



CS1021

Discrete Mathematics

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Room 2.105

1: Background

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This lecture will make a start at attempting to answer these complaints.

What is 'discrete' maths anyway?

Most of maths seen before has been aimed at modelling continuous processes.

Real numbers

Calculus

Mechanics

etc etc

In discrete maths objects of interest are *separate* (discrete) rather than members of a continuum like the reals

Often *finite* objects (like computers)

Interested in sets of objects with interesting properties – *discrete structures*

Mathematical models

'Applied' maths usually about modelling 'real world' objects

eg real numbers and mechanics

$$F = m \times a$$

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Mathematical models aid clarity of thought

Can identify common aspects of apparently disparate phenomena

Abstraction

Abstraction is one of the ways human mind uses to manage complexity

Ignore unnecessary detail

eg Newton's laws of Universal Gravitation

Can predict accurately orbits of planets by treating them as though they are point masses

Abstraction used to simplify description of complex objects by ignoring all but 'important' features

Also procedural abstraction – simplifies description of activities

Do this all the time

eg walking across the room

Without abstraction human thought could have made no progress

In CS usually need to model discrete (and finite) objects

State of memory

Databases

Process of computation

Hardware

Programs

Knowledge bases

Parallel computing

etc etc

When make abstraction of these and many other aspects of computer science some relatively simple discrete mathematical structures emerge.

Some of these are the subject of this course

Course contents

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- Discrete structures

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- Sets and functions

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- Relations and Graphs
- Induction
- Combinatorics and Probability

Course structure

- 21 lectures (twice weekly)
- Examples classes – weekly in lab groups. These will start **next week**.
Group Z, Monday at 4:00. Group Y, Thursday at 12:00.
Exercises, which are contined in course notes, should be done in your log book.
- Assessment – mid semester test (15%) and exam in January (85%)

Books

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K H Rosen
McGraw-Hill 2002

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- Discrete Mathematics for New Technology
R. Garnier and J. Taylor
Institute of Physics Publishing

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- Discrete Mathematics for New Technology
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Institute of Physics Publishing
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An introduction to Mathematical Reasoning
Peter Eccles
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CUP
- The last two cover only a part of the material in the course. Let me know of any others that you find useful

Web page

The course web page is at

`http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/~graham/cs1021.html`