

ASSIGNMENT 15

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Discrete Mathematics

Q1(a): There are k kinds of the postcards, but only in a limited number of each, there being a_i copies of the i th one. What is the number of possible ways of sending all of them to n friends? (We may send more than one copy of the same postcard to the same person. We may send different kinds of the postcard to the same person.)

Solution: a_i denote the i th kind of postcards.(given)

Let y_i denote the number of ways in which a_i postcards be distributed among n friends. Let x_j denote the number of postcards sent to the j th friend. There are a total of n friends.

Therefore total number of possible ways of sending all of the a_i postcards to n friends is the total number of solutions of the equation:

$$x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = a_i$$

So, total number of solutions will be:

$$\binom{a_i + n - 1}{n-1}$$

let the total number of possible ways of postcards of k kinds will be Y :

$$\prod_{i=1}^k y_i$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^k \binom{a_i + n - 1}{n-1}$$

Q2 : Let $f : \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \Rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. How many f 's are possible which are monotonically (not strictly) increasing?

Solution: Let us construct a set D which contains the domain of the function

$f : \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \Rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Similarly, construct a set C which contains the co-domain. $\therefore |D| = m$ and $|C| = n$. So, all m elements of the domain map to m or less than m elements in the co-domain (because multiple elements from the domain can map to a single element in the co-domain.)

Therefore, the number of monotonically increasing functions, $f : \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \Rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, is equal to the number of ways we can choose m elements from n with repetition.

- Now, each m -combination of a set with n elements when repetition is allowed can be represented by a list of $n+1$ bars and m crosses.
- The $n+1$ bars are used to mark off n different cells, with the i th cell containing a cross for each time the i th element of the set occurs in the combination.
- For instance, a 6-combination of a set with four elements is represented with three bars and six crosses.
- As we have seen, each different list containing $n+1$ bars and m crosses corresponds to an m -combination of the set with n elements, when repetition is allowed. The number of such lists is $\binom{m+n-1}{m}$, because list corresponds to a choice of the m positions to place the m crosses from the $\binom{m+n-1}{m}$ positions that contain m crosses and $n+1$ bars.
- . The number of such lists is also equal to $\binom{m+n-1}{m}$, because each list corresponds to a choice of the $n+1$ positions to place the $n+1$ bar.
- . Hence, there are $\binom{m+n-1}{m}$ f 's possible which are monotonically increasing.