

3) If n is odd, $P(n+1) = 0$. Otherwise (ie when n is even), $P(n+1) = -1$.

Proof: Using Lagrange Interpolation, we get that:

$$P(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n+1}{k}^{-1} \prod_{j=0 \text{ st } j \neq k}^n \frac{(x-j)}{(k-j)}$$

Thus putting as input $(n+1)$, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} P(n+1) &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n+1}{k}^{-1} \prod_{j=0 \text{ st } j \neq k}^n \frac{(n+1-j)}{(k-j)} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(k)!(n+1-k)!}{(n+1)!} \frac{\prod_{i=n}^{k+1} (n+1-i) \prod_{j=k-1}^1 (n+1-j)}{\prod_{i=n}^{k+1} (k-i) \prod_{j=k-1}^1 (k-j)} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(k)!(n+1-k)!}{(n+1)!} \frac{(n-k)! \prod_{j=k-1}^1 (n+1-j)}{\prod_{i=n}^{k+1} (k-i) \prod_{j=k-1}^1 (k-j)} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(k)!(n+1-k)!}{(n+1)!} \frac{(n-k)! \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-k)!}}{\prod_{i=n}^{k+1} (k-i) \prod_{j=k-1}^1 (k-j)} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(k)!(n+1-k)!}{(n+1)!} \frac{(n-k)! \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-k)!}}{(n-k)!(-1)^{n-k} \prod_{j=k-1}^1 (k-j)} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(k)!(n+1-k)!}{(n+1)!} \frac{(n-k)! \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-k)!}}{(n-k)!(-1)^{n-k} (k)!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

7) Suppose towards a contradiction, that for any distance d , there are no 2 points of color red or yellow which are d apart.

Color a point yellow and draw a circle, C_y , whose center is the yellow point and with radius d .

Clearly in order for this condition to hold all points on the circumference of the circle must be red.

Now, draw another circle, C_r , with radius d and whose center point is on the circumference of C_y .

All the points on the circumference of C_r must be yellow but the circle intersects the C_y so clearly at least 2 points are red.

Thus we have a contradiction and it must be true that for one of the two colors C , it is true that for any distance d , there are 2 points of color C which are d apart. \square

- 8) The answer is 0 but I wasn't able to rigorously prove why that's true.

9) I spent probably 12 or so hours on it. I liked the variety in problems this week! I thought the matrix problems were hard.

Lagrange Interpolation can be used to find the least degree polynomial such that at each point x_j assumes the corresponding value y_i . The form the polynomial actually takes is exemplified in my solution to number 3.