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- ▶ We'll write: $\lambda : n = n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_k$ or $\lambda \vdash n$.

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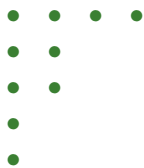
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Some partitions are **self-conjugate**, satisfying $\lambda = \lambda^c$.

A generating function for partitions

Recall from our basketball example: The generating function for the number of ways to partition an integer into parts of size 1, 2, or 3 is

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)} \frac{1}{(1-x^2)} \frac{1}{(1-x^3)}$$

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Let $p(n)$ be the number of partitions of the integer n . Then

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- ▶ There is a beautiful generating function, but **no nice formula!**

A formula for integer partitions

Bruinier and Ono (2011) found an algebraic formula for the partition function $P(n)$ as a finite sum of algebraic numbers as follows. Define the weight-2 meromorphic modular form $F(z)$ by

$$F(z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{E_2(z) - 2E_2(2z) - 3E_2(3z) + 6E_2(6z)}{\eta^2(z)\eta^2(2z)\eta^2(3z)\eta^3(6z)}, \quad (27)$$

where $q = e^{2\pi iz}$, $E_2(q)$ is an Eisenstein series, and $\eta(q)$ is a Dedekind eta function. Now define

$$R(z) = -\left(\frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{dz} + \frac{1}{2\pi y}\right) F(z), \quad (28)$$

where $z = x + iy$. Additionally let Q_n be any set of representatives of the equivalence classes of the integral binary quadratic form $Q(x, y) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2$ such that $6 \mid a$ with $a > 0$ and $b \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$, and for each $Q \in Q_n$, let α_Q be the so-called CM point in the upper half-plane, for which $Q(\alpha_Q, 1) = 0$. Then

$$P(n) = \frac{\text{Tr}(n)}{24n - 1}, \quad (29)$$

where the trace is defined as

$$\text{Tr}(n) = \sum_{Q \in Q_n} R(\alpha_Q). \quad (30)$$

Weisstein, Eric W. "Partition Function P."

From MathWorld—A Wolfram Web Resource.

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/PartitionFunctionP.html>

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$$\sum_{n \geq 0} p(n)x^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^k}$$

Notes:

- ▶ Infinite product! But, for any n only finitely many terms involved.
- ▶ There is a beautiful generating function, but **no nice formula!**
- ▶ Finding a generating function for a subset of partitions is easy if you understand each factor in the product.

Partitions: odd parts and distinct parts

Example. **THE FOLLOWING AMAZING FACT!!!!1!!!!1!!**

The number of partitions of n
using only odd parts, o_n

=

The number of partitions of n
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See, I told you they were equal. \square

A recurrence relation for $P(n, k)$

(p.78)

Example. Prove a recurrence relation for $P(n, k)$:

$$P(n, k) = P(n-1, k-1) + P(n-k, k)$$

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► If so, there are $P(n-1, k-1)$ partitions via the bijection

$$f : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{partitions of } n \text{ into } k \text{ parts} \\ \text{with smallest part 1.} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{partitions of } n-1 \\ \text{into } k-1 \text{ parts.} \end{array} \right\}.$$

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► **If not:** there are $P(n-k, k)$ partitions via the bijection

$$g : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{partitions of } n \text{ into } k \text{ parts} \\ \text{with smallest part } \neq 1. \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{partitions of } n-k \\ \text{into } k \text{ parts.} \end{array} \right\}.$$

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The same bijection gives:

Theorem 4.4.2. _____ equals $P(n, \text{largest part} \leq k)$.

Characterization of self-conjugate partitions

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The coefficient of x^{n-3} is $\frac{1}{6} \binom{3}{n-3} + \frac{1}{4} \binom{2}{n-3} + [\frac{1}{3} \text{ or } 0] + [\frac{1}{4} \text{ or } 0]$.

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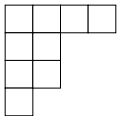
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Simplifying, $\frac{1}{6} \binom{n-1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \binom{n-2}{1} = \frac{n^2}{12} - \frac{1}{3} + \dots$

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A **Young diagram** is a representation of a partition using left-justified boxes.



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1	3	5	9
2	4		
6	8		
7			

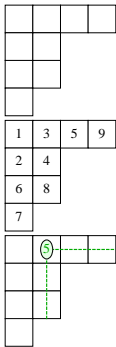
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Question: How many SYT are there of shape $\lambda \vdash n$?

Answer:
$$\frac{n!}{\prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} h(i,j)}$$

