

Theorem 1: For any prime p and positive integer r , define

$$A(r; p) := \left(\sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} \binom{2n}{n} \right) \bmod p .$$

Then, $A(1; p) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ -1, & \text{if } p \equiv 2 \pmod{3} . \end{cases}$

Proof: Observe that

$$\binom{2n}{n} = CT_x \left[\frac{(1+x)^{2n}}{x^n} \right]$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \binom{2n}{n} &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} CT_x \left[\left(\frac{(1+x)^{2n}}{x^n} \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} CT_x \left[\left(2 + x + \frac{1}{x} \right)^n \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\frac{(2 + x + \frac{1}{x})^p - 1}{2 + x + \frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\ &\equiv_p CT_x \left[\frac{1 + x^p + \frac{1}{x^p}}{1 + x + \frac{1}{x}} \right] \\ &\equiv_p CT_x \left[\frac{1 + x^p + x^{2p}}{(1 + x + x^2)x^{p-1}} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x + x^2} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1-x}{1-x^3} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The result follows from series expansion of the last expression.

Corollary 1: $A(2; p) = \begin{cases} 3, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ -3, & \text{if } p \equiv 2 \pmod{3} . \end{cases}$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=0}^{2p-1} \binom{2n}{n} &= \sum_{n=0}^{2p-1} CT_x \left[\left(\frac{(1+x)^{2n}}{x^n} \right) \right] \\
&= CT_x \left[\frac{(2+x+\frac{1}{x})^{2p} - 1}{2+x+\frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\
&= CT_x \left[\frac{(6+4x+\frac{4}{x}+x^2+\frac{1}{x^2})^p - 1}{2+x+\frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\
&\equiv_p CT_x \left[\frac{(6+4x^p+\frac{4}{x^p}+x^{2p}+\frac{1}{x^{2p}}) - 1}{2+x+\frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\
&\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{2p-1}} \left[\frac{1+4x^p}{1+x+x^2} \right] \\
&\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{2p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1+x+x^2} \right] + 4COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1+x+x^2} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

The result follows from Theorem 1 and the last congruence.

Corollary 2 (Catalan Numbers): Let $a(n)$ be the constant term of $(1-x)\left(2+x+\frac{1}{x}\right)^n$ and let

$$A(r; p) := \left(\sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} a(n) \right) \bmod p$$

Then, $A(1; p) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ -2, & \text{if } p \equiv 2 \pmod{3} . \end{cases}$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} a(n) &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} CT_x \left[(1-x) \left(2+x+\frac{1}{x} \right)^n \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\frac{(1-x) \left(\left(2+x+\frac{1}{x} \right)^p - 1 \right)}{2+x+\frac{1}{x}-1} \right] \\ &\equiv_p CT_x \left[\frac{(1-x) \left(\left(2+x^p+\frac{1}{x^p} \right) - 1 \right)}{2+x+\frac{1}{x}-1} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1-x}{1+x+x^2} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1+x+x^2} \right] - COEFF_{x^{p-2}} \left[\frac{1}{1+x+x^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The result follows from Theorem 1 and the last congruence.

Theorem 2 (Motzkin Numbers): Let $a(n)$ be the constant term of $(1 - x^2) \left(1 + x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^n$ and let

$$A(r; p) := \sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} a(n) .$$

Then, $A(1; p) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ -2, & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} . \end{cases}$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} a(n) &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} CT \left[(1 - x^2) \left(1 + x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^n \right] \\ &= CT \left[\frac{(1 - x^2) \left(\left(1 + x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^p - 1 \right)}{1 + x + \frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1 - x^2}{1 + x^2} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x^2} \right] - COEFF_{x^{p-3}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The result follows from series expansion of $\frac{1}{1 + x^2}$ and the last congruence.

Corollary 3: Let $a(n)$ be the constant term of $(1 - x^2) \left(1 + x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^n$ and let

$$A(r; p) := \sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} a(n) .$$

Then, $A(1; p) = \begin{cases} 4, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ -4, & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} . \end{cases}$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{2p-1} a(n) &= \sum_{n=0}^{2p-1} CT_x \left[(1 - x^2) \left(1 + x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^n \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\frac{(1 - x^2) \left(\left(1 + x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{2p} - 1 \right)}{1 + x + \frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\frac{(1 - x^2) \left(\left(3 + 2x + x^2 + \frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)^p - 1 \right)}{1 + x + \frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\frac{(1 - x^2) \left(\left(3 + 2x^p + x^{2p} + \frac{2}{x^p} + \frac{1}{x^{2p}}\right) - 1 \right)}{1 + x + \frac{1}{x} - 1} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{2p-1}} \left[\frac{(1 - x^2)(1 + 2x^p)}{1 + x^2} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{2p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x^2} \right] + 2COEFF_{x^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x^2} \right] \\ &\quad - COEFF_{x^{2p-3}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x^2} \right] - 2COEFF_{x^{p-3}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + x^2} \right] . \end{aligned}$$

The result follows from Theorem 2 and the last congruence.

Theorem 3: Let $P(x)$ be a Laurent polynomial in x and let p be a prime. Let $R(x)$ the denominator after simplifying the expression

$$\frac{P(x^p) - 1}{P(x) - 1}.$$

Then, for any positive integer r and Laurent polynomial $Q(x)$,

$$\left(\sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} CT_x [P(x)^n Q(x)] \right) \bmod p$$

is congruent to a p -finite sequence and can be expressed as linear combinations of finite terms of the coefficients of $\frac{1}{R(x)}$.

Theorem 4: Let p be a prime number and let r be a positive integer. Let

$$A(r, s; p) := \sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{m=0}^{sp-1} \binom{m+n}{m} \pmod{p}.$$

Then,

$$A(r, s; p^\alpha) = \binom{r+s}{s} - 1, \text{ where } \alpha = 1, 2, 3.$$

Proof: Let $P(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x}$ and $Q(x) = 1 + x$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{m=0}^{sp-1} \binom{m+n}{m} &= \sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{m=0}^{sp-1} CT_x [P(x)^m Q(x)^n] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{sp-1} CT_x \left[\frac{P(x)^{rp} - 1}{P(x) - 1} Q(x)^n \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\left(\frac{P(x)^{rp} - 1}{P(x) - 1} \right) \left(\frac{Q(x)^{sp} - 1}{Q(x) - 1} \right) \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^{rp} - 1 \right) ((1+x)^{sp} - 1) \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^{rp} - 1 \right) ((1+x)^{sp} - 1) \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^{rp} (1+x)^{sp} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^{rp} - (1+x)^{sp} + 1 \right] \\ &= CT_x \left[\frac{(1+x)^{rp+sp}}{x^{sp}} - 1 - 1 + 1 \right] \\ &= \binom{p(r+s)}{ps} - 1 \\ &\equiv_{p^\alpha} \binom{r+s}{s} - 1, \text{ where } \alpha = 1, 2, 3. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality follows from the beautiful result that $\binom{pa}{pb} \equiv_{p^\alpha} \binom{a}{b}$ for $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$.

Theorem 5: Let p be a prime number and let r be a positive integer. Let

$$A(r, s; p) := \left(\sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{m=0}^{sp-1} \binom{n+m}{m}^2 \right) \pmod{p}.$$

$$\text{Then, } A(1, 1; p) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } p \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ 1, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ -1, & \text{if } p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Furthermore, } A(2, 2; p) \equiv_p \text{COEFF}_{[x^{2p-1}y^{2p-1}]} \frac{1 + 4x^p + 4y^p + 16x^p y^p}{(1+x+xy)(1+y+xy)}.$$

Proof: Let $P(x, y) = (1+y)\left(1+\frac{1}{x}\right)$ and $Q(x, y) = (1+x)\left(1+\frac{1}{y}\right)$. First observe that

$$\binom{n+m}{m}^2 = \binom{n+m}{m} \binom{n+m}{n} = CT_{xy} (P(x, y)^n Q(x, y)^m).$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \binom{m+n}{m}^2 &= \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} CT_{xy} [P(x, y)^n Q(x, y)^m] \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} CT_{xy} \left[\frac{P(x, y)^p - 1}{P(x, y) - 1} Q(x, y)^m \right] \\ &= CT_{xy} \left[\left(\frac{P(x, y)^p - 1}{P(x, y) - 1} \right) \left(\frac{Q(x, y)^p - 1}{Q(x, y) - 1} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that $(a+b)^p \equiv_p a^p + b^p$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \binom{m+n}{m}^2 &\equiv_p CT_{xy} \left[\left(\frac{P(x^p, y^p) - 1}{P(x, y) - 1} \right) \left(\frac{Q(x^p, y^p) - 1}{Q(x, y) - 1} \right) \right] \\ &\equiv_p CT_{xy} \left[\frac{(1+y^p+x^p y^p)(1+x^p+x^p y^p)}{(1+y+xy)(1+x+xy)x^{p-1}y^{p-1}} \right] \\ &\equiv_p \text{COEFF}_{[x^{p-1}y^{p-1}]} \left[\frac{(1+y^p+x^p y^p)(1+x^p+x^p y^p)}{(1+y+xy)(1+x+xy)} \right] \\ &\equiv_p \text{COEFF}_{[x^{p-1}y^{p-1}]} \left[\frac{1}{(1+y+xy)(1+x+xy)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Using the Almkvist-Apagodu-Zeilberger algorithm, the diagonal coefficients satisfy the recurrence $N^2 + N + 1 = 0$ with the initial conditions $a(0) = 1, a(1) = 1, a(2) = 0$. The result now follows from the fact that the recurrence is equivalent to $N^3 - 1 = 0$.

Finally, if we apply the above method to $A(2, 2; p)$ we get,

$$A(2, 2; p) \equiv_p \text{COEFF}_{[x^{2p-1}y^{2p-1}]} \frac{1 + 4x^p + 4y^p + 16x^p y^p}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} .$$

Expanding, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{COEFF}_{[x^{2p-1}y^{2p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} + 4\text{COEFF}_{[x^{p-1}y^{2p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} \\ & + 4\text{COEFF}_{[x^{2p-1}y^{p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} + 16\text{COEFF}_{[x^{p-1}y^{p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry in the second and third term, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & A(2, 2; p) \equiv_p \text{COEFF}_{[x^{2p-1}y^{2p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} + \\ & 8\text{COEFF}_{[x^{p-1}y^{2p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} + 16\text{COEFF}_{[x^{p-1}y^{p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + xy)(1 + y + xy)} \end{aligned}$$

Let p be a prime number. Then,

$$C(r, s; p) := \left(\sum_{n=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{m=0}^{sp-1} \binom{n+m}{m}^3 \right) \pmod{p}.$$

Since

$$\binom{n+m}{m}^3 = CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{(1+x)^{m+n}}{x^m} \frac{(1+y)^{m+n}}{y^m} \frac{(1+z)^{m+n}}{z^m} \right].$$

If we let $P(x, y, z) = \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{y}\right) (1+z)$ and $Q(x, y, z) = (1+x)(1+y) \left(1 + \frac{1}{z}\right)$, then we have

$$\binom{n+m}{m}^3 = CT_{xyz} ((P(x, y, z))^m Q(x, y, z)^n).$$

Repeating the above argument verbatim, we arrive at

$$C(1, 1, ; p) \equiv_p COEFF[x^{p-1}y^{p-1}z^{p-1}] \left[\frac{1}{p(x, y, z)q(x, y, z)} \right],$$

where $p(x, y, z) = 1+x+y+xy+xz+yz+xyz$ and $q(x, y, z) = 1+y+z+xy+xz+yz+xyz$.

Theorem 6: Let p be a prime number and let

$$A(r, s, t; p) := \sum_{m_1=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{m_2=0}^{sp-1} \sum_{m_3=0}^{tp-1} \binom{m_1 + m_2 + m_3}{m_1, m_2, m_3}.$$

Then, $A(1, 1, 1; p) \equiv_p 1$ for $p > 2$.

Proof ($\alpha = 1$ case): Observe that

$$\binom{m_1 + m_2 + m_3}{m_1, m_2, m_3} = CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{(1 + x + y + z)^{m_1 + m_2 + m_3}}{x^{m_1} y^{m_2} z^{m_3}} \right]$$

As in the proof of Theorem 2 using the fact that $(x + y)^p \equiv_p x^p + y^p$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m_1=0}^{p-1} \sum_{m_2=0}^{p-1} \sum_{m_3=0}^{p-1} \binom{m_1 + m_2 + m_3}{m_1, m_2, m_3} &= \sum_{m_1=0}^{p-1} \sum_{m_2=0}^{p-1} \sum_{m_3=0}^{p-1} CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{(1 + x + y + z)^{m_1 + m_2 + m_3}}{x^{m_1} y^{m_2} z^{m_3}} \right] \\ &\equiv_p CT_{xyz} \frac{(1 + x^p y^p + x^p z^p)(1 + y^p x^p + y^p z^p)(1 + z^p x^p + z^p y^p)}{(xyz)^{p-1} (1 + x + y)(1 + x + z)(1 + y + z)} \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{[x^{p-1} y^{p-1} z^{p-1}]} \frac{1}{(1 + x + y)(1 + x + z)(1 + y + z)} \end{aligned}$$

Using Almkvist-Apagodu-Zeilberger algorithm, the diagonal coefficients, $a(n) := a(n, n, n)$, satisfy the recurrence

$$\begin{aligned} 24(5n + 11)(3n + 5)(3n + 4)a(n) + (295n^3 + 1614n^2 + 2855n + 1620)a(n + 1) \\ + 2(2n + 5)(n + 2)(5n + 6)a(n + 2) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Passing to mod p , the terms with powers of p are zero and the recurrence reduces to the much simpler second order recurrence,

$$288a(p) + 84a(p + 1) + 6a(p + 2) = 0$$

with initial conditions $a(0) = 1$ and $a(1) = -14$, whose solution is given by

$$a(p) \equiv_p 4(-8)^p - 3(-6)^p.$$

From the above equation, we know that $A(1, 1, 1; p) \equiv a(p - 1) \pmod{p}$. Thus,

$$A(1, 1, 1; p) = a(p - 1) \equiv_p 4(-8)^{p-1} - 3(-6)^{p-1} \equiv_p 2^{p-1}, .$$

Now it suffices to show that $2^{p-1} - 1 \equiv_p 0$. But this follows from

$$2^{p-1} - 1 = \frac{1}{2}(2^p - 2) = \frac{1}{2}((1 + 1)^p - 2) \equiv_p \frac{1}{2}(1 + 1 - 2) = 0.$$

Observation 1: $A(1, 1, 1; p) \equiv_{p^\alpha} 1$ for $p > 2$, for $\alpha = 2, 3$.

Observation 2: The above computer data suggests that $A(2, 2, 2; p) \equiv_{p^\alpha} 16$ for $p \geq 17$, for $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$

In general, if we denote,

$$A(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_a; p) := \sum_{m_1=0}^{r_1 p-1} \sum_{m_2=0}^{r_2 p-1} \dots \sum_{m_a=0}^{r_a p-1} \binom{m_1 + m_2 \dots + m_a}{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_a}.$$

Then,

$$(1) A(1, 1, \dots, 1; p) \equiv_p \text{Coef}_{[x_1^{p-1} x_2^{p-1} \dots x_a^{p-1}]} \frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^a (1 + \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^a x_i)}.$$

$$(2) \text{Conjecture: } A(1, 1, \dots, 1; p) \equiv_p 1 \text{ for } p > 2 \text{ and } A(1, 1, \dots, 1; 2) \equiv_p 0.$$

Proof (of i) : Observe that

$$\binom{m_1 + m_2 \dots + m_a}{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_a} = CT_{x_1 x_2 \dots x_a} \left[\frac{(1 + x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_a)^{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_a}}{\prod_{i=1}^a x_i^{m_i}} \right]$$

As in the proof of Theorem 4,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m_1=0}^{p-1} \dots \sum_{m_a=0}^{p-1} \binom{m_1 + m_2 \dots + m_a}{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_a} &= \sum_{m_1=0}^{p-1} \dots \sum_{m_a=0}^{p-1} CT_{x_1 x_2 \dots x_a} \left[\frac{(1 + x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_a)^{\sum_{j=1}^a m_j}}{\prod_{i=1}^a x_i^{m_i}} \right] \\ &\equiv_p \text{COEFF}_{[x_1^{p-1} x_2^{p-1} \dots x_a^{p-1}]} \frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^a (1 + \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^a x_i)}. \end{aligned}$$

Apéry's Number:

Apéry's number is defined by

$$A(n) := \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2 \binom{n+k}{k}^2$$

and it is known that

$$A(n) = CT_{xyz} \left[\left(\frac{(1+x)(1+y)(1+z)(1+y+z+yz+xyz)}{xyz} \right)^n \right]$$

Let p be a prime number and define

$$a(p) := \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} A(n) .$$

We can express $a(p)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2 \binom{n+k}{k}^2 &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} CT_{xyz} \left[\left(\frac{(1+x)(1+y)(1+z)(1+y+z+yz+xyz)}{xyz} \right)^n \right] \\ &= CT_{xyz} [R1(x, y, z) + R2(x, y, z)] \\ &= CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{R1(x, y, z)}{x^{p-1}y^{p-1}z^{p-1}} \right] \\ &= CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{P(x, y, z)}{x^{p-1}y^{p-1}z^{p-1}Q(x, y, z)} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}y^{p-1}z^{p-1}} \frac{P(x^p, y^p, z^p)}{Q(x, y, z)} \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1}y^{p-1}z^{p-1}} \left[\frac{1}{Q(x, y, z)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

where, $R2(x, y, z) = \frac{xyz}{Q(x, y, z)}$ and has zero constant term and $R1(x, y, z) = \frac{P(x, y, z)}{Q(x, y, z)}$, where

$$P(x, y, z) = (x+1)^p(y+1)^p(1+z)^p((1+y+z+yz+xyz)^p$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Q(x, y, z) &= x^2y^2z^2 + x^2y^2z + x^2yz^2 + 2xy^2z^2 + x^2yz + 3xy^2z + 3xyz^2 + y^2z^2 + xy^2 \\ &\quad + 4xyz + xz^2 + 2y^2z + 2yz^2 + 2xy + 2xz + y^2 + 4yz + z^2 + x + 2y + 2z + 1 . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$a(p) \equiv \alpha(p-1, p-1, p-1) \pmod{p}$$

where

$$Q(x, y, z) = \sum_{m, n, k} \alpha(m, n, k) x^m y^n z^k .$$

Toward Z-W Sun's Conjecture:

Z-W Sun conjectures that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n+k} 8^k \binom{n}{k}^3 \equiv \left(\frac{p}{3}\right) \pmod{p^2}.$$

Using the fact that

$$\binom{n}{k}^3 = CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{(1+x)^n (1+y)^n (1+z)^n}{x^k y^k z^k} \right].$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n+k} 8^k \binom{n}{k}^3 &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n+k} 8^k CT_{xyz} \left[\frac{(1+x)^n (1+y)^n (1+z)^n}{x^k y^k z^k} \right] \\ &= CT_{xyz} [R1(x, y, z) + R2(x, y, z) + R3(x, y, z) + R4(x, y, z)] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$R1(x, y, z) = -\frac{(-1)^p ((x+1)(y+1)(1+z))^p xyz}{(xyz + xy + xz + yz + x + y + z + 2)(xyz + 8)}$$

$$R2(x, y, z) = \frac{(-8)^{p+1} ((x+1)(y+1)(1+z))^p}{x^{p-1} y^{p-1} z^{p-1} (7xyz + 8xy + 8xz + 8yz + 8x + 8y + 8z + 8)(xyz + 8)}$$

$$R3(x, y, z) = \frac{xyz}{(xyz + xy + xz + yz + x + y + z + 2)(xyz + 8)}$$

and

$$R4(x, y, z) = -\frac{8xyz}{(7xyz + 8xy + 8xz + 8yz + 8x + 8y + 8z + 8)(xyz + 8)}.$$

Since the constant terms of $R1(x, y, z)$, $R3(x, y, z)$ and $R4(x, y, z)$ are zero, we get,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n+k} 8^k \binom{n}{k}^3 &= COEFF_{x^{p-1} y^{p-1} z^{p-1}} \left[\frac{(-8)^{p+1} ((1+x)(1+y)(1+z))^p}{(7xyz + 8(xy + xz + yz + x + y + z + 1))(xyz + 8)} \right] \\ &\equiv_p COEFF_{x^{p-1} y^{p-1} z^{p-1}} \left[\frac{(-8)^{p+1}}{(7xyz + 8(xy + xz + yz + x + y + z + 1))(xyz + 8)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 7: Let $P(x, y, z)$ and $Q(x, y, z)$ be Laurent polynomials in x, y and z . Let $T(x, y, z)$ be the denominator (after clearing!) of

$$\frac{(P(x^p, y^p, z^p) - 1)(Q(x^p, y^p, z^p) - 1)}{(P(x, y, z) - 1)(Q(x, y, z) - 1)}.$$

Then, for a prime p , Laurent polynomial $R(x, y, z)$, and positive integers r, s, t ,

$$\left(\sum_{k=0}^{rp-1} \sum_{n=0}^{sp-1} \sum_{m=0}^{tp-1} CT_{xyz} (P(x, y, z)^n Q(x, y, z)^k R(x, y, z)) \right) \pmod{p}$$

is congruent to a P -finite sequence and can be expressed as a finite linear combination of the coefficients of $\frac{1}{T(x, y, z)}$.