

Hints for Some Exercises

Chapter 1

- 1.5** Consider $A(H_n)^2$ and use Exercise 3.
- 1.6** (a) First count the number of sequences $V_{i_0}, V_{i_1}, \dots, V_{i_\ell}$ for which there exists a closed walk with vertices $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_\ell = v_0$ (in that order) such that $v_j \in V_{i_j}$.
- 1.11** Consider the rank of $A(\Gamma)$ and also consider $A(\Gamma)^2$. The answer is very simple and does not involve irrational numbers.
- 1.12** (b) Consider $A(G)^2$.

Chapter 2

- 2.2** See Exercise 9 in Chap. 9.
- 2.5** (c) Mimic the proof for the graph C_n , using the definition

$$\langle \chi_u, \chi_v \rangle = \sum_{w \in \mathbb{Z}_n} \chi_u(w) \overline{\chi_v(w)},$$

where an overhead bar denotes complex conjugation.

Chapter 3

- 3.4** You may find Example 3.1 useful.
- 3.7** It is easier *not* to use linear algebra.
- 3.8** See previous hint.
- 3.10** First show (easy) that if we start at a vertex v and take n steps (using our random walk model), then the probability that we traverse a fixed closed walk W is equal to the probability that we traverse W in reverse order.
- 3.12** See hint for Exercise 7.

Chapter 4

- 4.4** (b) One way to do this is to count in two ways the number of k -tuples (v_1, \dots, v_k) of linearly independent elements from \mathbb{F}_q^n : (1) first choose v_1 , then v_2 , etc., and (2) first choose the subspace W spanned by v_1, \dots, v_k , and then choose v_1, v_2 , etc.
- 4.4** (c) The easiest way is to use (b).

Chapter 5

- 5.5** (a) Show that $N_n \cong B_n/G$ for a suitable group G .

- 5.9** (a) Use Corollary 2.4 with $n = \binom{\rho}{2}$.

- 5.13** Use Exercise 12.

Chapter 6

- 6.2** (b) Not really a hint, but the result is equivalent [why?] to the case $r = m$, $s = n$, $t = 2$, and $x = 1$ of Exercise 34 in Chap. 8.

- 6.3** Consider $\mu = (8, 8, 4, 4)$.

- 6.5** First consider the case where S has ζ elements equal to 0 (so $\zeta = 0$ or 1), ν elements that are negative, and π elements that are positive, so $\nu + \zeta + \pi = 2m + 1$.

Chapter 7

- 7.16** (a) Use Pólya's theorem.

Chapter 8

- 8.3** Encode a maximal chain by an object that we already know how to enumerate.

- 8.7** Partially order by diagram inclusion the set of all partitions whose diagrams can be covered by nonoverlapping dominos, thereby obtaining a subposet Y_2 of Young's lattice Y . Show that $Y_2 \cong Y \times Y$.

- 8.14** Use induction on n .

- 8.17** (a) One way to do this is to use the generating function $\sum_{n \geq 0} Z_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(z_1, z_2, \dots) x^n$ for the cycle indicator of \mathfrak{S}_n (Theorem 7.13). Another method is to find a recurrence for $B(n+1)$ in terms of $B(0), \dots, B(n)$ and then convert this recurrence into a generating function

- 8.18** Consider the generating function

$$G(q, t) = \sum_{k,n \geq 0} \kappa(n \rightarrow n+k \rightarrow n) \frac{t^k q^n}{(k!)^2}$$

and use (8.25).

- 8.20** (b) Consider the square of the adjacency matrix of $Y_{j-1,j}$.

- 8.24** Use Exercise 14.

Chapter 9

- 9.1** There is a simple proof based on the formula $\kappa(K_p) = p^{p-2}$, avoiding the Matrix-Tree Theorem.
- 9.2** (c) Use the fact that the rows of L sum to 0 and compute the trace of L .
- 9.5** (b) Use Exercise 3 in Chap. 1.
- 9.6** (a) For the most elegant proof, use the fact that commuting $p \times p$ matrices A and B can be simultaneously triangularized, i.e., there exists an invertible matrix X such that both XAX^{-1} and XBX^{-1} are upper triangular.
- 9.6** (d) Use Exercise 8(a).
- 9.7** Let G^* be the full dual graph of G , i.e., the vertices of G^* are the faces of G , including the outside face. For every edge e of G separating two faces R and S of G , there is an edge e^* of G^* connecting the vertices R and S . Thus G^* will have some multiple edges and $\#E(G) = \#E(G^*)$. First show combinatorially that $\kappa(G) = \kappa(G^*)$. (See Corollary 11.19.)
- 9.10** (a) The laplacian matrix $L = L(G)$ acts on the space $\mathbb{R}V(G)$, the real vector space with basis $V(G)$. Consider the subspace W of $\mathbb{R}V(G)$ spanned by the elements $v + \varphi(v)$, $v \in V(G)$.
- 9.11** (a) Let $s(n, q, r)$ be the number of $n \times n$ symmetric matrices of rank r over \mathbb{F}_q . Find a recurrence satisfied by $s(n, q, r)$ and verify that this recurrence is satisfied by

$$s(n, q, r) = \begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^t \frac{q^{2i}}{q^{2i}-1} \cdot \prod_{i=0}^{2t-1} (q^{n-i} - 1), & 0 \leq r = 2t \leq n, \\ \prod_{i=1}^t \frac{q^{2i}}{q^{2i}-1} \cdot \prod_{i=0}^{2t} (q^{n-i} - 1), & 0 \leq r = 2t + 1 \leq n. \end{cases}$$

- 9.12** Any of the three proofs of the Appendix to Chap. 9 can be carried over to the present exercise.

Chapter 10

- 10.3** (b) Use the Perron–Frobenius theorem (Theorem 3.3).
- 10.6** (a) Consider A^ℓ .
- 10.6** (f) There is an example with nine vertices that is not a de Bruijn graph.
- 10.6** (c) Let E be the (column) eigenvector of $A(D)$ corresponding to the largest eigenvalue. Consider AE and $A^t E$, where t denotes transpose.

Chapter 11

- 11.4** Use the unimodularity of the basis matrices C_T and B_T .
- 11.6** (a) Mimic the proof of Theorem 9.8 (the Matrix-Tree Theorem).
- 11.6** (b) Consider ZZ^t .

Chapter 12

- 12.4** The best strategy involves the concept of odd and even permutations.
- 12.5** For the easiest solution, don't use linear algebra but rather use the original Oddtown theorem.
- 12.12** What are the eigenvalues of skew-symmetric matrices?
- 12.15** Consider the incidence matrix M of the sets and their elements. Consider two cases: $\det M = 0$ and $\det M \neq 0$.
- 12.18** Consider the first three rows of H . Another method is to use row operations to factor a large power of 2 from the determinant.
- 12.21** It is easiest to proceed directly and not use the proof of Theorem 12.18.
- 12.23** First find a simple explicit formula for the generating function $\sum_{n \geq 0} f(n)x^n$.
- 12.26** Differentiate with respect to x (12.10) satisfied by y .

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Index

Numbers

4483130665195087, 32, 40

A

van Aardenne-Ehrenfest, Tanya, 159
access time, 23
acts on (by a group), 43
acyclic (set of edges), 168
adjacency matrix, 1
adjacent (vertices), 1
adjoint (operator), 36
algebraic (Laurent series), 206
algebraic integer, 197
Anderson, Ian, 40
Andrews, George W. Eyre, 72
antichain, 33
antisymmetry, 31
automorphism
 of a graph, 98
 of a poset, 44
automorphism group
 of a graph, 98
 of a poset, 44

B

Babai, László, 203
balanced digraph, 151
balanced incomplete block design, 191
basis matrix, 168
Bender, Edward Anton, 125
Berlekamp, Elwyn Ralph, 203
Bernardi, Olivier, 143
BEST theorem, 159
BIBD, 191
Bidkhor, Hoda, 159

binary de Bruijn sequence, *see* de Bruijn sequence

binary sequence, 156
Binet-Cauchy theorem, 136, 137
binomial moment, 29
bipartite graph, 7
bipartition, 7
block (of a block design), 191
block design, 191
Bolker, Ethan David, 17
bond, 165
bond space, 165
boolean algebra, 31
Borchardt, Carl Wilhelm, 147
Bose, Raj Chandra, 192, 203
Brenti, Francesco, 53
de Bruijn, Nicolaas Govert, 97, 159
de Bruijn sequence, 156
de Bruijn graph, 156
bump

 in RSK algorithm for CSPP, 117
 in RSK algorithm for SYT, 113

Burnside's lemma, 80, 97

Burnside, William, 97

C

\mathbb{C} -algebra, 200
Caro, Yair, 203
Caspard, Nathalie, 40
Cauchy, Augustin Louis, 97
Cauchy-Binet theorem, 136, 137
Cauchy-Frobenius lemma, 80, 97
Cayley, Arthur, 146, 147
chain (in a poset), 32
characteristic polynomial, 7
characteristic vector (of a set), 189

circuit, 163
 circulant (matrix), 195
 circulation, 163
 closed walk, 4
 coboundary, 164
 Collatz, Lothar, 7
 coloring, 76
 column-strict plane partition, 117
 commutative diagram, 48
 complementary graph, 148
 complete bipartite graph, 8, 147
 complete graph, 4
 complete p -partite graph, 8
 complexity (of a graph), 135
 conjugate
 of an algebraic number, 198
 partition, 59
 connected graph, 135
 cotree, 170
 covers (in a poset), 31
 CSPP, 117
 cube (graph), 11
 Curtin, Eugene, 203
 Cvetković, Dragoš M., 7
 cycle index polynomial, 83
 cycle indicator, 97
 of a group of permutations, 83
 of a permutation, 83
 cycle space, 163
 cyclic group, 18
 cyclomatic number, 170
 cyclotomic polynomial, 199

D

Dedekind, Julius Wilhelm Richard, 17
 DeDeo, Michelle Rose, 18
 degree (of a vertex), 8, 21
 deleted neighborhood (of a vertex), 204
 D -finite, 206
 Diaconis, Persi Warren, 18, 159
 diagonal (of a power series), 207
 diagram (of a partition), 58
 differentiably finite, 206
 digraph, 151
 of a permutation, 144
 dihedral necklace, 86
 direct product (of posets), 73
 directed graph, 151
 Doob, Michael, 7
 doubly-rooted tree, 144
 down (linear transformation), 36
 dual (of a planar graph), 178
 Dynkin, Eugene (Evgenii) Borisovitsh, 72

E

edge reconstruction conjecture, 50
 edge set (of a graph), 1
 eigenvalues of a graph, 3
 elementary cycle, 163
 Engel, Konrad, 40
 equivalent colorings, 76, 77
 Erdős-Moser conjecture, 71
 weak, 71
 Eriksson, Kimmo, 72
 Euler phi-function, 85
 Euler's constant, 188
 Eulerian cycle (in a graph), 151
 Eulerian digraph, 151
 Eulerian graph, 151
 Eulerian tour
 in a digraph, 151
 in a graph, 151
 extended Smith diagram, 182

F

face (of a planar embedding), 178
 faithful action, 43
 Fermat's Last Theorem, 196
 Ferrers diagram, 58
 Fibonacci number, 130, 147, 200
 final vertex (of an edge)
 in a digraph, 151
 in an orientation, 139
 Fishburn, Peter, 40
 Fisher, Ronald Aylmer, 192, 203
 Flye Sainte-Marie, Camille, 159
 Fomin, Sergey Vladimirovich, 124
 forest, 145, 170
 Forsyth, Andrew Russell, 125
 Frame, James Sutherland, 123
 Frame-Robinson-Thrall, 105
 Frankl, Peter, 203
 Franzblau, Deborah Sharon, 124
 Frobenius, Ferdinand Georg, 17, 97, 98, 123
 Fulton, William Edgar, 125
 Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, 52

G

Gál, Anna, 203
 Gardner, Martin, 183
 Gauss' lemma, 196
 Gaussian coefficient, 61
 generalized ballot sequence, 123
 generating function, 6, 79
 G -equivalent, 44
 colorings, 77
 germ, 200

Good, Irving John, 159

graded poset, 32

Graham, Ronald Lewis, 18, 159, 203

graph, 1

Grassl, Richard, 124

Greene, Curtis, 124

group determinant, 17

group reduction function, 97

Kirchhoff, Gustav Robert, 146, 183

Kishore, Shaunak, 159

Knuth, Donald Ervin, 110, 124, 125

Krasikov, Ilia, 53

Krattenthaler, Christian Friedrich, 124

Kronecker, Leopold, 198

Kummer, Ernst Eduard, 196

Kung, Joseph PeeSin, 18

H

Hadamard matrix, 194

Hamiltonian cycle, 18

Hamming weight, 14

Harary, Frank, 97

Hardy, Godfrey Harold, 53

Harper, Lawrence Hueston, 53

Hasse diagram, 31

Hasse walk, 104

Hawkins, Thomas W., 18

Hillman, Abraham, 124

hitting time, 23

hook length formula, 105, 123

Horn, Roger Alan, 27

Hughes, J. W. B., 72

Hurwitz, Adolf, 98

I

incidence matrix

Oddtown, 189

of a digraph, 166

of a graph, 139

incident, 1

indegree (of a vertex), 151

induced subgraph, 194

initial vertex (of an edge)

in a digraph, 151

in an orientation, 139

internal zero, 51

inverse bump (in RSK algorithm), 115

isolated vertex, 23

isomorphic

graphs, 49

posets, 32

isomorphism class (of simple graphs), 49

J

Johnson, Charles Royal, 27

Joyal, André, 144, 147

K

Kazarinoff, Nicholas D., 183

Kirchhoff's laws, 173

L

laplacian matrix, 139

lattice, 57

lattice permutation, 123

Laurent series, 206

Leclerc, Bruno, 40

van Leeuwen, Marc A. A., 124

length

of a chain, 32

of a necklace, 54, 85

of a walk, 2

Leung, Ka Hin, 203

level (of a ranked poset), 32

Lights Out Puzzle, 203

Littlewood, Dudley Ernest, 124

Littlewood, John Edensor, 53

Littlewood–Richardson rule, 124

log-concave, 51

polynomial, 55

logarithmically concave, 51

loop

in a digraph, 151

in a graph, 1

Lovász, László, 27, 53

Lubell, David, 33, 38, 40

M

MacMahon, Percy Alexander, 123–125

mail carrier, 155

Markov chain, 21

Matoušek, Jiří, 203

matrix

irreducible, 23

nonnegative, 23

permutation, 23

matrix analysis, 27

Matrix-Tree Theorem, 141, 147

matroid, 180

maximal chain, 32

Miltersen, Peter Bro, 203

Möbius function, 98

Monjardet, Bernard, 40

Moon, John W., 147

Müller, Vladimír, 53
 multiple edge, 1
 multiset, 1

N

n -cycle, 18
 necklace, 54, 85
 neighborhood (of a vertex), 193
 Newton, Isaac, 51, 53
 Nijenhuis, Albert, 124
 \mathbb{N} -matrix, 118
 no internal zero, 51
 nonuniform Fisher inequality, 192
 Novelli, Jean-Christophe, 124

O

Oddtown, 189
 O'Hara, Kathleen Marie, 65, 72
 Ohm's law, 173
 orbit, 44
 order (of a poset), 32
 order-matching, 34
 explicit for B_n , 39
 order-raising operator, 35
 orientation (of a graph), 138
 orthogonal complement, 167
 orthogonal Lie algebra, 71
 orthogonal subspace, 193
 outdegree (of a vertex), 151

P

Pak, Igor M., 124
 Palmer, Edgar Milan, 97
 parallel connection, 173
 Parker, William Vann, 72
 part (of a partition of n), 57
 partially ordered set, 31
 partition
 of a set X , 44
 of an integer n , 57
 Pascal's triangle, 33, 62
 q -analogue, 62
 path (in a graph), 135
 closed, 18
 perfect squared rectangle, 180
 Perron–Frobenius theorem, 23
 physical intuition, 173
 Pitman, James William, 145, 147
 planar embedding, 178
 planar graph, 178
 plane partition, 115
 history of, 124

planted forest, 145
 pole (of a Smith diagram), 180
 Pollak, Henry Otto, 203
 Pólya, George (György), 53, 75, 97
 Pólya theory, 75
 polynomially recursive function, 200
 poset, 31
 positive definite, 192
 positive semidefinite, 37, 192
 potential, 164
 potential difference, 165
 Pouzet, Maurice André, 40, 53
 P -recursive function, 200
 primitive necklace, 98
 probability matrix, 21, 27
 Proctor, Robert Alan, 72
 Prüfer sequence, 143
 Prüfer, Ernst Paul Heinz, 143, 147

Q

q -binomial coefficient, 41, 61
 quantum order-matching, 36
 quotient poset, 45

R

Radon transform, 13
 Radon, Johann Karl August, 17
 rank
 of a boolean algebra, 31
 of a graded poset, 32
 of a poset element, 32
 rank-generating function, 33
 rank-symmetric, 33
 rank-unimodal, 33
 reciprocity theorem, 99
 Redfield, John Howard, 75, 97
 reduced incidence matrix, 140
 reflexivity, 31
 region (of a planar embedding), 178
 regular graph, 22
 Remmel, Jeffrey Brian, 124
 Robinson, Gilbert de Beauregard, 109, 123,
 124
 Robinson–Schensted correspondence, 110
 Roditty, Yehuda, 53
 Rolle's theorem, 52
 root (of a tree), 145
 Rosenberg, Ivo G., 40, 53
 row insertion, 113, 117
 Rowlinson, Peter, 7
 RSK algorithm, 109, 124
 Ryser, Herbert John, 203

S

- Sachs, Horst, 7
 Sagan, Bruce Eli, 125
 Schensted, Craig Eugene, 109, 124
 Schmid, Josef, 72
 Schmidt, Bernard, 203
 Schützenberger, Marcel-Paul, 124
 semidefinite, 37, 192
 series connection, 173
 series-parallel network, 174
 shape (of a CSPP), 117
 shifted Ferrers diagram, 119
 Simić, Slobodan, 7
 simple (squared square), 183
 simple graph, 1
 simple group, 99
 Sinogowitz, Ulrich, 7
 Smith diagram, 180
 Smith, Cedric Austen Bardell, 159
 solid partition, 123
 spanning subgraph, 49, 135
 spectral graph theory, 7
 Sperner poset, 33
 Sperner property, 33
 Sperner's theorem, 33
 Sperner, Emanuel, 40
 squared rectangle, 180
 stabilizer, 46
 standard Young tableau, 104
 Stanley, Richard Peter, 40, 53, 72, 98, 124, 125, 159, 203
 stationary distribution, 28
 von Staudt, Karl Georg Christian, 146
 Stirling number, signless of the first kind, 88
 Stoyanovskii, Alexander V., 124
 strongly log-concave, 51
 sum (of vector spaces), 201
 support (of a function), 168
 Sutner, Klaus, 193, 203
 switching (at a vertex), 54
 switching reconstructible, 55
 Sylvester, James Joseph, 65, 72, 147
 symmetric chain decomposition, 40
 symmetric function, 79
 symmetric plane partition, 132
 symmetric sequence, 33
 SYT, 104

T

- tensor product (of vector spaces), 202
 Thrall, Robert McDowell, 123
 total resistance, 174
 totient function, 85

tour (in a digraph), 151

- trace (of a plane partition), 132
 transitive (group action), 55, 80
 transitivity, 31
 transport, 48
 transposition, 99
 tree, 135
 Trotter, William Thomas, Jr., 40
 Turyn, Richard Joseph, 195, 203
 Tutte, William Thomas, 159, 183
 two-line array, 118
 type

- of a Hasse walk, 104
- of a permutation, 82

U

- unimodal sequence, 33
 unimodular (matrix), 171
 universal cycle for \mathfrak{S}_n , 161
 universality (of tensor products), 202
 up (linear transformation), 35

V

- valid λ -word, 106
 Velasquez, Elinor Laura, 18
 Venkataramana, Praveen, 147
 vertex bipartition, 7
 vertex reconstruction conjecture, 50
 vertex set, 1

W

- walk, 2
 Warshauer, Max, 203
 weakly switching-reconstructible, 55
 weight
 - of a binary vector, 14
 - of a necklace, 54
 Weitzenkamp, Roger, 183
 Wheatstone bridge, 174
 Wilf, Herbert Saul, 124
 wreath product, 64

Y

- Young diagram, 58
 Young, Alfred, 57, 123, 124
 Young's lattice, 57

Z

- Zeilberger, Doron, 72, 124
 Zyklus, 83