

**Reading:** MIT OpenCourseWare 6.042  
 Chapter 11

## Counting

### Bijection Rule

**Def:** bijection  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is perfect matching of  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$

**Claim:** if exists bijection  $f : A \rightarrow B$ , then  $|A| = |B|$

**Example:** doughnuts

- $A =$  ways to select dozen doughnuts from 5 varieties
- $B =$  number 16-bit strings with exactly 4 ones

representation:

- element of  $A$ :  
 2 choc., 0 lemon, 5 sugar, 2 glazed, 2 plain

00 - ... - 00000 - 00 - 00

choc.—lemon—sugar—glazed—plain

- element of  $B$ :  
 replace “-” with 1

bijection:

- dozen doughnuts  
 $c$  choc.,  $l$  lemon,  $s$  sugar,  $g$  glazed,  $p$  plain
- bit string  
 $c$  0’s, 1,  $l$  0’s, 1,  $s$  0’s, 1,  $g$  0’s, 1,  $p$  0’s

*[[How to count bit-strings? or other sequences?]]*

### Sum/Product Rule

$A =$  set of cakes

$B =$  set of pies

**Question:** How many ways are there to pick one cake and one pie?

$$|A| \times |B|$$

**Question:** How many ways to pick one dessert?

$$|A| + |B|$$

**Question:** How many ways are there to pick one cake and one pie if some cakes are pies?

*[[Boston creme pie]]*

Draw Venn diagram -  $|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$

In general, given finite sets  $A_1, \dots, A_n$ ,

- Product Rule: There are  $\prod_{i=1}^n |A_i|$  ways to select  $n$  elements, one element from each set.
- Inclusion/Exclusion: There are  $|\cup_{i=1}^n A_i| = \sum_{i=1}^n |A_i| - \sum_{i=1}^n |A_i \cap A_j| + \dots +$

$(-1)^{n+1}|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n|$  ways to select one element.

**Example:** Sum/Product Rule:

- How many two-digit numbers are there?  
9 choices for 1st digit  $\times$  10 for 2nd = 90
- If  $|A| = n$  and  $|B| = m$ , how many functions are there from  $A$  to  $B$ ?  
 $n$  choices for 1st elt  $\times \dots \times n$  for  $m$ 'th elt =  $m^n$
- How many subsets of an  $n$ -element set?  
bijection to binary strings: subset  $S$  maps to string  $s$  with  $i$ 'th bit 1 iff  $i \in S$   
2 choices for each of  $n$  bits =  $2^n$
- How many passwords consisting of letters and digits that
  - start with a letter
  - have length 6-8

Let  $F$  be set of first symbol,  $S_5, S_6, S_7$  be strings of 5, 6, 7 symbols

Password is one elt of  $F$  appended with one elt of  $S_5$  or  $S_6$  or  $S_7$

$$\begin{aligned} & (F \times S_5) \cup (F \times S_6) \cup (F \times S_7) \\ &= |F \times S_5| + |F \times S_6| + |F \times S_7| \\ &= |F| \cdot |S_5| + |F| \cdot |S_6| + |F| \cdot |S_7| \\ &= 52 \cdot 62^5 + 52 \cdot 62^6 + 52 \cdot 62^7 \end{aligned}$$

$1.8 \times 10^{14}$

**Example:** Inclusion/Exclusion, Sieve of Eratosthenes (200 B.C.)

How many primes  $< 100$ ?

- Count composites: have a prime divisor  $\leq 10$ .
- Primes  $\leq 10$  are 2, 3, 5, 7.
- Let
  - $A_2 = \{n \leq 100 : 2|n\}$
  - $A_3 = \{n \leq 100 : 3|n\}$
  - $A_5 = \{n \leq 100 : 5|n\}$
  - $A_7 = \{n \leq 100 : 7|n\}$
- # composites =  $|A_2 \cup A_3 \cup A_5 \cup A_7| - 4$  (for primes 2, 3, 5, 7)
- $|A_p| = \lfloor \frac{100}{p} \rfloor$ ,  $|A_{p,q}| = \lfloor \frac{100}{pq} \rfloor$ , etc.  
 $|A_2 \cup A_3 \cup A_5 \cup A_7| = \dots = 78$
- # primes =  $99 - (78 - 4) = 99 - 74 = 25$ .

Sieve crosses out numbers divisible by 2 and thereafter numbers divisible by first on list.

## Permutations

Generalized product rule: sequences of  $r$  elts of  $n$ -elt set is

$$n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)$$

**Example:** Race with  $n$  horses, how many options for win, place, show?

By product rule,  $n(n-1)(n-2)$ .

**Example:** Chess problem

# ways place white rook, black rook, neither attacks other

- $(c_w, r_w)$  = col/row of white rook
- $(c_b, r_b)$  = col/row of black rook

- board position is 4-digit sequence  $(c_w, r_w, c_b, r_b)$   
e.g.,  $(1, 1, 8, 8)$  or  $(8, 8, 1, 1)$
- $c_w, r_w$  have 8 choices each
- given  $(c_w, r_w), c_b, r_b$  have 7 choices each
- pepper
- onion
- mushroom

is  $56^2$ .

**Def:** *permutation*  $\sigma(n)$  of  $n$  distinct objects is an ordered selection.

**Claim:** # permutations of  $n$  elements is

$$n! = n(n-1) \dots 1.$$

[[*proof - product rule* ]]

## Division Rule

**Claim:** If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  maps exactly  $k$  elts of  $A$  to each elt of  $B$ , then  $|A| = k|B|$ .

**Example:** Chess problem

# ways place two white rooks in diff row/col

- $(c_1, r_2) = \text{col/row of first rook}$
- $(c_2, r_2) = \text{col/row of second rook}$
- board position is 4-digit sequence  $(c_1, r_1, c_2, r_2)$   
but  $(1, 1, 8, 8) = (8, 8, 1, 1)$
- so divide by 2

is  $56^2/2$ .

## Combinations

**Example:** pizza toppings

# pizzas with 2 toppings

Product+division rule:

- $(t_1, t_2)$  sequence of toppings
- $(t_1, t_2) = (t_2, t_1)$  so divide by 2
- $3 \times 2 = 6$  sequences
- so 3 ways

**Def:** *combination* is unordered selection of  $r$  objects from  $n$  objects

**Claim:** # combinations of  $r$  from  $n$  is

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

**Proof:** bijection

- take permutation of  $n$
- let first  $r$  be selection
- fix permutation:
  - any other permutation with same first  $r$  gives same unordered selection
  - order of first  $r$  and last  $n-r$  doesn't matter
  - $r!$  perms of first  $r$ ,  $(n-r)!$  perms of rest
- $r!(n-r)!$  ways to unordered them

□

**Example:** #  $n$ -bit seq with exactly  $k$  ones  
[[*recall came up in doughnut problem* ]]

select positions of 1's:  $\binom{n}{k}$

**Example:** # ternary strings with  $k_1$  1's and  $k_2$  2's?

**Example:** Rearrangements of BOOK-KEEPER

- pretend distinct:  $10!$  ways
- fix over-counting: divide by
  - $2!$  (switch O's)
  - $2!$  (switch K's)
  - $3!$  (reorder E's)

**Example:** # walks 5 blocks in each direction

*[so north 2 blocks, west one block, south two blocks, north two blocks, etc.]*

directions

- sequences of 5 N's, 5 W's, 5 E's, 5 S's
- so:  $20!/(5!)^4$

## Bars and Stars

*[Important that all elements in set and in selection are distinct. Finding permutations/combinations with repetition is slightly harder.]*

Question: How many ways to give  $n$  candy-corn to  $k$  kids so each kid gets at least one piece of candy?

- Stars = candy, draw on line
- Bars = bucket boundaries, draw between stars
- $n - 1$  places for bucket boundaries;  $k - 1$  boundaries
- Answer:  $\binom{n-1}{k-1}$

Question: How many ways if some kids can get no candy?

**Claim:** Answer:  $\binom{n+k-1}{k-1}$

**Proof:**

1. Placing  $n$  objects in  $k$  bins allowing empty bins is like placing  $n + k$  objects in  $k$  bins disallowing empty bins
2. Have  $n + k - 1$  symbols of which  $k - 1$  must be bars

□

*[Note above two are consistent; to give each kid at least one candy-corn, could have taken  $k$  candy-corn out of the  $n$  and then done the second approach. Get same answer.]*

**Example:**

- How many *positive* solutions to  $a + b = 10$ ?
- How many *non-negative* solutions to  $a + b = 10$ ?

## Identities

What is  $\sum_{r=0}^n \binom{n}{r} \binom{2n}{n-r}$ ?

Often have a nice combinatorial proof.

Some easy ones:

- $\binom{n}{r} = \binom{n}{n-r}$ : choose elements to keep or to throw away.
- $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} = 2^n$ : all subsets of an  $n$ -element set.
- $(x + y)^n = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} x^{n-j} y^j$  (the binomial theorem): coeff of  $x^{n-j} y^j$ , must choose  $j$  terms in product from which to take  $y$ .

- $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$  (Pascal's triangle): remove arbitrary element, either this is in the subset of size  $k$  (first term) or not (second term).

**Claim:**  $\sum_{r=0}^n \binom{n}{r} \binom{2n}{n-r} = \binom{3n}{n}$

**Proof:** Let  $S$  be deck of cards with  $n$  red cards and  $2n$  black cards.

- RHS:  $\binom{3n}{n}$  is the number of  $n$ -card hands.
- LHS:
  - $\binom{n}{r}$  is the number of way to pick  $r$  red cards
  - $\binom{2n}{n-r}$  is the number of ways to pick  $n - r$  black cards
 so  $\binom{n}{r} \binom{2n}{n-r}$  is number of ways to pick a hand with exactly  $r$  red cards.

Result follows by summing over  $r$ . □

## Poker Hands

52 cards in a deck:

- 4 suits: Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs
- 13 values: 1, ..., 10, Jack, Queen, King, Ace

5-card draw: each player given 5 cards

$$\binom{52}{5} = 2,598,960$$

possible hands.

How many ways to get:

- Four-of-a-kind – 4 cards with same *value*

$$\{2H, 2S, 2D, 2C, 5S\}$$

Hand fully specified by sequence specifying

- value of 4 cards
- value of extra card
- suit of extra card

Count ways to pick sequence

- 13 choices for value of 4 cards
- 12 choices for value of extra card
- 4 choices for suit of extra card

so  $13 \cdot 12 \cdot 4 = 624$  four-of-a-kinds, or about 1 in 4000 hands.

- Full house – 3 cards of one value, 2 cards of another value

$$\{7H, 7S, 7D, JH, JS\}$$

Sequence

- value of triple – 13
- suits of triple –  $\binom{4}{3}$
- value of pair – 12
- suits of pair –  $\binom{4}{2}$

so  $13 \cdot 4 \cdot 12 \cdot 6 = 3744$ , or about 1 in 700 hands.

- Two pair – 2 cards of one value, 2 cards of another value

$$\{4S, 4H, 6D, 6H, KC\}$$

Sequence

- value of first pair – 13

- suits of first pair -  $\binom{4}{2}$
- value of second pair - 12
- suits of second pair -  $\binom{4}{2}$
- value of extra card - 11
- suit of extra card - 4

Overcount?

$$(A, A, J, 4, H, 10) = (A, 10, J, 4, H, A)$$

Must divide by 2.

*WRONG ANSWER!*, each hand gives rise to two distinct sequences:

$$(4, \{S, H\}, 6, \{D, H\}, K, C) \\ = (6, \{D, H\}, 4, \{S, H\}, K, C)$$

Solution: mapping is 2-to-1, so divide by 2 (*division rule*)

Number of two-pair hands is:  $13 \cdot 6 \cdot 12 \cdot 6 \cdot 11 \cdot 4/2 = 123,552$ , or about 1 in 20.

Note: alternatively, could come up with different sequence to count, e.g.,

- values of two pairs -  $\binom{13}{2}$
- suits of lower-valued pair -  $\binom{4}{2}$
- suits of higher-valued pair -  $\binom{4}{2}$
- value of extra card - 11
- suit of extra card - 4

- Hands with every suit  
 $\{AS, AH, JD, 4C, 10H\}$

Sequence

- value of spade - 13
- value of heart - 13
- value of diamond - 13
- value of club - 13
- suit of extra card - 4
- value of extra card - 12

## Pigeon-hole

Pigeon-hole principle: If  $n$  objects are placed into  $r$  boxes, then at least  $\lceil n/r \rceil$  must be in the same box.

**Claim:** Consider numbers  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$ . Then in any set  $A$  of size  $n + 1$ , at least two elts are relatively prime.

**Proof:**

- Pigeons - elts of  $A$
- Holes - hole  $i$  is for pigeons between  $i$  and  $i + 1$

That is, at least two numbers are 1 apart and hence relatively prime.  $\square$

**Claim:** Consider numbers  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$ . Then in any set  $A$  of size  $n + 1$ , there are always two numbers such that one divides the other.

**Proof:** For each  $a \in A$ , write  $a = 2^k m$ , where  $m$  is odd and  $1 \leq m \leq 2n - 1$ .

- Pigeons - elts of  $A$
- Holes - odd numbers  $m$

By pigeon-hole, must be two numbers  $a$  and  $a'$  with same hole  $m$ . That is,  $a = 2^k m$  and  $a' = 2^{k'} m$ , so one is a multiple of the other.  $\square$

**Claim:** Five cities on an alien planet, at least 4 are in same hemisphere.

**Proof:** Draw great circle through two of five points, by pigeonhole two of remaining three cities are in same hemisphere.  $\square$

## Magic Trick

[[*Ok to skip.*

- Audience: choose 5 cards
- Assistant: show magician 4 cards, one at a time
- Magician: announce missing card

Counting:

- Audience:  $\binom{52}{5}$
- Assistant:  $4! = 24$  ways to show 4 of five cards

but ... 48 possible cards, so not enough permutations to narrow it down.

Idea: Assistant gets to pick *order* and also *which card to leave out!*

Create bipartite graph, find matching:

- LHS: all audience choices
- RHS: all sequences of 4 distinct cards
- edges: if sequence valid for audience choice

Recall: **Claim:** There is a matching from LHS to RHS if each subset of LHS has neighbor set of larger cardinality.

- LHS:  $\binom{5}{1}4! = 120$  edges from a LHS vertex

- RHS: 48 edges from a RHS vertex

Consider subset  $S$  of LHS.

- $120|S|$  edges leave subset
- $48|N(S)|$  enter neighbor set

so  $|N(S)| > |S|$ , and there is a matching by Hall's Theorem.

Real trick:

- At least 2 cards have same suit, one of which is at most 6 hops clockwise from the other in a cycle.
- Hide clockwise card; reveal other card first.
- Use remaining three cards to indicate number of hops, encoding  $1, \dots, 6$  using total order (e.g., low-medium-high or low-high-medium).