MT454 Combinatorics

Ex. 1

Find the Rook polynomials of the following boards:



Ex. 2

Alice, Bob, Charles, Diane and Edger are having a drink after work. There are only four drinks on their table: ale, Bacardi, cider, and Drambuie. Bob and Charles hate ale, Charles hates Bacardi, Alice and Edger hate cider and Bob hates Drambuie. In how many ways can four people get a drink they like?

Ex. 3

Count the number of primes in the interval $\{1, 2, \dots, 100\}$ using the PIE. State precisely what are the sets A_i etc. in your solution.

Ex. 4

An important function with arithmetic information about integers is the Euler φ -function. (For example, the property $a^p \equiv a \mod p$ for primes p can be generalized to $a^{\varphi(n)+1} \equiv a \mod n$, if gcd(a, n) = 1. And this has important consequences in cryptography such as the RSA encryption).

Define $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}, \varphi(n) = |\{a \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \le a \le n : \gcd(a, n) = 1\}|.$

Example: for n = 10: 1, 3, 7, 9 are the only integers $1 \le a \le 10$ that are coprime to 10. Hence $\varphi(10) = 4$. Prove the following properties, or give (with proof!) general formulae for the values of the φ -function.

- a) $\varphi(p) = p 1$, for prime p.
- b) Let p, q, r denote distinct primes. Give a formula for $\varphi(pq)$ and one for $\varphi(pqr)$, using the PIE. (Define the sets A_i precisely).
- c) Give a formula for prime powers $\varphi(p^e)$.
- d) Let $gcd(n_1, n_2) = 1$. Give a formula for $\varphi(n_1 n_2)$ in terms of $\varphi(n_1)$ and $\varphi(n_2)$.
- e) Recall that each integer n can uniquely be written in the form $n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_r^{e_r}$, where the $p_1 < \ldots < p_r$ are primes. Give a formula for $\varphi(n)$.

Ex. 5

Work through the following example (not to be handed in). Imitate the proof for $\binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k}^{2}$ to prove an identity for $\binom{3n}{n}$. Verify it in the special case n = 4. Solution: I can think of two natural ways to generalize:

Start with $(1+x)^{2n}(1+x)^n = (1+x)^{3n}$. Now determine the coefficient of x^n . The RHS gives $\binom{3n}{n}$. The LHS gives $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} \binom{n}{n-k} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} \binom{n}{k}$. So, $\binom{3n}{k} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} \binom{n}{k}$.

$$\binom{3n}{n} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{2n}{k} \binom{n}{k}.$$

Another possibility is: $(1+x)^n(1+x)^n(1+x)^n = (1+x)^{3n}$. Now determine the coefficient of x^n .

the coefficient of x. The RHS gives $\binom{3n}{n}$. The LHS gives $\sum_{i=0}^{n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-i} \binom{n}{j} \binom{n}{j} \binom{n}{n-i-j} = \sum_{i,j\geq 0 \text{ with } i+j\leq n} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{j} \binom{n}{i+j}$. So, $\binom{3n}{n} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{i+j}$.

$$\binom{3n}{n} = \sum_{i,j \ge 0 \text{ with } i+j \le n} \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{j} \binom{n}{i+j}$$

The fact that these results are different is no contradiction. There are simply many different identities...

The details for n = 4. Work out rows 4 and 8 in the Pascal triangle: 1,4,6,4,1 1,8,28,56,70,56,28,8,1 and $\binom{12}{4} = 495$. The first formula gives

 $1 \times 1 + 4 \times 8 + 6 \times 28 + 4 \times 56 + 1 \times 70 = 1 + 32 + 168 + 224 + 70 = 495.$

The second formula:

Take all allowed combinations of (i, j, i + j): 000/011/022/033/044/101/112/123/134/202/213/224/303/314/404 This gives:

(1 + 16 + 36 + 16 + 1) + (16 + 96 + 96 + 16) + (36 + 96 + 36) + (16 + 16) + 1= 70 + 224 + 168 + 32 + 1 = 495.