

Awkward State Machines

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1 Introduction

TODO motivate the reader

2 Notations & Assumed Knowledge

The study of awkward state machines requires that we make use of preexisting theory. In this section, we will specify any such knowledge that is required.

2.1 Notations

Notation: Sets

- \mathbb{Z} to represent the set of integers.
- \mathbb{N} to represent the set of natural numbers, which we will define to be the non-negative integers.
- \mathbb{N}^+ to represent the set of positive nature numbers
- $[n]$ to represent all natural numbers less than n .
- $x \in Y$ to mean x is an element of the set Y .

2.2 The Remainder Theorem

We will need to borrow the concept of the *remainder* from basic number theory. We will not bother proving the associated theorem ourselves, as it

is well known, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remainder> for a basic overview.

The Remainder Theorem

For any positive integer $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$, for any non-negative integer $t \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a unique integer $q \in \mathbb{N}$, and a unique integer $r \in [n]$ such that $t = qn + r$.

We call r the *remainder* of t when divided by n .

It should be noted that there is a wealth more knowledge known about the remainder; however, we will take the time to prove any other results we might need throughout the rest of this paper.

2.3 Graphs

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graph_\(discrete_mathematics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graph_(discrete_mathematics))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directed_graph

3 State Machines

Definition

A *state machine* is an object equipped with $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ objects called *properties*.

For each property, it is required that we specify some set that contains all the possible values that property can take on. We refer to these as the *property sets* of the machine.

We define the *product property set*, $P = \prod_0^{n-1} (P_i)$, where P_i are the property sets of the state machine.

For each property, p_i , we define a mapping called a *property transition function*, $T_i : P \rightarrow P_i$, where P_i is the property set of p_i .

We define the *transition function* of a state machine, $T : P \rightarrow P$ as a combination of the individual property transition functions such that:

$$T(p) = (T_0(p), T_1(p), \dots, T_{n-1}(p))$$

The final component to a state machine is an element within it's product property set, we call this element the machine's *initial state*.

A state machine is used to produce a sequence, $S = [s_i \in P]$, called the machine's *state sequence*, over the elements of the machine's product property set, such that:

- The first element of the sequence, s_0 , is the initial state of the machine.
- All subsequent elements are derived by applying the transition function, T , to the previous element in the sequence:

$$s_{i+1} = T(s_i).$$

We refer to the elements of the state sequence as the *states* of the machine. We say that s_i is the *state* of the machine on *step* i . Furthermore, we use the phrase *transition* to refer to the act of deriving the next state, s_{i+1} , of the machine from the current state, s_i .

Definition

For any state machine, O , for any integer $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we define the *step function*, $\phi(O, n)$ to be the state of O on step n .

Definition

For any state machine, O , for any integers $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, we define the *state function*, $\psi(O, n, m)$ to be the state of O after completing m transitions from step n .

4 Cycle Graphs

In order for us to study awkward state machines in any detail, we are going to need to understand their underlying components. As such, let us start by examining the simplest component in an awkward state machine: the cycle graph.

4.1 Basic Definitions

Definition

A *cycle graph* is a directed, connected graph whose points form a circle. More explicitly, for any $n > 1$, the cycle graph G_n has n points:

$$P = \{ p_i \mid i \in [n] \}$$

such that for any $i < n - 1$, p_i has only one edge which goes to p_{i+1} , and p_{n-1} has only one edge going to p_0 .

Our definition tells us that a cycle graph is nothing more than a circular, directed graph with an explicit and straightforward labeling of its points.

4.1.1 The Walk Functions

Our study of cycle graphs will be predominantly focused on the outcomes of walks about cycle graphs. As such, for the sake of clarity in our writing, let us now take the time to define two functions - the *walk function* ω and the *index walk function* Ω - that we can use to talk about walks of arbitrary

length around any cycle graph.

Definition

For any cycle graph G_n with points P , we define the *walk function* $\omega : (P, \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow P$ to be $\omega(p_i, k) = p_j$, where p_j is the point arrived at after a walk of length k when starting at point p_i on cycle graph G_n .

We define $\omega(p_i, 0) = p_i$ for completeness and consistency, even though a walk of length 0 does not exist. We can instead interpret this as the result of not taking a walk.

Furthermore, we define the *walk index function*, $\Omega : (P, \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow [n]$ to be $\Omega(p_i, k) = j$, where j is the index of the point $\omega(p_i, k)$.

We already know a little bit about the walk and walk index functions from our definition of a cycle graph. Our definition tells us point that p_{n-1} only has one edge going to point p_0 . Furthermore, for any other point p_k there is only a single edge going to point p_{k+1} . Thus, we have:

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n :

- $\omega(p_{n-1}, 1) = p_0$ and $\Omega(p_{n-1}, 1) = 0$
- For any $k < n - 1$, $\omega(p_k, 1) = p_{k+1}$ and $\Omega(p_k, 1) = k + 1$

4.2 Validity of the Walk Function

In order for our mappings ω and Ω to be valid mappings, they will have defined for all input; furthermore, each input can only map to a single output. Since our functions map to the outcomes of walks of varying length around cycle graphs, they will only be valid if for any walk length, starting at any point, on any cycle graph, that it must be the case that the walk can be completed; furthermore, there must only be a single walk that can be taken. As such, we shall begin our study by proving just this.

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i within that graph, there is only a single walk of length k that begins at point p_i .

In other words, ω and Ω are valid mappings.

Proof

The truth to this lemma is result of the fact that every point in a cycle graph only has a single edge. As such, we shall use this fact to complete a proof by induction on the length of our walk.

Base Case

Our base case demands us to show that there is only a single walk of length one starting at any point, in any cycle graph. But of course this is true because our definition of a cycle graph stipulates that the point p_{n-1} has only a single edge going to point p_0 , while all other points p_k only have a single edge going to point p_{k+1} . As such, a walk of length one is possible from any point; furthermore, there is only one such walk since there is only a single edge that can be traversed.

Inductive Hypothesis

Let us assume that for all $1 \leq j < k$, for all cycle graphs, that it is the case that there is only a single walk that can be taken of length j starting from any point within the graph. In other words, that $\omega(p_i, j)$ is defined on all points of all cycle graphs whenever $j < k$.

Inductive Step

We must now show that we can complete a walk of length k starting from any point in any cycle graph, and that there is only one walk that we can take to do so.

Our inductive hypothesis tells us that there is only a single walk of length $k - 1$ we can take starting from any point p_i , ending at point $\omega(p_i, k - 1)$.

Furthermore, our base case tells us that there is only a single walk of length one that can be taken from any point in our graph. As such, it must be the case that there is only a single walk of length one that can be taken from point $\omega(p_i, k - 1)$; equivalently we know $\omega(\omega(p_i, k - 1), 1)$ is defined.

Since our composite walk $\omega(\omega(p_i, k - 1), 1)$ is composed of a walk of length

$k - 1$ and a second walk of length 1, our composite walk has length k . Furthermore, since both components of our walk were the only walks that could have been taken, we can conclude that our composite walk is the only walk that could have been taken of length k . As such, not only have we completed our proof, but we have also shown that:

$$\omega(p_i, k) = \omega(\omega(p_i, k - 1), 1) \text{ whenever } k > 1$$

4.3 Composition of Walks

In order to show a walk of a certain length has some property, we will often need to “split up” the walk into two or more shorter walks and then reason about the composition of the shorter walks in order to reason about the original longer walk.

To start, we will show that a walk of any length j is equivalent to first taking a walk of length $t < j$, followed by a walk of length $j - t$; or first taking a walk of length $j - t$, followed by a walk of length t .

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i , for any integers $0 \leq t \leq j$:

$$\omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, t), j - t) = \omega(\omega(p_i, j - t), t).$$

Proof

We know there exists a single walk of length t starting at point p_i . Let p_w be the point this walk ends at, then $p_w = \omega(p_i, t)$.

We know there exists a single walk of length $j - t$ starting from point p_w . Let p_y be the point this walk ends at, then $p_y = \omega(p_w, j - t)$.

Applying substitution yields:

$$p_y = \omega(\omega(p_i, t), j - t)$$

Combining the two above walks yields a walk from p_i to p_y of length $t + (j - t) = j$. Thus, we have shown:

$$p_y = \omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, t), j - t)$$

To complete our proof, we need to show:

$$\omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, j - t), t).$$

Let us define $a = j - t$.

From the first part of this proof, we know that

$$\omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, a), j - a)$$

Substituting out a yields:

$$\omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, j - t), j - (j - t)) = \omega(\omega(p_i, j - t), t).$$

Corollary

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i , for any non-negative integers t, v :

$$\omega(p_i, t + v) = \omega(\omega(p_i, t), v) = \omega(p_i, v), t)$$

Proof

Let $j = t + v$. Through the [previous lemma](#), we know that

$$\begin{aligned}\omega(p_i, t + v) &= \omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, t), j - t) \\ \omega(p_i, t + v) &= \omega(p_i, j) = \omega(\omega(p_i, j - t), t)\end{aligned}$$

Substitution brings us:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega(p_i, t + v) &= \omega(\omega(p_i, t), (t + v) - t) = \omega(\omega(p_i, t), v) \\ \omega(p_i, t + v) &= \omega(\omega(p_i, (t + v) - t), t) = \omega(\omega(p_i, v), t)\end{aligned}$$

4.4 Shortest Walks

Now that we have the ability to compose walks around our cycle graph, we will now show that from any point p_i that there exists a walk to any other point p_j . Furthermore, we will be able to determine what the length of shortest possible walk from point p_i to p_j .

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n , for any integers i, j such that

$$0 \leq j \leq i < n$$

then

$$\omega(p_j, i - j) = p_i$$

Proof

This will be a proof by induction on the length of the walk $l = i - j$.

Base Case (length = 0)

Let $l = 0$ be the length of the walk, giving us $l = i - j = 0$ and $i = j$. Substituting gives us:

$$\omega(p_j, l) = \omega(p_j, i - j) = \omega(p_j, 0) = p_j = p_i$$

Inductive Hypothesis

Assume for all $l < t \leq n - l$, that $\omega(p_j, l) = \omega(p_j, i - j) = p_i$

Inductive Step

We need to show that $\omega(p_j, t) = \omega(p_j, i - j) = p_i$.

By [previous lemma](#), we know that:

$$\omega(p_j, t) = \omega(\omega(p_j, t - 1), 1)$$

Focusing on the inner function and substituting:

$$\omega(p_j, t - 1) = \omega(p_j, (i - j) - 1) = \omega(p_j, (i - 1) - j)$$

Applying the inductive hypothesis:

$$\omega(p_j, t - 1) = \omega(p_j, (i - 1) - j) = p_{i-1}$$

Substituting p_{i-1} back into $\omega(p_j, t)$ yields:

$$\omega(p_j, t) = \omega(\omega(p_j, t - 1), 1) = \omega(p_{i-1}, 1) = p_i$$

Now that we know there exists a walk of length $j - i$ from point p_i to point p_j whenever $i \leq j$, we will now show that this is the shortest possible such walk whenever $i \neq j$. We exclude the case where $i = j$ since there is no such thing as a walk of length 0, even though $\omega(p_i, 0 = i - j) = p_i$.

Corollary

For any cycle graph G_n , for any integers i, j such that

$$0 \leq j < i < n$$

the shortest walk from p_j to p_i has length $i - j$.

Proof

We will complete our proof by assuming we have a shorter walk, and then proving that assumption leads to a contradiction.

Before diving in, we can immediately eliminate the case where $i = j + 1$ since there is no such thing as a walk with a length less than 1.

Let $l = i - j \geq 2$. Assume there exists a shorter walk of length k from point p_j to point p_i .

Since $k < l$, there must exist some integer $1 \leq t < l$ such that $k = l - t$. Substituting yields:

$$k = l - t = (i - j) - t = (i - t) - j$$

Since $t < l = i - j$, then $t - i < j$. Multiplying by -1 gives $i - t > j$.

As such we can apply the [previous lemma](#):

$$\omega(p_j, k) = \omega(p_j, (i - t) - j) = p_{i-t}.$$

However, by assumption $\omega(p_j, k) = p_i \neq p_{i-t}$ since $1 \leq t$. Thus we have reached our contradiction.

Corollary

For any cycle graph G_n , for any non-negative integers i, j such that $i + j < n$,

$$\Omega(p_i, j) = i + j$$

Proof

Since we have that $i \leq i + j < n$, the [previous lemma](#) tells us:

$$\omega(p_i, (i + j) - i) = p_{i+j}$$

We can simplify $(i + j) - i = j$, thus we have:

$$\omega(p_i, j) = p_{i+j} \text{ and } \Omega(p_i, j) = i + j.$$

We now have a strong understanding about walks from any point p_i to any other point p_j where $i \leq j$. As such, we shall now move on to examine walks where $j \leq i$.

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n , for any integers i, j such that

$$0 \leq i \leq j < n$$

then

$$\omega(p_j, (n - j) + i) = p_i$$

Proof

We shall prove this directly. Using the [previous lemma](#), we know that:

$$\omega(p_j, (n - 1) - j) = p_{n-1} \text{ since } j \leq (n - 1)$$

Furthermore, we know that:

- $\omega(p_{n-1}, 1) = p_0$ by structure of G_n
- $\omega(p_0, i) = \omega(p_0, i - 0) = p_i$ by the [previous lemma](#) since $0 \leq i$

As such, we can create a composite of these three walks to form a walk from p_j to p_i having length:

$$((n - 1) - j) + 1 + i = (n - j) + i$$

which completes our proof.

Corollary

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i , for any non-negative integer $j \leq n$ such that $i + j \geq n$, then

$$\Omega(p_i, j) = j - (n - i) = (i + j) - n$$

Proof

If we can show that $0 \leq j - (n - i) \leq i$, then the [previous lemma](#) tells us that:

$$\Omega(p_i, (n - i) + (j - (n - i))) = j - (n - i)$$

Simplifying our expression yields:

$$(n - i) + (j - (n - i)) = (n - i) - (n - i) + j = j$$

Thus, if we can show $0 \leq j - (n - i) \leq i$, then we will have:

$$\Omega(p_i, (n - i) + (j - (n - i))) = \Omega(p_i, j) = j - (n - i)$$

We can subtract i from our inequality, $i + j \geq n$, to get $j \geq n - i$. As such, it is the case that

$$j - (n - i) \geq (n - i) - (n - i) \geq 0$$

Now we just need to show that $j - (n - i) \leq i$ to complete our proof. The truth of this follows from the fact that $j \leq n$:

$$j - (n - i) = (j + i) - n \leq (n + i) - n = i$$

Corollary

For any cycle graph G_n , for any integers i, j such that

$$0 \leq i \leq j \leq n - 1$$

the shortest walk from p_j to p_i has length $(n - j) + i$.

Proof

We will complete this proof by showing that $\omega(p_j, l) \neq p_i$ for all $l < (n - j) + i$.

We will start by assuming we have $l \leq (n - j)$. For any such l , we can find some k such that $l = (n - j) - k$ where $0 \leq k < n - j$. Substituting yields:

$$\omega(p_j, l) = \omega(p_j, (n - j) - k) = \omega(p_j, (n - k) - j)$$

By a [previous lemma](#), we know that $\omega(p_j, (n - k) - j) = p_{n-k}$ as long as $j \leq n - k < n$.

We know that $k < n - j$ by our selection of l . Adding j yields $k + j < n$, followed by subtracting k give us $j < n - k$. Thus, we are able to apply our lemma to give us $\omega(p_j, (n - k) - j) = p_{n-k}$. Furthermore, we know $i \leq j < n - k$, thus we have that $i \neq n - k$, yielding:

$$\omega(p_j, l) = \omega(p_j, (n - k) - j) = p_{n-k} \neq p_i.$$

As such, we have eliminated all $l \leq (n - j)$.

We now need to show that if l is within: $n - i < l < (n - 1) + i$, then $\omega(p_j, l) \neq p_i$.

For any l , we can find some k such that $l = (n - j) + k$ where $1 \leq k < i$. Substituting allows us to apply the previous lemma:

$$\omega(p_j, l) = \omega(p_j, (n - j) + k) = p_k \neq p_i.$$

Corollary

For any cycle graph G_n , for any points p_i, p_j , there exists positive integers $a, b \leq n$ such that:

$$\omega(p_i, a) = p_j \text{ and } \omega(p_j, b) = p_i.$$

In other words, it is always possible to walk from any point p_i to any point p_j with a length no greater than n .

Furthermore, whenever $p_j \neq p_i$, then the integers a, b will satisfy the relationship: $a = n - b$ (equivalently $b = n - a$).

Finally, whenever $p_j = p_i$, then we will have $a = b = n$.

Proof

The first part of this proof follows directly from the previous two lemmas.

Let p_i, p_j be any two points such that $i < j$. We know that $\omega(p_i, j - i) = p_j$ by the [first of our two previous lemmas](#). Furthermore, $j - i < j < n$.

Now assume that $j \leq i$. We know that $\omega(p_i, (n - i) + j) = p_j$ by the [second of our two previous lemmas](#). Furthermore, $(n - i) + j \leq (n - i) + i = n$.

As such, we completed showing that from any point p_i , there exists a walk to any other point p_j with a length less than or equal to n .

We will now prove that whenever $p_j \neq p_i$, that $b = n - a$.

Assume that $i < j$. We know that $\omega(p_i, j - i) = p_j$, and $\omega(p_j, (n - j) + i) = p_i$. Therefore, it must be the case that

$$\begin{aligned} a &= j - i \\ b &= (n - j) + i = n - (j - i) = n - a \end{aligned}$$

We will conclude this proof by showing that a walk of length n from any point p_i will return to point p_i .

By the [previous lemma](#), we know a walk of length $(n - i) + i = n$ will end on point p_i since $i \leq i$.

4.5 Repetition of Walks

We have been focused on the result of walks with length no greater than n , the number of points within our graph. We will now move onto considering what happens when we take a walk with length greater than n .

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i , for any integers $t \geq 0, a \geq 1$

$$\omega(p_i, t) = \omega(p_i, t + an)$$

Proof

We shall complete this proof by induction on a .

Base Case ($a = 1$)

Let p_i be any point in our graph, let $t \geq 0$, and let $p_k = \omega(p_i, t)$.

By the [previous corollary](#), we know that $\omega(p_k, n) = p_k$. As such, the composition of these walks is $\omega(\omega(p_i, t), n) = \omega(p_i, t + n) = p_k = \omega(p_i, t)$, thus we have completed our base case.

Inductive Hypothesis

Assume for all $1 \leq a < l$ for some l , that $\omega(p_i, t) = \omega(p_i, t + an)$.

Inductive Step

We need to show that $\omega(p_i, t + ln) = \omega(p_i, t)$.

By previous lemma, we know:

$$\omega(p_i, t + ln) = \omega(\omega(p_i, n), t + (l - 1)n)$$

By the [previous corollary](#), we know $\omega(p_i, n) = p_i$. As such, we can substitute:

$$\omega(\omega(p_i, n), t + (l - 1)n) = \omega(p_i, t + (l - 1)n)$$

Since $l - 1 < l$, we can apply our inductive hypothesis to complete our proof

$$\omega(p_i, t + (l - 1)n) = \omega(p_i, t)$$

4.6 Remainders

We will often wish to refer to [remainder](#) throughout our study of awkward state machines. However, it would be rather clumsy to have to constantly to write out that “ r is the remainder of t when divided n ” to make reference to our definition. As such, let us define a new function, ρ , that will allow us to reference the remainder without all the fuss.

Definition

For any positive integer $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$, for any integer $t \in \mathbb{N}$, the *remainder function*, $\rho : (\mathbb{N}^+, \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow [n]$, maps (n, t) to the remainder of t when divided by n .

As such, if r is the remainder of t when divided by n , then we write:

$$\rho(n, t) = r$$

Let us quickly note that combining the [remainder theorem](#) with the remainder function yields: for any positive integer n , and any integer $t \geq 0$, there

exists a unique integer $q \geq 0$ such that $t = qn + \rho(n, t)$.

Lemma

For any $i \in [n]$, if $i = j - qn$ for some integers $j, q \in \mathbb{N}$, then $\rho(n, j) = i$.

Proof

Assume $i \in [n]$ and $i = j - qn$ for some integers $j, q \in \mathbb{N}$.

Solving for j yields. $j = i + qn$.

Since $i < n$, then i and q must be the unique integers from the remainder theorem. As such i is defined to be remainder of j when divided by n .

4.7 Omega Walk Theorem

TODO: Add background and motivation

Lemma

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i , for any integer $t \geq 0$

$$\omega(p_i, t) = \omega(p_i, \rho(n, t))$$

Proof

We know there exists some integer $q \geq 0$ such that $t = qn + \rho(n, t)$. As such, we can use this expression to substitute for t :

$$\omega(p_i, t) = \omega(p_i, qn + \rho(n, t)) = \omega(\omega(p_i, qn), \rho(n, t))$$

By previous lemma, we know that:

$$\omega(p_i, qn) = \omega(p_i, qn + 0) = \omega(p_i, 0) = p_i$$

As such, we can substitute in p_i to complete our proof:

$$\omega(p_i, t) = \omega(\omega(p_i, qn), \rho(n, t)) = \omega(p_i, \rho(n, t))$$

We have now accumulated enough knowledge about cycle graphs with a theorem.

Omega Walk Theorem

For any cycle graph G_n , for any point p_i , for any $t \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\Omega(p_i, t) = \rho(n, i + t)$$

In other words, if a walk of length t starting at point p_i ends on point p_j , then $j = \rho(n, i + t)$.

Proof

Let p_i be any point. Let $t \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let $q \in \mathbb{N}$ be the integer such that $t = \rho(n, t) + qn$. Then $\rho(n, t) = t - qn$.

The [previous lemma](#) tells us that $\Omega(p_i, t) = \Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t))$.

Since $\rho(n, t) < n$, our previous corollaries tell us that

- $\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) = i + \rho(n, t)$ whenever $i + \rho(n, t) < n$ by [corollary](#)
- $\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) = \rho(n, t) - (n - i)$ whenever $i + \rho(n, t) \geq n$ by [corollary](#)

As such, we need to show that both of these cases are in fact equal to $\rho(i + t)$.

Case 1

Let $\rho(n, t) + i < n$, then

$$\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) = i + \rho(n, t) = i + (t - qn) = (i + t) - qn$$

Since $\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) \in [n]$, then $\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) = \rho(i + t)$ by [previous lemma](#).

Case 2

Let $\rho(n, t) + i \geq n$, then

$$\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) = \rho(n, t) - (n - i) = (t - qn) - (n - i) = (i + t) - (q + 1)n$$

Since $\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) \in [n]$, then $\Omega(p_i, \rho(n, t)) = \rho(i + t)$ by [previous lemma](#).

5 Activation Cycle Machines

In this section, we will begin working with *activation cycle machines*, state machines based on taking walks around a cycle graph.

Definition

For any integers $a, n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ such that $a < n$, we define the *activation cycle machine*, $C_{a,n}$, to be a state machine with two properties:

- A *position* which belongs to the set of points, P , for the cycle graph G_n .
- *active* which belongs to the boolean set $B = \{true, false\}$.

The position transition function is defined to be:

$$T_0(p, b) = \omega(G_n, p, 1)$$

The active transition function is defined to be:

$$T_1(p, b) = \Omega(G_n, p, 1) < a$$

The initial state is defined to be $(p_0, true)$.

Whenever an activation cycle machine's active property is *true*, we say that the machine is *active*, otherwise, we say the machine is *inactive*.

We say that the activation cycle machine $C_{a,n}$ has a *activators* and a *length* of n .

The activation cycle machine is a great machine to begin our study of state machines with since it is rather simple. With each transition, the next position is just the adjacent point in the underlying cycle graph G_n . While the active property is simply checking if the index of the adjacent point is less than the number of activators.

Since we've already dedicated an entire section of this paper to the study of walks on cycle graphs, we will easily be able to apply all our accumulated knowledge to activation cycle machines.

Lemma

For any activation cycle machine, $C_{a,n}$, for any integer $i \in \mathbb{N}$, the state of the machine on step i is given by:

$$\phi(C_{a,n}, i) = (p_b, b < a) \text{ where } b = \rho(n, i).$$

Proof

We shall complete this proof by induction on the step, i .

Base Case $i = 0$

The initial state of any activation cycle machine, $C_{a,n}$, is defined to be $\phi(C_{a,n}, 0) = (p_0, \text{true})$.

Furthermore, $\rho(n, 0) = 0 < a$.

Inductive Hypothesis

Assume for all $j < i$, that $\phi(C_{a,n}, j) = (p_b, b < a)$ where $b = \rho(n, j)$.

Inductive Step

By definition, $\phi(C_{a,n}, i) = T(\phi(C_{a,n}, i-1))$ where T is the transition function of $C_{a,n}$.

By hypothesis, $\phi(C_{a,n}, i-1) = (p_b, b < a)$ where $b = \rho(n, i-1)$.

Applying the position transition function, T_0 , to $(p_b, b < a)$ yields:

$$T_0(p_b, b < a) = \omega(G_n, p_b, 1)$$

By previous lemma, $\omega(G_n, p_b, 1) = p_k$, where $k = 0$ whenever $b = n-1$, otherwise, $k = b+1$.

As such, if we can show that $\rho(n, i) = 0$ whenever $b = n-1$, and $\rho(n, i) = b+1$ whenever $b < n-1$, then we will have completed our proof.

Case: $b = n-1$

There exists some integer $j \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(i-1) - nj = \rho(n, i-1) = n-1$ by definition.

Subtracting $n-1$ from both sides yields:

$$0 = ((i-1) - nj) - (n-1) = (i-1+1) - nj - n = i - n(j+1)$$

Thus, by previous lemma, $\rho(n, i) = 0$

Case: $b < n - 1$

There exists some integer $j \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(i - 1) - nj = \rho(n, i - 1) = b$ by definition.

Adding 1 to both sides yields:

$$b + 1 = ((i - 1) - nj) + 1 = i - nj$$

Since $b < n - 1$, then $b + 1 \leq n - 1$, thus $b + 1 \in [n]$.

As such, by previous lemma, $b + 1 = \rho(n, i)$

Definition

The *activation cycle power set*, C^∞ , is defined to be the power set of the set containing every state of every activation cycle machine.

6 Awkward State Machines

Definition

For any integers $a, n \in \mathbb{N}^+$, we define the *awkward state machine*, $O_{a,n}$, to be a state machine with two properties:

- An *index*, which belongs set of natural numbers, \mathbb{N} ;
- A *cycle set*, which belongs to the activation power set, C^∞

The index transition function, $T_0 : \mathbb{N} \times C^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \times C^\infty$, is defined as:

$$T_0(i, C) = i + 1$$

The cycle set transition function, $T_1 : \mathbb{N} \times C^\infty \rightarrow C^\infty$, is defined as:

$$T_1(i, C) = A \cup B$$

where

- $A = \{ \phi(O, j + 1) \mid \phi(O, j) \in C \}$
- $B = \{ \phi(C_{a,b}, 0) \}$ with $b = i + a + n + 1$, if the state of every machine in A is inactive. Otherwise, $B = \emptyset$, the empty set.

The initial state of any awkward state machine, $O_{a,n}$ has an index of 0 and a cycle set equal to $\{ \phi(C_{a,a+n}, 0) \}$.

We say that the awkward state machine $O_{a,n}$ has a *activators* and n *initial non-activators*.

If the set $B = \{ \phi(C_{a,b}, 0) \}$ from our cycle set transition function, then we say that activation cycle machine $C_{a,b}$ is *discovered* on step $i + 1$

The definition of an awkward state machine may first appear complex, but it is actually quite simple. The index property is simply incremented by 1 with each transition, keeping it in sync with the step. With each transition, all the states within the current cycle set are transitioned to their next state, in the event that every resulting state is inactive, then we also add a new state of an activation cycle machine to the cycle set. Furthermore, the new state added is active. As such, the cycle set of an awkward state machine always contains at least one active activation cycle machine.

Since an awkward state machine has the capacity to grow its cycle set, there are many interesting questions we can ask: does every awkward state machine's cycle set grow in size? If so, does the cycle set grow infinitely large, or will the machine's cycle set eventually reach some fixed size and never add another cycle machine? What do we know about the lengths of the cycle machines contained within the cycle set? Do any two awkward state machines produce the same cycle set? Can we find a mapping from one awkward state machine's cycle set to another machine's?

Within this section we will answer all of these questions. We will find that every awkward state machine's cycle set will grow infinitely in size if we keep applying transitions; that no two awkward state machines produce the same cycle set; and that there are in fact simple maps between the cycle sets of certain awkward state machines.

Definition

The *awkward number set*, $S_{a,n}$, is defined to be the set of the lengths of the activation cycle machines contained the cycle set of any state of the awkward state machine $O_{a,n}$.

Since the cycle set of an awkward state machine only adds more activation cycle machines, but never drops one or changes the length of one of its members, the *awkward number set* is a valid definition. We will find the elements within awkward number sets to be rather interesting, in particular, we will prove that the awkward number set $S_{1,1}$ is in fact the set of prime numbers. Furthermore, we will find that every awkward number set has very similar divisibility properties to the primes.

Without further ado, let dive into the study of awkward state machines.

Lemma

For any awkward state machine, $O_{a,n}$, the index of the state on step i is equal to i for any step.

Proof

We shall complete this proof by induction on the step, i .

Base Case $i = 0$

By definition, the index of the initial state is $0 = i$.

Induction Hypothesis

Assume for all integers $j < i$, that the index of the state of step j is j .

Inductive Step

Since $\phi(O_{a,n}, i) = T(\phi(O_{a,n}, i - 1))$, then the index on step i is given by $T_0(k, C)$ where k is the index of the state of the awkward state machine on step $i - 1$.

By inductive hypothesis the index k is equal to the step $i - 1 = k$.

As such, the index on step i is:

$$T_0(k, C) = T_0(i - 1, C) = (i - 1) + 1 = i$$

Lemma

For any awkward state machine, $O_{a,n}$, for any $i \in [a]$, the cycle set of step i has only a single element. Furthermore, on step a , the awkward state machine discovers the activation cycle machine $C_{a,b}$, where $b = 2a + n$.

Proof

In order to complete this proof, we will first show that if we are on any step $i \in [a]$, that a new cycle cannot be discovered because the initial cycle will be active. Afterwards, we will show that the initial cycle is inactive on step a , and thus a new cycle must be discovered.

Case $i \in [a]$

By previous lemma, $\phi(C_{a,a+n}, i) = (p_b, b < a)$ where $b = \rho(a + n, i)$.

As such, $C_{a,n}$ is active on step i whenever $b < a$.

By stipulation, $i < a < a + n$, thus $\rho(a + n, i) = i = b$ by previous lemma.

Thus, $C_{a,n}$ is active on any step $i \in [a]$. As such, the cycle set of $O_{a,n}$ is equal to $\{ \phi(C_{a,a+n}, i) \}$.

Case $i = a$

Now let us consider the cycle set on step a .

By definition, the cycle set on step a is equal to $A \cup B$, such that

- $A = \{ \phi(C_{a,a+n}, (a-1)+1) \} = \{ \phi(C_{a,a+n}, a) \}$
- $B = \{ \phi(C_{a,a+n+a}, 0) \}$ if every element of A is inactive; otherwise, $B = \emptyset$.

By previous lemma, $\phi(C_{a,a+n}, a) = (p_b, b < a)$ where $b = \rho(a+n, a)$.

Furthermore, $a < a+n$, as such, by previous lemma $\rho(a+n, a) = a$.

Thus, $\phi(C_{a,a+n}, a)$ is inactive. Furthermore, $\phi(C_{a,a+n}, a)$ is the only element of A ; as such,

$$B = \{ \phi(C_{a,a+n+a}, 0) \} = \{ \phi(C_{a,2a+n}, 0) \}$$

Thus, the cycle set on step a is equal to

$$A \cup B = \{ \phi(C_{a,a+n}, a), \phi(C_{a,2a+n}, 0) \}$$

Lemma

For any awkward number set $S_{a,n} = \{s_i\}$, for any $i \in \mathbb{N}^+$:

$$s_i \geq s_{i-1} + a$$

In terms of an awkward state machine: whenever a new cycle is discovered, then the new cycle's length will be at least a greater than the next longest cycle within the cycle set.

Proof

Let $S_{a,n}$ be any awkward number set. By definition of an awkward state machine, the first element of the awkward number set, s_0 , is equal to $a+n$.

Furthermore, the previous lemma has a second element, $s_1 = 2a+n$, which is discovered on step a .

As such, $s_1 = 2a+n = a + (a+n) = a + s_0$, thus the lemma holds for s_1 .

Let us assume that there exists some elements s_j , $j > 1$, such that $s_j < a + s_{j-1}$. We will show that this assumption leads to a contradiction.

By definition, $s_j = k + a + n + 1$, where $k + 1$ is the index of the awkward state machine when it discovered s_j .

Furthermore, $s_{j-1} = t + a + n + 1$, where $t + 1$ is the index the awkward state machine discovered s_{j-1} .

By assumption, $s_j - s_{j-1} < a$. Substituting yields:

$$s_j - s_{j-1} = (k + a + n + 1) - (t + a + n + 1) = k - t < a$$

As such, we know that s_j is discovered $k - t$ transitions after s_{j-1} is discovered.

By definition, the awkward state machine corresponding to s_j can only be discovered on step $k + 1$ if all the preexisting awkward cycle machines within the cycle set on step $k + 1$ were inactive. As such, the awkward cycle machine corresponding to s_{j-1} must be inactive on step $k + 1$.

In order for the state of the cycle machine corresponding to s_{j-1} to be inactive on step $k + 1$, then it's position must be greater than a on step $k + 1$.

By definition, the position of the machine corresponding to s_{j-1} is 0 on step $t + 1$.

Since s_j is discovered $k - t$ transitions from step $t + 1$, then position of the machine corresponding to s_{j-1} on step $k + 1$ is equal to $0 + (k - t) = k - t$ by previous lemma since $k - t < s_{j-1}$. TODO prove this lemma.

As such, $k - t \geq a$ on step $k + 1$ since the cycle machine corresponding to s_{j-1} is inactive on step $k + 1$. However, we already know that $k - t < a$ by our assumption, thus we have reached our contradiction.

Theorem

For any awkward state machine $O_{a,n}$, the awkward number set $S_{a,n}$ has an infinite number of elements.

In other words, for any awkward state machine $O_{a,n}$, for any given step j , there exists some step $k > j$ that $O_{a,n}$ discovers a new cycle.

Proof

This proof will be based off the proof for their being an infinite number of prime numbers. As such, we are going to assume there exists some step j such that the last cycle is discovered, and then show this leads to a contradiction by constructing a step $k > j$ using the lengths of the cycles within the cycle set of the awkward state machine.

Theorem

For any awkward number set $S_{a,n}$ such that $\gcd(a, n) = g > 1$, for any element $s_i \in S_{a,n}$, $s_i = \gcd(a, n) * s_i^*$, where $s_i^* \in S_{b,m}$, with $b = \frac{a}{\gcd(a,n)}$ and $m = \frac{n}{\gcd(a,n)}$.

Proof

TODO

Theorem

For any awkward number set $S_{a,n}$, for any $i > 0$, the element s_i is the least greatest integer such that $s_i > s_{i-1}$ and $\text{mod}(s_i, s_k) \geq a$ for all $k < i$.

Proof

TODO

Theorem

Every awkward number set is unique.

Proof

TODO

7 Cycle Machines

Definition

For any integer $n \geq 2$, we define the *cycle machine*, C_n , to be a state machine with n states $S = \{ s_i \mid i \in [n] \}$ such that:

- The initial state of the machine is always s_0 .
- For any $i < n - 1$, if the current state of the cycle machine is s_i , then the subsequent state is defined to be s_{i+1} .
- If the current state of the cycle machine is s_{n-1} , then the subsequent state is defined to be s_0 .

When we move from one state to the next, we say that we've completed one *transition* of the state machine.

If a cycle machine is on some state s_i after completing $k \in \mathbb{N}$ subsequent transitions from the initial state, then we say that the cycle machine has position i on step k .

We will be interested in determining the state of any cycle machine on any step. As such, let us define the *step function* to allow us to more easily refer to this value within our study.

Definition

For any cycle machine C_n , for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the *step function*, $\phi(C_n, k)$, is defined to be state of C_n on step k .

If we wish to use the step function, we will need to show that it is well defined. In other words, we need to show that any cycle graph can be undergo an arbitrary number of transitions from the initial state, and when doing so, the machine will always end on some unique state s_i .

To start, let us first show that $\phi(C_n, 0)$ is well defined for any cycle machine.

Lemma

For any cycle machine C_n , $\phi(C_n, 0) = s_0$.

Proof

By [definition](#), the initial state of any cycle machine C_n is state s_0 .

Furthermore, $\phi(C_n, 0)$ is defined to be the state of C_n after completing 0 subsequent transitions from the initial state.

If we were to take 0 transitions from our initial state, then we would not have transitioned states at all. As such, we would still be at our initial state, s_0 .

Lemma

For any cycle machine C_n , for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\phi(C_n, k)$ is well defined.

Proof

We shall complete this proof by induction on the number of transitions, k .

Base Case $k = 0$

By [the previous lemma](#), $\phi(C_n, 0) = s_0$ for any cycle machine C_n .

Induction Hypothesis

Assume for all $0 \leq j < k$, that $\phi(C_n, j)$ is well defined.

Inductive Step

By definition of ϕ , $\phi(C_n, k - 1)$ is defined to be the state of C_n after $k - 1$ subsequent transitions from the initial state s_0 .

By the inductive hypothesis, $\phi(C_n, k - 1)$ is well defined.

As such, $\phi(C_n, k - 1)$ exists and maps to a single state.

Let s_i be the state such that $s_i = \phi(C_n, k - 1)$.

If we can show that for any s_i , that there exists a single subsequent state s_j , then s_j will have to be the state of C_n after completing $(k - 1) + 1 = k$ subsequent transitions from the initial state. As such, $s_j = \phi(C_n, k)$, and we

will have completed our proof.

Case: $i = n - 1$

By definition of a cycle machine, s_{n-1} has a single subsequent state defined to be s_0 .

Case: $i < n - 1$

By definition of a cycle machine, s_{i+1} is the only subsequent state of state s_i when $i < n - 1$.

As we've seen in our proofs this section, we will often be interested in referring to the state of some cycle machine C_n after completing one or more transitions from some step. As such, let us define the *state function* so that we can more easily reference the resulting state.

Definition

For any cycle machine C_n , for any state s_i , for any $j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, we define the *state function*, $\psi(C_n, j, k)$, to be the state of cycle machine C_n after completing k transitions from step j .

Furthermore, we define the *state position function*, $\Psi(C_n, j, k)$ to be index of the state $\psi(C_n, j, k)$.

To show that ψ is also well defined, we will show that it is merely an alias for the step function.

Lemma

For any cycle machine C_n , for any state s_i , for any $j, k \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\psi(C_n, j, k) = \phi(C_n, j + k)$$

Proof

By definition, $\phi(C_n, j)$ is the state of C_n on step j .

If we were to complete k more transitions from $\phi(C_n, j)$, we will have completed a total of $k + j$ from the initial state of C_n . Thus, we'd be on state

$\phi(C_n, j + k)$ by definition of the step function.

Furthermore, since we arrived at $\phi(C_n, j + k)$ by taking k transitions from step j , then $\psi(C_n, j, k) = \phi(C_n, j + k)$ by definition of the state function.

Now that we have the step and state functions to simplify working with cycle machines, let us now tie cycle machines to our cycle graphs from the previous section. To start, we will define the *bridge function* which will map the points of the cycle graph G_n to the states of the cycle machines C_n .

Definition

For any cycle machine C_n , with states S , we define the *bridge function*, β , from the points of the cycle graph G_n to the states of cycle machine C_n as $\beta(p_i) = s_i$.

Lemma

For any point in cycle graph G_n , the bridge function is well defined.

Proof

Let p_i be any point within the cycle graph G_n .

The bridge function is well defined for point p_i if state s_i exists within the cycle machine C_n .

By definition of a cycle graph, $i \in [n]$.

By definition, the cycle machine C_n has states $S = \{ s_j \mid j \in [n] \}$.

Thus, $s_i \in S$ since $i \in [n]$.

Now that we have a bridge from cycle graphs to cycle machines, we will show that transitioning states within the cycle machine C_n can instead be accomplished by taking a walk of the cycle graph G_n and then using the bridge function to return to the states of C_n .

Bridge Theorem

For any cycle machine C_n , for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\phi(C_n, k) = \beta(\omega(p_0, k))$$

Proof

We will complete this proof by induction on the step, k .

Base Case $k = 0$

We need to show $\phi(C_n, 0) = \beta(\omega(p_0, 0))$.

By [definition of \$\omega\$](#) , $\omega(p_0, 0) = p_0$.

By [definition of \$\beta\$](#) , $\beta(p_0) = s_0 = \beta(\omega(p_0, 0))$.

By [previous lemma](#), $\phi(C_n, 0) = s_0 = \beta(\omega(p_0, 0))$.

Inductive Hypothesis

Assume for all $0 \leq j < k$, that $\phi(C_n, j) = \beta(\omega(p_0, j))$.

Inductive Step

By definition of ϕ , $\phi(C_n, k)$ is defined to be the state of C_n after k transitions from the initial state.

Furthermore, $\phi(C_n, k - 1)$ is defined to be the state of C_n after $k - 1$ transitions from the initial state.

Thus, if we first complete $k - 1$ transitions from the initial state to be on state $\phi(C_n, k - 1)$, and then advance one more transition, we will have completed k transitions from the initial state. Thus, the resulting state would be equal to $\phi(C_n, k)$.

$\phi(C_n, k - 1) = \beta(\omega(p_0, k - 1))$ by inductive hypothesis.

Let $i \in [n]$, be the integer such that $\omega(p_0, k - 1) = p_i$.

Then $\phi(C_n, k - 1) = \beta(p_i) = s_i$ by definition of β .

Case: $i < n - 1$

The subsequent state of s_i is s_{i+1} by definition of a cycle machine.

Thus, $\phi(C_n, k) = s_{i+1}$.

By previous lemma, $\omega(p_0, k) = \omega(\omega(p_0, k-1), 1) = \omega(p_i, 1) = p_{i+1}$.

As such, $\beta(\omega(p_0, k)) = \beta(p_{i+1}) = s_{i+1} = \phi(C_n, k)$.

Case: $i = n - 1$

The subsequent state of s_{n-1} is s_0 by definition of a cycle machine.

Thus, $\phi(C_n, k) = s_0$.

By previous lemma, $\omega(p_0, k) = \omega(\omega(p_0, k-1), 1) = \omega(p_{n-1}, 1) = p_0$.

As such, $\beta(\omega(p_0, k)) = \beta(p_0) = s_0 = \phi(C_n, k)$.

Corollary

For any cycle machine C_n , for any $j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\psi(C_n, j, k) = \beta(\omega(p_0, j+k))$

Proof

By [previous lemma](#), $\psi(C_n, j, k) = \phi(C_n, j+k)$.

By the [previous theorem](#), $\phi(C_n, j+k) = \beta(\omega(p_0, j+k))$.

Cycle Machine Remainder Theorem

For any cycle machine C_n , for any $j, k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\Psi(C_n, j, k) = \rho(n, j+k)$$

In other words, the position of the cycle machine C_n after taking k transitions from step j is simply the remainder of $(j+k)$ when divided by n .

Proof

$\Psi(C_n, j, k)$ is defined as the index of the point $\psi(C_n, j, k)$.

By [previous corollary](#), $\psi(C_n, j, k) = \beta(\omega(p_0, j + k))$.

By the [omega walk theorem](#), $\omega(p_0, j + k) = p_i$, where $i = \rho(n, j + k)$.

As such, $\psi(C_n, j, k) = \beta(p_i) = s_i$. Thus, $\Psi(C_n, j, k) = i = \rho(n, j + k)$.

8 Activation Cycle Machines

Definition

For any $a, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a < n$, the *activation cycle machine*, $C_{a,n}$ is the the cycle machine C_n , with the additional property that the first a states, $\{ s_i \mid 0 \leq i < a \}$, of the machine are called *activators*, and the remaining $(n - a)$ states, $\{ s_i \mid a \leq i < n \}$, are called *non-activators*.

The activation cycle machine, $C_{a,n}$, is *active* if the state of the current step is one of the activators; and it is called *inactive* if the current state is one of the non-activators.

Activation Remainder Theorem

For any activation cycle machine $C_{a,n}$, for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $C_{a,n}$ is active on step k if and only if $\rho(n, k) < a$.

Proof

Let $C_{a,n}$ be any activation cycle machine. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

By definition, the position of $C_{n,a}$ on step k is the position of the cycle machine C_n on step k .

The cycle machine remainder theorem tells us that $\psi(C_n, k) = s_i$ where $i = \rho(n, k)$.

By definition, $C_{a,n}$ is active only if $s_i \in \{ s_j \mid 0 \leq j < a \}$.

As such, $C_{a,n}$ is active on step k if and only if $\rho(n, k) < a$.

9 Awkward State Machines

Definition

For any $a, n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ such that $a < n$, the *awkward state machine*, $W_{a,n}$ is a state machine equipped with the state-based set consisting of elements of the form $(C_{i,j}, k)$, where $C_{i,j}$ is an activation cycle machine, and k is the position of $C_{i,j}$.

We denote the set of activation cycle machines and their positions associated with the awkward state machine on step t as A_t .

- On the initial state of any awkward state machine, $W_{a,n}$, the set of activation cycle machines and their positions, A_0 , consists only of the point $(0, C_{a,a+n})$.
- $A_{t+1} = \{ (\Psi(C_{i+j}, v + 1), C_{i,j}) \mid (v, C_{i,j}) \in A_t \}$.
- For any step t , if $(C_{i,j}, k) \in A_t$, then $(C_{i,j}, v) \in A_{t+1}$, where v is the subsequent position to position k of activation cycle machine $C_{i,j}$. In other words, all existing activation cycle machines undergo a transition whenever the awkward state machine does.
- For any step t , if for every activation cycle machine $C_{i,j}$, such that $(C_{i,j}, k) \in A_t$, is inactive on the next transition, then the point $(C_{a,t+n}, 0)$ is added to the set of running activation cycle machines on the next transition of the awkward state machine.

10 Activation Cycle Machines Old

With a few, minor modifications to cycle graphs, we can create *activation cycle machines*; and in doing so, bring ourselves one step closer to understanding awkward state machines. So what exactly is an activation cycle machine? Let us answer that question by first looking at the formal definition; and then taking some time to examine its meaning afterward.

Definition

An *activation cycle machine* is a state machine with $n > 1$ states, s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} , such that for any state, s_k where $k < n - 1$, state s_k has only a single transition to state s_{k+1} ; and state s_{n-1} has only a single transition to s_0 . Furthermore, all activation cycle machines always start at state s_0 .

The first a states, where $1 \leq a < n$, of an activation cycle machine are called *activators*. An activation cycle machine is said to be *active* when it's current state is one of it's activators, and is called *inactive* when it's not active. We write $C_{n,a}$ to refer to the activation cycle machine with n states and a activators.

When an activation cycle machine's current state is s_k , for any k , we call k its *position*, and write $\overline{C}(j)$ to refer to the position of the machine after it's j^{th} transition.

The first part of our definition is almost exactly the same as our definition for a cycle graphs. However, instead of talking about points in a graph, and the edges between those points; we define the states of a machine, and the transitions between those states. With such similar definitions, it seems reasonable that we can represent the states of an activation cycle machine by using a cycle graph. In fact, we'll begin our study of activation cycle machines by proving just that.

The definition of an activation cycle machine extends a bit beyond that of cycle graphs by incorporating the notion of *activators*, which is merely a label applied to the first a states of the machine, s_0, \dots, s_{a-1} . Furthermore, our definition stipulates that while there is always at least one activator, there are never as many activators as there are states in the machine. As such, every activation cycle machine will become *active* at least once, as well as *inactive* at least once as it transitions between its states.

Before we dive into our study of activation cycle machines, below you will find two working examples of an activation cycle machine coded in *ruby*. The first example is more condensed. Rather than keep track of states directly, the first example simulates an activation cycle machine by keeping track of the current position of the machine using arithmetic. Our second example, on the other hand, is represented using states, and as such, needn't rely on

arithmetic to function. Whether or not you program, I encourage you to look through both examples carefully; I think you will find they provide a bit of color to our abstract definition.

```

class ActivationCycleMachine
  def initialize(number_of_states, number_of_activators)
    unless number_of_states > 1
      raise 'There must be more than one state'
    end

    unless number_of_activators.positive?
      raise 'The number of activators must be positive'
    end

    unless number_of_activators < number_of_states
      raise 'The number of activators must be less ' \
        'than the number of states'
    end

    @number_of_states = number_of_states
    @number_of_activators = number_of_activators
    @position = 0
  end

  def next_state
    if @position == @number_of_states - 1
      @position = 0
    else
      @position = @position + 1
    end
  end

  def active?
    @position < @number_of_activators
  end

  def inactive?
    !active?
  end

  def position
    @position
  end
end

```

As you can see, our first example simply increments the position of our state machine by one to simulate a transition, with the exception that it resets the position to 0 once its gotten to the maximum position. Since this example does not use states, it does not have a direct understandg of an *activator*. Despite that, the implementation is able to determine activeness indirectly by checking if it's current position is less than the number of activators.

We'll need to break our second example into two seperate classes. Within the first class, we will represent a single state in our machine, which will be implemented as a node in a linked list would. Our second class will be the representation of the activation cycle machine, which we implement much the same way that we would a linked list.

```
class State
  def initialize(is_activator, position)
    @is_activator = is_activator
    @position = position
  end

  def activator?
    @is_activator
  end

  def next_state=(next_state)
    @next_state = next_state
  end

  def next_state
    @next_state
  end

  def position
    @position
  end
end
```

```

class ActivationCycleMachine
  def initialize(number_of_states, number_of_activators)
    unless number_of_states > 1
      raise 'There must be more than one state'
    end

    unless number_of_activators.positive?
      raise 'The number of activators must be positive'
    end

    unless number_of_activators < number_of_states
      raise 'The number of activators must be less ' \
        'than the number of states'
    end

    initial_state = State.new(true, 0)
    current_state = initial_state
    (1...number_of_states).each do |i|
      activator = i < number_of_activators
      current_state.next_state = State.new(activator, i)
      current_state = current_state.next_state
    end
    current_state.next_state = initial_state

    @current_state = initial_state
  end

  def next_state
    @current_state = @current_state.next_state
  end

  def active?
    @current_state.activator?
  end

  def position
    @current_state.position
  end
end

```

As you can see, our second example matches our formal mathematical definition very closely. In particular, the activation cycle machine, once initialized, only has a notion of a current state. The machine is operated by simply replacing the current state with its next state, thus simulating a transition. Furthermore, since the states themselves encode whether or not its an activator; the activation cycle machine is able to determine if its active by simply asking if its current state is an activator; matching our mathematical definition exactly.

Without further ado, let us now tie activation cycle machines and cycle graphs together.

Lemma

Let $C_{n,a}$ be any activation cycle machine.

Let $S = \{ s_i \mid 0 \leq i < n \}$ be the states of $C_{n,a}$.

Let G_n be the cycle graph of n points.

Let $P = \{ p_j \mid 0 \leq j < n \}$ be the points of G_n .

Let $\gamma : P \rightarrow S$ be the mapping from the points in our cycle graph to the states in our activation cycle machine such that $\gamma(p_k) = s_k$.

Let $\theta : S \rightarrow P$ be the mapping from the states of our activation cycle machine to the points in our graph such that $\theta(s_k) = p_k$.

Let $\omega : (P, \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow P$ such that $\omega(p_i, k) = p_j$, where p_j is the point arrived to after a walk of length k .

Let $\sigma : (S, \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow S$ such that $\sigma(s_i, k) = s_j$, where j is the position of the machine after k transitions when starting at state s_i .

Then $\gamma(\omega(p_i, 1)) = \sigma(s_i, 1)$.

In other words, for any activation cycle machine, we can determine the next state to be transitioned to by instead taking a walk of length one, starting at the point with the same index as the starting state, around the cycle graph with the same number of points as states in our machine; and then finally mapping the resulting point from our walk back to the states in our machine using γ .

Proof

Our proof is rather trivial and will come directly from our definitions. Let us assume we have some activation cycle machine with n states, $S = \{s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$, and the cycle graph with n points, $P = \{p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}\}$. Let us define the mapping $\theta : S \rightarrow P$ as $\theta(s_k) = p_k$, and its inverse $\gamma : P \rightarrow S$ which is clearly $\gamma(p_k) = s_k$.

To begin, we will show that if our activation cycle machine is on any state, s_k , that we can determine the next state our machine will transition to by taking a walk of length 1 starting at point $\theta(s_k) = p_k$ and mapping the resulting point, p_j , back to state $\gamma(p_j) = s_j$.

Let our activation cycle machine be at position $n - 1$. If we were to take a walk of length 1 from point $\theta(s_{n-1}) = p_{n-1}$, then we will arrive at point p_0 by definition of a cycle graph. Mapping point p_0 back to our cycle machine under γ yields state $\gamma(p_0) = s_0$. By definition of an activation cycle machine, we know that state s_{n-1} transitions to state s_0 , thus our mappings hold for $n - 1$.

Now let us assume our activation cycle machine is at position $k < n - 1$. If we were to take a walk of length 1 from point $\theta(s_k) = p_k$, then we will arrive at point p_{k+1} by definition of a cycle graph. Mapping point p_{k+1} back to our cycle machine under γ yields state $\gamma(p_{k+1}) = s_{k+1}$. By definition of an activation cycle machine, we know that state s_k transitions to state s_{k+1} , thus our mappings hold for all k .

With the proof of this simple lemma, we can immediately apply all our knowledge of cycle graphs to activation cycle machines. Most importantly, we gain the ability to predict the position of any activation cycle machine after any number of transitions.

Corollary

For any n , for any k , the position of the activation cycle machine with n states after k transitions starting from any position j can be determined by taking a walk of length k starting from point p_j around the cycle graph with n points.

Proof

Since we can predict the resulting state of a transition of our cycle machine by instead taking a walk of length 1 on our corresponding cycle graph, it should be obvious that we can also predict the resulting state of our cycle machine after k transitions by instead taking a walk of length k on our cycle graph.

We shall prove our corollary by induction on k , the number of transitions our state machine undergoes. Our base case, $k = 1$, is the direct result of our previous lemma. As such, let us assume for all $j \leq k$, that the resulting position of our cycle machine after j transitions from any position, i , can be determined by instead taking a walk of length j starting at point p_i on our cycle graph and mapping the resulting point back to our cycle machine

under our mapping $\gamma : P \rightarrow S$, $\gamma(p_l) = s_l$.

To transition $k + 1$ states, let us first transition k states from our position, i . By assumption, we know that our resulting state will be given by taking a walk from point p_i of length k and mapping the resulting point, p_l , back to our machine under γ , giving us state $\gamma(p_l) = s_l$. We now only have one transition left to complete our $k + 1$ transitions. By our lemma, we know this final transition from our state s_l is given by taking extending our walk one more step from p_l and mapping the result back to our machine. As such, mapping the result of a walk of length $k + 1$ around our cycle graph does in fact result in the same position as $k + 1$ transitions would have.

Corollary

For any n , for any k , the position of the activation cycle machine with n states after k transitions starting from any position j is given by $(j + k) \bmod n$.

Proof

By our previous corollary, we know the position of our cycle machine after k transitions starting at any position, j , can be determined by instead taking a walk of length k starting from point p_j around the cycle graph with n points.

By our previous theorem on cycle graphs, we know our walk of length k will end at point p_i , where $i = (j + k) \bmod n$. As such, the position of our cycle graph after k transitions will also be i .

Lemma

For any activation cycle machine $C_{n,a}$, for any k , the activation cycle machine is active if and only if $a > (k \bmod n)$.

Proof

By our previous corollary, we know that the position of our cycle machine, $C_{n,a}$, after k transitions will be given by $j = (k + i) \bmod n$, where i is the initial position of our machine. By definition of an activation cycle machine, we know that $i = 0$, thus, our position after the first k transitions is given

by $j = k \bmod n$.

Furthermore, an activation cycle machine is defined to be active whenever its current state is one of its activators, in other words, whenever its position is less than a . Putting the two together, we get that our cycle machine is active after the initial k transitions whenever $a > k \bmod n$

11 Awkward State Machines

Now that we have our definitions for cycle graphs and ACMs, we are almost ready to formally define the *awkward state machine* or *ASM*. An ASM is a state machine for the purpose of generating a set of ACMs using a pre-existing set of ACMs. In order to accomplish this task, with each step of an ASM, all the pre-existing ACMs state's are incremented by one; if none of the ACMs are active after moving, then a new ACM is added to the ASM and it's position is set to 0. Thus, every state of an ASM has at least one ACM that is active.

Every ASM starts with an initial ACM set to position 0, and an *activation branch* of length one greater than the ACM. An activation branch is simply an ACM that has the edge removed from its last point to its initial point; thus an activation branch forms a line instead of a circle. Whenever the ASM must create a new ACM, it does so by creating a copy of its activation branch, then adds the missing edge to the original branch in order to form the new ACM required by the machine. Furthermore, a new node is added to the end of the copied activation branch. If the ASM does not need to create a new ACM after moving, then a new node is added to the end of its activation branch. Thus, the length of an ASM's activation branch increases by one with every iteration.

This section will explore several fundamental questions about ASMs and the sets of ACMs they generate. We will find that the sets of ACMs generated by ASMs have a unique and unexpected relationship to modular arithmetic. For instance, we will see that the most basic ASM generates the prime numbers; and all other ASMs generate sets of integers just as strange, or awkward, as the primes. Furthermore, in our final theorem of this section, we will show that every ASM will generate an infinite set of ACMs if left running.

We will begin this section by formally defining the activation branch and

proving that we can indeed create an ACM by adding an edge to it. From there, we will formally define ASMs and then begin our exploration.

Definition

An *activation branch* is directed graph that forms a line. Explicitly, the activation branch of length n has points $\{ p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{n-1} \}$ such that for every point $p_{i < n-1}$ has a single edge connecting it to p_{i+1} , and p_{n-1} does not have any edges extending from it.

Furthermore, an activation branch is equipped with $a > 0$ activator points: $A = \{ p_i \mid 0 \leq i < a < n \}$.

We denote the activation branch with length n and a activator nodes $B_{n,a}$.

Lemma

For any $B_{n,a}$, adding an edge extending from p_{n-1} to p_0 produces the cycle graph CG_n for ACM $C_{n,a}$.

Proof

By definition of $B_{n,a}$, all points $p_{i < n-1}$ have the same edges as the first $n-1$ points in CG_n for ACM $C_{n,a}$.

Furthermore, the first a points of $B_{n,a}$ are its activator points, which are the activators of $C_{n,a}$.

Thus, the only edge missing from $B_{n,a}$ that is contained within CG_n is from p_{n-1} to p_0 .

Therefore, adding the edge will convert $B_{n,a}$ into CG_n for $C_{n,a}$.
Q.E.D

Definition

An *awkward state machine* (ASM) is state machine running on top of a directed graph composed of a set of ACMs and a single activation branch.

Every ASMs initial state contains a single ACM, $C_{m,a} = C_0$, and the activation branch, $B_{m+1,a}$.

Furthermore, the position of C_0 on the initial state is 0.

We denote the ASM with an initial state containing $C_{m,a}$ as $S_{a,n=m-a}$.

To progress from state $i - 1$ to state i for ASM, S , first move every ACM in S to it's next state.

If none of the ACMs in S are active after moving to their next state, then:

1. Create a copy of the activation branch, giving you branches B and B' .
2. Convert B into an ACM, C , by adding an edge to it's last point, thus leaving a single activation branch B' . Set the position of C to 0. Now C is contained within the set of ACMs for S .

Regardless of whether one of the ACMs were active, add a new point to the end of the activation branch. Explicitly, if the activation branch had length n , then add an edge extending from p_{n-1} to the new point p_n , thus creating an activation branch of length $n + 1$.

If none of the ACMs were active after moving them to their next state, we say that S is *inactive* after moving; otherwise we say S is *active* after moving. Therefore, we only add a new ACM to S when S is inactive after moving.

We denote the inition cycle of an ASM C_0 , the first discovered cycle C_1 , and the n th discovered cycle C_n .

We denote the graph of ASM $S_{a,n}$ on state k as S^k .

If $C_{p,a}$ is discovered by ASM $S_{a,n}$ on some step k , then we say that $C_{p,a}$ is *discoverable* by S .

Definition

We'll define $[S^a] = \{ C_i \text{ within the graph of } S \text{ on step } a \}$, and $[S] = \{ C_0 \text{ and all } C_i \text{ discoverable by } S \}$. We refer to $[S]$ as the *school* of cycles for S .

Lemma

For $S_{a,n}$, the length of the branch, B , on step k is given by $|B^k| = k + a + n + 1$.

Proof

One step 0, the length of branch B is given by $|B^0| = 0 + a + n + 1$.

With each step, a single node is added to the branch B . Thus, $|B^{i+1}| = |B^i| + 1$.

Assume $|B^i| = i + a + n + 1$.

Then $|B^{i+1}| = |B^i| + 1 = (i + a + n + 1) + 1 = (i + 1) + a + n + 1$.

Thus we have shown that $|B^k| = k + a + n + 1$ by induction.

Q.E.D

Lemma

For $S_{a,n}$, if C_i is discovered on step k , then the length of $|C_i| = |B^{k-1}| = k + a + n$.

Assume for $S_{a,n}$, that C_i is discovered on step k .

To produce state k , the ASM algorithm first moved all C_j for $j < i$ from state C^{k-1} to state C^k . After doing so, there did not exist a $j < i$ such that C_j was active. Therefor, the algorithm copied the branch B^{k-1} and closed one of the two branches to create C_i .

Thus, the length of C_i is equal to the length of the branch B^{k-1} :

$$|C_i| = |B^{k-1}| = (k - 1) + a + n + 1 = k + a + n.$$

Q.E.D

Lemma

For $S_{a,n}$, $|C_i| \geq |C_{i-1}| + a$.

Proof

Assume cycle C_i is discovered by $S_{a,n}$ on step k .

Then $\overline{C_i^k} = 0$.

Furthermore, the new branch, B , will have $|C_i| + 1$ nodes at step k .

For next, $1 \leq j < a$ steps, the cycle C_i^{k+j} will be active since there are a activation nodes.

Furthermore, the length of the branch B at each step will be given by $|B| = |C_i| + j + 1$.

The a th step after discovering C_i will be the first time that C_i will be inactive. The branch length of the $(a - 1)$ th step is given by $|B^{j+a-1}| = |C_i| + a$. Thus, if C_p for $0 \leq p < i$ are also inactive on step a th step after discovering C_i , then we will have to close B on the a th step, thus creating cycle C_{i+1} with length $|C_{i+1}| = |B^{j+a-1}| = |C_i| + a$. Furthermore, if any of the cycles

C_p were active on the a th step after discovering C_i , then the branch would not close, thus the next cycle's length is at least as long as the branch on the $(j + a)$ th step: $|C_{i+1}| \geq |B^{j+a}| = |C_i| + a + 1$.

Thus, we have shown that $|C_i| \geq |C_{i-1}| + a$.

Q.E.D

Lemma

For any $C_i, C_j \in [S_{a,n}]$ with $j < i$, it holds that $|C_i| \geq |C_j| + (i - j)a$.

Proof

If $i = j + 1$, then $j - i = 1$.

Thus, $|C_i| \geq |C_j| + a = |C_j| + (j - i)a$.

Assume for k , $i < k \leq j$, that $|C_k| \geq |C_i| + (k - i)a$.

Then $|C_{k+1}| \geq |C_k| + a \geq (|C_i| + (k - i)a) + a = |C_i| + (k + 1 - i)a$.

Thus we have shown that $|C_i| \geq |C_j| + (i - j)a$ by induction.

Q.E.D

Corollary

For any cycle C_j of an ASM, $S_{a,n}$, C_j has at least $n + ja$ non-activator nodes.

Proof

C_0 is defined to have n activator nodes.

Let $C_{j>0} \in [S_{a,n}]$.

Then $|C_j| \geq |C_1| + (j - 1)a \geq (|C_0| + a) + (j - 1)a$
 $= (2a + n) + (j - 1)a = n + (j + 1)a$.

Thus, after removing the a activator nodes from C_j , there are at least $n + ja$ non-activator nodes left.

Q.E.D

Lemma

Every ASM discovers at least one cycle.

Proof

Let C_0 be the initial cycle for ASM, $S_{a,n}$.

After taking a steps from the initial state of the S , the ASM will be on it's first non-activator node.

Since C_0 is the only cycle, the ASM would be inactive, thus a new cycle would be created.

Q.E.D

Lemma

For any step, k , for any $C_i \in [S_{a,n}^k]$, it holds that $\overline{C_i^k} = (k + a + n) \bmod |C_i|$.

Proof

The initial cycle C_0 starts at position 0 on step 0. By properties of ACM's, we know that the position of C_0 is given by:

$$\overline{C_0^k} = k \bmod |C_0| = [k + (a + n)] \bmod (a + n) = (k + a + n) \bmod |C_0|.$$

If a cycle, C_i , is discovered on step k , then we know it's length is given by $|C_i| = k + a + n$. Furthermore, when it's dicovered, it's position is set to 0.

Thus, the position of C_i^k is given by:

$$\overline{C_i^k} = 0 = (k + a + n) \bmod (k + a + n) = (k + a + n) \bmod |C_i|.$$

By properties of ACM's, the position for all steps $j > k$ will be given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{C_i^j} &= (\overline{C_i^k} + (j - k)) \bmod |C_i| = (0 + (j - k)) \bmod (k + a + n) \\ &= (k + a + n) + (j - k) \bmod |C_i| = (j + a + n) \bmod |C_i|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefor we have shown that the position of C_i on step k for any $C_i \in [S_{a,n}^k]$ is given by $\overline{C_i^k} = (k + a + n) \bmod |C_i|$ for any C_i in $[S^k]$.

Q.E.D

Corollary

For any cycle $C_j \in [S_{a,n}]$, moving $k|C_j|$ steps will maintain C_j 's position.

Proof

Let $C_j \in [S]$.

Assume S is on step p .

Then $\overline{C_j} = p + a + n \bmod |C_j|$.

Thus, if we move $k|C_j|$ steps from p , the position of C_j will be given by:

$$p + a + n + k|C_j| \bmod |C_j| = p + a + n \bmod |C_j|.$$

Therefor C_j 's position was maintained.

Q.E.D

Lemma

For any cycle $C \in [S]$, if $k \geq |C|$, then the position of C after moving k steps from C 's discovery is the same as moving $k \bmod |C|$ steps.

Proof

Assume $C \in [S]$, and S is on step p .

Then the position of C is given by $p + a + n \bmod |C|$.

Let $k > |C|$, $b = k \bmod |C|$.

The position of C on step $p + k$ is given by:

$p + k + a + n \bmod C = p + b + a + n \bmod C$ which is the position after moving b steps from p .

Q.E.D

Lemma

For any $C_i, C_j \in [S_{a,n}]$ with $j < i$, it holds that $|C_i| \bmod |C_j| \geq a$.

Proof

Assume for ASM, $S_{a,n}$, that ACM, C_i , is discovered on step k .

Then $|C_i| = k + a + n$.

We know also know that the position of C_j^k must be greater than or equal to a ; otherwise, C_j would be active on step k and we would not have discovered C_j .

Furthermore, we know the position of C_j^k is given by:

$$\overline{C_j^k} = (k + a + n) \bmod |C_j|.$$

Finally, substituting gives us: $\overline{C_j^k} = |C_i| \bmod |C_j| \geq a$.

Thus we have shown that, $|C_i| \bmod |C_j| \geq a$.

Q.E.D

Lemma

For any $C_i \in [S_{a,n}]$, $|C_i|$ is the least positive integer greater than $|C_{i-1}|$ such that $|C_i| \bmod |C_j| \geq a$ for all $j < i$.

Proof

Assume you discovered C_{i-1} on step p .

Assume k is the first step after discovering C_{i-1} such that all cycles are inactive (if we can show that cycle C_i is discovered on step k , then our proof will be complete).

Then, on all steps, q , $p \leq q < k$, there must exist at least one cycle C_j that is active (implying $q + a + n \bmod |C_j| < a$). Therefore, the ASM algorithm cannot create cycle C_i on any step $p \leq q < k$.

Furthermore, on step k , the algorithm must create C_i , giving us $\overline{C_i^k} = 0 = k + a + n \bmod |C_i|$.

Thus, since $k + a + n = |C_i|$ is the least positive integer such that $|C_i| \bmod |C_j| \geq a$ for all $j < i$, and have proved our lemma.

Q.E.D

Definition

A positive integer is prime if it's only factors are 1 and itself.

Axiom

The i th prime number, p_i , is the least integer that is greater than the $(i-1)$ th prime number and is not divisible by p_j for all $j < i$ (with the first prime number $p_0 = 2$).

Note: This is only an axiom because proving the statement is distracting to ASMs.

Lemma

$|S_{1,1}| = P = \{ \text{the set of prime numbers} \}$

Proof

$S_{1,1}$ starts with an initial cycle of length $1 + 1 = 2$, thus giving us the first prime number.

For all i, j such that $i > j \geq 0$, C_i will have the property that $|C_i| \bmod |C_j| \geq 1$, equivalently, $|C_i|$ is not divisible by any of the previous lengths $|C_j|$. Furthermore, $|C_i|$ is the smallest such integer greater than $|C_{i-1}|$ with the property of not being divisible by the previous cycle lengths.

Thus, by our axiom, $S_{1,1}$ produces the prime numbers.

Q.E.D

Theorem

For every ASM, S , the set $[S]$ is non-finite.

Proof

Assume there exists an ASM, $S_{a,n}$ such that $[S_{a,n}]$ is finite.

Let s be the number of cycles in $[S_{a,n}]$.

Then there exists some step p on which the last cycle, $C_{max} = C_{s-1}$ of the ASM is discovered.

We know C_{max} must have at least $n + (s-1)a > (s-1)a$ non-activator nodes.

We also know that on step p , all cycles $C_{i < s}$ must have been inactive to have discovered C_{max} .

Furthermore, on step j , C_{max} 's position is at 0.

Let $z = \prod_{i < s} |C_i|$.

If we move the ASM z steps, then the position of every $C_{i < z}$ will be maintained since z is a multiple of the length of every $C_{i < z}$.

Thus, if after moving z steps from p , C_{max} is inactive, then we would need

to create a new cycle, and we'd be finished with our proof.

Assume C_{max} was active after moving the z steps.

Let $n = \overline{C_{max}}$

We know $n < a$ since C_{max} is inactive.

Note: the position of C_{max} after moving zt steps is the same as after moving nt steps since $z > |C_{max}|$ (if z were less than $|C_{max}|$, then moving z steps would have inactivated C_{max} since $z > a$).

Let j be the greatest integer such that $jn < a$.

Then your position after moving jz steps will be $a - jn$.

Thus, the $(j + 1)z$ th step will put C_{max} at position $(a - jn) + n \geq a$.

If the *ASM* is to remain active, then $(a - jn) + n$ must go beyond all $(s - 1)a$ non-activator nodes in C_{max} .

Thus, $(a - jn) + n > a + (s - 1)a \geq sa \geq 2a$.

But both n and $(a - jn)$ are less than a .

But that means: $a + a = 2a > (a - jn) + n \geq 2a$, which is a contradiction!

Therefore, moving $(j + 1)z$ steps from the discovery of C_{max} will maintain the (inactive) positions of all $C_{i < z}$ and also move C_{max} into one of it's inactive nodes, requiring a new cycle to be made, and completing our proof.

Q.E.D

Corollary

There are an infinite number of prime numbers.

Proof

$S_{1,1}$ produces the prime numbers, and $[S_{1,1}]$ is non-finite by the above theorem.

Q.E.D