# Lambda Calculus and the Four Colour Theorem

Noam Zeilberger School of Computer Science University of Birmingham

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### **Topological definition**

**map** = 2-cell embedding of a graph into a surface<sup>\*</sup>



considered up to deformation of the underlying surface.

\*All surfaces are assumed to be connected and oriented throughout this talk



### Algebraic definition

map = transitive permutation representation of the group

$$\mathsf{G} = \langle v, e, f \mid e^2 = vef = 1 \rangle$$

considered up to G-equivariant isomorphism.



$$v = (1 \ 2 \ 3)(4 \ 5 \ 6)(7 \ 6)(7 \ 6)(1 \ 8)(2 \ 11)(3 \ 4)(1 \ 6)(1 \ 7)($$

Note: can compute genus from Euler characteristic

$$c(v) - c(e) + c(e) +$$

# (f) = 2 - 2g

# $8 9)(10 11 12) \\(5 12)(6 7)(9 10) \\8 3 6 9 12 4)$

### **Combinatorial definition**

map = connected graph + cyclic ordering of
the half-edges around each vertex (say, as given
by a drawing with "virtual crossings").





### Graph versus Map



### Some special kinds of maps









# Aside: close connections to knot theory via the **medial map** construction





# Four Colour Theorem

The 4CT is a statement about maps.

every bridgeless planar map has a proper face 4-coloring



By a well-known reduction (Tait 1880), 4CT is equivalent to a statement about 3-valent maps

every bridgeless planar 3-valent map has a proper edge 3-coloring



# Map enumeration

From time to time in a graph-theoretical career one's thoughts turn to the Four Colour Problem. It occurred to me once that it might be possible to get results of interest in the theory of map-colourings without actually solving the Problem. For example, it might be possible to find the average number of colourings on vertices, for planar triangulations of a given size.

One would determine the number of triangulations of 2n faces, and then the number of 4-coloured triangulations of 2n faces. Then one would divide the second number by the first to get the required average. I gathered that this sort of retreat from a difficult problem to a related average was not unknown in other branches of Mathematics, and that it was particularly common in Number Theory.

### W. T. Tutte, Graph Theory as I Have Known It

# Map enumeration

### Tutte wrote a pioneering series of papers (1962-1969)

- W. T. Tutte (1962), A census of planar triangulations. Canadian Journal of Mathematics 14:21–38
- W. T. Tutte (1962), A census of Hamiltonian polygons. Can. J. Math. 14:402–417
- W. T. Tutte (1962), A census of slicings. Can. J. Math. 14:708–722
- W. T. Tutte (1963), A census of planar maps. Can. J. Math. 15:249-271
- W. T. Tutte (1968), On the enumeration of planar maps. Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society 74:64–74
- W. T. Tutte (1969), On the enumeration of four-colored maps. SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics 17:454–460

### One of his insights was to consider **rooted** maps



Key property: rooted maps have no non-trivial automorphisms

### Map enumeration

Ultimately, Tutte obtained some remarkably simple formulas for counting different families of rooted planar maps.

(5.1) The number  $a_n$  of rooted maps with n edges is

$$\frac{2(2n)! \, 3^n}{n! \, (n+2)!}.$$

We write

$$A(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n x^n.$$

Thus  $A(x) = 2x + 9x^2 + 54x^3 + 378x^4 + ...$  Figure 2 shows the 2 rooted maps with 1 edge, and Figure 3 the 9 rooted maps with 2 edges.



### family of rooted maps

### family of lambda terms

trivalent maps (genus g $\geq$ 0)

linear terms

sequence

1,5,60,1105,27120,...

1. O. Bodini, D. Gardy, A. Jacquot (2013), Asymptotics and random sampling for BCI and BCK lambda terms, TCS 502: 227-238

OEIS = Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences (oeis.org)

### OEIS 0,... A062980



1. O. Bodini, D. Gardy, A. Jacquot (2013), Asymptotics and random sampling for BCI and BCK lambda terms, TCS 502: 227-238 2. Z, A. Giorgetti (2015), A correspondence between rooted planar maps and normal planar lambda terms, LMCS 11(3:22): 1-39

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family of rooted maps	family of lambda terms	sequence	OEIS
trivalent maps (genus g≥0) planar trivalent maps bridgeless trivalent maps bridgeless planar trivalent maps maps (genus g≥0) planar maps bridgeless maps	linear terms planar terms unitless linear terms unitless planar terms normal linear terms (mod ~) normal planar terms normal unitless linear terms (mod ~)	1,5,60,1105,27120, 1,4,32,336,4096, 1,2,20,352,8624, 1,1,4,24,176,1456, 1,2,10,74,706,8162, 1,2,9,54,378,2916, 1,1,4,27,248,2830, 1,1,2,12,68,200	A062980 A002005 A267827 A000309 A000698 A000168 A000699 A000260

1. O. Bodini, D. Gardy, A. Jacquot (2013), Asymptotics and random sampling for BCI and BCK lambda terms, TCS 502: 227-238 2. Z, A. Giorgetti (2015), A correspondence between rooted planar maps and normal planar lambda terms, LMCS 11(3:22): 1-39 3. Z (2015), Counting isomorphism classes of beta-normal linear lambda terms, arXiv:1509.07596 4. Z (2016), Linear lambda terms as invariants of rooted trivalent maps, J. Functional Programming 26(e21) 5. J. Courtiel, K. Yeats, Z (2016), Connected chord diagrams and bridgeless maps, arXiv:1611.04611 6. Z (2017), A sequent calculus for a semi-associative law, FSCD

### (technical focus of today's talk)

family of rooted maps	family of lambda terms	sequence	OEIS
trivalent maps (genus g≥0)	linear terms	1,5,60,1105,27120,	A062980
planar trivalent maps	planar terms	1,4,32,336,4096,	A002005
bridgeless trivalent maps	unitless linear terms	1,2,20,352,8624,	A267827
bridgeless planar trivalent maps	unitless planar terms	1,1,4,24,176,1456,	A000309
maps (genus g≥0)	normal linear terms (mod ~)	1,2,10,74,706,8162,	A000698
planar maps	normal planar terms	1,2,9,54,378,2916,	A000168
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# Representing terms as graphs (an idea from the folklore)

x(λz.yz

Represent a term as a "tree with pointers", with lambda nodes pointing to the occurrences of the corresponding bound variable (or conversely).

This old idea is especially natural for linear terms.

 $\lambda x . \lambda y . x (\lambda z . y z)$ 

(ထ)

λу.х(λz.yz) Ҳ



# Representing terms as graphs (an idea from the folklore)



Thus, bound variables become "formal parameter" nodes which refer back to the appropriate function definition in which the variable is bound. Such a structure gives the essential content of the lambda notation, except for the definition of functional application which can now be given in various ways in terms of the node structures.

D. E. Knuth (1970), "Examples of formal semantics", in Symposium on Semantics of Algorithmic Languages.

### Representing proofs as graphs (a closely related idea)



R. Statman (1974), Structural Complexity of Proofs, PhD Thesis, Stanford University J.-Y. Girard (1987), Linear Logic, Theoretical Computer Science

### $\lambda$ -graphs as string diagrams

Idea (after D. Scott): a linear lambda term may be interpreted as an endomorphism of a reflexive object in a symmetric monoidal closed (bi)category.

$$U \xrightarrow{@} U \multimap U$$

By interpreting this morphism in the graphical language of compact closed (bi)categories, we obtain the traditional diagram associated to the linear lambda term.



### From linear terms to rooted 3-valent maps via string diagrams

 $\lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.x(yz)$ λx.λy.λz.(xz)y  $x,y \vdash (xy)(\lambda z.z) \quad x,y \vdash x((\lambda z.z)y)$ 

### From linear terms to rooted 3-valent maps via string diagrams





### From linear terms to rooted 3-valent maps via string diagrams



 $\lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.x(yz)$ 

 $\lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.(xz)y$ 

 $x,y \vdash (xy)(\lambda z.z) \quad x,y \vdash x((\lambda z.z)y)$ 



### Diagrams versus Terms

Note: two different diagrams can correspond to the same underlying map.



Indeed, a diagram is just a 3-valent map + a proper orientation.

But we will see that every rooted trivalent map has a **unique** orientation corresponding to the diagram of a linear lambda term...



### Rooted 3-valent maps, inductively

Observation: any rooted 3-valent map must have one of the following forms.





disconnecting root vertex

connecting root vertex



### Linear lambda terms, inductively

...but this exactly mirrors the inductive structure of linear lambda terms!



application



abstraction





### variable

















 $\lambda a.\lambda b.\lambda c.\lambda d.\lambda e.a(\lambda f.c(e(b(df))))$ 

### An operadic perspective

Let  $\Theta(n) = \text{set of isomorphism classes of rooted 3-valent maps}$ with n non-root boundary arcs.

Θ defines a **symmetric operad** equipped with operations  $(\mathbb{Q}: \Theta(m) \times \Theta(n) \rightarrow \Theta(m+n))$  $\lambda_i : \Theta(m+1) \rightarrow \Theta(m) \quad [1 \le i \le m+1]$ 

naturally isomorphic to the operad of linear lambda terms.

### An operadic perspective

Moreover,  $\Theta$  has some natural suboperads:

- $\Theta_0$  = the *non-symmetric* operad of **planar** 3-valent maps = **ordered** linear lambda terms (i.e., no exchange rule)
- $\Theta^2$  = the constant-free operad of **bridgeless** maps = linear terms with no closed subterms ("unitless")
- $\Theta_0^2$  = rooted bridgeless planar 3-valent maps = ordered linear terms with no closed subterms



### family of rooted maps

### family of lambda terms

### sequence

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### **OEIS**

## A000168

We gave a bijective proof of the correspondence based on a simulation of Tutte's techniques in lambda calculus, albeit with an alternative convention for which lambda terms are "planar".

Finding a natural bijection between rooted planar maps and  $\beta$ -normal ordered terms is an open problem.







rooted planar map with six edges and outer face degree two.



FIGURE 9. Full decomposition of a normal planar lambda term with seven s-nodes and three outer neutral handles, in parallel with the corresponding

Quotient by the relation  $\lambda x \cdot \lambda y \cdot t \sim \lambda y \cdot \lambda x \cdot t$ .

(Perhaps more natural to think of this as an isomorphism between their principal types  $A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C) \approx B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)...$ 

One can prove that the generating function counting equivalence classes of β-normal linear terms by size and free variables equals the GF counting rooted maps by edges and vertices.

Finding a natural bijection is an open problem.

### A000699

A (rooted) **chord diagram** is a perfect matching on a linearly ordered set.



**Indecomposable** chord diagrams are in bijection with maps.

**Connected** chord diagrams are in bijection with bridgeless maps.

### A000260

### The **Tamari lattices** are the posets of binary trees ordered by rotation.



**Intervals** of Tamari lattices are in bijection with bridgeless planar maps.

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# Linear typing



# Linear typings as flows



Proposition: Every unitless ordered linear term has a typing in  $G = \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  such that no subterm is assigned the type (0,0).

# Linear typings as flows



Proposition: Every unitless ordered linear term has a typing in  $G = \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  such that no subterm is assigned the type (0,0).

(Proof: This is equivalent to 4CT.)

### Example ("the Tutte graph")



(From W. T. Tutte, "On Hamiltonian Circuits", Journal of the London Mathematical Society 21 (1946), 98–101.)

### The associated lambda term

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

 $\lambda a \lambda b \lambda c \lambda d \lambda e \lambda f \lambda g \lambda h \lambda i.a(\lambda j \lambda k.((\lambda l \lambda m \lambda n.b(\lambda o.c(\lambda p.d(l(m((no)p))))))(\lambda q \lambda r \lambda s.e(\lambda t.f(\lambda u.g(q(r((st)u)))))))(\lambda v \lambda w.h(\lambda x.i(j((kv)(wx))))))))))$ 

# The principal typing

![](_page_51_Figure_1.jpeg)

type variables

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Figure_1.jpeg)

b = f = i = j = k = l = s = t = v = Gc = e = h = n = p = q = x = B $\beta$  : G = G

![](_page_53_Picture_0.jpeg)