

Induction.

- (1) $\frac{1}{n+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{2n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \dots + \frac{1}{2n-1} - \frac{1}{2n}$.
- (2) $2^n \geq n^2 \quad \forall n \geq 4$.
- (3) Complement of n lines in \mathbb{R}^2 can be checkerboard colored.
- (4) Assume Bertrand Postulate, there is a prime p between x and $2x$ for all integers x . Prove that every natural number can be written as a sum of distinct primes or 1.
- (5) Fibonacci sequence $F_1 = F_2 = 1$, $F_{n+1} = F_n + F_{n-1}$. Show $F_{2n+1} = F_{n+1}^2 + F_n^2$.
- (6) Every triangle can be cut into $n \geq 6$ triangles similar to it.
- (7) $V - E + F = 2$ for connected planar graphs.


Pigeonhole Principle.

- (1) 5 points chosen in a triangle of side length 2; some two are within distance 1.
- (2) 50 distinct positive integers chosen less than 99. Some two add up to 99.
- (3) n people are at a party. Show some two know the same number of people.
- (4) Each point in the plane is colored red-blue. Some two points at distance 1 have same color. Also works with 3 colors.
- (5) 5 points are chosen from a 2D lattice Λ . The midpoint of some two is also on Λ .
- (6) $\{x\} \in [0, 1)$ is the fractional part. For irrational α , $\{n\alpha\}$ is dense in $[0, 1]$.

Inequalities.

- (1) AM-GM, proof by induction.
- (2) Weighted AM-GM.
- (3) Generalization. If f continuous with $f(\frac{x_1+x_2}{2}) \geq \frac{f(x_1)+f(x_2)}{2}$, then $f(\frac{\sum p_i x_i}{\sum p_i}) \geq \frac{\sum p_i f(x_i)}{\sum p_i}$.
- (4) These sort of functions are called concave. Appear from C^2 functions with $f'' \leq 0$. Jensen's inequality. Proof uses mean value theorem.

$$(f(x_2) - f(\frac{x_1+x_2}{2})) - (f(\frac{x_1+x_2}{2}) - f(x_1)) = \frac{x_1-x_2}{2}(f'(y_2) - f'(y_1)) = \frac{x_1-x_2}{2}(y_2-y_1)f''(z) \leq 0.$$

- (5) Apply to $f(x) = \ln x$ to get AM-GM by applying exp to both sides.
- (6) Basic inequality, if f is C^1 and $f' \geq 0$, then f is increasing.
- (7) Prove $2 \sin x + \tan x \geq 3x$ for $0 \leq x < \pi/2$.
- (8) Taylor expansion. $(1+x)^p \leq 1+px$ if $x > -1, 0 < p < 1$.
- (9) Maximize area ab for fencing  with total fence length $3a + 2b = 1000$.
- (10) Generalizations of AM-GM. $(\frac{\sum p_i x_i^k}{\sum p_i})^{1/k}$ is increasing in k . Mention special cases $k = 0, \pm 1, 2, \pm \infty$ (GM, AM, HM, QM, max, min).
- (11) For $a, b, c > 0$,

$$\frac{a}{b+c} + \frac{b}{a+c} + \frac{c}{a+b} \geq \frac{3}{2}.$$

- (12) Cauchy-Schwarz inequality. Difference is a sum of squares $\sum_{i < j} (a_i b_j - a_j b_i)^2$. Equality if proportional.
- (13) Geometric interpretation. $|\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}| = |\vec{a}| |\vec{b}| \cos \theta$.
- (14) Cauchy-Schwarz is equivalent to weighted AM-QM.
- (15) Triangle inequality. For a, b, c sides of a triangle, show $(a+b-c)(b+c-a)(c+a-b) \leq abc$. Useful substitution $x = b+c-a$, etc.
- (16) Sides of a triangle. Show $2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) \leq (a+b+c)^2$.
- (17) Holder inequality (generalization of Cauchy-Schwarz). For $1/p + 1/q = 1$,

$$\sum |a_i b_i| \leq (\sum |a_i|^p)^{1/p} (\sum |b_i|^q)^{1/q}$$

- (18) Minkowski inequality (generalization of triangle inequality). For $p \leq 1$,

$$(\sum |a_i + b_i|^p)^{1/p} \leq (\sum |a_i|^p)^{1/p} + (\sum |b_i|^p)^{1/p}.$$

Number theory.

- (1) Euclidean algorithm for gcd. Unique decomposition $a = qb + r$ (Euclidean domain). Corollary: $\{sa + tb \mid s, t \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z}\langle \gcd(a, b) \rangle$. Do for $a = 90, b = 65$.

- (2) Find all solutions of $ax + by = c$ ($x = x_0 + bt/d, y = y_0 - at/d$). Do $18x + 32y = 6$.
- (3) Prove $\frac{21n+4}{14n+3}$ is irreducible.
- (4) Prove $\sqrt{3}$ irrational. Do $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}$.
- (5) Unique factorization into primes. Need $p \mid ab \implies p \mid a$ or $p \mid b$.
- (6) Prove $\gcd(a, b)\text{lcm}(a, b) = ab$.
- (7) Modular arithmetic, residue classes $(\text{mod } n)$, \mathbb{Z}/n . Notation, $x \equiv y \pmod{n}$. Calculate $142 + (15 \cdot 72) \pmod{7}$.
- (8) Every odd square is 1 $(\text{mod } 8)$.
- (9) Infinitely many primes. Euclid $p_1 \cdots p_k + 1$. Infinitely many primes 3 $(\text{mod } 4)$. $4p_1 \cdots p_k - 1$.
- (10) Last digit of $7^{\text{current year } 20xx}$.
- (11) Divisibility rule of 9 and 11. Calculate 1745002145 modulo 9 and 11.
- (12) Fermat's little theorem. $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$, better version: $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ for $\gcd(a, p) = 1$. Calculate $2^{233} \pmod{47}$.
- (13) Generalization $a^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$, φ is Euler's totient function. Proof: If $b_1, \dots, b_{\phi(n)}$ are coprime residue classes $(\text{mod } n)$, so are $ab_1, \dots, ab_{\phi(n)}$.
- (14) $n = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$. Then $\varphi(n) = n(1 - 1/p_1) \cdots (1 - 1/p_k)$ by principle of inclusion exclusion. Calculate $17^{81} \pmod{60}$.
- (15) Number of divisors $\tau(n) = (1 + a_1) \cdots (1 + a_k)$. Find smallest integer with exactly 28 divisors.
- (16) Sum of divisors $\sigma(n) = \prod_i \frac{p_i^{a_i+1} - 1}{p_i - 1}$. Do $n = 1000$.
- (17) Highest power of 3 dividing $100!$, $\lfloor n/p \rfloor + \lfloor n/p^2 \rfloor + \cdots$.
- (18) For any 55 numbers from $\{1, \dots, 100\}$, some two must differ by 9.
- (19) Chinese remainder theorem. m_1, \dots, m_n pairwise relatively prime, and $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. There is some x with $x \equiv a_i \pmod{m_i}$.
- (20) There are a million consecutive integers none of which is a prime power.
- (21) For p prime, each prime factor of $2^p - 1$ is bigger than p (so infinitely many primes).
- (22) If m odd, $m \mid 2^{(m-1)!} - 1$. $\varphi(m) \mid (m-1)!$.

Algebra.

- (1) Groups. Typical example symmetric group S_n . Also $(\mathbb{R}, +), (\mathbb{R}^*, \cdot)$.
- (2) If $(ab)^3 = 1$, show $(ba)^3 = 1$.
- (3) If $aba = ba^2b, a^3 = 1, b^3 = 1$, show $b = 1$.
- (4) Ring, always with 1. Typical example $n \times n$ matrices $M_n(\mathbb{R})$. Define center $Z(R)$.
- (5) Commutative ring. Typical examples $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/n$.
- (6) If $x^2 - x \in Z(R)$ for all x , then R is commutative.
- (7) Integral domain if no zero divisor. Typical example $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}], \mathbb{Z}[X]$, not $\mathbb{Z}/6$.
- (8) Field. Example $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Z}/p, \mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}]$.
- (9) $D[X]$ is a domain if D is.
- (10) Euclidean domain, $\mathbb{F}[X]$ but not $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ (division algorithm in $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ works for monic polynomials). Example: $x^5 + 3x^2 + 1 = (2x^3 - x + 1)(x^2/2 + 1/4) + (5x^2/2 + x/4 + 3/4)$.
- (11) Euclidean domains are unique factorization domains, as is $D[X]$ for any integral domain D upto multiplication with elements in D (can work in quotient field of D).
- (12) Find $\gcd(x^8 - 1, x^5 - 1) = x - 1$ by Euclidean algorithm.
- (13) Find $P \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ with $x^2 + 1 \mid P(x)$ and $x^3 + x^2 + 1 \mid P(x) + 1$.
- (14) Over an integral domain, factor theorem: $P(\alpha) = 0$ iff $x - \alpha \mid P(x)$.
- (15) Unique factorization for $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$. Fundamental theorem of algebra for \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} .
- (16) For what n is $x^{4n} - 2x^n + 1$ divisible by $x^2 + 1$?
- (17) Identity theorem. If $\deg \leq n$ polynomials P, Q have $P(\alpha_i) = Q(\alpha_i), i = 0, \dots, n$, then $P = Q$.
- (18) Find all $P \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ with $P(x^2 + 1) = P(x)^2 + 1$ and $P(0) = 0$.
- (19) Gauss' Lemma for \mathbb{Z} (a rational factorization produces an integer factorization)
- (20) Viète relations, relating symmetric polynomials of roots to coefficients. Find polynomial for the squares of roots of $x^2 + ax + b$.
- (21) $a_n x^n + \cdots + a_3 x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$ does not have all real roots.
- (22) Wilson's theorem $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.

Series.

- (1) $a + ax + \cdots + ax^n$, then as $x \rightarrow \infty$. Define partial sums.
- (2) $\cos \theta + \cdots + \cos n\theta$.
- (3) Telescoping. $\sum a_n$, with $a_n = b_{n-1} - b_n$. If $b_n \rightarrow 0$, then converges.
- (4) $\sum \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$.
- (5) Prove $F_1 + F_2 + \cdots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$.
- (6) $\prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^3-1}{n^3+1}$.
- (7) Series for $(1+x)^n$. $\sum_i \binom{n}{i}$, $\sum_i (-1)^i \binom{n}{i}$, $\sum_k \binom{m}{r-k} \binom{n}{k} = \binom{m+n}{r}$.
- (8) Taylor series. Recalls (finite) Taylor's theorem. Do $e^x, \cos x, \sin x, \log(1+x), (1+x)^r$ (for arbitrary $r \neq 0$).
- (9) Geometric again $\sum x^n = 1/(1-x)$. Do $\sum nx^{n-1}$, $\sum x^n/n$.
- (10) e is irrational.
- (11) Power series $\sum_n a_n x^n$. Radius of convergence.
- (12) $\sum F_n/3^n$. Then write $f(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} F_n x^n = x + x^2 + 2x^3 + \cdots$, and by recurrence, $f(x) = \frac{x}{1-x-x^2}$.

Combinatorics.

- (1) $n!$, permutation of n elements, number of bijective functions $\{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$.
- (2) n^k , k ordered (not necessarily distinct) elements from $\{1, \dots, n\}$, number of functions $\{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$. Number of 4-letter words 26^4 .
- (3) $n!/(n-k)!$, k ordered distinct elements from $\{1, \dots, n\}$, number of injective functions $\{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$.
- (4) $\binom{n}{k}$, k unordered distinct elements from $\{1, \dots, n\}$, number of (strictly) increasing functions $\{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$.
- (5) $\binom{n+k-1}{k}$, k unordered (not necessarily distinct) elements from $\{1, \dots, n\}$, number of (not necessarily strictly) increasing functions $\{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$, same as number of strictly increasing functions $\{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n+k-1\}$.
- (6) $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$, chosen set vs its complement.
- (7) $k \binom{n}{k} = n \binom{n-1}{k-1}$, a set and an element in it.
- (8) $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k} + \binom{n-1}{k-1}$, a fixed element is chosen or not, Pascal's triangle.
- (9) $\sum_k \binom{m}{r-k} \binom{n}{k} = \binom{m+n}{r}$, choose r elements from m elements and n elements.
- (10) $\sum k \binom{n}{k}$, differentiate $(1+x)^n$, or use $k \binom{n}{k} = n \binom{n-1}{k-1}$.
- (11) $\sum \frac{1}{k+1} \binom{n}{k}$, integrate, or use $\frac{1}{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k+1} = \frac{1}{k+1} \binom{n}{k}$.
- (12) $\binom{n+k+1}{k} = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n+1}{1} + \cdots + \binom{n+k}{k}$. Induct on k . Alternatively, choose a subset S of size k from $\{1, \dots, n+k+1\}$, and break it up by the largest number outside of S .
- (13) Principle of inclusion exclusion.
- (14) Number of surjective functions $\{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$. If A_i is the set of functions that don't hit i , then the number is $n^k - |A_1 \cup \cdots \cup A_n|$. Use inclusion exclusion to get $\sum_i (-1)^i \binom{n}{i} (n-i)^k$.

Recurrences.

- (1) Fibonacci sequence $f(x) = \sum F_n x^n$, $f(x) = \frac{x}{1-x-x^2}$. Break into partial fractions, $\frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = \frac{A}{1-\alpha x} + \frac{B}{1-\beta x}$, where α, β solutions to $z^2 - z - 1$ (characteristic equation). Get $F_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n \right)$.
- (2) Number of ways of tiling $2 \times n$ board with 2×1 dominoes, F_{n+1} .
- (3) General linear recurrences. Distinct roots, repeated roots.
- (4) $a_n = 4a_{n-1} - 4a_{n-2}$, $a_0 = a_1 = 1$.
- (5) $a_n = 3a_{n-1} - 4a_{n-3}$, $a_0 = 30, a_1 = -10, a_2 = 20$.
- (6) Linear recurrence with additional term. General solution plus one particular solution. $a_n = 3a_{n-1} + 1$.
- (7) Putnam problem, $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 24$, $a_n = \frac{6a_{n-1}^2 a_{n-3} - 8a_{n-1} a_{n-2}^2}{a_{n-2} a_{n-3}}$. Show a_n is an integer divisible by n .
- (8) Catalan numbers, C_n is number of ways of parenthesizing $n+1$ variables with $n-1$ bracket pairs, number of binary trees with $n+1$ leaves, number of crossingless matchings on $2n$ strands, number of paths from $(0,0)$ to (n,n) on or below the diagonal.
- (9) Recurrence $C_{n+1} = \sum_{k=0}^n C_k C_{n-k-1}$. So if $f(x) = \sum C_n x^n$, $1 + xf(x)^2 = f(x)$, $f(x) = \frac{1-\sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$. Do expansion to get $C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$.

Probability.

- (1) Probability a function $\{1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ is injective.
- (2) Cashier (with no money initially) is selling $2n$ \$5 tickets, and n people bring \$5 notes, and n people bring \$10 notes. Probability of success $\frac{1}{n+1}$.
- (3) Probability 2 people have the same birthday, more likely than not at 23 people.
- (4) Real number picked from $[0, 1]$, probability it is less than $1/3$? Need to assume picked uniformly.
- (5) Probability a point from $[0, 1]^2$ is within distance $1/5$ to the middle?
- (6) Pick $x, y \in [0, 1]$, probability $y \leq x^2$? Assume picked uniformly and independently.
- (7) Two people arrive (uniformly) between 4 and 5, and each waits 15min and then leaves. Probability they will meet.
- (8) Length one needle dropped on infinitely many horizontal lines at distance 2 apart. Probability it hits a line.
- (9) Cut a length d bar into three pieces. Probability they form a triangle. If we picked 2 points x, y (wlog $x < y$) simultaneously and cut there, each of the sidelengths $x, y - x, d - y$ has to be less than the semiperimeter $d/2$. But if first cut at one point x (wlog $x > d/2$), then cut the larger piece at αx , then each of the side lengths $\alpha x, (1 - \alpha)x, d - x$ is less than $d/2$.

Geometry.

- (1) Medians of a triangle intersect by Euclidean geometry.
- (2) Same using coordinate geometry. Take $A = (a_1, a_2)$, similarly.
- (3) By translation, rotation, scaling, can assume $B = (0, 0), C = (1, 0)$.
- (4) Drop perpendiculars PA, PB, PC from $P = (a, b)$ to a parabola. The centroid of $\triangle ABC$ is on the axis.
- (5) Find the slope one tangents to the ellipse $3x^2 + y^2 = 3$.
- (6) Vector addition, points between two points, $\alpha \vec{v} + (1 - \alpha) \vec{w}$.
- (7) Medians intersect using vectors.
- (8) D, E, F chosen on the sides of $\triangle ABC$ with $AF/AB = BD/BC = CE/CA$. Centroids of $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle DEF$ agree.
- (9) $AB = AC$, D midpoint of BC , DE perpendicular to AC , F midpoint of DE . Prove $AF \perp BE$.
- (10) Suppose altitudes AP and BQ of a tetrahedron $ABCD$ are coplanar. Show $AB \perp CD$.
- (11) $ABCD$ parallelogram, F midpoint of CD , AF intersects BD in E . Prove $DE = DB/3$.
- (12) Complex conjugates, Cartesian coordinates for addition, polar coordinates for multiplication, unit circle, roots of unity.
- (13) Find z_3 , given two other points z_1, z_2 of an equilateral triangle, $z_3 = -z_1\omega - z_2\omega^2$.
- (14) Draw equilateral triangles BDC, CEA, AFB outside a triangle ABC . Show centroids of the three new triangles form an equilateral triangle.
- (15) P, Q, R, S centers of squares drawn outside a quadrilateral $ABCD$. Show $PR \perp QS$ and $|PR| = |QS|$.
- (16) Regular polygon $A_1 A_2 \cdots A_n$ of circumradius r , P some other point on the circumcircle. Show $\sum_k |PA_k|^2 = 2nr^2$.

Analysis.

- (1) Continuity, different definitions, $\sin \frac{1}{x}$ discontinuous.
- (2) Intermediate value property (IVT), extreme value property.
- (3) Given two polygons, there is a line that cuts both in equal areas.
- (4) Continuous f with $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$ must be $f(x) = ax$.
- (5) Continuous f with $f(x) = f(x^2)$ must be constant.
- (6) A runner runs 6 miles in 30 minutes. Show he ran one mile in exactly 5 minutes.
- (7) Find all continuous functions $f: [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $f(xy) = xf(y) + yf(x)$.
- (8) Example of (discontinuous) function with $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$ but $f(x) \neq ax$.
- (9) Derivatives. $x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}$, f' exists but is not continuous.
- (10) Rolle's theorem, mean value theorem, Taylor's theorem.
- (11) $f = x^3 - 3x + a$ cannot have more than one zero in $[-1, 1]$.
- (12) Show $4ax^3 + 3bx^2 + 2cx - (a + b + c)$ has a root in $[0, 1]$.
- (13) P, Q points on unit circle, R perpendicular from Q to the tangent through P , maximize area of $\triangle PQR$.
- (14) Putnam problem, show all roots of $P(x) = 1 + 8x + 16x^2 + 8x^3 + x^4$ are real.
- (15) Find number of solutions of $x^2 - x \sin x - \cos x = 0$.

- (16) Find $\int_2^4 \frac{\sqrt{\ln(9-x)} dx}{\sqrt{\ln(9-x)} + \sqrt{\ln(x+3)}}$.
- (17) L'Hospital, f/g , both going to zero, or both going to infinity, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\frac{1}{\sin x} - \frac{1}{x})$.
- (18) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$.
- (19) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^x$,
- (20) Fundamental theorem of calculus, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x (1 + \sin 2t)^{1/t} dt$.
- (21) Find all f satisfying $f(x) = \int_0^x f(t) dt + 1$.
- (22) $\int_0^x f(t) dt = \int_x^1 t^2 f(t) dt + x^{16}/8 + x^{18}/9 + C$.
- (23) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{1}{2n+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{3n})$.
- (24) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{k^2 + n^2}}$.
- (25) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{1} + \sqrt{2} + \dots + \sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{n^3}}$.
- (26) Find integral part (floor) of $S = \sum_1^{10^9} n^{-2/3}$.
- (27) f differentiable, $f(0) = 0$, and f' strictly increasing (don't know if f'' exists). Show $f(x)/x$ is strictly increasing for $x > 0$.
- (28) Find $I = \int_0^\pi \frac{x \sin x}{1 + \cos^2 x} dx$.
- (29) Putnam problem, $f: [1, 3] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $|f(x)| \leq 1$, $\int_1^3 f(x) dx = 0$. Maximum value of $\int_1^3 \frac{f(x)}{x} dx$.