

Basic Combinatorics - Spring, Home

Assignment 1

Problem 1.

Given $n \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ we looking for the number of subsets n-element set, whose size is $0 \pmod{4}$.

Let $S_n(a, b)$ be the sum of the binomial coefficients with $k \equiv a \pmod{b}$.

$$2^n = (1 + 1)^n = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \cdots + \binom{n}{n} = S_n(1, 2) + S_n(0, 2)$$

$$(1+i)^n = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}i - \binom{n}{2} - \binom{n}{3}i + \binom{n}{4} + \binom{n}{5}i - \cdots = S_n(0, 4) + iS_n(1, 4) - S_n(2, 4) - iS_n(3, 4)$$

$$(1-i)^n = \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1}i - \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{3}i + \binom{n}{4} - \binom{n}{5}i - \cdots = S_n(0, 4) - iS_n(1, 4) - S_n(2, 4) + iS_n(3, 4)$$

we can notice that the amount of subsets of a n-element set, whose size is $0 \pmod{4}$ when $n \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$

$$\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{4} + \binom{n}{8} + \cdots = S_n(1, 4)$$

and based on the symmetric property of the binomial its suffice to add the binomial form of 0 :

$$0 = (1 - 1)^n = \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \binom{n}{3} + \cdots = S_n(0, 2) - S_n(1, 2)$$

moreover we can see that $S_n(0, 2) = S_n(1, 2) = 2^{n-1}$

while summing $2^n + (1 + i)^n + (1 - i)^n + 0$ them will leave us with

$$4 \left(\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{4} + \binom{n}{8} \cdots \right) = 4S_n(1, 4) = 2(S_n(0, 2) + S_n(0, 4) - S(2, 4))$$

follow the property at Equating 2 from above $S_n(0, 4) - S(2, 4)$ can showed as the i part as $\mathbf{R}((i + 1)^n)$ following:

$$1 + i = \sqrt{2}e^{i/4} \Rightarrow \mathbf{R}((i + 1)^n) = 2^{n/2} \cos((\pi n)/4)$$

now for $n \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ lets set in the last equating $1/\sqrt{2}$ summing all up together we get :

$$2S_n(1, 4) = 2^{n-1} + 2^{(n-2)/2} * 2^{-1/2} = 2^{n-2} + 2^{(n-3)/2}$$

Problem 2.

Based on the following formula

$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k} \Rightarrow \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i}^2 = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{n-i}$$

a combinatorial proof of the identity above, let's say we have $2n$ students that want to study the "Basic Combinatorics" course, but for some reason the university decided to schedule the course in a class with only n seats. so we need to choose a group of n students that could have a seat in the class (all the others will watch from zoom), so in total we have

$$\binom{2n}{n}$$

on the other hand let's split all the students into 2 equal size groups of n , now we can choose k students from the first and $n - k$ from the second

$$\binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{n-k}$$

because we don't care about the order and want to cover all the sub-group sizes from each one of them, we will sum up all the sub-group combinations and get

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{n-i} = \binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i}^2$$

Problem 3.

Combinatorial proof of the identity. suppose some guy let's call him Schrödinger wants to place $r + 1$ cats in $n + 1$ boxes one in each box (otherwise they will fight). he can do so while assuming all of them are identical, in total of

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1}$$

different ways.

but for some reason our guy doesn't like to do things in the normal way, he wants to put the "boxes inside the cats" he claims that we can look at the first

box if we decide to put cat inside we left with r cats to split in the rest n boxes, on the other hand if we decide to not put cat inside it, we will have $r + 1$ cats to split in the rest boxes, hence

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} + \binom{n}{r+1}$$

now lets look at the case he decide to leave the box empty and we still left with $r + 1$ cats to drop in n box and follow the same proses.

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} + \binom{n}{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} + \binom{n-1}{r} + \binom{n-1}{r+1}$$

we can now follow the same prosses until we have $r + 1$ cats to place in $r + 1$ box, witch is equal 1.

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} + \binom{n-1}{r} + \binom{n-2}{r} + \cdots + \binom{r+1}{r} + \binom{r+1}{r+1}$$

now for some m lets look at the first and secound binomial coefficients of it

$$\binom{m}{1} = 1, \binom{m}{2} = (m^2 - m)/2$$

hence for $r = 2$ we will get the following equation

$$\begin{aligned} 2\binom{n+1}{2+1} &= 2\sum_{k=1}^{n-2} \binom{n-k}{2} = \sum_{k=1}^n (k^2 - k) = \sum_{k=1}^n k^2 - \sum_{k=1}^n k \\ &\Rightarrow 2\binom{n+1}{2+1} + \frac{n^2 + n}{2} = \frac{n + 3n^2 + 2n^3}{6} = \sum_{k=1}^n k^2 \end{aligned}$$

For general k lets use again the idea described above (with the cats), at first we will the smallest coefficients(1) and the secound will be r and so one while $n > r + 1$, so for general k we will find linear formula that nullify the coefficients of the formula polynomial

Problem 4

4.1

claim 0.1. $c(p, k) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ when $0 < k < p$ is prime

Proof. first look at $c(n, k)$ binomial form

$$\binom{p}{k} = \frac{p!}{k!(p-k)!} = p \frac{(p-1)!}{k!(p-k)!}$$

under the assumption that p is the greatest prime that divide the following equation, so in total we get

$$0 \pmod{p}$$

□

and from the following claim we can immediately get

$$(1+x)^p = 1 + c(x, p-1) + x^p \equiv 1 + x^p \pmod{p}$$

Theorem 0.2. *Fermat's Little Theorem (FLT).* $b^p \equiv b \pmod{p}$ for any prime p and $b \in F_p$

Proof. At the base case for $b = 0 \Rightarrow b^k = b$ which hold $b^k \equiv b \pmod{p}$
now using the claim above and our indication for some $b-1$, we get

$$b^p = (1+(b-1))^p \equiv 1+(b-1)^p \pmod{p} \Rightarrow b^p = 1+(b-1)^p = 1+b-1 \equiv b \pmod{p}$$

because $(b-1)^p \equiv b-1 \pmod{p}$

□

4.2

lets look at the following formula as the Multinomial theorem

"is a multinomial coefficient. The sum is taken over all combinations of nonnegative integer indices k_1 through k_m such that the sum of all k_i is n . That is, for each term in the expansion, the exponents of the x_i must add up to n . Also, as with the binomial theorem, quantities of the form x_0 that appear are taken to equal 1."

(from wikipedia)

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^m x_i \right)^n = \sum_{\sum_{i=1}^m k_i = n} \binom{n}{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_m} \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{k_i}$$

Theorem 0.3. *Fermat's Little Theorem (FLT). second proof*

Proof. The summation above is summing over all sequences of nonnegative integers, let's express α such as $1 \leq \alpha \leq p-1$ as a sum of 1_s indicators to the power of $(1_1 + 1_2 + 1 + \dots + 1_\alpha)^p$, we will get

$$\alpha^p = \sum_{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_\alpha} \binom{p}{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_\alpha}$$

for prime p and $k_j \neq p$ for any j , we have

$$(\text{MOD } p) \ 0 \equiv \sum_{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_\alpha} \binom{p}{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_\alpha}$$

on the other hand for prime p and some $k_j = p$, we have

$$(\text{MOD } p) \ 1 \equiv \sum_{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_\alpha} \binom{p}{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_\alpha}$$

from the way we express α we know there is exactly α of this k_j which hold the theorem □

4.3

Let's p be any prime $p \neq 2$, for round a carousel of p chairs we looking for the different colouring way using b colors, first if all the chairs appear in a row we looking in total of b^p different colouring. there are b ways of colouring with the same colour, so we can claim now there is $b^p - b$ ways to colouring chairs using at least 2 different colors. hence for prime p and some b using the "FLT" theorem we now that there is total p ways to route this carousel i.e $b^p - b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.

and in total including the ways of couriering with only one color we get total

$$b + \frac{b^p - b}{p}$$

distinct ways of painting the chairs.

Problem 5

For n integers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n , not necessarily distinct, let's look at the following n integers

$$a_1, a_1 + a_2, a_1 + a_2 + a_3, \dots, a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n.$$

now let's divide them by n

$$\frac{a_1}{n}, \frac{a_1 + a_2}{n}, \frac{a_1 + a_2 + a_3}{n}, \dots, \frac{a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n}{n}.$$

let's look at the i th remainder for each one of them such as $0 \leq r_i \leq n-1 \forall i \in n$
we can look at the following as

$$m_1n + r_1, m_2n + r_2, \dots, m_n n + r_n.$$

if one of the r_i is 0 we are done.

otherwise according to the Pigeon-hole principle there is some $r_i = r_j$ let's say that $i < j$ so by reducing them we will get

$$\sum_{k=1}^j a_k - \sum_{k=1}^i a_k = n(m_j n + r - m_i n - r) = n(m_j n - m_i n + 0) = n\left(\frac{a_{i+1} + a_{i+2} + \dots + a_j}{n}\right) = \sum_{k=i+1}^j a_k$$

and we find him.

it's my first time "LaTeXing" and I know my English is not perfect at all,
hope it was fine :)