

# CS 251: Discrete Mathematics

## Instructor's Guide

10-Week Quarter, Two 2-Hour Sessions per Week

Course Materials with Category Theory Enrichment

### Contents

<b>1 Course Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Course Philosophy . . . . .	3
1.2 Prerequisites . . . . .	3
1.3 Course Materials . . . . .	3
1.4 Assessment Suggestions . . . . .	3
1.5 Session Structure (2 hours) . . . . .	3
<b>2 Week 0: Proof Refresher (Optional Pre-Week)</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Topics . . . . .	4
<b>3 Week 1: Set Theory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Week 2: Functions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5 Week 3: Relations and Modular Arithmetic</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6 Week 4: Counting and Probability I</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7 Week 5: Counting and Probability II</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8 Week 6: Expected Value and Random Variables</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>9 Week 7: Graph Theory I</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>10 Week 8: Trees and Graph Algorithms</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>11 Week 9: Formal Languages and Automata</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>12 Week 10: Complexity and Tic-Tac-Toe</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>13 Weekly Homework Suggestions</b>	<b>27</b>
13.1 Homework Philosophy . . . . .	27
13.2 Sample Problems by Week . . . . .	27

<b>14 Agda Integration Guide</b>	<b>28</b>
14.1 Why Agda?	28
14.2 Integration Options	28
14.3 Agda Exercises by Difficulty	28
<b>15 “Going Deeper” Topic Guide</b>	<b>29</b>
15.1 Week 1: Arrows, Points, and Terminal Objects	29
15.2 Week 2: Isomorphisms, Sections, and Retractions	29
15.3 Week 3: Preorders as Categories	29
15.4 Weeks 4–5: Products, Sums, and Exponentials	29
15.5 Week 6: Parts and Predicates	29
15.6 Week 7: Graphs Generate Categories	29
15.7 Week 8: Initial Algebras and Folds	30
15.8 Week 9: Coalgebras and Automata	30
15.9 Week 10: Monoids and Adjunctions	30
<b>16 Theorem Proving Projects</b>	<b>31</b>
16.1 Project 1: Foundations (Due Week 5)	31
16.1.1 Option A: Agda Track	31
16.1.2 Option B: Written Track	31
16.2 Project 2: Structures (Due Week 10)	32
16.2.1 Option A: Agda Track	32
16.2.2 Option B: Written Track	32
16.3 Project Timeline and Milestones	33
16.4 Peer Review Process	33
<b>17 Additional Resources</b>	<b>34</b>
17.1 Recommended Reading	34
17.2 Online Resources	34
17.3 Software	34

# 1 Course Overview

## 1.1 Course Philosophy

This course introduces discrete mathematics with an emphasis on **mathematical maturity** and **proof fluency**. While covering standard topics (sets, functions, relations, counting, graphs), we incorporate “Going Deeper” sections that connect to category theory and type theory—giving students a glimpse of the elegant abstractions underlying discrete structures. The Category Theory Companion (aligned by week) provides optional readings and exercises; the weekly notes include short Category Lens inserts that reference it.

## 1.2 Prerequisites

Students should have completed a first course covering:

- Propositional and predicate logic
- Basic proof techniques (direct, contrapositive, contradiction)
- Mathematical induction (weak and strong)

Chapter 0 provides a refresher on these topics for the first class session.

## 1.3 Course Materials

- **Primary:** Course notes (Weeks 0–10 LaTeX documents)
- **Supplementary:** Category Theory Companion  
materials/latex/category\_theory\_companion.pdf
- **Supplementary:** Category Lens problem sets  
materials/latex/category\_lens\_problem\_sets.pdf
- **Supplementary:** Agda developments for each week
- **Reference:** Epp, *Discrete Mathematics with Applications* (optional)

## 1.4 Assessment Suggestions

- Weekly problem sets (60%)—mix of computation and proof; optionally include 1–2 Category Lens problems
- Theorem proving projects (40%)—two projects, described in Section 16

## 1.5 Session Structure (2 hours)

Recommended breakdown for each class:

Time	Activity
0:00–0:10	Warm-up problem / Review questions
0:10–0:50	Lecture block 1 (new material)
0:50–1:10	In-class activity / Worked examples
1:10–1:50	Lecture block 2 (continued material)
1:50–2:00	Summary / Preview of next session

## 2 Week 0: Proof Refresher (Optional Pre-Week)

*If your students need a refresher, cover this material in an optional session or assign as pre-reading before Week 1.*

### 2.1 Topics

- Propositional logic review (connectives, truth tables, logical equivalence)
- Predicate logic review (quantifiers, negation of quantified statements)
- Proof techniques: direct proof, contrapositive, contradiction
- Mathematical induction: weak, strong, structural
- Common proof patterns and templates

#### In-Class Activity

**Proof Workshop:** Give students 4–5 statements and have them identify which proof technique is most appropriate, then complete one proof together.

Example statements:

1. If  $n^2$  is even, then  $n$  is even. (Contrapositive)
2.  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational. (Contradiction)
3.  $\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ . (Induction)
4. If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ . (Direct)

#### Teaching Tip

Students often struggle with the *structure* of proofs. Emphasize that proofs are communication—they should guide the reader through the logical steps. Encourage students to write in complete sentences and explicitly state which technique they're using.

### 3 Week 1: Set Theory

#### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Set notation and membership ( $\in$ ,  $\notin$ )
- Set-builder notation; common sets ( $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}$ )
- Subsets and set equality
- Power sets
- Set operations: union, intersection, complement, difference

**Learning Goals:**

- Translate between verbal descriptions and set-builder notation
- Prove set containment using element-chasing arguments
- Compute power sets for small sets

**Warm-up (10 min):** List all subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . How many are there? Conjecture a formula for  $|\mathcal{P}(A)|$  when  $|A| = n$ .

#### In-Class Activity

**Venn Diagram Gallery Walk:** Post 6 Venn diagrams around the room, each showing a shaded region. Students circulate and write the set expression for each shaded region. Discuss multiple correct answers (e.g.,  $A \cap B'$  vs  $A \setminus B$ ).

### Class B (Thursday)

#### Topics:

- Proving set identities (distributive laws, De Morgan's laws)
- Cartesian products
- Indexed families of sets; generalized union and intersection
- Introduction to cardinality (finite sets)

#### Learning Goals:

- Write rigorous proofs of set identities using element-chasing
- Understand Cartesian products and tuples
- Apply set identities to simplify expressions

**Lecture Focus:** Work through the proof of De Morgan's law in detail:

$$(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$$

Emphasize the bidirectional nature of set equality proofs.

#### Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):

Use the arrows/points/terminal object box; point students to the Category Theory Companion Week 1–2 and the Week 1 problem set.

### Agda Connection

**File:** `Week01_SetTheory.agda`

Key concepts to highlight:

- Sets as predicates: `Pred A = A -> Set`
- Union as sum type: `(P ∪ Q) x = Sum (P x) (Q x)`
- Intersection as product type: `(P ∩ Q) x = Pair (P x) (Q x)`
- Subset proofs are *functions*: `P ⊆ Q = (x : A) -> P x -> Q x`

**Going Deeper:** Mention that sets form a *Boolean algebra*—this connects to circuit design and propositional logic. The Agda file proves the non-contradiction law constructively.

**Teaching Tip**

Students often write “Let  $x \in A \cup B$ ” without considering both cases. Drill the pattern:

1. State what you want to prove
2. Handle both cases of the union separately
3. Conclude with what you've shown

## 4 Week 2: Functions

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Definition of function; domain, codomain, range
- Function equality
- Injective (one-to-one) functions
- Surjective (onto) functions
- Bijective functions

**Learning Goals:**

- Determine whether a function is injective/surjective from its definition
- Prove a function is injective or surjective
- Construct counterexamples when a function lacks these properties

**Warm-up:** For each function, classify as injective, surjective, both, or neither:

1.  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2$
2.  $g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, g(n) = n + 1$
3.  $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+, h(x) = e^x$

### In-Class Activity

**Function Card Sort:** Prepare cards with various functions (some with explicit formulas, some described verbally, some as diagrams). Students sort them into four categories: injective only, surjective only, bijective, neither. Discuss edge cases.



### Class B (Thursday)

#### Topics:

- Function composition
- Identity function; composition laws (associativity, identity)
- Inverse functions
- Proving composition preserves injectivity/surjectivity

#### Learning Goals:

- Compute compositions of functions
- Prove that  $g \circ f$  injective implies  $f$  injective
- Find inverse functions and verify they satisfy the inverse properties

**Key Theorem:**  $f$  has a two-sided inverse if and only if  $f$  is bijective.

#### Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):

Use the sections/retractions/idempotents box; point students to the Category Theory Companion Week 1–2 and the Week 2 problem set.

### Agda Connection

**File:** `Week02_Functions.agda`

Key concepts:

- Composition:  $(g \circ f) \ x = g \ (f \ x)$
- Injective:  $(x \ y : A) \rightarrow Eq \ (f \ x) \ (f \ y) \rightarrow Eq \ x \ y$
- Isomorphism record with `to`, `from`, and inverse proofs

**Going Deeper:** Functions form a *category*! Show students the three laws:

1.  $id \circ f = f$  (left identity)
2.  $f \circ id = f$  (right identity)
3.  $(h \circ g) \circ f = h \circ (g \circ f)$  (associativity)

The Agda file proves these as `composeIdLeft`, `composeIdRight`, `composeAssoc`.

### Teaching Tip

The notation  $g \circ f$  (“ $g$  after  $f$ ”) confuses students because  $f$  appears second but is applied first. Use the mnemonic “read right to left” or write compositions as  $f;g$  in class discussions if it helps.

## 5 Week 3: Relations and Modular Arithmetic

### Class A (Tuesday)

#### Topics:

- Binary relations; relation as subset of  $A \times B$
- Properties: reflexive, symmetric, transitive, antisymmetric
- Equivalence relations
- Equivalence classes and partitions
- Partial orders; Hasse diagrams

#### Learning Goals:

- Test whether a relation has specific properties
- Prove a relation is an equivalence relation
- Compute equivalence classes and understand the partition correspondence
- Draw Hasse diagrams and identify minimal/maximal/least/greatest elements

**Warm-up:** For each relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ , identify which properties it has:

1.  $a \sim b$  iff  $a = b$
2.  $a \sim b$  iff  $a \leq b$
3.  $a \sim b$  iff  $a - b$  is even
4.  $a \sim b$  iff  $|a - b| \leq 1$

### In-Class Activity

**Partition Puzzle:** Give students a set  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  and several partitions. For each partition, have them write out the corresponding equivalence relation explicitly as a set of ordered pairs. Then reverse: given an equivalence relation, find the partition.

**Class B (Thursday)****Topics:**

- Modular arithmetic: congruence modulo  $n$
- Properties of congruence (equivalence relation)
- Modular arithmetic operations
- Division algorithm; div and mod
- Introduction to Fermat's Little Theorem (statement only)

**Learning Goals:**

- Perform modular arithmetic calculations
- Prove statements about divisibility and congruence
- Apply modular arithmetic to practical problems (checksums, cryptography preview)

**Application:** ISBN check digits, credit card validation (Luhn algorithm).

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the preorders-as-categories and Galois connection box; assign Companion Week 3 and the Week 3 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** Week03\_RelationsMod.agda

Key concepts:

- Relation as function: `Rel A = A -> A -> Set`
- Equivalence record with reflexivity, symmetry, transitivity proofs
- Prime data type and `fermatLittle` postulate
- Chinese Remainder Theorem as `CRTSystem` record

**Going Deeper:** Equivalence relations correspond to *quotient types*. The kernel of any function is an equivalence relation—this is why modular arithmetic “works.”

**Teaching Tip**

Students often confuse “ $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ ” with “ $a = b \pmod{n}$ .” Emphasize that the first is a *relation* (a statement that can be true or false), while the second is typically an *operation* that computes a remainder.

## 6 Week 4: Counting and Probability I

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Sample spaces and events; equally likely probability
- Counting principles: sum rule, product rule
- Permutations and arrangements with restrictions
- Addition rule and inclusion–exclusion (two or three sets)
- Pigeonhole principle

**Learning Goals:**

- Build sample spaces and compute basic probabilities
- Apply sum/product rules and inclusion–exclusion
- Use the pigeonhole principle in proofs

**Warm-up:** Two coins are flipped. List the sample space and compute the probability of exactly one head.

### In-Class Activity

**Counting Stations:** Set up 4 stations with different counting problems. Groups rotate every 10 minutes, solving one problem at each station. Problems should vary in difficulty and technique required. Conclude with a gallery walk where each group presents their solution.

### Class B (Thursday)

**Topics:**

- Complement counting and derangements
- Conditional probability and independence
- Bayes' theorem and total probability

**Learning Goals:**

- Use complement counting to simplify problems
- Compute conditional probabilities and test independence
- Apply Bayes' theorem in inverse-probability settings

**Application:** Medical testing (sensitivity, specificity, false positives).

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the algebra-of-types box and mention exponentials/currying; assign Companion Weeks 4–5 and the Week 4 problem set.

### Agda Connection

**File:** `Week04_CountingProb1.agda`

Key concepts:

- `factorial` and `choose` functions defined recursively
- Pascal's identity verified: `pascal : (n k : Nat) -> Eq (choose (succ n) (succ k)) (choose n (succ k) + choose n k)`

**Going Deeper:** Combinatorial objects often have recursive structure. The recursive definition of  $\binom{n}{k}$  corresponds to a decision: does the subset include element  $n$  or not?

### Teaching Tip

For conditional probability problems, require students to define events clearly and write  $P(A | B) = P(A \cap B)/P(B)$  before computing. Tree diagrams help avoid missed cases.

## 7 Week 5: Counting and Probability II

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Combinations and binomial coefficients
- Binomial theorem and Pascal's identity
- Stars and bars (combinations with repetition)
- Multinomial coefficients

**Learning Goals:**

- Decide when order matters and use combinations correctly
- Apply the binomial theorem and Pascal's identity
- Solve distribution problems with stars and bars

**Warm-up:** How many 5-card hands contain exactly 2 aces?

### In-Class Activity

**Stars and Bars Workshop:** Give 3–4 distribution problems (cookies to kids, identical balls into bins, integer solutions). Have groups translate each into  $x_1 + \cdots + x_k = n$  and compute  $\binom{n+k-1}{k-1}$ .

Have students:

1. Identify the “stars” and the “bars”
2. Write one small example explicitly
3. Compare answers across groups for consistency

**Class B (Thursday)****Topics:**

- Recurrence relations for sequences
- Solving simple linear recurrences
- Generating functions (optional enrichment)

**Learning Goals:**

- Write recurrences for counting problems
- Solve first- and second-order recurrences with constant coefficients
- Interpret generating functions as algebraic encodings of sequences

**Application:** Tiling and Fibonacci-style counting problems.

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the “subsets as maps to 2” lens; assign Companion Weeks 4–5 and the Week 5 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** `Week05_CountingProb2.agda`

Key concepts:

- `choose` and Pascal's identity
- `starsAndBars` and `multichoose`
- `multinomial` and basic combinatorial identities
- Optional enrichment: inclusion-exclusion and derangements

**Going Deeper:** Recurrences arise naturally from combinatorial decompositions (e.g., tilings and Fibonacci numbers). Use them to reinforce induction.

**Teaching Tip**

For stars and bars problems, always have students:

1. Identify what the “stars” represent
2. Identify what the “bars” separate
3. Write out a small example explicitly

The formula  $\binom{n+k-1}{k-1}$  is easy to misremember; understanding beats memorization.

## 8 Week 6: Expected Value and Random Variables

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Random variables (discrete)
- Probability mass functions
- Expected value: definition and properties
- Linearity of expectation

**Learning Goals:**

- Define random variables for counting problems
- Compute expected values directly and using linearity
- Apply indicator random variables

**Warm-up:** You roll two dice. Let  $X$  be the sum. What is  $E[X]$ ? What is  $E[X^2]$ ? Is  $E[X^2] = E[X]^2$ ?

### In-Class Activity

**Coupon Collector Exploration:** A cereal company puts one of  $n$  different toys in each box. How many boxes do you expect to buy to collect all  $n$  toys?

Guide students through:

1. Define  $X_i$  = boxes needed to get the  $i$ th new toy (after having  $i - 1$ )
2. Show  $X_i$  is geometric with success probability  $(n - i + 1)/n$
3. Apply linearity:  $E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i] = n \cdot H_n$



**Class B (Thursday)****Topics:**

- Variance and standard deviation
- Common distributions: Bernoulli, binomial, geometric
- Applications of expected value in algorithms
- Introduction to graphs (transition to Week 7)

**Learning Goals:**

- Compute variance for simple distributions
- Recognize when to apply standard distributions
- Understand expected running time analysis

**Application:** Expected number of comparisons in randomized quicksort.

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the parts/predicates and graph-homomorphism lens when introducing graphs; assign Companion Weeks 6–7 and the Week 6 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** `Week06_ExpectationGraphs.agda`

Key concepts:

- Probability distributions as functions to rationals
- Expected value computation
- Graph representations (adjacency list, matrix) introduced

**Going Deeper:** Expected value is a *linear functional* on the space of random variables. This linearity is what makes many complex calculations tractable.

**Teaching Tip**

The coupon collector problem is excellent for building intuition about linearity of expectation. Emphasize that we *don't need independence* to use linearity—this is what makes it so powerful.

## 9 Week 7: Graph Theory I

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Graph terminology: vertices, edges, degree, paths, cycles
- Graph representations: adjacency matrix, adjacency list
- Special graphs: complete, bipartite, cycle, path graphs
- Handshaking lemma

**Learning Goals:**

- Translate between different graph representations
- Identify properties of special graph families
- Apply the handshaking lemma to prove existence results

**Warm-up:** Draw  $K_4$ ,  $K_{2,3}$ ,  $C_5$ , and  $P_4$ . For each, determine the number of vertices, edges, and whether it's bipartite.

### In-Class Activity

**Graph Isomorphism Challenge:** Present pairs of graphs drawn differently. Students determine whether each pair is isomorphic. For isomorphic pairs, find the bijection. For non-isomorphic pairs, identify an invariant that differs (vertex count, edge count, degree sequence, etc.).

### Class B (Thursday)

**Topics:**

- Graph isomorphism; isomorphism invariants
- Walks, trails, paths; Eulerian trails and circuits
- Euler's theorem for Eulerian graphs
- Graph coloring introduction; chromatic number

**Learning Goals:**

- Prove graphs are non-isomorphic using invariants
- Determine whether a graph has an Eulerian trail/circuit
- Find proper colorings and bounds on chromatic number

**Historical Note:** The Seven Bridges of Königsberg problem (1736) launched graph theory.

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the free-category-on-a-graph and connected-components lens; assign Companion Weeks 6–7 and the Week 7 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** `Week07_GraphTheoryI.agda`

Key concepts:

- `MatrixGraph` `n` record with adjacency function
- `Walk`, `Trail`, `Path` data types
- `Coloring`, `ProperColoring`, `Colorable` definitions
- `chromaticNumber` and `fourColorTheorem` postulates

**Going Deeper:** Graph homomorphisms generalize colorings: a proper  $k$ -coloring is exactly a homomorphism to  $K_k$ . This connects graph theory to category theory.

**Teaching Tip**

When teaching Euler's theorem, have students physically trace paths on whiteboard graphs. The parity argument (even degree = can escape any vertex you enter) becomes intuitive with physical demonstration.

## 10 Week 8: Trees and Graph Algorithms

### Class A (Tuesday)

#### Topics:

- Trees: definitions and characterizations
- Tree properties:  $|E| = |V| - 1$ , unique paths
- Rooted trees; binary trees
- Tree traversals: preorder, inorder, postorder

#### Learning Goals:

- Prove equivalent characterizations of trees
- Perform tree traversals
- Understand the structure of binary search trees

**Warm-up:** Prove: A connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $n - 1$  edges is a tree.

### In-Class Activity

**Traversal Race:** Display a binary tree. Teams race to produce the preorder, inorder, and postorder traversals. Verify by reconstructing the tree from two traversals.

Follow-up question: Given preorder and postorder only, can you always reconstruct the tree? (No—consider a tree with only left children.)

**Class B (Thursday)****Topics:**

- Spanning trees; BFS/DFS spanning trees
- Minimum spanning trees: Kruskal's and Prim's algorithms
- Shortest paths: BFS, Dijkstra's, Bellman-Ford
- Matchings in bipartite graphs (Hall's theorem)
- Network flows (max-flow min-cut)
- Folds on trees (catamorphisms)

**Learning Goals:**

- Find MSTs using greedy algorithms
- Trace Dijkstra's algorithm
- Use Hall's theorem to certify matchings
- Compute a max flow and identify a minimum cut
- Express tree computations as folds

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the initial-algebra/fold lens at the end of the traversal section; assign Companion Week 8 and the Week 8 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** `Week08_TreesAlgorithms.agda`

Key concepts:

- `BinTree` and `Tree` (rose tree) data types
- `binFold` :  $(A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B \rightarrow B) \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{BinTree } A \rightarrow B$
- Many operations as folds: `sizeAsFold`, `heightAsFold`, `mirror`, `mapTree`

**Going Deeper:** Tree folds are *catamorphisms*—the unique maps from an initial algebra. This is why so many tree operations factor through a single fold pattern. The fold essentially says: “Replace constructors with operations.”

**Teaching Tip**

The fold abstraction is powerful but initially confusing. Start with concrete examples:

- Size: replace **leaf** with 0, **branch** with  $\lambda x l r. 1 + l + r$
- Sum: replace **leaf** with 0, **branch** with  $\lambda x l r. x + l + r$

Then show how both instantiate the same pattern.

## 11 Week 9: Formal Languages and Automata

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Alphabets, strings, languages
- Regular expressions
- Deterministic finite automata (DFA)
- DFA acceptance; designing DFAs

**Learning Goals:**

- Write regular expressions for given languages
- Design DFAs for simple languages
- Trace DFA execution on input strings

**Warm-up:** Write a regular expression for: binary strings with an even number of 1s.

### In-Class Activity

**DFA Design Workshop:** Groups design DFAs for increasingly complex languages:

1. Strings ending in “01”
2. Strings with “010” as a substring
3. Strings where every “0” is immediately followed by “1”
4. Binary representations of multiples of 3

Groups present their solutions and peer-review for correctness.

**Class B (Thursday)****Topics:**

- Nondeterministic finite automata (NFA)
- Equivalence of DFA and NFA (subset construction)
- Equivalence of regular expressions and finite automata
- Pumping lemma (informal)
- Context-free grammars (CFG) and ambiguity
- Pushdown automata (PDA) and CFG–PDA equivalence

**Learning Goals:**

- Convert NFAs to DFAs
- Convert regular expressions to NFAs
- Use the pumping lemma to prove languages are not regular
- Write simple CFGs and derive example strings
- Describe a PDA for  $a^n b^n$ -type languages

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the coalgebra/automata lens and mention the free-monoid action; assign Companion Week 9 and the Week 9 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** `Week09_RegexAutomata.agda`

Key concepts:

- `Regex` data type with constructors for  $\emptyset$ ,  $\varepsilon$ , literals, union, concatenation, star
- DFA and NFA record types
- `accepts` function for DFA execution

**Going Deeper:** Regular languages form a *Kleene algebra*—a structure with union, concatenation, and Kleene star satisfying specific axioms. DFAs can be viewed as coalgebras, dual to the algebraic view of syntax.

**Teaching Tip**

The subset construction can produce exponentially many states. Work through a small example completely, then ask: “What’s the worst case?” Show that an NFA with  $n$  states can require a DFA with  $2^n$  states (the “count the  $k$ th-from-last character” example).



## 12 Week 10: Complexity and Tic-Tac-Toe

### Class A (Tuesday)

**Topics:**

- Review of Big-O notation
- Big- $\Omega$  and Big- $\Theta$
- Analyzing recursive algorithms (recurrence relations)
- Master theorem
- Complexity classes overview (P, NP)

**Learning Goals:**

- Determine asymptotic complexity of algorithms
- Set up and solve simple recurrences
- Apply the master theorem
- Distinguish P vs. NP at a high level

**Warm-up:** Rank these functions by growth rate:  $n^2$ ,  $2^n$ ,  $n \log n$ ,  $n!$ ,  $\log n$ ,  $n^{1.5}$ ,  $n$

### In-Class Activity

**Algorithm Analysis Gallery:** Post 6–8 code snippets (sorting algorithms, search algorithms, recursive functions). Students analyze each and determine Big-O complexity. Discuss which analyses require careful counting vs. simple pattern recognition.

**Class B (Thursday)****Topics:**

- Complexity classes: P, NP, NP-complete
- Polynomial-time reductions (conceptual)
- Optional: game trees and minimax
- Course review and synthesis

**Learning Goals:**

- Explain what it means for a problem to be NP-complete
- Recognize the role of reductions in complexity
- Synthesize course material: sets, functions, counting, graphs, trees

**Final Activity:** Optional: Tic-Tac-Toe is solved (always a draw with optimal play). Walk through the game tree analysis using minimax.

**Category Lens pacing (Class B, 5–10 min):**

Use the monoids-as-one-object-categories lens and the free/forgetful adjunction; assign Companion Week 10 and the Week 10 problem set.

**Agda Connection**

**File:** `Week10_Efficiency.agda`

Key concepts:

- Big-O as a relation: eventually bounded
- Optional: `GameTree` data type and `minimax`

**Going Deeper:** Complexity theory connects to logic via the idea that proofs correspond to programs; reductions formalize how difficulty transfers between problems.

**Teaching Tip**

The tic-tac-toe game tree is small enough to fully explore but large enough to motivate pruning. Use this as a bridge to discussing alpha-beta pruning for more complex games like chess.

## 13 Weekly Homework Suggestions

### 13.1 Homework Philosophy

Each problem set should include:

- **Computational problems** (40%): Practice with techniques
- **Proof problems** (40%): Develop proof-writing skills
- **Challenge problems** (20%): Deeper thinking, optional extra credit

### 13.2 Sample Problems by Week

Week	Sample Problems
1	Prove $(A \cap B) \cup (A \cap B^c) = A$ . Compute $ \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\{1, 2\})) $ .
2	Show $f(x) = 2x + 1$ is bijective $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Prove composition of bijections is bijective.
3	Draw a Hasse diagram for divisibility on $\{1, 2, 3, 6, 12\}$ . Find all $x$ with $3x \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$ .
4	Use inclusion-exclusion to count integers in $\{1, \dots, 100\}$ divisible by 2 or 3 or 5. Compute a conditional probability from a medical test scenario.
5	Solve a stars and bars distribution problem. Solve $a_n = 4a_{n-1} - 4a_{n-2}$ with given initial conditions.
6	Find $E[X]$ where $X$ = sum of two dice. Expected value of max of two dice.
7	Determine if two given graphs are isomorphic. Find $\chi(C_7)$ and $\chi(K_{3,3})$ .
8	Prove every tree is bipartite. Use Hall's theorem to certify a matching.
9	Design DFA for $\{w \in \{0, 1\}^* : w \text{ has } 010 \text{ as substring}\}$ . Give a CFG for $\{0^n 1^n\}$ .
10	Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$ . Explain why HAMILTONIAN CYCLE is in <b>NP</b> .

## 14 Agda Integration Guide

### 14.1 Why Agda?

Agda serves several pedagogical purposes:

1. **Precision:** Forces students to be completely explicit about definitions and proofs
2. **Feedback:** Type errors catch logical mistakes immediately
3. **Exploration:** Interactive proving develops mathematical intuition
4. **Connection:** Demonstrates the Curry-Howard correspondence (propositions as types)

### 14.2 Integration Options

#### Option A: Demonstration Only

- Show Agda in lectures to illustrate key concepts
- No student coding required
- Use for: Sets as predicates, functions as morphisms, proofs as programs

#### Option B: Optional Enrichment

- Provide Agda files for interested students
- Offer extra credit for completing Agda exercises
- Include brief Agda explanations in “Going Deeper” sections

#### Option C: Integrated Labs

- Weekly 1-hour Agda lab sessions
- Structured exercises with holes for students to fill
- Graded on completion/effort

### 14.3 Agda Exercises by Difficulty

File	Exercises	Difficulty
Common	Prove <code>addAssoc</code> , <code>addZeroRight</code>	Easy
Week01	Prove subset transitivity, De Morgan's laws	Easy–Medium
Week02	Show <code>succ</code> is injective, functor laws for <code>Maybe</code>	Medium
Week03	Divisibility properties, kernel equivalence	Medium
Week05	Verify derangement values, Stirling recurrence	Medium
Week07	Euler formula verification (rearranged)	Medium
Week08	Express operations as folds, prove fold laws	Medium–Hard

## 15 “Going Deeper” Topic Guide

The “Going Deeper” sections introduce category theory and type theory concepts at an accessible level. Here’s guidance on presenting these topics: Each week now has a matching section in the Category Theory Companion, which can be assigned as optional reading or used for extra problems.

### 15.1 Week 1: Arrows, Points, and Terminal Objects

**Key Message:** Elements are maps  $1 \rightarrow A$ ; sets and functions form a category with terminal and initial objects.

**Accessibility:** Very accessible. Use arrows and small-set examples.

**Connection:** Universal properties begin here (products, terminal object).

### 15.2 Week 2: Isomorphisms, Sections, and Retractions

**Key Message:** Bijections are isomorphisms; left/right inverses are retractions/sections; idempotents record retracts.

**Accessibility:** Moderately accessible. Use concrete functions and small diagrams.

**Connection:** “Division of maps” and categorical cancellation.

### 15.3 Week 3: Preorders as Categories

**Key Message:** Preorders are thin categories; monotone maps are functors; Galois connections are adjunctions for orders.

**Accessibility:** Accessible with divisibility and subset examples.

**Connection:** Meets/joins as products/coproducts in a preorder.

### 15.4 Weeks 4–5: Products, Sums, and Exponentials

**Key Message:** Counting rules mirror categorical constructions: sums, products, and map objects  $B^A$  (currying).

**Accessibility:** Very accessible with type-counting and binomial examples.

**Connection:** Subsets as maps to 2; bijections as structure-preserving maps.

### 15.5 Week 6: Parts and Predicates

**Key Message:** Power sets describe “parts” of an object; preimage maps preserve structure.

**Accessibility:** Accessible via events and characteristic functions.

**Connection:** Probability as measures on parts; logic via  $A \rightarrow 2$ .

### 15.6 Week 7: Graphs Generate Categories

**Key Message:** The free category on a graph formalizes paths; adjacency matrices count morphisms; connected components form a functor.

**Accessibility:** Accessible with concrete graphs and paths.

**Connection:** Functorial invariants and structure-preserving maps.

## 15.7 Week 8: Initial Algebras and Folds

**Key Message:** Recursive data types are initial algebras; folds are unique maps out of them.

**Accessibility:** Most challenging. Focus on the pattern and examples.

**Connection:** Catamorphisms and recursion schemes.

## 15.8 Week 9: Coalgebras and Automata

**Key Message:** DFAs are coalgebras; automata are actions of the free monoid.

**Accessibility:** Moderate. Use small DFAs as examples.

**Connection:** Final coalgebras and language semantics.

## 15.9 Week 10: Monoids and Adjunctions

**Key Message:** Monoids are one-object categories; free/forgetful adjunction explains  $\Sigma^*$ .

**Accessibility:** Moderate.

**Connection:** Cost monoids and resource tracking.

## 16 Theorem Proving Projects

Students complete two theorem proving projects during the quarter. These projects develop deep understanding through extended engagement with proof, connecting paper-and-pencil mathematics to mechanized verification.

### 16.1 Project 1: Foundations (Due Week 5)

**Overview:** Students formalize and prove properties about sets, functions, and relations—either in Agda or as a written proof portfolio.

#### 16.1.1 Option A: Agda Track

Complete the following proofs in Agda (fill in holes in provided files):

1. **Set Theory:** Prove 5 set identities including:
  - De Morgan's laws (both directions)
  - Distributivity of  $\cap$  over  $\cup$
  - Symmetric difference is associative
2. **Functions:** Prove 4 properties including:
  - Composition of injections is injective
  - If  $g \circ f$  is surjective, then  $g$  is surjective
  - Functor laws for `Maybe` (identity and composition)
3. **Relations:** Prove 3 properties including:
  - Kernel of any function is an equivalence relation
  - Divisibility is transitive

#### 16.1.2 Option B: Written Track

Submit a proof portfolio with:

1. 6 polished proofs of set/function/relation theorems
2. Each proof must include: theorem statement, proof strategy overview, complete proof, and reflection on difficulties encountered
3. At least 2 proofs must use different techniques (direct, contrapositive, contradiction, induction)

#### Teaching Tip

##### Grading Rubric (per proof):

- Correctness (40%): Logical validity, no gaps
- Clarity (30%): Well-organized, clear prose
- Style (20%): Appropriate level of detail, good notation
- Reflection (10%): Insightful discussion of proof strategy

## 16.2 Project 2: Structures (Due Week 10)

**Overview:** Students explore a deeper topic connecting discrete structures to broader mathematics, with emphasis on the “Going Deeper” themes.

### 16.2.1 Option A: Agda Track

Choose one of the following extended developments:

#### 1. Counting and Bijections:

- Prove Pascal's identity computationally
- Prove the hockey-stick identity
- Verify Stirling number recurrence
- Implement and verify derangement counting

#### 2. Graph Theory:

- Implement graph representations
- Prove handshaking lemma
- Verify Euler's formula for specific planar graphs
- Implement and verify 2-coloring for bipartite graphs

#### 3. Trees and Folds:

- Implement 5+ tree operations as folds
- Prove fold fusion law
- Prove mirror is an involution
- Show that map preserves identity and composition (functor laws)

#### 4. Automata Theory:

- Implement regex matching via derivatives
- Prove properties of regex operations
- Implement DFA simulation
- Verify DFA/NFA equivalence for small examples

### 16.2.2 Option B: Written Track

Write an expository paper (8–12 pages) on one of:

1. **Boolean Algebras and Sets:** Explain the Boolean algebra axioms, show sets satisfy them, connect to propositional logic and digital circuits.
2. **The Category of Sets:** Explain what a category is, show that sets and functions form one, discuss universal properties (products, coproducts).
3. **Equivalence Relations and Quotients:** Explain the correspondence between equivalence relations and partitions, develop modular arithmetic as a quotient, discuss quotient structures in algebra.



4. **Graph Coloring and Homomorphisms:** Explain graph homomorphisms, show colorings are homomorphisms to complete graphs, discuss the chromatic polynomial.
5. **Catamorphisms and Recursion Schemes:** Explain folds as structured recursion, show how many operations factor through folds, discuss the connection to initial algebras.

#### Paper Requirements:

- Clear exposition accessible to classmates
- At least 3 fully worked examples
- At least 2 complete proofs
- Annotated bibliography with 4+ sources
- Discussion of connections to course material

### 16.3 Project Timeline and Milestones

Week	Project 1	Project 2
2	Topic selection	—
3	Progress check (2 proofs done)	—
5	<b>Final submission</b>	Topic selection
7	—	Progress check
9	—	Draft for peer review
10	—	<b>Final submission</b>

### 16.4 Peer Review Process

For Project 2, incorporate peer review:

1. Week 9: Students exchange drafts with a partner
2. Partners provide written feedback on:
  - Clarity of exposition
  - Correctness of proofs
  - Suggestions for improvement
3. Final submission includes a “response to reviewers” section addressing feedback

#### In-Class Activity

**Project Showcase (Finals Week):** Optional presentations where students share their Project 2 work. Each presenter gets 10 minutes to explain the main ideas and one interesting proof. This builds communication skills and exposes students to topics beyond their own project.

## 17 Additional Resources

### 17.1 Recommended Reading

- **Primary Text:** Epp, *Discrete Mathematics with Applications*
- **Course Companion:** Category Theory Companion (aligned by week)
- **Proof Writing:** Hammack, *Book of Proof* (free online)
- **Graph Theory:** West, *Introduction to Graph Theory*
- **Category Theory (gentle):** Lawvere & Schanuel, *Conceptual Mathematics*
- **Type Theory:** Pierce, *Types and Programming Languages*

### 17.2 Online Resources

- **Agda:** <https://agda.readthedocs.io/>
- **Category Theory:** nLab (<https://ncatlab.org/>)
- **Proof Practice:** <https://www.proofwiki.org/>

### 17.3 Software

- **Agda:** Install via Haskell Stack or system package manager
- **Graph Visualization:** Graphviz, yEd
- **Automata Simulation:** JFLAP

*This guide accompanies the CS 251 course materials.  
Last updated: January 9, 2026*