Counting Binary Trees

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Outline

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Counting Binary Trees

- Consider the following three disparate problems:
  1. The number of distinct binary trees having n nodes.
  2. The number of distinct permutations of the numbers from 1 to n obtainable by a stack.
  3. The number of distinct ways of multiplying $n+1$ matrices.

Counting Binary Trees

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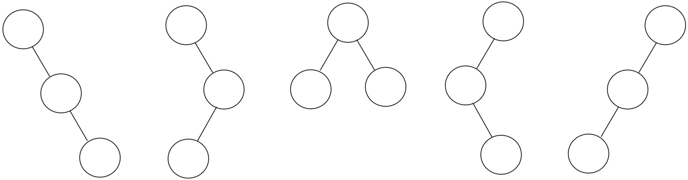
  1. The number of distinct binary trees having n nodes.
  2. The number of distinct permutations of the numbers from 1 to n obtainable by a stack.
  3. The number of distinct ways of multiplying $n + 1$ matrices.
- Amazingly, these problems have the same solution!

Problem One

- The number of distinct binary trees having n nodes.



$\star$ Example of $n = 3$.

Problem Two

- The number of distinct permutations of the numbers from 1 to n obtainable by a stack.

1. push 1 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 2 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 3 $\rightarrow$ pop $\Rightarrow$ 123.
2. push 1 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 2 $\rightarrow$ push 3 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ pop $\Rightarrow$ 132.
3. push 1 $\rightarrow$ push 2 $\rightarrow$ push 3 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ pop $\Rightarrow$ 321.
4. push 1 $\rightarrow$ push 2 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 3 $\rightarrow$ pop $\Rightarrow$ 213.
5. push 1 $\rightarrow$ push 2 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 3 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ pop $\Rightarrow$ 231.

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Problem Three

- The number of distinct ways of multiplying $n+1$ matrices.

1. $((M_1 \times M_2) \times M_3) \times M_4$.
2. $(M_1 \times (M_2 \times M_3)) \times M_4$.
3. $M_1 \times ((M_2 \times M_3) \times M_4)$.
4. $M_1 \times (M_2 \times (M_3 \times M_4))$.
5. $(M_1 \times M_2) \times (M_3 \times M_4)$.

$\star$ Example of $n = 3$.

Stack Permutation (1/4)

- Recall: preorder, inorder and postorder traversal of a binary tree.
  - Each traversal requires a stack.

Every binary tree has a unique pair of preorder/inorder sequences.

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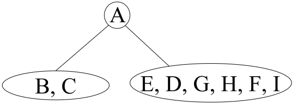
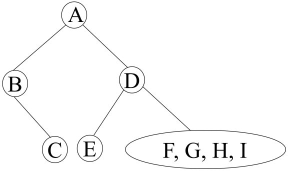
- The number of distinct binary trees is equal to the number of inorder permutations obtainable from binary trees having the preorder permutation, $1, 2, \ldots, n$.

Stack Permutation (2/4)

- preorder: A B C E D G H F I
- inorder: B C A E D G H F I



- preorder: A B C (D E F G H I)
- inorder: B C A (E D F G H I)



Stack Permutation (3/4)

- We can show that

  the number of distinct permutations obtainable by passing the numbers $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ through a stack is equal to the number of distinct binary trees with n nodes.

1. push 1 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 2 $\rightarrow$ pop $\rightarrow$ push 3 $\rightarrow$ pop $\Rightarrow$ 123.
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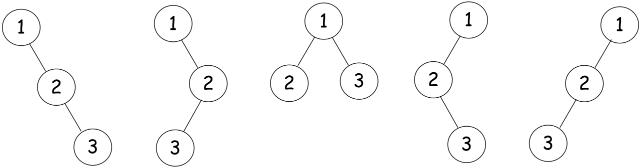
Stack Permutation (4/4)



(1, 2, 3) (1, 3, 2) (2, 1, 3) (2, 3, 1) (3, 2, 1)

Go Back to the Matrix Multiplication

- Computing the product of n matrices are related to the distinct binary tree problem.
- $n = 3$:
  1. $(M_1 \times M_2) \times M_3$.
  2. $M_1 \times (M_2 \times M_3)$.
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Matrix Multiplication (2/2)

- b_n: the number of different ways to compute the product of n matrices.
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- Trivially, $b_1 = 1$, $b_2 = 1$.
- We have also derived that $b_3 = 2$ and $b_4 = 5$.
- We can compute that

$$b_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} b_i b_{n-i}, \text{ for } n > 1.$$

Distinct Binary Trees

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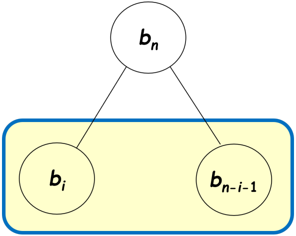

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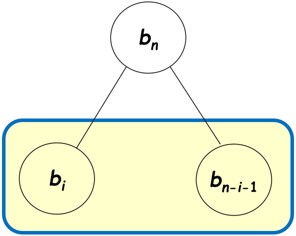

- But, how to compute b_n exactly?

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- By the recurrence relation we get:

$$xB(x)^2 = B(x) - 1.$$

- Solving the recurrence relation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} B(x) &= \frac{1-\sqrt{1-4x}}{2x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2x}\left(1 - \sum_{i\geq 0}\binom{1/2}{n}(-4x)^n\right) \\ &= \sum_{m\geq 0}\binom{1/2}{m+1}(-1)^m 2^{2m+1} x^m. \end{aligned}$$

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$$\therefore b_n = \frac{1}{n+1}\binom{2n}{n}.$$

Discussions