

$$f_2(f_2(p_1, p_2), p_3).$$

For  $n = 4$  there are 360 polynomials, provided that different compositions yield distinct polynomials.

We are unable to determine the number of counting polynomials of  $P^n$ , except the case  $n = 1$ .

Theorem. The identical function  $f_1(p_1) = p_1$  is the only polynomial mapping 1 - 1 from  $P$  onto itself.

Proof. Suppose  $g(p)$  is a counting polynomial of  $P$ . Consider the curve  $y = g(x)$ . It is clear that after a finite number of ups and downs the curve is monotone increasing (to  $+\infty$ ). Let  $a$  be a positive integer such that (1)  $g(x)$  is monotone for  $x \geq a$  and (2)  $g(x) < g(a)$  for  $x < a$ . Since  $g(x)$  is a counting function of  $P$ , it has to satisfy

$$g(a) = a, g(a + 1) = a + 1, \dots.$$

For, if  $g(a) < a$ , then positive numbers  $g(1), g(2), \dots, g(a)$  cannot all be distinct, and if  $g(a) > a$  then the curve must come down beyond  $a$ , contrary to (1). Now, by the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra we have  $g(x) = x$  for all  $x$ .

Question. Are

$$x_1 + \binom{s_2 - 1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad x_2 + \binom{s_2 - 1}{2}$$

the only two polynomials mapping 1 - 1 from  $P^2$  onto  $P$ ?

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[Continued from p. 584.]

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