

# Discrete Math Problem Set 8

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1. Including the instructor, there are 32 people in our class. Prove that two of these people were born on the same day of the month.

**Proof.** Let  $P :=$  “The set of 32 people in our class” where  $|P| = 32$ .

Let  $B := \{1, 2, \dots, 31\}$  where  $B$  is every possible birthdate. Recall, the largest month in the year has 31 days, so  $|B| = 31$ .

Now, we know that  $|P| > |B|$ .

Let  $f : P \rightarrow B$  where  $f(P_i) :=$  “the birthdate  $B_j$  of  $P_i$ ”.

By the *Pigeonhole Principle*, we know that  $(\forall f : P \rightarrow B)$   $f$  is not injective. So by definition, there exists  $P_i, P_j \in P$  such that  $P_i \neq P_j \wedge f(P_i) = f(P_j)$ .

Therefore, 2 people in our class were born on the same day of the month.

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2. As of the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, there are over 8.1 billion people living on Earth. A person’s heart will beat no more than  $7 \times 10^9$  times over their lifespan. Show that there are two currently-living people on Earth whose hearts have beat the same amount of times.

**Proof.** Let  $E := \{1, 2, \dots, 8.1 \times 10^9\}$  where  $E$  is the amount of people living on Earth. Observe,  $|E| = 8.1 \times 10^9$ .

Let  $H := \{1, 2, \dots, 7 \times 10^9\}$  where  $H$  is the amount of heartbeats possible in a person’s life. Observe,  $|H| = 7 \times 10^9$ .

Now, we know that  $|E| > |H|$ .

Let  $g : E \rightarrow H$  where  $g(E_i) :=$  “the amount of heartbeats  $H_j$  in the life of  $E_i$ ”.

By the *Pigeonhole Principle*, we know that  $(\forall g : E \rightarrow H)$   $g$  is not injective. So by definition, there exists  $E_i, E_j \in E$  such that  $E_i \neq E_j \wedge g(E_i) = g(E_j)$ .

Therefore, there are two people currently living on Earth whose hearts have beat the same amount of times.

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3. Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$  and consider  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  such that  $|A| = n + 1$ . Prove that there exist  $x, y \in A$  with  $x \neq y$  such that  $n \mid x - y$ .

**Proof.** Let  $A := \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n+1}\}$  where  $|A| = n + 1$  and  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $R := \{0, 1, \dots, n - 1\}$  where  $R$  is the set of possible remainders of any number  $n$  divides. Observe,  $|R| = n$ .

Now, we know that  $|A| > |R|$ .

Now, let  $f : A \rightarrow R$  where  $f(A_i) :=$  “the remainder  $R_j$  of  $A_i$  divided by  $n$ ”.

By the *Pigeonhole Principle*, we know that  $(\forall f : A \rightarrow R)f$  is not injective. So by definition, there exists  $A_i, A_j \in A$  such that  $A_i \neq A_j \wedge f(A_i) = f(A_j)$ .

Now, let  $x := A_i$  and let  $y := A_j$ . So, we know that  $x \neq y$  and the remainder of  $n \mid x$  equals the remainder of  $n \mid y$ . We can then say  $x = kn + r$  and  $y = mn + r$  where  $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $r = r$ . By arithmetic, we see that  $x - y = (k - m)n$ . Since  $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , we know  $n \mid x - y$ .

Therefore, there exist  $x, y \in A$  where  $x \neq y \wedge n \mid x - y$ .

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4. Consider  $S := \{3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19, 27, 28\}$  and  $X \subseteq S$  with  $|X| \geq 9$ . Show that there exists *three* distinct elements  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in X$  such that  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 40$ .

**Proof.** Consider  $S := \{3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19, 27, 28\}$ . Observe,  $|S| = 12$ . Let  $X \subseteq S$  and  $|X| \geq 9$ . We want to prove that there must exist  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in X$  such that  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 40$  and  $x_1 \neq x_2 \neq x_3$ .

Now, observe that there are 4 distinct sets of elements of  $S$  that sum to 40:

$$\{3, 10, 27\}$$

$$\{4, 8, 28\}$$

$$\{7, 15, 18\}$$

$$\{9, 12, 19\}$$

Now, let  $P$  be defined as the set of all 4 of the above sets where:

$$P := \{\{3, 10, 27\}, \{4, 8, 28\}, \{7, 15, 18\}, \{9, 12, 19\}\}. \quad (1)$$

Observe,  $|P| = 4$ . To show that there always exist  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  where  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 40$ , we simply need to prove an element of  $P$  always exists.

Now, observe  $f : X \rightarrow P$  such that  $f(x_i) := p_j$  where  $x_i \in X$  and  $p_j \in P$ .

By the *Pigeonhole Principle*, we know there exists  $p \in P$  such that  $|\{x \in X \mid f(x) = p\}| \geq \lfloor \frac{9-1}{4} \rfloor + 1 = \lceil \frac{9}{4} \rceil$ .

We know that  $\lceil \frac{9}{4} \rceil = 3$  by the definition of the ceiling function.

So,  $|p| = 3$ . Because  $p \in P$ , we then know that 3 distinct elements exist such that  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 40 \wedge x_1 \neq x_2 \neq x_3$ .

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5. Recall that  $\binom{n}{0} = \binom{n}{n} = 1$  for all  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$  when  $k \leq n$ .

(a) Show  $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$  for all  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$  where  $k \leq n$ .

**Proof.** Assume  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $k \leq n$ .

Let  $A := \{z \mid z \subseteq n \wedge |z| = k\}$ .

Let  $B := \{z \mid z \subseteq n \wedge |z| = n - k\}$ .

To show that  $|A| = |B|$ , we will prove the existence of a bijection from  $A \rightarrow B$ .

To do that, we will first show that there exists  $f : A \rightarrow B$  where  $f$  is injective.

To do that, let  $f(a) := n \setminus a$ .

Assume  $f(x) = f(y)$ . This means that  $n \setminus x = n \setminus y$ .

Towards a contradiction, suppose  $x \neq y$ . This means that there exists an element  $b \in x$  where  $b \notin y$ . Because  $x \subseteq n$ ,  $b \in n$  by definition. Because  $b \in n$  and  $b \notin y$ ,  $b \in n \setminus y$ . We know that  $n \setminus y = n \setminus x$ , so  $b \in n \setminus x$ . This means that  $b \notin x$ . However, we assumed  $b \in x$ .

Therefore,  $x = y$ , so  $f$  is injective.

Now, we will show that there exists  $g : B \rightarrow A$  where  $g$  is injective.

To do that, let  $g(b) := n \setminus b$ .

Assume  $g(x) = g(y)$ . This means that  $n \setminus x = n \setminus y$ .

Towards a contradiction, suppose  $x \neq y$ . This means that there exists an element  $b \in x$  where  $b \notin y$ . Because  $x \subseteq n$ ,  $b \in n$  by definition. Because  $b \in n$  and  $b \notin y$ ,  $b \in n \setminus y$ . We know that  $n \setminus y = n \setminus x$ , so  $b \in n \setminus x$ . This means that  $b \notin x$ . However, we assumed  $b \in x$ .

Therefore,  $x = y$ , so  $g$  is injective.

Thus, there exist  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow A$  where both are injective.

Therefore, by the *Cantor-Schroder-Bernstein* Theorem, we know there exists a bijection from  $A \rightarrow B$ .

Therefore,  $|A| = |B|$ .

By definition, we then know  $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$ .

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(b) Show  $\binom{n+1}{k+1} = \binom{n}{k+1} + \binom{n}{k}$  for all  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$  where  $k \leq n$ .

**Proof.** Assume  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $k \leq n$ .

Let  $A := \{z \mid z \subseteq n + 1 \wedge |z| = k + 1\}$ .

Let  $B := \{z \mid z \subseteq n \wedge |z| = (k \vee k + 1)\}$ .

To show that  $|A| = |B|$ , we will show the existence of a bijection from  $A \rightarrow B$ .

Observe,  $f : A \rightarrow B$  where  $f(a) := a$  if  $n \notin a$ , and  $f(a) := a \setminus n$  if  $n \in a$ .

First, we will show that  $f$  is injective.

Assume  $f(x) = f(y)$  where  $x, y \in A$ .

Look at the case where  $|f(x)| = k + 1$ . This also means that  $f(y) = k + 1$ . Suppose towards a contradiction that  $n \in x$ . This means that  $f(x) = x \setminus n$ , so  $|f(x)| = k$ . However, we know  $|f(x)| = k + 1$ . Thus,  $n \notin x$ . So,  $f(x) = x$  and  $f(y) = y$ . We know  $f(x) = f(y)$ , so  $x = y$ .

Now, look at the case where  $|f(x)| = k$ . Assume towards a contradiction that  $n \notin x$ . This means  $|f(x)| = k + 1$  as we showed in the first case. However, we assumed  $|f(x)| = k$ . Therefore, we know  $n \in x, y$ . So,  $f(x) = x \setminus n$  and  $f(y) = y \setminus n$ . Since we know  $x \setminus n = y \setminus n$  and  $n \in x, y$ , we then know  $x = y$ .

Therefore,  $f$  is injective.

Now, we will show that  $f$  is surjective.

Let  $b \in B$ .  $|b| = k + 1 \vee k$  by the definition of  $B$ .

First, look at the case  $|b| = k + 1$ .

We know that  $b \subseteq A$  and  $|b| = k + 1$ . Therefore, we also know  $b \in A$ . Because  $|b| = k + 1$ , we know  $f(b) = b$  as we showed in the injective proof. Therefore, there exists an input in  $A$  for every  $b \in B$  where  $|b| = k + 1$ .

Now look at the case  $|b| = k$ .

We know that  $b \subseteq A$  and  $|b| = k$ . Because  $|b| = k$ , we know  $n \in b$ . So,  $b \cup n \in A$  and  $f(b) = b \setminus n$ . Therefore, there exists an input in  $A$  for every  $b \in B$  where  $|b| = k$ .

Therefore,  $f$  is surjective.

Because we proved  $f$  is injective and surjective, we know  $f$  is bijective. So,  $|A| = |B|$ .

We know that  $|A| = \binom{n+1}{k+1}$ . We can define  $|B|$  as  $|C \cup D|$  where  $C := \{z \mid z \subseteq n \wedge |z| = k\}$  and  $D := \{z \mid z \subseteq n \wedge |z| = k + 1\}$ . Observe,  $|C \cap D| = 0$  because  $C$  and  $D$  do not contain any of the same elements. Thus,  $|C \cup D| = |C| + |D|$ . We can define  $|C|$  as  $\binom{n}{k+1}$  and  $|D|$  as  $\binom{n}{k}$ . Therefore,  $|B| = \binom{n}{k+1} + \binom{n}{k}$ .

We know  $|A| = |B|$ , so  $\binom{n+1}{k+1} = \binom{n}{k+1} + \binom{n}{k}$ .

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6. Prove that  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = 2^{|X|}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $X$  be a set. We will prove  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = 2^{|X|}$  this by induction on  $|X| \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Basis step:*

Observe,  $|X| = 0$ , so  $X := \emptyset$ . Therefore,  $\mathbb{P}(X) = \{\emptyset\}$ , so  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = 1$ . We also know  $2^{|\emptyset|} = 2^0 = 1$ .

Therefore,  $|\mathbb{P}(\emptyset)| = 2^{|\emptyset|}$ .

*Inductive step:*

Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $k := |X|$ . Assume  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = 2^{|X|}$  as our inductive hypothesis.

Now, let  $m$  be a set such that  $m \notin X$ . Let  $Y$  also be a set. Let  $Y := X \cup m$ . Now, observe that  $|Y| = k + 1$  because we just added one element to  $X$ .

Now, we want to show that  $|\mathbb{P}(Y)| = 2^{|Y|}$ .

Now, let's define a set  $S$  that is every subset of  $Y$  that contains  $m$ .

$S := \{s \mid (\forall x \in \mathbb{P}(X))(s = x \cup m)\}$ . Now, we see that  $\mathbb{P}(Y) = \mathbb{P}(X) \cup S$ , because  $S$  is just every subset of  $Y$  that contains  $m$ , and  $\mathbb{P}(X)$  is all the subsets of  $Y$  that do not. Because they do not share any elements, we can say  $|\mathbb{P}(Y)| = |\mathbb{P}(X)| + |S|$ . We want to show that  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = |S|$ . To do so, let's define a function  $f : \mathbb{P}(X) \rightarrow S$  where  $f(x) = x \cup m$ . We will show that  $f$  is bijective. First, let's show  $f$  is injective. Let  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{P}(X)$ . Assume  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ . This means that  $x_1 \cup m = x_2 \cup m$ . Since  $m \notin \mathbb{P}(X)$ , we know  $a \notin x_1, x_2$ . So, we know  $x_1 = x_2$ .

Now, we will show  $f$  is surjective. Let  $s \in S$ . By the definition of  $S$ ,  $\exists x \in \mathbb{P}(X)$  where  $s = x \cup m$ . So, every element of  $S$  has an input value. Therefore  $f$  is surjective.

So,  $f$  is bijective, and  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = |S|$ .

So, we can represent  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| + |S|$  as  $2 \cdot |\mathbb{P}(X)|$ . This means that  $|\mathbb{P}(Y)| = 2 \cdot |\mathbb{P}(X)|$ .

By the *Inductive hypothesis*, we know  $2 \cdot |\mathbb{P}(X)| = 2 \cdot 2^{|X|}$ .

Observe,  $2^{|Y|} = 2^{|X|+1} = 2 \cdot 2^{|X|}$ .

Therefore,  $|\mathbb{P}(Y)| = 2^{|Y|}$ .

Therefore, by *mathematical induction*, we know  $|\mathbb{P}(X)| = 2^{|X|}$ .

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