

Zbl 122.24802

Erdős, Pál; Hanani, H.

On a limit theorem in combinatorial analysis (In English)

Publ. Math. 10, 10-13 (1964). [0033-3883]

Let $M(k, l, n)(m(k, l, n))$ be a minimal (maximal) system of combinations of k out of n such that every combination of l occurs at least (at most) once. Let $|M(k, l, n)|(|m(k, l, n)|)$ be the number of combinations in $M(k, l, n)(m(k, l, n))$ and $\mu(k, l, n) = |M(k, l, n)| \frac{\binom{k}{l}}{\binom{n}{l}}$, $\nu(k, l, n) = |m(k, l, n)| \frac{\binom{k}{l}}{\binom{n}{l}}$. Trivially $\nu(k, l, n) \leq 1 \leq \mu(k, l, n)$. The authors prove $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(k, 2, n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \nu(k, 2, n) = 1$. If p is a power of a prime then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(p+1, 3, n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \nu(p+1, 3, n) = 1$.

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Classification:

05A05 Combinatorial choice problems

05A15 Combinatorial enumeration problems