
Contents

Preface	xiii
Notation	xvii
Chapter 1. Prologue: Compositions of an integer	1
1.1. Counting compositions	2
1.2. The Fibonacci numbers from a combinatorial perspective	3
1.3. Weak compositions	5
1.4. Compositions with arbitrarily restricted parts	5
1.5. The fundamental theorem of composition enumeration	6
1.6. Basic tools for manipulating finite sums	7
Exercises	8
Chapter 2. Sets, functions, and relations	11
2.1. Functions	12
2.2. Finite sets	16
2.3. Cartesian products and their subsets	19
2.4. Counting surjections: A recursive formula	21
2.5. The domain partition induced by a function	22
2.6. The pigeonhole principle for functions	24
2.7. Relations	25
2.8. The matrix representation of a relation	27
2.9. Equivalence relations and partitions	27
References	27
Exercises	28
Project	30

Chapter 3. Binomial coefficients	31
3.1. Subsets of a finite set	31
3.2. Distributions, words, and lattice paths	34
3.3. Binomial inversion and the sieve formula	36
3.4. Problème des ménages	39
3.5. An inversion formula for set functions	41
3.6. *The Bonferroni inequalities	43
References	45
Exercises	45
Chapter 4. Multinomial coefficients and ordered partitions	49
4.1. Multinomial coefficients and ordered partitions	49
4.2. Ordered partitions and preferential rankings	51
4.3. Generating functions for ordered partitions	52
Reference	54
Exercises	54
Chapter 5. Graphs and trees	57
5.1. Graphs	57
5.2. Connected graphs	58
5.3. Trees	59
5.4. *Spanning trees	62
5.5. *Ramsey theory	63
5.6. *The probabilistic method	65
References	66
Exercises	66
Project	67
Chapter 6. Partitions: Stirling, Lah, and cycle numbers	69
6.1. Stirling numbers of the second kind	69
6.2. Restricted growth functions	72
6.3. The numbers $\sigma(n, k)$ and $S(n, k)$ as connection constants	73
6.4. Stirling numbers of the first kind	75
6.5. Ordered occupancy: Lah numbers	76
6.6. Restricted ordered occupancy: Cycle numbers	78
6.7. Balls and boxes: The twenty-fold way	82
References	82
Exercises	83
Projects	85

Chapter 7. Intermission: Some unifying themes	87
7.1. The exponential formula	87
7.2. Comtet's theorem	90
7.3. Lancaster's theorem	92
References	93
Exercises	93
Project	94
Chapter 8. Combinatorics and number theory	97
8.1. Arithmetic functions	97
8.2. Circular words	100
8.3. Partitions of an integer	101
8.4. *Power sums	109
8.5. p -orders and Legendre's theorem	112
8.6. Lucas's congruence for binomial coefficients	114
8.7. *Restricted sums of binomial coefficients	115
References	116
Exercises	117
Project	118
Chapter 9. Differences and sums	119
9.1. Finite difference operators	119
9.2. Polynomial interpolation	121
9.3. The fundamental theorem of the finite difference calculus	122
9.4. The snake oil method	123
9.5. *The harmonic numbers	126
9.6. Linear homogeneous difference equations with constant coefficients	127
9.7. Constructing visibly real-valued solutions to difference equations with obviously real-valued solutions	131
9.8. The fundamental theorem of rational generating functions	132
9.9. Inefficient recursive formulae	134
9.10. Periodic functions and polynomial functions	135
9.11. A nonlinear recursive formula: The Catalan numbers	136
References	139
Exercises	140
Project	141
Chapter 10. Enumeration under group action	143
10.1. Permutation groups and orbits	143

10.2.	Pólya's first theorem	145
10.3.	The pattern inventory: Pólya's second theorem	148
10.4.	Counting isomorphism classes of graphs	150
10.5.	G -classes of proper subsets of colorings / group actions	154
10.6.	De Bruijn's generalization of Pólya theory	155
10.7.	Equivalence classes of boolean functions	157
	References	159
	Exercises	160
Chapter 11.	Finite vector spaces	163
11.1.	Vector spaces over finite fields	163
11.2.	Linear spans and linear independence	164
11.3.	Counting subspaces	165
11.4.	The q -binomial coefficients are Comtet numbers	167
11.5.	q -binomial inversion	169
11.6.	The q -Vandermonde identity	171
11.7.	q -multinomial coefficients of the first kind	172
11.8.	q -multinomial coefficients of the second kind	173
11.9.	The distribution polynomials of statistics on discrete structures	175
11.10.	Knuth's analysis	180
11.11.	The Galois numbers	182
	References	183
	Exercises	184
	Projects	185
Chapter 12.	Ordered sets	187
12.1.	Total orders and their generalizations	187
12.2.	*Quasi-orders and topologies	188
12.3.	*Weak orders and ordered partitions	189
12.4.	*Strict orders	191
12.5.	Partial orders: basic terminology and notation	192
12.6.	Chains and antichains	194
12.7.	Matchings and systems of distinct representatives	198
12.8.	*Unimodality and logarithmic concavity	200
12.9.	Rank functions and Sperner posets	203
12.10.	Lattices	203
	References	205
	Exercises	206
	Projects	207

Chapter 13. Formal power series	209
13.1. Semigroup algebras	209
13.2. The Cauchy algebra	210
13.3. Formal power series and polynomials over \mathbb{C}	211
13.4. Infinite sums in $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{N}}$	215
13.5. Summation interchange	217
13.6. Formal derivatives	219
13.7. The formal logarithm	221
13.8. The formal exponential function	222
References	223
Exercises	223
Projects	224
Chapter 14. Incidence algebra: The grand unified theory of enumerative combinatorics	227
14.1. The incidence algebra of a locally finite poset	227
14.2. Infinite sums in $\mathbb{C}^{\text{Int}(P)}$	229
14.3. The zeta function and the enumeration of chains	231
14.4. The chi function and the enumeration of maximal chains	232
14.5. The Möbius function	233
14.6. Möbius inversion formulas	235
14.7. The Möbius functions of four classical posets	237
14.8. Graded posets and the Jordan–Dedekind chain condition	239
14.9. Binomial posets	240
14.10. The reduced incidence algebra of a binomial poset	243
14.11. Modular binomial lattices	247
References	249
Exercises	249
Projects	250
Appendix A. Analysis review	251
A.1. Infinite series	251
A.2. Power series	252
A.3. Double sequences and series	253
References	254
Appendix B. Topology review	255
B.1. Topological spaces and their bases	255
B.2. Metric topologies	256

B.3. Separation axioms	257
B.4. Product topologies	257
B.5. The topology of pointwise convergence	257
References	259
Appendix C. Abstract algebra review	261
C.1. Algebraic structures with one composition	261
C.2. Algebraic structures with two compositions	262
C.3. R -algebraic structures	263
C.4. Substructures	264
C.5. Isomorphic structures	265
References	266
Index	267