

## 5.13.62

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# Problem Statement

## Question:

How many  $3 \times 3$  matrices  $M$ , with entries from the set  $\{0, 1, 2\}$ , satisfy:

$$\text{tr}(M^T M) = 5 \quad (1)$$

# Matrix Structure

Let the matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  be:

$$M = (\mathbf{c}_1 \quad \mathbf{c}_2 \quad \mathbf{c}_3) \quad (2)$$

where each column vector is:

$$\mathbf{c}_j = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1j} \\ c_{2j} \\ c_{3j} \end{pmatrix}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3 \quad (3)$$

Each  $c_{ij} \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ , so total possible vectors:

$$3^3 = 27 \quad (4)$$

# Computing $M^T M$

The product:

$$M^T M = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{c}_1 & \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{c}_2 & \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{c}_3 \\ \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{c}_1 & \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{c}_2 & \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{c}_3 \\ \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{c}_1 & \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{c}_2 & \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{c}_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Trace of the matrix is:

$$\text{tr}(M^T M) = \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{c}_1 + \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{c}_2 + \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{c}_3 \quad (6)$$

$$= \|\mathbf{c}_1\|^2 + \|\mathbf{c}_2\|^2 + \|\mathbf{c}_3\|^2 \quad (7)$$

# Norm Constraint

Let:

$$n_1 = \|\mathbf{c}_1\|^2, \quad n_2 = \|\mathbf{c}_2\|^2, \quad n_3 = \|\mathbf{c}_3\|^2 \quad (8)$$

We want:

$$n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = 5 \quad (9)$$

# Norm Counts for Vectors

Define  $N(n)$  as number of vectors  $\mathbf{v} \in \{0, 1, 2\}^3$  with squared norm  $n$ .  
Then:

$$N(0) = 1 \quad \left(\text{only } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right) \quad (10)$$

$$N(1) = 3 \quad (\text{one entry } 1, \text{ others } 0) \quad (11)$$

$$N(2) = 3 \quad (\text{one entry } 2, \text{ others } 0) \quad (12)$$

$$N(3) = 6 \quad (13)$$

$$N(4) = 3 \quad (14)$$

$$N(5) = 6 \quad (15)$$

# Counting Valid Matrices

We count all ordered triples  $(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2, \mathbf{c}_3)$  such that:

$$n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = 5 \quad (16)$$

Total count is:

$$\text{Total} = \sum_{\substack{n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = 5 \\ 0 \leq n_i \leq 5}} N(n_1) \cdot N(n_2) \cdot N(n_3) \quad (17)$$

Evaluating this sum gives:

$$\boxed{198} \quad (18)$$

Number of matrices  $M = 198$

(19)



# C code

```
#include <stdint.h>

int get_count(void) {
    int count = 0;
    // There are 9 entries; treat them as base-3 digits 0,1,2
    for (int mask = 0; mask < 19683; ++mask) { // 3^9 = 19683
        int tmp = mask;
        int sumsq = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < 9; ++i) {
            int digit = tmp % 3; // 0,1,2
            tmp /= 3;
            sumsq += digit*digit;
            if (sumsq > 5) break; // small optimization
        }
        if (sumsq == 5) ++count;
    }
    return count;
}
```

# Python code through shared output

```
import ctypes
import os

# Adjust path if needed
libpath = os.path.abspath('./libcount.so')
lib = ctypes.CDLL(libpath)

lib.get_count.restype = ctypes.c_int

result = lib.get_count()
print(Number of 3x3 matrices with trace( $M^T M$ )=5:, result)
```

# Only Python code

```
import numpy as np
from itertools import product

def count_matrices():
    # Step 1: compute squared norm multiplicities for column
    # vectors in  $\{0,1,2\}^3$ 
    cols = np.array(list(product((0,1,2), repeat=3)))
    norms = np.sum(cols**2, axis=1)
    unique, counts = np.unique(norms, return_counts=True)
    N = dict(zip(unique, counts)) # N[n] = multiplicity of norm n
```

# Only Python code

```
# Step 2: sum over all triples of norms that add to 5
total = 0
for n1, c1 in N.items():
    for n2, c2 in N.items():
        for n3, c3 in N.items():
            if n1 + n2 + n3 == 5:
                total += c1 * c2 * c3
return total, N

if __name__ == '__main__':
    total, N = count_matrices()
    print(Single-column squared norm multiplicities N(n):)
    for n in sorted(N):
        print(f n={n}: {N[n]} ways)
    print(\nTotal matrices =, total)
```