

Suppose the sum of a set of integers is the result of adding together all the integers in that set. Given a non-empty set  $S$  consisting of  $n$  integers, What is the number of non-empty subsets of  $S$  which have an even sum?

**Case 1:**  $S$  consists only of even integers. Then with certainty we can say that for all subsets  $s$  of  $S$ , the sum of  $s$  is even. Thus, the number of non-empty subsets of  $S$  with even sum is equal to  $2^n - 1$ .

**Case 2:**  $S$  consists of even and odd integers. We know that all subsets of  $S$  formed exclusively by even integers have even sum. Additionally, we know that all subsets of  $S$  with even sum formed exclusively by odd integers must have even cardinality.

Let  $O$  be the set of all odd integers in  $S$ . Finding the number of even-sized subsets of the set  $O$  is equivalent to summing the number of ways one can choose 2 elements from  $O$ , and the number of ways to choose 4 elements, and then 6 elements, and so forth.

Let  $x$  be the number of elements in  $O$ , then the number of even-sized subsets of  $O$  is equal to the sum of all  $2k$  combinations of  $O$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{x}{2} \rfloor$ , which we write as

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \rfloor} \binom{x}{2k} = \binom{x}{0} + \binom{x}{2} + \cdots + \binom{x}{2k} \quad (1)$$

If we observe the binomial expansion of  $(1 - 1)^x$ , we notice that

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - 1)^x &= \sum_{k=0}^x \binom{x}{k} 1^{x-k} (-1)^k \\ 0 &= \sum_{k=0}^x \binom{x}{k} (-1)^k \\ 0 &= \binom{x}{0} - \binom{x}{1} + \binom{x}{2} - \binom{x}{3} + \cdots \\ \binom{x}{1} + \binom{x}{3} + \cdots &= \binom{x}{0} + \binom{x}{2} + \cdots \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \rfloor} \binom{x}{2k+1} &= \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \rfloor} \binom{x}{2k} \end{aligned}$$

$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \rfloor} \binom{x}{2k+1}$  is equal to the number of odd-sized subsets of  $O$ . Thus, the number of odd-sized subsets of  $O$  is equal to the number of even-sized subsets of  $O$ . Let  $\alpha$  be the number of odd-sized subsets of  $O$ , and let  $\beta$  be the number of even-sized subsets of  $O$ . We know that  $\alpha + \beta$  must equal the total number of subsets in  $O$ . Thus, we have the following equations

$$\alpha - \beta = 0 \tag{2}$$

$$\alpha + \beta = 2^x \tag{3}$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} 2\alpha &= 2^x \\ \alpha &= 2^{x-1} \end{aligned}$$

We can pair any even-sized subsets of  $O$  with any subset of  $S$  containing only even integers to produce a subset of  $S$  with even sum. Let  $y$  be the number of even integers in  $S$ . Then the following expression will give us the number of non-empty subsets of  $S$  with even sum

$$2^{x-1} \cdot 2^y - 1 \tag{4}$$

But,  $x + y$  must equal  $n$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{x-1} \cdot 2^y &= 2^{x+y-1} - 1 \\ &= 2^{n-1} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the number of non-empty subsets of  $S$  with even sum equals  $2^{n-1} - 1$