

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction and Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Graphs and posets . . . . .	5
2.2	Topology . . . . .	7
<b>3</b>	<b>Bonferroni Inequalities via Abstract Tubes</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1	An outline of abstract tube theory . . . . .	9
3.1.1	The notion of an abstract tube . . . . .	9
3.1.2	Two fundamental theorems on abstract tubes . . . . .	11
3.1.3	An importance sampling scheme . . . . .	13
3.2	Examples of abstract tubes . . . . .	14
3.2.1	Abstract tubes for convex polyhedra . . . . .	14
3.2.2	Abstract tubes for unions of balls and spherical caps . . . . .	15
<b>4</b>	<b>Abstract Tubes via Closure and Kernel Operators</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	Abstract tubes via closure operators . . . . .	19
4.1.1	Closure operators . . . . .	19
4.1.2	How closure operators lead to abstract tubes . . . . .	21
4.2	Abstract tubes via kernel operators . . . . .	25
4.2.1	Kernel operators . . . . .	25
4.2.2	How kernel operators lead to abstract tubes . . . . .	26
4.3	Alternative proofs . . . . .	28
4.3.1	Improved identities via closure operators . . . . .	28
4.3.2	Improved inequalities via kernel operators . . . . .	33
4.3.3	Additional proofs of identities . . . . .	35
4.4	The chordal graph sieve . . . . .	37
<b>5</b>	<b>Recursive Schemes</b>	<b>44</b>
5.1	Recursive schemes for semilattices . . . . .	44
5.2	Dynamic programming approach . . . . .	45

## VIII      *Contents*

<b>6 Reliability Applications</b>	<b>47</b>
6.1 System reliability . . . . .	47
6.1.1 Terminology . . . . .	47
6.1.2 Abstract tubes for system reliability . . . . .	48
6.1.3 Shier's pseudopolynomial algorithm . . . . .	49
6.1.4 Inclusion-exclusion and domination theory . . . . .	52
6.2 Special reliability systems . . . . .	53
6.2.1 Communications networks . . . . .	53
6.2.2 $k$ -out-of- $n$ systems . . . . .	66
6.2.3 Consecutive $k$ -out-of- $n$ systems . . . . .	70
6.3 Reliability covering problems . . . . .	75
6.3.1 The hypergraph model . . . . .	75
6.3.2 Abstract tubes and polynomial algorithms . . . . .	75
6.4 Chapter notes . . . . .	81
<b>7 Combinatorial Applications and Related Topics</b>	<b>82</b>
7.1 Inclusion-exclusion on partition lattices . . . . .	82
7.2 Chromatic polynomials and broken circuits . . . . .	83
7.2.1 The usual chromatic polynomial . . . . .	84
7.2.2 The generalized chromatic polynomial . . . . .	86
7.3 Sums over partially ordered sets . . . . .	89
7.3.1 A general theorem on sums . . . . .	89
7.3.2 Application to inclusion-exclusion . . . . .	90
7.4 Matroid polynomials and the $\beta$ invariant . . . . .	91
7.4.1 The Tutte polynomial . . . . .	91
7.4.2 The characteristic polynomial . . . . .	93
7.4.3 The $\beta$ invariant . . . . .	94
7.5 Euler characteristics and Möbius functions . . . . .	95
7.5.1 Euler characteristics . . . . .	95
7.5.2 Möbius functions . . . . .	96
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Author Index</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Subject Index</b>	<b>113</b>