

# CSCI 7000 Fall 2023: Inclusion–Exclusion

Joshua A. Grochow

Released: October 10, 2023

Due: Monday Oct 16, 2023

1. Generatingfunctionology Chapter 4 Exercise 9 (p. 159), reproduced verbatim here:

Let  $G$  be a graph of  $n$  vertices, and let positive integers  $x, \lambda$  be given. Let  $P(\lambda; x; G)$  denote the number of ways of assigning one of  $\lambda$  given colors to each of the vertices of  $G$  in such a way that exactly  $x$  edges of  $G$  have both endpoints of the same color.

Formulate the question of determining  $P$  as a sieve [inclusion-exclusion] problem with a suitable set of objects and properties. Find a formula for  $P(\lambda; x; G)$ , and observe that it is a polynomial in the two variables  $\lambda$  and  $x$ . The *chromatic polynomial* of  $G$  is  $P(\lambda; 0; G)$ .

2. Given non-negative integers  $k, n, d$ , find the number of non-negative integer solutions to the equation

$$x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_k = n$$

such that all  $x_i$  satisfy  $0 \leq x_i \leq d$ .

3. (Stanley, *Enumerative Combinatorics*, Volume I, second edition, Chapter 2, Exercise 14). Let  $A_k(n)$  denote the number of collections  $S$  of  $k$  subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that no element of  $S$  is a subset of another element of  $S$ . Show that  $A_1(n) = 2^n$  and  $A_2(n) = (1/2)(4^n - 2 \cdot 3^n + 2^n)$ . Try to compute  $A_k(n)$  for  $k = 3, 4$ . Can you see the pattern? See for how large a  $k$  can you get a general formula (as a function of  $n$ ).

## Resources

- van Lint & Wilson Chapter 10
- Generatingfunctionology Section 4.2 for a generating function view of inclusion–exclusion
- Generatingfunctionology p. 113 for average number of fixed points of a permutation via inclusion–exclusion
- Enumerative Combinatorics Chapter 2