

Math 413 Fall 2005 Extra Homework #3 (for students registered for 4.0 credits)

Do 6 of the following 8 problems. Additionally, write up two solutions in a form that can be distributed to the other students. Due Friday, December 2.

Read chapter 14 in the textbook on Pólya counting (section 14.1 is just a review of permutation and symmetry groups).

1. Problem 14.4.38 from the textbook.
2. Problem 14.4.42 from the textbook.
3. The Petersen graph P is the graph whose vertices are the two element subsets of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ and where two vertices are adjacent if and only if the corresponding subsets are disjoint.
 - (a) Prove that the automorphism group of P is isomorphic to S_5 .
 - (b) Determine the number of nonequivalent colorings of P with 3 colors.
4. Let Γ be your favorite non-cyclic group of order at least 6. Let D be a discrete object such that Γ is a symmetry group of D . (Note that Γ does not have to be the full automorphism group of D .) Count the number of nonequivalent colorings of D with 3 colors. (*Let's not be silly here: Don't pick a Γ and D from the textbook or from a previous exercise.*)
5. Identities for Stirling numbers.
 - (a) Prove that $S(n + 1, m + 1) = \sum_k \binom{n}{k} S(k, m)$. (*Hint: Give a bijective proof.*)
 - (b) Apply part 5a to prove that $\binom{n}{m} = \sum_k S(n + 1, k + 1) s(k, m)$. (*Hint: Use #2 from Homework 10.*)
6. Let $p_{n,k}$ be the number of partitions of n into k parts. Prove the following:
 - (a) $p_{2r+k, r+k}$ is independent of k .
 - (b) $p_{r+k, k}$ counts the partitions of r into parts of size at most k .
 - (c) $p_{r+k, k}$ counts the partitions $r + k(k + 1)/2$ into k distinct parts.
 - (d) $p_{n,k} = p_{n-1, k-1} + p_{n-k, k}$.
7. For $n \geq 0$, let a_n denote the number of congruence classes of triangles with integer-length sides and perimeter n . Equivalently, a_n is the number of partitions of the integer n into three parts satisfying the strict triangle inequality.
 - (a) For $k \geq 0$, prove that a_{2k} is the number of partitions of k into three parts.
 - (b) For $k \geq 3$, prove that $a_{2k-3} = a_{2k}$.

(c) Use the previous two parts and manipulation of generating functions to prove that the ordinary generating function for a_n is $\frac{x^3}{(1-x^2)(1-x^3)(1-x^4)}$.

8. For $n > 0$, let $P(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} p(i)$, where $p(i)$ counts all partitions of i .

(a) Consider a set S of marbles consisting of one black marble and $n - 1$ white marbles. White marbles are indistinguishable from one another. Prove that $P(n)$ is the number of distinguishable partitions of S .

(b) Prove that $P(n)$ is the sum, over all partitions of n , of the number of distinct part-sizes in the partition. For example, 4 , $2 + 2$, $1 + 1 + 1 + 1$ use only one size, while $3 + 1$ and $2 + 1 + 1$ each use two, so the sum is 7 when $n = 4$.