

Recall:

$$\binom{n}{k} = C(n, k)$$

denotes # of k -element subsets of an n -element set.

Theorem

If $0 \leq k \leq n$ then

$$\boxed{\binom{n}{k} = C(n, k) = \frac{n!}{k! (n-k)!}}$$

Ex, $\binom{4}{3} = \frac{4!}{3! (4-3)!} = \frac{4!}{3! \cdot 1!} = \frac{4 \cdot \cancel{3} \cdot 2}{\cancel{2} \cdot 2} = 4$

$$\binom{4}{2} = \frac{4!}{2! (4-2)!} = \frac{4 \cdot 3 \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot 1}{2 \cdot 1 \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot 1} = 6$$

To see why, we compute $P(n, k)$ again in a different way

To construct a k -permutation of an n -set S , perform 2 steps

1st: choose k -subset of S .

$$\# \text{ways} = C(n, k)$$

2nd: choose a permutation of these k elements

$$\# \text{ways} = k!$$

By mult. principle, we can do both steps in succession in $C(n, k) \cdot k!$ ways.

$$\therefore P(n, k) = C(n, k) \cdot k!$$

$$\text{Recall } P(n, k) = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

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$$\therefore \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = C(n, k) \cdot k!$$

$$\therefore C(n, k) = \frac{n!}{k! (n-k)!}$$

EA

Ex.

How many bit strings of length 10 contain exactly 6 1's.

e.g.
$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \end{array}$$

corresponds to : $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10\} \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 10\}$

To construct such a bit string choose which 6 positions $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$ are to be occupied by 1's. (the rest are 0's.)

so

(# such bit strings)

$$= (\# \text{ 6-subsets of a 10-set})$$

$$= \binom{10}{6}$$

$$= \frac{10!}{6! \cdot 4!} = \frac{10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2}$$

$$= 10 \cdot 21 = \boxed{210}$$

note: we could also count # ways of choosing which 4 positions are to be occupied by 0's. (The rest are 1's.)

$$(\# \text{ such strings}) = (\# \text{ 4-subsets of a 10-set})$$

$$= \binom{10}{4}$$

$$= \frac{10!}{4! \cdot 6!} = \boxed{210}$$

Theorem

If $0 \leq k \leq n$ then

$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$

Algebraic Proof

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k! (n-k)!}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-k)! \cdot (n-(n-k))!}$$

$$= \binom{n}{n-k}$$



Combinatorial Proof.

The LHS of the identity: $\binom{n}{k}$
 counts the # of length n bit
 strings which contain exactly
 k 1's.

The RHS $\binom{n}{n-k}$ counts the #
 of length n bitstrings with
 exactly $(n-k)$ 0's.

so LHS & RHS count the same
 set of bit strings, hence are
 equal:

$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$



(3.6) Binomial Theorem

using
$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \quad (0 \leq k \leq n)$$

we compute

$\frac{n}{0}$	$\binom{0}{0} = 1$
1	$\binom{1}{0} = 1, \binom{1}{1} = 1$
2	$\binom{2}{0} = 1, \binom{2}{1} = 2, \binom{2}{2} = 1$
3	$\binom{3}{0} = 1, \binom{3}{1} = 3, \binom{3}{2} = 3, \binom{3}{3} = 1$
4	$\binom{4}{0} = 1, \binom{4}{1} = 4, \binom{4}{2} = 6, \binom{4}{3} = 4, \binom{4}{4} = 1$
5	$\binom{5}{0} = 1, \binom{5}{1} = 5, \binom{5}{2} = 10, \binom{5}{3} = 10, \binom{5}{4} = 5, \binom{5}{5} = 1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Pascal's Triangle:



Properties:

- (1) 1's on sides
- (2) each interior entry is the sum of neighboring entries on row above

Theorem (Pascal's identity)

for $1 \leq k \leq n$

$$(*) \quad \binom{n+1}{k} = \binom{n}{k-1} + \binom{n}{k}$$

equivalently

for $0 < k < n$

$$(**) \quad \binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$$

Algebraic proof of (*)

$$\text{RHS} = \binom{n}{k-1} + \binom{n}{k}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(k-1)! (n-(k-1))!} + \frac{n!}{k! (n-k)!}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(k-1)! (n-k+1)!} + \frac{n!}{k! (n-k)!}$$

$$= \frac{k \cdot n!}{k \cdot (k-1)! (n-k+1)!} + \frac{(n-k+1) n!}{k! (n-k+1) \cdot (n-k)!}$$

$$= \frac{k \cdot n!}{k! (n-k+1)!} + \frac{(n-k+1) \cdot n!}{k! (n-k+1)!}$$

$$= \frac{(k + n - k + 1) \cdot n!}{k! (n-k+1)!}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1) \cdot n!}{k! ((n+1)-k)!}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)!}{k! ((n+1)-k)!}$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{k} = \text{L.H.S.}$$

combinatorial proof of (**)

III

let

$$S = \{ \text{len. } n \text{ bit strings with } k \text{ 1's} \}$$

$$A = \{ x \in S \mid x \text{ ends in } 1 \}$$

$$B = \{ x \in S \mid x \text{ ends in } 0 \}$$

obviously $S = A \cup B$ and $A \cap B = \emptyset$, so
by addition principle

$$|S| = |A| + |B|$$

• Every $x \in A$ can be obtained by taking
a bit str. of len. $(n-1)$ with $(k-1)$ 1's
and appending a 1. Thus

$$|A| = \binom{n-1}{k-1}$$

- every $x \in B$ can be obtained by taking a bit str. of len $(n-1)$ containing k 1's, and appending a 0. Thus

$$|B| = \binom{n-1}{k}$$

we already know $|S| = \binom{n}{k}$

$$\therefore \binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$$



Exercise

- write an algebraic proof of (**)
- write a combinatorial proof of (*)