



# A connection between lambda calculus and maps

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<sup>1</sup>based on a joint article with Alain Giorgetti: [arxiv.org/abs/1408.5028](https://arxiv.org/abs/1408.5028)

x

1

$x(\lambda y.y) \quad \lambda y.yx$

2

$x(\lambda y.y(\lambda z.z))$	$x(\lambda y.\lambda z.zy)$	$(x(\lambda y.y))(\lambda z.z)$
$\lambda y.y(x(\lambda z.z))$	$\lambda y.y(\lambda z.zx)$	$\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.z))x$
$\lambda y.(yx)(\lambda z.z)$	$\lambda y.\lambda z.z(yx)$	$\lambda y.\lambda z.(zy)x$

1.  $x(\lambda y.y(\lambda z.z(\lambda w.w)))$
2.  $x(\lambda y.y(\lambda z.\lambda w.wz))$
3.  $x(\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.z))(\lambda w.w))$
4.  $x(\lambda y.\lambda z.z(y(\lambda w.w)))$
5.  $x(\lambda y.\lambda z.z(\lambda w.wy))$
6.  $x(\lambda y.\lambda z.(z(\lambda w.w))y)$
7.  $x(\lambda y.\lambda z.(zy)(\lambda w.w))$
8.  $x(\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.w(zy))$
9.  $x(\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.(wz)y)$
10.  $(x(\lambda y.y))(\lambda z.z(\lambda w.w))$
11.  $(x(\lambda y.y))(\lambda z.\lambda w.wz)$
12.  $(x(\lambda y.y(\lambda z.z)))(\lambda w.w)$
13.  $(x(\lambda y.\lambda z.zy))(\lambda w.w)$
14.  $((x(\lambda y.y))(\lambda z.z))(\lambda w.w)$
15.  $\lambda y.y(x(\lambda z.z(\lambda w.w)))$
16.  $\lambda y.y(x(\lambda z.\lambda w.wz))$
17.  $\lambda y.y((x(\lambda z.z))(\lambda w.w))$
18.  $\lambda y.y(\lambda z.z(x(\lambda w.w)))$
19.  $\lambda y.y(\lambda z.z(\lambda w.wx))$
20.  $\lambda y.y(\lambda z.(z(\lambda w.w))x)$
21.  $\lambda y.y(\lambda z.(zx)(\lambda w.w))$
22.  $\lambda y.y(\lambda z.\lambda w.w(zx))$
23.  $\lambda y.y(\lambda z.\lambda w.(wz)x)$
24.  $\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.z))(x(\lambda w.w))$
25.  $\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.z))(\lambda w.wx)$
26.  $\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.z(\lambda w.w)))x$
27.  $\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.\lambda w.wz))x$
28.  $\lambda y.((y(\lambda z.z))(\lambda w.w))x$
29.  $\lambda y.(yx)(\lambda z.z(\lambda w.w))$
30.  $\lambda y.(yx)(\lambda z.\lambda w.wz)$
31.  $\lambda y.(y(x(\lambda z.z)))(\lambda w.w)$
32.  $\lambda y.(y(\lambda z.zx))(\lambda w.w)$
33.  $\lambda y.((y(\lambda z.z))x)(\lambda w.w)$
34.  $\lambda y.((yx)(\lambda z.z))(\lambda w.w)$
35.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.z(y(x(\lambda w.w)))$
36.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.z(y(\lambda w.wx))$
37.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.z((y(\lambda w.w))x)$
38.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.z((yx)(\lambda w.w))$
39.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.z(\lambda w.w(yx))$
40.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.z(\lambda w.(wy)x)$
41.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(z(\lambda w.w))(yx)$
42.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(zy)(x(\lambda w.w))$
43.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(zy)(\lambda w.wx)$
44.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(z(y(\lambda w.w)))x$
45.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(z(\lambda w.wy))x$
46.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(z(\lambda w.w)y)x$
47.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.((zy)(\lambda w.w))x$
48.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.(z(yx))(\lambda w.w)$
49.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.((zy)x)(\lambda w.w)$
50.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.w(z(yx))$
51.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.w((zy)x)$
52.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.(wz)(yx)$
53.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.(w(zy))x$
54.  $\lambda y.\lambda z.\lambda w.((wz)y)x$

# Invitation: celebrating 50 years of OEIS, 250000 sequences, and Sloane's 75th, there will be a conference at DIMACS, Rutgers, Oct 9-10 2014.

[Hints](#)

(Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#))

Search: **seq:1,2,9,54,378,2916,24057**

Displaying 1-1 of 1 result found.

page 1

Sort: relevance | [references](#) | [number](#) | [modified](#) | [created](#)    Format: long | [short](#) | [data](#)

[A000168](#)     $2 \cdot 3^n \cdot (2^n)! / (n! \cdot (n+2)!)$ .  
(Formerly M1940 N0768)

+20  
18

**1, 2, 9, 54, 378, 2916, 24057**, 208494, 1876446, 17399772, 165297834, 1602117468,  
15792300756, 157923007560, 1598970451545, 16365932856990, 169114639522230,  
1762352559231660, 18504701871932430, 195621134074714260, 2080697516976506220,  
22254416920705240440, 239234981897581334730, 2583737804493878415084 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#);  
[text](#); [internal format](#))

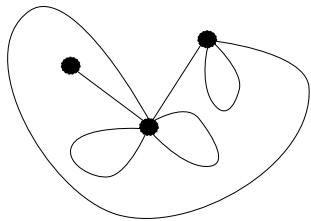
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COMMENTS

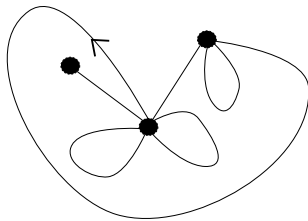
Number of rooted planar maps with n edges. - [Don Knuth](#), Nov 24 2013

Number of rooted 4-regular planar maps with n vertices.

Also, number of doodles with n crossings, irrespective of the number of loops.



A planar map



A rooted planar map

Rooted planar maps were first counted by W. T. Tutte, as part of an attack on the 4CT (which is about planar maps):

- ▶ A census of planar maps. *Canadian Journal of Mathematics*, 15:249–271, 1963.
- ▶ On the enumeration of planar maps. *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, 74:64–74, 1968.

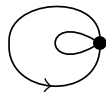
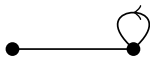
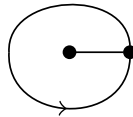
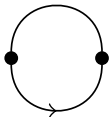
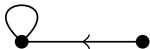
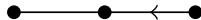
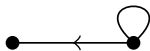
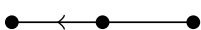


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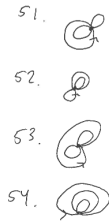
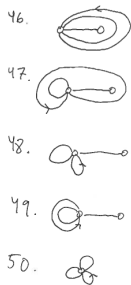
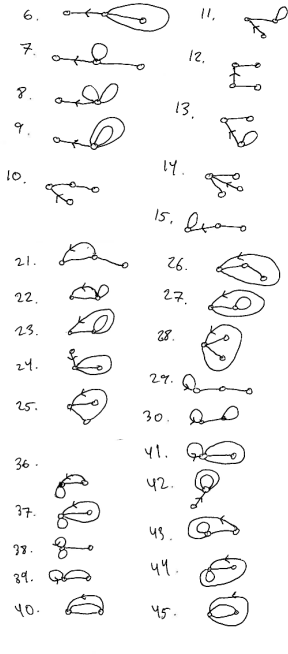
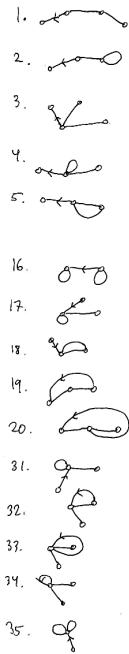




2



9



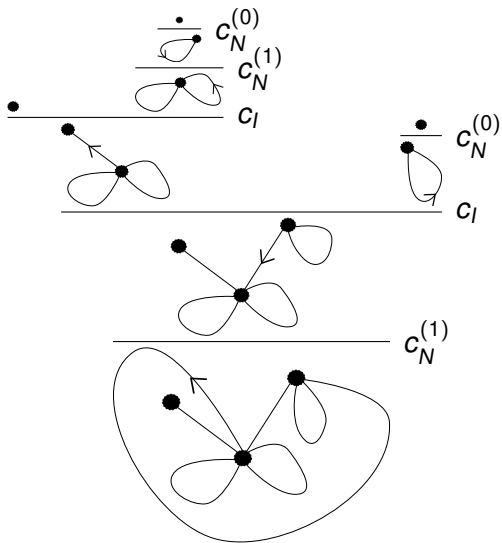
Met Alain Giorgetti at MAP(!) 2014 workshop in Paris.

We wrote a paper:

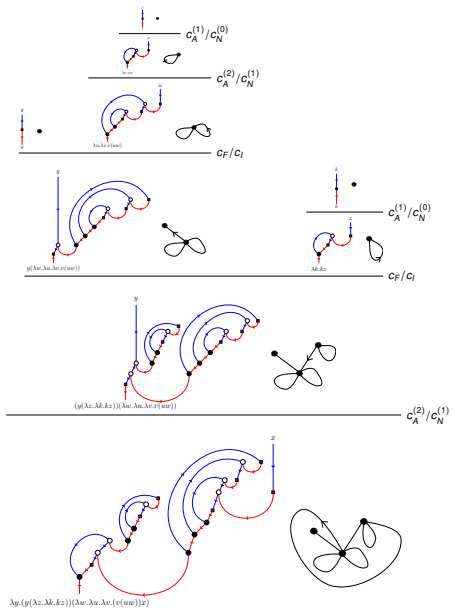
- ▶ A correspondence between rooted planar maps and normal planar lambda terms. August 21, 2014.  
[arxiv.org/abs/1408.5028](https://arxiv.org/abs/1408.5028)

Idea: replay **Tutte decomposition** in lambda calculus.

The proof is presented using *string diagrams*.







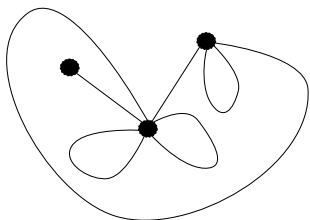
Does all this mean anything?

Well, it's not completely clear.

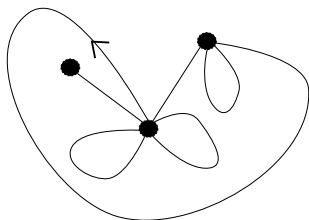
But it raises tantalizing questions in both directions...



# From maps to lambda calculus



A planar map

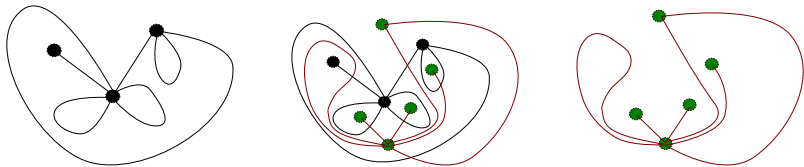


A rooted planar map

Tutte originally considered rooted maps because they were easier to count than unrooted maps, which can have non-trivial symmetries.

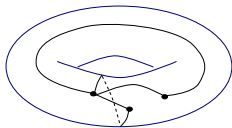
**What (if anything) does it mean to “unroot” a lambda term?**

Swapping faces with vertices is a dualizing operation on maps:



**What (if anything) is the meaning of face-vertex duality in lambda calculus?**

In general, a map need not be planar—one can consider graphs embedded on surfaces of arbitrary genus, for example on a torus:



**Is there a natural notion of genus for lambda terms?**

# From lambda calculus to maps

The bijection is between rooted planar maps and normal planar lambda terms, but of course the main interest of lambda calculus is that we can *compute* with terms, i.e., reduce an arbitrary term to normal form.

**What (if anything) is the process for which rooted maps are normal forms?**

Every linear lambda term has a principal type that uniquely identifies its normal form, and, in general, types enable various operations (*product, implication, etc.*) and relations (*entailment, isomorphism, etc.*).

**What (if anything) do types tell us about maps?**

Just as there is a dualizing operation on maps that swaps vertices and faces, in programming there is a natural notion of computational duality between *values* and *continuations*.

**What (if anything) is the meaning of computational duality for maps?**