MATH 239 Fall 2022:
Lecture Notes

Lecture notes taken, unless otherwise specified, by myself during section 002 of the Fall 2022 offering of MATH 239, taught by Luke Postle.

Part/chapter titles vaguely follow the official course notes.

Part I

Enumeration

Chapter 1

Introduction

Lecture 1   (09/07; Section 004)

By convention, define the natural numbers $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. If we want the non-negative integers, we can write $\mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$.

Recall from set theory, for sets A and B, the union $A \cup B = \{c : c \in A \lor c \in B\}$ and intersection $A \cap B = \{c : c \in A \land c \in B\}$. We call a union $A \cup B$ disjoint if $A \cap B = \varnothing$. When considering the sizes of finite sets, the disjoint union corresponds to addition: $|A \cup B| = |A| + |B|$.

Recall also the Cartesian product $A \times B = \{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$. Again for finite sets, $|A \times B| = |A| \cdot |B|$.

Definition (*bijection*)

A function $f : A \to B$ such that f is injective (i.e., $f(a) = f(a') \implies a = a'$) and surjective (i.e., $\forall b, \exists a, f(a) = b$). When f exists, we write $A \rightleftharpoons B$.

Theorem (*Bijective Proofs*)

If $A \rightleftharpoons B$, then $|A| = |B|$.

Proof. Let $f : A \to B$ be a bijection. For each element of B, it is the image of at least one element of A under f (by surjectivity) and at most one element (by injectivity). Therefore, A contains the same number of elements as B. □

Lecture 2   (09/09)

By convention, let $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Theorem

Let A be the set of subsets of $[n]$. Let B be the set of binary strings of length n. There exists a bijection from A to B.

Proof. Let $f : A \to B$ be defined as $f(S) = a_1 \dots a_n$ where $a_i = 1$ if $i \in S$ and 0 otherwise. Then, $f^{-1}(a_1 \dots a_n) = \{i \in [n] : a_i = 1\}$. Since $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}$ and $f \circ f^{-1} = \text{id}$, we have a bijection. □

Theorem

> Let A be the set of subsets of $[n]$ of size exactly k. Let B be the set of binary strings
> of length n with exactly k ones. There exists a bijection from A to B.

Proof. Restrict the domain of f from above.   □

Definition (*permutation*)

> A list of $[n]$ for some positive integer n. That is, a bijection from $[n]$ to $[n]$. Notate
> the set of permutations of $[n]$ by P_n.

Theorem (*1.3*)

> The number of subsets of $[n]$ is 2^n.

Proof. $\mathcal{P}([n]) \rightleftharpoons \{0,1\}^n$ by the above theorem. But we know $|\{0,1\}^n| = |\{0,1\}|^n = 2^n$.
Then, $|\mathcal{P}([n])| = 2^n$.   □

Theorem (*1.5*)

> The number of subsets of $[n]$ of size k is $\binom{n}{k}$.

Proof. Let $S_{n,k}$ be the subsets of $[n]$ of size k.

For each $A \in S_{n,k}$ define $P_A := \{\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_n \in P_n : \{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n\} = A\}$. Then, P_n is the
disjoint union of the sets P_A. Also, $P_A \rightleftharpoons P_k \times P_{n-k}$ because the first k entries are a list
of A and the last $n - k$ entries are a list of $[n] \setminus A$.

Therefore, $|P_A| = k! \cdot (n-k)!$ and $|S_{n,k}| = \frac{|P_n|}{k! \cdot (n-k)!} = \binom{n}{k}$ as the sets are of equal size.   □

In general, to prove that A has some size, we can either

(1) Prove A is a disjoint union of smaller sets of known size
(2) Prove A is a Cartesian product of smaller sets of known size
(3) Give a bijection $A \rightleftharpoons B$ to a set of known size
(4) Show a family of sets A_i satisfies a recurrence relation and use induction

Definition (*composition*)

> A finite sequence $n = (m_1, \dots, m_k)$ of positive integers called parts. The size of the
> composition $|n| = \sum m_i$.

Theorem

> For all $n \geq 1$, there are 2^{n-1} compositions of size n

Proof. Proceed by induction on n.

When $n = 1$, there is exactly one composition (1). Assume $n \geq 2$.

Let A_n be compositions of size n. Also let $B_{1,n} := \{(a_1, \dots) \in A_n : a_1 = 1\}$ and $B_{2,n} := \{(a_1, \dots) \in A_n : a_1 \geq 2\}$. Notice that since a_1 is a positive integer so either $a_1 = 1$ or $a_1 \geq 2$, so A_n is the disjoint union of $B_{1,n}$ and $B_{2,n}$.

Let $f : B_{1,n} \to A_{n-1}$ be given by $f((b_1, \dots, b_k)) = (b_2, \dots, b_k)$ and we can find the inverse $f^{-1}((a_1, \dots, a_k)) = (1, a_1, \dots, a_k)$.

Let $g : B_{2,n} \to A_{n-1}$ be given by $g((b_1, \dots, b_k)) = (b_1 - 1, b_2 \dots, b_k)$ whose inverse we can likewise find $g^{-1}((a_1, \dots, a_k)) = (a_1 + 1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$ assuming A_{n-1} is nonempty, i.e., $n \geq 2$.

As these are bijections, $|B_{1,n}| = |n-1| = |B_{2,n}|$. By induction $|A_{n-1}| = 2^{n-2}$ and hence $|A_n| = |B_{1,n}| + |B_{2,n}| = 2|A_{n-1}| = 2^{n-1}$ as desired. $\qquad\square$

Lecture 3 (09/12)

Theorem (*Binomial Theorem*)

> For all $n \geq 1$, $(1+x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k$

Proof. Must choose either 1 or x from each monomial, so we have $(1+x)^n = \sum_{S \subseteq [n]} x^{|S|} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k$ by grouping choices by the number of x chosen and applying Theorem 1.5. $\quad\square$

Corollary. If $x = 1$, then $2^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}$, i.e., Theorem 1.3.

Proof. From Theorem 1.2, $|\mathcal{P}([n])| = 2^n$. But $|\mathcal{P}([n])| = |\bigcup S_{n,k}| = \sum |S_{n,k}| = \sum \binom{n}{k}$ by Theorem 1.5. $\qquad\square$

Corollary. If $x = -1$, then $0 = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}(-1)^k$.

Proof. See Tutorial 1-2. $\qquad\square$

Definition (*multiset of t types*)

> Sequence $a_1, \ldots, a_t$ where each a_i is a non-negative integer. The a_i are the *parts* and the sum $\sum a_i$ is the *size*.

Like compositions but permitting zero and restricting $i = 1, \ldots, t$. For example, consider the multiset $(3, 2, 0, 1)$ as being like a "set" $\{a_1, a_1, a_1, a_2, a_2, a_4\}$.

Theorem (*1.9*)

> The number of multisets of t types and size n is $\binom{n+t-1}{t-1}$.

Proof. Consider the creation of a multiset like dividing up the line of elements (e.g. $(3, 2, 0, 1)$ as $*** \mid ** \mid \mid *$).

Encode this as a binary string where 0 means take an element and 1 means switch to the next set (in this case, 000100110). This is a string of length $n + t - 1$ with exactly $t - 1$ ones. That is, a subset of $[n+t-1]$ with size $t-1$, of which there are $\binom{n+t-1}{t-1}$.

To be formal, write out and prove that the set of multisets A bijects with $B = S_{n+t-1, t-1}$.

Under $f : A \to B : (a_1, \ldots, a_t) \mapsto \{a_1 + 1, \ldots, a_{t-1} + 1\}$ with inverse $f^{-1} : B \to A : \{b_1, \ldots, b_{n-1}\} \mapsto (b_1 - 1, b_2 - b_1 - 1, b_3 - b_2 - 1, \ldots, n - b_{t-1} - 1)$, $A \rightleftharpoons B$ and we have $|A| = \binom{n+t-1}{t-1}$, as desired. $\qquad\square$

Theorem (*Negative Binomial Series*)

> $\frac{1}{(1-x)^t} = \sum_{t=0}^\infty \binom{n+t-1}{t-1} x^n$

Proof. Notice that $\frac{1}{(1-x)^t} = \underbrace{(1 + x + x^2 + \cdots) \cdots (1 + x + x^2 + \cdots)}_{t \text{ times}}$. The coefficient of x^k is the number of multisets $(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_t)$ of k size so apply Theorem 1.9. $\qquad\square$

Lecture 4   (09/14)

Example 4.1 (Pascal's Identity). $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k} + \binom{n-1}{k-1}$

Proof (informal). We are counting $S \subseteq [n]$. There are two kinds of subsets: $n \in S$ and $n \notin S$. If $n \in S$, then $S \setminus \{n\} \subseteq [n-1]$ with size $n-1$, i.e., there are $\binom{n-1}{k-1}$ of these. If $n \notin S$, then $S \subseteq [n-1]$, i.e., there are $\binom{n-1}{k}$ of these. $\square$

Proof. Let $S_{n,k} := \{S \subseteq [n] : |S| = k\}$ be the set of subsets of $[n]$ with size exactly k. By Theorem 1.5, $|S_{n,k}| = \binom{n}{k}$.

Let $A_1 = \{S \in S_{n,k} : n \in S\}$ and $A_2 = \{S \in S_{n,k} : n \notin S\}$. Then, $S_{n,k}$ is the disjoint union of A_1 and A_2 since either $n \in S$ or $n \notin S$. Thus, $|S_{n,k}| = |A_1| + |A_2|$.

Claim $A_1 \rightleftharpoons S_{n-1,k-1}$ under $f : A_1 \to S_{n-1,k-1} : S \mapsto S \setminus \{n\}$ with inverse $f^{-1} : S_{n-1,k-1} \to A_1 : T \mapsto T \cup \{n\}$. Then, $|A_1| = |S_{n-1,k-1}| = \binom{n-1}{k-1}$.

Claim $A_2 \rightleftharpoons S_{n-1,k}$ under $g = \mathrm{id}_{A_2}$ with $g^{-1} = \mathrm{id}_{S_{n-1,k}}$. Then, $|A_2| = |S_{n-1,k}| = \binom{n-1}{k}$.

Finally, $\binom{n}{k} = |S_{n-1,k}| = \binom{n-1}{k} + \binom{n-1}{k-1}$. $\square$

Example 4.2. $\binom{n}{k} = \sum_{i=k}^{n} \binom{i-1}{k-1}$ for all $n \geq k \geq 1$

Proof (informal). Subsets of $[n]$ of size exactly k come in $n - k + 1$ types, namely, classify by their maxima. Then, if i is largest, we have to chose $k - 1$ remaining elements from $[i-1]$. This goes down to k being largest by the pigeonhole principle where we have $k-1$ elements from $[k-1]$. $\square$

Proof. By Theorem 1.5, $|S_{n,k}| = \binom{n}{k}$.

Then, since the maximum of a set is unique, we can partition $S_{n,k}$ into the disjoint union $A_k \cup \cdots \cup A_n$ where for each i, $A_i = \{S \in S_{n,k} : \max S = i\}$. Thus, $|S_{n,k}| = \sum_{i=k}^{n} |A_i|$

Claim $A_i \rightleftharpoons S_{i-1,k-1}$ under the bijection $f : A_i \to S_{i-1,k-1} : S \mapsto S \setminus \{i\}$ with inverse $f^{-1} : S_{i-1,k-1} \to A_i : T \mapsto T \cup \{i\}$ from above. Then, $|A_i| = \binom{i-1}{k-1}$.

Finally, $\binom{n}{k} = |S_{n,k}| = \sum_{i=k}^{n} \binom{i-1}{k-1}$, as desired. $\square$

Chapter 2

Generating Series

Lecture 5   (09/16)

Definition (*weight function*)

> $w : A \to \mathbb{N}$ such that $\left|\text{preim}_w(n)\right|$ is finite for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Call $w(a)$ the weight of a.

In general, answer questions of the form "how many elements of A have weight n?"

Definition (*generating series*)

> $\Phi_A^w(x) = \sum_{a \in A} x^{w(a)}$ for a set A and weight function w.

This is not a polynomial but a formal power series with infinite terms. We do not ever evaluate $\Phi_A^w(x)$ so convergence is irrelevant.

Basically, take the sequence $\left(\left|\text{preim}_w(0)\right|, \left|\text{preim}_w(1)\right|, \dots\right)$ and make it into coefficients.

Notate $[x^n]f(x)$ for the coefficient of x^n in $f(x)$.

Example 5.1. For $A = \mathcal{P}([n])$, $w = |\cdot|$, we have $\Phi_A^w(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k = (1+x)^n$

Proposition

> The number of elements of weight i is the ith coefficient in $\Phi_A^w(x)$. Equivalently, $\Phi_A^w(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n$ where $a_n = \left|\text{preim}_w(n)\right|$.

Example 5.2. For set of multisets with t types A and w size of the multiset, $\Phi_A^w(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+t-1}{t-1} x^n = \frac{1}{(1-x)^t}$.

Example 5.3. For set of binary strings A and w length, $\Phi_A^w(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} 2^n x^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} (2x)^n = \frac{1}{1-2x}$.

Example 5.4. For set of compositions A and w size, $\Phi_A^w(x) = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + \cdots = 1 + x(1 + 2x + 4x^2 + \cdots)$. This is $1 + x(\frac{1}{1-2x}) = \frac{1-x}{1-2x} = \frac{1}{1-\frac{x}{1-x}}$.

Definition (*formal power series*)

> $A(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n$ where a_n is finite for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

We define addition, subtraction, and equality of formal power series akin to polynomials: $[x^n](A(x)+B(x)) = a_n + b_n$, $[x^n](A(x)-B(x)) = a_n - b_n$, $A(x) = B(x) \iff \forall n (a_n = b_n)$.

Lecture 6   (09/19)

Define multiplication of formal power series: $A(x)B(x) = \sum_{n\geq 0}(\sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k b_{n+k})x^n$.

Define division using inverses: $\frac{1}{A(x)}$ is the power series $C(x)$ such that $A(x)C(x) = 1$ where we consider the unit power series $1 + 0x + 0x^2 + \cdots$.

If $A(x)C(x) = 1$, then each coefficient $\sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k c_{n-k} = 0$ for $n \geq 1$ and $a_0 c_0 = 1$.

Solving, $c_0 = \frac{1}{a_0}$, $c_1 = -\frac{a_1 c_0}{a_0} = -\frac{a_1}{a_0^2}$, $c_2 = -\frac{1}{a_0}(a_1 c_1 - a_2 c_0)$, etc.

In general, $c_0 = \frac{1}{a_0}$ and $c_n = -\frac{1}{a_0} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k c_{n-k}$ for $n \geq 1$.

Theorem

> $A \in \mathbb{R}[[x]]$ has an inverse $C = A^{-1}$ if and only if $a_0 \neq 0$. If $C(x)$ exists, $c_0 = a_0^{-1}$ and $c_n = -a_0^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n} a_k c_{n-k}$.

Given these four operations, we have the ring $\mathbb{R}[[x]]$ of power series. This is a superring of the polynomials $\mathbb{R}[x]$.

Theorem

> $A \circ B \in \mathbb{R}[[x]]$ exists if and only if $A \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ or $b_0 = 0$

Lecture 7   (09/21)

Lemma (*Sum Lemma*)

> Let C be the disjoint union $A \cup B$. Let w be a weight function of C. Then, $\Phi_C^w(x) = \Phi_A^w(x) + \Phi_B^w(x)$.
> Note: Since $w : C \to \mathbb{N}$, we implicitly let $\Phi_A^w = \Phi_A^{w|_A}$ and $\Phi_B^w = \Phi_B^{w|_B}$

Proof. We will show equality by the coefficient definition, i.e., $[x^n]\Phi_C^w(x) = [x^n](\Phi_A^w(x) + \Phi_B^w(x)) = [x^n]\Phi_A^w(x) + [x^n]\Phi_B^w(x)$. The LHS is just the number of elements in $C = A \cup B$ of weight n and the RHS is the sum of the elements in A and B of weight n. These must be equal because $A \cap B = \varnothing$. $\qquad\square$

Proof. Expand:

$$\Phi_C^w(x) = \sum_{c \in C} x^{w(c)} = \sum_{a \in A} x^{w(a)} + \sum_{b \in B} x^{w(b)} = \Phi_A^w(x) + \Phi_B^w(x)$$

where we can divide the sum because every $c \in C$ is in exactly one of A or B. $\qquad\square$

Lemma (*Infinite Sum Lemma*)

> Let C be the disjoint union $\bigcup A_i$ of countably infinite sets. Let w be a weight function of C. Then, $\Phi_C^w(x) = \sum \Phi_{A_i}^w(x)$.

Proof. Since w is a weight function, the preimage is finite. That is, $[x^n]\Phi_C^w(x)$ is finite and we can decompose the finite set $\{c \in C : w(c) = n\}$ into finitely many $\{c \in A_i : w(c) = n\}$, which gives us what we want as above. $\qquad\square$

Note: The proof must go in this direction. For weight functions $w_i : A_i \to \mathbb{N}$, $\operatorname{preim}_{w_i}(n)$ is finite but $\bigcup \operatorname{preim}_{w_i}(n)$ is not guaranteed to be finite.

Lemma (*Product Lemma*)

> Let A and B be sets and w_A and w_B be weight functions. Define $w_{A \times B} : A \times B \to \mathbb{N} : (a, b) \mapsto w_A(a) + w_B(b)$. Then, $\Phi_{A \times B}^{w_{A \times B}} = \Phi_A^{w_A} \cdot \Phi_B^{w_B}$.

Proof. Recall by definition $\Phi_{A \times B}^{w_{A \times B}} = \sum_{(a,b) \in A \times B} x^{w_{A \times B}((a,b))}$.

But this is $\sum_{(a,b) \in A \times B} x^{w_A(a) + w_B(b)} = \sum_{(a,b) \in A \times B} x^{w_A(a)} x^{w_B(b)} = \sum_{a \in A} \sum_{b \in B} x^{w_A(a)} x^{w_B(b)}$.

We split the sum to get $\left(\sum_{a \in A} x^{w_A(a)} \right) \left(\sum_{b \in B} x^{w_B(b)} \right) = \Phi_A^{w_A}(x) \cdot \Phi_B^{w_B}(x)$. $\qquad \square$

Corollary (Finite Products). Define $w(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ on $A_1 \times \cdots \times A_k$ by $\sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{A_i}(a_i)$. Then,

$$\Phi_{A_1 \cdots \times A_k}^{w}(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{k} \Phi_{A_i}^{w_{A_i}}(x)$$

Corollary (Cartesian Product Lemma). For set A with weight function w, $\Phi_{A^k}^{w_k}(x) = (\Phi_A^w(x))^k$ where $w_k((a_i)) = \sum w(a_i)$.

Definition (*strings*)

> $A^* = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} A^i$ where $A^0 = \{\varepsilon\}$ with the empty string $\varepsilon = \varnothing$. That is, A^* is the set of all strings (sequences) with entries from A.

Example 7.1. For $A = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, then A^* is the set of all compositions. For $A = \{2, 4, 6, \dots\}$, then A^* is the set of all compositions with even parts.

Lecture 8   (09/23)

Lemma (*String Lemma; 2.14*)

> Given A and w on A, define $w^* : A^* \to \mathbb{N} : (a_i) = \sum w(a_i)$ with $w^*(\varepsilon) = 0$. Also, there are no elements of A with weight 0. Then, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \Phi_A^w(x)}$.

Proof. By definition, $A^* = A^0 \cup A^1 \cup \cdots$ and this is a disjoint union.

Then, since w^* is a weight function of A^* becaues A has no weight 0 elements, we apply the Infinite Sum Lemma. This gives $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \sum \Phi_{A^i}^{w^*}(x)$.

By the Product Lemma, $\Phi_{A^i}^{w^*}(x) = (\Phi_A^w(x))^i$. That is, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \sum (\Phi_A^w(x))^i$. Now, we can compose the geometric series $\frac{1}{1-x}$ with $\Phi_A^w(x)$ so long as $[x^0]\Phi_A^w(x) = 0$ which is true by supposition.

Therefore, we get $\Phi_{A^*}w^*(x) = \sum (\Phi_A^w(x))^i = \frac{1}{1 - \Phi_A^w(x)}$. $\qquad \square$

Example 8.1. Let $A = \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$. Then, A^* is the set of all compositions. Define $w = \mathrm{id}$, so A has no elements of weight 0 and we have w^* is a weight function. Namely, w^* gives the size of a composition.

By the String Lemma, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \Phi_A^w(x)}$. By inspection, $\Phi_A^w(x) = x + x^2 + \cdots$. By the geometric series, we have $x(1 + x + \cdots) = \frac{x}{1-x}$ so $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x}{1-x}} = \frac{1-x}{1-2x} = 1 + \frac{x}{1-2x}$ and

we can write this as $1 + x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + \cdots$ or

$$[x^n]\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ 2^{n-1} & n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Example 8.2. Let $A = 2\mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$. Then, A^* is the set of all compositions with even parts and as above we can define $w = \text{id}$ and w^* is a weight funciton giving the size.

By inspection, $\Phi_A^w(x) = x^2 + x^4 + x^6 + \cdots = x^2(1 + (x^2) + (x^2)^2 + \cdots) = \frac{x^2}{1-x^2}$.

Then, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x^2}{1-x^2}} = \frac{1-x^2}{1-2x^2} = 1 + \frac{x^2}{1-2x^2}$ and we can write

$$[x^n]\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ 2^{\frac{n}{2}-1} & n \text{ even} \\ 0 & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Example 8.3. $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $w = \text{id}$, A^* is the set of all compositions with parts 1 to 4. Again, $\Phi_A^w(x) = x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4$ and $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*} = \frac{1}{1-x-x^2-x^3-x^4}$.

Example 8.4. $A = \{1, 2\}$, $w = \text{id}$, $\Phi_A^w(x) = x + x^2$, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$ which is the Fibonacci series.

Example 8.5. $A = \{6, 7, 8, \ldots, 100\}$, $\Phi_A^w(x) = x^6 + x^7 + \cdots + x^{100}$. By the Finite Geometric Series, this is $\frac{x^6-x^{101}}{1-x}$. Then, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x^6-x^{101}}{1-x}} = \frac{1-x}{1-x^6+x^{101}}$.

Chapter 3

Binary Strings

Lecture 9   (09/26)

Definition (*binary string*)

A sequence of 0's and 1's. The *length* of a binary string is the total number of 0's and 1's. We notate the *empty string* by $\varepsilon = \varnothing$. Formally, it is an element of $\{0,1\}^*$ written without parentheses and commas.

Remark. Define a weight function for $\{0,1\}^*$ to get the length. Let $A = \{0,1\}$. Define $w(a) = 1$. Then if we apply Lemma 2.13, w^* is a weight function and by the String Lemma, $\Phi_{A^*}^{w^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \Phi_A^w(x)} = \frac{1}{1 - 2x}$.

Definition (*regular expression*)

A string of finite length that is, up to parentheses, any one of:
- ε, 0, and 1;
- $\mathsf{R} \smile \mathsf{S}$ for regular expressions R and S;
- RS for regular expressions R and S; or
- $\mathsf{R}*$ for regular expression R

Definition (*concatenation product*)

For binary strings $\alpha = \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n \in \{0,1\}^*$ and $\beta = \beta_1 \dots \beta_n \in \{0,1\}^*$, define $\alpha\beta = \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n \beta_1 \dots \beta_n$
For sets of binary strings $A, B \subseteq \{0,1\}^*$, define $AB = \{\alpha\beta : \alpha \in A, \beta \in B\}$.

Remark. The concatenation product acts like a flatten over the Cartesian product. That is, $((1,0),1) \neq (1,(0,1))$ but $(1,0)(1) = (1)(0,1)$. It follows that $|AB| \leq |A||B|$.

Definition (*rational language*)

$\mathcal{R} \subseteq \{0,1\}^*$ produced by a regular expression R:
- ε, 0, and 1 produce themselves;
- $\mathsf{R} \smile \mathsf{S}$ produces $\mathcal{R} \cup \mathcal{S}$;
- RS produces the concatenation product $\mathcal{RS}$; and
- $\mathsf{R}*$ produces $\bigcup_{k \geq 0} \mathcal{R}^k$ where $\mathcal{R}^k$ is the concatenation power.

Example 9.1. What languages do $(1)^*$, $(1 \smile 11)^*$, $(0 \smile 1)^*$, $1(11)^*$, $(01)^*$ produce?

Solution. $(1)^*$ produces the set of binary strings of only ones, i.e., $\{1\}^*$.

$(1 \smile 11)^*$ produces the same set.

$(0 \smile 1)^*$ produces $\{0, 1\}^*$, the set of all binary strings.

$1(11)^*$ produces the set of all odd numbers of ones.

$(01)^*$ produces $\{\varepsilon, 01, 0101, 010101, \dots\}$.   □

Example 9.2. Not every set is a rational language. The set $\{\varepsilon, 01, 0011, 000111, 0^i 1^i\}$ is not a rational language because it cannot be produced by a regular expression.

Lecture 10   (09/28; from Bradley)

Definition (*unambiguity*)

> Regular expression R that produces every element in the corresponding rational language $\mathcal{R}$ exactly once.

Lemma

> The following regular expressions are unambiguous:
> - ε, 0, and 1
> - $R \smile S$ given $\mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{S} = \varnothing$
> - RS given either (1) $|\mathcal{RS}| = |\mathcal{R}||\mathcal{S}|$, (2) for all $t \in \mathcal{RS}$, there is a unique $r \in \mathcal{R}$, $s \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $rs = t$, or (3) there does not exist $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{R}$, $s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $r_1 s_1 = r_2 s_2$.
> - R^* given R unambiguous and either (1) all of ε, $\mathcal{R}$, and $\mathcal{R}^2$ are disjoint or (2) all of the $\mathcal{R}^i$ are unambiguous as products

Example 10.1. Consider the following:

- 1^* is unambiguous because ε, 1, 1^2, etc. are all disjoint meaning that 1^k is unambiguous for all k.
- $(1 \smile 11)^*$ is ambiguous because we can produce 11 as either $(11)^1$ or 1^2.
- $(0 \smile 1)^*$ produces all binary strings and is unambiguous. The union is clearly disjoint. The binary strings of lengths k are clearly disjoint.
- $(101)^*$ produces $\{\varepsilon, 101, 1011101, \dots\}$ and is unambiguous.
- $(1 \smile 10 \smile 01)^*$ is ambiguous because 101 is produced by $1^1 (01)^1$ and $(10)^1 1^1$.

Definition

> R leads to a rational function $R(x)$ according to its structure:
> - ε leads to 1
> - 0 leads to x
> - 1 leads to 1
> - $R \smile S$ leads to $R(x) + S(x)$
> - RS leads to $R(x) \cdot S(x)$
> - R^* leads to $\frac{1}{1-R(x)}$

Example 10.2. Consider the same regular expressions:

- 1^* leads to $\frac{1}{1-x}$
- $(1 \smile 11)^*$ leads to $\frac{1}{1-(x+x^2)} = \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$
- $(0 \smile 1)^*$ leads to $\frac{1}{1-2x}$.
- $(101)^*$ leads to $\frac{1}{1-x^3}$

- $(1 \smile 10 \smile 01)^*$ leads to $\frac{1}{1-x-2x^2}$
- $0^*(11^*00^*)^*1^*$ leads to $\frac{1}{1-x} \frac{1}{1-\frac{x^2}{(1-x)^2}} \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{1}{1-2x}$

Lemma

> Let R be a regular expression, $\mathcal{R}$ its rational language, $R(x)$ the rational function it leads to, and w the length weight function on binary strings.
> If R is unambiguous, then $\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}^w(x) = R(x)$.

Proof. Proceed by structural induction on the above unambiguity lemma:

Notice that $\Phi_{\{e\}}^w(x) = 1$, $\Phi_{\{0\}}^w(x) = x$, and $\Phi_{\{1\}}^w(x) = x$.

If $R = S \smile T$ and is unambiguous, then R produces $\mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{T}$ and

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{T}}^w(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{S}}^w(x) + \Phi_{\mathcal{T}}^w(x) = S(x) + T(x) = R(x)$$

by the Sum Lemma.

Likewise by the Product Lemma, if $R = ST$ we can write

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{T}}^w(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{T}}^w(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{S}}^w(x) \cdot \Phi_{\mathcal{T}}^w(x) = S(x) \cdot T(x) = R(x)$$

because $\mathcal{S}\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{T}$ by unambiguity.

The case for $R = S^*$ goes similarly by the Infinite Sum Lemma and Product Lemma. $\square$

Be careful to distinguish between:

- A regular expression R
- A rational language $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ it *produces*
- A rational function $R(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[[x]]$ it *leads to*, equal to $\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}(x)$ when R is unambiguous

Lecture 11   (09/30; from Bradley)

Definition (*block*)

> A maximal subsequence of a binary string with the same digit.

Lemma (*Block Decompositions*)

> The set of all binary strings is unambiguously produced by $0^*(11^*00^*)^*1^*$ and $1^*(00^*11^*)^*0^*$.

Proof. WLOG consider the second regular expression. We decompose every binary string after each block of 0s.

This means each string is of the form (a (possibly empty) initial block of 0s, first pair of blocks of 1s, second pair of 0s, ..., last pair, (possibly empty) terminal block of 1s). Moreover, first/last pair may not exist.

This decomposition is unique and we can express it as a regular expression of the form $I(M)^*T$ where

- I is a regular expression for the initial (possibly empty) block of 0s
- M is a regular expression for a middle pair of blocks, non-empty block of 1s followed by non-empty block of 0s

- T is a regular expression for the terminal (possibly empty) block of 1s

Then, we can unambiguously write $I = 0^*$, $M = (11^*00^*)^*$, and $T = 1^*$. Using the extra 1/0 ensures each block is non-empty. $\square$

Example 11.1. Write an unambiguous regular expression for "the set of binary strings where each block of 0s has length at least 2 and each block of 1s has even length".

Solution. Follow the $I(M)^*T$ pattern beginning with a block of 0s.

To get either no 0s or at least two 0s, set $I = \varepsilon \smile (000^*)$.

To get either no 1s or an even number of 1s, set $T = (11)^*$.

Combine these ideas to get $M = 11(11)^*000^*$.

Altogether, write $(\varepsilon \smile (000^*))(11(11)^*000^*)^*(11)^*$. $\square$

Example 11.2. Write an unambiguous regular expression for "the set of all binary strings where each block of 0s has length at least 5 and congruent to 2 (mod 3) and each block of 1s has length at least 2 and at most 8".

Solution. Follow the $I(M)^*T$ pattern beginning with a block of 0s.

To get either no 0s or $5 + 3k$ 0s, set $I = \varepsilon \smile (00000(000)^*)$.

To get either no 1s or between two and eight 1s, set $T = (11 \smile 111 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8 \smile \varepsilon)$.

Combine to get $M = (11 \smile 111 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8)(00000(000)^*)$. Altogether,

$$(\varepsilon \smile (00000(000)^*))((11 \smile 111 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8)(00000(000)^*))^*(11 \smile 111 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8 \smile \varepsilon)$$

$\square$

Example 11.3. Same as example 11.2 with the additional restriction that the string is non-empty and starts with 0.

Solution. $(0^5(000)^*)((1^2 \smile 1^3 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8)(0^5(000)^*))^*(1^2 \smile 1^3 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8 \smile \varepsilon)$.

If we wanted it to start with 1 instead, decompose the blocks beginning with 1s to get a similar answer: $(1^2 \smile 1^3 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8)((0^5(000)^*)(1^2 \smile 1^3 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8))^*(0^5(000)^* \smile \varepsilon)$. $\square$

Example 11.4. Starts with 0 and at least 2 blocks

Solution. $(0^5(000)^*)(1^2 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8)((0^5(000)^*)(1^2 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8))^*(0^5(000)^* \smile \varepsilon)$. $\square$

Example 11.5. Starts with 0 and ends with 0

Solution. $(0^5(000)^*)((1^2 \smile 1^3 \smile \cdots \smile 1^8)(0^5(000)^*))^*$. $\square$

Lecture 12 (10/03)

Instead of decomposing after every block of 1s, we could instead decompose after every 1. This leads to prefix decompositions: the regular expression M^*T where $M = 0^*1$ and $T = 0^*$ unambiguously produces the set of all binary strings.

As a sanity check, notice that $(M^*T)(x) = \frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{1-x}x}\frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{1}{1-2x}$ which we expect as the generating series for all binary strings.

Example 12.1. Write an unambiguous regular expression for binary strings without k consecutive zeroes.

Solution. $((\varepsilon \smile 0^1 \smile \cdots \smile 0^{k-1})1)^*(\varepsilon \smile 0^1 \smile \cdots \smile 0^{k-1})$.

This leads to $\frac{1}{1-(1+\cdots+x^{k-1})x} \cdot (1 + \cdots + x^{k-1}) = \frac{1+\cdots+x^{k-1}}{1-x-\cdots-x^k} = \frac{1-x^k}{1-2x+x^{k+1}}$ □

Similarly, decompose before every 1. This leads to postfix decompositions: the regular expression IM^* where $\mathsf{I} = 0^*$ and $\mathsf{M} = 10^*$ unambiguously produces the set of all binary strings.

Definition (*recursive expression*)

> A regular expression R which may contain itself. The rational function $R(x)$ that R leads to is identical to if it were a regular expression except R leads to $R(x)$.

Example 12.2. Interpet $\mathsf{S} = \varepsilon \smile (0 \smile 1)\mathsf{S}$.

Solution. Clearly, ε is in $\mathcal{S}$. Also, $0\varepsilon = 0$ and $1\varepsilon = 1$ are in $\mathcal{S}$. Onward, by induction, $\mathcal{S}$ contains all binary strings.

The rational function $S(x) = 1 + (x + x)S(x) = 1 + 2xS(x) \implies S(x) = \frac{1}{1-2x}$ which matches the generating series for binary strings.   □

Example 12.3. Interpret $\mathsf{S} = \varepsilon \smile 1\mathsf{S}$.

Solution. This produces the set of all binary strings with no 0s.

It leads to $S(x) = 1 + xS(x) \implies S(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$.   □

Example 12.4. Write the prefix decomposition as a recursive expression.

Solution. $\mathsf{S} = 0^* \smile (0^*1)\mathsf{S}$ □

Example 12.5. Write example 12.1 as a recursive expression.

Solution. $\mathsf{S} = (\varepsilon \smile 0 \smile \cdots \smile 0^{k-1}) \smile ((\varepsilon \smile 0 \smile \cdots \smile 0^{k-1})1)\mathsf{S}$.

This leads to $S(x) = (1 + \cdots + x^{k-1}) + (1 + \cdots + x^{k-1})S(x) \implies S(x) = \frac{1+\cdots+x^{k-1}}{1-(1+x+\cdots+x^{k-1})x}$ as in example 12.1.   □

Example 12.6. Write example 9.2 as a recursive expression.

Solution. $\mathsf{S} = \varepsilon \smile 0\mathsf{S}1$. Recall that this is not possible with ordinary regular expressions.

Then, the generating series $S(x) = 1 + xS(x)x = 1 + x^2 S(x) \implies S(x) = \frac{1}{1-x^2}$.   □

Recursion allows us to solve a wider range of problems.

Definition (*containment*)

> A binary string σ contains κ if there exist binary strings α and β such that $\sigma = \alpha\kappa\beta$.

We want to solve the general problem: given κ a fixed binary string and $\mathcal{S}_\kappa$ the set of all binary strings that do not contain κ, determine $\Phi_{\mathcal{S}_\kappa}(x)$.

We just did this for $\kappa = 0^k$ in examples 12.1 and 12.5, but what about arbitrary κ?

Lecture 13   (10/05)

Definition (*avoidance*)

> A binary string α excludes a binary string κ if α does not contain κ.

We are solving the general problem: given a binary string κ, let A_κ be the set of binary strings avoiding κ. Determine $\Phi_{A_\kappa}(x)$.

Theorem (*3.26*)

> Let κ be a fixed binary string, $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_\kappa$ be the set of binary strings avoiding κ, and $A(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{A}_\kappa}(x)$. Then,
>
> $$A(x) = \frac{1 + C(x)}{(1 - 2x)(1 + C(x)) + x^{\ell(\kappa)}}$$
>
> where $C(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{C}}(x)$ where $\mathcal{C}$ is the set of non-empty proper suffixes γ of κ such that there exists a non-empty proper prefix η such that $\kappa\gamma = \eta\kappa$.

Example 13.1. $\kappa = 0^k$. Then, $\mathcal{C} = \{0, 0^2, \dots, 0^{k-1}\}$ because $0^k 0^i = 0^i 0^k$.

Example 13.2. $\kappa = 11011$. Then, $\mathcal{C} = \{011, 1011\}$ because we can write $(11011)(011) = (110)(11011)$ and $(11011)(1011) = (1101)(11011)$ but not with 1 or 11.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{B}$ be the set of all binary strings with exactly one occurence of κ and that occurence is at the end. Let $B(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{B}}(x)$.

Claim. The following are unambiguous recursive expressions relating $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B}$:

$$\mathsf{A} \smile \mathsf{B} = \varepsilon \smile \mathsf{A}(0 \smile 1) \qquad\qquad \mathsf{A}\kappa = \mathsf{B} \smile \smile_{\gamma \in \mathcal{C}} \mathsf{B}\gamma$$

For (1): We know $\varepsilon \in \mathcal{A}$ and $\mathsf{A}(0 \smile 1)$ generates the strings of length at least 1 that are either in $\mathcal{A}$ (by adding a bit that does not complete κ) or in $\mathcal{B}$ (by adding a bit that does). In the other direction, notice that deleting a bit from $\mathcal{A}$ or $\mathcal{B}$ is in $\mathcal{A}$.

For (2): If $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}\kappa$, then σ has an occurence of κ at the end.

Let σ' be the substring of σ with the same start and ending at the first occurence of κ. This exists since there exists at least one occurence of κ.

Thus, $\sigma' \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\sigma = \sigma'\gamma = \sigma''\kappa$ and hence $\kappa\gamma = \eta\kappa$ and $\gamma \in \mathcal{C}$ where γ is the suffix of κ of length $w(\sigma) = w(\sigma')$.

Converting the expressions to equations gives

$$A(x) + B(x) = 1 + A(x)2x \qquad\qquad A(x)x^{w(\kappa)} = B(x)\left(1 + \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{C}} x^w(\gamma)\right)$$
$$= B(x)(1 + C(x))$$

and solving gives us $A(x) = \frac{1+C(x)}{(1+2x)(1+C(x))+x^{w(\kappa)}}$ by eliminating $B(x)$. $\square$

Chapter 4

Recurrence Relations

Lecture 14 **(10/07; from Bradley)**

Lecture 15 **(10/17)**

Theorem (*Case 1*)

> TFAE: (1) $A(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ is a rational function (i.e., P and Q are polynomials and $\deg P < \deg Q$).
>
> (2) The coefficients a_n of $A(n) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n$ satisfy initial conditions $a_0, \ldots, a_k$ and recurrence relation $a_n = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} c_i a_{n-i}$ for all $n \geq k+1$ where $k = \deg Q - 1$.
>
> (3) The coefficients a_n have a closed form solution $a_n = \sum_{\text{roots } r_i} p_i(n) - (r_i)^n$ where $p_i(n)$ is a polynomial of degree equal to the multiplicity of r_i minus 1.

Proof. (1) implies (2) by extracting the infinitely many equations of coefficients.

(2) implies (1) by reversing the extraction process (multiply recurrence equation by x^n and sum).

(1) implies (3) by method of partial fractions.

(3) implies (1) by reversing partial fractions (i.e., use the negative binomial series). $\qquad \square$

Theorem (*Case 2*)

> TFAE: (1) $A(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ (with no conditions on $\deg P$, $\deg Q$)
>
> (2) Any number of initial conditions $a_0, \ldots, a_r$ and recurrence $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} c_i a_{n-i}$ for all $n > r$ where $k = \deg Q - 1$.
>
> (3) $a_n = C_n + \sum_{\text{roots } r_i} p_i(n)(r_i)^n$ with extra constants C_n (for $n > r$, $C_n = 0$).

Definition (*auxiliary (characteristic) polynomial*)

> Given $a_n = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} c_i a_{n-i}$ is a recurrence relation, replace a_n by x^{k+1}, a_{n-1} by x^k, ..., down to $a_{n-(k+1)}$ by 1.

Example 15.1. Fibonacci: $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = 1$, $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for all $n \geq 2$.

Find the coefficients directly (without using partial fractions).

Solution. We apply Case 1 and know that $a_n = \sum_{r_i} p_i(n) r_i^n$.

The characteristic polynomial is $x^2 = x + 1$, i.e, $0 = x^2 - x - 1$. This is $Q(\frac{1}{x}) \cdot x^{\deg Q}$, i.e., keep the coefficients but reverse the order.

The r_i in Case 1 are *not* the roots of $Q(x)$, but the roots of the characteristic polynomial (the "inverse roots" of Q). In fact, r_i^{-1} is a root of Q.

The roots here are $r_1 = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$ and $r_2 = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$.

So $a_n = p_1(n)r_1^n + p_2(n)r_2^n$ where p_1 and p_2 have degree 0. That is, $a_n = c_1 r_1^n + c_2 r_2^n$.

Use our initial conditions to solve:

$$a_0 = 1 = c_1 r_1^0 + c_2 r_2^0 = c_1 + c_2$$
$$a_1 = 1 = c_1 r_1 + c_2 r_2$$

Then, $c_1 = 1 - c_2$, so $1 = (1-c_2)r_1 + c_2 r_2 = r_1 + c_2(r_2 - r_1) \implies r_2 = \sqrt{5}c_2 \implies c_2 = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}$ and $c_1 = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2\sqrt{5}}$. Finally, $a_n = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2\sqrt{5}}\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n + \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n$.

Notice also that $|r_1| < 1$ so $r_1^n \to 0$ and a_n is the closest integer to $\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n$.   □

Example 15.2. $a_n = 3a_{n-1} - 3a_{n-2} + a_{n-3}$, $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = 2$, $a_2 = 3$.

Solution. The characteristic polynomial is $x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x - 1$. It factors as $(x-1)^3$ so it has one root $r_1 = 1$ with multiplicity 3.

So $a_n = p_1(n)r_1^n$ where p_1 has degree $3 - 1 = 2$, so $a_n = (c_1 n^2 + c_2 n + c_3)(1)^n = c_1 n^2 + c_2 n + c_3$.

By the initial conditions, $c_3 = 1$.

Then, $2 = a_1 = c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = c_1 + c_2 + 1 \implies c_1 + c_2 = 1$.

Also, $3 = a_2 = 4c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3 = 4c_1 + 2c_2 + 1 = 2c_1 + 3 \implies c_1 = 0$ and $c_2 = 1$.

Finally, we have $a_n = n + 1$.   □

Lecture 16   (10/19)

Recall: if $W(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ is a rational function, then the coefficients w_i satisfy a linear recurrence relation $w_n = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} c_i w_{n-i}$.

We can write rational functions as $Q(x)W(x) - P(x) = 0$ as a linear equation over the field of polynomials. This is why linear recurrence relations relate to rational functions.

Definition (*quadratic recurrence*)

> $A(x)W(x)^2 + B(x)W(x) + C(x) = 0$ for polynomials A, B, and C.

We can in fact apply the quadratic formula and say $W(x) = \frac{-B(x) \pm \sqrt{B(x)^2 - 4A(x)C(x)}}{2A(x)}$.

To do this, we must calculate the square roots of polynomials.

Definition (*complex binomial coefficients*)

> For $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, define $\binom{\alpha}{k} = \frac{1}{k!}(\alpha)(\alpha - 1)\cdots(\alpha - k + 1)$

Theorem (*General Binomial Theorem*)

> For all $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, $(1 + x)^\alpha = \sum\limits_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} x^k$

Corollary. $\sqrt{1 - 4x} = 1 - 2\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k}\binom{2k-2}{k-1}x^k = 1 - 2\sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k+1}\binom{2k}{k}x^{k+1}$

Proof. Use the General Binomial Theorem with $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ so $(1-4x)^{1/2} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{1/2}{k}(-4)^k x^k$. Algebra bashing gives the result we want. $\qquad\square$

Definition (*Catalan numbers*)

> $C_n = \frac{1}{n+1}\binom{2n}{n}$

Example 16.1. Calculate the first 5 Catalan numbers.

Solution. $C_0 = \frac{1}{1}\binom{0}{0} = 1$, $C_1 = \frac{1}{2}\binom{2}{1} = 1$, $C_2 = \frac{1}{3}\binom{4}{2} = 2$, $C_3 = \frac{1}{4}\binom{6}{3} = 5$, $C_4 = 14$, $C_5 = 42$. $\qquad\square$

The Catalan numbers are interesting because they count many different objects: the number of full binary trees with $n+1$ leaves, the number of triangulations of $(n+2)$-gons, the number of well-formed parenthesizations, etc.

Proposition

> $\sum_{k \geq 0} C_k x^k = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$

Proof. Apply the corollary above and isolate the power series. $\qquad\square$

Since this is not a rational function, the Catalan numbers do not form a rational language.

Definition (*Well-formed Parenthesization*)

> A sequence of n opening and closing parentheses that "match". That is, for any starting subsequence, the number of opens is at least the number of closes.

Example 16.2. List all WFPs when $n = 3$.

Solution. ()()(), (())(), ()(()), ((())), (()()). Notice there are 5, which is exactly C_3. $\qquad\square$

Theorem

> The number of WFPs with size n is C_n. Equivalently, the generating series for WFPs with respect to size is $W(x) = \sum w_n x^n = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$.

Proof. We find a recursive unambiguous expression for the set of WFPs $\mathcal{W}$. Let ε be the "empty" WFP, then write

$$\mathsf{W} = \varepsilon \smile (\mathsf{W})\mathsf{W}$$

This is unambiguous because we are always decomposing using the first open parenthesis. This expression leads to the equation

$$W(x) = 1 + xW(x)^2$$
$$0 = 1 - W(x) + xW(x)^2$$
$$W(x) = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{(-1)^2 - 4(x)(1)}}{2(x)}$$
$$= \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

by the quadratic equation. We must take the negative solution because in the positive solution,

$$W(x) = \frac{1}{2x} + \frac{1}{2x}\left(1 + 2\sum_{k \geq 0} C_k x^{k+1}\right) = \frac{1}{x} - \sum_{k \geq 0} C_k x^k$$

which is not well-defined because $\frac{1}{x}$ has no power series. But the negative solution is exactly the generating series for Catalan numbers. $\qquad \square$

Theorem

> bradley was bored in class out of his mind today and wanted to say hi to the readers :)

Part II

Graph Theory

Chapter 4

Introduction to Graph Theory

Note: In the notes, there are two chapter 4's (Recurrence Relations and Introduction to Graph Theory). This numbering is maintained.

Lecture 17   (10/21; from Bradley)

Definition (*graph*)

A graph $G = (V, E)$ is a set of <u>vertices</u> V and a set[1] of unordered[2] pairs[3] of distinct[4] vertices E called <u>edges</u>. Denote the set of vertices by $V(G)$ and edges by $E(G)$.
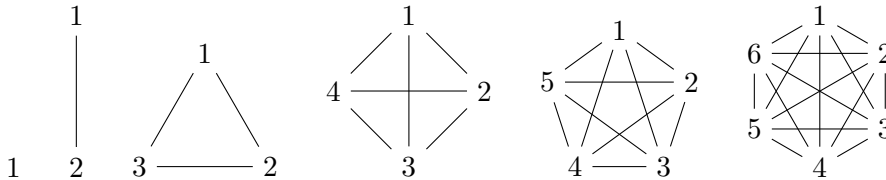
Note: if the graph includes loops and/or parallel edges, it is a <u>multigraph</u>.

Definition (*complete graph on n vertices*)

The graph K_n given by $V(K_n) = [n]$ and $E(K_n) = \{S \subseteq [n] : |S| = 2\}$.

Example 17.1. Draw K_1 through K_6.

Solution. Connect every node in a n-gon:

as desired. □

Definition (*path on n vertices*)

The graph P_n given by $V(P_n) = [n]$ and $E(P_n) = \{\{i, i+1\} : i \in [n-1]\}$.

Definition (*cycle on n vertices*)

The graph C_n for $n \geq 3$ given by $V(C_n) = [n]$ and $E(C_n) = E(P_n) \cup \{1, n\}$.

---

[1]if we allow multisets, they are <u>multiple</u> or <u>parallel</u> edges
[2]if ordered, the graph is <u>directed</u>
[3]if larger tuples, it is a <u>hypergraph</u>
[4]if not, the edge is a <u>loop</u>

Definition (*bipartite*)

Given a graph G, there exists a partition (A, B) of $V(G)$ such that every edge has exactly one element in A and one element in B.

Example 17.2. Which of the above graphs are bipartite?

Solution. K_1 and K_2 are bipartite, but K_n for $n \geq 3$ is note.

In general, P_n is bipartite with bipartition $A = \{i \in [n] : i \text{ odd}\}$ and $B = \{i \in [n] : i \text{ even}\}$.
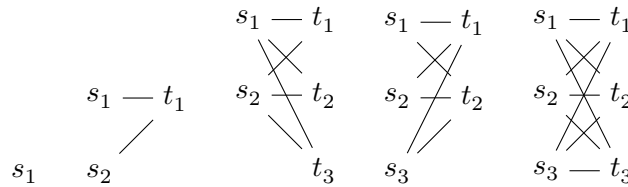
In general, C_n is bipartite when n is even (under the same bipartition as P_n) and not when n is odd. $\qquad\square$

Definition (*complete bipartite graph*)

The graph $K_{m,n}$ described by $V(K_{m,n}) = \{s_i : i \in [m]\} \cup \{t_j : j \in [n]\}$ and $E(K_{m,n}) = \{\{s_i, t_j\} : i \in [n], j \in [m]\}$.

Example 17.3. Draw $K_{1,0}$, $K_{2,1}$, $K_{2,3}$, $K_{3,2}$, and $K_{3,3}$.
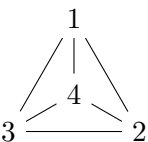
Solution. Connect m nodes with n nodes:

Notice that $K_{2,3}$ and $K_{3,2}$ have the same structure. $\qquad\square$

Definition (*planar*)

A graph that can be drawn on the plane such that no two edges cross

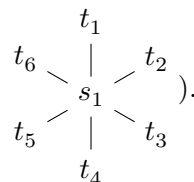**Example 17.4.** Which of K_n, P_n, C_n, and $K_{m,n}$ are planar?

Solution. Obviously, K_1, K_2, and K_3 are planar.
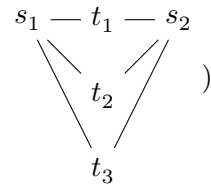
We can redraw K_4 like to make it planar.

However, K_5 can't do that.

P_n and C_n are planar for all n.

For $K_{m,n}$, when $m = 0$, we just have n unconnected vertices, which is planar.

When $m = 1$, we have a star (e.g.).

When $m = 2$, we can put s_1 on the left and s_2 on the right and connect (e.g.

$$s_1 \text{ --- } t_1 \text{ --- } s_2$$
$$t_2$$
$$t_3$$

)

When $m \geq 3$, this doesn't work. So $K_{m,n}$ is planar if $m \leq 2$ or $n \leq 2$.   □
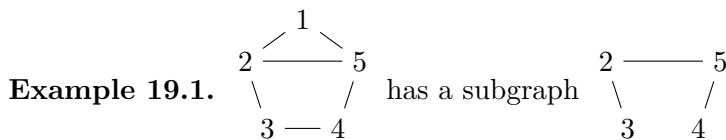
Lecture 18   (10/24)

Lecture 19   (10/26)

Definition (*subgraph*)

Graph H of a graph G where $V(H) \subseteq V(G)$ and $E(H) \subseteq \{uv \in E(G), u, v \in V(H)\}$.

Equivalently, a subgraph is obtained from G by deleting a subset of $V(G)$ and the edges incident with those vertices and then deleting a subset of remaining edges.
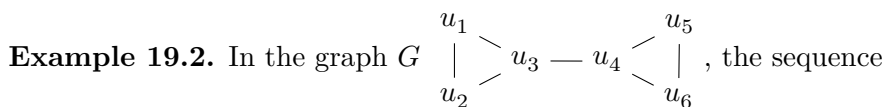
Example 19.1.

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \text{ --- } 5 \\ 3 \text{ --- } 4 \end{array}$$

has a subgraph

$$\begin{array}{c} 2 \text{ --- } 5 \\ 3 \quad 4 \end{array}$$

Definition (*types of subgraphs*)

A subgraph H of G is spanning if $V(H) = V(G)$ (only edge deletions), proper if $H \neq G$, and induced if $E(H) = \{uv \in E(G) : u, v \in V(H)\}$ (only vertex deletions).

Definition (*walk*)

A sequence $W = (v_0, e_1, v_1, \ldots, e_k, v_k)$ where $v_i \in V(G)$ and $e_i = v_{i-1}v_i \in E(G)$ is a walk from v_0 to v_k. If $v_0 = v_k$, then W is closed. Call k the length of the walk.

Example 19.2. In the graph G

$$\begin{array}{c} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{array} u_3 \text{ --- } u_4 \begin{array}{c} u_5 \\ u_6 \end{array}$$

, the sequence

$(u_5, u_5u_6, u_6, u_6u_5, u_5, u_5u_4, u_4, u_4u_3, u_3, u_3u_1)$ is a walk.

Definition (*path*)

A walk $W = (v_0, \ldots, v_k)$ where all the v_i are distinct. Then, the distinct v_0 and v_k are the ends of the path.

We call this a path because the subgraph H formed by $V(H) = \{v_0, \ldots, v_k\}$ and $E(H) = \{e_1, \ldots, e_k\}$ is isomorphic to P_{k+1}.

Example 19.3. In the graph from example 19.2, $(u_5, u_5u_4, u_4, u_4u_3, u_3, u_3u_1, u_1)$ is a path.

We can abbreviate paths (and walks) as $v_0v_1v_2 \ldots v_k$ since it is unambiguous.

Theorem (*4.6.2*)

Given a graph G and there exists a walk from u to v, then there exists a path from u to v.

Proof (informal). If W has no repeat vertices, then W is already a path.

Otherwise, there exists a vertex that repeats twice. Remove the subsequence between these two instances (and repeat). □

Proof. Let $W = v_0, \dots, v_k$ be the shortest walk from u to v. If W has no repeated vertices, then we are done.

Otherwise, there exists a subsequence starting and ending with a repeated node $v_i = v_j$, so we delete e_i through v_j. This is a strictly shorter path W', so W is not the shortest. Contradiction. □

Lecture 20   (10/28)

Corollary (4.6.3). Let G be a graph. If there exists a path from u to v in G and there exists a path from v to w in G, then there exists a path from u to w in G.

Proof. Append the two paths together to get a walk from u to w in G. Then, by 4.6.2 there exists a path from u to w in G. □

Definition (*cycle*)

A subgraph isomorphic to C_k for some $k \geq 3$. The <u>length</u> of a cycle k is the number of edges in it and the <u>girth</u> of a graph is the length of its largest cycle. A <u>Hamilton cycle</u> is a spanning cycle and a <u>Hamiltonian graph</u> contains one.

Theorem (*4.6.4*)

If G is a graph and every vertex of G has degree at least 2, then G contains a cycle.

Proof (algorithmic sketch). We give an algorithm that always finds such a cycle.

Let $P = v_0 \cdots v_k$ be a path in G with $k \geq 2$.

The node v_k has at least two neighbours, so there is one other than v_{k-1}. If the other neighbour $v_i \in V(P)$, then $v_i \cdots v_k$ is a cycle. Otherwise, the neighbour $v_{k+1} \notin V(P)$. Set $P \leftarrow v_0 \cdots v_k v_{k+1}$ and repeat.

We have to prove correctness (that it generates a path and finds cycles) and that it terminates (since length increases and $V(G)$ finite). □

Proof. Let $P = v_0 \cdots v_k$ be a longest path in G. Since a vertex has degree at least 2, $k \geq 2$.

Suppose v_k has a neighbour $v_i \in V(P)$ where $0 \leq i \leq k - 2$. Then, $C = v_i \cdots v_k$ is a cycle, as desired.

Otherwise, $N(v_k) \cap V(P) = \{v_{k-1}\}$. Since v_k has degree at least two, $|N(v_k)| \geq 2$. Therefore, $N(v_k) \backslash V(P) \neq \varnothing$. Select $v_{k+1} \in N(v_k) \backslash V(P) \neq \varnothing$. But then $P' = v_0 \cdots v_k v_{k+1}$ is a path in G with length longer than P. Contradiction. □

Corollary. Let G be a graph. TFAE: (1) G contains a cycle; and (2) G contains a subgraph where every vertex has degree at least 2.

Proof. If G contains a cycle, then the cycle is indeed such a subgraph. If G contains such a subgraph, then by 4.6.4 it contains a cycle. □

Corollary. Let G be a graph. Then, TFAE: (1) G does not contain a cycle; (2) all subgraphs of G contain a vertex with degree at most 1; and (3) there exists an ordering $v_1, \dots, v_n$ of $V(G)$ such that $|N(v_i) \cap \{v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}\}| \leq 1$ for all $i \in [n]$.

Proof. (1) and (2) are equivalent by the last corollary.

(2) implies (3) by induction on $V(G)$. By assumption, G has a vertex $\deg v_n \leq 1$. Let $G' = G$ without v_n. By assumption, every subgraph of G' has a vertex with degree at most 1 since G does. By induction, there exists the desired ordering $v_1, \ldots, v_{n-1}$ of $V(G')$ but then just let $v_1, \ldots, v_n$ as desired.

(3) implies (2): let H be a subgraph of G and i be the largest index such that $v_i \in V(H)$. Then, $|N_H(v_i)| \leq |N_G(v_i) \cap \{v_1, \ldots, v_{i-1}\}| \leq 1$ by assumption. $\qquad\square$

Consider now the question: can we decide efficiently whether a graph G contains a cycle?

Definition (*polynomial time*)

A decision problem is in polynomial time if it can be solved in $O(|V(G)|^k)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Denote the set of such problems by P.

Then, ask if the decision problem "does G contain a cycle?" lies in P.