# Discrete Math Applications in IT Fields

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#### Overview

The topics discussed today are **not**:

- on the final
- meant to be fully understood

Today you **should**:

- note interesting topics for further research
- ask questions!

Goal: Briefly mention each module of course

- Fields and careers that extend these modules
- "Opinionated" points in red

### Who Am I, To Make These Claims?

- Industry Internship/Part Time Jr Automation Engineer
- Academia Internship Security Researcher for a summer
- Applicant's Perspective
- A student too!







#### When will we use \*\*\*\*?

- Not all technology jobs use all the topics discussed in this course
- All technology jobs have requirements that aren't actually used
- "Secret Handshake"
  - Leetcode + DSA
  - System Design





### Logic + Proofs

**Broadly:** Ability to reason and demonstrate validity of *something* Technical skill is *easy*, <u>communication</u> is hard

**Fields:** theoretical computer science, program correctness, hardware engineering, control theory, etc...



## Set Theory

Broadly: The syntax of technical writing; How things are contained
It is common to be learning things in your own time, unpaid (☺)
Fields: Database design, Collection-based programming, Data creation
A lot of enterprise development is data transmogrification

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#### using namespace std::views;

#### **Recurrence Relations**

**Broadly:** Modeling values as a result of prior computations

A 'fundamental' tool of programming

**Uses:** *Recursion,* Dynamic Programming, Optimizations, Cost Relation Systems





#### Combinatorics

Broadly: Very advanced counting; enumerate data, computation, etc.Napkin math: determine if a certain approach is worth dev hoursFields: Computability theory, Cybersecurity, Cryptography



#### Probability

## **Fields:** Statistics & Data Science, Machine Learning, Probabilistic Algorithms





#### Relations + Functions

**Broadly:** Interactions between data, how *operations* are performed **Comprehending data flow and state of a program is extremely useful Uses:** Software Architecture (Design Patterns), Functional Programming, Closures

- $0 := \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot x$
- $1 := \lambda f . \lambda x . f x$
- 2 :=  $\lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f (f x)$





#### Linear Algebra

#### **Uses:** Machine Learning, Scientific Computing



#### **TYPICAL HPC WORKFLOW**



Parameters of milestone Machine Learning systems over time



### Graph Theory

Broadly: Modeling *relationships* between objects
All 'hard' computer science problems end up being graph theory
Uses: (Computer) Networking, Path Routing, Data Relations, etc...



Root Top Level com edu org other Domain (TLD) Second Leve computerhope craigslist Domain Local support saltlakecity Subdomair Network support.computerhope.con mit.edu saltlakecity.craigslist.org Result



**Domain Naming Hierarchy** 

#### Trees

**Uses:** Extremely useful way of imbuing 'structure' to a collection of data A lot of software is using trees + related data structures behind the scenes; Searching data is overwhelmingly more common than creating data



#### What Now?

- Full courses on these modules (215, 211, 223
- Industry | Academia

PhD or Industry job – <u>onboarding</u> is always an involved part at the beginning, so knowing the fundamentals extremely well allows for quicker onboarding

Find a niche: Computer Science is broad, IT is broad, Tech is broad...

Knowing <u>fundamentals</u>, being able to <u>learn new topics</u> is much more important than skill in <specific technology> tool