

**11. Practice sheet for the lecture:  
Combinatorics (DS I)**

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30. June 2015

Due dates: 07.-09. July

<http://www.math.tu-berlin.de/~felsner/Lehre/dsI15.html>

- (1) Let  $A_1, \dots, A_r \subseteq [n]$ . Prove the following *inclusion-exclusion formula*:

$$\left| \bigcup_{i=1}^r A_i \right| = \sum_{I \subseteq [r], I \neq \emptyset} (-1)^{|I|-1} \left| \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i \right|$$

- (a) by Möbius inversion.  
 (b) directly.
- (2) How many positive integers less than  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  have no factor between 2 and 10? How many are these if  $n = 1000$ ?
- (3) For a prime power  $q$ , consider the poset  $P$  of all subspaces of the  $n$ -dimensional vector space  $V_n(q)$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  with the subspace relation.
- (a) Compute the Möbius function of  $P$ .  
 (b) Count the number of linear functions from  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  onto  $\mathbb{F}_q^k$ .  
 [Observe that  $\sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} (-1)^i q^{\binom{k}{2}} = 0$  follows from ‘our’  $q$ -binomial theorems.]
- (4) Use Möbius inversion to show that for every positive integer  $n$ , it holds

$$\frac{\phi(n)}{n} = \sum_{d|n} \frac{\mu(d)}{d}$$

[Hint: Recall that  $\sum_{d|n} \phi(d) = n$ .]

- (5) Count the number of triples  $(p_0, p_1, p_2)$ , where  $p_i$  are vertex-disjoint lattice paths of length 6 from  $A_i = (i, 2 - i)$  to  $B_i = (3 + i, 5 - i)$ .
- (6) Apply the Lemma of Lindström-Gessel-Viennot in order to
- (a) show that for two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{K}^{n \times n}$ :  $\det(A \cdot B) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$   
 (b) re-prove the formula for the Vandermonde determinant.  
 [Hint: Find appropriate weights for the edges of the ‘lattice’-graph indicated below with its unique vertex disjoint paths system.]

