

Fine-grained Parameterized Algorithms

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Problem set 6: Algebraic Methods

Overview: With this problem set, you can train reasoning about algebraic methods.

Instructions: For each skill, select **exactly one** problem below and submit your solution in [Moodle](#); in your submission, make sure to repeat the problem that you are solving. The problems are roughly ordered by difficulty, choose a problem that you find non-trivial and interesting. (You are of course welcome to try the other problems as well and ask us for feedback.)

!! Skill-6a. Reason about and adapt algebraic methods: *I can formally reason about and adapt fast Möbius transforms and fast product operations.* (See Sections 10.1–10.3 in [Cygan et al.](#))

easy 6.1 **Proof of Proposition 10.10.** Prove that $\zeta = \sigma\mu\sigma$ and $\mu = \sigma\zeta\sigma$ hold.

6.2 **Fast Packing Product.** The *packing product* of two functions $f, g: 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a function $(f *_p g): 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that for every $Y \subseteq V$, we have

$$(f *_p g)(Y) = \sum_{\substack{A, B \subseteq Y \\ A \cap B = \emptyset}} f(A)g(B).$$

Show that all 2^n values of $f *_p g$ can be computed in time $2^n n^{O(1)}$, where $n = |V|$.

6.3 **Möbius inversion on posets.** In this guided exercise, we generalize the principle of Möbius inversion to finite partially ordered sets (posets). To this end, let P be a poset. The *incidence algebra* of a poset (P, \leq) is defined as follows:

$$\mathbb{I}(P, \leq) := \{A \in \mathbb{C}^{P \times P} \mid x \not\leq y \Rightarrow A(x, y) = 0\}.$$

One example of an element of $\mathbb{I}(P, \leq)$ is the so-called *zeta function*:

$$\zeta(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \leq y, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Consider the element μ of $\mathbb{I}(P, \leq)$, which is called the *Möbius function* over (P, \leq) and which is inductively defined as follows:

$$\mu(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = y, \\ 0 & \text{if } x \not\leq y, \\ -\sum_{x \leq z < y} \mu(x, z) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Prove that the following identity holds for all $x, y \in P$:

$$\sum_{x \leq z \leq y} \mu(x, z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Prove $\mu = \zeta^{-1}$ and conclude from $\zeta \cdot \mu = \text{id}$ that the following identity holds as well:

$$\sum_{x \leq z \leq y} \mu(z, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = y, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- **Möbius inversion:** Let $f, g: P \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $g(x) = \sum_{y \leq x} f(y)$ holds for all $x \in P$. Prove that the following identity holds for all $x \in P$:

$$f(x) = \sum_{y \leq x} \mu(y, x) \cdot g(y)$$

!! Skill-6b. Apply algebraic methods to design algorithms: *I can apply inclusion–exclusion, the fast Möbius transform, and fast product operations to design fast algorithms.* (See Sections 10.1–10.3 in [Cygan et al.](#))

6.4 Ryser’s formula. Use the principle of inclusion–exclusion to design an algorithm which computes the number of perfect matchings in a given n -vertex bipartite graph in time $2^{n/2} n^{O(1)}$ and polynomial space.

6.5 List coloring. In the List Coloring problem, we are given an n -vertex graph G and, for each vertex $v \in V(G)$, there is a set (also called a list) of admissible colors $L(v) \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$. The goal is to verify whether it is possible to find a proper vertex coloring $c: V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ of G such that for every vertex v , we have $c(v) \in L(v)$. In other words, $L(v)$ is the set of colors allowed for v . Show a $2^n n^{O(1)}$ -time algorithm for List Coloring. *Hint:* $\Delta 1.01$ $\text{msrrosd}T$ $\text{msor}f$ $\text{msdtrivog}la$ sdt $\text{tq}la$ Δ

6.6 Counting subgraphs. In this guided exercise, you will develop an efficient algorithm for computing the number of subgraphs of a given graph G that are isomorphic to a fixed graph H .

Building on 6.3, we use Möbius inversion on the partition lattice: Let H be a graph with vertex set V . Given two partitions σ and ρ of V , we write $\sigma \rightarrow \rho$ if ρ can be obtained from σ by joining two blocks of σ . Example: For $\sigma = \{\{1, 4\}, \{2\}, \{3\}\}$, we have $\sigma \rightarrow \{\{1, 2, 4\}, \{3\}\}$. Now let \leq be the reflexive-transitive closure of \rightarrow , i.e., $\sigma \leq \rho$ if and only if there are $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k$ with $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \sigma_k \rightarrow \rho$. Note that k might be zero.

- Let $P(V)$ be the set of partitions of V . Show that $(P(V), \leq)$ is a poset. This poset is called the *partition lattice*. What is the minimum \perp and the maximum \top of this poset?
- Given an element $\sigma \in P(V)$, the graph H/σ is obtained from H by contracting each block of σ to a single vertex, deleting multiple edges, and keeping self-loops. Given a graph G , we let $\text{Hom}(H, G)$ be the number of graph homomorphisms from H to G and let $\text{Inj}(H, G)$ be the number of injective graph homomorphisms from H to G . Use Möbius inversion to prove

$$\text{Inj}(H, G) = \sum_{\sigma \in P(V)} \mu(\perp, \sigma) \cdot \text{Hom}(H/\sigma, G). \quad (1)$$

- Given graphs H and G , it is known that the number of subgraphs of G that are isomorphic to H equals $\text{Aut}^{-1}(H) \cdot \text{Inj}(H, G)$, where $\text{Aut}(H)$ is the number of automorphisms of H , that is, bijective homomorphisms from H to H . Combine this knowledge with Exercise 4.7 and (1) to design an algorithm for SUBGRAPH ISOMORPHISM. What is the running time of your algorithm?