

COL202: Discrete Mathematical Structures. I semester, 2017-18.
Tutorial Sheet 1
27 July 2017

Important: The boxed question is to be submitted at the beginning of class on a plain sheet of paper with your name, entry number and the tutorial sheet number clearly written at the top of the sheet.

Note: Starred questions may be somewhat time consuming.

Q1.1. How many ways are there of seating n people around a circular table? Can you argue the answer in more than one way?

Q1.2. Solve Q1.1 by creating blocks of permutations of n people such that each block corresponds to one circular seating pattern, i.e., by creating a bijection between the blocks you have created and the set whose size you want to count.

Q1.3. Given a plane with integer points of the type (x, y) where both x and y are integers, we define a *lattice path* from (x_1, y_1) to (x_2, y_2) to be a set of line segments that go from a point (i, j) to $(i+1, j)$ or $(i, j+1)$, i.e., all steps in the path either move right or up.

Q1.3.1. Does a lattice path exist between any two sets of integer points on the plane?

Q1.3.2. Argue that the length of every lattice path between a pair of points is the same. What is the length of the lattice path joining $(0, 0)$ to (m, n) ?

Q1.3.3. How many lattice paths between $(0, 0)$ and (m, n) ?

Q1.4.* A lattice path from $(0, 0)$ to (n, n) is called a *Catalan path* if it only visits points (x, y) such that $y \leq x$.

Q1.4.1. Argue that every lattice path that is *not* a Catalan path must touch or cross the line $y = x + 1$.

Q1.4.2. Find a bijection between the set of lattice paths that touch or cross the line $y = x + 1$ and the set of lattice paths between $(-1, 1)$ and (n, n) .

Q1.4.3. Use the arguments developed in the previous parts of this problem to give a formula for the number of Catalan paths between $(0, 0)$ and (n, n) .

Q1.5. Prove the following identities regarding binomial coefficients by making counting arguments. Give as many different arguments as possible

Q1.5.1.

$$\binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{j} = \binom{n}{j} \binom{n-j}{k-j}.$$

Q1.5.2.

$$\binom{n}{k} \binom{n-k}{j} = \binom{n}{j} \binom{n-j}{k}.$$

Q1.5.3.

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \binom{m}{i} \binom{n}{k-i} = \binom{m+n}{k}.$$