

1. How many solutions are there to the equation  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 21$  where  $x_i, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , is a nonnegative integer such that (a)  $x_1 \geq 1$  ?

**Solution:** Let  $x_1 = x'_1 + 1$ , then the constrain on  $x'_1$  becomes a nonnegative integer and the equation becomes  $x'_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 20$ . From Theorem 2 we get  $C(5 + 20 - 1, 20) = 10626$ .

- (b)  $x_i \geq 2$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  ?

**Solution:** Let  $x_i = x'_i + 2$ , then the equation becomes  $x'_1 + x'_2 + x'_3 + x'_4 + x'_5 = 11$ . From Theorem 2 we get  $C(5 + 11 - 1, 11) = 1365$ .

- (c)  $0 \leq x_1 \leq 10$  ?

**Solution:** The number of solutions for  $x_1 \geq 11$  is  $C(5 + 10 - 1, 10)$ . The number of solutions for  $x_1 \geq 0$  is  $C(5 + 21 - 1, 21)$ . So we get:  $C(5 + 21 - 1, 21) - C(5 + 10 - 1, 10) = 11649$ .

- (d)  $0 \leq x_1 \leq 3, 1 \leq x_2 < 4$  and  $x_3 \geq 15$  ?

**Solution:** Let  $x_2 = x'_2 + 1$  and  $x_3 =$

$x'_3 + 15$ , then the problem becomes

$$x_1 + x'_2 + x'_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 5$$

where  $0 \leq x_1 \leq 3$ ,  $0 \leq x'_2 \leq 2$  and  $x'_3 \geq 0$ .

*A*: if  $x_1 \geq 4$ , then  $C(5 + 1 - 1, 1) = 5$  solutions.

*B*: if  $x'_2 \geq 3$ , then  $C(5 + 2 - 1, 2) = 15$  solutions.

$A \cap B$ : if  $x_1 \geq 4$  and  $x'_2 \geq 3$ , then 0 solutions.

$A \cup B$ : if  $x_1 \geq 4$  or  $x'_2 \geq 3$ , then  $5 + 15 = 20$  solutions.

By De Morgan's laws for set we get the number of solutions for this question is  $C(5 + 5 - 1, 5) - 20 = 106$ .

2. How many solutions are there to the inequality  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \leq 11$  where  $x_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ , is a nonnegative integer ?

**Solution:** Let's introduce an auxiliary variable  $x_4$ , then the problem becomes to find the number of solution of the equation  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 11$ , where  $x_i$  is a non-

negative integer. From Theorem 2 we get  $C(4 + 11 - 1, 11) = C(14, 3) = 364$ .

3. How many positive integers less than 1000000 have the sum of their digits equal to 19 ?

**Solution:** We can have at most 6 digits and the problem becomes

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6 = 19, \text{ where } 0 \leq x_i \leq 9.$$

$A_i$ : if  $x_i \geq 10$ , then the solution is  $C(6 + 9 - 1, 9) = 2002$ .

The number of solution without restriction is  $C(6 + 19 - 1, 19)$ . By De Morgan's laws for set we get the number of solutions for this question is  $C(6 + 19 - 1, 19) - 2002 \times 6 = 30492$ .

4. How many different strings can be made from the letters in *ORONO*, using some or all of the letters ?

**Solution:** *Length 5*: From Theorem 3 we get  $\frac{5!}{3!1!1!} = 20$ .

*Length 4*: Omit one letter 'O', then  $\frac{4!}{2!1!1!} =$

12. Omit one letter 'R', then  $\frac{4!}{3!1!} = 4$ . Omit one letter 'N', then  $\frac{4!}{3!1!} = 4$ .

*Length 3:* Omit two letters 'OO', then  $\frac{3!}{1!1!1!} = 6$ . Omit two letters 'OR', then  $\frac{3!}{2!1!} = 3$ . Omit two letters 'ON', then  $\frac{3!}{2!1!} = 3$ . Omit two letters 'RN', then  $\frac{3!}{3!} = 1$ .

*Length 2:* String 'OO', 'RN', 'NR', 'OR', 'RO', 'ON' and 'NO', so there are 6 strings of length 2.

*Length 1:* String 'O', 'R' and 'N', so there are 3 strings of length 1.

Sum all of them together, we get 63 strings.

5. How many ways are there to distribute five indistinguishable objects into three indistinguishable boxes ?

**Solution:** We can have the following 5 ways to do it:

5, 0, 0

4, 1, 0

3, 2, 0

3, 1, 1

2, 2, 1

6. How many different terms are there in the expansion of  $(x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_m)^n$  after all terms with identical sets of exponents are added ?

**Solution:** Let  $n_i$  be the exponent of  $x_i$  in the term  $x_1^{n_1} x_2^{n_2} \cdots x_m^{n_m}$ . Apparently we have  $n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_m = n$  and  $n_i$  is a non-negative integer. From Theorem 2 we get  $C(m + n - 1, n)$  different terms.