

Recall: A composition of n into k parts is a k -tuple $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$ so that $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k = n$

NB: By this def, $a_i \geq 1$ for each i , and order matters

Restricted Compositions

Often we will need to compute the number of compositions of n with various restrictions on the number of parts, or their sizes. The sum/product lemmas do this.

Small parts

How many compositions of n have each part equal to 1 or 2?

• w/ k parts?

• w/ any # of parts?

Let $S = \{1, 2\}$ and $w(\sigma) = \sigma$ for each $\sigma \in S$

$$\Phi_S(x) = x^1 + x^2$$

consider $[x^n] \Phi_S(x)^k \stackrel{\text{By product Lemma}}{=} \# \text{ of } k\text{-tuples } (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) \in S^k$
with $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k = n$

$= \#$ compositions of n into k
(parts of size 1 or 2)

$$\begin{aligned}
[x^n] \Phi_2(x)^k &= [x^n] (x+x^2)^k \\
&= [x^n] x^k (1+x)^k \\
&= [x^{n-k}] (1+x)^k \\
&= \binom{k}{n-k} \quad \text{by binomial theorem}
\end{aligned}$$

compositions of n into k parts of size 1 or 2
is $\binom{k}{n-k}$

\Rightarrow # comp of n into any # of parts of size 1 or 2
is $\sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{k}{n-k}$

Alternatively, # compositions of n into any # of parts of size 1 or 2 is:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k \geq 0} [x^n] (x+x^2)^k &= [x^n] \sum_{k \geq 0} (x+x^2)^k \\
&= [x^n] \frac{1}{1-x-x^2} \\
&= n^{\text{th}} \text{ Fibonacci Number}
\end{aligned}$$

Odd parts:

How many compositions of n have each part odd?
(any # of parts)

Let $S = \{1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\}$ $w(\sigma) = \sigma$ for each $\sigma \in S$

$$\Phi_S(x) = x^1 + x^3 + \dots = x(1 + x^2 + x^4 + \dots) = \frac{x}{1-x^2}$$

compositions of n into k odd parts

$$= \# (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) \in S^k \text{ with } a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k = n$$

$$= [x^n] \Phi_S(x)^k \text{ by Product Lemma}$$

\Rightarrow # compositions of n into any # of odd parts is:

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} [x^n] \Phi_S(x)^k = [x^n] \sum_{k \geq 0} \Phi_S(x)^k$$

$$= [x^n] \frac{1}{1 - \Phi_S(x)}$$

$$= [x^n] \frac{1}{1 - \left(\frac{x}{1-x^2}\right)}$$

$$= [x^n] \frac{1-x^2}{1-x-x^2}$$

$$\text{Let } \frac{1-x^2}{1-x-x^2} = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots$$

$$\text{Solving } (1-x-x^2)(a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots) = 1-x^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{we get } a_0 &= 1 \\ a_1 - a_0 &= 0 \\ a_2 - a_1 - a_0 &= -1 \\ \vdots \\ a_k - a_{k-1} - a_{k-2} &= 0 \quad k \geq 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= 1, \quad a_1 = 1, \quad a_2 = 1 \\ a_k &= a_{k-1} + a_{k-2}, \quad k \geq 3 \end{aligned}$$

So $a_n = (n-1)^{\text{th}}$ Fibonacci number, $n \geq 1$
 $= \#$ compositions of n into odd parts

Let $A_n = \{ \text{compositions of } n \text{ into parts of size } 1 \text{ or } 2 \}$

We need $|A_n| = |A_{n-1}| + |A_{n-2}|$ (because $|A_0| = |A_1| = 1$)

A_0 ()

A_1 (1)

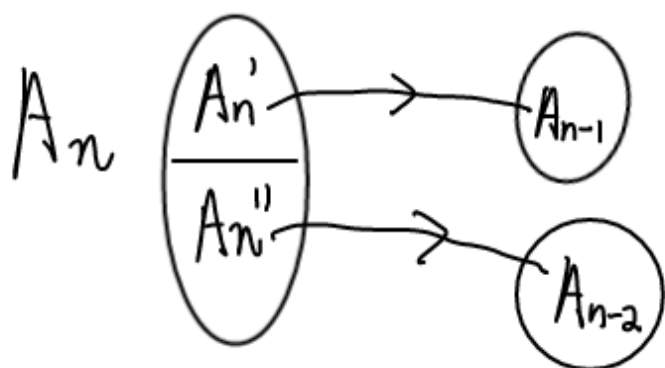
A_2 (1,1), (2)

A_3 (1,1,1), (1,2), (2,1)

A_4 (1,1,1,1), (1,2,1), (2,1,1), (1,1,2), (2,2)

Let $A_n' = \{ \text{comp. of } n \text{ into parts of size } 1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ with last part } 1 \}$

Let $A_n'' = \{ \text{comp of } n \text{ into parts of size } 1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ with last part } 2 \}$



let $f_1: A_{n'} \rightarrow A_{n-1}$ be defined by

$$f_1(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1})$$

let $g_1: A_{n-1} \rightarrow A_{n'}$ be defined by

$$g_1(b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k) = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k, 1)$$

let $f_2: A_{n''} \rightarrow A_{n-2}$ be defined by

$$f_2(a_1, \dots, a_k) = (a_1, \dots, a_{k-1})$$

$g_2: A_{n-2} \rightarrow A_{n''}$ be defined by

$$g_2(b_1, \dots, b_k) = (b_1, \dots, b_k, 2)$$

f_1 & g_1 are inverses

f_2 & g_2 are inverses

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } |A_{n'}| &= |A_{n-1}| \\ |A_{n''}| &= |A_{n-2}| \end{aligned} \Rightarrow |A_n| = |A_{n'}| + |A_{n''}|$$

$$= |A_{n-1}| + |A_{n-2}|$$

$(1, 1, 2), (2, 2)$

