

# Course Introduction

Dr Patrick Chan

School of Computer Science and Engineering  
South China University of Technology

## Discrete Mathematics is...

- **Mathematics**
  - Study of numbers?
    - Number is just a kind of *well-defined concept*
  - Mathematics is the **study** of any **truth** regarding **well-defined concepts**

# Discrete Mathematics is...

- **Discrete**
  - **Distinct, separable**  
(in contrast to continuous)
  - Example
    - Integer number
    - State
    - Digital Computer

# Discrete Mathematics is...

- **Discrete Mathematics** is the study of any **truth** regarding **discrete entities**
- Discrete math is the **foundation** for the **rigorous understanding of computer systems**
- So, what is it really?

# A Discrete Problem: Sudoku

- What are the **rules** of Sudoku?
- Write down an **algorithm** for solving Sudoku
- Does your algorithm **always solve** the puzzle? How can you **prove** it?
- How long** does your algorithm take to finish in the worst case?

7		3		9		1		2
	1			3	6		7	9
			1	8		3	6	
	5	1		7			9	3
6	4			1		2		
3					2	7	1	
8	2	6	7		4	9	3	1
1	7	4	3			8	2	
		5	8	2	1		4	

## Why Discrete Mathematics?

- It's the basic **language** in **sciences**
  - It's a **gateway** to more advanced courses in sciences, not only in computer systems
- Enhance your mind**
  - It's a **toolbox** full of the **problem-solving** techniques
  - You will use it over and over in your life

# Applications in Computer System

- Circuit design
- Computer architecture
- Computer networks
- Operating systems
- Programming: algorithms and data structures
- Programming languages
- Computer security, encryption
- Error correcting codes
- Graphics algorithms, game engines
- . . .

*Jeremy Siek, Department of Electrical, Computer, and Energy Engineering, University of Colorado  
<http://ece.colorado.edu/~siek/ecen3703/spring10>*

7

## Syllabus

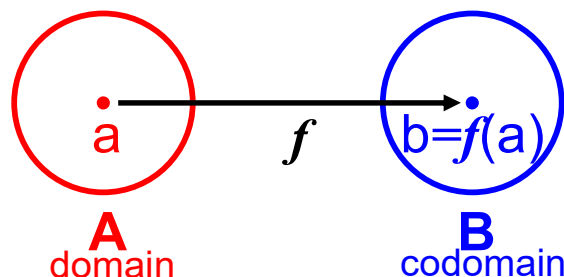
- Ch01: Logic and Proof
- Ch02: Set
- Ch09: Relation
- Ch06: Counting
- Ch08: Advanced Counting
- Ch10: Graph
- Abstract Algebra \* most contents are not covered by the textbook

# Ch01: Logic and Proof

- **Basic principle** in our life
- All about Correct / Wrong (True / False)
- Most people think they are logical, but...
- Is the conclusion correct?  
Clever student can pass this subject.  
You cannot pass this subject.  
**You are not clever.**

# Ch02: Set

- A set is a **collection** of something
  - Number, Character, Collection, Anything
- Set operators
- A function
  - One-to-one
  - Onto
  - Inverse



# Ch09: Relation

- Similar to function but **more general**
  - **Function**: 1 object maps to 1 object  
E.g.  $f(x) = x + 1$
  - **Relation**: 1 object maps to 0 or more objects  
E.g. (A, B): A likes B  
(A, B, C): A is larger than B  
but smaller than C

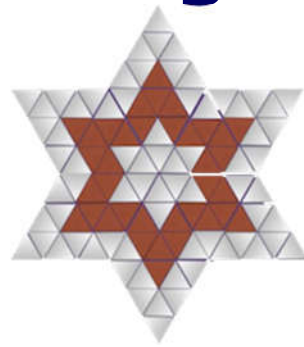
# Ch06: Counting

- Play an important role in many applications
  - **Hacking**: how many times we should try at most for the password of a Ali payment?
  - **Experimental Study**: how many experiments should be carried out if 5 different variables are considered and each variables contains 10 values?

# Ch08: Advanced Counting

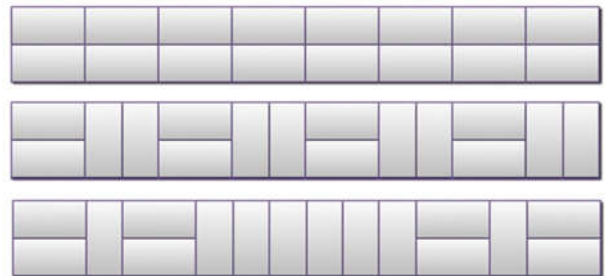
## Recursive Problem

- How many triangles in the layer 2? the layer n?



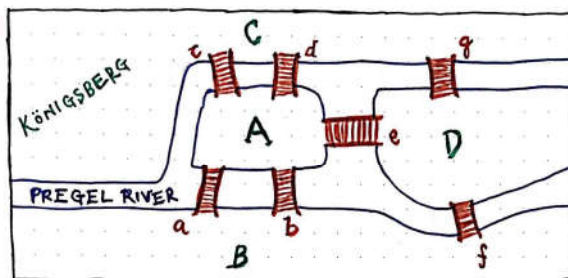
- The area to be tiled is  $2 \times 16$  and the tiles are each  $1 \times 2$ .

How many different ways are there to cover the area with tiles?

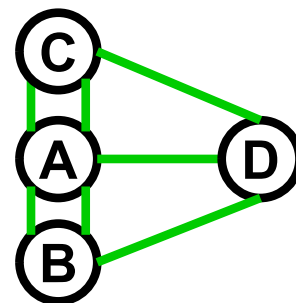


# Ch10: Graph

- A model which represent pairwise relations between objects

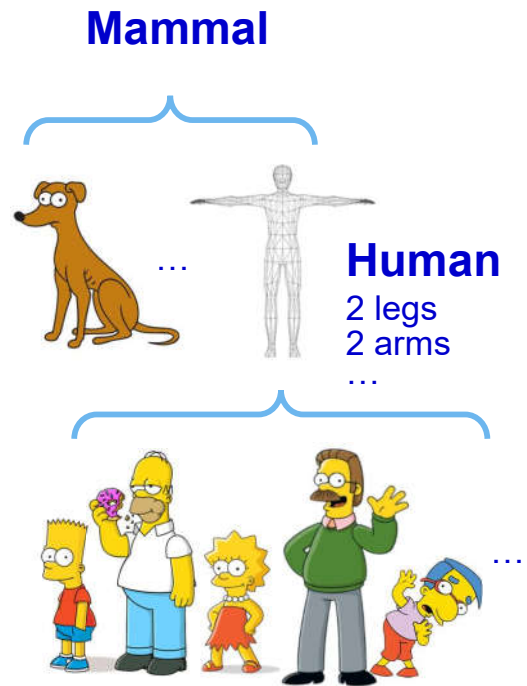


The Seven Bridges of Königsberg



# Abstract Algebra

- Advanced topic
- Study the characteristics of structures rather than the usual number systems
- Study something you do not know what it is



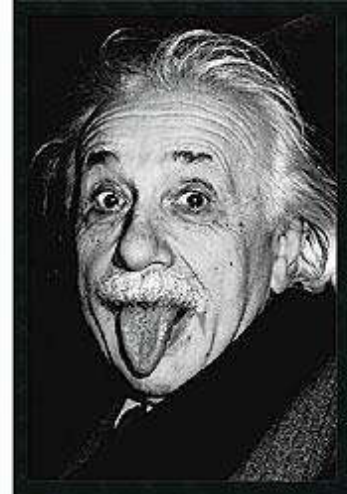
# Syllabus

- Ch01: Logic and Proof 😊
- Ch02: Set 😊 😊
- Ch09: Relation 😞
- Ch06: Counting 😊
- Ch08: Advanced Counting 😞 😞 😞
- Ch10: Graph 😞
- Abstract Algebra ☠️ ☠️ ☠️ ☠️ ☠️ ☠️ ...



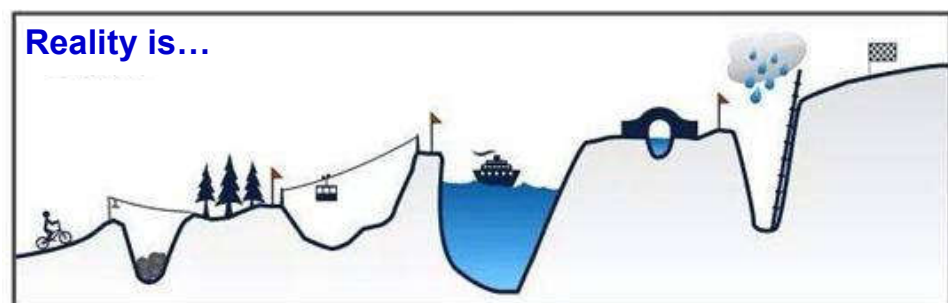
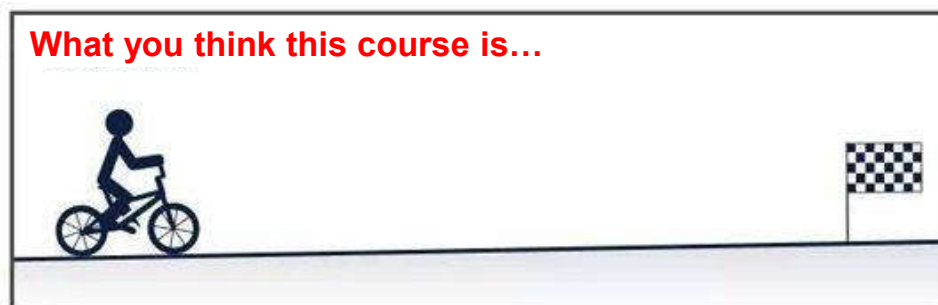
# My Teaching Philosophy

- I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn



**Albert Einstein**

# Work Hard, Don't Wait



# Advices...

- **Enjoy** each lesson
- **Think** more
- **Ask** questions
- **Smile** 😊 (*even you fail*)
- Read in advance
- Do the exercise
- Form a study group

**Pain is inevitable**  
**Suffering is optional**

**Good Luck!**