

## Ch. 8. - Stirling numbers and partition numbers

(1)

### §1. The Difference Operator

Recall that if  $\langle x_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  was sequence, we defined the operator  $E$  by  $E(\langle x_n \rangle) = \langle x_{n+1} \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

Def. We define the difference operator  $\Delta$  by  $\Delta = E - I$ .

$$\text{So } \Delta(\langle x_n \rangle) = (E - I)(\langle x_n \rangle) = \langle x_{n+1} - x_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}.$$

Ex. 1 Let  $\langle x_n \rangle = \langle n^2 + 3n + 1 \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_n \rangle &= 1, 5, 11, 19, 29, 41, \dots \\ \langle \Delta x_n \rangle &= 5-1, 11-5, 19-11, 29-19, 41-29, 55-41, \dots \\ &= 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, \dots \end{aligned}$$

We can also write  $\Delta x_n$  just as  $\langle x_{n+1} - x_n \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \Delta x_n &= x_{n+1} - x_n = \{(n+1)^2 + 3(n+1) + 1\} - \{n^2 + 3n + 1\} \\ &= (n^2 + 2n + 1 + 3n + 3) - (n^2 + 3n) = 2n + 4. \end{aligned}$$

Def We define  $\Delta^k$  by recursion as follows.

$$\Delta^0 = I$$

$$\Delta^{k+1} = \Delta(\Delta^k), \text{ for } k \geq 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In particular } \Delta^2 &= \Delta(\Delta) = (E - I)(E - I) \\ &= E^2 - 2E + I. \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta^3 = (E - I)^3 = E^3 - 3E^2 + 3E - I.$$

$$\therefore \langle \Delta^2(x_n) \rangle = \langle x_{n+2} - 2x_{n+1} + x_n \rangle$$

$$\langle \Delta^3(x_n) \rangle = \langle x_{n+3} - 3x_{n+2} + 3x_{n+1} - x_n \rangle.$$

Ex. 2 Let  $\langle x_n \rangle = \langle n^2 + 3n + 1 \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  Find  $\langle \Delta x_n \rangle$ ,  $\langle \Delta^2 x_n \rangle$  and  $\langle \Delta^3 x_n \rangle$ .

$\langle n \rangle$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
Ex. 2 $\langle X_n \rangle =$	1	5	11	19	29	41	55	...
$\langle \Delta X_n \rangle =$	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	...
$\langle \Delta^2 X_n \rangle =$	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	...
$\langle \Delta^3 X_n \rangle =$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...

Prop. 1 Let  $X_n = P_k(n)$ , where  $P_k(n)$  is a polynomial in  $n$  of degree  $k$ . Then  $\langle \Delta^{k+1} X_n \rangle = \langle 0 \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

Proof: We will prove the result by induction on  $k$ .

(a) If  $k=0$ , then  $P_k(n) = a_0$ , where  $a_0$  is a constant.

So  $\Delta X_n = X_{n+1} - X_n = a_0 - a_0 = 0$ . Hence the result is true when  $k=0$ .

(b) Suppose the result is true for  $k$  where  $k \geq 0$ .

Then  $\langle \Delta^{k+1} P_k(n) \rangle = \langle 0 \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  for any polynomial in  $n$   $P_k(n)$  of degree  $k$ . Now let  $P_{k+1}(n)$  be any polynomial in  $n$  of degree  $k+1$ . Then

$$P_{k+1}(n) = a_{k+1} n^{k+1} + a_k n^k + \dots + a_1 n^1 + a_0.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta P_{k+1}(n) &= a_{k+1} [(n+1)^{k+1} - n^{k+1}] + a_k [(n+1)^k - n^k] + \dots \\ &\quad \dots + a_1 [(n+1) - n] + [a_0 - a_0] \\ &= a_{k+1} \left[ n^{k+1} + \binom{k+1}{1} n^k + \dots + \binom{k+1}{k} n^1 + 1 - n^{k+1} \right] \\ &\quad + a_k [(n+1)^k - n^k] + \dots + a_1. \\ &= Q_k(n), \text{ a polynomial of degree } k \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\Delta^{k+1} (P_{k+1}(n)) = \Delta^{k+1} (\Delta P_{k+1}(n)) = \Delta^{k+1} (Q_k(n)) = \langle 0 \rangle$$

because of the induction hypothesis. So if the result is true for  $k$ , it will be true for  $k+1$ .

(c) By the Principle of Math Induction, it follows that the result is true for all  $k$ .

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Def. The zero-column of an infinite sequence  $\langle x_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is the sequence  $\langle \Delta^k x_0 \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ . (Some authors say zero-diagonal instead of zero-column).

Ex. 3 Let  $\langle x_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = \langle n^2 + 3n + 1 \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ . Then the zero-column of  $\langle x_n \rangle$  is  $\langle 1, 4, 2, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$  as shown in Ex. 2. The interesting thing is that

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \cdot \binom{n}{0} + 4 \cdot \binom{n}{1} + 2 \cdot \binom{n}{2} &= 1 + 4n + 2 \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \\ &= 1 + 4n + (n^2 - n) \\ &= 1 + 3n + n^2 = x_n. \end{aligned}$$

This fact is true whenever  $x_n$  is a polynomial in  $n$ .

Prop 2 Let  $\langle x_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an infinite sequence and suppose that  $\langle \Delta^k x_0 \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}} = \langle c_0, c_1, \dots, c_p, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$  where all the terms after  $c_p$  are all zeros. Then

$$x_n = c_0 \binom{n}{0} + c_1 \binom{n}{1} + c_2 \binom{n}{2} + \dots + c_p \binom{n}{p} = \sum \frac{(\Delta^k x_0) [n]_k}{k!}$$

Proof. See textbook. Here  $[n]_k = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-(k-1))$ .

It is nice to know that if  $x_n$  is a polynomial of degree  $p$ , then  $x_n$  can be expressed as

$$x_n = c_0 \binom{n}{0} + c_1 \binom{n}{1} + c_2 \binom{n}{2} + \dots + c_p \binom{n}{p}.$$

But the main reason for us to express  $x_n$  in this form is to be able to find  $\sum_{k=1}^n x_k$ .

Ex. 4 Let  $x_n = 1 + 3n + n^2$ . Then from Example 3

$$x_n = 1 \cdot \binom{n}{0} + 4 \cdot \binom{n}{1} + 2 \cdot \binom{n}{2}.$$

$$\text{So } \sum_{k=0}^n x_k = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ 1 \cdot \binom{k}{0} + 4 \cdot \binom{k}{1} + 2 \cdot \binom{k}{2} \right\}$$

Ex. 4

$$= 1 \cdot \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{0} + 4 \cdot \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{1} + 2 \cdot \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{2}$$

$$= 1 \cdot \binom{n+1}{1} + 4 \cdot \binom{n+1}{2} + 2 \cdot \binom{n+1}{3}$$

$$= (n+1) + 4 \cdot \frac{(n+1)(n)}{2} + 2 \cdot \frac{(n+1)(n)(n-1)}{3 \cdot 2}$$

$$= (n+1) \left\{ 1 + 2n + \frac{n(n-1)}{3} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{n+1}{3} \{ 3 + 6n + n^2 - n \} = \frac{(n+1)(n^2 + 5n + 3)}{3}$$

Let us check:  $1=1$ ,  $(0+1)(0^2 + 5(0) + 3)/3 = 1 \checkmark$

$1+5=6$ ,  $(1+1)(1^2 + 5(1) + 3)/3 = 2(9)/3 = 6 \checkmark$

$1+5+11=17$ ,  $(2+1)(2^2 + 5(2) + 3)/3 = 3(17)/3 = 17 \checkmark$

$1+5+11+19=36$ ,  $(3+1)(3^2 + 5(3) + 3)/3 = 4(27)/3 = 36 \checkmark$

Theorem 3 Let  $\langle x_n \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an infinite sequence with zero-column  $\langle c_0, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$ . Then

$$\sum_{k=0}^n x_k = c_0 \binom{n+1}{1} + c_1 \binom{n+1}{2} + \dots + c_p \binom{n+1}{p+1}.$$

Proof:

We know from Prop. 9 from the Binomial Coeff. Chapter,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{i} = \binom{0}{i} + \binom{1}{i} + \binom{2}{i} + \dots + \binom{n}{i} = \binom{n+1}{i+1}. \quad \text{So}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n x_k = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ c_0 \binom{k}{0} + c_1 \binom{k}{1} + \dots + c_p \binom{k}{p} \right\}$$

$$= c_0 \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{0} + c_1 \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{1} + \dots + c_p \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{p}$$

$$= c_0 \binom{n+1}{1} + c_1 \binom{n+1}{2} + \dots + c_p \binom{n+1}{p+1}$$

Ex. 5 Let  $\langle x_n \rangle = \langle n^4 \rangle$ . Find  $\sum_{k=0}^n x_k$ .

see next page how to get these numbers

Sol.

The zero-column of  $\langle x_n \rangle$  is  $\langle 0, 1, 14, 36, 24, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$

$$\text{So } \sum_{k=0}^n n^4 = 0 \cdot \binom{n+1}{1} + 1 \cdot \binom{n+1}{2} + 14 \cdot \binom{n+1}{3} + 36 \cdot \binom{n+1}{4} + 24 \cdot \binom{n+1}{5}$$

$$= \dots = n(n+1)(2n+1)(3n^2 + 3n - 1)/30$$

$$= \frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{n^4}{2} + \frac{n^3}{3} - \frac{n}{30}$$

§2. The Stirling Numbers of the First & Second kinds

The numbers that occur in the zero column of the sequence  $\langle n^p \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  have combinatorial significance

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n^0 \rangle & 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, \dots \\ \langle \Delta(n^0) \rangle & 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n^1 \rangle & 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots \\ \langle \Delta(n^1) \rangle & 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^2(n^1) \rangle & 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n^2 \rangle & 0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, \dots \\ \langle \Delta(n^2) \rangle & 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^2(n^2) \rangle & 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, \dots \\ & 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n^3 \rangle & 0, 1, 8, 27, 64, 125, 216, \dots \\ \langle \Delta(n^3) \rangle & 1, 7, 19, 37, 61, 91, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^2(n^3) \rangle & 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^3(n^3) \rangle & 6, 6, 6, 6, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^4(n^3) \rangle & 0, 0, 0, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n^4 \rangle & 0, 1, 16, 81, 256, 625, 1296, \dots \\ \langle \Delta(n^4) \rangle & 1, 15, 65, 175, 369, 671, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^2(n^4) \rangle & 14, 50, 110, 194, 302, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^3(n^4) \rangle & 36, 60, 84, 108, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^4(n^4) \rangle & 24, 24, 24, \dots \\ \langle \Delta^5(n^4) \rangle & 0, 0, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta^k(n^p) = k! \begin{Bmatrix} p \\ k \end{Bmatrix} \quad \text{where } \begin{Bmatrix} p \\ k \end{Bmatrix} = \text{the Stirling coeff. of the 2nd kind}$$

Def. For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define the polynomial  $[n]_k$  in  $n$  of degree  $k$  by  $[n]_k = n(n-1)\dots(n-(k-1))$ .  
 So  $[n]_0 = 1$ ,  $[n]_1 = n$ ,  $[n]_2 = n(n-1)$ , &  $[n]_k = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$ . ⑥

Def. For each  $k, p \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define the Stirling numbers (or coefficients) of the second kind as the unique numbers  $\{p\}_k$  such that

$$n^p = \sum_{k=0}^p \{p\}_k [n]_k.$$

Note: Recall that  $\binom{p}{k}$  were the unique numbers such that  $(1+n)^p = \sum_{k=0}^p \binom{p}{k} n^k$ . So there is a certain amount of similarity between  $\{p\}_k$  &  $\binom{p}{k}$ .

Ex.1 From the zero-column of  $\langle n^4 \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and Prop.2, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} n^4 &= 0 \cdot \binom{n}{0} + 1 \cdot \binom{n}{1} + 14 \cdot \binom{n}{2} + 36 \cdot \binom{n}{3} + 24 \cdot \binom{n}{4} \\ &= \frac{0}{0!} [n]_0 + \frac{1}{1!} [n]_1 + \frac{14}{2!} [n]_2 + \frac{36}{3!} [n]_3 + \frac{24}{4!} [n]_4 \\ &= 0 \cdot [n]_0 + 1 \cdot [n]_1 + 7 \cdot [n]_2 + 6 [n]_3 + 1 \cdot [n]_4 \end{aligned}$$

So  $\{4\}_0 = 0$ ,  $\{4\}_1 = 1$ ,  $\{4\}_2 = 7$ ,  $\{4\}_3 = 6$ , &  $\{4\}_4 = 1$ .

Note: We can say  $\{4\}_k = 0$  for  $k \geq 4$ , since they do not appear

Prop.4 For any  $k, p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ .

$$\{p\}_k = \{p-1\}_{k-1} + k \cdot \{p-1\}_k \quad (\text{Stirling's Second identity})$$

Note: This is very similar to the Pascal's identity,

$$\binom{p}{k} = \binom{p-1}{k-1} + \binom{p-1}{k}.$$

Proof: We have  $n^p = \sum_{k=0}^p \{p \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k \dots (*)$

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So,  $n^{p-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} n^p &= n \cdot n^{p-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k \cdot n \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k \cdot \{(n-k) + k\} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k \cdot (n-k) + \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k \cdot k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_{k+1} + \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} k \cdot \{p-1 \atop k\} [n]_k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^p \{p-1 \atop k-1\} \cdot [n]_k + 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} k \cdot \{p-1 \atop k\} \cdot [n]_k \\ &= 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \left( \{p-1 \atop k-1\} + k \cdot \{p-1 \atop k\} \right) [n]_k + \{p-1 \atop p-1\} [n]_{p-1} \dots (**)$$

Comparing the coefficients of (\*) & (\*\*) we get

$$\{p \atop k\} = \{p-1 \atop k-1\} + k \cdot \{p-1 \atop k\}, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p-1$$

and  $\{p \atop p\} = \{p-1 \atop p-1\}$  and  $\{p \atop 0\} = 0^p$  for  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $\square$

Ex. 2 (a)  $n^0 = 1 \cdot [n]_0$  &  $n^0 = \{0 \atop 0\} [n]_0 \Rightarrow \{0 \atop 0\} = 1 = 0^0$ .

(b)  $n^1 = 0 \cdot [n]_0 + 1 \cdot [n]_1 \Rightarrow \{1 \atop 0\} = 0$  &  $\{1 \atop 1\} = 1$

(c)  $n^2 = 0 \cdot [n]_0 + 1 \cdot [n]_1 + 1 \cdot [n]_2 \Rightarrow \{2 \atop 0\} = 0, \{2 \atop 1\} = 1, \text{ \& } \{2 \atop 2\} = 1$

(d)  $n^3 = 0 \cdot [n]_0 + 1 \cdot [n]_1 + 3 \cdot [n]_2 + 1 \cdot [n]_3 \Rightarrow$

$$\{3 \atop 0\} = 0, \{3 \atop 1\} = 1, \{3 \atop 2\} = 3, \{3 \atop 3\} = 1.$$

Using Stirling's Second identity, we can compute the values of  $\{p \atop k\}$  for all  $p, k \in \mathbb{N}$  - much more easily.

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First of all let us note that for all  $p$ ,  
 $\{p\}_p = 1$  for  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  &  $\{0\}_p = 0$  for  $p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

$p \backslash k$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	7	6	1	0	0	0
5	0	1	15	25	10	1	0	0
6	0	1	31	90	65	15	1	0
7	0	1	63	301	350	140	21	1

$$1 + 3(0) = \{2\}_2 + 3\{2\}_3 = \{3\}_3 = 1.$$

$$31 + 3(90) = \{6\}_2 + 3\{6\}_3 = \{7\}_3 = 301. \quad \{p\}_{p-1} = \{p\}_2.$$

Note: If we fill out the table as shown above, we can see that for all  $k, p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\{p\}_k = \{p-1\}_k + k \cdot \{p-1\}_{k-1}$ .

We now turn to Stirling's numbers of the first kind.

Def. We define the Stirling numbers of the first kind as the unique integers  $[p]_k$  such that

$$[n]_p = \sum_{k=0}^p (-1)^{p-k} [p]_k \cdot n^k \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq p.$$

Note: 1.  $[p]_k = (\text{coeff. of } n^k) / (-1)^{p-k}$  in the expansion of  $[n]_p$  in terms of  $n^0, n^1, \dots, n^p$ .

2. The term  $(-1)^{p-k}$  is just there to ensure that  $[p]_k$  is a non-negative integer.



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Ex. 3  $[n]_4 = n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)$

$$= n(n^2 - 3n + 2)(n-3)$$

$$= n(n^3 - 6n^2 + 11n - 6)$$

$$= n^4 - 6n^3 + 11n^2 - 6n + 0 \cdot n^0$$

So  $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = -6/(-1)^{4-1} = 6$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 11/(-1)^{4-2} = 11$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = -6/(-1)^{4-3} = 6, \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = 1/(-1)^{4-4} = 1.$$

Prop. 5 For any  $k, p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix} + (p-1) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{Stirling's First identity})$$

Proof: We know that  $[n]_p = \sum_{k=0}^p (-1)^{p-k} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^k \dots (*)$

So  $[n]_{p-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-1-k} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^k$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} [n]_p &= [n]_{p-1} \cdot \{n - (p-1)\} = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-1-k} \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^k \cdot \{n - (p-1)\} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-1-k} \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^k \cdot n - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-1-k} \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^k \cdot (p-1) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-(k+1)} \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^{k+1} + \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-k} (p-1) \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \cdot n^k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^p (-1)^{p-k} \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix} n^k + (-1)^p (p-1) \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-k} (p-1) \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} n^k \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ p-1 \end{bmatrix} n^p + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} (-1)^{p-k} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix} + (p-1) \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \right\} \cdot n^k + (-1)^p (p-1) \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (**)$$

Comparing the coefficients of (\*) & (\*\*) we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix} + (p-1) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p-1.$$

Also  $\begin{bmatrix} p \\ p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ p-1 \end{bmatrix}$  &  $\begin{bmatrix} p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$  for  $p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Ex. 4 a)  $[n]_0 = 1$  &  $[n]_0 = (-1)^{0-0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} n^0 = 1 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 1$

(b)  $[n]_1 = n$  &  $[n]_1 = (-1)^{1-0} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} n^0 + (-1)^{1-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} n^1$   
 $\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$  &  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1$

(c)  $[n]_2 = n(n-1) = n^2 - n^1 + 0 \cdot n^0$   
 $\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1$ , and  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 1$ .

(d)  $[n]_3 = n(n-1)(n-2) = n(n^2 - 3n + 2) = n^3 - 3n^2 + 2n^1 + 0 \cdot n^0$   
 $\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 2$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 3$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 1$ .

By using Sterling's First identity, we can compute the values of  $\begin{bmatrix} p \\ k \end{bmatrix}$  for all  $p, k \in \mathbb{N}$  much more easily;

$p \backslash k$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
4	0	6	11	6	1	0	0	0
5	0	24	50	35	10	1	0	0
6	0	120	274	225	85	15	1	0
7	0	720	1764	1624	735	175	21	1

$$50 + 5(35) = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + (6-1) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 225$$

Observe also that  $\begin{bmatrix} p \\ p-1 \end{bmatrix} = \binom{p}{2}$  for all  $p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Note: If we fill out the table as shown above, we can see that for all  $k, p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} p \\ k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix} + (p-1) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}$ .

### §3. Combinatorial significance of the Stirling Numbers. (11)

Our aim in this section is to show that the Stirling numbers of the Second & First kind have combinatorial meanings just as the Binomial coefficients  $\binom{p}{k}$  is also the number of  $k$ -subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, p\}$ .

Def. Let  $k, p \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $k \leq p$ . We define  $S(p, k)$  by  $S(p, k) =$  no. of partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  into  $k$  parts.

Recall that a partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  is a collection of disjoint, non-empty subsets  $\{A_i : i \in I\}$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  such that  $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$ . If  $|I| = k$ , then we say that the partition has  $k$  parts.

Ex. 1 (a)  $\{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4\}\}$  is a partition of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with 2 parts

(b)  $\{\{1, 2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}\}$  and  $\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3, 4\}\}$  are both partitions of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with 3 parts.

Ex. 2 Let  $p = 4$ . Then  $\{\{1\}, \{2, 3, 4\}\}$ ,  $\{\{2\}, \{1, 3, 4\}\}$ ,  $\{\{3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}\}$ ,  $\{\{4\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$ ,  $\{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4\}\}$ ,  $\{\{1, 3\}, \{2, 4\}\}$  and  $\{\{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}\}$  are all the possible partitions of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  into 2 parts.  $\therefore S(4, 2) = 7$ .

Note:  $S(p, p) = 1$  for  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  &  $S(p, 0) = 0$  for  $p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  because  $\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{p\}\}$  is the only partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  into  $p$  parts.

Prop. 6 For each  $k, p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ ,  

$$S(p, k) = S(p-1, k-1) + k \cdot S(p-1, k).$$

Proof. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  = set of all partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  into  $k$  parts,  
 $\mathcal{B}$  = set of partitions in  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $p$  in a part by itself, and  
 $\mathcal{C}$  = set of partitions in  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $p$  not in a part by itself.  
 Then  $\mathcal{B} \cap \mathcal{C} = \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{C}$ . So  

$$|\mathcal{A}| = |\mathcal{B}| + |\mathcal{C}|.$$

Now if we remove the part  $\{p\}$  from each of the partitions in  $\mathcal{B}$ , we will get a partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  into  $k-1$  parts. And if we add  $\{p\}$  to any partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  into  $k-1$  parts, then we will get a partition of  $\mathcal{B}$ .  
 So  $|\mathcal{B}| = S(p-1, k-1)$

Also if we remove  $p$  from its part in a partition of  $\mathcal{C}$ , we will get a partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  into  $k$  parts. And if we add  $p$  to each part, in turns, to a partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  into  $k$  parts, we will get  $k$  partitions of  $\mathcal{C}$ . So  $|\mathcal{C}| = k \cdot S(p-1, k)$ . Thus  

$$\begin{aligned} S(p, k) &= |\mathcal{A}| = |\mathcal{B}| + |\mathcal{C}| \\ &= S(p-1, k-1) + k \cdot S(p-1, k). \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 7: For each  $k, p \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $S(p, k) = \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$ .

Proof.  $S(p, k)$  &  $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  satisfy the same recurrence equation with the same boundary conditions.  
 Hence we must have  $S(p, k) = \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$ .

Def. Let  $S_p$  be the set of permutation of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$ . We define the relation  $\sim$  on  $S_p$  as follows.

$\langle i_1, \dots, i_p \rangle \sim \langle j_1, \dots, j_p \rangle$  if we can find a non-negative integer  $k$  such that

$$\langle i_1, \dots, i_p \rangle = \langle j_{k+1}, j_{k+2}, \dots, j_p, j_1, \dots, j_k \rangle$$

Ex.3. Let  $\langle i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \rangle = \langle 1, 3, 2, 4 \rangle$  and  $\langle j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4 \rangle = \langle 2, 4, 1, 3 \rangle$ . Then  $\langle i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \rangle = \langle j_3, j_4, j_1, j_2 \rangle$ . So  $\langle 1, 3, 2, 4 \rangle \sim \langle 2, 4, 1, 3 \rangle$ .

Fact 1 The relation  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $S_p$  and it partitions  $S_p$  into  $(p-1)!$  equivalence classes, each with  $p$  elements. Each equivalence class will be called a circular permutation.

Ex.4 The equivalence classes of  $S_3$  are  $\{\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle, \langle 2, 3, 1 \rangle, \langle 3, 1, 2 \rangle\}$  &  $\{\langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle, \langle 3, 2, 1 \rangle, \langle 2, 1, 3 \rangle\}$

Fact 2 Each of the  $(p-1)!$  equivalence classes of  $S_p$  have an element which begins with "1". We shall use this permutation to represent the equivalence class from which it came. This permutation beginning with a "1" will also be called the representative of the circular permutation.

Ex.5 The representative of the circular permutations of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  are

$$\langle 1, 2, 3, 4 \rangle, \langle 1, 2, 4, 3 \rangle, \langle 1, 3, 2, 4 \rangle, \langle 1, 3, 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 1, 4, 2, 3 \rangle, \langle 1, 4, 3, 2 \rangle$$

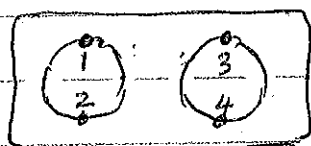
So  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  has 6 circular permutations.

Note If  $A$  is any set, we usually pick a fixed element (usually the smallest element) to anchor the circular permutations. So the circular permutations of  $\{2, 3, 5\}$  will be  $\langle 2, 3, 5 \rangle$  and  $\langle 2, 5, 3 \rangle$ . Here 2 serves as the anchor.

Def. Let  $k, p \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $k \leq p$ . We define  $s(p, k)$  by  $s(p, k) =$  no. of arrangements of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, p\}$  into  $k$  non-empty circular partitions.

In other words,  $s(p, k) =$  no. of ways we can seat  $1, 2, 3, \dots, p$  at  $k$  indistinguishable circular tables with no table being empty.

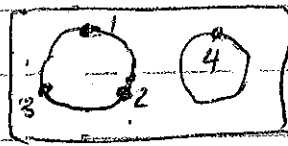
Ex. 6 Let us count the number of different ways we can seat  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  at 2 indistinguishable tables.



$\langle 1, 2 \rangle$  &  $\langle 3, 4 \rangle$

$\langle 1, 3 \rangle$  &  $\langle 2, 4 \rangle$

$\langle 1, 4 \rangle$  &  $\langle 2, 3 \rangle$

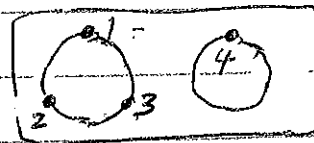


$\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$  &  $\langle 4 \rangle$

$\langle 1, 2, 4 \rangle$  &  $\langle 3 \rangle$

$\langle 1, 3, 4 \rangle$  &  $\langle 2 \rangle$

$\langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$  &  $\langle 1 \rangle$



$\langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle$  &  $\langle 4 \rangle$

$\langle 1, 4, 2 \rangle$  &  $\langle 3 \rangle$

$\langle 1, 4, 3 \rangle$  &  $\langle 2 \rangle$

$\langle 2, 4, 3 \rangle$  &  $\langle 1 \rangle$

So  $s(4, 2) = 11$ .

Note: For each  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $s(p, 0) = 0^p$  and  $s(p, p) = 1$ . Remember that  $0^0 = 1$  and  $0^p = 0$  for  $p > 0$ .

Prop. 8 For each  $k, p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ ,  

$$s(p, k) = s(p-1, k-1) + (p-1) \cdot s(p-1, k).$$

Proof. Let  $A$  = set of all seating arrangements of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  at  $k$  indistinguishable tables with no tables empty. Put  $B$  = set of seatings in  $A$  with  $p$  at a table by itself &  $B_0$  = set of seatings in  $A$  with  $p$  not by itself at a table. Then  $B \cap B_0 = \emptyset$  &  $A = B \cup B_0$ . So  $|A| = |B| + |B_0|$ .

Now if we remove the table with  $p$  from each seating in  $B$ , then we will get a seating of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  at  $k-1$  non-empty tables. And if we put  $p$  at a new table to any seating of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  at  $k-1$  non-empty tables, we will get a seating of  $B$ . So  $|B| = s(p-1, k-1)$ .

Also if we remove  $p$  from its table in a seating of  $B_0$ , we will get a seating of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1\}$  at  $k$  non-empty tables. And if we seat  $p$  to the left of each of  $1, 2, \dots, p-1$ ; in turns, at the respective tables of a seating of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  at  $k$  non-empty tables, we will get  $p-1$  seatings of  $B_0$ . So  $|B_0| = (p-1) \cdot s(p-1, k)$ . Hence  $s(p, k) = |A| = |B| + |B_0| = s(p-1, k-1) + (p-1) \cdot s(p-1, k)$ .

Corollary 9: For each  $k, p \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $s(p, k) = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right]$ .

Proof.  $s(p, k)$  &  $\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right]$  satisfies the same recurrence equation with the same boundary conditions. Hence we must have  $s(p, k) = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right]$ .

#### §4. Partitions of a non-negative integer

Ex.1 In how many ways can the multiset  $[4.a]$  be partitioned into non-empty sub-multisets?

Sol. First of all remember that a join of multisets is not the same as a union of sets. So for example  $[2.a, 1.b] + [1.a, 3.b] = [3.a, 4.b]$ . A partition of the multiset  $M$  is a collection of sub-multisets  $[A_1, \dots, A_k]$  such that  $M = A_1 + \dots + A_k$ . Two collections  $[A_1, \dots, A_k]$  &  $[B_1, \dots, B_k]$  are considered the same if  $[A_1, \dots, A_k] = [B_1, \dots, B_k]$  as multi-multisets. Now the partitions of  $[4.a]$  are

$[4.a]$	$4 = 4$
$[3.a], [1.a]$	$4 = 3 + 1$
$[2.a], [2.a]$	$4 = 2 + 2$
$[2.a], [1.a], [1.a]$	$4 = 2 + 1 + 1$
$[1.a], [1.a], [1.a], [1.a]$	$4 = 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$

This problem is equivalent to the number of ways of writing 4 as a sum of positive integers as shown above on the right. So our answer is 5. Notice also that there are 2 ways of partitioning  $[4.a]$  into 2 sub-multisets.

Def. Let  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We define  $p(n, k)$  to be the number of partitions of  $[n.1]$  into  $k$  non-empty parts. We also define  $p(n)$  to be the total number of partitions of  $[n.1]$ . So  $p(n) = p(n, 1) + \dots + p(n, n)$ .



Ex. 2 Find  $p(6, 2)$  &  $p(n, 0)$ .

Sol. We have  $6 = 5+1$ ,  $6 = 4+2$ ,  $6 = 3+3$ . So  $p(6, 2) = 3$ . Also  $0 =$  empty sum of pos. integ., and since there is only one way to write this  $p(0, 0) = 1 = 0^0$ . And if  $n > 0$ , then  $n$  cannot be expressed as an empty sum of positive integers. So in this case  $p(n, 0) = 0 = 0^n$ . Thus for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p(n, 0) = 0^n$ .

Prop. 10 For any  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ,  

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

Proof. Let  $A$  be the collection of all partitions of  $n$  into exactly  $k$  non-empty parts. Put  
 $B =$  collection of partitions of  $A$  with a part of size 1 &  
 $\mathcal{C} =$  collection of partitions of  $A$  with no part of size 1.  
 Then  $|A| = |B| + |\mathcal{C}|$ .

Now if we remove a part of size 1 from a partition of  $B$ , we will get a partition of  $n-1$  into  $k-1$  non-empty parts. And if we add a part of size 1 to a partition of  $n-1$  into  $k-1$  non-empty parts, we will get a partition of  $B$ . Hence  $|B| = p(n-1, k-1)$ .

Also if we remove a "1" from each of the parts of a partition of  $\mathcal{C}$ , we will get a partition of  $n-k$  into  $k$  non-empty parts. And if we add a "1" to each part of a partition of  $n-k$  into  $k$  non-empty parts, we will get a partition of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Proof: Hence  $|B| = p(n-k, k)$ . So

$$p(n, k) = |A| = |B| + |b| = p(n-1, k-1) + p(n-k, k).$$

Using Proposition 10, we can compute the values of  $p(n, k)$ , for all  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$n \backslash k$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	$p(n)$
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
4	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
5	0	1	2	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">2</span>	1	1	0	0	0	7
6	0	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	11
7	0	1	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">3</span>	4	3	2	1	1	0	15
8	0	1	4	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">5</span>	5	3	2	1	1	22

Ex. 3 (a)  $p(8-1, 3-1) + p(8-3, 3) = p(8, 3)$   
3 + 2 = 5

(b)  $p(8-1, 4-1) + p(8-4, 4) = p(8, 4)$   
 4 + 1 = 5

Ex. 4 Let us now turn our attention to the collection of all partitions of a  $[n, 1]$ . Consider the partition of 10.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 5 & = & \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \\ + 3 & = & \bullet \bullet \bullet \\ + 1 & = & \bullet \\ + 1 & = & \bullet \end{array}$$

This diagram is called the Ferrer's diagram of the partition.

Ex. 4 If we interchange the rows & columns of the Ferrer's diagram of  $5+3+1+1$ , we will get the conjugate partition  $4+2+2+1+1$ .

$$4 = \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet$$

$$+ 2 = \bullet \quad \bullet$$

$$+ 2 = \bullet \quad \bullet$$

$$+ 1 = \bullet$$

$$+ 1 = \bullet$$

Def. A partition of  $n$  is self-conjugate if it is the same as its conjugate.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & & \bullet \end{array}$$

$3+2+2$  is  
a self-conjugate  
partition of 8

Prop. 11 Let  $q(n, k)$  be the number of partitions of  $n$  in which the largest part is of size  $k$ . Then  
 $q(n, k) = p(n, k)$

Proof: Recall that  $p(n, k)$  = no. of partitions of  $n$  into  $k$  non-empty parts. Let  
 $A$  = collection of all partitions of  $n$  into  $k$  non-empty parts  
&  $B$  = collection of all partitions of  $n$  in which the largest part has size  $k$ .  
Then the conjugate of each partition of  $A$  is a partition of  $B$ . And the conjugate of each partition of  $B$  is a partition of  $A$ . So  
 $|A| = |B|$ . Hence  $q(n, k) = p(n, k)$ .

Corollary 12:  $q(n, 1) + q(n, 2) + \dots + q(n, k) = p(n, 1) + p(n, 2) + \dots + p(n, k)$ .

Ex.5 Let  $A_3$  = collection of partitions of 7 into 3 parts &  $B_3$  = collection of partitions of 7 with the largest part having size 3. Then

$$A_3 = \{5+1+1, 4+2+1, 3+3+1\} \text{ and}$$

$$B_3 = \{3+1+1+1+1, 3+2+1+1, 3+2+2\}. \text{ So } |A_3| = |B_3|.$$

Def. Let  $A_{\text{DIST}}(n)$  = collection of all partitions of  $n$  in which each part of the partition is of different sizes, &  $A_{\text{ODD}}(n)$  = collection of all partitions of  $n$  in which each part is of odd size.

We define  $P_{\text{DIST}}(n) = |A_{\text{DIST}}(n)|$  &  $P_{\text{ODD}}(n) = |A_{\text{ODD}}(n)|$ .

Ex.6  $A_{\text{DIST}}(5) = \{5, 4+1, 3+2\}$

$$A_{\text{ODD}}(5) = \{5, 3+1+1, 1+1+1+1+1\}$$

Notice that  $|A_{\text{DIST}}(5)| = |A_{\text{ODD}}(5)|$ .

Algorithm 1 (Distinct parts into Odd parts algorithm)

INPUT : A partition  $P$  of  $n$  into distinct parts.

OUTPUT : A partition  $Q$  of  $n$  into odd parts.

1. Let  $i \leftarrow 0$  and  $P_i \leftarrow P$ .
2. If  $P_i$  has no part of even size, STOP;  
else split each even part of  $P_i$  to get  $P_{i+1}$ .
3. Let  $i \leftarrow i+1$  and go to step 2.

Ex.7 Find odd partitions of 10 corresponding to

(a)  $5+3+2$

(b)  $6+4$

(a)  $P_0 = 5+3+2$ .

$P_1 = 5+3+1+1$ . This is our final answer.

Ex.7(b)  $P_0 = 6 + 4$

$P_1 = 3 + 3 + 2 + 2$

$P_2 = 3 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \leftarrow$  This is our final ans.

Algorithm 2 (Odd parts into Distinct parts algorithm)

INPUT: A partition  $Q$  of  $n$  into odd parts

OUTPUT: A partition  $P$  of  $n$  into distinct parts.

1. Let  $i \leftarrow 0$  and  $Q_i \leftarrow Q$ .
2. If  $Q_i$  has no two parts of the same size, STOP;  
else group the parts of the same size in pairs  
(leave out 1 if there are an odd no. of parts of  
the same size) and union each pair to get a  
new partition  $Q_{i+1}$ .
3. Let  $i \leftarrow i+1$  and go to step.2.

Ex.8. Find the distinct partitions of 10 corresponding to

(a)  $3 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$  (b)  $5 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$

(a)  $Q_0 = (3 + 3) + (1 + 1) + (1 + 1)$  (b)  $Q_0 = 5 + (1 + 1) + (1 + 1) + 1$

$Q_1 = 6 + (2 + 2)$   $Q_1 = 5 + (2 + 2) + 1$

$Q_2 = 6 + 4$  done  $Q_2 = 5 + 4 + 1$  done.

Theorem 13:  $P_{\text{dist}}(n) = P_{\text{odd}}(n)$ .

(Sketch of the)

Proof: Let  $f: \mathcal{A}_{\text{DIST}}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\text{ODD}}(n)$  be defined by  $f(P) =$   
the unique partition of  $n$  produced by Algorithm 1.

Also let  $g: \mathcal{A}_{\text{ODD}}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\text{DIST}}(n)$  be defined by  $g(Q) =$   
the unique partition of  $n$  produced by Algorithm 2.

Then  $f \circ g = \text{identity function}$  &  $g \circ f = \text{identity function}$ . So  
 $f$  is a bijection.  $\therefore P_{\text{dist}}(n) = |\mathcal{A}_{\text{DIST}}(n)| = |\mathcal{A}_{\text{ODD}}(n)| = P_{\text{odd}}(n)$ .

Ex.5 Let  $A_3$  = collection of partitions of 7 into 3 parts &  
 $B_3$  = collection of partitions of 7 with largest part  
of size 3. Then

$$A_3 = \{5+1+1, 4+2+1, 3+3+1\}$$

$$B_3 = \{3+1+1+1+1, 3+2+1+1, 3+2+2\}.$$

This verifies that  $|A_3| = |B_3|$ .

Def. Let  $A_D(n)$  = collection of all partitions of  $n$  into parts  
which are all of different sizes, and  
 $B_O(n)$  = collection of all partitions of  $n$  into parts  
which are all of odd sizes.

We define  $P_{dist}(n) = |A_D(n)|$  &  $P_{odd}(n) = |B_O(n)|$ .

Ex.6  $A_D(5) = [5, 4+1, 3+2]$

$$B_O(5) = [1+1+1+1+1, 3+1+1, 5]$$
$$= [5 \cdot [1], 2 \cdot [1] + 1 \cdot [3], 1 \cdot [5]]$$

Theorem 13 For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P_{dist}(n) = P_{odd}(n)$

Proof. Let us consider any partition of  $B_O(n)$ . Then  
we can express that partition in the form

$$[n] = x_1 \cdot [1] + x_3 \cdot [3] + x_5 \cdot [5] + \dots$$

as indicated in example 6. Now express each  
 $x_i$  as a binary numeral in reverse order.

$$x_i = 2^{a_i} 2^{b_i} 2^{c_i} \dots \quad \text{with } a_i < b_i < c_i < \dots$$

Then we will have

$$n = 1 \cdot 2^{a_1} + 1 \cdot 2^{b_1} + 1 \cdot 2^{c_1} + \dots \quad (\text{each term is})$$
$$+ 3 \cdot 2^{a_3} + 3 \cdot 2^{b_3} + 3 \cdot 2^{c_3} + \dots \quad (\text{one part of } n)$$
$$+ 5 \cdot 2^{a_5} + 5 \cdot 2^{b_5} + 5 \cdot 2^{c_5} + \dots + \dots$$

(6 parts are listed followed by dots - but there could be less or more).

Proof But this gives us a partition of  $n$  in which all parts are of different sizes, because

$$2^{a_1} < 2^{b_1} < 2^{c_1} < \dots$$

$$3 \cdot 2^{a_3} < 3 \cdot 2^{b_3} < 3 \cdot 2^{c_3} < \dots$$

$$5 \cdot 2^{a_5} < 5 \cdot 2^{b_5} < 5 \cdot 2^{c_5} < \dots$$

since  $a_i < b_i < c_i < \dots$  for each odd  $i$  and  $2^a, 3 \cdot 2^a, 5 \cdot 2^a, \dots$  are always different.

So each partition of  $\mathcal{B}_0(n)$  corresponds to a partition of  $\mathcal{A}_2(n)$ .

Now consider any partition of  $\mathcal{A}_2(n)$ .

Write it as  $n = y_1 + y_2 + y_3 + \dots$  and express each  $y_i$  in the form  $2^a \cdot (2k+1)$ .

Then by adding together the the portions with the same odd part,  $2k+1$ , we will get

$$[n] = x_1 \cdot [1] + x_3 \cdot [3] + x_5 \cdot [5] + \dots$$

which is a partition of  $\mathcal{B}_0(n)$ . Notice that

$x_1 = \text{coeff. of all the portions of the form } 2^a \cdot 1$

$x_3 = \text{coeff. of all the portions of the form } 2^a \cdot 3$

and so. So each partition of  $\mathcal{A}_2(n)$  corresponds to a partition of  $\mathcal{B}_0(n)$ . Hence

$$p_{\text{dist}}(n) = |\mathcal{A}_2(n)| = |\mathcal{B}_0(n)| = p_{\text{odd}}(n).$$

Ex. 7 (a)  $\mathcal{B}_0(7) = \{1+1+1+1+1+1, 1+1+1+1+3, 1+1+5, 7\}$   
 $= \{(2^0+2^1+2^2) \cdot 1, (2^2 \cdot 1 + 2^0 \cdot 3), (2^1 \cdot 1 + 2^0 \cdot 5), (2^0 \cdot 7)\}$   
 $\sim \{(1+2+4), (4+3), (2+5), (7)\} = \mathcal{A}_2(7).$

(b)  $\mathcal{A}_2(6) = \{2+4, 1+2+3, 6, 1+5\}$   
 $= \{(2^1+2^2) \cdot 1, (2^0+2^1) \cdot 1 + 2^0 \cdot 3, 2^1 \cdot 3, 2^0 \cdot 1 + 2^0 \cdot 5\}$   
 $\sim \{(6) \cdot 1, 3 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 3, 2 \cdot 3, 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 5\}$   
 $\sim \{1+1+1+1+1+1, 1+1+1+3, 3+3, 1+5\} = \mathcal{B}_0(6).$

# The Placement of balls into boxes.

Ex.1 In how many ways can we distribute 4 balls into 2 boxes?

The answer depends on the kinds of balls and the kind of boxes. Possible labels for balls: a, b, c, d.

possible labels for boxes: 1st, 2nd.

4	BALLS LABELLED?	2 BOXES LABELLED?	EMPTY BOXES ALLOWED?	ANSWER
1.	NO	NO	NO	2 $3+1, 2+2$
2.	NO	NO	YES	3 $4, 3+1, 2+2$
3.	NO	YES	NO	3 $\langle 3,1 \rangle, \langle 1,3 \rangle, \langle 2,2 \rangle$
4.	NO	YES	YES	5 $\langle 4,0 \rangle, \langle 0,4 \rangle, \langle 3,1 \rangle, \langle 1,3 \rangle, \langle 2,2 \rangle$
5.	YES	NO	NO	7 $\{abc, d\}, \{abd, c\}, \{acd, b\}$ $\{bcd, a\}, \{ab, cd\}, \{ac, bd\}, \{ad, bc\}$
6.	YES	NO	YES	8 $\{abc, d\}, \{abd, c\}, \{acd, b\}$ $\{abcd\}, \{bcd, a\}, \{ab, cd\}, \{ac, bd\}, \{ad, bc\}$
7.	YES	YES	NO	14 Order the 7 partitions in 5. $\langle abc, d \rangle, \langle d, abc \rangle, \dots$
8.	YES	YES	YES	16 Order the 8 partitions in 6. $\langle abcd, \phi \rangle, \langle \phi, abcd \rangle \dots$

Fact:	n BALLS LABELLED?	k BOXES LABELLED?	EMPTY BOXES ALLOWED?	ANSWER
1.	NO	NO	NO	$p(n, k)$
2.	NO	NO	YES	$p(n, k) + \dots + p(n, 0)$
3.	NO	YES	NO	$\binom{n-1}{k-1}$
4.	NO	YES	YES	$\binom{n+k-1}{k-1} = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} \cdot \binom{n-1}{i-1}$
5.	YES	NO	NO	$\{n\}_k$
6.	YES	NO	YES	$\{n\}_k + \{n\}_{k-1} + \dots + \{n\}_0$
7.	YES	YES	NO	$k! \{n\}_k$
8.	YES	YES	YES	$k^n = \sum_{i=0}^k [k]_i \{n\}_i$