

# Counting

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# Reading

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- Malik Magdon-Ismael. Discrete Mathematics and Computing.
  - Chapter 13

# Overview

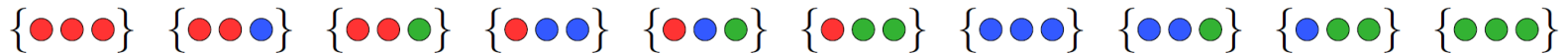
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- Counting sequences.
- Build-up counting.
- Counting one set by counting another: bijection.
- Permutations and combinations.

# Discrete Math is About Objects We Can Count

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- Three colors of candy: red, blue, green
- A goody-bag has 3 candies. How many distinct goody-bags?
- (Only the number of each color matters: bags with different orderings are the “same” goody-bag.)



- **Challenge Problems.**
  - What if there are 5 candies per goody-bag and 10 colors of candy?
  - Goody-bags come in bulk packs of 5. How many different bulk packs are there?
- There are too many to list out. We need tools!

# Sum Rule

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- How many binary sequences of length 3  
 $\{000, 001, 010, 011, 100, 101, 110, 111\}$
- There are two types: those ending in 0 and those ending in 1,  
 $\{b_1 b_2 b_3\} = \{b_1 b_2 \cdot 0\} \cup \{b_1 b_2 \cdot 1\}$
- **Sum Rule.**  $N$  objects of two types:  $N_1$  of type-1 and  $N_2$  of type-2. Then,  
$$N = N_1 + N_2$$
- Going back to the binary example:

$$\begin{aligned} |\{b_1 b_2 b_3\}| &= |\{b_1 b_2 \cdot 0\}| + |\{b_1 b_2 \cdot 1\}| && \text{[sum rule]} \\ &= |\{b_1 b_2\}| \times 2 \\ &= (|\{b_1 \cdot 0\}| + |\{b_1 \cdot 1\}|) \times 2 && \text{[sum rule]} \\ &= |\{b_1\}| \times 2 \times 2 \\ &= 2 \times 2 \times 2 \end{aligned}$$

# Product Rule

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- Number of choices rule

$$|\{b_1 b_2 b_3\}| = 2 \times 2 \times 2$$

- **Product Rule.** Let  $N$  be the number of choices for a sequence

$$x_1 x_2 x_3 \cdots x_{r-1} x_r$$

- Let  $N_1$  be the number of choices for  $x_1$ ;
- Let  $N_2$  be the number of choices for  $x_2$  *after you choose*  $x_1$ ;
- Let  $N_3$  be the number of choices for  $x_3$  *after you choose*  $x_1 x_2$ ;
- Let  $N_4$  be the number of choices for  $x_4$  *after you choose*  $x_1 x_2 x_3$ ;
- ...
- Let  $N_r$  be the number of choices for  $x_r$  *after you choose*  $x_1 x_2 x_3 \cdots x_{r-1}$

$$N = N_1 \times N_2 \times N_3 \times N_4 \times \cdots \times N_r$$

- **Example.** There are  $2^n$  binary sequences of length  $n$ :

$$N_1 = N_2 = \cdots = N_n = 2$$

- The sum and product rules are the only basic tools we need . . . plus **TINKERING**.

# Examples

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- **Menus.**

- $breakfast \in \{pancake, waffle, coffee\}$

- $lunch \in \{burger, coffee\}$

- $dinner \in \{salad, steak, coffee\}$

$$|\{BLD\}| = 3 \times 2 \times 3 = 18$$

- (every menu is a sequence *BLD* and every sequence *BLD* is a *unique* menu.)

- **NY Plates.**

- A NY plate has the form  $\{ABC - 1234\}$

$$|\{ABC - 1234\}| = 26 \times 26 \times 26 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \approx 176M$$

- **Races.**

- With 10 runners, how many top-3 finishes?

$$|\{FST\}| = 10 \times 9 \times 8 = 720$$

# Examples, cont'd

- **Passwords.**

- Use:  $\{a, \dots, z\}, \{A, \dots, Z\}, \{0, \dots, 9\}$ , special:  $\{!, @, \#, \$, \%, \wedge, \&, *, (, )\}$
- Rules: Length is 8. Must have at least one special.
- Total number is the sum of valid and invalid (no special symbol) passwords

$$|\{\text{passwords}\}| = 72 \times 72 \times \dots \times 72 = 72^8 \quad [\text{product rule}]$$

$$= |\{\text{valid}\}| + |\{\text{invalid}\}| \quad [\text{sum rule}]$$

$$= |\{\text{valid}\}| + 62^8 \quad [\text{product rule}]$$

$$|\{\text{valid}\}| = 72^8 - 62^8 \approx 5 \times 10^{14}$$

- (1 millisecond to test  $\rightarrow$  about 6 months on 32K cores.)

- **Committees.**

- We have 10 students. How many ways to form a party planning committee?
- Each student can be in or out of the committee:

- e.g.  $\{s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4, s_5, s_6, s_7, s_8, s_9, s_{10}\}$

- Then  $1\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0 \leftrightarrow \{s_1, s_2, s_4, s_9\}$ ,  $0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \leftrightarrow \emptyset$

- Aha:  $|\{\text{committees}\}| = |\{\text{10-bit binary strings}\}|$

$$2 \times 2 \times \dots \times 2 = 2^{10} = 1024$$

# Build-up Counting

- Already saw that the total number of binary sequences of length  $n$  is  $2^n$
- How about the number binary sequences of length  $n$  with exactly  $k$  1's,  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ?
  - Denote this number by  $\binom{n}{k}$
- First, tinker!
  - Length-3 sequences:  
000,001,010,011,100,101,110,111

	$k$								
$\binom{n}{k}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1								
1	1	1							
2	1	2	1						
3	1	3	3	1					
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

# Build-up Counting

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- First, tinker!

– Length-3 sequences:

000,001,010,011,100,101,110,111

– Length-4 sequences:

0000,0001,0010,0011,0100,0101,0110,0111,  
1000,1001,1010,1011,1100,1101,1110,1111

		$k$								
	$\binom{n}{k}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$n$	0	1								
	1	1	1							
	2	1	2	1						
	3	1	3	3	1					
	4	1	4	6	4	1				
	5									
	6									
	7									
	8									

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– Length-3 sequences:

000,001,010,011,100,101,110,111

– Length-4 sequences:

0000,0001,0010,0011,0100,0101,0110,0111,  
1000,1001,1010,1011,1100,1101,1110,1111

– Length-5 sequences:

00000,00001,00010,00011,  
00100,00101,00110,00111,  
01000,01001,01010,01011,  
01100,01101,01110,01111,  
10000,10001,10010,10011,  
10100,10101,10110,10111,  
11000,11001,11010,11011,  
11100,11101,11110,11111

	$k$									
$\binom{n}{k}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
0	1									
1	1	1								
2	1	2	1							
3	1	3	3	1						
4	1	4	6	4	1					
5	1	5	10	10	5	1				
6										
7										
8										

Pascal's Triangles!

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- How about the number binary sequences of length  $n$  with exactly  $k$  1's,  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ?
  - Denote this number by  $\binom{n}{k}$
- First, tinker!

– Length-3 sequences:

000,001,010,011,100,101,110,111

– Length-4 sequences:

0000,0001,0010,0011,0100,0101,0110,0111,  
1000,1001,1010,1011,1100,1101,1110,1111

– Length-5 sequences:

00000,00001,00010,00011,  
00100,00101,00110,00111,  
01000,01001,01010,01011,  
01100,01101,01110,01111,  
10000,10001,10010,10011,  
10100,10101,10110,10111,  
11000,11001,11010,11011,  
11100,11101,11110,11111

		$k$								
	$\binom{n}{k}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	0	1								
	1	1	1							
	2	1	2	1						
	3	1	3	3	1					
$n$	4	1	4	6	4	1				
	5	1	5	10	10	5	1			
	6	1	6	15	20	15	6	1		
	7	1	7	21	35	35	21	7	1	
	8	1	8	28	56	70	56	28	8	1

Pascal's Triangles!

# Build-up Counting, cont'd

- Let's try to come up with a formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{n - \text{sequence with } k \text{ 1's}\} = \\ & = 0 \cdot \{(n - 1) - \text{sequence with } k \text{ 1's}\} \cup 1 \cdot \{(n - 1) - \text{sequence with } (k - 1) \text{ 1's}\} \\ & = \binom{n - 1}{k} + \binom{n - 1}{k - 1} \end{aligned}$$

– Hm, looks like induction!

- Sum rule:

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

- Base cases:

$$\binom{1}{0} = 1, \binom{1}{1} = 1$$

– More generally, for any  $n$ :

$$\binom{n}{0} = 1, \binom{n}{n} = 1$$

	$k$								
$\binom{n}{k}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1								
1	1	1							
2	1	2	1						
3	1	3	3	1					
4	1	4	6	4	1				
5	1	5	10	10	5	1			
6	1	6	15	20	15	6	1		
7	1	7	21	35	35	21	7	1	
8	1	8	28	56	70	56	28	8	1

Pascal's Triangles!

# Build-up Counting for Goody Bags

- Let  $Q(n, k)$  = number of goody-bags of  $n$  candies with  $k$  colors

- First, tinker!

- Suppose we have  $n$  candies but only 1 color (red)

$$Q(n, 1) = 1$$

- Suppose we have zero candies and  $k$  colors

$$Q(0, k) = 1$$

- Suppose we have 1 candy and  $k$  colors

$$Q(1, k) = k$$

- Build-up counting: how do we decompose  $Q(n, k)$

- Goody-bags that contain 0 **red** candies (and  $k - 1$  other colors):

$$Q(n, k - 1)$$

- Goody-bags that contain exactly 1 **red** candy (so if I remove it, I have none):

$$Q(n - 1, k - 1)$$

- Goody-bags that contain exactly 2 **red** candies:

$$Q(n - 2, k - 1)$$

...

$$Q(0, k - 1)$$

# Build-up Counting for Goody Bags, cont'd

- I can express  $Q(n, k)$  recursively as follows:

$$Q(n, k) = Q(n, k - 1) + Q(n - 1, k - 1) + \dots + Q(0, k - 1)$$

- Let's look at the recursive table

		$k$										
$Q(n, k)$		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$n$	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1										
	2	1										
	3	1										
	4	1										
	5	1										

# Build-up Counting for Goody Bags, cont'd

- I can express  $Q(n, k)$  recursively as follows:

$$Q(n, k) = Q(n, k - 1) + Q(n - 1, k - 1) + \dots + Q(0, k - 1)$$

- Let's look at the recursive table

		$k$										
$Q(n, k)$		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$n$	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	2	3								
	2	1	3	6								
	3	1	4	10								
	4	1	5	15								
	5	1	6	21								

# Build-up Counting for Goody Bags, cont'd

- I can express  $Q(n, k)$  recursively as follows:

$$Q(n, k) = Q(n, k - 1) + Q(n - 1, k - 1) + \dots + Q(0, k - 1)$$

- Let's look at the recursive table

		$k$										
$Q(n, k)$		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$n$	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	2	1	3	6	10	15	21	28	36	45	55	66
	3	1	4	10	20	35	56	84	120	165	220	286
	4	1	5	15	35	70	126	210	330	495	715	1001
	5	1	6	21	56	126	252	462	792	1287	2002	3003

- What's another way to group  $Q(n, k)$ ?
  - All goody-bags that contain at least 1 red candy (already have a  $k$  colors) :
 
$$Q(n - 1, k)$$
  - Plus all bags that have no red candies (have at most  $k - 1$  colors):
 
$$Q(n, k - 1)$$

# Build-up Counting for Goody Bags, cont'd

- I can express  $Q(n, k)$  recursively as follows:

$$Q(n, k) = Q(n, k - 1) + Q(n - 1, k - 1) + \dots + Q(0, k - 1)$$

- Let's look at the recursive table

		$k$										
$Q(n, k)$		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$n$	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	2	1	3	6	10	15	21	28	36	45	55	66
	3	1	4	10	20	35	56	84	120	165	220	286
	4	1	5	15	35	70	126	210	330	495	715	1001
	5	1	6	21	56	126	252	462	792	1287	2002	3003

- Challenge problems we had earlier.**

- (5 candies, 10 colors) → 2002 goody-bags.

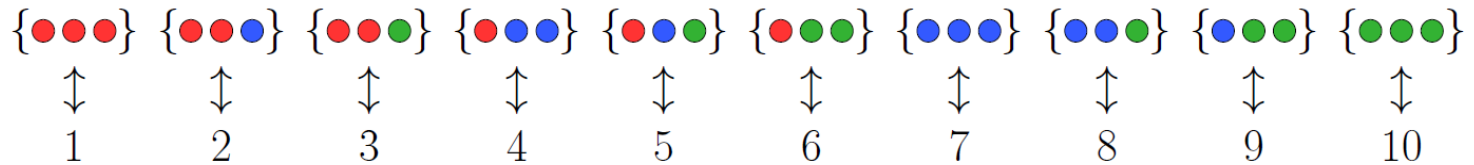
- How many 5 goody-bag bulk packs (goody-bags have 3 candies of 3 colors)?

- There are 10 types of goody-bag; 5 in a bulk pack. So we need

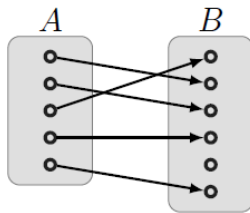
$$Q(5, 10) = 2002$$

# Counting One Set By Counting Another: Bijection

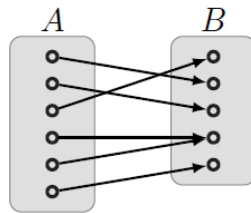
- We saw that there are 10 goody-bags with 3 candies of 3 colors
  - Can label those goody bags using  $\{1, 2, \dots, 10\}$



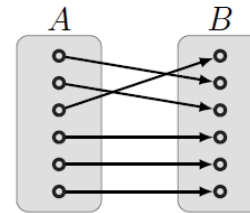
- There is a 1-1 correspondence between goody-bags and the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, 10\}$ 
  - We call this a *bijection*!
- Some examples of bijections and other relations



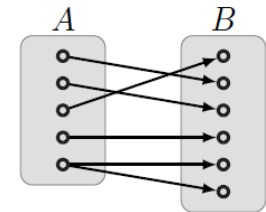
1-1, but **not onto**.  
(injection,  $A \xrightarrow{INJ} B$ )  
 $|A| \leq |B|$



onto; **not 1-1**  
(surjection,  $A \xrightarrow{SUR} B$ )  
 $|A| \geq |B|$



onto **and 1-1**  
(bijection,  $A \xrightarrow{BIJ} B$ )  
 $|A| = |B|$



not a function

# Counting One Set By Counting Another: Bijection, cont'd

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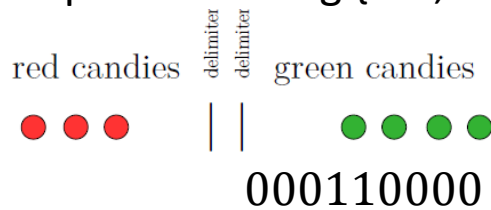
- $A \xrightarrow{BIJ} B$  implies  $|A| = |B|$ . Can count  $A$  by counting  $B$
- Count menus by counting sequences  $\{BLD\}$ . Works because
  - Every sequence specifies a distinct menu (1-to-1 mapping).
  - Every menu corresponds to a sequence (the mapping is onto).

# Goody Bags Using Bijection to Binary Sequences

- Suppose we have 3 candy colors: red, green, blue
- Consider the 7-candy goody-bag: {red, red, blue, blue, blue, green, green}



- Order all candies according to color: red first, then blue, then green
- Color doesn't matter anymore
- Hm, this looks like a binary sequence:  
001000100
- What is the binary sequence for bag {red, red, red, green, green, green, green}?



- Can represent all goody bags with 9 bits

# Goody Bags Using Bijection to Binary Sequences, cont'd

- **More examples.**

00100010101000  $\rightarrow$   $\circ\circ | \circ\circ\circ | \circ | \circ | \circ\circ\circ \leftrightarrow \{2\text{red}, 3\text{blue}, 1\text{green}, 1\text{purple}, 3\text{orange}\}$

1000011010000  $\rightarrow$   $| \circ\circ\circ\circ | | \circ | \circ\circ\circ\circ \leftrightarrow \{0\text{red}, 4\text{blue}, 0\text{green}, 1\text{purple}, 4\text{orange}\}$

- In general, if we have  $n$  candies and  $k$  colors, how many delimiters do we have?  
 $(k - 1)$

– i.e., number of goody-bags with  $n$  candies of  $k$  colors =  
number of  $(n + k - 1)$ -bit sequences with  $(k - 1)$  1's

$$Q(n, k) = \binom{n + k - 1}{k - 1}$$

- This is called **sampling with replacement**
- Hm,  $\binom{n}{k}$  keeps popping up but we don't have a formula for it.

# Permutations and Combinations

- Consider the set  $S = \{1,2,3,4\}$ 
  - All 2-orderings of  $S$  are:  $\{12,13,14,21,23,24,31,32,34,41,42,43\}$ 
    - Permutations: order matters
  - All 2-subsets of  $S$  are:  $\{12,13,14,23,24,34\}$ 
    - Combinations: order doesn't matter

- With  $n$  elements, by the product rule, the number of  $k$ -orderings is

$$\begin{aligned} & n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \cdots \times (n - (k - 1)) = \\ & \frac{n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \cdots \times (n - (k - 1)) \times (n - k) \times \cdots \times 1}{(n - k) \times \cdots \times 1} = \\ & = \frac{n!}{(n - k)!} \end{aligned}$$

- e.g. number of top-3 finishes in 10-person race is

$$10 \times 9 \times 8 = \frac{10!}{7!}$$

# Permutations and Combinations, cont'd

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- Consider the set  $S = \{1,2,3,4\}$ 
  - All 2-orderings of  $S$  are:  $\{12,13,14,21,23,24,31,32,34,41,42,43\}$ 
    - Permutations: order matters
  - All 2-subsets of  $S$  are:  $\{12,13,14,23,24,34\}$ 
    - Combinations: order doesn't matter
- Here's another way to count all  $k$ -orderings
  - First, pick a  $k$ -subset, then re-order it in all possible ways
  - How many  $k$ -subsets are there?

$$\binom{n}{k}$$

- How many ways can we re-order a set?

$$k \times (k - 1) \times \cdots \times 1 = k!$$

number of  $k$ -orderings = number of  $k$ -subsets  $\times k!$  **[product rule]**

$$= \binom{n}{k} \times k! \quad \text{[bijection to sequences with } k \text{ 1's]}$$

# Permutations and Combinations, cont'd

- First method

$$\begin{aligned} n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \cdots \times (n - (k - 1)) &= \\ &= \frac{n!}{(n - k)!} \end{aligned}$$

- Second method

number of  $k$ -orderings = number of  $k$ -subsets  $\times k!$  [product rule]

$$\frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{k} \times k! \quad \text{[bijection to sequences with } k \text{ 1's]}$$

- Finally,

$$\text{number of } k\text{-subsets} = \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!}$$

- **Exercise.** How many 10-bit binary sequences are there with four 1's?

# Binomial Theorem: $(x + y)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} x^i y^{n-i}$

- We learn the formulas for small  $n$  in high school, e.g.,:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + y)^3 &= xxx + xxy + xyx + xyy + yxx + yxy + yyx + yyy \\ &= x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + y^3\end{aligned}$$

- (All length-3 binary sequences  $b_1b_2b_3$  where each  $b_i \in \{x, y\}$ )
- Of course, as we increase  $n$  the number of terms grows quickly, so we want a nice clean formula
  - The Binomial Theorem!
- In general, each term has combined power  $n$ :

$$(x + y)^n = x^n + (?)x^{n-1}y + (?)x^{n-2}y^2 + \dots + (?)xy^{n-1} + y^n$$

- How many strings with  $(n - 1)$   $x$ 's (first coefficient)?

$$\binom{n}{n-1}$$

- How many strings with  $(n - 2)$   $x$ 's (second coefficient)?

$$\binom{n}{n-2}$$

- Finally,

$$(x + y)^n = x^n + \binom{n}{n-1}x^{n-1}y + \binom{n}{n-2}x^{n-2}y^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{1}xy^{n-1} + y^n$$

# Binomial Theorem Example

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- What is the coefficient of  $x^7$  in the expansion of  $(\sqrt{x} + 2x)^{10}$ 
  - Need  $(\sqrt{x})^i (2x)^{10-i} \sim x^7$ , which implies  $i = 6$
  - The  $x^7$  term is  $\binom{10}{6} (\sqrt{x})^6 (2x)^4$
  - Coefficient of  $x^7$  is  $\binom{10}{6} \times 2^4 = 3360$

# General Approach to Counting Complex Objects

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- To count complex objects, give a sequence of “instructions” that can be used to construct a complex object.
  - *Every* sequence of instructions gives a *unique* complex object.
  - There is a sequence of instructions for *every* complex object.
- Count the number of possible *sequences* of instructions, which equals the number of complex objects.