

5. (talked with Nina and Emily) Prove that the number of partitions of n in which no part appears exactly once equals the number of partitions of n into parts not congruent to $\pm 1 \pmod{6}$.

We know that the the generating function for the number of partitions of n is given by

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p(n)x^n = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 + x^i + x^{2i} + \dots) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - x^i}$$

However, if from one of the sums being multiplied together, we chose x^i , (the second element in the sum) this amounts to choosing a partition of n where i only appears once. Therefore the generating function for partitions of n where no element appears exactly once, is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q(n)x^n &= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - x^i} - x^i \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - x^i + x^{2i}}{1 - x^i} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+x^{3i}}{1+x^i} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+x^{3i}}{1-x^{2i}} \end{aligned}$$

Now rewriting this last product by breaking up the product of all the $\frac{1}{1-x^{2i}}$ into a product of all the even numbers $2 \pmod{6}$, $4 \pmod{6}$, and $0 \pmod{6}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+x^{3i}}{1-x^{2i}} &= \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i-4}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i-2}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} 1+x^{3i} \right) \\ &= \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i-4}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i-2}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+x^{3i}}{1-x^{6i}} \right) \\ &= \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i-4}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{6i-2}} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{3i}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Now examining the coefficient of x^n we see that it must have taken exponents that were either $2 \pmod{6}$, $4 \pmod{6}$, $3 \pmod{6}$ or $0 \pmod{6}$, that is the number of ways to form x^n are

exactly the number of partitions into n not parts not congruent to $\pm 1 \pmod{6}$.
giving us the desired equality.