



## Why

### Definition

Let  $X$  and  $A$  be finite sets and  $c : X \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(A)$ . The *maximum length* of a code is the length of the longest codeword. We denote by  $\mathcal{S}^\ell(A)$  the strings of length smaller than  $\ell$  in  $A$ .

The *prefix-tree* of depth  $k$  corresponding to  $c$  is the tree  $(\mathcal{S}^k(A), T)$  where  $\{s, t\} \in E$  if  $s$  is a prefix of  $t$  and their lengths differ by one.

**Proposition 1.** *If the code  $c : X \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(A)$  is prefix free, then no vertex in  $c(X)$  is the ancestor of another vertex in  $c(X)$ .*



