



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 ℓ 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 $c(X)$.*

