

# An Identity for A103314(n)

T. D. Noe

June 2, 2005

For a given  $n > 1$ , let  $U_n$  be the set containing the  $n$   $n$ -th roots of unity. Using the multiplication operation in  $\mathbb{C}$ , this set is a group. Let  $s(n)$  be the squarefree kernel of  $n$ ; that is, if the prime factorization of  $n$  is  $p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \dots p_r^{e_r}$ , then  $s(n) = p_1 p_2 \dots p_r$ .

Consider the  $2^n$  sums formed by the subsets of  $U_n$ . At least 2 of these sums are zero because both  $U_n$  and the empty set sum to zero. In fact, when  $n$  is prime, these two are the only subsets that sum to zero. Let  $K_n$  denote the number of subsets that sum to zero. Our goal is to show that

$$K_n = K_{s(n)}^{n/s(n)}.$$

If  $n$  is squarefree, then  $s(n) = n$  and the formula is merely

$$K_n = K_n.$$

Hence, we assume that  $n$  is not squarefree; that is,  $s(n) < n$ . To simplify the notation, let  $g = n/s(n)$  and  $m = s(n)$ . Clearly, because  $n$  is not squarefree,  $g > 1$ .

Let  $H$  be the unique subgroup of  $U_n$  of size  $m$ . It is well-known that there are  $n/m = g$  disjoint cosets of  $H$  in  $U_n$ . There are  $K_m$  subsets of  $H$  that sum to zero. Hence, for each one of the  $g$  cosets, we can find  $K_m$  subsets that sum to zero. Because these subsets are independent of each other, we can construct  $K_m^g$  subsets of  $U_n$  that sum to zero.

Is there another subset of  $U_n$  whose members sum to zero, but not one of the  $K_m^g$  subsets we constructed above? Suppose  $x$  is such a subset of  $U_n$ . We may assume that  $x$  contains no subset that sums to zero; that is  $x$  is primitive (or minimal). However, by Lemma 1 in [1], we find that (after a possible rotation)  $x$  must be a subset the subgroup  $H$ . This is the same as saying that  $x$  is a subset of one of the  $g$  cosets of  $H$ . However, this contradicts the assumption that  $x$  is not one of the  $K_m^g$  subsets. Hence, no  $x$  exists.

[1] Bjorn Poonen and Michael Rubinstein, [The number of intersection points made by the diagonals of a regular polygon](http://www.arXiv.org/math/9508209), published electronically at [www.arXiv.org/math/9508209](http://www.arXiv.org/math/9508209)