

The four functions theorem (FFT)

Thm Suppose $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta : 2^{[n]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

If $A, B \in 2^{[n]} \Rightarrow \alpha(A)\beta(B) \leq \gamma(A \cup B)\delta(A \cap B)$, ----- (*)

then $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \subseteq 2^{[n]} \Rightarrow \alpha(\mathcal{A})\beta(\mathcal{B}) \leq \gamma(\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B})\delta(\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B})$,

where $\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B} = \{A \cup B : A \in \mathcal{A}, B \in \mathcal{B}\}$ and $\alpha(\mathcal{A}) = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{A}} \alpha(A)$.

pf: Suppose (*) holds, it suffices to show $\alpha(2^{[n]})\beta(2^{[n]}) \leq \gamma(2^{[n]})\delta(2^{[n]})$. why?

To prove this by induction on n .

[Basis] $n=1 \Rightarrow 2^{[1]} = \{\emptyset, [1]\}$. To prove that $(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)(\beta_0 + \beta_1) \leq (\gamma_0 + \gamma_1)(\delta_0 + \delta_1)$ (*)

• $\gamma_1 = 0$ or $\delta_0 = 0 \Rightarrow$ (*) holds. why?

• $\gamma_1 \neq 0$ & $\delta_0 \neq 0 \Rightarrow \delta_1 \geq \frac{\alpha_1 \beta_1}{\gamma_1}$ & $\gamma_0 \geq \frac{\alpha_0 \beta_0}{\delta_0}$ by (*), and hence

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma_1 + \gamma_0)(\delta_0 + \delta_1) &\geq \left(\frac{\alpha_0 \beta_0}{\delta_0} + \gamma_1\right) \left(\delta_0 + \frac{\alpha_1 \beta_1}{\gamma_1}\right) = \alpha_0 \beta_0 + \frac{\alpha_0 \beta_0 \alpha_1 \beta_1}{\delta_0 \gamma_1} + \delta_0 \gamma_1 + \alpha_1 \beta_1 \\ &= (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)(\beta_0 + \beta_1) + \gamma_1 \delta_0 \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1 \beta_0}{\gamma_1 \delta_0}\right) - \alpha_0 \beta_1 \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1 \beta_0}{\gamma_1 \delta_0}\right) \\ &= (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)(\beta_0 + \beta_1) + (\gamma_1 \delta_0 - \alpha_0 \beta_1) \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1 \beta_0}{\gamma_1 \delta_0}\right) \\ &\geq (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)(\beta_0 + \beta_1). \end{aligned}$$

pf (continued) [induction part] Suppose the thm is true for $n-1$.

For $f \in \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta\}$, define $f': 2^{[n-1]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ s.t. $f'(A) = f(A) + f(A+n)$.

For any $A, B \in 2^{[n-1]}$, define $\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta}, \bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}: 2^{[n]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that

$$\bar{\alpha}_0 = \alpha(A), \bar{\beta}_0 = \beta(B), \bar{\gamma}_0 = \gamma(A \cup B) \text{ and } \bar{\delta}_0 = \delta(A \cap B),$$

$$\bar{\alpha}_1 = \alpha(A+n), \bar{\beta}_1 = \beta(B+n), \bar{\gamma}_1 = \gamma((A \cup B)+n) \text{ and } \bar{\delta}_1 = \delta((A \cap B)+n).$$

Note that, for $\bar{A}, \bar{B} \in 2^{[n]}$, $\bar{\alpha}(\bar{A}) \bar{\beta}(\bar{B}) \leq \bar{\gamma}(\bar{A} \cup \bar{B}) \bar{\delta}(\bar{A} \cap \bar{B})$. can be checked! why? Therefore,

by [Basis], $\bar{\alpha}(2^{[n]}) \bar{\beta}(2^{[n]}) \leq \bar{\gamma}(2^{[n]}) \bar{\delta}(2^{[n]})$, that is

$$[\alpha(A) + \alpha(A+n)] [\beta(B) + \beta(B+n)] \leq [\gamma(A \cup B) + \gamma((A \cup B)+n)] [\delta(A \cap B) + \delta((A \cap B)+n)]$$

we have $\alpha'(A) \beta'(B) \leq \gamma'(A \cup B) \delta'(A \cap B)$.

By induction hypothesis we have $\alpha'(2^{[n-1]}) \beta'(2^{[n-1]}) \leq \gamma'(2^{[n-1]}) \delta'(2^{[n-1]})$,

that is $\alpha(2^{[n]}) \beta(2^{[n]}) \leq \gamma(2^{[n]}) \delta(2^{[n]})$.

QED

Let me explain why.

why

why¹: For $A, B \subseteq 2^{[n]}$, define $\alpha^*, \beta^*, \gamma^*, \delta^*: 2^{[n]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ s.t.

$$\alpha^*(S) = \alpha(S) I_{\{S \in A\}}, \quad \beta^*(S) = \beta(S) I_{\{S \in B\}}$$

$$\gamma^*(S) = \gamma(S) I_{\{S \in A \cup B\}}, \quad \delta^*(S) = \delta(S) I_{\{S \in A \cap B\}}$$

Then $\alpha^*, \beta^*, \gamma^*, \delta^*$ satisfy (*). Now if we can prove that

$$\alpha^*(2^{[n]}) \beta^*(2^{[n]}) \leq \gamma^*(2^{[n]}) \delta^*(2^{[n]}). \quad \text{Then we get}$$

what we want $\alpha(A) \beta(B) \leq \gamma(A \cup B) \delta(A \cap B)$.

why²: When $n=1$, (*) implies

$$\alpha_0 \beta_0 \leq \gamma_0 \delta_0, \quad \alpha_0 \beta_1 \leq \gamma_1 \delta_0, \quad \alpha_1 \beta_0 \leq \gamma_1 \delta_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_1 \beta_1 \leq \gamma_1 \delta_1.$$

why³: (sketch) $\alpha(A) \beta(B+n) \leq \gamma((A \cup B)+n) \delta(A \cap B)$

Extend FFT to any finite distributive lattice

Corollary: Let (L, \leq) be a finite distributive lattice and let $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta: L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

If $\alpha(x)\beta(y) \leq \gamma(x \vee y)\delta(x \wedge y)$ for all $x, y \in L$,

then $\alpha(X)\beta(Y) \leq \gamma(X \vee Y)\delta(X \wedge Y)$ for all $X, Y \subseteq L$.

pf: $n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |J(L)|$, $J_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \sqcap) \cap J(L)$, $\mathcal{J}_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{J_x : x \in X\}$ for any $X \subseteq L$.
Birkhoff's representation thm says that $(L, \leq) \cong (D(J(L)), \subseteq)$ with an isomorphism $\varphi(x) = J_x$. Now for $f \in \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta\}$, define $\bar{f}: 2^{J(L)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ s.t.
 $\bar{f}(A) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } A = J_x \text{ for some } x \in L \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$. For any $A, B \in 2^{J(L)}$, we have
 $\bar{\alpha}(A)\bar{\beta}(B) \leq \bar{\gamma}(A \cup B)\bar{\delta}(A \cap B)$ (this follows from the hypothesis of this corollary and the facts that if $A = J_x$ and $B = J_y$ then $A \cup B = J_{x \vee y}$, $A \cap B = J_{x \wedge y}$ why? prove it!)

pf (continued)

Therefore, by four functions theorem, we arrive at

for any $X, Y \subseteq L$ we have $\overline{\alpha}(\mathcal{F}_X) \overline{\beta}(\mathcal{F}_Y) \leq \overline{\gamma}(\mathcal{F}_X \cup \mathcal{F}_Y) \overline{\delta}(\mathcal{F}_X \cap \mathcal{F}_Y)$

that is $\alpha(X) \beta(Y) \leq \gamma(X \cup Y) \delta(X \cap Y)$.

QED