

*Applications of a Theory of Permutations in Circular Procession  
to the Theory of Numbers.* By Major P. A. МАСМАНОН.

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1. In the *Comptes Rendus* of the French Academy, 11th April, 1892, there appeared a note by M. E. Jablonshi, presented by M. C. Jordan, on the subject of permutations in circular procession.

Also, in the Appendix to his "Théorie des Nombres," t. 1, M. E. Lucas gives a short investigation, which he attributes to M. Moreau.

Both investigators reach the same result, which, in a slightly different notation, may be stated as follows:—

Let there be  $n$  things, of which  $\alpha$  are of one kind,  $\beta$  of a second,  $\gamma$  of a third, and so forth,

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \dots = n;$$

let  $N$  be the greatest common factor of the numbers  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots$ , and write

$$N = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha'} = \frac{\beta}{\beta'} = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma'} = \dots;$$

further, let

$$LP(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots)$$

and

$$CP(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots)$$

denote respectively the numbers of permutations of the  $n$  things in linear and in circular procession, so that

$$LP(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots) = \frac{n!}{\alpha! \beta! \gamma! \dots};$$

and

$$CP(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots)$$

is the number whose expression is sought.

If  $d$  be any divisor of  $N$ , including  $N$  itself and unity, and  $\phi(d)$  the *totient* of  $d$  (Sylvester's nomenclature for the numbers of integers prime to and not superior to  $d$ ), the result is

$$nCP(N\alpha', N\beta', N\gamma', \dots) = \sum \phi(d) LP\left(\frac{N}{d}\alpha', \frac{N}{d}\beta', \frac{N}{d}\gamma', \dots\right),$$

otherwise written

$${}_nCP(N\alpha', N\beta', N\gamma', \dots) = \Sigma \phi(d) \frac{\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)!}{\left(\frac{N}{d}\alpha'\right)! \left(\frac{N}{d}\beta'\right)! \left(\frac{N}{d}\gamma'\right)! \dots}$$

This theorem involves results of interest and importance in the pure theory of numbers.

If  $n$  be prime,  $N$  is unity, and

$${}_nCP(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots) = \frac{n!}{\alpha! \beta! \gamma! \dots},$$

and this is also true whenever,  $n$  being composite,  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots$  possess no common factor greater than unity. Hence

*Theorem.*—The multinomial coefficient

$$\frac{n!}{\alpha! \beta! \gamma! \dots}$$

is divisible by  $n$ , provided that the numbers  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots$  constitute a prime assemblage.

The usual statement and proof in treatises is in reference to the divisibility by  $n$ , when  $n$  is prime, of every coefficient of the multinomial expansion except those attached to powers of single letters. The theorem above is more general and shows the nature of the quotient.

Next suppose  $N = n = \alpha = N\alpha'$ ;

we find  ${}_nCP(n) = \Sigma \phi(d)$ ,

and manifestly  $CP(n) = 1$ ;

therefore  $\Sigma \phi(d) = n$ ,

where  $d$  is any divisor of  $n$ , including  $n$  itself and unity; the well-known theorem due to Gauss.

The complete theorem may be viewed as a generalization of that of Gauss. The expression

$$\Sigma \phi(d) \frac{\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)!}{\left(\frac{N}{d}\alpha'\right)! \left(\frac{N}{d}\beta'\right)! \left(\frac{N}{d}\gamma'\right)! \dots}$$

gives, for every partition of  $n$ , a linear function of the totients of the

divisors of  $n$  which is divisible by  $n$ . Moreover the quotient is

$$OP(N\alpha', N\beta', N\gamma', \dots).$$

It may be noted that, when  $N$  is a prime,

$$nOP(N\alpha', N\beta', N\gamma' \dots) = \frac{n!}{(N\alpha')!(N\beta')!(N\gamma')! \dots} + (N-1) \frac{\left(\frac{n}{N}\right)!}{\alpha'! \beta'! \gamma'! \dots},$$

and then  $(\alpha'\beta'\gamma' \dots)$  is any partition of  $\frac{n}{N}$ .

2. The next problem is with reference to the permutations of  $p$  different objects,  $n$  at a time, when repetitions of objects are permissible.

The number of line permutations may be denoted by  $RLP(p, n)$ , and the number of circular permutations by  $RCP(p, n)$ .

The value of  $RLP(p, n)$  is known to be  $p^n$ .

In a circular permutation there are  $n$  objects which may be all similar, or they may be of one, two, &c. ...  $p$  different kinds.

A permutation which involves  $a_1$  objects of one kind,  $a_2$  of a second,  $a_3$  of a third, &c., may be said to be of type

$$(a_1 a_2 \dots a_p),$$

where

$$a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_p = n,$$

and 1, 2, ... or  $p-1$  of the quantities  $a$  may be zero.

In order to place in evidence the existence of equalities amongst the quantities  $a$ , it is convenient to consider the general type

$$(a_1^{\kappa_1} a_2^{\kappa_2} a_3^{\kappa_3} \dots),$$

where

$$\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + \kappa_3 + \dots = p,$$

and

$$\kappa_1 a_1 + \kappa_2 a_2 + \kappa_3 a_3 + \dots = n.$$

We have to find the number of different combinations of objects which come under a given type.

Were the type  $(a_1, a_2, \dots a_p)$ , with the quantities  $a$  all different, the number of different combinations would be clearly  $p!$ .

Hence, for the general type, the number of different combinations of the objects must be

$$\frac{p!}{\kappa_1! \kappa_2! \kappa_3! \dots} \times 2$$

*Ex. gr.*, if a permutation involves  $n-2$  objects of one kind, one of a second, and one of a third, the type is

$$(n-2, 1^2, 0^{p-3}),$$

and the number of different combinations of this type is

$$\frac{p!}{1! 2! (p-3)!}.$$

Denote by  $CP(a_1^{\kappa_1}, a_2^{\kappa_2}, a_3^{\kappa_3}, \dots)$  the number of circular permutations of a set of objects of the type

$$(a_1^{\kappa_1} a_2^{\kappa_2} a_3^{\kappa_3} \dots);$$

then  $RCP(p, n) = \sum \frac{p!}{\kappa_1! \kappa_2! \kappa_3! \dots} CP(a_1^{\kappa_1} a_2^{\kappa_2} a_3^{\kappa_3} \dots)$ .

But  $nCP(a_1^{\kappa_1} a_2^{\kappa_2} a_3^{\kappa_3} \dots) = \sum \phi(d) LP \left\{ \left( \frac{a_1}{d} \right)^{\kappa_1} \left( \frac{a_2}{d} \right)^{\kappa_2} \left( \frac{a_3}{d} \right)^{\kappa_3} \dots \right\}$ ,

by the previous theorem,  $d$  denoting a divisor of the highest common factor of the numbers  $a$ .

We can now express  $RCP(p, n)$  as a linear function of the expressions  $LP$ . We find that the coefficient of  $\frac{1}{n} \phi(d)$  is

$$\sum \frac{p!}{\kappa_1! \kappa_2! \kappa_3! \dots} LP \left\{ \left( \frac{a_1}{d} \right)^{\kappa_1} \left( \frac{a_2}{d} \right)^{\kappa_2} \left( \frac{a_3}{d} \right)^{\kappa_3} \dots \right\},$$

and this series is manifestly the value of

$$RLP \left( p, \frac{n}{d} \right),$$

arrived at by summation in regard to types. Hence

$$RCP(p, n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum \phi(d) RLP \left( p, \frac{n}{d} \right),$$

or  $RCP(p, n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum \phi(d) p^{n/d}$ ,

the summation having reference to every divisor  $d$  of the number  $n$ .

*Theorem.* — The number of circular permutations of  $p$  different objects  $n$  together, repetitions permissible, is equal to

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum \phi(d) p^{n/d},$$

where  $\phi(d)$  represents the totient of  $d$ , and the summation is for all divisors  $d$  of the number  $n$ .

We have here another extension of Gauss's theorem concerning totients. Corresponding to every integer  $p$ , we have a linear function of the number  $\phi(d)$ ,  $d$  a divisor of  $n$ , which is divisible by  $n$ , and the theorem shows the nature of the quotient.

*Theorem.*—If  $n$  and  $p$  be any positive integers, and  $d$  a divisor of  $n$ , the sum

$$\sum \phi(d) p^{n/d} \equiv 0 \pmod{n},$$

and the quotient is equal to the number of circular permutations of  $p$  different things  $n$  together, repetitions permitted.

Gauss's theorem is given by  $p$  equal to unity.

The theorem is also a generalization of Fermat's theorem concerning the divisibility of  $p^{n-1} - 1$  by  $n$ , when  $n$  is a prime and  $p$  prime to  $n$ .

For, since  $\sum \phi(d) p^{n/d} \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ ,  
 if  $n$  be prime,  $p^n + (n-1)p \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ ,  
 or  $p^{n-1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ ,  
 if  $p$  be prime to  $n$ , and

$$\frac{1}{n} (p^{n-1} - 1) = \frac{1}{p} RCP(p, n) - 1,$$

showing the connexion between the quotient in Fermat's theorem and the number  $RCP(p, n)$ .

The usual extension of Fermat's theorem asserts the congruence

$$p^{\phi(N)} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{N},$$

when  $p$  is prime to  $N$ .

To deduce this from the general formula, suppose  $N$  to involve the prime  $m$  to the power  $\mu$ , and put

$$N = N' m^\mu.$$

Consider the permutations in circular procession of  $p^{\phi(N)}$  objects  $m^\mu$  together, repetitions allowed.

By the formula established above

$$\begin{aligned} & m^\mu RCP \{ p^{\phi(N)}, m^\mu \} \\ &= p^{\phi(N) m^\mu} + (m-1) p^{\phi(N) m^{\mu-1}} + \dots + (m^\mu - m^{\mu-1}) p^{\phi(N)} \\ &= p^{\phi(N) m^{\mu-1}} \{ p^{\phi(N) m^\mu} - 1 \} + m p^{\phi(N) m^{\mu-2}} \{ p^{\phi(N) m^{\mu-1}} - 1 \} + \dots + m^\mu p^{\phi(N)}; \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}
 & RCP \{p^{\phi(N)}, m^{\mu}\} \\
 &= p^{\phi(N)} + \frac{p^{\phi(N)}}{m} \{p^{\phi(N/m)} - 1\} + \frac{p^{\phi(N)}}{m^2} \{p^{\phi(N/m^2)} - 1\} \\
 &\quad + \dots + \frac{p^{\phi(N)} m^{\mu-1}}{m^{\mu}} \{p^{\phi(N)} - 1\},
 \end{aligned}$$

where the number of terms on the dexter is  $\mu + 1$ .

Giving  $\mu$  successive integer values, we establish the congruence

$$p^{\phi(N)} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m^{\mu}},$$

and thence

$$p^{\phi(N)} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{N}.$$

To find the quotient of  $p^{\phi(N)} - 1$  by  $m^{\mu}$ , write

$$RCP \{p^{\phi(N)}, m^{\mu}\} = R_{\mu},$$

$$\frac{1}{m^{\mu}} \{p^{\phi(N/m^{\mu})} - 1\} = \mathcal{G}_{\mu},$$

$$p^{\phi(N)} = P,$$

so that

$$R_{\mu} = P + P\mathcal{G}_1 + P^2\mathcal{G}_2 + \dots + P^{m^{\mu}-1}\mathcal{G}_{\mu},$$

and hence

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu} = P^{-m^{\mu-1}} (R_{\mu} - R_{\mu-1}),$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{m^{\mu}} \{p^{\phi(N)} - 1\} \\
 &= p^{-\phi(N/m^{\mu})m^{\mu-1}} [RCP \{p^{\phi(N/m^{\mu})}, m^{\mu}\} - RCP \{p^{\phi(N/m^{\mu})}, m^{\mu-1}\}] \\
 &= \mathcal{G}_{\mu}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Let now

$$N = m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s},$$

then

$$\frac{\{p^{\phi(N)} - 1\}^s}{N} = \mathcal{G}_{\mu_1} \mathcal{G}_{\mu_2} \dots \mathcal{G}_{\mu_s},$$

leading to

$$\frac{p^{\phi(N)} - 1}{N} = (\mathcal{G}_{\mu_1} \mathcal{G}_{\mu_2} \dots \mathcal{G}_{\mu_s})^{1/s} N^{-(s-1)/s},$$

giving the complete quotient.

*Ex. gr.*,  $N = 15$ ,  $m_1 = 3$ ,  $m_2 = 5$ ,  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = 1$ ,  $s = 2$ ,

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu_1} = {}_3RCP(15, 3) - 1 = {}_3I_0(15 + 4^2) - 1 = 51,$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu_2} = {}_5RCP(15, 5) - 1 = {}_5I_0(16^3 + 2 \cdot 16) - 1 = 85;$$

therefore  $(\mathcal{G}_{\mu_1} \mathcal{G}_{\mu_2})^{\dagger} N^{-1} = \sqrt{51} \sqrt{85} \frac{1}{\sqrt{15}} = 17,$

which is right.

3. To extend Fermat's theorem in another direction, expand the right-hand side of the formula

$$nRCP(p, n) = \Sigma \phi(d) p^{n/d},$$

according to powers of the prime factors of  $n$ .

It is convenient to adopt a symbolic notation by which

$$p^{[a]} = p^{a-1},$$

$$p^{[a]} p^{[b]} p^{[c]} \dots = p^{[abc\dots]} = p^{abc\dots-1}.$$

As a simple case, put  $n = m_1 m_2 m_3$ , and we have

$$p^{m_1 m_2 m_3} + (m_1 - 1) p^{m_2 m_3} + (m_2 - 1) p^{m_1 m_3} + (m_3 - 1) p^{m_1 m_2}$$

$$+ (m_1 - 1)(m_2 - 1) p^{m_3} + (m_2 - 1)(m_3 - 1) p^{m_1} + (m_3 - 1)(m_1 - 1) p^{m_2}$$

$$+ (m_1 - 1)(m_2 - 1)(m_3 - 1) p \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_3};$$

$p$  being prime to  $n$ , a rearrangement gives

$$(p^{[m_1]} - 1)(p^{[m_2]} - 1)(p^{[m_3]} - 1)$$

$$+ m_1 (p^{[m_2]} - 1)(p^{[m_3]} - 1) + m_2 (p^{[m_1]} - 1)(p^{[m_3]} - 1)$$

$$+ m_3 (p^{[m_1]} - 1)(p^{[m_2]} - 1)$$

$$+ m_2 m_3 (p^{[m_1]} - 1) + m_3 m_1 (p^{[m_2]} - 1) + m_1 m_2 (p^{[m_3]} - 1)$$

$$+ m_1 m_2 m_3 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_3}.$$

Now, by Fermat's theorem,

$$p^{[m_1]} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1},$$

and, taking  $n$  the product of two primes, a formula similar to the above shows the congruence

$$(p^{[m_1]} - 1)(p^{[m_2]} - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1 m_2}.$$

Hence the congruence

$$(p^{[m_1]} - 1)(p^{[m_2]} - 1)(p^{[m_3]} - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_3},$$

which is equivalent to

$$p^{m_1 m_2 m_3 - 1} - p^{m_2 m_3 - 1} - p^{m_1 m_3 - 1} - p^{m_1 m_2 - 1}$$

$$+ p^{m_1 - 1} + p^{m_2 - 1} + p^{m_3 - 1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_3}.$$

To generalize this congruence write

$$\Phi_p(m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}) = p^{\lfloor m_1^{\mu_1-1} \rfloor} (p^{\lfloor m_1 \rfloor} - 1) \dots p^{\lfloor m_s^{\mu_s-1} \rfloor} (p^{\lfloor m_s \rfloor} - 1),$$

according to the law of the totient formula

$$\phi(m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}) = m_1^{\mu_1-1} (m_1-1) m_2^{\mu_2-1} (m_2-1) \dots m_s^{\mu_s-1} (m_s-1).$$

The above-established congruence is then written

$$\Phi_p(m_1 m_2 m_s) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_s}.$$

We can establish the congruence

$$\Phi_p(m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}},$$

$p$  being prime to  $m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}$ .

If  $m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s}$  and  $m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s}$  be conjugate divisors of  $m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}$ , we may write

$$n \Sigma \phi(d) p^{n/d} = \Sigma \phi(m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s}) p^{m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s}},$$

where

$$\phi(m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s}) = (m_1^{a_1} - m_1^{a_1-1})(m_2^{a_2} - m_2^{a_2-1}) \dots (m_s^{a_s} - m_s^{a_s-1});$$

therefore  $\Sigma \phi(m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s}) p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ .

On the left-hand side, expansion of

$$\phi(m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s})$$

shows that the whole coefficient of  $m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} - p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1-1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} - p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2-1} \dots m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} - \dots \\ & + p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1-1} m_2^{b_2-1} \dots m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} + p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2-1} m_3^{b_3-1} \dots m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} + \dots \\ & - \dots, \end{aligned}$$

which is

$$(p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1} \rfloor} - p^{\lfloor m_1^{b_1-1} \rfloor})(p^{\lfloor m_2^{b_2} \rfloor} - p^{\lfloor m_2^{b_2-1} \rfloor}) \dots (p^{\lfloor m_s^{b_s} \rfloor} - p^{\lfloor m_s^{b_s-1} \rfloor}),$$

that is,

$$\Phi_p(m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s}).$$



Hence  $\Sigma m_1^{a_1} m_2^{a_2} \dots m_s^{a_s} \Phi_p(m_1^{b_1} m_2^{b_2} \dots m_s^{b_s}) \equiv 0 \pmod n$ ;

or, more briefly,

$$\Sigma d \Phi_p \left( \frac{n}{d} \right) \equiv 0 \pmod n,$$

which is simply another form of the congruence

$$\Sigma \phi(d) p^{n/d} \equiv 0 \pmod n.$$

The congruence  $\Sigma d \Phi_p \left( \frac{n}{d} \right) \equiv 0 \pmod n$

may be written  $\Phi_p(n) + \Sigma' d \Phi_p \left( \frac{n}{d} \right) \equiv 0 \pmod n$ ,

wherein the summation sign  $\Sigma'$  has reference to every divisor of *excluding* unity.

Assuming the truth of the congruence

$$\Phi_p \left( \frac{n}{d} \right) \equiv 0 \pmod \frac{n}{d},$$

for every divisor  $d$  of  $n$  which exceeds unity, manifestly

$$\Sigma' d \Phi_p \left( \frac{n}{d} \right) \equiv 0 \pmod n,$$

and hence

$$\Phi_p(n) \equiv 0 \pmod n;$$

therefore by induction universally

$$\Phi_p(n) \equiv 0 \pmod n;$$

or, otherwise,  $\Phi_p(m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}}$ ;

and, since  $\Phi_p(m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s})$  contains a factor  $p^{N/(m_1 m_2 \dots m_s) - 1}$ , we have finally

$$p^{1-N/(m_1 m_2 \dots m_s)} \Phi_p(m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1^{\mu_1} m_2^{\mu_2} \dots m_s^{\mu_s}}.$$

*Ex. gr.*, Take  $n = m_1^3 m_2$ ,

$$p^{1-m_1^3} (p^{(m_1^3)} - p^{(m_1^2)}) (p^{(m_2)} - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1^3 m_2},$$

or  $p^{1-m_1^3} (p^{m_1^3 m_2 - 1} - p^{m_1^3 - 1} - p^{m_1^2 m_2 - 1} + p^{m_1^3 - 1}) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1^3 m_2}$ ,

or  $p^{m_1^3 m_2 - m_1^3} - p^{m_1^3 - m_1^3} - p^{m_1^2 m_2 - m_1^3} + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1^3 m_2}.$

The following presents to the Library were received during the recess:—

- “Imperial University of Japan,” the Calendars for 1890–91, and 1891–92.  
 “Proceedings of the Royal Society,” Vol. L., No. 307; Vol. LI., 308–313.  
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 d’une Courbe donnée;” “Sur la Corrélation entre les Systèmes de Coordonnées  
 ponctuelles et les Systèmes de Coordonnées tangentielles;” “Sur une Courbe  
 définie par la Loi de sa Rectification;” “Détermination du Rayon de Courbure en  
 Coordonnées parallèles ponctuelles;” 8vo pamphlets. “Sur l’Application des  
 Coordonnées Parallèles à la Démonstration d’un Théorème de Chasles relatif aux  
 Surfaces Algébriques;” “Sur la Liaison entre les Expressions du Rayon de  
 Courbure en Coordonnées Ponctuelles et en Coordonnées Tangentielles;” pamphlets  
 R. 8vo.
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The following is the list of mathematical books bequeathed by the late Dr. Thomas Archer Hirst, F.R.S., &c., to the President and Council, for the time being, of the Society\* :—

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\* The list has been verified and the volumes placed in the Society's Library by Mr. Ralph Holmes, B.A.

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