

Combinatorial
Permutations

Cycles

Let $g_S(n)$ be the number of n -permutations whose cycle lengths all belong to the set S . Then

$$\sum_{n=0}^\infty g_S(n)\frac{x^n}{n!} = \exp\left(\sum_{n\in S}\frac{x^n}{n}\right)$$

Derangements

Permutations of a set such that none of the elements appear in their original position.

$$D(n) = (n-1)(D(n-1)+D(n-2)) = nD(n-1)+(-1)^n = \left\lfloor \frac{n!}{e} \right\rfloor$$

Burnside’s lemma

Given a group G of symmetries and a set X , the number of elements of X *up to symmetry* equals

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g\in G} |X^g|,$$

where X^g are the elements fixed by g ($g.x = x$).

If $f(n)$ counts “configurations” (of some sort) of length n , we can ignore rotational symmetry using $G = \mathbb{Z}_n$ to get

$$g(n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f(\gcd(n,k)) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k|n} f(k)\phi(n/k).$$

Partitions and subsets

Partition function

Number of ways of writing n as a sum of positive integers, disregarding the order of the summands.

$$p(0) = 1, \quad p(n) = \sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}\setminus\{0\}} (-1)^{k+1} p(n-k(3k-1)/2)$$

$$p(n) \sim 0.145/n \cdot \exp(2.56\sqrt{n})$$

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	20	50	100
$p(n)$	1	1	2	3	5	7	11	15	22	30	627	$\sim 2\text{e}5$	$\sim 2\text{e}8$

Lucas’ Theorem

Let n,m be non-negative integers and p a prime. Write $n = n_kp^k + \dots + n_1p + n_0$ and $m = m_kp^k + \dots + m_1p + m_0$. Then $\binom{n}{m} \equiv \prod_{i=0}^k \binom{n_i}{m_i} \pmod p$.

General purpose numbers

Bernoulli numbers

EGF of Bernoulli numbers is $B(t) = \frac{t}{e^t-1}$ (FFT-able).
 $B[0,\dots] = [1, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{6}, 0, -\frac{1}{30}, 0, \frac{1}{42}, \dots]$
Sums of powers:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n n^m = \frac{1}{m+1} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m+1}{k} B_k \cdot (n+1)^{m+1-k}$$

Euler-Maclaurin formula for infinite sums:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=m}^\infty f(i) &= \int_m^\infty f(x)dx - \sum_{k=1}^\infty \frac{B_k}{k!} f^{(k-1)}(m) \\ &\approx \int_m^\infty f(x)dx + \frac{f(m)}{2} - \frac{f'(m)}{12} + \frac{f'''(m)}{720} + O(f^{(5)}(m)) \end{aligned}$$

Stirling numbers of the first kind

Number of permutations on n items with k cycles.

$$\begin{aligned} c(n,k) &= c(n-1,k-1) + (n-1)c(n-1,k), \quad c(0,0) = 1 \\ \sum_{k=0}^n c(n,k)x^k &= x(x+1)\dots(x+n-1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c(8,k) &= 8, 0, 5040, 13068, 13132, 6769, 1960, 322, 28, 1 \\ c(n,2) &= 0, 0, 1, 3, 11, 50, 274, 1764, 13068, 109584, \dots \end{aligned}$$

Eulerian numbers

Number of permutations $\pi \in S_n$ in which exactly k elements are greater than the previous element. k j :s s.t. $\pi(j) > \pi(j+1)$, $k+1$ j :s s.t. $\pi(j) \geq j$, k j :s s.t. $\pi(j) > j$.

$$E(n,k) = (n-k)E(n-1,k-1) + (k+1)E(n-1,k)$$

$$E(n,0) = E(n,n-1) = 1$$

$$E(n,k) = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \binom{n+1}{j} (k+1-j)^n$$

Stirling numbers of the second kind

Partitions of n distinct elements into exactly k groups.

$$S(n,k) = S(n-1,k-1) + kS(n-1,k)$$

$$S(n,1) = S(n,n) = 1$$

$$S(n,k) = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} j^n$$

Bell numbers

Total number of partitions of n distinct elements. $B(n) = 1, 1, 2, 5, 15, 52, 203, 877, 4140, 21147, \dots$ For p prime,

$$B(p^m + n) \equiv mB(n) + B(n+1) \pmod p$$

Labeled unrooted trees

on n vertices: n^{n-2}
on k existing trees of size n_i : $n_1n_2\dots n_kn^{k-2}$
with degrees d_i : $(n-2)!/((d_1-1)!\dots(d_n-1)!)$

Catalan numbers

$$C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} = \binom{2n}{n} - \binom{2n}{n+1} = \frac{(2n)!}{(n+1)!n!}$$

$$C_0 = 1, \quad C_{n+1} = \frac{2(2n+1)}{n+2}C_n, \quad C_{n+1} = \sum C_iC_{n-i}$$

$$C_n = 1, 1, 2, 5, 14, 42, 132, 429, 1430, 4862, 16796, 58786, \dots$$

- sub-diagonal monotone paths in an $n \times n$ grid.
- strings with n pairs of parenthesis, correctly nested.
- binary trees with $n+1$ leaves (0 or 2 children).
- ordered trees with $n+1$ vertices.
- ways a convex polygon with $n+2$ sides can be cut into triangles by connecting vertices with straight lines.
- permutations of $[n]$ with no 3-term increasing subseq.