

# Inclusion-Exclusion and the Möbius Function

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$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$

$$|A \cup B \cup C| = |A| + |B| + |C| - |A \cap B| - |A \cap C| - |B \cap C| + |A \cap B \cap C|$$

What is the general case?

**Thm:** (Inclusion-Exclusion) Let  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq S$ . For  $0 \leq K \leq n$ , we define  $\Sigma_K = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_K \leq n} |A_{i_1} \cap A_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_K}|$ .

Also,  $\Sigma_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |S|$ .

Then  $|A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n| = \Sigma_1 - \Sigma_2 + \Sigma_3 - \Sigma_4 + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \Sigma_n$

and  $|S - (A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n)| = \Sigma_0 - \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2 - \Sigma_3 + \dots + (-1)^n \Sigma_n$

Proof: Consider  $x \in S$ . Case 1:  $x \notin A_1, \dots, A_n$ . Then  $x$  is only counted once in  $\Sigma_0$ , and not counted in any other  $\Sigma_K$ .

Case 2:  $x \in A_{i_1}, \dots, A_{i_m}$ . Then it is counted  $1 - \binom{m}{1} + \binom{m}{2} - \binom{m}{3} + \dots + (-1)^m \binom{m}{m} = (1-1)^m = 0$ .  $\square$

**Defn:**  $d_n$  is defined to be the number of permutations on  $[n]$  with no fixed points.

**Ex:**  $d_1 = 0$ ,  $d_2 = 1$ . Let's find  $d_3$ :

- 123
- 132
- 213
- 231 ✓
- 312 ✓
- 321

So  $d_3 = 2$ .

Let  $S$  be the set of all permutations on  $[n]$ .  $|S| = n!$ .

Let  $A_i$  be the set of all permutations that fix  $i$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Then  $d_n = |S - (A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n)| = \Sigma_0 - \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2 - \dots$ .

$$\Sigma_K = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_K \leq n} |A_{i_1} \cup \dots \cup A_{i_K}| = \binom{n}{K} \cdot (n-K)!$$

$$d_n = \binom{n}{0} n! - \binom{n}{1} (n-1)! + \binom{n}{2} (n-2)! - \dots = \frac{n!}{0!} - \frac{n!}{1!} + \frac{n!}{2!} - \dots = n! \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{0!} - \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} - \dots + \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \right)}_{\approx e^{-1}}$$

So  $d_n \approx \frac{n!}{e}$

**Ex:**  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\varphi(n) = |\{1 \leq i \leq n : \gcd(i, n) = 1\}|$

- $\varphi(1) = 1$
- $\varphi(2) = 1$
- $\varphi(3) = 2$
- $\varphi(4) = 2$
- $\varphi(5) = 4$
- $\varphi(6) = 2$

If  $n$  is prime, then  $\varphi(n) = n - 1$ .

If  $p, q$  prime, then  $\varphi(p \cdot q) = (p \cdot q) - p - q + 1 = (p - 1)(q - 1)$

If  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  prime, then  $\varphi(p_1 \cdots p_n) = n - \sum_i \frac{n}{p_i} + \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{n}{p_i p_j} - \cdots = (p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1) \cdots (p_n - 1)$

If  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  prime, then  $\varphi(p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_n^{\alpha_n}) = (p_1 - 1)p_1^{\alpha_1 - 1} \cdot (p_2 - 1)p_2^{\alpha_2 - 1} \cdots = n \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_n}\right)$

Proof: Let  $S = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $A_i = \{1 \leq x \leq n : p_i \mid x\}$  (for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

Then  $\varphi(n) = |S - (A_1 \cup \cdots \cup A_n)| = \Sigma_0 - \Sigma_1 + \cdots$

$|A_{i_1} \cap \cdots \cap A_{i_k}| = ?$

$x \in A_{i_1} \cap \cdots \cap A_{i_k} \Leftrightarrow p_{i_1} p_{i_2} \cdots p_{i_k} \mid x \Leftrightarrow x = (p_{i_1} \cdots p_{i_k}) \cdot y$  for  $1 \leq x \leq n$ ;  $1 \leq y \leq \frac{n}{p_{i_1} \cdots p_{i_k}}$ .

So  $|A_{i_1} \cup \cdots \cup A_{i_k}| = \frac{n}{p_{i_1} \cdots p_{i_k}} \rightarrow \Sigma_k = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_k \leq n} \frac{n}{p_{i_1} \cdots p_{i_k}}$

$\rightarrow \varphi(n) = \Sigma_0 - \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2 - \cdots = n - \sum_i \frac{n}{p_i} + \sum_{i_1 \neq i_2} \frac{n}{p_{i_1} p_{i_2}} - \cdots = n \left(1 - \sum_i \frac{1}{p_i} + \sum_{i_1 \neq i_2} \frac{1}{p_{i_1} p_{i_2}} - \cdots\right) = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_n}\right). \square$

**Thm:** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\sum_{\{d: d|n\}} \varphi(d) = n$ .

Proof: The idea is to assign each  $1 \leq x \leq n$  into some class  $S_d = \{x : d \mid x\}$  so that  $|S_d| = \varphi(d)$ .

Let  $y = \gcd(x, n)$ . ( $y \mid n$ ,  $n = y \cdot d$ ).

Let  $S_d = \{1 \leq x \leq n : \gcd(x, n) = \frac{n}{d}\}$ . So  $S_1 = \{n\}$ , and  $S_n = \{x : x, n \text{ coprime}\}$ .

In general,  $S_d = \{1 \leq x \leq n : x = y \cdot u \wedge \gcd(u, d) = 1\}$

So we have  $\{1, \dots, n\} = \bigsqcup_{\{d: d|n\}} S_d$ , and so  $n = \sum_{\{d: d|n\}} |S_d| = \sum_{\{d: d|n\}} \varphi(d). \square$

**Ex:**  $n = 10$ , then  $d = 1, 2, 5, 10$ .

$\varphi(1) + \varphi(2) + \varphi(5) + \varphi(10) = 1 + 1 + 4 + 4 = 10$ .

**Ex:** For  $p, q$  prime,

$\varphi(1) + \varphi(p) + \varphi(q) + \varphi(p \cdot q) = 1 + (p - 1) + (q - 1) + (p - 1)(q - 1) = p \cdot q$

$n = \sum_{\{d: d|n\}} \varphi(d)$ . Then  $\varphi(n) = \sum_{\{d: d|n\}} d \cdot \mu\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$ .  $\mu$  is called the Möbius function.