

# Proving $2^n > n^3$ for all $n > 9$ (updated)

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**Prove  $2^n > n^3$  for all  $n > 9$**

**Proof:**

By mathematical induction.

Let  $A(n)$  denote  $2^n > n^3$ .

For  $n = 10$  (base step)

$$\begin{aligned}2^{10} &> 10^3 \\1024 &> 1000\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $A(10)$  is true.

Now, assuming  $A(n)$  is true, we get:

$$2^n > n^3$$

Multiplying by 2 on both sides:

$$\begin{aligned}2^n \cdot 2 &> 2n^3 \\ \implies 2^{n+1} &> 2n^3\end{aligned}\quad (i)$$

We want to deduce, for  $A(n+1)$ :

$$2^{n+1} > (n+1)^3$$

To prove this, we have to prove that: (from (i))

$$2n^3 \geq (n+1)^3 \quad (\text{ii})$$

( $\forall n > 9$ )

If we expand  $(n+1)^3$ , we get:

$$(n+1)^3 = n^3 + 3n^2 + 3n + 1$$

Now if  $(3n^2 + 3n + 1) < n^3$ , then  $(n+1)^3 < 2n^3$ .

If we examine the values for the first several natural numbers, we see that the following is true for all  $n \geq 4$ , because of the faster rise of the cubic polynomial.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= x^3 \\ g(x) &= 3x^2 + 3x + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$x$	$f(x)$	$g(x)$
1	1	7
2	8	19
3	27	37
4	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">64</span>	61
5	125	91
6	216	127
7	343	169
$\dots$	$\dots$	$\dots$
10	1000	331

Clearly, this is true for all  $n > 9$ .

Thus,  $2n^3 > n^3 > (n+1)^3$

And which follows that (i) must be true.

Consequently:

$$2^{n+1} > (n+1)^3$$

Which follows that  $A(n)$  must be true.

Therefore, by the principle of mathematical induction, we have proven that  $2^n > n^3$  for all  $n > 9$ .