



Let me count the ways ...  
or  
complex analysis meets complexity analysis

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  - The scenario for average-case complexity
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- 4 A bunch of examples
  - Counting unary-binary trees
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  - Symbolic differentiation (still quite easy, but instructive)
  - Counting simply generated trees (a classic, not so easy)
  - Back to height and pathlength of ordered trees
  - Things can get rather more complicated: balanced 2-3 trees
- 5 The end

Two starters Deranging things. Do you have a rapid answer?

## Don't get deranged!

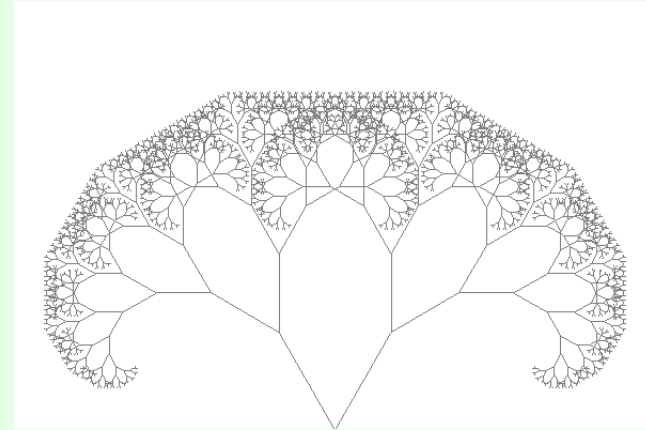
- The derangement problem:
  - A *derangement* is permutation  $\pi$  of an  $n$ -element set  $S_n$  which is *1-cyclefree*, i.e., if it has no fixed points: there is no  $s \in S_n$  s.th.  $\pi(s) = s$
  - For  $n = 4$ ,  $S_n = 1, 2, 3, 4$  the following permutations (out of 24) are derangements:  
 $2143, 2341, 2413, 3142, 3412, 3421, 4123, 4312, 4321$
  - Q: What is the probability that a randomly chosen permutation of  $S_n$  is a derangement? How does it behave as  $n$  grows?
  - A: For large  $n$  this probability approaches  $1/e = 0.367879\dots$

## This one is a little trickier..

- Another derangement problem
  - A permutation  $\pi$  of an  $n$ -element set  $S$  is a *1-2-cyclefree* if it has no fixed points and no cycles of length 2 (i.e. for all  $s \in S : \pi(s) \neq s$  and  $\pi^2(s) \neq s$ )
  - For  $n = 4$ ,  $S_n = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  the following permutations (out of 24) are 1-2-cyclefree:  
2341, 2413, 3142, 3421, 4123, 4312
  - Q: What is the probability that a randomly chosen permutation of  $S$  is 1-2-cyclefree? How does it behave as  $n$  grows?
  - A: For large  $n$  this probability approaches  $e^{-3/2} = 0.22313\dots$

## What is the shape of a typical tree?

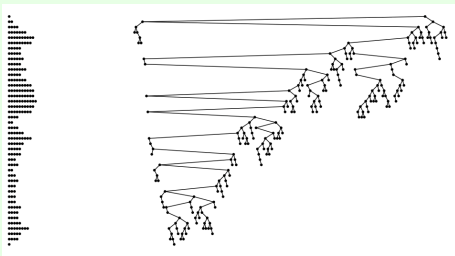
- What does a typical (=random) large binary tree look like?
- Like this?



Probably not ....

## What is the shape of a typical tree?

- What does a typical (=random) large binary tree look like?
- Like this?



- Or like this?



## What is the shape of a typical tree?

- So what is typically the height, width, shape, ... of a binary tree?
- If you don't have an answer, you might try experimentally by sampling
- But how do you sample from binary trees?

## Counting rabbits à la Fibonacci

- Consider the sequence of Fibonacci numbers  $(f_n)_{n \geq 0}$  defined by

$$f_{n+1} = f_n + f_{n-1} \quad (n \geq 1) \quad f_0 = 0, f_1 = 1$$

- First values:

$n$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$f_n$	0	1	1	2	3	5	8	13	21	34	55

- $f_{100} = 354224848179261915075$
- Q: How fast does this sequence grow?
- A: Easy because the recurrence is linear with constant coefficients:

$$f_n = \frac{\phi^n - \hat{\phi}^n}{\sqrt{5}} \quad \text{where} \quad \phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.61803$$

$$\hat{\phi} = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx -0.618034$$

## The analytic picture

- Consider the power series (a.k.a. “generating function”)

$$f(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} f_n z^n = z + z^2 + 2z^3 + 3z^4 + 5z^5 + \dots$$

- The recurrence is equivalent to the rational function

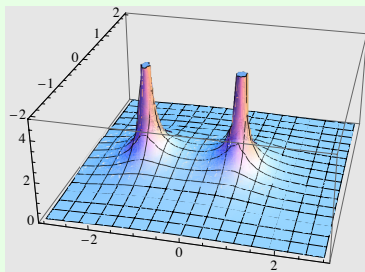
$$f(z) = \frac{z}{1 - z - z^2}$$

$$= \frac{z}{(1 - \phi z)(1 - \hat{\phi} z)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1}{1 - \phi z} - \frac{1}{1 - \hat{\phi} z} \right)$$

## The analytic picture contd.

- Look at the plot of  $|f(z)|$  for complex  $z$



- There are two “singularities” where the denominator vanishes:  
 $z = \phi^{-1} = 0.618034$  and  $z = \hat{\phi}^{-1} = -1.61803$ .  
 $\phi^{-1}$  is the “dominant singularity” which determines the growth rate of  $(f_n)_{n \geq 0}$ .
- $\rho = \phi^{-1}$  is the radius of convergence of the series  $f(z)$

## Dyck-language the “typical” context-free language

- $D$  = the language of properly nested parentheses pairs  $()$  alias  $01$
- (unambiguous) context-free grammar

$$\mathcal{D} : D \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid D0D1$$

- $D_n = \{w \in D; |w| = 2n\}$ ,  $d_n = \#D_n$
- First sets

$$D_0 = \{\varepsilon\} \quad D_1 = \{01\} \quad D_2 = \{0101, 0011\}$$

$$D_3 = \{010101, 010011, 001110, 001011, 000111\}$$

- The derivation trees of  $\mathcal{D}$  are precisely the binary trees  
words in  $D_n$  encode binary trees with  $n$  interior nodes and  $n+1$  leaves

## (Euler-Segner-) Catalan numbers (ctd.)

- cardinalities:  $d_n = \#D_n$

$n$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$d_n$	1	1	2	5	14	42	132	429	1430	4862	16796

- for big  $n$  numbers  $d_n$  can be computed easily e.g.

$$d_{100} = 896519947090131496687170070074100632420837521538745909320$$

## (Euler-Segner-) Catalan numbers (ctd.)

- The numbers  $d_n$ 
  - satisfy a nonlinear recurrence

$$d_{n+1} = d_0 d_n + d_1 d_n + \cdots + d_n d_1 \quad (1)$$

- satisfy a *first-order* linear recurrence with *polynomial* coefficients

$$(n+2) d_{n+1} = 2(2n+1) d_n \quad (2)$$

- have a “closed form”

$$d_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} \quad (3)$$

- (1) follows from the grammar (2) and (3) are obviously equivalent validity of (2) can be seen from looking at binary trees (3) has a neat combinatorial proof using cyclic shifts of balanced words

## Asymptotics of the Catalan numbers

- From the “closed form” (2) the asymptotic behaviour of the sequence  $(d_n)_{n \geq 0}$  can be obtained easily:

- Use Stirling’s formula

$$n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

to estimate the binomial coefficient

- to obtain

$$d_n \sim \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{2\pi} n^{3/2}} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

## Asymptotics of the Catalan numbers

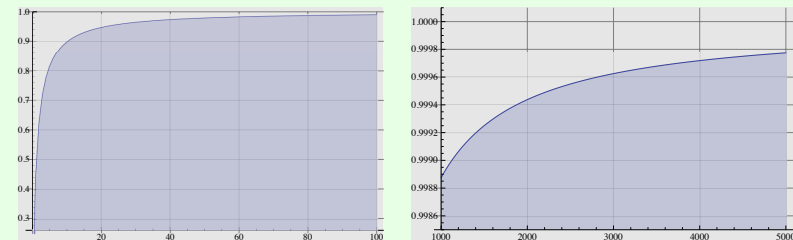


Figure: Relative approximation of Catalan numbers for  $n=0..100$  and for  $n=1000..5000$

## The (Chomsky-) Schützenberger-Theorems

- $L \subset \Sigma^*$  a formal language
- $\ell_n = \#(L \cap \Sigma^n)$  number of words of length  $n$  in  $L$
- $f_L(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \ell_n z^n$  the “generating function” of  $L$
- (Chomsky-) Schützenberger-Theorems
  - 1 If  $L$  is regular (i.e. type-3) then  $f_L(z)$  is a rational function i.e. there are polynomials  $p(z), q(z)$  s.th.

$$f_L(z) = \frac{p(z)}{q(z)}$$

$\Rightarrow (\ell_n)_{n \geq 0}$  satisfies a linear recurrence with constant coefficients

- 2 If  $L$  is unambiguously context-free (type-2 unambig) then  $f_L(z)$  is an algebraic function i.e. there is a polynomial  $P(z, y)$  such that

$$P(z, f_L(z)) = 0$$

$\Rightarrow (\ell_n)_{n \geq 0}$  satisfies a linear recurrence with polynomial coefficients

## Our first example: $L = F$ (Fibonacci)

- A regular language for Fibonacci:  $F = 0.(0 + 11)^* \subseteq \{01\}^*$
- $F_n = F \cap \{01\}^n$  with

$$F_{n+1} = F_n \cdot 0 + F_{n-1} \cdot 11 \quad F_0 = \emptyset, F_1 = \{0\}$$

- First sets:

$$F_0 = \emptyset$$

$$F_1 = \{0\} \quad F_2 = \{00\} \quad F_3 = \{000, 011\}$$

$$F_4 = \{0000, 0011, 0110\}$$

$$F_5 = \{00000, 00011, 00110, 01100, 01111\}$$

- The sequence  $(f_n)_{n \geq 0} = (\#F_n)_{n \geq 0}$  satisfies a second-order linear recurrence with constant coefficients and the generating function

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} f_n z^n = \frac{z}{1 - z - z^2}$$

is rational

## Our second example: $L = D$ (Dyck)

- From the basic recurrence

$$f_D(z) = 1 + z f_D(z)^2$$

and thus

$$f_D(z) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4z}}{2z}$$

- Expanding the radical (Newton's binomial theorem) gives Catalan numbers again:

$$f_D(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} d_n z^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} z^n$$

## The function $f_D(z)$

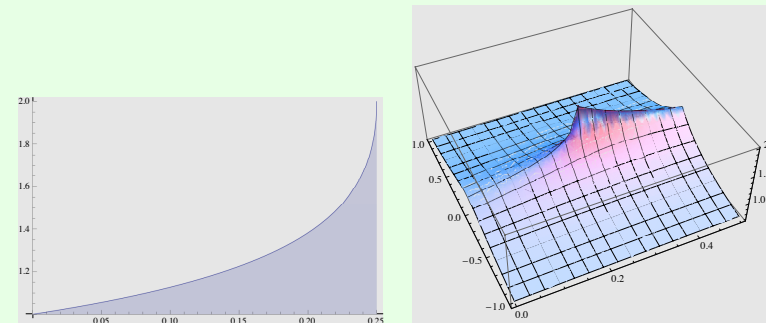


Figure: Graph of  $f_D(z)$  for  $0 \leq z \leq 1/4$  (left) and of  $|f_D(z)|$  for  $0 \leq \Re(z) \leq 0.5$  and  $-1 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1$  (right)

- $z = 1/4$  is an “algebraic singularity” of  $f_D(z)$  indeed the only singularity of  $f_D(z)$  and also the radius of convergence of the series

## $D$ is not rational!

- Generating function argument:

- ▷  $f_D(z) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4z}}{2z}$  is not a rational function!

- Asymptotic argument:

- ▷ Any sequence  $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$  that satisfies a linear recurrence with constant coefficients behaves asymptotically like

$$a_n \sim p(n) \lambda^n \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

where  $p(\cdot)$  is a polynomial

- ▷ We have seen

$$d_n \sim \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{2\pi} n^{3/2}} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

## Why counting?

- In fields like

- Probability (random generation)
  - Physics (statistical mechanics)
  - Chemistry (organic structures)
  - Algorithm analysis (average-case complexity)

important problems can be reduced to counting

- Information about the quantitative behaviour of systems can be deduced from the asymptotic behaviour of “number sequences”

- Asymptotics

- is usually easy if (exact) “closed” formulas are available — which is rarely the case
  - is (often) feasible if “nice” recurrences are available
  - is (often) feasible if the “generating functions” can be treated with methods of complex analysis (saddle point methods singularity analysis Mellin transforms...)

## The scenario for average-case complexity

- $\mathcal{D}$  : a family of objects (data)

- $\text{size} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  : a size-function of objects

$$\mathcal{D}_n : \text{objects of size } n \quad d_n = \#\mathcal{D}_n$$

- $\mathcal{A}$  : an algorithm that operates on objects from  $\mathcal{D}$

- $\text{cost}_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  : a cost-function for executing  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $\mathcal{D}$

$$c_n = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{D}_n} \text{cost}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) : \text{cumulated cost for } \mathcal{A} \text{ on } \mathcal{D}_n$$

- average-case complexity of  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $\mathcal{D}_n$ :

$$\frac{c_n}{d_n} = \frac{1}{d_n} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{D}_n} \text{cost}_{\mathcal{A}}(t)$$

- Goal: determine the asymptotic behaviour (growth rate) of the

$$\text{sequence } \left( \frac{c_n}{d_n} \right)_{n \geq 0} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

## The problem of average-case complexity

- Associate with  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\text{size}$  the generating function

$$d(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} d_n z^n = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{D}} z^{\text{size}(t)}$$

and with  $\text{cost}$  the generating function

$$c(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n z^n = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{D}} \text{cost}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) z^{\text{size}(t)}$$

- Or (if  $\text{cost}$  takes nonnegative integer values) take right away the bivariate generating function

$$w(u, z) = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{D}} u^{\text{cost}_{\mathcal{A}}(t)} z^{\text{size}(t)}$$

and note that  $d(z) = w(1, z)$ ,  $c(z) = \partial_u w(u, z)|_{u \leftarrow 1}$

- The problem is: functions  $d(z)$ ,  $c(z)$ ,  $w(u, z)$  are almost never known explicitly! They are accessible only through functional equations they satisfy. How can one get asymptotics from that?

## Analysis comes in ...

- Growth rates can be studied using generating functions. Why?
- Remember from your calculus class the Hadamard-criterion:
  - If the power series

$$a(z) = a_0 + a_1z + a_2z^2 + \dots$$

has radius of convergence  $\rho$  then

$$\rho^{-1} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}$$

- So one may expect as *exponential growth rate*:

$$(|a_n|)_{n \geq 0} \text{ grows like } \rho^{-n} \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

often written as:  $a_n \asymp \rho^{-n}$

- This is sufficient information in some cases but usually one has to take care of “subexponential factors” in order to get meaningful results

## The guiding rules

- Given a sequence  $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$  one would like to estimate its growth rate as

$$a_n = A^n \cdot \alpha(n)$$

where  $\alpha(n)$  grows sub-exponentially (or is even bounded)

- Basic insight:

- The exponential growth rate of a sequence  $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$  depends on the location of the dominant singularity — which for us is the radius of convergence  $\rho$  of  $a(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n$  so that  $A = \rho^{-1}$
- The associate subexponential factor  $\alpha(n)$  depends on the nature of  $\rho$  as a singularity: rational algebraic logarithmic...  
One has to look for the behaviour of  $a(z)$  as  $z$  approaches  $\rho$

## More analysis ... things get really complex

- Cauchy's integral formula  
If  $f(z)$  is an analytic function in some domain  $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  with  $0 \in D$  and if  $f(z) = a_0 + a_1z + a_2z^2 \dots$  is its power series expansion at  $z = 0$  then

$$a_n = [z^n] f(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z^{n+1}} dz$$

where  $\gamma$  is any (!) simple closed path around  $z = 0$  in  $D$

- Asymptotics of the Newton series coefficients for  $\alpha \notin -\mathbb{N}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} [z^n] (1-z)^{-\alpha} &= \binom{n+\alpha-1}{n} = \frac{\Gamma(n+\alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(n+1)} \\ &\sim \frac{n^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \left[ 1 + \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{2n} + \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)(\alpha-2)(3\alpha-1)}{24n^2} + \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

## The transfer principle (Flajolet-Odlyzko)

- The main idea is

$$a(z) \sim_{z \rightarrow \rho} \sigma(z) \Rightarrow [z^n] a(z) \sim [z^n] \sigma(z)$$

where  $\sigma(z)$  is a function usually much simpler than  $a(z)$

- This holds under certain (mild, for our applications) conditions with approximating functions (for  $\rho = 1$ ) like

$$\sigma(z) = \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{\alpha} \log^{\beta} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)$$

## Simple cases of transfer

- Let  $f(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} f_n z^n$  be a power series with radius of convergence  $\rho = 1$  and  $f(1) \neq 0$ . Then

$$[z^n] \frac{f(z)}{1-z} \sim f(1)$$

$$[z^n] f(z) \sqrt{1-z} \sim -\frac{f(1)}{2\sqrt{\pi n^3}}$$

$$[z^n] f(z) \log \frac{1}{1-z} \sim \frac{f(1)}{n}$$

## Motzkin trees

Consider the following variant of binary trees: unary-binary trees (a.k.a. Motzkin trees)

- $\mathcal{M}$  : trees where each internal node has either one or two (ordered) successors
- Written as a context-free grammar

$$\mathcal{M} : M \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid \star \mid M O M 1$$

- $M_n = M \cap \{0, 1, \star\}^n$ ,  $m_n = \#M_n$
- First sets

$$M_0 = \{\varepsilon\}$$

$$M_1 = \{\star\}$$

$$M_2 = \{\star\star, 01\}$$

$$M_3 = \{\star\star\star, \star 01, 0\star 1, 01\star\}$$

$$M_4 = \{\star\star\star\star, \star\star 01, \star 0\star 1, \star 01\star, 0\star\star 1, 0\star 1\star, 01\star\star, 0101, 0011\}$$

## Motzkin trees

- First values

$n$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$m_n$	1	1	2	4	9	21	51	127	323	835	2188

- Values can be computed quite easily

$$m_{100} = 737415571391164350797051905752637361193303669$$

- One has

$$m_n = \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{1}{j+1} \binom{2j}{j} \binom{n}{2j}$$

but there is no neat “closed form” of  $m_n$

- The numbers satisfy a recurrence

$$(n+1) m_{n+1} = (2n+3) m_n + 3n m_{n-1}, \quad m_0 = m_1 = 1$$

but it seems difficult to obtain asymptotic growth information

## Motzkin trees: look at the generating function

- The generating function

$$m(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} m_n z^n = 1 + z + 2z^2 + 4z^3 + 9z^4 + \dots$$

satisfies (from the grammar)

$$m(z) = 1 + z \cdot (m(z) + m(z)^2)$$

- and hence

$$m(z) = \frac{1 - z - \sqrt{1 - 2z - 3z^2}}{2z^2}$$

- because  $1 - 2z - 3z^2 = (1+z)(1-3z)$  the critical values (“singularities”) of  $m(z)$  are  $z = -1$  and  $z = 1/3$
- $\rho = 1/3$  is the “dominant singularity” (=radius of convergence) — expect  $m_n \asymp 3^n$



## Motzkin trees: singularities visualized

- Look at  $m(z)$  in the vicinity of  $\rho = 1/3$

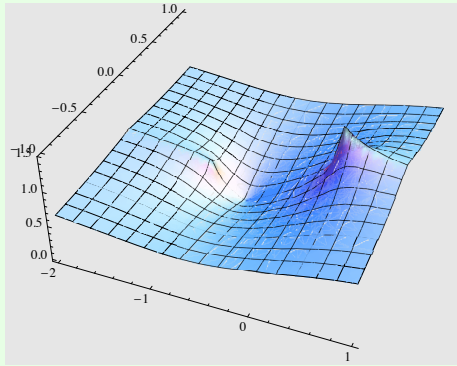


Figure: Plot of  $|m(z)|$  for  $-2 \leq \Re(z) \leq 1$  and  $-1 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1$

## Motzkin trees: look at the generating function (contd.)

- Expand  $m(z)$  around  $\rho = 1/3$ :

$$m(z) \approx 3(1 - \sqrt{3}\sqrt{1-3z})$$

- This gives

$$m_n = \frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi n^3}} \cdot 3^n \cdot \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right)$$

- Looking closer one can get

$$m_n = \left(\frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi n^3}} - \frac{117}{32} \sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi n^5}}\right) \cdot 3^n \cdot \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)\right)$$

and more ...

## Motzkin trees: look at the generating function (contd.)

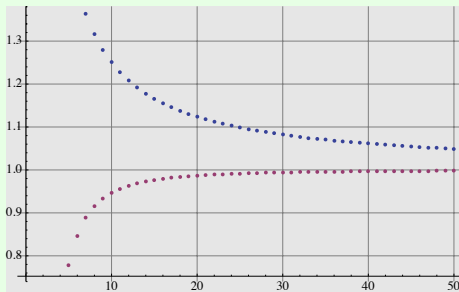
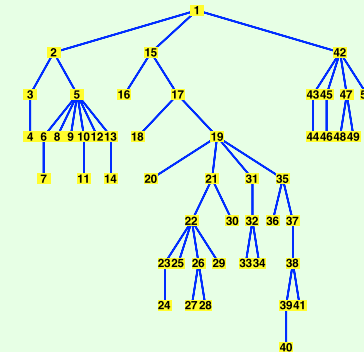


Figure: Two (relative) approximations of the  $(m_n)_{1 \leq n \leq 50}$

## Ordered trees

- Ordered trees (a.k.a. planted plane trees):
  - are rooted trees
  - with an arbitrary (finite) number of successors of each node
  - successors (subtrees) of a node are linearly ordered
- Example:



## Ordered trees and their levels

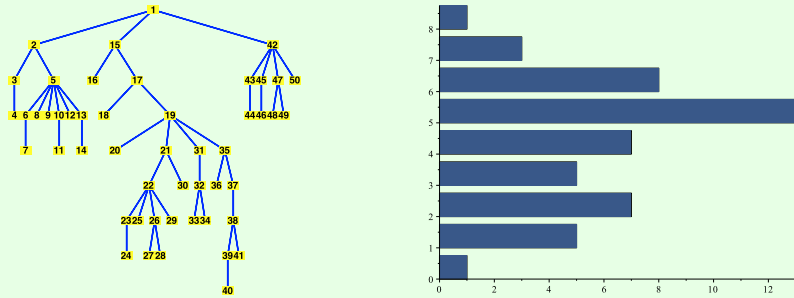


Figure: A random ordered tree with 50 nodes and its level distribution

## Ordered trees and their levels

- size of an ordered tree = number of nodes
- Interesting parameters of ordered trees (of size  $n$ )
  - height
    - can be anything between 1 and  $n - 1$
  - pathlength ( $\sim$  average level  $\cdot$  size)
    - can be anything between between  $n - 1$  and  $\binom{n}{2}$
  - level distribution
    - can be very different for different instances
- So, what is typical ?  
(i.e., averaging over all ordered trees of size  $n$ )
- Try to guess the answer from experiments!  
This need true random generation based on exact counting

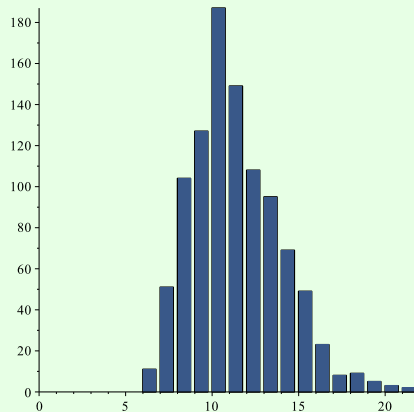


Figure: Height statistics for 1000 randomly generated trees of size 50

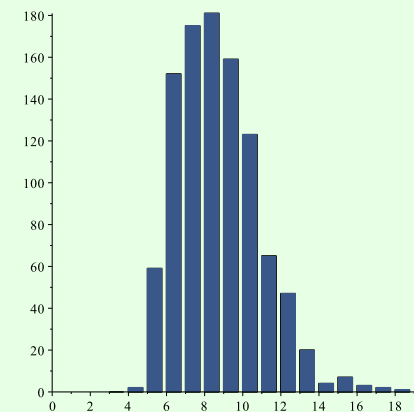


Figure: Average level statistics for 1000 randomly generated trees of size 100

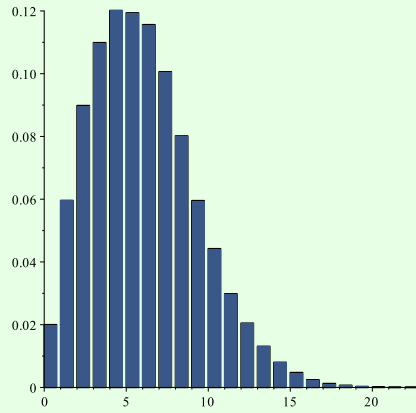


Figure: Average profile for 1000 randomly generated trees of size 50 (as a probability distribution)

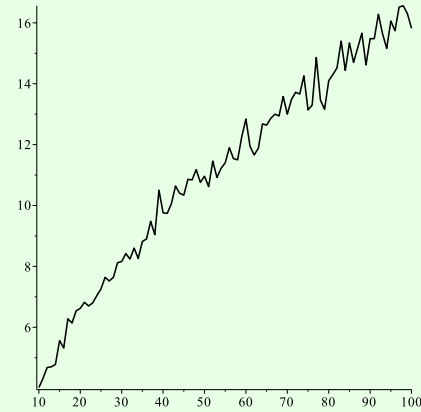


Figure: Average height for 50 randomly generated trees of sizes from 10 to 100

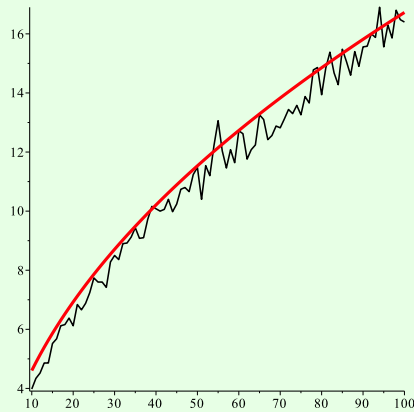


Figure: Average height for 50 randomly generated trees of sizes from 10 to 100 compared to the function  $n \mapsto \sqrt{\pi n} - 1$

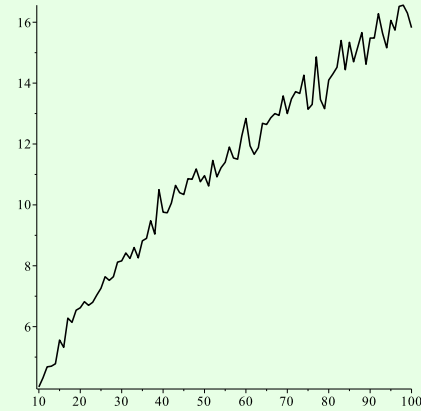


Figure: Aver. aver. level for 50 randomly generated trees of sizes from 10 to 100

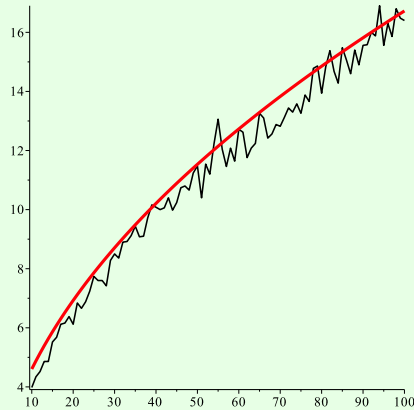


Figure: Aver. aver. level for 50 randomly generated trees of sizes from 10 to 100 compared to the function  $n \mapsto \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{\pi n} - 1)$

## Derivation as tree transformation

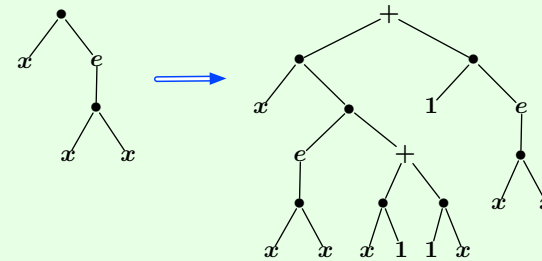


Figure: Derivation of  $x \cdot e^{x \cdot x}$

## The cost of taking derivatives

- Consider terms (term trees) for simple arithmetic expressions generated by the grammar

$$T \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid x \mid aTT \mid mTT \mid eT$$

- Symbolic differentiation  $D$  w.r.t.  $x$  is a term(tree) transformation given by

$$0 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{constant}$$

$$1 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{constant}$$

$$x \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{variable}$$

$$a t_\ell t_r \rightarrow a D(t_\ell) D(t_r) \quad \text{sum rule}$$

$$m t_\ell t_r \rightarrow a(m t_\ell D(t_r)) (m D(t_\ell) t_r) \quad \text{product rule}$$

$$e t \rightarrow m(e t) (D(t)) \quad \text{exponent rule}$$

## The cost of taking derivatives

- The size  $|t|$  of a termtree  $t$  is the number of its nodes
- The cost  $c_D(t)$  of  $D$  executed on a termtree  $t$  is  $|D(t)|$  so that

$$c_D(0) = c_D(1) = c_D(x) = 1$$

$$c_D(a t_\ell t_r) = 1 + c_D(t_\ell) + c_D(t_r)$$

$$c_D(m t_\ell t_r) = 3 + |t_\ell| + |t_r| + c_D(t_\ell) + c_D(t_r)$$

$$c_D(e t) = 2 + |t| + c_D(t)$$

- Consider now the bivariate generating function

$$c_D(u, z) = \sum_{t \in T} u^{c_D(t)} z^{|t|}$$

- From the cost equations:

$$c_D(u, z) = 3uz + uz c_D(u, z)^2 + u^3 z c_D(u, uz)^2 + u^2 z c_D(u, uz)$$

- There is no hope to solve such an equation explicitly!

## The cost of taking derivatives

- One obtains by iteration

$$c_D(u, z) = 3uz + 3u^4z^2 + (9u^3 + 9u^7 + 3u^8)z^3 \\ + (18u^6 + 9u^8 + 18u^{11}9u^{12} + 3u^{13})z^4 + \mathcal{O}(z^5)$$

- Setting  $u = 1$  gives the structure generating function

$$t(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} t_n z^n = c_D(1, z) = \frac{1 - z - \sqrt{1 - 2z - 23z^2}}{4z}$$

- This generating function starts as follows:

$$t(z) = 3z + 3z^2 + 21z^3 + 57z^4 + 327z^5 + 1263z^6 + 6753z^7 + \mathcal{O}(z^8)$$

## The cost of taking derivatives

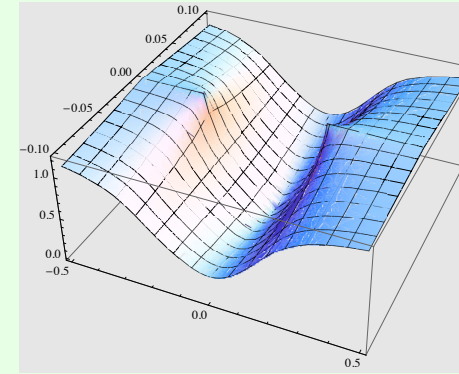


Figure: Plot of the structure generating function  $|t(z)|$

Visibly there are two algebraic singularities — that is where  $1 - 2z - 23z^2 = 0$  i.e.  $z = \frac{1}{23}(-1 \pm 2\sqrt{6})$

## The cost of taking derivatives

- Knowing  $t(z)$  one can solve for the cumulative cost generating function

$$c(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n z^n = \partial_u c_D(u, z)|_{u \leftarrow 1}$$

where  $c_n = \sum_{|t|=n} c_D(t)$

- It turns out that

$$c(z) = \frac{(1 - 2z - 12z^2) R - 1 + 3z + 34z^2}{4zR^2}$$

where  $R = \sqrt{1 - 2z - 23z^2}$

- This generating function starts with

$$c(z) = 3z + 12z^2 + 114z^3 + 525z^4 + 3711z^5 + 19572z^6 \\ + 124194z^7 + 696585z^8 + 4231131z^9 + 24382812z^{10} + \mathcal{O}(z^{11})$$

## The cost of taking derivatives

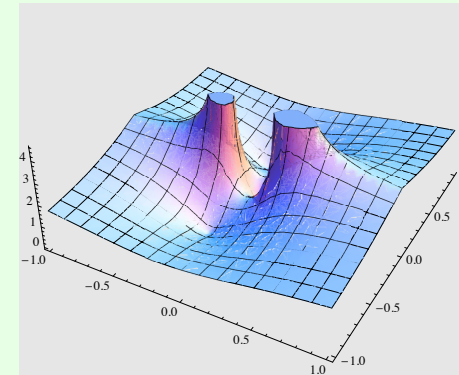


Figure: The cost generation function  $c(z)$  and its singularities

Visibly there are poles at precisely those positions where  $t(z)$  had algebraic singularities

## The cost of taking derivatives

- So what is the asymptotic behaviour of the sequence  $\left(\frac{c_n}{t_n}\right)_{n \geq 0}$  ?
- The series expansions for  $t(z)$  and  $c(z)$  have the same radius of convergence which is the absolute smallest (dominant) singularity which is
 
$$\rho = \frac{-1 + 2\sqrt{6}}{23} \approx 0.169521$$
- Since both series have the same radius of convergence it does not help at all to consider just the exponential growth rate ... one must look closer
- So what is the behaviour of  $t(z)$  and of  $c(z)$  as  $z \rightarrow \rho$  ?

## Getting your hands dirty...or your computer busy

$$\begin{aligned}
 t(z) &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{6} - 12}{2\sqrt{6} - 1} \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{276 - 23\sqrt{6}}}{2\sqrt{6} - 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{1/2} \\
 &\quad + \frac{23}{4} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6} - 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{23}{16} \frac{(-71 + 4\sqrt{6})\sqrt{276 - 23\sqrt{6}}}{2\sqrt{6} - 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{3/2} \\
 &\quad + \frac{23}{4} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6} - 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^4 + \mathcal{O}\left(\left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{5/2}\right) \\
 &= 1.2248 - 1.9006 X + 1.4748 X^2 - 1.5225 X^3 + 1.4748 X^4 + \mathcal{O}(X^5)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } X = \sqrt{1 - \frac{z}{\rho}}$$

## Getting your hands dirty...or your computer busy

$$\begin{aligned}
 c(z) &= \frac{1}{48} \frac{(126 + \sqrt{6})\sqrt{6}}{(2\sqrt{6} - 1)^2} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{-1} \\
 &\quad - \frac{11}{96} \frac{\sqrt{-\frac{2}{23} + \frac{4}{23}\sqrt{6} + 46\rho^2}(-25 + 4\sqrt{6})\sqrt{6}}{(2\sqrt{6} - 1)^2} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{-1/2} \\
 &\quad - \frac{23}{192} \frac{109\sqrt{6} - 66}{(2\sqrt{6} - 1)^2} \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{4416} \frac{-80640 + 89819\sqrt{6}}{(2\sqrt{6} - 1)^2 \sqrt{-\frac{2}{23} + \frac{4}{23}\sqrt{6} + 46\rho^2}} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{1/2} \\
 &\quad + \frac{23}{4608} \frac{(-2478 + 241\sqrt{6})\sqrt{6}}{(2\sqrt{6} - 1)^2} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^{3/2}\right) \\
 &= 0.43118 X^{-2} + 0.36172 X^{-1} - 3.1019 + 1.6108 X - 1.5181 X^2 + \mathcal{O}(X^3)
 \end{aligned}$$

## The cost of taking derivatives: the final result

- The asymptotic behaviour turns out to be

$$\begin{aligned}
 [z^n] t(z) &= t_n = \rho^{-n} \left(0.53615 n^{-3/2} + 0.20105 n^{-5/2} + \mathcal{O}(n^{-7/2})\right) \\
 [z^n] c(z) &= c_n = \rho^{-n} \left(0.43118 + 0.20408 n^{-1/2} + \mathcal{O}(n^{-3/2})\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\rho^{-1} = 5.89898\dots$

- So the average case complexity behaves like

$$\frac{c_n}{t_n} \sim \frac{0.43118}{0.53615} n^{3/2} = 0.8055\dots n^{3/2}$$

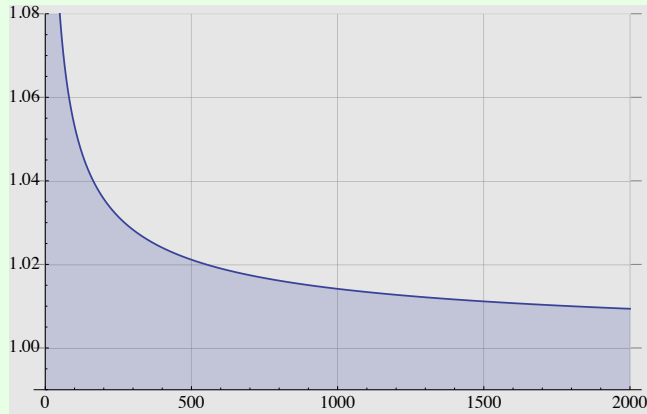


Figure: Plot of  $\frac{c_n/t_n}{0.8055n^{3/2}}$  for  $n = 50..2000$

## Differentiation with shared subexpressions

- Same setup for term trees and derivation as before: — but now existing subexpression are not copied, so that
- Symbolic differentiation  $D$

$$0 \rightarrow 0, \quad 1 \rightarrow 0, \quad x \rightarrow 1$$

$$a \ t_\ell \ t_r \rightarrow a \ D(t_\ell) \ D(t_r)$$

$$m \ t_\ell \ t_r \rightarrow a \ (m \ t_\ell \ D(t_r)) \ (m \ D(t_\ell) \ t_r)$$

$$e \ t \rightarrow m \ (e \ t) \ (D(t))$$

- cost  $\tilde{c}_D(t)$  is now

$$\tilde{c}_D(0) = \tilde{c}_D(1) = \tilde{c}_D(x) = 1$$

$$\tilde{c}_D(a \ t_\ell \ t_r) = 1 + \tilde{c}_D(t_\ell) + \tilde{c}_D(t_r)$$

$$\tilde{c}_D(m \ t_\ell \ t_r) = 3 + \mathbf{0} \cdot |t_\ell| + \mathbf{0} \cdot |t_r| + \tilde{c}_D(t_r) + \tilde{c}_D(t_\ell)$$

$$\tilde{c}_D(e \ t) = 2 + \mathbf{0} \cdot |t| + \tilde{c}_D(t)$$

## Differentiation with shared subexpressions

- The cost generating function

$$\tilde{c}(u, z) = \sum_{t \in T} u^{\tilde{c}(t)} z^{|t|}$$

now satisfies

$$\tilde{c}_D(u, z) = 3uz + uz \tilde{c}_D(u, z)^2 + u^3 z \tilde{c}_D(u, z)^2 + u^2 z \tilde{c}_D(u, z)$$

- The cumulative cost generating function

$$\tilde{c}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \tilde{c}_n z^n = \partial_u \tilde{c}_D(u, z)|_{u \leftarrow 1}$$

where  $\tilde{c}_n = \sum_{|t|=n} \tilde{c}_D(t)$  now starts

$$3z + 9z^2 + 87z^3 + 345z^4 + 2403z^5 + 11553z^6 + 71319z^7 + O(z^8)$$

## Differentiation with shared subexpressions

- As before

$$t(z) = 1.2248 - 1.9006 X + 1.4748 X^2 - 1.5225 X^3 + 1.4748 X^4 + O(X^5)$$

$$\text{where } X = \sqrt{1 - \frac{z}{\rho}}$$

- But now

$$c(z) = \frac{1}{32} \frac{1}{(1 - 2\sqrt{6})^2 a X} \times$$

$$\times \left( 6608 \sqrt{6} - 5328 + (368 - 736\sqrt{6}) a X + (12819 \sqrt{6} - 9894) X^2 + O(\dots) \right)$$

$$\text{where } a = \sqrt{276 - 23\sqrt{6}}$$

## Differentiation with shared subexpressions

- As before, apply the transfer method to obtain
- The asymptotic behaviour turns out to be

$$[z^n] t(z) = t_n = \rho^{-n} \left( 0.53615 n^{-3/2} + 0.20105 n^{-5/2} + \mathcal{O}(n^{-7/2}) \right)$$

$$[z^n] c(z) = c_n = \rho^{-n} \left( 0.84967 n^{-1/2} - 0.10620 n^{-3/2} + \mathcal{O}(n^{-5/2}) \right)$$

where  $\rho^{-1} = 5.89898\dots$

- So the average case complexity behaves like

$$\frac{c_n}{t_n} \sim \frac{0.84967}{0.53615} n = 1.58476\dots n$$

- Subexpression sharing decreases average case complexity from  $\mathcal{O}(n^{3/2})$  to  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  !
- This hold for large classes of term rewriting algorithms

## Meir-Moon's asymptotic counting of trees

- $\Omega = \bigcup_{k \geq 0} \Omega_k$  : a set of function symbols of different arities (signature) with  $\omega_k = \#\Omega_k$
- $T_\Omega$  :  $\Omega$ -(term)-trees so that

$$T_\Omega = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega \cdot T_\Omega^{ar(\omega)} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \sum_{\omega \in \Omega_k} \omega \cdot T_\Omega^k$$

- $T_{\Omega,n}$  :  $\Omega$ -(term)-trees of size  $n$ ,  $t_{\Omega,n} = \#T_{\Omega,n}$
- Theorem: (under mild technical conditions)

$$t_{\Omega,n} = \sqrt{\frac{\omega(\tau)}{2\pi \omega''(\tau)}} \rho^{-n} n^{-3/2} \left( 1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \right)$$

where  $\omega(z) = \sum_k \omega_k z^k$  and

- $\tau$  is the smallest positive root of  $\omega(z) = z\omega'(z)$
- $\rho = \tau/\omega(\tau)$

## Meir-Moon's asymptotic counting of trees

- Some remarks about the proof
  - The generating function

$$t_\Omega(z) = \sum_{t \in T_\Omega} z^{\text{size}(t)} = \sum_{n \geq 0} t_{\Omega,n} z^n$$

satisfies (uniquely) the fixed point equation

$$y(z) = z \cdot \omega(y(z))$$

- The Implicit Function Theorem gives information about the existence of a unique analytic solution in the vicinity of  $z = \rho$

## Meir-Moon's asymptotic counting of trees

- Some remarks about the proof (contd.)
  - In the vicinity of  $z = \rho$

$$t_\Omega(z) = g(z) + h(z) \sqrt{1 - \frac{z}{\rho}}$$

with analytic functions  $g(z), h(z)$  (around  $\rho$ ) which satisfy

$$h(\rho) = \tau \text{ and } g(\rho) = -\sqrt{\frac{2\omega(\tau)}{\omega''(\tau)}}$$

- Under appropriate technical conditions the (dominant) singularity of  $t_\Omega(z)$  at  $z = \rho$  is well-behaved (is a "Camembert-singularity") – thus the Transfer Principle can be applied



## Average level and height of ordered trees

- The average level (or pathlength) of ordered trees can be obtained
  - by a similar technique as used for evaluation of symbolic differentiation...
  - by an argument that employs Lagrange's formula...
- There seems to be an intimate relation between average height and average level ...
  - This is somewhat surprising!
  - So why is that indeed the case?

## The number of ordered trees

- Counting ordered trees is easy!
  - Let  $t_n$  = the number of ordered trees with  $n$  nodes
  - Let  $t(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} t_n z^n$  be the generating function

$$t(z) = z + z^2 + 2z^3 + 5z^4 + 14z^5 + 42z^6 \dots$$

Catalan numbers show up again!

- From the structure of ordered trees

$$t(z) = \underbrace{z}_{\text{root}} \cdot \left( \underbrace{1}_{\text{no subtree}} + \underbrace{t(z)}_{\text{one subtree}} + \underbrace{t(z)^2}_{\text{two subtrees}} + \underbrace{t(z)^3}_{\text{three subtrees}} + \dots \right)$$

$$= z \cdot \frac{1}{1 - t(z)}$$

- and thus

$$t(z) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4z}}{2} \quad t_n = \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n - 2}{n - 1} = d_{n-1}$$

## Level distribution of ordered trees

- Comment: There is a neat correspondence between binary trees with  $n$  internal nodes and ordered trees with  $n + 1$  nodes (and Dyck words of length  $2n$ ), which has been studied and used a lot ...  
...but height and pathlength do not behave well w.r.t. to it
- Consider now

$$\ell_{n,k} = \text{total number of nodes on level } k \text{ in all trees of size } n$$

- This quantity has a nice expression

$$\ell_{n,k} = \frac{2k + 1}{n + k} \binom{2n - 2}{n - k - 1}$$

In particular:  $\ell_{n,0} = t_n = d_{n-1}$

## Level distribution of ordered trees

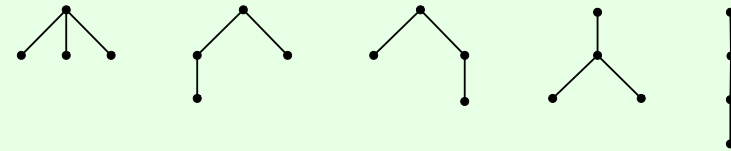


Figure: Ordered trees of size 4

level distribution:  $\ell_{4,0} = 5, \ell_{4,1} = 9, \ell_{4,2} = 5, \ell_{4,3} = 1$   
cumulated pathlength:

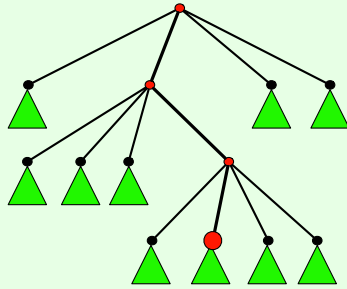
$$3 + 4 + 4 + 5 + 6 = 22 = 0 \cdot \ell_{4,0} + 1 \cdot \ell_{4,1} + 2 \cdot \ell_{4,2} + 3 \cdot \ell_{4,3}$$

## A closer combinatoriel look

- Determining  $\ell_{n,k}$  via generating functions
  - Claim:  $\ell_{n,k}$  is the coefficient of  $z^n$  in the series expansion (around  $z = 0$ ) of the function

$$z^k \cdot t(z) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-t(z))^{2k}}$$

- The explanation (case  $k = 3$ ):



## from the very early days of complex analysis ... Lagrange!

- A version of Lagrange's formula
  - Let  $\phi(z)$  be a known "analytic" function around  $z = 0$  with  $\phi(0) \neq 0$
  - Let  $w(z)$  be the "analytic" function defined implicitly by

$$w(z) = z \cdot \phi(w(z))$$

(implicit function theorem!)

- Then:

coefficient of  $z^n$  in the series expansion of  $w(z)^k$   
=

$$\frac{k}{n} \cdot \text{coefficient of } z^{n-1} \text{ in the series expansion of } z^{k-1} \cdot \phi(z)^n$$

- shorthand:

$$[z^n] w(z)^k = \frac{k}{n} [z^{n-1}] z^{k-1} \cdot \phi(z)^n$$

- This is residue calculus + variable transform
- This helps, if  $\phi(z)$  is sufficiently simple ...

## now let's calculate ...

- For ordered trees:  $t(z) = \frac{z}{1-t(z)}$ , so  $\phi(z) = \frac{1}{1-z}$
- Let's go ...

$$\ell_{n,k} = [z^n] z^k \cdot t(z) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-t(z))^{2k}}$$

the tree decomposition

$$= [z^n] z^k \cdot t(z)^{2k+1}$$

using  $t(z) = \frac{1}{1-t(z)}$

$$= [z^{n+k}] t(z)^{2k+1}$$

just shifting

$$= \frac{2k+1}{n+k} \cdot [z^{n+k-1}] z^{2k} \cdot \frac{1}{(1-z)^{n+k}}$$

Lagrange strikes with  $\phi(z) = \frac{1}{1-z}$

$$= \frac{2k+1}{n+k} \cdot [z^{n-k-1}] \frac{1}{(1-z)^{n+k}}$$

shifting again

$$= \frac{2k+1}{n+k} \binom{2n-2}{n-k-1}$$

Newtons binomial theorem

## Level distribution: the result

- Consequence:
  - By Stirling's formula one obtains for the average number of nodes on level  $k$  in trees of size  $n$ :

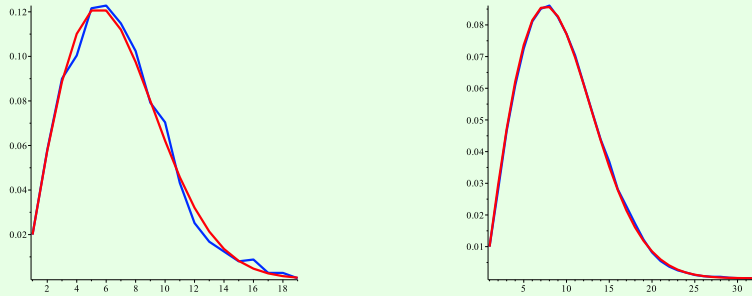
$$\overline{\ell_{n,k}} = \frac{\ell_{n,k}}{t_n} = \frac{2k+1}{n+k} \cdot \frac{\binom{2n-2}{n-k-1}}{n \cdot \binom{2n-2}{n-1}} \sim 2k e^{-k^2/n}$$

(at least if  $k \approx \sqrt{n}$ )

- Put  $k = \lambda\sqrt{n}$ , then

$$\overline{\ell_{n,\lambda\sqrt{n}}} \sim 2\lambda\sqrt{n} e^{-\lambda^2}$$

and this achieves its maximum (for  $n$  fixed) at  $\lambda = 1/2$



Sampled profiles (blue) for ordered trees, compared to true average (red), 50 samples for  $n = 50$  (left), 500 samples for  $n = 100$ (right)

### more juggling with generating series...

- The cumulated pathlength for trees of size  $n$  is (with  $t \equiv t(z)$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_k k \ell_{n,k} &= \sum_k k [z^n] z^{-k} t^{2k+1} && \text{decomposition} \\ &= [z^n] \sum_k k z^{-k} t^{2k+1} && \text{linearity} \\ &= [z^n] t \cdot \sum_k k (t^2/z)^k && \text{rearranging} \\ &= [z^n] t \cdot \frac{t^2/z}{(1-t^2/z)^2} && \text{derivative of} \\ & && \text{geometric series} \\ &= [z^n] z t \cdot \frac{t^2}{(z-t^2)^2} && \text{rearranging} \\ &= [z^{n-1}] \frac{t}{(1-2t)^2} && \text{using } z-t^2 = t-2t^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(4^{n-1} - \binom{2n-2}{n-1}) && \text{using } 1-2t = \sqrt{1-4z} \end{aligned}$$

### Average level: the result

- Consequence:
  - The average level of nodes in ordered trees of size  $n$  is

$$\frac{\sum_k k \cdot \ell_{n,k}}{n \cdot t_n} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(4^{n-1} - \binom{2n-2}{n-1})}{n \cdot \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}} \sim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi n} - \frac{1}{2} + \mathcal{O}(n^{-1/2})$$

### Height vs. pathlength

- What about height?
- height is an important parameter, but difficult to treat, because

$$\text{height}(tree) = 1 + \max_{t \in \text{subtrees}(tree)} \text{height}(t)$$

and max is a nonlinear function!

- Compare pathlength:

$$\text{pathlength}(tree) = \sum_{t \in \text{subtrees}(tree)} \text{pathlength}(t) + \text{size}(t)$$

which is linear (additive)

## The fundamental results

- (de Bruijn-Knuth-Rice, 1972)  
The average height of ordered trees with  $n$  nodes behaves as

$$\sim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\pi n}$$

- (Flajolet-Odlyzko, 1982)  
The average height of binary trees with  $n$  internal nodes behaves as

$$\sim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2\sqrt{\pi n}$$

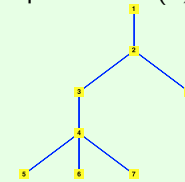
## ... a completely different approach ... level sequences

- The result for the height of ordered trees can be obtained combinatorially (no complex analysis needed !!) from the above result about the average level
- Ordered trees of size  $n$  can be represented by level sequences

$$t \mapsto \ell(t) = (\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_n)$$

where  $\ell_1 = 0, \quad 0 < \ell_{j+1} \leq \ell_j + 1 \quad (1 \leq j < n)$   
(recording node levels in preorder traversal)

- Example: Tree with level sequence  $\ell = (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 2)$



## level sequences of ordered trees

- height and pathlength translate easily

$$\text{height}(t) = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \ell_j =: \mu(\ell)$$

$$\text{pathlength}(t) = \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n =: \lambda(\ell) \cdot n$$

So  $\lambda(\ell)$  is the average level in  $t$

- Interesting fact:
  - There exists an involution  $\ell \mapsto \tilde{\ell}$  on  $L_n$  which satisfies

$$\lambda(\ell) + \lambda(\tilde{\ell}) - 1 < \frac{\mu(\ell) + \mu(\tilde{\ell})}{2} \leq \lambda(\ell) + \lambda(\tilde{\ell})$$

- This is tricky, as it requires an extension of the concept of level sequences to sequences which do no longer correspond to trees ...
- Consequence (by averaging over  $L_n$ ):

$$\bar{\mu}_n \approx 2\bar{\lambda}_n \sim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2\sqrt{\pi n}$$

## level sequences of ordered trees and more

- Generalized level sequences of length  $n$  are sequences  $\ell = (\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_n)$  such that

$$\ell_1 \leq 0, \quad \ell_n \geq 0, \quad \ell_{j+1} \leq \ell_j + 1 \quad (1 \leq j < n)$$

$GL_n$  : generalized level sequences of length  $n, \quad \#GL_n = \binom{2n-1}{n}$

- Shifting generalized level sequences

$$\sigma(\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_n) \mapsto \begin{cases} (\ell_2 - 1, \dots, \ell_n - 1, 0) & \text{if } \ell_1 = 0 \\ (\ell_1 + 1, \ell_2 + 1, \dots, \ell_n + 1) & \text{if } \ell_1 < 0 \end{cases}$$

- Facts:
  - $GL_n$  decomposes into  $\sigma$ -orbits of length  $2n - 1$
  - Each  $\sigma$ -orbit contains exactly one level sequence (alias tree!)



## Digging deeper — and finding $\phi$ again

- Let  $\sigma(z) = z^2 + z^3$  and consider the sequence by composition

$$\sigma^{(t+1)}(z) = \sigma(\sigma^{(t)}(z)) \quad \sigma^{(0)}(z) = z$$

- Then by unfolding the fixed-point equation

$$e(z) = \sigma^{(0)}(z) + \sigma^{(1)}(z) + \sigma^{(2)}(z) + \sigma^{(3)}(z) + \dots$$

- The equation  $\sigma(z) = z$  has  $\rho = \phi^{-1}$  as unique positive fixed point
- Easy exercise:  $(\sigma^{(n)}(z))_{n \geq 0} \rightarrow 0$  (rapidly) for any  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $|z| < \rho$
- Easy exercise:  $e(z)$  is unbounded as  $z \rightarrow \rho^-$
- $\rho = \phi^{-1}$  is the radius of convergence of  $e(z)$  hence:

$$e_n \asymp \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n$$

## For more information: work harder!

- But what about the subexponential factor?
- Needs analysis using the nature of the singularity
- On gets

$$e_n = \frac{\phi^n}{n} \Omega(\log n) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\phi^n}{n^2}\right)$$

where  $\Omega(z)$  is a periodic function with mean  $\phi \log(4 - \phi) \approx 0.71208$  and period  $\log(4 - \phi) \approx 0.86792$

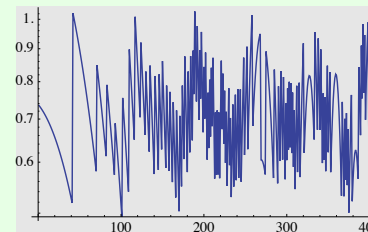


Figure: Plot of  $e_n / (\phi^n / n)$  for  $n = 1..400$  in logarithmic scale

## The fractal nature of convergence

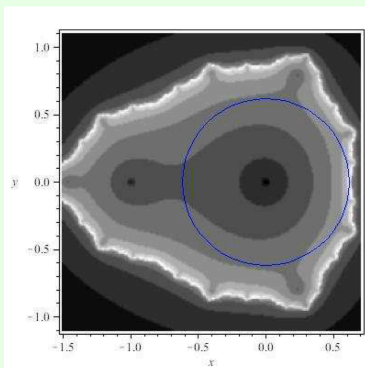


Figure: Domain of “analyticity” and circle of convergence of  $e(z)$

Picture taken from the “definitive” book *Analytic Combinatorics* by Ph. Flajolet and R. Sedgewick, Cambridge UP, 2009.

