

CSC236 Notes

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1 Functions

1.1 Review

Subsets: $A \subseteq B$, i.e., $x \in A \implies x \in B$

Union: $A \cup B$, i.e., the set of elements contained in A or B.

Intersection: $A \cap B$, i.e., the set of elements contained in both A and B.

Difference: $A \setminus B$, i.e., the set of the elements contained in A excluding the intersection $A \cap B$.

Power set: $(P(A) = \{B: B \subseteq A\})$, i.e., the set containing all the subsets of A. For example, for $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $P(A) = \{\{1, 2\}, \emptyset, \{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}\}$

1.2 Functions

For the function $f: A \rightarrow B$, we say that A is the domain (the set of all possible inputs), B is the codomain (the set of possible outputs), and f is a function from A to B.

Everything in A gets mapped to B, but not everything in B needs to be mapped.

Each item in the domain must map to at most one item, and all items in the domain must map to something in the codomain. If we want our items in the domain to map to multiple items or to no items, we can change our codomain to be a powerset of possible items, instead.

It is also important to specify the domain and codomain when defining a function.

Injective functions: A function $f: A \rightarrow B$ is injective if and only if:

$$\forall x, y \in A, (x \neq y \implies f(x) \neq f(y))$$

In other words, if the inputs are different, then the outputs must be different.

By contrapositive, we say: $\forall x, y \in A, (f(x) = f(y) \implies x = y)$.

The Pigeonhole Principle

Theorem. Let A, B be sets where $|A| = m$, and $|B| = n$, where $m > n$. Then, there is no injective function $f: A \rightarrow B$.

In other words, if there are m pigeons, and n pigeonholes, no matter how we assign pigeons to pigeonholes, at least one pigeonhole will have at least $\lceil \frac{m}{n} \rceil$ pigeons. ($\lceil x \rceil$ rounds x up to the nearest integer).

Injectivity Proofs

$$\text{Let } f(x) = \begin{cases} 2i & x = a_i \\ 2i + 1 & x = b_i \end{cases}$$

Prove that the function is injective.

Proof. Let x, y be customers s.t. $x \neq y$. We will show that $f(x) \neq f(y)$. We have the following cases:

1. Suppose x and y are on different busses. WLOG, assume that x was on the first and y on the second. The, $f(x) \neq f(y)$ since $f(x)$ is even, and $f(y)$ odd.
2. If x and y were both on the first bus, since $x \neq y$, $x = a_i$ and $y = a_j$ for some $i \neq j$. Thus $2i \neq 2j$, and $f(x) \neq f(y)$ as required.
3. The case where x and y both on the second bus similar.

Surjective Functions: A function $f: A \rightarrow B$ is surjective if and only if:

$$\forall b \in B, \exists a \in A, (f(a) = b)$$

In other words, everything in the function's codomain must be hit.

Bijjective Functions: A function $f : A \rightarrow B$ if and only if it is both surjective and injective.

Bijjectivity Proofs

Let $f(x) = \frac{x}{2}$. Prove it is bijective.

Proof. To prove $f(x)$ is bijective, we prove both injectivity and surjectivity.

1. Injective. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, and assume $f(a) = f(b)$. By the definition of f , this implies that $\frac{a}{2} = \frac{b}{2}$, which implies $a = b$. Hence, f is injective.
2. Let $b \in \mathbb{R}$. To show f is surjective, we need to find some number $a \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(a) = b$. We claim $a = 2b$, so we have $f(a) = f(2b) = \frac{2b}{2} = b$. Hence, f is surjective.

$f(x)$ is both injective and surjective, and thus it is bijective.

1.3 Cantor's Theorem

Theorem. For any set A , there is no surjection between A and $P(A)$.

For example, for the set $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $P(A) = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$, there is no surjective function from the smaller set A to $P(A)$. That is, there is an element in the codomain such that an element in the domain does not hit that element of the codomain.

This is true for all finite sets.

Imagine $f(x)$ as a function that maps A to $P(A)$. We would get the following table:

	1	2	3
f(1)	T	F	F
f(2)	F	F	T
f(3)	T	F	T

For the item $1 \in A$, $f(1)$, it maps to the first item in the powerset $P(A)$, $\{1\}$. This continues for all other elements of A .

Look at the diagonal (the set D) across the above table, and reverse the signs of them (T becomes F, vice versa). So, we get:

	1	2	3
f(1)	F	F	F
f(2)	F	T	T
f(3)	T	F	F

Now, we let our set $D = \{2\}$ and the function is considered non-surjective.

In other words, $D = \{a \in A : a \notin f(a)\}$.

For all possible functions, this procedure must be possible and the grid must work.

Proof. Let $f : A \rightarrow P(A)$. Let $D = \{a \in A : a \notin f(a)\}$, and note that $D \subseteq A$. This implies that $D \in P(A)$. To prove that f is not surjective, we show that there is no $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = D$ (D is the subset of the codomain that is not being hit).

By contradiction, assume that $D = f(a)$ for some $a \in D$. There are two possible cases, $a \in D$, or $a \notin D$.

1. If $a \in D$, then $a \notin f(a)$ by the definition of D . However, $f(a) = D$, so $a \notin D$. This is a contradiction.
2. If $a \notin D$, then $a \in f(a)$ but $f(a) = D$ by assumption, so $a \in D$. Contradiction.

In both cases there is a contradiction, so f is not surjective. □

Programs and Cantor's Theorem

Let Strings be the set of all possible strings. For each subset $A \subseteq \text{Strings}$ (where each $A \in P(\text{Strings})$), determine whether or not a given input is in A or not in A .

As an example, let $A = \{w \in \text{Strings} : w \text{ is a palindrome}\}$.

Let the set Problems = $P(\text{Strings})$.

We say that program P solves a problem $A \subseteq \text{Strings}$ if $\forall w \in \text{Strings}: w \in A \iff P \text{ run on input } w \text{ prints } 1, \text{ and nothing else.}$

Identify each program with its source code (a string), so that Programs $\subseteq \text{Strings}$.

Solution

Let Solves: Programs $\rightarrow P(\text{Strings})$ be the function that maps each program to the program it solves. Each program solves at most one problem, so it is well defined. Determine whether or not Solves is surjective or not.

Proof: Computers can not solve all problems, since Solves is not surjective.

By contradiction, assume that Solves: Programs $\rightarrow P(\text{Strings})$ is surjective. We want to construct a surjective function from Strings $\rightarrow P(\text{Strings})$, which contradicts Cantor's Theorem.

Let $f : \text{Strings} \rightarrow P(\text{Strings})$ be defined as follows:

$$f(w) = \begin{cases} \text{Solves}(w) & w \in \text{Programs} \\ \emptyset & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

We claim that f is surjective. Let $b \in P(\text{Strings})$. Since Solves is surjective, then there exists some $a \in \text{Programs}$ such that $\text{Solves}(a) = b$.

Since Programs $\subseteq \text{Strings}$, $a \in \text{Strings}$. By definition of f , $f(a) = \text{Solves}(a) = b$.

Thus, f is surjective, contradicting Cantor's Theorem.

Therefore, Solves is not surjective.

2 Binary Relations

A **Binary Relation** R over a set A is a way to compare signs of elements of A . For any elements $a, b \in A$.

If a relates to b under R , we write aRb .

If a does not relate to b , we write $a \not R b$

2.1 Properties of $<$

Example: What are some properties of $<$ on \mathbb{N} ?

1. **Irreflexive:** $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, x \not < x \quad \text{---} \quad \forall a \in A, a \not R a$

In other words, there are no self loops.

2. **Asymmetric:** $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{N}, a < b \implies b \not < a \mid \forall a, b \in A, aRb \implies b \not R a$

In other words, if a goes one way, then b is not going that way.

Note that asymmetric implies irreflexive.

3. **Transitive:** $\forall a, b, c, a < b \wedge b < c \implies a < c \quad \text{---} \quad \forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}, aRb \wedge bRc \implies aRc.$

4. **Connected:** $\forall a, b, a \neq b \implies a < b \vee b < a \mid \forall a, b \in A, a \neq b \implies aRb \vee bRa$

2.1.1 Strict Orders

Let R be a relation over a set A . R is **strict (partial) order** if it is:

1. reflexive,
2. asymmetric,
3. and transitive

If R is also connected, then R is a **strict total order**.

Intuitively, if R is a strict total order, we think of it as being like $<$ or $<.$

If R is a strict partial order, we think of it as being like $<$ or $<.$, but some elements may not be comparable.

Examples of Strict Total Order: Dictionary orders

Examples of Strict Partial Order: Prerequisites/Dependencies, Little-O, IsDescendantOf, \subsetneq

2.2 Hasse Diagrams

Since we know that a relation can be transitive, edges are oftentimes redundant. Therefore, we only need to draw edges between a, b if aRb and there is no c for which $aRc \wedge cRb$.

Formally, for any strict order R over a set A , the **Hasse Diagram** of R has an edge from $a \rightarrow b \iff aRb$ and there does not exist $c \in A : aRc \wedge cRb$.

2.2.1 Irreflexive and Transitive Implies Asymmetric

Theorem. Let R be a binary relation over a set A . If R is irreflexive and transitive, then it is asymmetric.

Proof. Let $a, b \in A : aRb$. We WTS $b \not R a$. By contradiction, assume bRa .

Since aRb, bRa and R is transitive, we have aRa . However this contradicts the fact that R is irreflexive (since it's self loop). Therefore, R is asymmetric. □

2.2.2 New Definition of Strict Orders

Knowing that irreflexive and transitive implies asymmetric, we can rewrite our definition of strict orders.

Let R be a relation over a set A . R is a **strict partial order** if it is irreflexive and transitive.

If R is also connected, then R is a **strict total order**.

2.3 Non-Strict Partial Orders

2.3.1 Antisymmetric

A binary relation R over a set A is called **antisymmetric** is

$$\forall a, b \in A (aRb \wedge bRa \implies a = b)$$

Contrapositive: $\forall a, b \in A (a \neq b \implies a \not R b \vee b \not R a)$

2.3.2 Partial Orders

A binary relation is called a **partial order** if it is:

1. reflexive,
2. antisymmetric,
3. transitive

A binary relation is called a **total order** if it is a partial order and connected.

2.4 Properties of SameX

1. **Transitive:** $\forall a, b, c, a < b \wedge b < c \implies a < c$ — $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}, aRb \wedge bRc \implies aRc$
2. **Reflexive:** $\forall a \in A, aRa$
Intuitively, if every element relates to itself then it is reflexive.
3. **Symmetric:** $\forall a, b \in A, aRb \implies bRa$
Intuitively, if every edge is bidirectional (goes both ways), then it is symmetric.

2.4.1 Equivalence Relations

Equivalence relations are:

1. reflexive,
2. transitive,
3. and symmetric

Intuition: If R is an equivalence relation and aRb , a is in some way “equivalent” to b .

Examples:

1. $=$
2. \equiv_3 is defined on \mathbb{N} where for $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$,
 $a \equiv_3 b \iff \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : (a = b + 3k)$ (i.e., $a = b \pmod{3}$)
3. SameNumberOfVertices defined on the set of polygons.
4. Θ

2.4.2 Example Proof of Equivalence Relations

We want to show $a \equiv_3 b \iff \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : (a = b + 3k)$ (i.e., $a = b \pmod{3}$).

To prove, we must show it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Proof. Reflexive: Let $a \in \mathbb{N}$, then $a = a + 3 \cdot 0$. Hence, $a \equiv_3 a$.

Symmetric: Let $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$, and suppose $a \equiv b \pmod{3}$. Then, there is some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a = b + 3k$. By rearranging, we get $b = a + 3(-k)$. Hence, $b \equiv_3 a$.

Transitive: Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $a \equiv_3 b$ and $b \equiv_3 c$. Then, there exists $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a = b + 3k_1$ and $b = c + 3k_2$. Substituting the second equation into the first we get:

$$\begin{aligned} a &= c + 3k_2 + 3k_1 \\ &= c + 3(k_2 + k_1) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, there exists a $k = k_2 + k_1$ such that $a = c + 3k$. Thus, $a \equiv_3 c$. □

2.4.3 Equivalence Classes

Let R be an equivalence relation on a set A . For any $a \in A$, define the **equivalence class of a with respect to R** , denoted $[a]_R$, to be the set of elements that relate to it, i.e.,

$$[a]_R = \{b \in A : aRb\}$$

2.4.4 Partitions

Let A be any set. Let X be a set of subsets of A (i.e., $X \subseteq P(A)$).

X is a **partition** of A if for every $a \in A$, a is in exactly one element of X .

2.4.5 Equivalence Classes and Partitions

Theorem. Let R be an equivalence relation on a set A . Then, the set of equivalence classes of R is a partition of A . That is, every element of A is in exactly one equivalence class.

Lemma. For any $a, b \in A$, $[a]_R = [b]_R \iff aRb$

Proof. For the forward direction assume $[a]_R = [b]_R$. Since R is an equivalence relation, R is reflexive. Thus aRb , and $b \in [b]_R$. Since $[a]_R = [b]_R$, $b \in [a]_R$. By definition of $[a]_R$, it must be the case that aRb .

For the backward direction, assume aRb . We'll show $[b]_R \subseteq [a]_R$. Let $x \in [b]_R$, then we have bRx . Next, since aRb and bRx , by transitivity, aRx , and hence $x \in [a]_R$.

Now, we show $[a]_R \subseteq [b]_R$. Note that since R is symmetric and aRb , we also have bRa . Let $x \in [a]_R$. Then we have aRx . Since bRa and aRx , by transitivity, bRx and hence $x \in [b]_R$.

Finally, since $[a]_R \subseteq [b]_R$ and $[b]_R \subseteq [a]_R$, $[a]_R = [b]_R$ as required.

So, $[a]_R \subseteq [b]_R \wedge [b]_R \subseteq [a]_R \implies [a]_R = [b]_R$. □

We can use our lemma to prove that the set of equivalence classes forms a partition.

Proof. Let R be an equivalence relation over a set A . We WTS that every element of A is in precisely one equivalence class.

Let $a \in A$, since R is reflexive, aRa and hence $a \in [a]_R$. Thus a is in at least one equivalence class.

By contradiction, suppose a was also in another equivalence class $[b]_R$ such that $[a]_R \neq [b]_R$. Since $a \in [b]_R$, bRa . By the backwards direction of the lemma, we have $[b]_R = [a]_R$, which is a contradiction. □

3 Graphs

A **graph** $G = (V, E)$ is a pair of sets (V, E) where V is a set of vertices and E is a set of pairs of edges.

If E is a set of unordered pairs, the graph is undirected, and if E is a set of ordered pairs, the graph is **directed**.

1. Undirected sets are denoted as a set of sets (i.e., $E = \{\{a, b\}, \{b, c\}\}$)
2. Directed sets are denoted as a set of tuples (i.e., $E = \{(a, b), (b, c)\}$)

Examples of Graphs: Wifi networks, book reviews, genetic trees, courses and prerequisites, vector graphics, map locations, contact tracing, social media networks, web links, tournament brackets, binary relations, functions.

3.0.1 Weights

Sometimes edges can have an associated weight. Formally, we define a function $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ where $w(\{u, v\})$ is the weight of the edge $\{u, v\}$.

3.1 Matching

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph. A matching $M \subseteq E$ is a subset of edges that do not share any endpoints (i.e., every vertex appears in at most one edge in M).

A matching is **perfect** if every vertex appears exactly once in the matching.

If each of the edges has a weight, then the weight of a matching is the sum of the weights of edges in M .

3.1.1 Matching Problem

Input: A graph $G = (V, E)$

Output: A matching $M \subseteq E$.

Usually, we want $|M|$ to be as large as possible. Sometimes, we want to maximize/minimize the weight of the matching as well.

3.1.2 Matchings in the Real World

You want to match students that are compatible with one another, but also want to match as many students as possible together.

So, we analyze:

1. What are the vertices of the graph?
2. What are the edges of the graph?
3. What are the edge weights?
4. What properties of the graph are desired?

For this scenario, our vertices are the students, the edges are from each student to another, the edge weights are their compatibility, and we want to match as many students as possible that have high weights.

3.2 Paths

Adjacent - Two vertices $u, v \in V$ are adjacent if $\{u, v\} \in E$.

A sequence of distinct vertices (v_1, \dots, v_n) is a **path** from v_1 to v_n if for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$, v_i and v_{i+1} are adjacent.

The **length** of the path is the number of edges in the path.

3.2.1 Path Finding Problem

Input: A graph $G = (V, E)$, and two vertices $u, v \in V$.

Output: A path from u to v in G , i.e., a sequence of vertices (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) where $v_1 = u$ and $v_n = v$.

Typically, we want to find the shortest path possible for the graph. If each edge has a weight, we may also want to find the path with the smallest total weight.

3.2.2 Example of Path Finding

Start at a random Wikipedia page, and try to find a specific article (i.e., University of Toronto).

Our vertices are the set of wikipedia articles,

our edges are the direct edges from one wikipedia article to another, and we want the path a with the shortest number of edges from one vertex to another.

3.3 Cycles

Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected graph. A sequence of vertices (v_1, \dots, v_n) is a **cycle** if (v_1, \dots, v_n) is a path, $v_1 = v_n$ and $\{v_{n-1} - v_n\} \in E$.

A cycle is called **Hamiltonian** if every vertex appears in the cycle exactly once (except for the start/end vertex, which appears twice).

A Hamiltonian cycle is a permutation of the vertices, but must keep in that the edges must exist.

3.3.1 Cycle Problem

Input: A graph $G = (V, E)$ and a starting vertex h .

Output: A Hamiltonian cycle in G starting with h that minimizes the total edge weights.

3.3.2 Example of Cycle Problem

You are a traveling salesperson and want to travel to every house possible.

When we consider the weight, we want to find the cycle path that has the smallest total weight.

3.4 Coloring

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph and let C be a set of k colours.

A k -(vertex) colouring of G is a function $f : V \rightarrow C$ where for any pair of adjacent vertices u, v (any edge $\{u, v\} \in E$), we have:

$$f(u) \neq f(v)$$

Think of f as assigning vertices to colours. A k colouring is a way to assign each vertex one of k colours such that adjacent vertices have different colours.

Examples of Colouring: Sudoku, Fill puzzles.

3.4.1 Colouring Problems

Input: A graph $G = (V, E)$, and a number $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Output: A k -colouring of G .

Sometimes, you're also given a partial colouring and asked to complete it to a full colouring. This is called **precolouring extension**.

3.5 Independent Sets

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph. A subset of vertices is $I \subseteq V$ is called an independent set if none of the vertices in I are adjacent.

For example, for all $u, v \in I$, $\{u, v\} \notin E$.

3.5.1 Modelling Independent Set Problems

Input: A graph $G = (V, E)$ a number $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k > 1$.

Output: An independent set $I \subseteq V$ in G of size k .

Sometimes, we don't give a number k and ask for the largest possible independent set instead.

3.6 Other Problems with Graphs

There are many more problems on graphs that are good to know (you can see some of them on the documentation for networkx). For example, centrality, chains, dominance, planarity, etc. all deal with graphs and various properties/problems involving graphs.

We can often convert one problem into another in Computer Science. If problem A can be converted to problem B , then A **reduces** to B . This idea is how one defines a partial order on the set of problems in terms of their difficulty.

For example, if A reduces to B , then A is at most as hard as B (since if we solve B , then we can solve A).

3.7 Trees

Let $G = (V, E)$ be any graph.

1. G is **connected** if for every pair of distinct vertices u, v there is a path from u to v .
2. G is **acyclic** if there are no cycles in G .

A graph is considered a tree if it is connected and acyclic.

Generally, if a graph has more edges, then it is more likely to be connected but also be a cycle.

If a graph has fewer edges, it is more likely acyclic, but less likely to be connected.

Trees are considered to have an ‘ideal’ number of edges. Therefore, trees are considered **minimally connected graphs**, meaning it is connected but removing an edge causes the tree to be disconnected.

Trees are **maximally acyclic graphs**, meaning that it is not cyclic, but adding any edge creates a cycle.

Note that:

$$\text{Tree} \iff \text{Minimally Connected} \iff \text{Maximally Acyclic}$$

A **binary tree** is a tree with at most 2 “children”, or 3 edges between one vertex.

3.7.1 Proof of Minimally Connected

Proof. Let G be a tree. We WTS that removing any edge causes the tree to be disconnected.

Let $\{u, v\}$ be an edge in G . By contradiction, assume that we can remove $\{u, v\}$ and still be connected. Then, there must be a path $(u = x_1, \dots, x_n)$ from $u \rightarrow v$ that does not use $\{u, v\}$. Then $(x_1 = u, \dots, x_n = v, x_1 = u)$, which is a contradiction. \square

3.7.2 Proof of Maximally Acyclic

Proof. Let G be a tree. We WTS that adding any edge creates a graph.

Let $\{u, v\}$ be any edge not in G . Let $G' = G$ with $\{u, v\}$ added.

By contradiction, assume G' is still acyclic. This implies G' is acyclic and connected (since adding an edge doesn’t destroy connectivity), implying that G' is still a tree.

By the previous theorem, G' is minimally connected, so removing any edge from G' disconnects the graph. When we remove that same edge, we get the graph G back. However, this implies G is not connected, which is a contradiction. \square

Alternate Proof

Proof. Let G be a tree. We WTS that adding any edge makes it cyclic.

Let $\{u, v\}$ be any edge not already in G .

Since G is connected, there exists a path from u to v . $P = (u = x_1, \dots, x_n = v)$. Once we add $\{u, v\}$, there is a cycle $(u = x_1, \dots, x_n = v, u)$. \square

3.8 Edges and Trees

The number of edges of a graph is one less the number of vertices. That is:

$$|E| = |V| - 1$$

4 Induction

Induction is used to prove statements of the following form:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} (P(n))$$

Note that P is a predicate for the natural numbers, being true or false for any natural number n . Induction is super useful when analyzing the correctness and runtime of algorithms.

Formally, we write:

$$(P(0) \wedge \forall k \in \mathbb{N}. (P(k) \implies P(k+1))) \implies \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. P(n)$$

It is sufficient to prove for any induction proof:

1. Base Case (usually the smallest number that works, or $P(0)$).
2. Inductive step (assume $P(k)$ is correct (inductive hypothesis), then show $P(k+1)$ is correct).

4.1 Binary Trees

Binary trees are binary if they have 0, 1, or 2 vertices.

They are called perfect binary trees if all the leaves are at the same level, and each vertex has exactly two children.

The number of vertices in a perfect binary tree for a tree of height n (starting at $n = 0$) is $2^{n+1} - 1$.

Proof. We want to show $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. 2^{n+1} - 1$.

Base case: $n = 0$

$2^0 = 1 = 2^0 + 1 - 1$, which holds.

Inductive step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be any natural number, and assume that $2^{k+1} - 1$ holds.

We want to show that $2^{k+1+1} - 1$ holds.

$$\begin{aligned} 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^k + 2^{k+1} &= (2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^k) + 2^{k+1} \\ &= (2^{k+1} - 1) + 2^{k+1} &= 2^{k+1+1} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

□

4.2 Odd Squares

We want to show $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 1 (\sum_{i=1}^n 2i - 1 = n^2)$

Proof. Let $P(n)$ be the predicate: $\sum_{i=1}^n 2i - 1 = n^2$

Base Case: $P(1)$

$\sum_{i=1}^1 2i - 1 = 1 = 1^2$, which holds.

Induction Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be any natural number with $k \geq 1$.

Assume $P(k)$ holds, namely $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + 2k - 1 = k^2$.

We WTS $P(k+1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + 2k - 1 + 2k + 1 &= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\ &= (k+1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

□

4.3 Divisibility

We WTS $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n^3 - n + 3)$ is divisible by 3.

Proof. Let $P(n)$ be the predicate: $n^3 - n + 3 = 3x$ for some $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Base Case: $P(0)$

$0^3 - 0 + 3 = 3$, where $3(1) = 3$.

Inductive Step :Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Assume $k^3 - k + 3 = 3x$ for some $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$\begin{aligned} (k+1)^3 - (k+1) + 3 &= k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 - k - 1 + 3 \\ &= 3x + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 - 1 \\ &= 3(x + k^2 + k) \end{aligned}$$

□

4.4 Units Digit

We WTS $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, the units digit of 7^n is 1, 3, 7, 9.

Proof. Base Case: $P(0)$

$7^0 = 1$, which is true.

Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Assume 7^k holds. We WTS 7^{k+1} . There are multiple cases:

1. If 7^k ends in 1: $7^{k+1} = 7^k \cdot 7$: has units digit 7.
2. If 7^k ends in 3, 7^{k+1} ends with 1.
3. $7 \rightarrow 9$
4. $9 \rightarrow 3$

□

4.5 Inequalities

$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n^2 \leq 2^n)$

However, this is not true for $n = 3$:

$$3^2 = 9 \not\leq 2^3 = 8$$

Instead, we would have to write: $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 4. (n^2 \leq 2^n)$

Proof. Base Case: $4^2 = 16 = 2^4$, so $P(4)$ holds.

Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 4$. Assume $k^2 \leq 2^k$ is true. We WTS $(k+1)^2 \leq 2^{k+1}$.

$$\begin{aligned} (k+1)^2 &\leq 2^{k+1} \\ k^2 + 2k + 1 &= 2^k + 2k + 1 \\ &\leq k^2 + (k-2) \cdot k + 1 \\ &= k^2 + k^2 - 2k + 1 \\ &\leq k^2 + k^2 && \text{Since } -2k + 1 \text{ is always negative.} \\ &= 2k^2 \\ &\leq 2 \cdot 2^k \\ &= 2^{k+1} \end{aligned}$$

□

4.6 Same Coloured Birds

Claim. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, a set of n birds will all have the same colour.
This statement is false.

Make sure that your inductive step does not assume anything more than what your claim is.

5 Complete Induction

Complete induction is another way to prove statements of the form $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}.(P(n))$
Instead of our regular inductive step, we instead do:

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}.(P(0) \wedge P(1) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)) \implies P(k+1))$$

In other words:

Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be an arbitrary natural number, and assume for every $i \in \mathbb{N}$ with $i \leq k$, $P(i)$ holds. We'll show $P(k+1)$.

Complete inductions have a stronger inductive hypothesis, however proofs are more prone to making mistakes than regular induction proofs.

5.1 Breaking Chocolate

Claim. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 1$ be any natural number. A chocolate bar with n individual pieces require $n - 1$ breaks to split the bar into individual pieces.

Proof. Base Case. For $n = 1$, the chocolate bar is in a single piece, so requires $1 - 1 = 0$ breaks.

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 1$ be an arbitrary natural number at least 1, and assume $P(i)$ is true for all $i \leq k$. We need to show $P(k+1)$ is true.

Let B be a bar of chocolate with $k+1$ pieces, and select any way to break the bar. We are left with two blocks of chocolate size a and b , where $a+b = k+1$, $a \leq k$, and $b \leq k$.

Applying the inductive hypothesis to each of these blocks, we have that the two blocks require $a-1$ and $b-1$ breaks respectively. Therefore, the total number of breaks (including the initial) is $a+b-2+1 = k$, as required. \square

5.2 Multiple Base Cases

Claim. For any $n \geq 8$, there exists $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n = 3a + 5b$.

Proof. Base Cases: Since $8 = 3 + 5, 9 = 3 + 3 + 3, 10 = 5 + 5$, we can make postages of 8, 9, and 10.

Inductive Step: Let $k \geq 10$ and assume for any $8 \leq i \leq k$, we can make a postage of i cents using only 3 and 5 cent stamps. We'll show that you can make a $k+1$ postage.

Use one 3 cent stamp, and make a $k-2$ postage. Since $8 \leq k-2 \leq k$, the induction hypothesis applies, and we can make $k-2$ using only 3 cent and 5 cent stamps.

So together, we made a $k+1$ postage. \square

We can still write this proof using regular induction, just using multiple cases in the inductive step.

Proof. Base Case. We can make an 8 cent postage using one 3 cent stamp and one 5 cent stamp.

Inductive Step: Let $k \geq 8$ and assume $8 \leq i \leq k$, we can make a postage of i using only 3 and 5 cent stamps. We'll show that you can also make a $k+1$ postage. Let a, b be such that $k = 3a + 5b$. There are two cases:

1. $b \geq 1$: We can create $k+1$ by removing a 5 cent stamp and adding a 2 3 cent stamp.
2. $b = 0$: Since $k \geq 8$, $a \geq 3$, and we can create $k+1$ by removing 3 3 cent stamps and adding 2 5 cent stamps.

□

In fact, we don't even prove this using induction.

Proof. Let n be any postage with $n \geq 8$. In lecture 2, we showed \equiv_3 is an equivalence relation with exactly 3 equivalence classes corresponding to $0, 1, 2 \pmod{3}$.

Then, since the equivalence classes partition \mathbb{N} , $n \equiv_3 8$, $n \equiv_3 9$ or $n \equiv_3 10$.

If $n \equiv_3 8$, then by definition of \equiv_3 , $n = 8 + 3k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Note that since $n \geq 8$, k is non-negative. since we can also make n by adding k 3 cent stamps.

Other cases similar. □

6 Structural Induction

Previous induction proofs use the set of natural numbers to prove something ($\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n)$).

However, in real life, there are other sets other than the natural numbers (e.g., lists, trees, logical formulas), such as:

$$\forall \text{Trees } T, P(T)$$

For this, we need a more general way for these proofs.

6.1 Generated By

1. Let U be some set (i.e., U is the universe).
2. Let $B \subseteq U$ (i.e., the base cases).
3. Let F be a set of functions, where each function $f \in F$ has a domain U^m and codomain U .
 f maps a tuple of elements of U to a single element of U (i.e., F is a set of construction operations).

The set **generated from** B by the functions in F is a set of elements that can be obtained by applying function in F to elements of B a finite number of times.

6.2 Interpreting the Natural Numbers

We can define \mathbb{N} as $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

Let the function s be the function that maps $x \rightarrow x + 1$.

Then, \mathbb{N} is the set that can be reached by applying s to $\{0\}$ a finite number of times.

Using our formula of generation, we can say \mathbb{N} is:

1. $U = \mathbb{R}$
2. $B = \{0\}$
3. $F = \{s\}$

Therefore, \mathbb{N} is the set generated from B by functions in F .

6.3 List[X]

Let X be some set, and let $[X]$ be the set of lists of elements in X .

For each $x \in X$, let cons_x be a function that takes in a I and appends x to I .

1. Let $B = \{[]\}$.
2. Let $F = \{\text{cons}_x : x \in X\}$

Then, $[X]$ is the set generated from B by functions in F .

6.4 Defining Structural Induction

Let C be a set generated from B by the functions in F .

If:

1. $\forall b \in B, P(b)$
2. $\forall f \in F$ on m inputs, $\forall a_1, \dots, a_m \in C$,

$$(P(a_1) \wedge P(a_2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(a_m)) \implies P(f(a_1, \dots, a_m))$$

Then, $\forall x \in C, P(x)$.

In English, we say: Let P be any predicate.

1. If I can show P is true for all of the base cases,
2. and I can show that for every construction function, if P holds for the inputs to the construction function then P must hold for the output of the construction function,

Then, P holds for every element constructed from the base cases and the construction functions.

6.4.1 Recovering Regular Induction

\mathbb{N} is generated by $\{0\}$ and $.$ So, substituting \mathbb{N} for C , $\{0\}$ for B and $\{.\}$ for F in structural induction, we get:

1. $\forall b \in \{0\}, P(b)$ (note this is just $P(0)$).
2. $\forall f \in \{.\}$ on m inputs, for every $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$P(a_1) \wedge P(a_2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(a_m) \implies P(f(a_1, \dots, a_m))$$

(note this is just $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, P(k) \implies P(k+1)$)

Then, $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, P(x)$.

This generalized formalization of induction shows intuitively why we can change the base cases. We just show P holds for every number in the set $\mathbb{N}_{\geq 4} = \{4, 5, 6\}$, which is just generated from the set $\{4\}$, and the function $.$

6.5 Perfect Binary Trees Using Structural Induction

Let U be the set of perfect binary trees, and write it as being generated from a set by some function.

1. $U = \text{Set of all graphs}$
2. $B = \{\text{Singlenode}\}$
3. $.\ : U \times U \rightarrow U$ maps (G_1, G_2) to the tree with G_1 as the left subtree and G_2 as the right subtree \iff G_1 and G_2 are perfect binary trees of the same height. Otherwise, it maps to the graph with a single node.

Claim. Let $P(G)$ be the predicate that if G is a perfect binary tree of height h , then G has $2^{h+1} - 1$ vertices.

Proof. The base case is the graph consisting of a single node. It has height 0 and $2^{0+1} - 1 = 1$ vertices. Hence, the base case is true.

Inductive Step: Let $G_1 = (V_1, E_1), G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$ be any graphs and assume P holds for G_1 and G_2 . We WTS that P also holds for (G_1, G_2) .

Note that if G_1 and G_2 are not perfect binary trees of the same height h , (G_1, G_2) is the single node graph, which is the base case.

Otherwise, G_1 and G_2 are both perfect binary trees of height h . By the induction hypothesis, $|V_1| = |V_2| = 2^{h+1} - 1$.

(G_1, G_2) is then a perfect binary tree of height $h + 1$ with:

$$1 + 2(2^{h+1} - 1) = 2^{h+2} - 1$$

vertices as required. □

6.6 Construction Sequences

Complete induction can be used in place of structural induction.

Let C be the set generated from B by the functions in F . We define a **construction sequence** of length $n - 1$, to be a sequence of elements (x_1, \dots, x_n) where for each $i \in [n]$, either:

1. $x_i \in B$
2. $x_i = f(x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_m})$ for some $f \in F$, and $j_1, \dots, j_m < i$.

In other words, every element in a sequence is either in the base set B or is constructed by applying a construction function to earlier elements in the sequence.

We can define a C_i that is the set where $x \in C_i$ if there exists some construction sequence of length at most i ending in x . Then $C = C_0 \cup C_1 \cup \dots$

Instead of using structural induction, we can do induction on the length of the construction sequences of at most k , then P also holds for elements with construction sequences of length at most $k + 1$.

Usually, the length of construction sequence is represented by some level of complexity of the object. For example, the height of a tree, the number of parenthesis, or length of the list.

6.6.1 Perfect Binary Trees Using Complete Induction

Claim. A perfect binary tree of height h has $2^{h+1} - 1$ vertices.

Proof. Base Case. A perfect binary tree of height 0 has $2^{0+1} - 1 = 1$ vertices, which holds.

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be any natural number and assume perfect binary trees of height k have $2^{k+1} - 1$ vertices. Let T be a perfect binary tree of height $k + 1$. Note that T is constructed of an additional node joining two perfect binary trees of height k .

Thus, T has $2(2^{k+1} - 1) + 1 = 2^{k+2} - 1$ vertices as required. □

7 Well Ordering Principle

Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ be a non-empty subset. a is a **minimal element** of S if $\forall b \in S, (a \leq b)$:

The **Well Ordering Principles** states that for any non-empty subset $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, S has a minimal element.

In particular, this is true even for infinite subsets.

Well Ordering Principle: For any non-empty subset $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, S has a minimal element.

This does not work for $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$ since they have no minimal element.

7.1 Proofs Using Well Ordering Principle

The Well Ordering Principle also lets us prove statements of the form $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n)$. To prove, we:

1. Check $P(0)$ is true.
2. By contradiction, assume $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}, (\neg P(n))$.
So, the set $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : \neg P(n)\}$ is non-empty.

3. By the Well Ordering Principle, S has a minimal element m (i.e., m is the smallest natural number for which P doesn't hold.
Since we know $P(0), m \geq 1$.
4. Derive a contradiction by showing $P(m)$, or by finding a $m' < m$ for which $\neg P(m')$.

7.1.1 Prime Divisors

Claim. A prime divisor p of a number n is a prime number such that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $pk = n$.

Proof. By contradiction, assume $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 2$ that does not have a prime divisor. Let:

$$S = \{k \in \mathbb{N} : k \geq 2, \text{ and } k \text{ doesn't have a prime divisor.}\}$$

By WOP, S has a minimal element m . If m is prime, then m is a prime divisor of itself. Thus, m is not prime.

Hence $m = ab$ for $1 < a, b < m$. Since $a < m$ and m was minimal in S , $a \notin S$, and hence a has a prime divisor c . But, since $m = ab$, c is also a prime divisor of m , which contradicts the fact that $m \in S$. \square

7.1.2 Root 2 is Irrational

Let $P(n)$ be the predicate. There does not exist $m \in \mathbb{N}, m \geq 1$ such that $\frac{n}{m} = \sqrt{2}$. If $\forall n, P(n)$, then $\sqrt{2}$ cannot be written as a fraction and is therefore irrational.

Proof. By contradiction, assume the set $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : \neg P(n)\}$ is non-empty. Then, by WOP, S has a minimal element x . Since $x \in S$, we have $\frac{x^2}{y^2} = 2$. Thus $x^2 = 2y^2$, and so x must be even.

Therefore, $x = 2z$ for some $z \in \mathbb{N}$. But then, $(2z)^2 = 2y^2$, so $2z^2 = y^2$, and so y must also be even.

Therefore, $\frac{x}{2}$ is a positive integer, and $\frac{y}{2}$ is a positive integer such that:

$$\frac{x/2}{y/2} = \sqrt{2}$$

Thus, $\frac{x}{2} \in S$, which contradicts the minimality of x in S . \square

7.2 WOP and Induction

Recall complete induction. We want to show that $P(0)$ and

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, (P(0), \dots, P(k)) \implies P(k+1)$$

Usually, we prove the inductive step directly by picking an arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and assuming $P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$, and then showing $P(k+1)$.

If we instead choose to do it by contradiction, we let $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and assume $P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k) \wedge \neg P(k+1)$, by contradiction, assume $\neg P(k+1)$. At this point, our assumptions are:

$$P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k) \wedge \neg P(k+1)$$

However,

$$P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k) \wedge \neg P(k+1)$$

is exactly what it means for $k+1$ to be the minimal element of the set $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : \neg P(n)\}$.

Therefore, proving the inductive step for complete induction by contradiction is finding a contradiction by assuming there was a minimal element of the set $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : \neg P(n)\}$, which is the same as what we would do in a proof for WOP.

8 Recurrences

Recurrences are functions that depend on itself. For example:

1. $F(n) = F(n - 1) + 1$
2. $F(n/2) + 1$
3. $2 \cdot F(n - 2) + F(n + 1)$

There are many functions that satisfy a single recursive function. For example, $F(n) = n + 5$ and $F(n) = n + 8$ both satisfy:

$$F(n) = F(n - 1) + 1$$

Therefore, to specify a recursive function completely, we need to give it a/some base cases. For example:

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} 5 & n = 0 \\ F(n - 1) + 1 & n > 0 \end{cases}$$

specifies the function $F(n) = n + 5$.

8.1 Recursive to Explicit

Recurrences are important since the runtime of recursive programs are easily expressed using recursive functions, and is easier than expressing it explicitly.

The only problem is that it can take a long time to determine asymptotics of recursive functions, which is not good when wanting to calculate runtime.

So, when we model a recursive function, we can convert it to an explicit definition to make it easier to calculate these asymptotics.

8.1.1 Examples of Recursive to Explicit

1.

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ 2F(n - 1) & n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Explicitly, $F(n) = 2^n$. We can prove this by induction.

Proof. Claim. $F(n) = 2^n$.

Base case. The base case holds since $F(0) = 2^0 = 1$.

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be any natural number and assume $F(k) = 2^k$. Then we have:

$$F(k + 1) = 2F(k) = 2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$$

where the first inequality holds by the recursive definition of F and the second holds by the inductive hypothesis. \square

2.

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} 4 & n = 0 \\ 3 + F(n - 1) & n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Explicitly, $F(n) = 4 + 3n$

3.

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ 1 & n = 1 \\ 2F(n-1) - F(n-2) + 2 & n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

Explicitly, $F(n) = n^2$. Again, we can prove this by induction.

Proof. Base Case. The base cases hold since $F(0) = 0^2 = 0$ and $F(1) = 1^2 = 1$.

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be any natural number with $k \geq 1$. Assume $F(i) = i^2$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}, i \geq k$. We'll show $F(k+1) = (k+1)^2$. By def'n of F , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} F(k+1) &= 2F(k) - F(k-1) + 2 \\ &= 2k^2 - (k-1)^2 + 2 \\ &= 2k^2 - k^2 + 2k - 1 + 2 \\ &= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\ &= (k+1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

□

8.2 Properties of Recursive Functions

When we talk about asymptotics, we imagine them as the runtime of the algorithm (i.e., maps the size of the input to the runtime of the algorithm).

Hence, we assume the following properties:

1. Domain $\in \mathbb{N}$
2. Codomain $\in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ (In other words, an algorithm can't take negative time).
3. Non-decreasing (An algorithm shouldn't get faster for larger inputs).

8.3 Asymptotics

Asymptotics are used to analyze an algorithm's running time. It takes the input of a function and calculates the time required to deliver the output.

8.3.1 Little-o

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} (\begin{aligned} &\exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}. (\\ &\quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n > n_0 \implies \\ &\quad \quad f(n) < k \cdot g(n) \\ &\quad) \\ &) \end{aligned})$$

In other words, no matter how small k we multiply g by, for all inputs large enough, $f(n) < g(n)$. We can write Little-o as \prec .

8.3.2 Big-O

$$\begin{aligned} \exists k \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} (\\ & \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}. (\\ & \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n > n_0 \implies \\ & \quad \quad f(n) \leq k \cdot g(n) \\ & \quad) \\ &) \\) \end{aligned}$$

In other words, f is at most $k \cdot g(n)$ for large enough inputs, where k is some constant. Big-O can be written as \preceq .

8.3.3 Big-Theta

$$\begin{aligned} \exists k \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} (\\ & \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}. (\\ & \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n > n_0 \implies \\ & \quad \quad k_1 \cdot g(n) \leq f(n) \leq k_2 \cdot g(n) \\ & \quad) \\ &) \\) \end{aligned}$$

In other words, f is between $k_1 \cdot g(n)$ and $k_2 \cdot g(n)$ for large enough inputs, where k_1, k_2 are some constants. Big Theta is $f = O(g) = \Omega(g)$, and can write it as \approx .

8.3.4 Little-omega

$$\begin{aligned} \forall k \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} (\\ & \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}. (\\ & \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n > n_0 \implies \\ & \quad \quad f(n) > k \cdot g(n) \\ & \quad) \\ &) \\) \end{aligned}$$

In other words, no matter how large a constant k we multiply g by, for all inputs large enough, $f(n) > g(n)$. We can write Little-Omega as \succ .

8.3.5 Big-Omega

$$\begin{aligned} \exists k \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} (\\ & \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}. (\\ & \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. (n > n_0 \implies \\ & \quad \quad f(n) \geq k \cdot g(n) \\ & \quad) \\ &) \\) \end{aligned}$$

In other words, f is at least $k \cdot g(n)$ for large enough inputs, where k is some constant. Big-Omega can be written as \succeq .

8.4 Logarithmics in Computer Science

Most computer scientists use \log has a default base \log_2 (unless said otherwise). It is the true inverse of the function that maps $x \mapsto 2^x$, i.e., for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$\log(2^x) = x$$

and for any $y \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$:

$$2^{\log(y)} = y$$

8.4.1 Speed of Functions

$$1 \prec \log(n) \prec n^{0.001} \prec n \prec n \log(n) \prec n^{1.001} \prec n^{1000} \prec 1.001^n \prec 2^n$$

8.5 Dominoes Fibonacci's Sequence

How many ways are there to tile a $2 \times n$ grid using 2×1 dominoes?

1. $n = 1$: 1
2. $n = 2$: 2
3. $n = 3$: 3
4. $n = 4$: 5
5. $n = 5$: 8

Think about this problem recursively. Every tiling of $2 \times n$ is either:

1. A vertical tiling followed by a tiling of $2 \times (n - 1)$.
2. A horizontal tiling followed by a tiling of $2 \times (n - 2)$.

This implies that $T(n) = T(n - 1) + T(n - 2)$.

These numbers are also called Fibonacci's Recurrence!

8.5.1 Fibonacci's Sequence

$$(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ 1 & n = 1 \\ (n - 1) + (n - 2) & n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

We can prove the asymptotics of this function using induction. First, we can prove the upper bound.

Proof. Base Case: $(0) = 0 \leq 2^0 = 1$, and $(1) = 1 \leq 2^1 = 2$. Thus the base case holds.

Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$, and assume $(i) \leq 2^i$ for all $i \leq k$. We'll show $(k + 1) \leq 2^{k+1}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} (k + 1) &= (k) + (k - 1) \\ &\leq 2^k + 2^{k-1} \\ &\leq 2^k + 2^k \\ &= 2^{k+1} \end{aligned} \tag{IH}$$

□

However, we can tighten this analysis and make it a tight-bound. Specifically, the $\leq 2^k + 2^k$ is quite loose, and try a more precise value.

For example, let the 2 become $1.8 = \frac{9}{5}$ instead. Let's look at the inductive step:

Proof. Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$ and assume $(i) \leq 1.8^i$ for all $i \leq k$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
(k+1) &= (k) + (k-1) \\
&\leq 1.8^k + 1.8^{k-1} \\
&= 1.8^k \left(1 + \frac{1}{1.8}\right) \\
&\leq 1.8^k (1.56) \\
&\leq 1.8^{k+1}
\end{aligned}
\tag{IH}$$

□

Now, let's try with $1.5 = \frac{3}{2}$. Does this still work?

Proof. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$ and assume $(i) \leq 1.5^i$ for all $i \leq k$ we'll show $(k+1) \leq 1.5^{k+1}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
(k+1) &= (k) + (k-1) \\
&\leq 1.5^k + 1.5^{k-1} \\
&= 1.5^k \left(1 + \frac{1}{1.5}\right) \\
&\leq 1.5^k (1.67)
\end{aligned}
\tag{IH}$$

However, $1.67 \not\leq 1.5$, so we can't say $1.5^k (1.67) \leq 1.5^{k+1}$.

□

Therefore, the real answer is in between 1.5^n and 1.8^n .

We can optimize this further, using a base of the exponent as the variable x .

Proof. Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$ and assume $(i) \leq x^i$ for all $i \leq k$. We'll show $(k+1) \leq x^{k+1}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
(k+1) &= (K) + (k-1) \\
&\leq x^k + x^{k-1} \\
&= x^k \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)
\end{aligned}
\tag{IH}$$

□

In order to prove this step, we need $x^k \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right) \leq x^{k+1}$, i.e., $x^k + x^{k-1} \leq x^{k+1}$ dividing through by x^{k-1} and rearranging, we need $x^2 - x - 1 \leq 0$.

Finding the minimum value of x will give us a tight bound on the case.

Solving the quadratic, we find that $x \leq \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ or $x \leq \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$.

We know this value to be "phi", $\phi \approx 1.618$, also called the golden ratio.

Then, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, (n) \leq \phi^n$.

Now, we can prove the bounds for the base case of the function.

1. Upper Bound:

Proof. Base Case. $(0) = 0 \leq \phi^0 = 1$, and $(1) = 1 \leq \phi^1 \approx 1.618$, which both hold.

Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$, and assume $(i) \leq \phi^i$ for all $i \leq k$. We'll show that $(k+1) \leq \phi^{k+1}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
(k+1) &= (k) + (k-1) \\
&\leq \phi^k + \phi^{k-1} \\
&\leq \phi^{k-1} (\phi + 1) \\
&= \phi^{k-1} \phi^2 \\
&= \phi^{k+1}
\end{aligned}
\tag{IH}$$

$(\phi^2 = \phi + 1)$

□

2. Lower Bound:

Proof. The previous slide shows $(n) = O(\phi^n)$. We'll show that $(n) = \Omega(\phi^n)$. in particular, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 1 : ((n) \geq 0.3\phi^n)$

Base Case: $(1) = 1 \geq 0.3\phi \approx 0.48$, $(2) = 1 \geq 0.3\phi^2 \approx 0.78$ as required.

Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 2$ and assume $(i) \geq 0.3\phi^i$ for all $i \leq k$, we'll show that $(k+1) \geq 0.3\phi^{k+1}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (k+1) &= (k) + (k-1) \\
 &\geq 0.3(\phi^k + \phi^{k-1}) && (IH) \\
 &= 0.3\phi^{k-1}(\phi + 1) \\
 &= 0.3\phi^{k-1}\phi^2 \\
 &= 0.3\phi^{k+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

□

In actuality, the base case of the runtime of Fibonacci's Sequence is Binet's formula. That is:

$$(n) = \frac{\phi^n - (1 - \phi)^n}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Note that $1 - \phi \approx -0.618$, so the $(1 - \phi)^n$ term goes to zero quickly and becomes irrelevant.

In fact, since $|(1 - \phi)^n / \sqrt{5}|$ is always less than $\frac{1}{2}$, (n) is just $\frac{\phi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ rounded to the nearest whole number.

8.6 Sorted Searches

With a sorted list l and a specified target value, one can find the index of the target in l (or return if the target is not in l).

8.6.1 Binary Search

Let T be the function mapping the length of the input array to the worst-case running time of the binary search algorithm.

What is the recurrence for T ?

Suppose $n = 0$. Then, we return *None*, so $T(0) = 1$. In the worst case, the algorithm never finds the target value, so we call the algorithm recursively on a list of size $\lceil (n-1)/2 \rceil$. Thus, for all $n \geq 1$:

$$T(n) = T(\lceil (n-1)/2 \rceil) + 1$$

We can calculate some values:

n	$T(n)$
0	1
1	2
2	3
3	3
4	4
5	4
6	4
7	4
8	5
15	5
16	6

Everytime we iterate through the array, it gets halved. This implies that if we start with 2^n elements, we get to a single element in n steps.

If we started with n elements, we need $x \log_2(n)$ steps.

8.6.2 Proving Upper Bound

Proof. Claim. $T(n) = O(n)$. In particular, we claim $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 1, T(n) \leq 2n + 1$

Base Case. $T(1) = 2 \leq 2(1) + 1$

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 1$ and assume $T(i) \leq 2i + 1$ for all $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(k+1) &= T(\lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil) + 1 \\
 &\leq 2(\lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil) + 1 + 1 && (IH) \\
 &\leq 2(\frac{k}{2} + 1) + 2 && \text{Since } \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil < \frac{k}{2} + 1 \\
 &\leq k + 4 \\
 &\leq 2k + 3 \\
 &= 2(k+1) + 1
 \end{aligned}$$

□

8.6.3 Proving a Better Upper Bound

Proof. Claim. $T(n) = O(\log(n))$. In particular, $\forall n \geq 1, T \leq c \cdot \log(n) + d$, where c, d are constants that we pick later.

Base Case. We have:

$$T(1) = 2 \leq c \cdot \log(1) + d$$

Note that $\log(1) = 0$ so we need $d \geq 2$

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$. Assume $\forall 1 \leq i \leq k, T(i) \leq c \log(i) + d$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(k+1) &= T(\lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil) + 1 \\
 &\leq c \log(\lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil) + d + 1 \\
 &\leq c \log(\frac{k}{2} + 1) + d + 1 \\
 &\leq c \log((k+2)/2) + d + 1 \\
 &\leq c \log(k+2) - c + d + 1
 \end{aligned}$$

We want:

$$c \log(k+2) - c + d + 1 \leq c \log(k+1) + d$$

Rearranging, we need:

$$c \geq \frac{1}{\log(\frac{k+1}{k+2}) + 1}$$

which is true for, for example $c = 2$.

Therefore, $T(n) = O(\log(n))$

□

8.6.4 Proving The Overall Runtime

Write any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $n \geq 1$ as $2^i + x$ for some $i \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{N}$ with $x \neq 2^i - 1$.

Proof. Claim. $\forall i \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x \in \mathbb{N}, x \leq 2^i - 1. (T(2^i + x) = i + 2)$

By induction on i :

Base Case. For $i = 0$, we have:

$$T(2^0) = T(1) = 2 = 0 + 2$$

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be any integer and assume $\forall i \leq k, \forall x \leq 2^i - 1, T(2^i + x) = i + 2$. Let $x \leq 2^{i+1} - 1$. Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} T(2^{i+1} + x) &= T\left(\left\lceil \frac{2^{i+1} + x - 1}{2} \right\rceil\right) + 1 \\ &= T\left(2^i + \left\lceil \frac{x - 1}{2} \right\rceil\right) + 1 \\ &= i + 2 + 1 \\ &= (i + 1) + 2 \end{aligned}$$

where the third inequality holds by IH, since $\lceil \frac{x-1}{2} \rceil \leq 2^i - 1$, as $x \leq 2^{i+1} - 1$. This means that $T(n) = \lfloor \log(n) \rfloor + 2$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 1$ □

8.7 A New Approach to Recurrences

Thus far, we've done the following process:

1. Guess an upper bound.
2. Try to prove the upper bound.
3. Prove a tighter bound or a matching lower bound.

However, this approach has two weaknesses.

If your guess was unlucky or inaccurate, so will your final answer. As well as this, the proofs to prove the tight bound was slow, technical, and not very intuitive.

So, we can change our process to:

1. Remove technical details without (asymptotically) sacrificing precision.
2. Make more accurate guesses.
3. Streamline the process for certain types of recurrences.

8.7.1 Technicalities: Base Cases

When we try to prove $T = O(f)$ or $T = \Omega(f)$, we can **assume the base case holds and can skip it in our proofs.**

The intuition is that we only care about the asymptotics. We can choose constants to add or multiply to f . Since the base case will always be constant, there always exists a choice that makes it worse.

8.7.2 Technicalities: Floors and Ceilings

For divide and conquer algorithms, we split up the problem into subproblems of even size.

However, we can replace $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ or $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ with $n/2$ since there is a negligible impact on the asymptotics of the function.

8.8 Substitution Method of Recurrences

Substitution method is a way of solving recurrences by using complete induction, using some of the simplifications previously mentioned.

1. Remove all floors and ceilings from recurrence T .
2. Make a guess for f s.t. $T(n) = O(f(n))$
3. Write out the recurrence $T(n) = \dots$
4. Whenever $T(k)$ appears on the RHS of the recurrence, substitute with $c \cdot f(k)$.
5. Try to prove $T(n) \leq c \cdot f(n)$
6. Pick the c to make your analysis work.

8.8.1 Example of Substitution Method

Previously, we wanted to show $T(n) = T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1$.

It was difficult to prove this because we relied on the base case, inductive hypothesis, and properties of \log and $\lfloor f \rfloor$. Instead, we can use substitution method.

Proof. Claim. $T(n) = O(\log(n))$.

Use the substitution method.

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n/2) + 1 \\ &\leq c \log(n/2) + 1 \\ &= c(\log(n) - \log(2)) + 1 \\ &= c \log(n) - c + 1, \end{aligned} \quad \text{Since we can skip the base case } \log(2)$$

which is at most $c \log(n)$ when $c \geq 1$. □

8.9 Merge Sort

Suppose we have a list l . We want to sort l such that $l \in [\mathbb{N}]$, i.e., l is a list of natural numbers and $l = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is sorted if $i \leq j \implies x_i \leq x_j$.

In general, sorting works for $l \in (A)$ and any total order \preceq over A . For example, we can sort lists by reverse dictionary order, as well.

Let $T(n)$ be the runtime of `mergeSort` on a list of length n . We know we do merge sort on the two sublists, and then mergesort the two sublists. So, we would have a runtime complexity of:

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + T(n)$$

But, consider the runtime of $T(n)$. Best case, all the items in l_1 are sorted, and the items in l_2 are sorted, so the runtime is $n - 2$. However, by worst case we have both lists not being sorted, and so the runtime would be n .

So, we can rewrite and say:

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$$

We can write this recurrence as a sum:

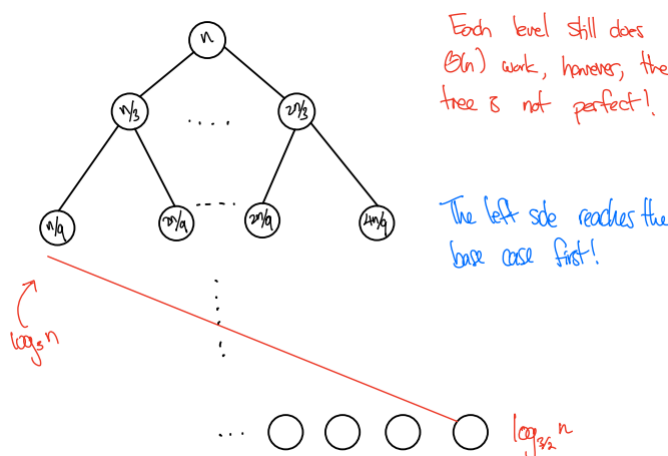
$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= 2T(n/2) + n \\
 &= 2(2T(n/4) + n/2) + n \\
 &= 4T(n/4) + 2n \\
 &= 4(2T(n/8) + n/4) + 2n \\
 &= 8T(n/8) + 3n \\
 &\dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose $n = 2^k$ for some k . We would eventually get to:

$$T(n) = 2^k T_{MS}(n/2)^k + k \cdot n = nT(1) + kn = \Theta(n \log(n))$$

However, an easier way to do this is with recurrence trees, which can sometimes compute the runtime directly. If not, they can still help make a good guess on the runtime. We can then prove the guess using substitution method.

For instance, take $T(n) = T(n/3) + T(2n/3) + n$. We have:



Our **lower bound** is when we remove all nodes with height $> \log_3(n)$. Then, the remaining tree is perfect, has height $\log_3(n)$, and n work at each level. So, we guess $\Theta(n \log(n))$.

Our **upper bound** is when levels below $\log_3(n)$ also do n work. Then, we do n work for $\log_{3/2}(n)$ levels. So, we guess $\Theta(n \log(n))$.

We can then prove both of these bounds using substitution.

8.10 Standard Form Recurrences

A recurrence is in **standard form** if it is written as:

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

For some constants $a \geq 1, b > 1$, and some function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Most divide-and-conquer algorithms will have recurrences that look like this.

8.10.1 Standard Form Parameters

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

1. a : The **branching factor** of the tree: How many children does each node have?

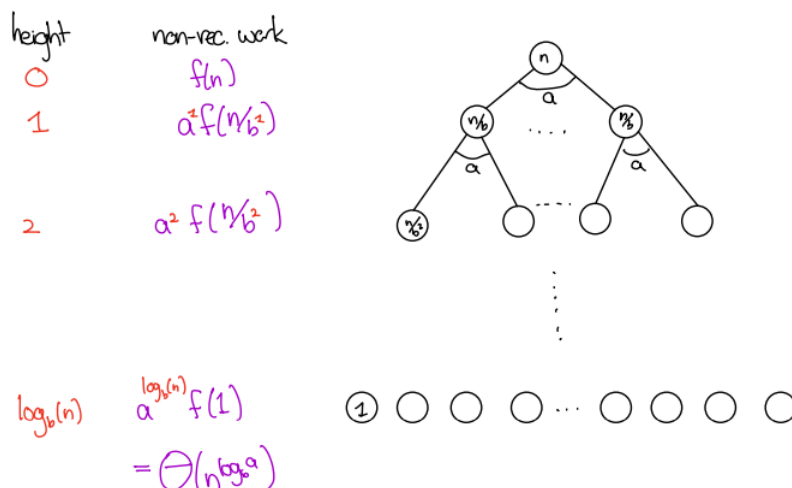
2. b : The **reduction factor**: How much smaller is the sub-problem in the next level of the tree compared to this level?
3. $f(n)$: The **non-recursive work**: How much work is done outside of the recursive call on inputs size n ? We make the assumption that f is positive and non-decreasing.

8.10.2 Standard Form and Recursion Trees

Recursion trees can also be used for standard form recurrences.

1. What is the height of the tree? — $\log_b(n)$
2. What is the number of vertices at height h ? — a^h
3. Total non-recursive work at level h ? — $f(n)$ (the root), and $a^{\log_b(n)} \cdot f(1) = \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)})$ (the leaf)
In total, it is $a^h f(n/b^h)$

Altogether, the total amount of work done is $\sum_{h=0}^{\log_b(n)} a^h f(n/b^h)$.



8.11 Master Theorem

Thm. Let $T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$. Define the following cases based on how the root work compares with the leaf work.

1. **Leaf heavy**: $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b(a)-\epsilon})$ for some constant $\epsilon > 0$.
2. **Balanced**: $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)})$
3. **Root heavy**: $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b(a)+\epsilon})$ for some $\epsilon > 0$, and $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for some constant $c < 1$ for all sufficiently large n .

Then, we have:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)}) & \text{Leaf heavy case} \\ \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)} \log(n)) & \text{Balanced case} \\ \Theta(f(n)) & \text{Root heavy case} \end{cases}$$

$f(n) = O(n^{\log_b(a)-\epsilon})$ for some $\epsilon > 0$ means that $f(n)$ is smaller than $n^{\log_b(a)}$ by a factor of at least n^ϵ .

For example, if $\log_b(a) = 2$, then $n^{1.9} = O(n^{2-\epsilon})$ for some $\epsilon > 0$, but $n^2/\log(n) \neq O(n^{2-\epsilon})$ for any $\epsilon > 0$, even though $n^2/\log(n) = o(n^2)$.

8.11.1 Additional Regularity Condition

The condition in the root for the **heavy case** that $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for some constant $c < 1$ for all sufficiently large n is called the regularity condition.

In the root heavy case, most of the work is done at the root. $af(n/b)$ is the total work done at level 1 of the tree. The regularity condition says if most of the work is done at the root, we do more at the root than at level 1 of the tree.

8.11.2 Proof of Master Theorem

Geometric Series is the sum:

$$S = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots ar^{n-1} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ar^i$$

i.e., each term in the sum is obtained by multiplying the previous term by r . The closed-form solution for S is

$$S = a \left(\frac{r^n - 1}{r - 1} \right)$$

To prove this, just rearrange: $rS = ar + ar^2 + \dots ar^n = S + ar^n - a$.

So, to prove the Master Theorem, we analyze the recursion tree for the generic standard form recurrence. That is, $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)})$.

We have multiple cases:

1. Balanced Case

Suppose we have a tree, and the heights go as follows:

Height	Non-Recursive Work
0	$f(n)$
1	$a^1 f(n/b^1) = a/a \cdot n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_b(a)}$
2	$a^2 f(n/b^2) = a^2/a^2 \cdot n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_b(a)}$
...	...
$\log_b(n)$	$a^{\log_b(n)} f(1) = n^{\log_b(a)}$

Where $a^{\log_b(n)} f(1) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$.

So, in total we have:

$$\log_b(n) \cdot n^{\log_b a} = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \cdot \log(n))$$

2. Leaf-Heavy Case

Height	Non-Recursive Work
0	$n^{\log_b(a)}/n^\epsilon$
1	$a(n/b)^{\log_b(a)}/(n/b)^\epsilon$
2	$a^2(n/b^2)^{\log_b(a)}/(n/b^2)^\epsilon$
...	...
$\log_b(n)$	$\Theta(n^{\log_b(a)})$

Using the geometric series with the ration b^ϵ and $\log_b(n)$ terms,

we have in total:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (n^{\log_b(a)}/n^\epsilon)(1 + b^{2\epsilon} + b^{2\epsilon} + \dots + b^{(\log_b(n)-1)\epsilon}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)}) \\
&= (n^{\log_b(a)}/n^\epsilon) \cdot \left(\frac{(b^\epsilon)^{\log_b(n)} - 1}{b^\epsilon - 1} \right) + \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)}) \\
&= (n^{\log_b(a)}/n^\epsilon) \cdot \Theta(n^\epsilon) + \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)}) \\
&= \Theta(n^{\log_b(a)})
\end{aligned}$$

3. Root-Heavy Case: Similar to previous cases.

8.11.3 Applying the Master Theorem

1. Write the recurrence in standard form to find the parameters a, b, f .
2. Compare $n^{\log_b(a)}$ to f to determine the case split.
3. Read off the asymptotics from the relevant case.

8.12 Summary of Recurrence Methods

Method	Pros	Cons
Induction	Always works, can get more precision	Requires a guess, can get technical. Complex proofs.
Substitution	Always works	Requires a guess and is slower than others.
Recursion Trees	Intuitive	Doesn't always work, but a good starting point and good for generating guesses.
Master Theorem	Proofs are very short	Restricted scope (recurrences must be in standard form and fall into one of the cases).

9 Correctness

We can prove algorithms that are "correct" in the sense that they do what we expect them to do. We use CS/Python notation.

1. Elements of a list of length n are $l[0], l[1], \dots, l[n-1]$
2. Slicing: $l[i:j] = [l[i], l[i+1], \dots, l[j-1]]$
By convention, if $j \leq i$, then $l[i:j] = []$.

9.1 Merge Sort Correctness

We can show *merge_sort* works on every input using induction.

Break down the function and show for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, *merge_sort* works on inputs of size n .

Let $P(n)$ be the predicate: Let $l \in [\mathbb{N}]$ be a list of natural numbers of length n , then *merge_sort*(l) returns the sorted list.

Claim. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n)$

Proof. For now, assume *merge* is correct.

Base Case. Let l be a list length 0 or 1. In this case, $_ (l)$ returns l as expected.

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \geq 1$, and assume for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ with $0 \leq i \leq k$, $_$ works on lists of length i . We WTS $_$ works on lists length $k+1$. Let l be a list of length $k+1$.

Since $k+1 \geq 2$, we fall into the else case of the function. The left sublist is a list length $\lfloor (k+1)/2 \rfloor$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lfloor (k+1)/2 \rfloor &\leq (k+1)/2 \\
 &\leq (k+k)/2 && (k \geq 1) \\
 &\leq k
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, by inductive hypothesis, $_$ correctly sorts the left sublist, and $_$ contains the sorted left sublist.

Then, the right sublist is a list of length $k+1 - \lfloor (k+1)/2 \rfloor$. Since $k \geq 1$, $\lfloor (k+1)/2 \rfloor \geq 1$.

Thus, $k+1 - \lfloor (k+1)/2 \rfloor \leq k+1 - 1 = k$.

Hence, by inductive hypothesis, $_$ correctly sorts the right sublist, and $_$ contains the sorted right sublist. Since we're assuming $_$ works, and $_$ are sorted lists, with l being composed of elements in $_$, we can return $(_, _)$ which is the sorted version of l . \square

9.2 Binary Search Correctness

Let $P(n)$ be the predicate: For all lists $l \in \text{List}[\mathbb{N}]$ and $t \in \mathbb{N}$, if $b - a = n$, then $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, b)$ returns None if t is not in $l[a : b]$, and the index of t in l otherwise.

Claim. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n)$.

Proof. Base Case. Consider $n = 0$. Let l be any list and suppose $b - a = 0$. Then $l[a : b] = []$, so t is not in l , and we expect the algorithm to return None .

Indeed, since $b == a$, the first *if* check passes, and $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, b)$ returns None .

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and assume for all $i \in \mathbb{N}, i \leq k, P(i)$. We WTS $P(k + 1)$, and let $l \in [\mathbb{N}]$ be a sorted list, and $t, a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $b - a = k + 1$.

We show that $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, b)$ returns None if t is not in $l[a : b]$ and the index of t in l otherwise.

Since $b - a = k + 1 \geq 1$, the first *if* check fails. Let $m = (a + b) // 2 = \lfloor (a + b) / 2 \rfloor$. Then, there are 3 cases:

1. $l[m] == t$

In this case, the algorithm returns m , which is the index of t in l .

We need to check $l[m] = t$ is actually in $l[a : b]$, i.e., that $a \leq m \leq b - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \lfloor (a + b) / 2 \rfloor \\ &\geq \lfloor (2a + 1) / 2 \rfloor && (b - a \geq 1) \\ &\geq \lfloor a + (1/2) \rfloor \\ &\geq a \end{aligned}$$

On the other side:

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \lfloor (a + b) / 2 \rfloor \\ &\leq \lfloor (2b - 1) / 2 \rfloor && (b - a \geq 1) \\ &\leq b - \lfloor 1/2 \rfloor \\ &= b - 1 \end{aligned}$$

2. $l[m] < t$

Since l is sorted and t is greater than $l[m]$, if t is to be in $l[a : b]$, it must have an index greater than m . So: $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, b) = \text{bin_search}(l, t, m + 1, b)$.

We claim that the IH applies to $\text{bin_search}(l, t, m + 1, b)$. We just need to show $b - (m + 1) \leq k$.

We know from the previous part that $m \geq a$, so then:

$$b - (m + 1) \leq b - (a + 1) \leq b - a - 1 = k$$

3. $l[m] > t$

Since l is sorted and t is less than $l[m]$, if t is to be in $l[a : b]$, it has an index less than m . So: $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, b) = \text{bin_search}(l, t, a, m)$.

We claim our IH applies to $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, m)$. We WTS $m - a \leq k$.

From the previous part, we know $m \leq b - 1$. Then:

$$m - a \leq b - 1 - a \leq k$$

so the inductive hypothesis holds for $\text{bin_search}(l, t, a, m)$.

\square

9.3 Proving Correctness

For any algorithm/function/program, define a precondition and postcondition.

1. The precondition is an assertion about the inputs to a program.
2. The postcondition is an assertion about the end of a program.

An algorithm is correct if the precondition implies the postcondition (i.e., for valid inputs, your algorithm should give me the expected outputs).

9.3.1 Examples of Correctness

1. *merge_sort*(l):
Precondition: l should be a list of natural numbers.
Postcondition: The return value of *merge_sort*(l) in sorted order.
2. *bin_search*(l, t, a, b)
Precondition: $l \in [\mathbb{N}]$, l is sorted, $t, a, b \in \mathbb{N}$, $a, b \leq (l)$.
Postcondition: If t is in $l[a : b]$, return the index of t in l , otherwise, return .

9.4 Iterative Algorithms

Iterative algorithms are algorithms with while or for loops.

Conventions:

1. Iteration numbers start at 0.
2. Beginning of iteration n is the same as ‘end of iteration $n - 1$ ’.
3. Thus, a for loop with iteration $0, \dots, n - 1$ reaches the start of the n 'th iteration.

To show correctness, the general strategy is to define a loop invariant - some property that is true at the start of every iteration - note that it can depend on the iteration number. Call it $P(n)$.

Since the value of variables in code can change at each iteration, it is useful to refer to the value of a variable at certain iterations using the iteration number as a subscript.

Prove the loop invariant holds by induction and show the loop invariant holds at the end of the loop (implying the post condition).

Sometimes, instead of base case and inductive step, the following terminology is used:

1. **Initialization.** Show the loop is true at the start of the loop (base case).
2. **Maintenance.** Show that if the loop invariant is true at the start of any iteration, it is true at the start of the the next iteration (inductive step).
3. **Termination.** Show that the loop terminates (important for while loops), and that when the loop terminates, the loop invariant implies what we want (the postcondition).

9.4.1 Example of Iterative Correctness

Take *mult*(x, y), a function that adds x to the total y times.

Precondition: $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$

Postcondition: Return $x \cdot y$.

To prove this is correct, we show that the precondition implies the postcondition. Namely, that if $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$, *mult*(x, y) returns xy .

Proof. Let $total_n$ be the value of the variables $total$ at the start of the n th iteration. Let $P(n)$ be $total_n = xn$. We WTS $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n)$.

Base Case. Consider the value of $total$ before the start of the for loop. Note the total is initialized to 0, which is equal to $x \cdot 0$, as required.

Inductive Step. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $k \leq y - 1$. Assume $total_k = xk$. Now consider the execution of iteration k .

The contents of the for loop increment the value of $total$ by x . Thus, $total_{k+1}$, the value of $total$ at the start of iteration $k + 1$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} total_{k+1} &= total_k + x \\ &= xk + x \\ &= x(k + 1) \end{aligned} \tag{IH}$$

The last iteration of the for loop is $n = y - 1$, therefore, at the end of this iteration (the start of iteration y), the value of $total$ is $x \cdot y$. We then return the value of $total$, so $mult(x, y)$ returns xy as required. \square

For the runtime, suppose x, y are n -digit numbers, and it takes $O(n)$ time to add two n digit numbers. The worst-case time complexity would be $10^n - 1 \in \Theta(10^n)$, since y is an n -digit number as large as 9999...99 (n -times).

The eventual result has at most $2n$ digits. Thus, each addition takes $O(2n) = O(n)$. In total, the runtime is $\Theta(n10^n)$.

9.4.2 While Loops

While loops are typically more difficult to prove the correctness of. Specifically, you need to prove the while loop terminates.

There are two ways to check correctness:

1. Create a property for the loop invariant that implies the while check will fail at iteration n for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
2. Use the fact that any strictly decreasing sequence of natural numbers is finite to define some variable $x \in \mathbb{N}$, and argue that it decreases with every iteration of the while loop.

The execution of the while loops defines a decreasing sequence of natural numbers so that it terminates.

Example of Strictly Decreasing Sequence of Natural Numbers: Take the mystery function. For $x, y \in \mathbb{N}, y > 0$ the algorithm returns $\lceil x/y \rceil$.

To prove its descending sequence, assume the claim is true at the start of iteration k and show it is true at the start of iteration $k + 1$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{k+1} &= x + y - val_{k+1} \\ &= x + y - val_k - y \\ &= a_k - y \\ &< a_k \end{aligned} \tag{y > 0}$$

Furthermore, cancelling the y 's in the second line, we get $a_{k+1} = x - val_k$, which is greater than 0 since the while check passes. This combined with the fact that $y \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a_k \in \mathbb{N}$ implies that $a_{k+1} \in \mathbb{N}$.

Thus, a_n is indeed a decreasing sequence of natural numbers.

Now, we determine the loop invariant.

Let val_n, c_n be the real value of val and c at the start of iteration n . By convention, the iteration number starts at 0.

Let $P(n)$ be the predicate that is true if and only if $val_n = c_n y$ at the start of the iteration n , and $c_n = n$.

Proof. Initialization. At the start of iteration 0, $val_0 = c_0 = 0$, as required.

Maintenance. Assume the loop invariant holds at the start of some iteration k , and show it holds at the start of iteration $k+1$. By the end of the iteration k , val was incremented by y and c is incremented by 1, so:

$$val_{k+1} = val_k + y, \quad c_{k+1} = c_k + 1$$

Applying the loop invariant to iteration k , we have:

$$val_{k+1} = c_k \cdot y + y = (c_k + 1)y = c_{k+1}y$$

as required.

Termination. Since the algorithm terminates, let k be the iteration number such that the check in the while loop fails. We return $c_k = k$. Thus it suffices to show $k = \lceil x/y \rceil$. Since the check fails for iteration k and passes for iteration $k-1$, we have

$$ky \geq x, \quad (k-1)y < x$$

Putting the two together, we have:

$$\frac{x}{y} \leq k < \frac{x}{y} + 1$$

i.e., k is the natural number that is at least $\frac{x}{y}$ and less than $\frac{x}{y} + 1$, so $k = \lceil x/y \rceil$, as required. \square

Using the Loop Invariant Suppose the algorithm does not terminate. Then, it at least reaches iteration x .

$P(x) \implies val_x = xy \geq x$, so the while loop check fails and the algorithm terminates, which is a contradiction.

Take the algorithm *merge*, where x, y are sorted lists, and the algorithm returns a sorted lists with elements from x and y .

In this case, the descending sequence is $len(x) + len(y) - len(l)$, and the loop invariant is that l, x, y are all sorted and for all $a \in l, b \in x + y, a \leq b$, i.e., all the elements are not yet added to l , come after all the elements added to l .

To show termination, define a sequence of natural numbers that decrease with every iteration. So, let x_i, y_i, l_i be the values of x, y, l at the start of iteration i . Again, use the convention that the iteration starts at 0.

We claim that

$$a_n = len(x_0) + len(y_0) - len(l_n)$$

has this property. To show this, it suffices to show that $len(l)$ is increasing with each iteration and is at most $len(x) + len(y)$.

If either of the two if conditions pass, we return, and so the loop finishes. In the other two cases, a new element gets appended to l_n , and hence $len(l_{n+1}) > len(l_n)$.

Note that since all elements can get appended to l come from either x or y , $len(l_n) \leq len(x) + len(y)$.

For our loop invariant, we have $P(n)$:

1. l_n, x_n, y_n are sorted.
2. $\forall b \in x_0 + y_0, b$ is in exactly one of x_n, y_n, l_n
3. $\forall a \in l_n, \forall b \in x_n + y_n, a \leq b$.

Proof. Initialization.

1. l_0 is empty so it is vacuously sorted. x_0 and y_0 are sorted by that precondition.
2. let $b \in x_0 + y_0$. If b was in x_0 , then it is in x_0 , and if b was in y_0 , it is in y_0 .

3. l_0 is empty so 3 holds vacuously.

Maintenance: Assume P holds at the start of iteration k , we WTS it also holds at the end of iteration k . In this section, we only consider branches that don't end the loop. If $x_k[0] \leq y_k[0]$, we have:

$$x_{k+1} = x_k[1 :]$$

$$y_{k+1} = y_k$$

$$l_{k+1} = l_k + [x_k[0]] \text{ So:}$$

1. Holds at the end of the iteration, since 3 holds at the start of iteration k .
2. Holds since 2 holds at the start of the iteration, and we simply moved one element from x to l .
3. Holds at the end of iteration k since 1 and 3 hold at the start of iteration k ; $x_k[0]$ is minimal in $x_k + y_k$.

The else case for this is similar.

Termination. We already have shown the algorithm terminates. Suppose k is the iteration in which the loop terminates. The only way the while loop exists is if we reach one of the first two cases.

If the first case is reached, $len(x_k) = 0$ and we return $l_k + y_k$. Since the loop invariant holds at the start of the iteration, every element originally in x_0 or y_0 is in either l_k and y_k .

By (3) of the loop invariant, every element in y_k is at least every element of l_k . Furthermore, since $l_k + y_k$ are sorted by (1) of the loop invariant, $l_k + y_k$ is indeed a sorted list containing every element in $x_0 + y_0$.

The second case is similar, and thus the postcondition is satisfied when the algorithm terminates. \square

10 Finite Automata and Modeling Computations

We previously showed using Cantor's Theorem that there are problems that cannot be solved, defining a problem for each set.

If A is a set of strings, there is the problem of deciding whether a given input is in A or not. For example:

$$A = \{w \in : w \text{ is a palindrome}\},$$

$$A = \{w : w \text{ is a C program with no syntax errors.}\}$$

10.1 Language Definitions

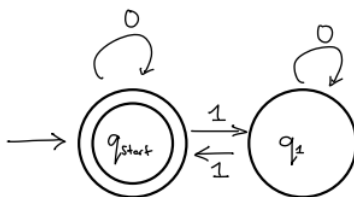
We solve problems with languages utilizing the following definitions:

1. An **alphabet**, Σ , is a non-empty, finite set of symbols.
For example: $\{0, 1\}$, $\{a, b, c, d, \dots, z\}$.
2. A **string** w over an alphabet Σ is a finite (0 or more) sequence of symbols from Σ .
3. The set of all strings is denoted as Σ^* .
4. A **language** is any subset of Σ^* , denoted as $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$.
5. We denote the empty string by ϵ .

Given a language A over the alphabet Σ , come up with a program that determines whether or not an input string $x \in \Sigma^*$ is in A or not.

10.2 Determinite Finite Automota

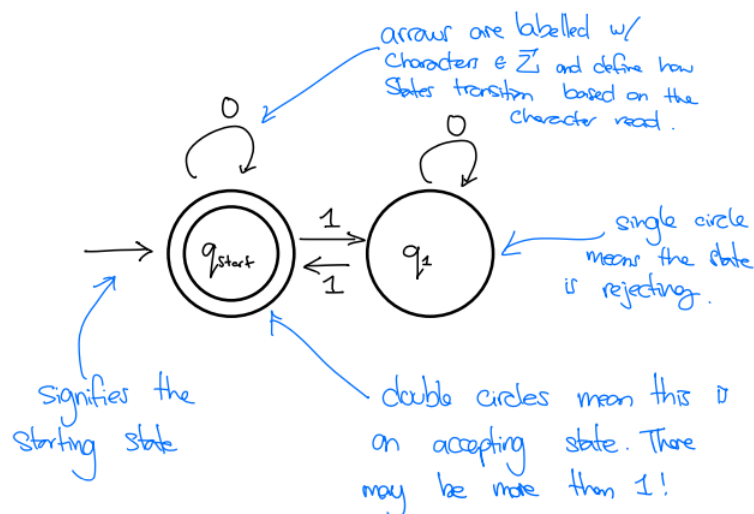
Determining a function that finds this answer can be very difficult and complicated, so we want to try to find a better way of determining different programs in its simplest and most “bare-bones” way.



Input: A string $w \in \Sigma^*$.

Output: An accept/reject.

1. The DFA starts at a predefined starting state.
2. The DFA reads the input string one character at a time. Depending on the character read and the current state, the DFA *deterministically* moves to a new state.
3. Once it reads the entire string, the DFA will be in some state. If that state is one of the accept states, the DFA accepts. Otherwise, the DFA rejects.

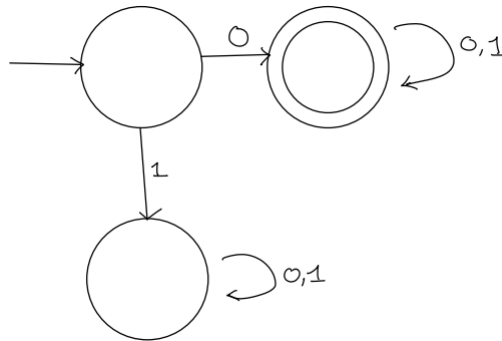


Let M be a DFA, the **language of DFA**, denoted as $L(M)$ is the set of strings $w \in \Sigma^*$ such that M accepts w .

Then, We take a language $A \subseteq \Sigma^*$, and find a DFA M such that $L(M) = A$.

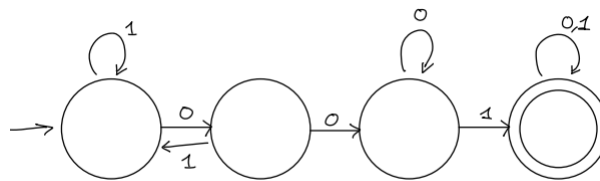
DFAs are deterministic, meaning that for the given state and character read, the next state is always the same. They are also finite, which means they have a finite number of states. States are analogous to memory, since we can store information about the input by transitioning to different states.

10.2.1 Examples of DFAs



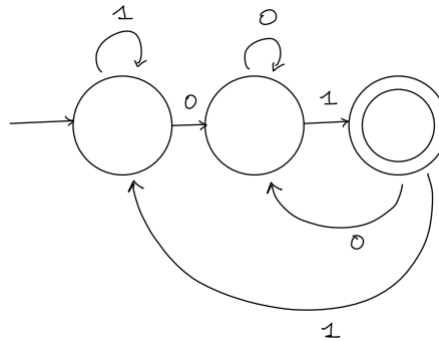
1.

This accepts any string that starts with '0'.



2.

This accepts any string that contains '001'. That is: $L(M) = \{w : 001 \in w\}$.



3.

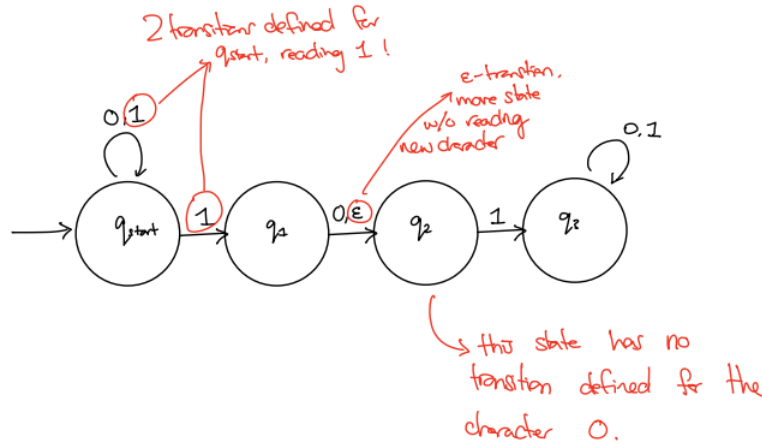
This accepts any string that ends with '01'.

10.2.2 Designing DFAs

1. State the alphabet Σ of the DFA.
2. Define a finite set of states, Q .
3. State the start state $q_{start} \in Q$.
4. Write which states are accepting, and formally find a subset $F \subseteq Q$ of accept states.
5. For each state q and each character $x \in \Sigma$, state which class to go to next if you read x from state q .

10.3 Nondeterminate Finite Automata

NFAs are similar to DFAs, with a few key differences.



Input: A string $w \in \Sigma^*$.

Output: An accept/reject.

1. The NFA starts at a predefined start state.
2. The NFA reads in the input string one character at a time.
Let c be the character that was read. There are several cases depending on the current state:
 - (a) If the state has no arrows coming out of it labelled with c , immediately reject.
 - (b) Otherwise, choose one of the arrows labelled with c and follow it.
3. When it has read the entire string, the NFA will be in a particular state. Depending on the choices made, the final state will either be accepting or rejecting.
The NFA accepts the string if any sequence of choices leads to an accept state.

10.3.1 Differences Between DFAs and NFAs

1. For each state, there can be multiple arrows labelled with the same character.
2. Arrows can be labelled with ϵ (empty string).
3. States do not need to have one arrow for each character in Σ .

10.4 Regular Languages

A language A is regular if and only if there is a DFA M such that $L(M) = A$.

10.4.1 Language Operations

We have for languages A, B over Σ^* :

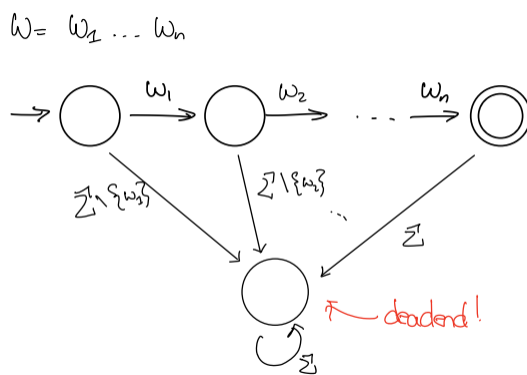
1. The **complement** of A , denoted $\overline{A} = \Sigma^* \setminus A$
2. The **concatenation** of A, B denoted $AB = \{ab : a \in A, b \in B\}$, which is the set of strings you get by concatenating a string in A and a string in B .
3. $A^n = \{a_0 a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} : a_0 \in A, a_1 \in A, \dots, a_{n-1} \in A\}$.
In other words, it is A concatenated with itself n times; i.e., it is the set of strings you get by concatenating n strings in A .
Note $A^0 = \{\epsilon\}$ for all A , and $A^1 = A$.
4. $A^* = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A^i$: The **Kleene star** of A . We typically say A star.
Note that $\epsilon \in A^* \forall A \subseteq \Sigma^*$.
5. $A \cup B$, $A \cap B$ are the union and intersection.

10.4.2 Finite Languages

Let $w \in \Sigma^*$ be any string. Then, $\{w\}$ is a regular.

Proof. Since Σ^* is finite, we have $w = w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n$.

We construct our DFA where transitions that are not w reach a dead end, and everything else is the accept state. Then $\{w\}$ would be the regular.



□

10.4.3 NFAs and Regular Languages

We re-iterate that nondeterminism is if any sequence of choices leads to an accept state, accept. Reject only if every sequence of choices leads to reject. Then, we can choose which transitions to take.

Theorem. Let A be any language. There is a DFA M such that $A = L(M) \iff \exists$ NFA N such that $A = L(N)$.

Proof. 1. \implies : We know that every DFA is an NFA, so we know this is true.

2. \impliedby : We simulate a NFA N with DFA M .

We have a state in M for every subset of states in N . Let S, T be two states in M . Then S transitions to T reading σ if some choice allows me to go from a state in S to a state in T . This choice includes an unlimited amount of ϵ transitions.

Then, the accept states are the subsets that contain accept states, and the start state is the subset containing the start state in N and all states reachable from the start state using an ϵ transition.

More intuitively, if you are at state S after reading w , S should contain all states you could have been in N .

□

The more complex a model of computation is, the easier it is to use. Then, NFAs are more complex so finding the NFAs for a language is easier than finding DFAs for a language.

However, the more limited the model of computation is, the easier it is to prove things about. DFAs are very restrictive, so a lot of properties can be proved.

However, since these two models of computation are equivalent, we can pick the right model for different situations.

For instance:

$$A \text{ is regular} \iff \exists \text{ DFA } M \text{ such that } L(M) = A \iff \exists \text{ NFA } N \text{ such that } L(N) = A$$

10.4.4 Closure

Suppose A, B regular languages. Then:

1. \overline{A}
2. AB
3. $A \cup B$
4. $A \cap B$
5. A^n , and
6. A^*

are all regular.

Proof. We also know for a fact that finite languages themselves are regular.

1. A : Suppose A is regular. Then, let M be a DFA for A .
Let M' be the DFA with all the states of M flipped. Then $L(M') = \overline{A}$.
Informally, we know that if $w \in L(M)$, this means that it's reached the final accept state, implying that $w \notin L(M')$ since all accepts turn into rejects, and vice-versa.
2. $A \cup B$: Let M, N be DFAs for A, B respectively. We want to find a DFA D for $A \cup B$.
Here, we can run our DFAs in parallel, making each state in our DFA D correspond to a 2-tuple (M, N) .
Then, at state (x, y) , we read character σ , and then transition to (x', y') , where x' is the state x goes into in M when reading σ , and y' is the state that y goes into in N when reading σ .
Then, the accepting state occurs if either x was an accept state in M or y was an accept state in N (or both).

When we construct these states for the union, sometimes we get "extra" states that are never used but the language is still valid.
3. $A \cap B$: Something that is proven in homework.
4. $AB = \{ab : a \in A, b \in B\}$: The same trick of running DFAs in parallel can't work, so writing this as a function, for each input, we try to split up the string in different ways such that the first half is in A , and the second half is in B , then accept. If there is no way to split up the string, reject.
We can guess where the string in A ends and when the string in B starts using NFAs.
Let M, N be DFAs for A, B respectively. We show that AB is regular by finding an NFA H for AB .
So, we take the accept states for the first half of the input for M and use ϵ transitions to go into the second half of the input for N .
Then, if $w \in L(H)$, then $w \in AB$.

□

10.5 Non-Regular Languages

We know that DFAs have a finite number of states, and we know that states correspond to memory. Then, intuitively, DFAs can compute languages that need a finite amount of memory.
In particular, a DFA has a fixed amount of memory no matter how large the input is.

For example, **Even** is regular because no matter how large the input is, you just need to store one bit corresponding to whether it has an even number of 1s or not.

However, languages such as

$$X = \{a^n b^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

can NOT be solved using finite memory, since you continuously need more memory.

To prove this is not regular, we need to prove there does not exist a DFA M such that $L(M) = X$, but this is near-impossible. So, we can use a theorem to prove this.

10.5.1 Myhill-Nerode Theorem

Indistinguishable Key - Let A be a language over Σ . For any strings $x, y, w \in \Sigma^*$, call w a **distinguisher** for x, y if exactly one of xw and yw is in A .

That is, a DFA for A accepts one of xw and yw , and rejects the other.

We can define the binary relation \sim_A over Σ^* where for any $x, y \in \Sigma^*$:

$$x \sim_A y \iff \neg \exists a \text{ a distinguisher for } x \text{ and } y$$

In English, we say x is **indistinguishable** from y relative to A .

We know that \sim_A is an equivalence relation over Σ^* ; that is, it is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Myhill-Nerode Theorem - Let A be a language over Σ^* . Then, A is regular $\iff \sim_A$ has a finite number of equivalence classes.

More informally, we say $\exists a_1, \dots, a_k$ for all $w \in \Sigma^*$: $w \sim_A a_i$ for some $i \in k$.

Lemma. Let A be a regular language with DFA M . Let Q be the set of states, and q_0 be the starting state. We can define $\delta : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow Q$ be the function that maps (q, w) to q' , where q' is the state reached by the DFA starting at state q and reading string w .

Then, $\forall x, y \in \Sigma^*$, if $\delta(q_0, x) = \delta(q_0, y) \implies x \sim_A y$.

That is, if you reach the same state in the DFA after reading x and y , then x and y are indistinguishable.

Proof. Let w be any string. The DFA is deterministic.

$$\delta(q_0, xw) = \delta(\delta(q_0, x), w) = \delta(\delta(q_0, y), w) = \delta(q_0, yw)$$

Thus, the state reached after reading xw is the same as the state after reading yw , so either both xw and yw are accepted or rejected.

So, $\forall w \in \Sigma^* : xw \in A \iff yw \in A$. □

Proving Myhill-Nerode Theorem

Proof. 1. \implies : Let A be a regular language with DFA M . Let Q be the set of states and assume $|Q| = k$.

WLOG, assume that for each state is reachable from the start state (otherwise, remove the state).

Let E be the set of equivalence classes from \sim_A . We want to show that $|E| \leq k$ by finding a surjection from Q to E .

We claim $f : Q \rightarrow E$ defined by the following:

$$f(q) = [a]_{\sim} \text{ where } \delta(q_0, a) = q$$

is such a function.

- (a) Well defined: Let q be any state. Since we got rid of all unreachable states, there is some a such that $\delta(q_0, a) = q$.

Suppose $\delta(q_0, a) = \delta(q_0, b)$. Then by the lemma, we have $a \sim b$; thus $[a]_{\sim} = [b]_{\sim}$.

Hence, there is only one equivalence class for which f is true (so f is well defined).

- (b) Surjective: Let $[a]_{\sim} \in E$ be some equivalence class. Then $\delta(q_0, a) = q$ for some q by tracing the execution of the DFA on a . Thus, everything is hit and it is surjective. Therefore, $f(q) = [a]_{\sim}$.
2. \Leftarrow : Suppose \sim_A has a finite number of equivalence classes. We WTS A is regular by defining a DFA M . We can split Σ^* into different partitions of equivalence classes.
Now, we want to determine the start state, transitions, and accepting states.

- (a) Start State: $[\epsilon]_{\sim}$
(b) Transitions: $[a]_{\sim}$ reading σ goes to $[a\sigma]_{\sim}$
(c) Accepting States: $[a]_{\sim}$ accepts if $a \in A$.

We need to check these transitions and accept states are well defined (i.e., if $[a]_{\sim} = [b]_{\sim}$, then $[a\sigma]_{\sim} = [b\sigma]_{\sim}$, and if $a \in A$ and $[a]_{\sim} = [b]_{\sim}$, then $b \in A$), which is proven in the homework.

Then, after running this DFA on string w , we get to the state $[w]_{\sim}$. If $w \in A$, then $[w]_{\sim}$ is accepting, otherwise $[w]_{\sim}$ is rejecting.

Hence, $L(M) = A$, and A is regular. □

10.5.2 Using Myhill-Nerode Theorem

The contrapositive says that if \sim_A has an infinite number of equivalence classes, then A is not regular. Then, to show A is not regular, it suffices to show that \sim_A has an infinite number of equivalence classes. One way to do this is to find an infinite set S such that any two elements $x, y \in S$ are distinguishable.

That is, let A be a language. If there is an infinite set S such that $\forall x, y \in S$ with $x \neq y, x \not\sim_A y$, then A is not regular.

So, we can now prove $X = \{0^n 1^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is not regular.

Proof. Consider the set $S = \{0^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Note that S is infinite, since it has one element for every natural number.

Let $x, y \in S$ with $x \neq y$. Then $x = 0^i, y = 0^j$ for some $i \neq j$. We'll show that $x \not\sim_A y$; in particular $w = 1^i$ is such that $xw = 0^i 1^i \in X$, but $yw = 0^j 1^i \notin X$.

Thus, S is an infinite set of pairwise distinguishable strings relative to X , therefore X is not regular. □