

Chapter 1: Basic Principles of Combinatorics

Theorem 1.2. For every $n \geq 1$, the number of lists of an n -element set S is

$$n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1.$$

Theorem 1.3. For every $n \geq 0$, the number of subsets of an n -element set is 2^n .

Theorem 1.4. For $n, k \geq 0$, the number of partial lists of length k of an n -element set is $n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+2)(n-k+1)$.

Theorem 1.5. For $0 \leq k \leq n$, the number of k -element subsets of an n -element set is

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \quad \text{Binomial Coefficient}$$

Chapter 2: The Idea of Generating Series

Theorem 2.2 (The Binomial Theorem). For any natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$(1+x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k.$$

Theorem 2.4 (The Binomial Series). For any positive integer $t \geq 1$,

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+t-1}{t-1} x^n.$$

Proposition 2.7. Let A be a set with a weight function $\omega : A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, and let

$$\Phi_A(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \cdots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n.$$

For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the number of elements of A of weight n is $a_n = |A_n|$.

Lemma 2.10 (The Sum Lemma). Let A and B be disjoint sets, so that $A \cap B = \emptyset$. Assume that $\omega : (A \cup B) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a weight function on the union of A and B . We may regard ω as a weight function on each of A or B separately (by restriction). Under these conditions,

$$\Phi_{A \cup B}(x) = \Phi_A(x) + \Phi_B(x).$$

Lemma 2.11 (The Infinite Sum Lemma). Let A_0, A_1, A_2, \dots be pairwise disjoint sets (so that $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ if $i \neq j$), and let $B = \bigcup_{j=0}^{\infty} A_j$. Assume that $\omega : B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a weight function. We may regard ω as a weight function on each of the sets A_j separately (by restriction). Under these conditions,

$$\Phi_B(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \Phi_{A_j}(x).$$

Lemma 2.12 (The Product Lemma). Let A and B be sets with weight functions $\omega : A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $\nu : B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, respectively. Define $\eta : A \times B \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ by putting $\eta(\alpha, \beta) = \omega(\alpha) + \nu(\beta)$ for all $(\alpha, \beta) \in A \times B$. Then η is a weight function on $A \times B$, and

$$\Phi_{A \times B}^{\eta}(x) = \Phi_A^{\omega}(x) \cdot \Phi_B^{\nu}(x).$$

Taylor Series (Maclaurin Series)

$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \cdots$	$R = 1$
$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots$	$R = \infty$
$\cos(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \cdots$	$R = \infty$
$\sin(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \cdots$	$R = \infty$

Theorem 1.9. For any $n \geq 0$ and $t \geq 1$, the number of n -element multisets with elements of t types is

$$\binom{n+t-1}{t-1}.$$

Theorem 1.15 (Inclusion/Exclusion). Let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m be finite sets. Then

$$|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_m| = \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}} (-1)^{|S|-1} |A_S|.$$

Proposition 1.11. Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : B \rightarrow A$ be functions between two sets A and B . Assume the following.

- For all $a \in A$, $g(f(a)) = a$.
- For all $b \in B$, $f(g(b)) = b$.

Then both f and g are bijections. Moreover, for $a \in A$ and $b \in B$, we have $f(a) = b$ if and only if $g(b) = a$.

Lemma 2.13. Let A be a set with weight function $\omega : A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, and define A^* and $\omega^* : A^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ as above. Then ω^* is a weight function on A^* if and only if there are no elements in A of weight zero (that is, $A_0 = \emptyset$).

Lemma 2.14 (The String Lemma). Let A be a set with a weight function $\omega : A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that there are no elements of A of weight zero. Then

$$\Phi_{A^*}(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \Phi_A(x)}.$$

Theorem 2.17. Let $P = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ be the set of positive integers.

- The set \mathcal{C} of all compositions is $\mathcal{C} = P^*$.
- The generating series for \mathcal{C} with respect to size is

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{C}}(x) = 1 + \frac{x}{1-2x}.$$

- For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the number of compositions of size n is

$$|\mathcal{C}_n| = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 2^{n-1} & \text{if } n \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 2.25. For any nonempty set T ,

$$\sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq T} (-1)^{|S|-1} = 1.$$

Theorem 2.26 (Inclusion/Exclusion). Let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m be finite sets. Then

$$|A_1 \cup \cdots \cup A_m| = \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}} (-1)^{|S|-1} |A_S|.$$

Proposition 2.23. Let \mathcal{U} be the set of pairs (n, A) in which $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is a natural number and $A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is a subset. Let $\mathcal{C} \setminus \{\varepsilon\}$ be the set of nonempty compositions. There is a bijection $\mathcal{U} \cong \mathcal{C} \setminus \{\varepsilon\}$ between these two sets.

Chapter 3: Binary Strings

Lemma 3.9 (Unambiguous Expression). Let \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{S} be unambiguous expressions producing the sets \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{S} , respectively.

- The expressions ε and 0 and 1 are unambiguous.
- The expression $\mathcal{R} \setminus \mathcal{S}$ is unambiguous if and only if $\mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{S} = \emptyset$, so that $\mathcal{R} \cup \mathcal{S}$ is a disjoint union of sets.
- The expression $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}$ is unambiguous if and only if there is a bijection $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S} \cong \mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{S}$ between the concatenation product $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}$ and the Cartesian product $\mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{S}$. In other words, for every string $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}$ there is exactly one way to write $\alpha = \rho\sigma$ with $\rho \in \mathcal{R}$ and $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}$.
- The expression \mathcal{R}^* is unambiguous if and only if each of the concatenation products \mathcal{R}^k is unambiguous and the union $\bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{R}^k$ is a disjoint union of sets.

Theorem 3.13. Let \mathcal{R} be a regular expression producing the rational language \mathcal{R} and leading to the rational function $R(x)$. If \mathcal{R} is an unambiguous expression for \mathcal{R} then $R(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{R}}(x)$, the generating series for \mathcal{R} with respect to length.

Proposition 3.17 (Block Decompositions). The regular expressions

$$0^*(1^*0^*)^*1^* \quad \text{and} \quad 1^*(0^*1^*)^*0^*$$

are unambiguous expressions for the set $\{0, 1\}^*$ of all binary strings. They produce each binary string block by block.

Theorem 3.26. Let $\kappa \in \{0, 1\}^*$ be a nonempty string of length n , and let $A = A_{\kappa}$ be the set of binary strings that avoid κ . Let \mathcal{C} be the set of all nonempty suffixes γ of κ such that $\kappa\gamma = \eta\kappa$ for some nonempty prefix η of κ . Let $C(x) = \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{C}} x^{|\gamma|}$. Then

$$A(x) = \frac{1 + C(x)}{(1-2x)(1+C(x)) + x^n}.$$

Chapter 4: Recurrence Relations

Theorem 4.8. Let $\mathbf{g} = (g_0, g_1, g_2, \dots)$ be a sequence of complex numbers, and let $G(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n x^n$ be the corresponding generating series. The following are equivalent.

(a) The sequence \mathbf{g} satisfies a homogeneous linear recurrence relation

$$g_n + a_1 g_{n-1} + \dots + a_d g_{n-d} = 0 \text{ for all } n \geq N,$$

with initial conditions g_0, g_1, \dots, g_{N-1} .

(b) The series $G(x) = P(x)/Q(x)$ is a quotient of two polynomials. The denominator is

$$Q(x) = 1 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_d x^d$$

and the numerator is $P(x) = b_0 + b_1 x + b_2 x^2 + \dots + b_{N-1} x^{N-1}$, in which

$$b_k = g_k + a_1 g_{k-1} + \dots + a_d g_{k-d}$$

for all $0 \leq k \leq N-1$, with the convention that $g_n = 0$ for all $n < 0$.

Theorem 4.12 (Partial Fractions). Let $G(x) = P(x)/Q(x)$ be a rational function in which $\deg P < \deg Q$ and the constant term of $Q(x)$ is 1. Factor the denominator to obtain its inverse roots:

$$Q(x) = (1 - \lambda_1 x)^{d_1} (1 - \lambda_2 x)^{d_2} \dots (1 - \lambda_s x)^{d_s}$$

in which $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_s$ are distinct nonzero complex numbers and $d_1 + \dots + d_s = d = \deg Q$. Then there are d complex numbers:

$$C_1^{(1)}, C_1^{(2)}, \dots, C_1^{(d_1)}; C_2^{(1)}, C_2^{(2)}, \dots, C_2^{(d_2)}; \dots; C_s^{(1)}, C_s^{(2)}, \dots, C_s^{(d_s)}$$

(which are uniquely determined) such that

$$G(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \sum_{i=1}^s \sum_{j=1}^{d_i} \frac{C_i^{(j)}}{(1 - \lambda_i x)^j}$$

Theorem 4.18. Let $\mathbf{g} = (g_0, g_1, g_2, \dots)$ be a sequence of complex numbers. The following are equivalent.

- (a) The sequence \mathbf{g} satisfies a homogeneous linear recurrence relation (with initial conditions).
- (b) The sequence \mathbf{g} satisfies a possibly inhomogeneous linear recurrence relation (with initial conditions) in which the RHS is an eventually polyexp function.
- (c) The generating series $G(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n x^n$ is a rational function (a quotient of polynomials in x).
- (d) The sequence $\mathbf{g} = (g_0, g_1, g_2, \dots)$ is an eventually polyexp function.

Definition 4.20. For any complex number $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ and nonnegative integer $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the k -th binomial coefficient of α is

$$\binom{\alpha}{k} = \frac{1}{k!} (\alpha)(\alpha-1) \dots (\alpha-k+1).$$

Theorem 4.21 (The Binomial Series). For any complex number $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$(1+x)^\alpha = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} x^k.$$

Proposition 4.22. $\sqrt{1-4x} = 1 - 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \binom{2k-2}{k-1} x^k$.

Theorem 4.14. Let $\mathbf{g} = (g_0, g_1, g_2)$ be a sequence of complex numbers, and let $G(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n x^n$ be the corresponding generating series. Assume that the equivalent conditions of Theorem 4.8 hold, and that

$$G(x) = R(x) + \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$

for some polynomials $P(x), Q(x)$, and $R(x)$ with $\deg P(x) < \deg Q(x)$ and $Q(0) = 1$. Factor $Q(x)$ to obtain its inverse roots and their multiplicities:

$$Q(x) = (1 - \lambda_1 x)^{d_1} (1 - \lambda_2 x)^{d_2} \dots (1 - \lambda_s x)^{d_s}.$$

Then there are polynomials $p_i(n)$ for $1 \leq i \leq s$, with $\deg p_i(n) < d_i$, such that for all $n > \deg R(x)$,

$$g_n = p_1(n)\lambda_1^n + p_2(n)\lambda_2^n + \dots + p_s(n)\lambda_s^n.$$

Part II: Chapter 4: Introduction to Graph Theory

Theorem 4.3.1. For any graph G we have

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} \deg(v) = 2|E(G)|.$$

Corollary 4.3.2. The number of vertices of odd degree in a graph is even.

Corollary 4.3.3. The average degree of a vertex in the graph G is

$$\frac{2|E(G)|}{|V(G)|}.$$

Theorem 4.6.2. If there is a walk from vertex x to vertex y in G , then there is a path from x to y in G .

Corollary 4.6.3. Let x, y, z be vertices of G . If there is a path from x to y in G and a path from y to z in G , then there is a path from x to z in G .

Theorem 4.6.4. If every vertex in G has degree at least 2, then G contains a cycle.

Theorem 4.8.2. Let G be a graph and let v be a vertex in G . If for each vertex w in G there is a path from v to w in G , then G is connected.

Theorem 4.8.5. A graph G is not connected if and only if there exists a proper nonempty subset X of $V(G)$ such that the cut induced by X is empty.

Theorem 4.9.2. Let G be a connected graph. Then G has an Eulerian circuit if and only if every vertex has even degree.

Lemma 4.10.2. If $e = \{x, y\}$ is a bridge of a connected graph G , then $G - e$ has precisely two components; furthermore, x and y are in different components.

Theorem 4.10.3. An edge e is a bridge of a graph G if and only if it is not contained in any cycle of G .

Corollary 4.10.4. If there are two distinct paths from vertex u to vertex v in G , then G contains a cycle.

Chapter 5: Tree

Lemma 5.1.3. If u and v are vertices in a tree T , then there is a unique u, v -path in T .

Lemma 5.1.4. Every edge of a tree T is a bridge.

Theorem 5.1.5. If T is a tree, then $|E(T)| = |V(T)| - 1$.

Corollary 5.1.6. If G is a forest with k components, then $|E(G)| = |V(G)| - k$.

Theorem 5.1.8. A tree with at least two vertices has at least two leaves.

Theorem 5.2.1. A graph G is connected if and only if it has a spanning tree.

Corollary 5.2.2. If G is connected, with p vertices and $q = p - 1$ edges, then G is a tree.

Corollary: Let G be a graph with n vertices. If any 2 of the following 3 conditions hold, then G is a tree.
 G is connected. G has no cycles. G has $n-1$ edges.
 Note: + is by definition. + is by corollary. + we leave as an exercise.

Theorem 5.2.3. If T is a spanning tree of G and e is an edge not in T , then $T + e$ contains exactly one cycle C . Moreover, if e' is any edge on C , then $T + e - e'$ is also a spanning tree of G .

Theorem 5.2.4. If T is a spanning tree of G and e is an edge in T , then $T - e$ has 2 components. If e' is in the cut induced by one of the components, then $T - e + e'$ is also a spanning tree of G .

Theorem 5.6.1. Prim's algorithm produces a minimum spanning tree for G .

Corollary 7.5.4

Theorem (Corollary 7.5.4 in course notes): Every planar graph has a vertex of degree at most 5.

Chapter 7: Planar Graphs

Theorem 7.1.2. If we have a planar embedding of a connected graph G with faces f_1, \dots, f_s , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^s \deg(f_i) = 2|E(G)|. \quad \text{Faceshaking Lemma}$$

Jordan Curve Theorem:

Every planar embedding of a cycle separates the plane into two parts, one on inside, one on the outside.

Theorem 7.2.1. (Euler's Formula) Let G be a connected graph with p vertices and q edges. If G has a planar embedding with f faces, then

$$p - q + f = 2.$$

Theorem 7.3.1. A graph is planar if and only if it can be drawn on the surface of a sphere.

Theorem 7.4.1. There are exactly five platonic graphs.

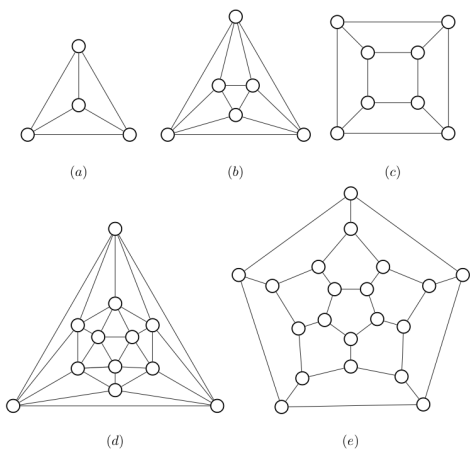


Figure 7.9: (a) the tetrahedron; (b) the octahedron; (c) the cube; (d) the icosahedron; (e) the dodecahedron

Show too many edges

Lemma 7.5.1. If G contains a cycle, then in a planar embedding of G , the boundary of each face contains a cycle.

Lemma 7.5.2. Let G be a planar embedding with p vertices and q edges. If each face of G has degree at least d^* , then $(d^* - 2)q \leq d^*(p - 2)$.

Theorem 7.5.3. In a planar graph G with $p \geq 3$ vertices and q edges, we have

$$q \leq 3p - 6.$$

✓ **Corollary 7.5.4.** K_5 is a not planar.

Corollary 7.5.5. A planar graph has a vertex of degree at most five.

Theorem 7.5.6. In a bipartite planar graph G with $p \geq 3$ vertices and q edges, we have

$$q \leq 2p - 4.$$

Lemma 7.5.7. $K_{3,3}$ is not planar.

Kuratowski's Theorem

✓ **Theorem 7.6.1.** A graph is not planar if and only if it has a subgraph that is an edge subdivision of K_5 or $K_{3,3}$.

✓ **Theorem 7.7.2.** A graph is 2-colourable if and only if it is bipartite.

✓ **Theorem 7.7.3.** K_n is n -colourable, and not k -colourable for any $k < n$.

✓ **Theorem 7.7.4.** Every planar graph is 6-colourable.

✓ **Theorem 7.7.6.** Every planar graph is 5-colourable.

✓ **Theorem 7.7.7.** Every planar graph is 4-colourable.

Lemma 7.4.3. If G is a platonic graph with p vertices, q edges and f faces, where each vertex has degree d and each face degree d^* , then

$$q = \frac{2dd^*}{2d + 2d^* - dd^*}$$

and $p = 2q/d$ and $f = 2q/d^*$.

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Lemma 7.4.2. Let G be a planar embedding with p vertices, q edges and s faces, in which each vertex has degree $d \geq 3$ and each face has degree $d^* \geq 3$. Then (d, d^*) is one of the five pairs

$$\{(3, 3), (3, 4), (4, 3), (3, 5), (5, 3)\}.$$

Chapter 8: Matchings

✓ **Lemma 8.1.1.** If M has an augmenting path, it is not a maximum matching.

✓ **Lemma 8.2.1.** If M is a matching of G and C is a cover of G , then $|M| \leq |C|$.

✓ **Lemma 8.2.2.** If M is matching and C is a cover and $|M| = |C|$, then M is a maximum matching and C is a minimum cover.

✓ **Theorem 8.3.1. (König's Theorem)** In a bipartite graph the maximum size of a matching is the minimum size of a cover.

Let X_0 be the set of vertices in A not saturated by M and let Z denote the set of vertices in G that are joined by to a vertex in X_0 by an alternating path. If $v \in Z$ we use $P(v)$ to denote an alternating path that joins v to X_0 . Now define:

(a) $X = A \cap Z$.

(b) $Y = B \cap Z$.

Lemma 8.3.2. Let M be a matching of bipartite graph G with bipartition A, B , and let X and Y be as defined above. Then:

(a) There is no edge of G from X to $B \setminus Y$;

(b) $C = Y \cup (A \setminus X)$ is a cover of G ;

(c) There is no edge of M from Y to $A \setminus X$;

(d) $|M| = |C| - |U|$ where U is the set of unsaturated vertices in Y ;

(e) There is an augmenting path to each vertex in U .

Bipartite matching algorithm

Step 0. Let M be any matching of G .

Step 1. Set $\hat{X} = \{v \in A : v \text{ is unsaturated}\}$, set $\hat{Y} = \emptyset$, and set $\text{pr}(v)$ to be undefined for all $v \in V(G)$.

Step 2. For each vertex $v \in B \setminus \hat{Y}$ such that there is an edge $\{u, v\}$ with $u \in \hat{X}$, add v to \hat{Y} and set $\text{pr}(v) = u$.

Step 3. If Step 2 added no vertex to \hat{Y} , return the maximum matching M and the minimum cover $C = \hat{Y} \cup (A \setminus \hat{X})$, and stop.

Step 4. If Step 2 added an unsaturated vertex v to \hat{Y} , use pr values to trace an augmenting path from v to an unsaturated element of \hat{X} , use the path to produce a larger matching M' , replace M by M' , and go to Step 1.

Step 5. For each vertex $v \in A \setminus \hat{X}$ such that there is an edge $\{u, v\} \in M$ with $u \in \hat{Y}$, add v to \hat{X} and set $\text{pr}(v) = u$. Go to Step 2.

✓ **Theorem 8.4.1. (Hall's Theorem)** A bipartite graph G with bipartition A, B has a matching saturating every vertex in A , if and only if every subset D of A satisfies

$$|N(D)| \geq |D|.$$

Corollary 8.6.1. A bipartite graph G with bipartition A, B has a perfect matching if and only if $|A| = |B|$ and every subset D of A satisfies

$$|N(D)| \geq |D|.$$

✓ **Theorem 8.6.2.** If G is a k -regular bipartite graph with $k \geq 1$, then G has a perfect matching.

Theorem 8.7.1. A bipartite graph with maximum degree Δ has an edge Δ -colouring.

Lemma 8.7.2. Let G be a bipartite graph having at least one edge. Then G has a matching saturating each vertex of maximum degree.

Theorem 8.8.1. Let G be a graph with q edges, and suppose k, m are positive integers such that

(a) G has an edge k -colouring;

(b) $q \leq km$.

Then G has an edge k -colouring in which every colour is used at most m times.

Corollary 8.8.2. In a bipartite graph G , there is an edge k -colouring in which each colour is used at most m times if and only if

(a) $\Delta \leq k$, and

(b) $q \leq km$.

Corollary: The edges of a k -regular bipartite graph can be partitioned into k perfect matchings.

Corollary: A bipartite graph G with m edges and maximum degree d has a matching of size at least $\frac{m}{d}$.