

Few days ago Yuriy Bazlov told me about one very beautiful problem where Fermat (small) Theorem appears.

The problem is following.

Calculate the number of subsets of the set $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, p\}$ such that the number p divides the sum of elements in this subset. Suppose that p is a prime number.

This problem was given to schoolkids on something like International Olympiad.

In this problem the Fermat (small) theorem is unexpectedly appears.

Yuriy solved this problem in a very beautiful way.

I spent the Saturday solving this problem; as a result I failed to produce the coursework in a time, however, I solved it **Paris il vaut bien une messe!**.

My solution is the following:

Consider polynomial

$$P_p(x) = (1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^3)\dots(1+x^p)$$

where x is indeterminate, and show that

$$P_p(x) = 1 + C_p \frac{x^p - 1}{x - 1}.$$