

**Aalto University**  
**Department of Information and Computer Science**  
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**T-79.5205 Combinatorics (5 cr)**  
**Exam Fri 20 May 2011, 9–12 a.m.**

Write down on each answer sheet:

- Your name, degree programme, and student number
- The text: "T-79.5205 Combinatorics 20.5.2011"
- The total number of answer sheets you are submitting for grading

*Note:* You can write down your answers in either Finnish, Swedish, or English.

1. An *involution* of  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is a permutation  $\sigma$  of  $[n]$  that is its own inverse, that is,  $\sigma^{-1} = \sigma$ .
  - (a) List all involutions of  $[n]$  for  $n = 2, 3, 4$ .
  - (b) Denote by  $I(n)$  the number of involutions of  $[n]$ . Determine  $I(n)$  for  $n = 5, 6, 7$ .  
*Hint:* Consider the decomposition of  $\sigma$  into cycles. You may want to derive a recurrence relation or a direct counting formula. Make sure your formula agrees with the lists in part (a)!
2. The principle of inclusion and exclusion.
  - (a) Give a careful description of the principle of inclusion and exclusion.
  - (b) How many positive integers at most 1000 are not divisible by any of the integers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6?
3. Partially ordered sets.
  - (a) Show that the set of positive integer divisors of the integer  $n$  is partially ordered by the integer divisibility relation " $|$ ", where  $a|b$  holds for integers  $a$  and  $b$  if and only if there exists an integer  $q$  such that  $qa = b$ .
  - (b) Draw a Hasse diagram of the positive integer divisors of  $n = 60$ . Find a largest antichain and a partition of the divisors into the minimum possible number of chains.
4. Combinatorial and probabilistic proof techniques.
  - (a) For  $n \geq 1$ , let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k \subseteq [n]$  be distinct sets with  $A_i \cap A_j \neq \emptyset$  for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ . Prove that  $k \leq 2^{n-1}$  and that equality can hold.  
*Hint:* Start with an explicit construction for equality.
  - (b) Let  $n$  and  $s$  be nonnegative integers such that  $n \geq 3$  and  $2s \log 2 > 3 \log n$ . Prove that there exist sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_s \subseteq [n]$  such that for every  $B \in \binom{[n]}{3}$  there exists a  $1 \leq j \leq s$  with both  $A_j \cap B \neq \emptyset$  and  $A_j \cap B \neq B$ .  
*Hint:* Use a nonconstructive technique.

*Grading: Each problem 12p, total 48p.*