

離散數學

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1. (20%) Let $B \subseteq \{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$, and define $G_\sigma = \{(i, i^\sigma) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ for $\sigma \in S_n$, the family of all permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Let

N_j = the number of $\sigma \in S_n$ with $|B \cap G_\sigma| = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$, and

r_k = the number of k -subsets of B such that no two of them have a common coordinate.

a. Find N_0 as straight as possible whenever $B = \{(i, i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$, denote it by D_n .

b. Justify the expression $\sum_{j=k}^n \binom{j}{k} N_j = r_k (n-k)!$, and then show that

$$\sum_{j=0}^n N_j x^j = \sum_{k=0}^n r_k (n-k)! (x-1)^k, \text{ it follows that } N_0 = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k r_k (n-k)!.$$

c. Derive r_k whenever $B = \{(i, i), (i, i+1(\text{mod } n)) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

2. (20%) Let $(x)_k = x(x-1)\cdots(x-k+1)$, then both $\{1 (= x^0), x (= x^1), x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ and $\{1 (= (x)_0), x (= (x)_1), (x)_2, \dots, (x)_n\}$ are basis of the vector space of all polynomials with degrees at most n over \mathbb{R} , and hence there are coefficients $S(n, k)$ and $s(n, k)$

such that $x^n = \sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k)(x)_k$, and $(x)_n = \sum_{k=0}^n s(n, k)x^k$.

a. Find combinatorial interpretations for $S(n, k)$, $c(n, k) = (-1)^{n-k} s(n, k)$ respectively.

b. Find a closed form for $\sum_{n \geq k} S(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!}$.

c. For sequences $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots$ and $b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n, \dots$ of complex numbers, show that the following are equivalent:

$$(i) b_n = \sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k) a_k \text{ for all } n \geq 0, (ii) a_n = \sum_{k=0}^n s(n, k) b_k \text{ for all } n \geq 0.$$

3. (20%) A system of distinct representatives (SDR) of the system (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) of sets is a sequence (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) of pairwise distinct elements with $a_i \in A_i$ for each $1 \leq i \leq n$. The Hall's Theorem shows that the system (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) has an SDR if and only if the Hall's condition $|\mathcal{U}(I)| \geq |I|$ holds for each $I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, where $\mathcal{U}(I) = \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$.

3. (continuous)

- a. Find the number of all *SDR* over the system (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) where $A_1 = \{2, \dots, n\}$ and $A_i = \{1, 2, \dots, i-1, i+1, \dots, n\}$ for each $2 \leq i \leq n$.
- b. Show that a $k \times n$ latin rectangle, with $k < n$, can be extended to a latin square of order n by adding $n - k$ new rows.
- c. For a fixed d , what can we conclude if $|\mathcal{U}(I)| \geq |I| - d$ for each $I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$? Justify your answer if the Hall's Theorem is assumed.

4. (25%) The *Kneser graph* $G = K(n, d)$ is defined on the family of all d -elements subsets of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that A and B are adjacent if and only if A and B are disjoint.

- a. Is the complement of the line graph of the complete graph K_5 isomorphic to a Kneser graph $K(n, d)$ for some n and d ? Justify your answer.
- b. Find the chromatic numbers $\chi(K(5, 2))$ and $\chi(K(6, 2))$ respectively.
- c. Find conditions for A, B such that the distance $d(A, B) = i$ in the graph $K(n, d)$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$.
- d. Determine the smallest 3-regular graphs with girths 4 and 5 respectively.

5. (15%) Start with $G_3 = C_5$ the 5-cycle, and for a given graph G_n , the new graph G_{n+1} is defined on $V(G_n) \cup V(G_n)' \cup \{z_{n+1}\}$, where the vertices $v' \in V(G_n)'$ correspond bijectively to $v \in V(G_n)$, and z_{n+1} is a single other vertex. The edges of G_{n+1} consists of 3 classes: all edges of G_n , each vertex $v' \in V(G_n)'$ is joint to precisely the neighbors of v in G_n , and z_{n+1} is adjacent to all $v' \in V(G_n)'$. The graphs $G_3 = C_5$ and G_4 are given as shown.

- a. Find the girth of the graph G_4 , and show that the chromatic number $\chi(G_4)$ is 4.
- b. Show that the chromatic number $\chi(G_n)$ of G_n is n in general.

Note: The *girth* of a graph is defined to be the length of the shortest cycle in it.

