

Combinatorics of Words (Fall 2019)

Information about the exam

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Time and place: The exam is written. It will take place on Monday, January 27, 2020, from 9:00 to 12:00, in room Y03G91.

Preparation: There is no mock exam organized. The exam will consist in solving some exercises of the same flavor of those of the exercise sheets or the homework. A “questions and answers” session will be organized by Jacopo Borga in January, prior to the exam. It is a good preparation for you to attend it. Please come with your questions, on the lectures or the exercises. Without questions, there are no answers! (Of course, you can benefit from the questions of the other students as well, but if everyone counts on this, it does not work. . .)

Authorized documents: For the exam, you can bring your own notes (lecture notes, solutions of exercises, or additional material you prepared while studying). You can also bring a printed version of Jacopo’s lecture notes and/or solutions to homework and exercises (available at <http://www.jacopoborga.com/2019/09/18/combinatorics-of-words-2019/>) if you want. You are however not allowed to bring books, nor printed lectures notes of other sources (found on the web for instance). You are also not allowed to bring computers, tablets, . . . or any such electronic support (even if you swear you will use them only to look at your electronic lecture notes, sorry).

Advice: While most of your homeworks were very good, many were also too long. During the exam, you have just 3 hours. It is enough to solve all exercises, provided that you don’t lose time writing useless details. Examples of things you should **avoid** writing in your solution to the exam:

- copying the questions, or the definitions given in the exam;
- too many “base cases” in a proof by induction;
- two alternative proofs of the same result;
- proving several particular cases instead of (or before) writing a proof in the general case;
- using long proof by induction when there are immediate direct proofs;
- being over-formal.