

1. The number of balls in figure 1 is the first triangular number  $T_1$ , the number of balls in figure 2 is the second triangular number  $T_2$ , and so on. Find the value of  $T_{100}$ .

$$T_1 = 1$$

$$T_2 = 1 + 2$$

$$T_3 = 1 + 2 + 3$$

...

$$T_n = 1 + \dots + n = \frac{(n+1) \cdot n}{2}$$

$$T_{100} = \frac{101 \cdot 100}{2} = 5050$$

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

100%

Bravo!!

2. The coefficient of  $x^2y^3$  in the expansion of  $(x - 2y)^5$  is an integer. Find its value.

$$\begin{aligned} & \binom{5}{2} \cdot x^2 \cdot (-2y)^3 \\ &= \frac{5 \times 4}{2 \times 1} \cdot x^2 \cdot (-8y^3) \\ &= -80 x^2 y^3 \end{aligned}$$

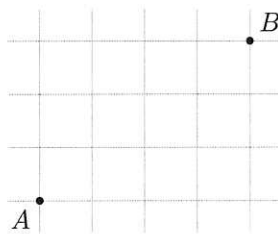
$\therefore$  the coefficient is  $-80$ .

3. In the street map below how many shortest paths are there from point A to point B?

$\uparrow:3 \rightarrow:4$

NNNEEEE

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{7!}{3! \cdot 4!} \\ &= \frac{7 \times 6 \times 5}{3 \times 2 \times 1} \\ &= 35 \end{aligned}$$



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4. Let  $\log_a 2 = x$  and  $\log_a 5 = y$ . Find an expression for  $\log_2 10$  in terms of  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$\frac{\log_a 5}{\log_a 2} = \frac{y}{x} = \log_2 5$$

$$\begin{aligned}\log_2 10 &= \log_2 (2 \cdot 5) = \log_2 2 + \log_2 5 \\ &= 1 + \frac{y}{x}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \log_2 10 = \frac{x+y}{x} \quad \checkmark$$

5. The letters  $\overset{\vee}{A}$ , B, C, D and  $\overset{\vee}{E}$  are arranged in a row. In how many ways can this be done if each permutation begins and ends with a vowel?

$$\textcircled{1} A \_ \_ \_ E$$

$$\textcircled{2} E \_ \_ \_ A$$

$$\therefore 2 \times {}^3P_3$$

$$= 2 \times 3!$$

$$= 12 \quad \checkmark$$

6. Solve  $3^{2x+1} + 2 \times 3^x = 1$ .

$$3 \cdot 3^{2x} + 2 \cdot 3^x - 1 = 0$$

$$(3 \cdot 3^x - 1)(3^x + 1) = 0$$

$$\therefore 3^x = \frac{1}{3} \text{ or } -1$$

$$\therefore 3^x > 0$$

$$\therefore 3^x = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\therefore x = -1 \quad \checkmark$$

7. If  $z = 1 + i + i^2 + i^3 + \dots + i^{2018}$ , what is  $\text{Re } z$ ? <sup>real part.</sup>

$$z = 1 + \underbrace{i - 1 - i + 1}_{\text{a cycle}} + \dots + \underbrace{i - 1 - i + 1}_{2013-2016} + i - 1$$

$$= 1 + 0 \cdot n(\text{cycles}) + i - 1$$

$$= i$$

$$\therefore \text{Re } z = 0$$

✓

8. Prove Pascal's rule  $\binom{n}{r} = \binom{n-1}{r-1} + \binom{n-1}{r}$ .

$$\therefore \binom{n-1}{r-1} = \frac{(n-1)!}{(r-1)!(n-r)!}$$

$$\binom{n-1}{r} = \frac{(n-1)!}{r!(n-r-1)!}$$

$$\therefore \binom{n-1}{r-1} + \binom{n-1}{r}$$

$$= \frac{(n-1)! \cdot r + (n-1)! \cdot (n-r)}{r!(n-r)!}$$

$$= \frac{(n-1)! (r+n-r)}{r!(n-r)!}$$

$$= \frac{(n-1)! \cdot n}{r!(n-r)!}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

$$= \binom{n}{r}$$

✓

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9. Given that  $(1+x)^3(1+mx)^4 = 1 + nx + 93x^2 + \dots + m^4x^7$ , find the possible values of  $m$  and  $n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} x^2: & \left\{ \binom{3}{2} + \binom{4}{2} m^2 + \binom{3}{1} \cdot \binom{4}{1} \cdot m = 93 \right. \\ x & \left\{ \binom{4}{1} \cdot m + \binom{3}{1} = n \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} 3 + 6m^2 + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot m = 93 & \textcircled{1} \\ 4m + 3 = n & \textcircled{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\textcircled{1}: \begin{aligned} 6m^2 + 12m - 90 &= 0 \\ m^2 + 2m - 15 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$(m+5)(m-3) = 0$$

$$\therefore m_1 = -5$$

$$m_2 = 3$$

$$\therefore n_1 = -20 + 3 = -17$$

$$n_2 = 12 + 3 = 15$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} m_1 = -5 \\ n_1 = -17 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} m_2 = 3 \\ n_2 = 15 \end{cases}$$

10. By considering the identity  $(1+x)^{2n} = (1+x)^n(1+x)^n$  or otherwise, show that

$$\binom{2n}{n} = \binom{n}{0}^2 + \binom{n}{1}^2 + \binom{n}{2}^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}^2.$$

- o • suppose we have a group of  $2n$  items, and we want to choose  $n$  items from them, then there's  $\binom{2n}{n}$  types of choices.
- o • we divide the group into ~~two~~ two smaller ones, each consisting of  $n$  items.
- ① if we want 0 items from group 1, then we have to take  $n$  items from group 2, making  $\binom{n}{0} \cdot \binom{n}{n}$
- ② if we want 1 item from group 1, then we have to take  $n-1$  items from group 2, making  $\binom{n}{1} \cdot \binom{n}{n-1}$
- generalizing, if we want  $a$  items from group 1, we take  $n-a$  items from group 2, making  $\binom{n}{a} \cdot \binom{n}{n-a}$
- o • so the first way, which is  $\binom{2n}{n}$ , is equivalent to the second way,  $\sum_{a=0}^n \binom{n}{a} \binom{n}{n-a}$
- $\therefore \binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{a=0}^n \binom{n}{a} \binom{n}{n-a}$
- $= \binom{n}{0} \binom{n}{n} + \binom{n}{1} \binom{n}{n-1} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{n} \binom{n}{0}$
- $\therefore \binom{x}{x-y} = \binom{x}{y}$  (choosing  $y$  element from a set of  $x$  elements can be done by choosing the complement, which is  $x-y$ )
- $\therefore \binom{2n}{n} = \binom{n}{0}^2 + \binom{n}{1}^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}^2$

## Solutions to HL1 Test #2

1. The 100-th triangular number is  $T_{100} = 1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + 100 = 5050$ .
2. The required term is  $\binom{5}{3}x^2(-2y)^3 = -80x^2y^3$ . So the required coefficient is  $-80$ .
3. There are  $\binom{7}{4} = 35$  shortest paths from  $A$  to  $B$ .
4. By the change of base formula
 
$$\log_2 10 = \frac{\log_a 10}{\log_a 2} = \frac{x + y}{x}.$$
5. Let the first action be to arrange the vowels. There are 2 ways to do this. Let the second action be to arrange the consonants. There are  $3! = 6$  ways to do this. By the rule of the product there are therefore 12 such permutations.
6. Let  $y = 3^x$ . Then the given equation reduces to  $3y^2 + 2y - 1 = 0$ , which has solutions  $y = -1$  and  $y = 1/3$ . Hence  $x = -1$ .
7. Notice that  $1 + i + i^2 + i^3 = 0$ . So  $1 + i + i^2 + i^3 + \cdots + i^{2018} = i^{2016} + i^{2017} + i^{2018} = 1 + i - 1 = i$ . Hence  $\operatorname{Re} z = 0$ .
8. See our red book page 223.
9. Expanding gives  $(1+3x+3x^2+x^3)(1+4mx+6m^2x^2+\text{others}) = 1+(4m+3)x+(6m^2+12m+3)x^2+\text{others}$ . Equating coefficients we conclude  $4m+3=n$  and  $6m^2+12m+3=93$ . Solving simultaneously gives  $m=-5$  and  $n=-17$  or  $m=3$  and  $n=15$ .
10. Using the LHS of the identity the coefficient of  $x^n$  is  $\binom{2n}{n}$  while from the RHS the coefficient is

$$\binom{n}{0}\binom{n}{n} + \binom{n}{1}\binom{n}{n-1} + \cdots + \binom{n}{r}\binom{n}{n-r} + \cdots + \binom{n}{n}\binom{n}{0},$$

whence the result since  $\binom{n}{n-r} = \binom{n}{r}$ .