

Ox-words are sequences of letters a and b that are constructed according to the following rules:

- I. The sequence consisting of no letters is an Ox-word.
- II. If the sequence W is an Ox-word, then the sequence that begins with a , followed by W and ending in b , written aWb , is an Ox-word.
- III. If the sequences U and V are Ox-words, then the sequence U followed by V , written UV , is an Ox-word.

All Ox-words are constructed using these rules. The *length* of an Ox-word is the number of letters that occur in it. For example $aabb$ and $abab$ are Ox-words of length 4.

- (i) Show that every Ox-word has an even length.
- (ii) List all Ox-words of length 6.
- (iii) Let W be an Ox-word. Is the number of occurrences of a in W necessarily equal to the number of occurrences of b in W ? Justify your answer.

You may now assume that every Ox-word (of positive length) can be written *uniquely* in the form $aWbW'$ where W and W' are Ox-words.

- (iv) For $n \geq 0$, let C_n be the number of Ox-words of length $2n$. Find an expression for C_{n+1} in terms of C_0, C_1, \dots, C_n . Explain your reasoning.