Analysis of Algorithm

Prepared by Aaron Tan, Edited by Chong Ket Fah

Here are some equalities that are useful in analyzing algorithms:

Arithmetic series

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} i = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$
 ... (1)

More generally, if $a_n = a_{n-1} + c$, where c is a constant, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n = \frac{n(a_n + a_1)}{2} \dots (2)$$

Geometric series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} 2^{i} = 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^{n} = 2^{n+1} - 1 \qquad \dots (3)$$

More generally, if $a_n=ca_{n-1}$, where $c\neq 1$ is a constant, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n = a_1 \frac{c^n - 1}{c - 1}$$
 ... (4)

If 0 < c < 1, then the sum of the infinite geometric series is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i = \frac{a_1}{1-c}$$
 ... (5)

Harmonic series

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{i} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} \approx \ln(n+1)$$
 ... (6)

Sum of squares

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} i^2 = 1 + 4 + 9 + \dots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$
 ... (7)

Logarithms

$$\log_b a = \frac{1}{\log_a b} \tag{8}$$

$$\log_a x = \frac{\log_b x}{\log_b a} \tag{9}$$

$$\log_2(n!) = n \log_2(n)$$
 ... (10)