof, pick \( c = c_1 + c_2 > 0 \).