Theoretical Computer Science Cheat Sheet

Definitions

$f(n) = O(g(n))$	iff $\exists$ positive c, n_0 such that $0 \le f(n) \le cg(n)$ $\forall n \ge n_0$.
$f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$	iff $\exists$ positive c, n_0 such that $f(n) \ge cg(n) \ge 0$ $\forall n \ge n_0$.
$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$	iff $f(n) = O(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$.
$f(n) = o(g(n))$	iff $\lim_{n\to\infty} f(n)/g(n) = 0$.
$\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = a$	iff $\forall \epsilon > 0$, $\exists n_0$ such that $\lvert a_n - a\rvert < \epsilon$, $\forall n \ge n_0$.
$\sup S$	least $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $b \ge s$, $\forall s \in S$.
$\inf S$	greatest $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $b \le s$, $\forall s \in S$.
$\liminf_{n\to\infty} a_n$	$\lim_{n\to\infty} \inf\{a_i \mid i \ge n, i \in \mathbb{N}\}$.
$\limsup_{n\to\infty} a_n$	$\lim_{n\to\infty} \sup\{a_i \mid i \ge n, i \in \mathbb{N}\}$.
$\binom{n}{k}$	Combinations: Size k subsets of a size n set.
$\left[n \atop k \right]$	Stirling numbers (1st kind): Arrangements of an n element set into k cycles.
$\left\{ n \atop k \right\}$	Stirling numbers (2nd kind): Partitions of an n element set into k non-empty sets.
$\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle$	1st order Eulerian numbers: Permutations $\pi_1\pi_2\ldots\pi_n$ on $\{1,2,\ldots,n\}$ with k ascents.
$\left\langle\!\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle\!\right\rangle$	2nd order Eulerian numbers.
C_n	Catalan Numbers: Binary trees with $n+1$ vertices.

Series

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}, \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = \frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}.$$

In general:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^m = \frac{1}{m+1}\left[(n+1)^{m+1} - 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n \left((i+1)^{m+1} - i^{m+1} - (m+1)i^m\right)\right]$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i^m = \frac{1}{m+1}\sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m+1}{k} B_k n^{m+1-k}.$$

Geometric series:

$$\sum_{i=0}^n c^i = \frac{c^{n+1}-1}{c-1},\ c \ne 1, \qquad \sum_{i=0}^\infty c^i = \frac{1}{1-c}, \qquad \sum_{i=1}^\infty c^i = \frac{c}{1-c}, \quad |c| < 1,$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^n ic^i = \frac{nc^{n+2} - (n+1)c^{n+1} + c}{(c-1)^2},\ c \ne 1, \qquad \sum_{i=0}^\infty ic^i = \frac{c}{(1-c)^2}, \quad |c| < 1.$$

Harmonic series:

$$H_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i}, \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n iH_i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}H_n - \frac{n(n-1)}{4}.$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n H_i = (n+1)H_n - n, \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n \binom{i}{m} H_i = \binom{n+1}{m+1}\left(H_{n+1} - \frac{1}{m+1}\right).$$

1. $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!}$, **2.** $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} = 2^n$, **3.** $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$,

4. $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n}{k}\binom{n-1}{k-1}$, **5.** $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k} + \binom{n-1}{k-1}$,

6. $\binom{n}{m}\binom{m}{k} = \binom{n}{k}\binom{n-k}{m-k}$, **7.** $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{r+k}{k} = \binom{r+n+1}{n}$,

8. $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{m} = \binom{n+1}{m+1}$, **9.** $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{r}{k}\binom{s}{n-k} = \binom{r+s}{n}$,

10. $\binom{n}{k} = (-1)^k \binom{k-n-1}{k}$, **11.** $\left\{ n \atop 1 \right\} = \left\{ n \atop n \right\} = 1$,

12. $\left\{ n \atop 2 \right\} = 2^{n-1} - 1$, **13.** $\left\{ n \atop k \right\} = k\left\{ n-1 \atop k \right\} + \left\{ n-1 \atop k-1 \right\}$,

14. $\left[n \atop 1 \right] = (n-1)!$, **15.** $\left[n \atop 2 \right] = (n-1)!H_{n-1}$, **16.** $\left[n \atop n \right] = 1$, **17.** $\left[n \atop k \right] \ge \left\{ n \atop k \right\}$,

18. $\left[n \atop k \right] = (n-1)\left[n-1 \atop k \right] + \left[n-1 \atop k-1 \right]$, **19.** $\left\{ n \atop n-1 \right\} = \left[n \atop n-1 \right] = \binom{n}{2}$, **20.** $\sum_{k=0}^n \left[n \atop k \right] = n!$, **21.** $C_n = \frac{1}{n+1}\binom{2n}{n}$,

22. $\left\langle n \atop 0 \right\rangle = \left\langle n \atop n-1 \right\rangle = 1$, **23.** $\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle = \left\langle n \atop n-1-k \right\rangle$, **24.** $\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle = (k+1)\left\langle n-1 \atop k \right\rangle + (n-k)\left\langle n-1 \atop k-1 \right\rangle$,

25. $\left\langle 0 \atop k \right\rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ **26.** $\left\langle n \atop 1 \right\rangle = 2^n - n - 1$, **27.** $\left\langle n \atop 2 \right\rangle = 3^n - (n+1)2^n + \binom{n+1}{2}$,

28. $x^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle \binom{x+k}{n}$, **29.** $\left\langle n \atop m \right\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{n+1}{k}(m+1-k)^n(-1)^k$, **30.** $m!\left\{ n \atop m \right\} = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle \binom{k}{n-m}$,

31. $\left\langle n \atop m \right\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ n \atop k \right\}\binom{n-k}{m}(-1)^{n-k-m}k!$, **32.** $\left\langle\!\left\langle n \atop 0 \right\rangle\!\right\rangle = 1$, **33.** $\left\langle\!\left\langle n \atop n \right\rangle\!\right\rangle = 0$ for $n \ne 0$,

34. $\left\langle\!\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle\!\right\rangle = (k+1)\left\langle\!\left\langle n-1 \atop k \right\rangle\!\right\rangle + (2n-1-k)\left\langle\!\left\langle n-1 \atop k-1 \right\rangle\!\right\rangle$, **35.** $\sum_{k=0}^n \left\langle\!\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle\!\right\rangle = \frac{(2n)^{\underline{n}}}{2^n}$,

36. $\left\{ x \atop x-n \right\} = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\langle\!\left\langle n \atop k \right\rangle\!\right\rangle \binom{x+n-1-k}{2n}$, **37.** $\left\{ n+1 \atop m+1 \right\} = \sum_k \binom{n}{k}\left\{ k \atop m \right\} = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ k \atop m \right\}(m+1)^{n-k}$,

Theoretical Computer Science Cheat Sheet

Identities Cont.

38. $\left[{n+1 \atop m+1}\right] = \sum_k \left[{n \atop k}\right]\binom{k}{m} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left[{k \atop m}\right] n^{\underline{n-k}} = n! \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{1}{k!}\left[{k \atop m}\right]$,

39. $\left\langle\!\left\langle {x \atop x-n} \right\rangle\!\right\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left\langle\!\left\langle {n \atop k} \right\rangle\!\right\rangle \binom{x+k}{2n}$,

40. $\left\{{n \atop m}\right\} = \sum_k \binom{n}{k}\left\{{k+1 \atop m+1}\right\}(-1)^{n-k}$,

41. $\left[{n \atop m}\right] = \sum_k \left[{n+1 \atop k+1}\right]\binom{k}{m}(-1)^{m-k}$,

42. $\left\{{m+n+1 \atop m}\right\} = \sum_{k=0}^{m} k\left\{{n+k \atop k}\right\}$,

43. $\left[{m+n+1 \atop m}\right] = \sum_{k=0}^{m} k(n+k)\left[{n+k \atop k}\right]$,

44. $\binom{n}{m} = \sum_k \left\{{n+1 \atop k+1}\right\}\left[{k \atop m}\right](-1)^{m-k}$,

45. $(n-m)!\binom{n}{m} = \sum_k \left[{n+1 \atop k+1}\right]\left\{{k \atop m}\right\}(-1)^{m-k}$, for $n \ge m$,

46. $\left\{{n \atop n-m}\right\} = \sum_k \binom{m-n}{m+k}\binom{m+n}{n+k}\left[{m+k \atop k}\right]$,

47. $\left[{n \atop n-m}\right] = \sum_k \binom{m-n}{m+k}\binom{m+n}{n+k}\left\{{m+k \atop k}\right\}$,

48. $\left\{{n \atop \ell+m}\right\}\binom{\ell+m}{\ell} = \sum_k \left\{{k \atop \ell}\right\}\left\{{n-k \atop m}\right\}\binom{n}{k}$,

49. $\left[{n \atop \ell+m}\right]\binom{\ell+m}{\ell} = \sum_k \left[{k \atop \ell}\right]\left[{n-k \atop m}\right]\binom{n}{k}$.

Trees

Every tree with n vertices has $n-1$ edges.

Kraft inequality: If the depths of the leaves of a binary tree are $d_1, \ldots, d_n$:
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} 2^{-d_i} \le 1,$$
and equality holds only if every internal node has 2 sons.

Recurrences

Master method:
$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n), \quad a \ge 1, b > 1$$

If $\exists \epsilon > 0$ such that $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$ then
$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a}).$$

If $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ then
$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a}\log_2 n).$$

If $\exists \epsilon > 0$ such that $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$, and $\exists c < 1$ such that $af(n/b) \le cf(n)$ for large n, then
$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n)).$$

Substitution (example): Consider the following recurrence
$$T_{i+1} = 2^{2^i} \cdot T_i^2, \quad T_1 = 2.$$

Note that T_i is always a power of two. Let $t_i = \log_2 T_i$. Then we have
$$t_{i+1} = 2^i + 2t_i, \quad t_1 = 1.$$

Let $u_i = t_i/2^i$. Dividing both sides of the previous equation by 2^{i+1} we get
$$\frac{t_{i+1}}{2^{i+1}} = \frac{2^i}{2^{i+1}} + \frac{t_i}{2^i}.$$

Substituting we find
$$u_{i+1} = \tfrac{1}{2} + u_i, \quad u_1 = \tfrac{1}{2},$$

which is simply $u_i = i/2$. So we find that T_i has the closed form $T_i = 2^{i2^{i-1}}$.

Summing factors (example): Consider the following recurrence
$$T(n) = 3T(n/2) + n, \quad T(1) = 1.$$

Rewrite so that all terms involving T are on the left side
$$T(n) - 3T(n/2) = n.$$

Now expand the recurrence, and choose a factor which makes the left side "telescope"

$$\begin{aligned}
1\,\big(T(n) - 3T(n/2) &= n\big)\\
3\,\big(T(n/2) - 3T(n/4) &= n/2\big)\\
&\ \,\vdots\\
3^{\log_2 n - 1}\big(T(2) - 3T(1) &= 2\big)
\end{aligned}$$

Let $m = \log_2 n$. Summing the left side we get $T(n) - 3^m T(1) = T(n) - 3^m = T(n) - n^k$ where $k = \log_2 3 \approx 1.58496$. Summing the right side we get
$$\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \frac{n}{2^i} 3^i = n \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \left(\tfrac{3}{2}\right)^i.$$

Let $c = \frac{3}{2}$. Then we have
$$\begin{aligned}
n\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} c^i &= n\left(\frac{c^m - 1}{c-1}\right)\\
&= 2n(c^{\log_2 n} - 1)\\
&= 2n(c^{(k-1)\log_c n} - 1)\\
&= 2n^k - 2n,
\end{aligned}$$

and so $T(n) = 3n^k - 2n$. Full history recurrences can often be changed to limited history ones (example): Consider
$$T_i = 1 + \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} T_j, \quad T_0 = 1.$$

Note that
$$T_{i+1} = 1 + \sum_{j=0}^{i} T_j.$$

Subtracting we find
$$\begin{aligned}
T_{i+1} - T_i &= 1 + \sum_{j=0}^{i} T_j - 1 - \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} T_j\\
&= T_i.
\end{aligned}$$

And so $T_{i+1} = 2T_i = 2^{i+1}$.

Generating functions:

1. Multiply both sides of the equation by x^i.
2. Sum both sides over all i for which the equation is valid.
3. Choose a generating function $G(x)$. Usually $G(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^i g_i$.
3. Rewrite the equation in terms of the generating function $G(x)$.
4. Solve for $G(x)$.
5. The coefficient of x^i in $G(x)$ is g_i.

Example:
$$g_{i+1} = 2g_i + 1, \quad g_0 = 0.$$

Multiply and sum:
$$\sum_{i\ge0} g_{i+1}x^i = \sum_{i\ge0} 2g_i x^i + \sum_{i\ge0} x^i.$$

We choose $G(x) = \sum_{i\ge0} x^i g_i$. Rewrite in terms of $G(x)$:
$$\frac{G(x) - g_0}{x} = 2G(x) + \sum_{i\ge0} x^i.$$

Simplify:
$$\frac{G(x)}{x} = 2G(x) + \frac{1}{1-x}.$$

Solve for $G(x)$:
$$G(x) = \frac{x}{(1-x)(1-2x)}.$$

Expand this using partial fractions:
$$\begin{aligned}
G(x) &= x\left(\frac{2}{1-2x} - \frac{1}{1-x}\right)\\
&= x\left(2\sum_{i\ge0} 2^i x^i - \sum_{i\ge0} x^i\right)\\
&= \sum_{i\ge0} (2^{i+1} - 1)x^{i+1}.
\end{aligned}$$

So $g_i = 2^i - 1$.