

**Solution:**

(1) How many strings with 5 or more characters can be formed from the letters in SEERESS?

We have 1 R, 3 E's and 3 S's. There are 3 cases to consider:

- for strings with 7 characters, there are:

$$\frac{7!}{1!3!3!}$$

Totally 140 strings.

- for strings with 6 characters, we may remove either R, E, or S, there are:

$$\frac{6!}{3!3!} + \frac{6!}{1!2!3!} + \frac{6!}{1!2!3!}$$

Totally 140 strings.

- for strings with 5 characters, we may remove either R and E, R and S, E and S, E and E, or S and S, there are:

$$\frac{5!}{2!3!} + \frac{5!}{2!3!} + \frac{5!}{1!2!2!} + \frac{5!}{1!1!3!} + \frac{5!}{1!1!3!}$$

Totally 90 strings.

Therefore, sum up the results of the above 3 cases, there are  $140 + 140 + 90 = 370$  strings with 5 or more characters that can be formed from SEERESS.

(2) Show that in  $Z_m$  with addition modulo  $m$ ,  $m \geq 2$ ,  $m$  is integer, satisfies closure, associative, commutative properties.

- **Closure** If  $a$  and  $b$  belong to  $Z_m$ , then  $a +_m b$  belongs to  $Z_m$ .

By definition,  $a +_m b = (a + b) \bmod m$

By the Division Theorem, there are unique integers  $q, r$ , such that  $(a + b) = qm + r$ , where  $0 \leq r < m$

Therefore, for all  $0 \leq r < m$ ,  $(a + b) \equiv r \bmod m$

Hence, from the definition of integers modulo  $m$ ,  $a +_m b \in Z_m$

- **Associativity** If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  belong to  $Z_m$ , then  $(a +_m b) +_m c = a +_m (b +_m c)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a +_m b) +_m c &= [(a + b) \bmod m] +_m c && \text{by definition of } +_m \\
 &= [(a + b) + c] \bmod m && \text{by definition of } +_m \\
 &= [a + (b + c)] \bmod m && \text{Associative Law of Addition} \\
 &= a +_m [(b + c) \bmod m] && \text{by definition of } +_m \\
 &= a +_m (b +_m c) && \text{by definition of } +_m
 \end{aligned}$$

- **Commutativity** If  $a$ ,  $b$  belong to  $Z_m$ , then  $a +_m b = b +_m a$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 a +_m b &= (a + b) \bmod m && \text{by definition of } +_m \\
 &= (b + a) \bmod m && \text{Commutative Law of Addition} \\
 &= b +_m a && \text{by definition of } +_m
 \end{aligned}$$

(3) How many zeros are there at the end of  $100!$ ?

The answer is 24.

Because  $10 = 2 \times 5$ ,  $10^2 = 2^2 \times 5^2$ , and  $10^n = 2^n \times 5^n$ , we need to find the number of 2 and 5 factors to determine the number of trailing 0's.

There are  $\lfloor 100/5 \rfloor = 20$  terms divisible by  $5^1$ ,  $\lfloor 100/5^2 \rfloor = 4$  terms divisible by  $5^2$ ,  $\lfloor 100/5^3 \rfloor = 0$  terms divisible by  $5^3$ , therefore, the number of 5 factors is 24.

There are  $\lfloor 100/2 \rfloor = 50$  terms divisible by  $2^1$ , the number of 2 factors is at least 50 and is larger than 24. Therefore,  $100!$  is divisible by  $10^{24}$  and no greater power of 10.

Hence there are 24 0's at the end of  $100!$ .

(4) Prove or disprove that  $n^2 - 79n + 1601$  is prime whenever  $n$  is a positive integer.

$n = 1601$  is just a counterexample, since if  $n = 1601$ , then  $n^2 - 79n + 1601 = 1601^2 - 79 \times 1601 + 1601 = 1601 \times (1601 - 79 + 1) = 1601 \times 1523$ . So  $n^2 - 79n + 1601$  is not a prime when  $n = 1601$ . ■