

1. Let $S = \{k > 0 : k \equiv 1 \pmod{3}\}$. Find an infinite product for the generating function of $p_S(n)$. Expand that product to find $p_S(n)$ for the first several n (up until $n = 9$ ish)

By Theorem 7.21, the generating function for $p_S(n)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p_S(n)x^n &= \prod_{j \in S} \frac{1}{1-x^j} \\ &= \prod_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{1-x^{1+3k}} \\ &= \prod_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \left(1 + x^{1+3k} + x^{2(1+3k)} + x^{3(1+3k)} + \dots\right) \\ &= (1+x+x^2+\dots)(1+x^4+x^8+x^{12}+\dots)(1+x^7+x^{14}+x^{21}+\dots)(1+x^{10}+x^{20}+\dots)\dots \\ &= 1+x+x^2+x^3+2x^4+2x^5+2x^6+3x^7+4x^8+4x^9+\dots \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, we have

x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$p_S(n)$	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4

2. What is the generating function for $p(n \mid \text{parts are distinct powers of } 2)$?

Let $S = \{2^k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Then by theorem 7.21, the generating function for $p_S^D(n)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p_S^D(n) x^n &= \prod_{j \in S} (1 + x^j) \\ &= \prod_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (1 + x^{2^k}) \\ &= (1 + x)(1 + x^2)(1 + x^4)(1 + x^8) \cdots \end{aligned}$$

Since every positive integer has a unique binary representation, we also have $p_S^D(n) = 1$ for all n . Hence,

$$1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \cdots = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p_S^D(n) x^n = (1 + x)(1 + x^2)(1 + x^4)(1 + x^8) \cdots$$

3. Show that if n is a positive integer, then

$$p(n) \leq \frac{p(n-1) + p(n+1)}{2}$$

Hint: It may be helpful to use the fact from last week's worksheet that $p(n) = p(n-1) + p_2(n)$. This fact (probably) won't be immediately helpful though...

First observe that the statement that

$$p(n) \leq \frac{p(n-1) + p(n+1)}{2}$$

is equivalent to the statement that $p(n) - p(n-1) \leq p(n+1) - p(n)$. By problem 5 on the week 3 group work, however, this is equivalent to showing that $p_2(n) \leq p_2(n+1)$. We show the latter claim now.

Let S_n be the set of all partitions of n all of whose parts are greater than or equal to 2 and let S_{n+1} be the set of all partitions of $n+1$ all of whose parts are greater than or equal to 2. Define a function

$$\begin{aligned} f : S_n &\rightarrow S_{n+1} \\ (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) &\mapsto (\lambda_1 + 1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_r) \end{aligned}$$

Since f is injective, we must have $p_2(n) = \#S_n \leq \#S_{n+1} = p_2(n+1)$, which proves the claim.