

**Problem 1.** There is a game. One starts from  $(0, 0)$  and walks to  $(n, n)$ , allowed to walk towards right and walk towards up. Define the number of  $k$  upward walks above the straight line from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(n, n)$  to be  $f(n, k)$ . We have that

$$f(n, k) = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} = C_n$$

*Proof.* Proof by induction. We define the proposition  $P(N)$  to be that the property described in the problem holds for all  $0 \leq n \leq N$ .

It is easy to check that  $P(0)$  and  $P(1)$  is true.

Assuming that  $P(N)$  is true, we will prove that  $P(N+1)$  is also true.

We enumerate the last position  $(x, y)$  the person arrives that satisfies  $x = y$ . Assume the position is  $(r, r)$ , where  $0 \leq r \leq N$ . We use the technique of series to express the schemes:

$$(f(r, 0)x^0 + f(r, 1)x^1 + f(r, 2)x^2 + \cdots + f(r, r)x^r)(C_{N-r}x^0 + C_{N-r}x^{N-r})$$

where the coefficient of  $x^i$  equals to the number of schemes that there are  $i$  upward walks from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(N+1, N+1)$  above the straight line in such condition. The second part is the schemes that walks from  $(r, r)$  to  $(N+1, N+1)$  and never arrives the positions on the straight line between  $(r, r)$  and  $(N+1, N+1)$ .

By the assumption,  $f(r, i) = C_r$ , this formula can also be expressed as

$$(C_r x^0 + C_r x^1 + C_r x^2 + \cdots + C_r x^r)(C_{N-r} x^0 + C_{N-r} x^{N+1-r})$$

We can sum them up when  $0 \leq r \leq N$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{r=0}^N (C_r x^0 + C_r x^1 + C_r x^2 + \cdots + C_r x^r) (C_{N-r} x^0 + C_{N-r} x^{N+1-r}) \\
&= \sum_{r=0}^N C_r C_{N-r} (x^0 + x^1 + \cdots + x^r) (x^0 + x^{N+1-r}) \\
&= \sum_{r=0}^N C_r C_{N-r} (x^0 + x^1 + \cdots + x^r) + \sum_{r=0}^N C_r C_{N-r} (x^{N+1-r} + \cdots + x^{N+1}) \\
&= \sum_{r=0}^N C_r C_{N-r} (x^0 + x^1 + \cdots + x^r) + \sum_{r=0}^N C_r C_{N-r} (x^{r+1} + \cdots + x^{N+1}) \\
&= \sum_{r=0}^N C_r C_{N-r} (x^0 + x^1 + \cdots + x^{N+1}) \\
&= C_{N+1} (x^0 + x^1 + \cdots + x^{N+1})
\end{aligned}$$

, which means that  $f(N+1, r) = C_{N+1}$  for all  $0 \leq r \leq N+1$  and  $P(N+1)$  is true.  $\square$

by dyy