

# Counting

## Chapter 6

With Question/Answer Animations



# Chapter Summary

- The Basics of Counting
- The Pigeonhole Principle
- Permutations and Combinations
- Binomial Coefficients and Identities
- Generalized Permutations and Combinations

# The Basics of Counting

Section 6.1



# Section Summary

- The Product Rule
- The Sum Rule
- The Subtraction Rule (Inclusion-Exclusion)



# Basic Counting Principles: The Product Rule

**The Product Rule:** A procedure can be broken down into **a sequence of two (or more) tasks**. There are  $n_1$  ways to do the first task and  $n_2$  ways to do the second task. Then there are  $n_1 \cdot n_2$  ways to do the procedure.

**Example:** How many bit strings of length seven are there?

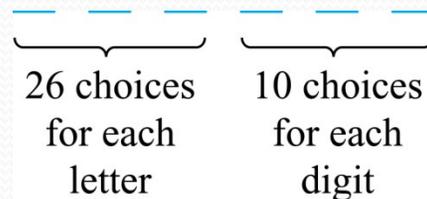
**Solution:** Since each of the seven bits is either a 0 or a 1, the answer is  $2^7 = 128$ .

# The Product Rule

**Example:** How many different license plates can be made if each plate contains a sequence of three uppercase English letters followed by three digits?

**Solution:** By the product rule,

there are  $26 \cdot 26 \cdot 26 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 = 17,576,000$  different possible license plates.





# Counting Functions

**Counting Functions:** How many functions are there from a set with  $m$  elements to a set with  $n$  elements?

**Solution:** Since a function represents a choice of one of the  $n$  elements of the codomain for each of the  $m$  elements in the domain, the product rule tells us that there are  $n \cdot n \cdots n = n^m$  such functions.

**Counting One-to-One Functions:** How many one-to-one functions are there from a set with  $m$  elements to one with  $n$  elements?

**Solution:** Suppose the elements in the domain are  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m$ . There are  $n$  ways to choose the value of  $a_1$  and  $n-1$  ways to choose  $a_2$ , etc. The product rule tells us that there are  $n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-m+1)$  such functions.

# Telephone Numbering Plan

**Example:** The *North American numbering plan (NANP)* specifies that a telephone number consists of 10 digits, consisting of a three-digit area code, a three-digit office code, and a four-digit station code. There are some restrictions on the digits.

- Let  $X$  denote a digit from 0 through 9.
- Let  $N$  denote a digit from 2 through 9.
- Let  $Y$  denote a digit that is 0 or 1.
- In the old plan (in use in the 1960s) the format was  $NYX-NNX-XXXX$ .
- In the new plan, the format is  $NXX-NXX-XXXX$ .

How many different telephone numbers are possible under the old plan and the new plan?

**Solution:** Use the Product Rule.

- There are  $8 \cdot 2 \cdot 10 = 160$  area codes with the format  $NYX$ .
- There are  $8 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 = 800$  area codes with the format  $NXX$ .
- There are  $8 \cdot 8 \cdot 10 = 640$  office codes with the format  $NNX$ .
- There are  $10 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 = 10,000$  station codes with the format  $XXXX$ .

Number of old plan telephone numbers:  $160 \cdot 640 \cdot 10,000 = 1,024,000,000$ .

Number of new plan telephone numbers:  $800 \cdot 800 \cdot 10,000 = 6,400,000,000$ .



# Counting Subsets of a Finite Set

**Counting Subsets of a Finite Set:** Use the product rule to show that the number of different subsets of a finite set  $S$  is  $2^{|S|}$ .  
(In Section 5.1, mathematical induction was used to prove this same result.)

**Solution:** When the elements of  $S$  are listed in an arbitrary order, there is a one-to-one correspondence between subsets of  $S$  and bit strings of length  $|S|$ . When the  $i$ -th element is in the subset, the bit string has a 1 in the  $i$ -th position and a 0 otherwise.

By the product rule, there are  $2^{|S|}$  such bit strings, and therefore  $2^{|S|}$  subsets.

# Product Rule in Terms of Sets

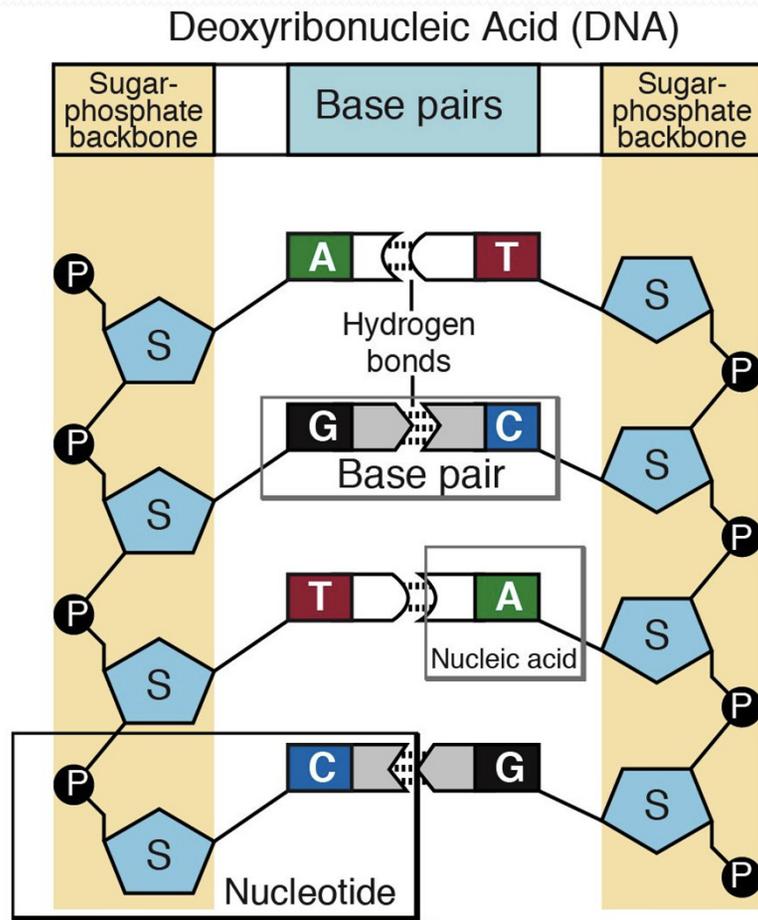
- If  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$  are finite sets, then the number of elements in the Cartesian product of these sets is the product of the number of elements of each set.

## Indeed:

- The task of choosing an element in the Cartesian product  $A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_m$  is done by choosing an element in  $A_1$ , an element in  $A_2$ , ..., and an element in  $A_m$ .
- By the **product rule**, it follows that:

$$|A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_m| = |A_1| \cdot |A_2| \cdot \dots \cdot |A_m|$$

# DNA and Genomes



- A** Adenine
- T** Thymine
- C** Cytosine
- G** Guanine

A gene (DNA) can be abstractly represented as a **string** with elements from the alphabet

$$\Sigma = \{A, T, C, G\}$$

e.g. **AGTCTCCATGAAGCACGTTTAC...**

# DNA and Genomes

- A *gene* is a segment of a DNA molecule that encodes a particular protein. The entirety of genetic information of an organism is called its *genome*.
- The DNA of bacteria has between  $10^5$  and  $10^7$  *nucleotides* (**one of the four bases**). Mammals have between  $10^8$  and  $10^{10}$  nucleotides. So, **by the product rule** there are at least  $4^{10^5}$  different sequences of bases in the DNA of bacteria and  $4^{10^8}$  different sequences of bases in the DNA of mammals.
- The human genome includes approximately 23,000 genes, each with 1,000 or more nucleotides.
- Biologists, mathematicians, and computer scientists all work on determining the DNA sequence (genome) of different organisms.



## Basic Counting Principles: The Sum Rule

**The Sum Rule:** If a task can be done either in one of  $n_1$  ways or in one of  $n_2$  ways, where none of the set of  $n_1$  ways is the same as any of the  $n_2$  ways, then there are  $n_1 + n_2$  ways to do the task.

**Example:** The mathematics department must choose either a student or a faculty member as a representative for a university committee. How many choices are there for this representative if there are 37 members of the mathematics faculty and 83 mathematics majors and no one is both a faculty member and a student.

**Solution:** By the sum rule it follows that there are  $37 + 83 = 120$  possible ways to pick a representative.

## The Sum Rule in terms of sets.

- The sum rule can be phrased in terms of sets.

$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B|$  as long as  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint sets.

- Or more generally,

$$|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_m| = |A_1| + |A_2| + \dots + |A_m|$$

when  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  for all  $i, j$ .

- The case where the sets have elements in common will be discussed when we consider the subtraction rule



# Combining the Sum and Product Rule

**Example:** Suppose statement labels in a programming language can be either a single letter or a letter followed by a digit. Find the number of possible labels.

**Solution:** Use the sum and product rules.

$$26 + 26 \cdot 10 = 286$$

# Counting Passwords

- Combining the sum and product rule allows us to solve more complex problems.  
**Example:** Each user on a computer system has a password, which is **six to eight characters long**, where each character is an **uppercase letter or a digit**. Each password must contain **at least one digit**. How many possible passwords are there?

**Solution:** Let  $P$  be the total number of passwords, and let  $P_6$ ,  $P_7$ , and  $P_8$  be the passwords of length 6, 7, and 8.

- By the sum rule  $P = P_6 + P_7 + P_8$ .
- To find each of  $P_6$ ,  $P_7$ , and  $P_8$ , we find the number of passwords of the specified length composed of letters and digits and subtract the number composed only of letters. We find that:

$$\begin{aligned}P_6 &= 36^6 - 26^6 = 2,176,782,336 - 308,915,776 = 1,867,866,560. \\P_7 &= 36^7 - 26^7 = 78,364,164,096 - 8,031,810,176 = 70,332,353,920. \\P_8 &= 36^8 - 26^8 = 2,821,109,907,456 - 208,827,064,576 = 2,612,282,842,880.\end{aligned}$$

Consequently,  $P = P_6 + P_7 + P_8 = 2,684,483,063,360$ .

# Internet Addresses

- Version 4 of the Internet Protocol (IPv4) uses 32 bits.

Class	Bit Number	0	1	2	3	4	8	16	24	31				
Class A		0	netid					hostid						
Class B		1	0	netid					hostid					
Class C		1	1	0	netid					hostid				
Class D		1	1	1	0	Multicast Address								
Class E		1	1	1	1	0	Address							

- **Class A Addresses:** used for the largest networks, a 0, followed by a 7-bit netid and a 24-bit hostid.
- **Class B Addresses:** used for the medium-sized networks, a 10, followed by a 14-bit netid and a 16-bit hostid.
- **Class C Addresses:** used for the smallest networks, a 110, followed by a 21-bit netid and a 8-bit hostid.
- Neither Class D nor Class E addresses are assigned as the address of a computer on the internet. Only Classes A, B, and C are available.
- 1111111 is not available as the netid of a Class A network.
- Hostids consisting of all 0s and all 1s are not available in any network.

# Counting Internet Addresses

**Example:** How many different IPv4 addresses are available for computers on the internet?

**Solution:** Use both the sum and the product rule. Let  $x$  be the number of available addresses, and let  $x_A$ ,  $x_B$ , and  $x_C$  denote the number of addresses for the respective classes.

- To find,  $x_A$ :  $2^7 - 1 = 127$  netids.  $2^{24} - 2 = 16,777,214$  hostids.  
 $x_A = 127 \cdot 16,777,214 = 2,130,706,178$ .
- To find,  $x_B$ :  $2^{14} = 16,384$  netids.  $2^{16} - 2 = 16,534$  hostids.  
 $x_B = 16,384 \cdot 16,534 = 1,073,709,056$ .
- To find,  $x_C$ :  $2^{21} = 2,097,152$  netids.  $2^8 - 2 = 254$  hostids.  
 $x_C = 2,097,152 \cdot 254 = 532,676,608$ .
- Hence, the total number of available IPv4 addresses is

$$\begin{aligned}x &= x_A + x_B + x_C \\ &= 2,130,706,178 + 1,073,709,056 + 532,676,608 \\ &= 3,737,091,842.\end{aligned}$$

Not Enough Today !!

The newer IPv6 protocol solves the problem of too few addresses.

# Basic Counting Principles:

## Subtraction Rule

**Subtraction Rule:** If a task can be done **either in one of  $n_1$  ways or in one of  $n_2$  ways**, then the total number of ways to do the task is  $n_1 + n_2$  minus the number of ways to do the task that are common to the two different ways.

- Also known as, the *principle of inclusion-exclusion*:

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$

# Counting Bit Strings

**Example:** How many bit strings of length eight either start with a 1 bit or end with the two bits 00?

**Solution:** Use the subtraction rule.

- Number of bit strings of length eight that start with a 1 bit:  $2^7 = 128$

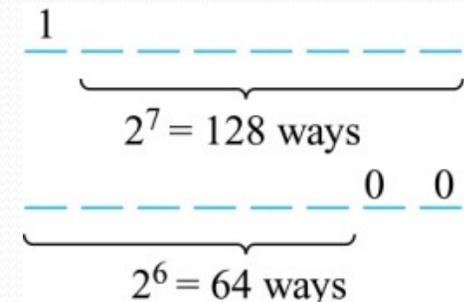
$$\frac{1}{\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{2^7 = 128 \text{ ways}}}$$

# Counting Bit Strings

**Example:** How many bit strings of length eight either start with a 1 bit or end with the two bits 00?

**Solution:** Use the subtraction rule.

- Number of bit strings of length eight that start with a 1 bit:  $2^7 = 128$
- Number of bit strings of length eight that end with bits 00:  $2^6 = 64$



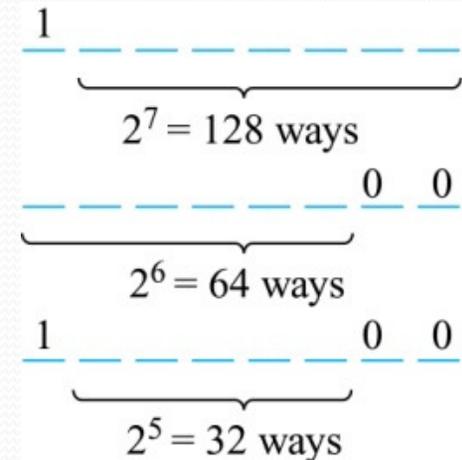
# Counting Bit Strings

**Example:** How many bit strings of length eight either start with a 1 bit or end with the two bits 00?

**Solution:** Use the subtraction rule.

- Number of bit strings of length eight that start with a 1 bit:  $2^7 = 128$
- Number of bit strings of length eight that end with bits 00:  $2^6 = 64$
- Number of bit strings of length eight that start with a 1 bit and end with bits 00 :  $2^5 = 32$

Hence, the number is  $128 + 64 - 32 = 160$ .



# The Pigeonhole Principle

Section 6.2

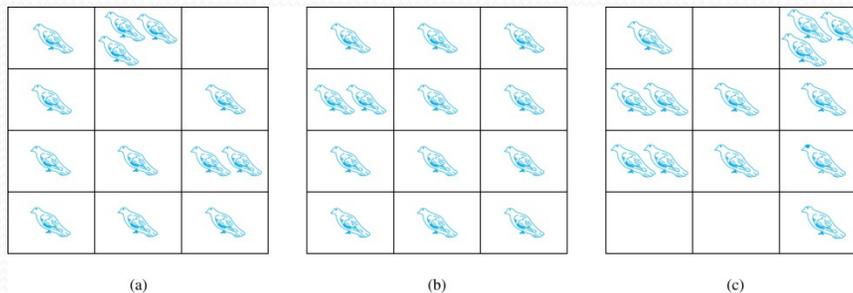


# Section Summary

- The Pigeonhole Principle
- The Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

# The Pigeonhole Principle

- If a flock of 20 pigeons roosts in a set of 19 pigeonholes, one of the pigeonholes must have more than 1 pigeon.



**Pigeonhole Principle:** If  $k + 1$  objects (for  $k > 0$ ) are placed into  $k$  boxes, then at least one box contains two or more objects.

**Proof:** We use a proof by contraposition. Suppose none of the  $k$  boxes has more than one object. Then the total number of objects would be at most  $k$ . This contradicts the statement that we have  $k + 1$  objects.



# The Pigeonhole Principle

**Corollary 1:** A function  $f$  from a set with  $k + 1$  elements to a set with  $k$  elements is not one-to-one.

**Proof:** Use the pigeonhole principle.

- Create a box for each element  $y$  in the *codomain* of  $f$ .
- Put in these boxes all of the elements  $x$  from the domain such that  $f(x) = y$ .
- Because there are  $k + 1$  elements and only  $k$  boxes, at least one box has two or more elements.

Hence,  $f$  can't be one-to-one.



# Pigeonhole Principle

**Example:** Among any group of 367 people, there must be at least two with the same birthday, because there are only 366 possible birthdays.

**Example:** Show that for every integer  $n$  there is a multiple of  $n$  that has only 0s and 1s in its decimal expansion.

**Solution:** Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Consider the  $n + 1$  integers  $1, 11, 111, \dots, 11\dots1$  (where the last has  $n + 1$  bits). There are  $n$  possible remainders when an integer is divided by  $n$ . By the pigeonhole principle, when each of the  $n + 1$  integers is divided by  $n$ , at least **two must have the same remainder**. Subtract the smaller from the larger and the result is a multiple of  $n$  that has only 0s and 1s in its decimal expansion.

# The Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

**The Generalized Pigeonhole Principle:** If  $N$  objects are placed into  $k$  boxes, then there is at least one box containing at least  $\lceil N/k \rceil$  objects.

**Proof:** We use a proof by contraposition. Suppose that none of the boxes contains more than  $\lceil N/k \rceil - 1$  objects. Then the total number of objects is at most

$$k \left( \lceil \frac{N}{k} \rceil - 1 \right) < k \left( \left( \frac{N}{k} + 1 \right) - 1 \right) = N,$$

where the inequality  $\lceil N/k \rceil < \lceil N/k \rceil + 1$  has been used. This is a contradiction because there are a total of  $N$  objects. ◀

**Example:** Among 200 students in CS2214 there are at least  $\lceil 200/12 \rceil = 17$  who were born in the same month.



# The Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

**Example:** How many cards ( $N$ ) must be selected from a standard deck of 52 cards to guarantee that at least three cards of the same suit are chosen?

**Solution:** We assume four boxes; one for each suit. Using the generalized pigeonhole principle, at least one box contains at least  $\lceil N/4 \rceil$  cards. At least three cards of one suit are selected if  $\lceil N/4 \rceil \geq 3$ . The smallest integer  $N$  such that  $\lceil N/4 \rceil \geq 3$  is

$$N = 2 \cdot 4 + 1 = 9.$$

# Permutations and Combinations

Section 6.3



# Section Summary

- Permutations
- Combinations

# Permutations

**Definition:** A *permutation* of a set of distinct objects is an ordered arrangement of these objects. An ordered arrangement of  $r$  elements of a set is called an  *$r$ -permutation*.

**Example:** Let  $S = \{1,2,3\}$ .

- The ordered arrangement  $3,1,2$  is a permutation of  $S$ .
- The ordered arrangement  $3,2$  is a 2-permutation of  $S$ .
- The number of  $r$ -permutations of a set with  $n$  elements is denoted by  $P(n,r)$ .
  - The 2-permutations of  $S = \{1,2,3\}$  are  
 $1,2; 1,3; 2,1; 2,3; 3,1; 3,2$ . Hence,  $P(3,2) = 6$ .

# A Formula for the Number of Permutations

**Theorem 1:** If  $n$  is a positive integer and  $r$  is an integer with  $1 \leq r \leq n$ , then there are

$$P(n, r) = n(n - 1)(n - 2) \cdots (n - r + 1)$$

$r$ -permutations of a set with  $n$  distinct elements.

**Proof:** Use the product rule. The first element can be chosen in  $n$  ways. The second in  $n - 1$  ways, and so on until there are  $(n - (r - 1))$  ways to choose the last element. ◀

Note that  $P(n, 0) = 1$  as there is only one way to order zero elements.

**Corollary 1:** If  $n$  and  $r$  are integers with  $1 \leq r \leq n$ , then

$$P(n, r) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

# Solving Counting Problems by Counting Permutations

**Example:** How many ways are there to select a first-prize winner, a second prize winner, and a third-prize winner from 100 different people who have entered a contest?

**Solution:**

$$P(100,3) = 100 \cdot 99 \cdot 98 = 970,200$$

# Solving Counting Problems by Counting Permutations (*continued*)

**Example:** Suppose that a saleswoman has to visit eight different cities. She must begin her trip in a specified city, but she can visit the other seven cities in any order she wishes. How many possible orders can the saleswoman use when visiting these cities?

**Solution:** The first city is chosen, and the rest are ordered arbitrarily. Hence the orders are:

$$7! = 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 5040$$

If she wants to find the tour with the shortest path that visits all the cities, she must consider 5040 paths!

# Solving Counting Problems by Counting Permutations (*continued*)

**Example:** How many permutations of the letters *ABCDEFGH* contain the string *ABC* ?

**Solution:** We solve this problem by counting the permutations of six objects, *ABC*, *D*, *E*, *F*, *G*, and *H*.

$$6! = 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 720$$

# Combinations

**Definition:** An *r-combination* of elements of a set is an unordered selection of  $r$  elements from the set. Thus, an  $r$ -combination is simply a subset of the set with  $r$  elements.

- The number of  $r$ -combinations of a set with  $n$  distinct elements is denoted by  $C(n, r)$ . The notation  $\binom{n}{r}$  is also used and is called a *binomial coefficient*. (We will see the notation again in the binomial theorem in Section 6.4.)

**Example:** Let  $S$  be the set  $\{a, b, c, d\}$ . Then  $\{a, c\}$  is a 2-combination from  $S$ . It is the same as  $\{c, a\}$  since the order listed does not matter.

- $C(4,2) = 6$  because the 2-combinations of  $\{a, b, c, d\}$  are the six subsets  $\{a, b\}$ ,  $\{a, c\}$ ,  $\{a, d\}$ ,  $\{b, c\}$ ,  $\{b, d\}$ , and  $\{c, d\}$ .

# Combinations

**Theorem 2:** The number of  $r$ -combinations of a set with  $n$  elements, where  $n \geq r \geq 0$ , equals

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

Proof: By the product rule  $P(n, r) = C(n, r) \cdot P(r, r)$ .

procedure:  
get ordered  
arrangement  
of  $r$  elements  
from a set of  $n$ .

task 1:  
get unordered  
selection  
of  $r$  elements  
from a set of  $n$ .

task 2:  
get ordered  
arrangement  
of  $r$  elements  
from a set of  $r$ .

Therefore,

$$C(n, r) = \frac{P(n, r)}{P(r, r)} = \frac{n!/(n-r)!}{r!/(r-r)!} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}.$$



# Combinations

**Example:** How many poker hands of five cards can be dealt from a standard deck of 52 cards? Also, how many ways are there to select 47 cards from a deck of 52 cards?

**Solution:** Since the order in which the cards are dealt does not matter, the number of five card hands is:

$$\begin{aligned} C(52, 5) &= \frac{52!}{5!47!} \\ &= \frac{52 \cdot 51 \cdot 50 \cdot 49 \cdot 48}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 26 \cdot 17 \cdot 10 \cdot 49 \cdot 12 = 2,598,960 \end{aligned}$$

The different ways to select 47 cards from 52 is

$$C(52, 47) = \frac{52!}{47!5!} = C(52, 5) = 2,598,960.$$

*This is a special case of a general result. →*

# Combinations

**Corollary 2:** Let  $n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integers with  $r \leq n$ . Then  $C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$ .

**Proof:** From Theorem 2, it follows that

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

and

$$C(n, n - r) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)![n-(n-r)]!} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}.$$

Hence,  $C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$ . ◀



# Combinations

**Example:** How many ways are there to select five players from a 10-member tennis team to make a trip to a match at another school.

**Solution:** By Theorem 2, the number of combinations is

$$C(10, 5) = \frac{10!}{5!5!} = 252.$$

**Example:** A group of 30 people have been trained as astronauts to go on the first mission to Mars. How many ways are there to select a crew of six people to go on this mission?

**Solution:** By Theorem 2, the number of possible crews is

$$C(30, 6) = \frac{30!}{6!24!} = \frac{30 \cdot 29 \cdot 28 \cdot 27 \cdot 26 \cdot 25}{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 593,775 .$$

# Binomial Coefficients and Identities

Section 6.4



# Section Summary

- The Binomial Theorem
- Pascal's Identity and Triangle

# Powers of Binomial Expressions

**Definition:** A *binomial* expression is the sum of two terms, such as  $x + y$ . (More generally, these terms can be products of constants and variables.)

- We can use counting principles to find the coefficients in the expansion of  $(x + y)^n$  where  $n$  is a positive integer.
- To illustrate this idea, we first look at the process of expanding  $(x + y)^3$ .
- $(x + y)(x + y)(x + y)$  expands into a sum of terms that are the product of a term from each of the three sums.
- Terms of the form  $x^3, x^2y, xy^2, y^3$  arise. The question is what are the coefficients?
  - To obtain  $x^3$ , an  $x$  must be chosen from each of the sums. There is only one way to do this. So, the coefficient of  $x^3$  is 1.
  - To obtain  $x^2y$ , an  $x$  must be chosen from two of the sums and a  $y$  from the other. There are  $\binom{3}{2}$  ways to do this and so the coefficient of  $x^2y$  is 3.
  - To obtain  $xy^2$ , an  $x$  must be chosen from one of the sums and a  $y$  from the other two. There are  $\binom{3}{1}$  ways to do this and so the coefficient of  $xy^2$  is 3.
  - To obtain  $y^3$ , a  $y$  must be chosen from each of the sums. There is only one way to do this. So, the coefficient of  $y^3$  is 1.
- We have used a counting argument to show that  $(x + y)^3 = x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + y^3$ .
- Next we present the binomial theorem gives the coefficients of the terms in the expansion of  $(x + y)^n$ .

# Binomial Theorem

**Binomial Theorem:** Let  $x$  and  $y$  be variables, and  $n$  a nonnegative integer. Then:

$$(x+y)^n = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} x^{n-j} y^j = \binom{n}{0} x^n + \binom{n}{1} x^{n-1} y + \cdots + \binom{n}{n-1} x y^{n-1} + \binom{n}{n} y^n.$$

**Proof:** We use combinatorial reasoning . All terms in the expansion of  $(x + y)^n$  are of the form  $x^{n-j}y^j$  for  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ . To form the term  $x^{n-j}y^j$ , it is necessary to choose  $n-j$   $x$ s from the  $n$  sums. Therefore, the coefficient of  $x^{n-j}y^j$  is  $\binom{n}{n-j}$  which equals  $\binom{n}{j}$ . ◀

# Using the Binomial Theorem

**Example:** What is the coefficient of  $x^{12}y^{13}$  in the expansion of  $(2x - 3y)^{25}$ ?

**Solution:** We view the expression as  $(2x + (-3y))^{25}$ .  
By the binomial theorem

$$(2x + (-3y))^{25} = \sum_{j=0}^{25} \binom{25}{j} (2x)^{25-j} (-3y)^j.$$

Consequently, the coefficient of  $x^{12}y^{13}$  in the expansion is obtained when  $j = 13$ .

$$\binom{25}{13} 2^{12} (-3)^{13} = -\frac{25!}{13!12!} 2^{12} 3^{13}.$$

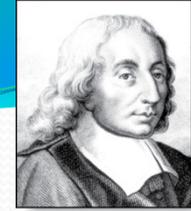
# A Useful Identity

**Corollary 1:** With  $n \geq 0$ , 
$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} = 2^n.$$

**Proof** (*using binomial theorem*): With  $x = 1$  and  $y = 1$ , from the binomial theorem we see that:

$$2^n = (1 + 1)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} 1^k 1^{(n-k)} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}. \quad \blacktriangleleft$$

Blaise Pascal  
(1623-1662)



# Pascal's Identity

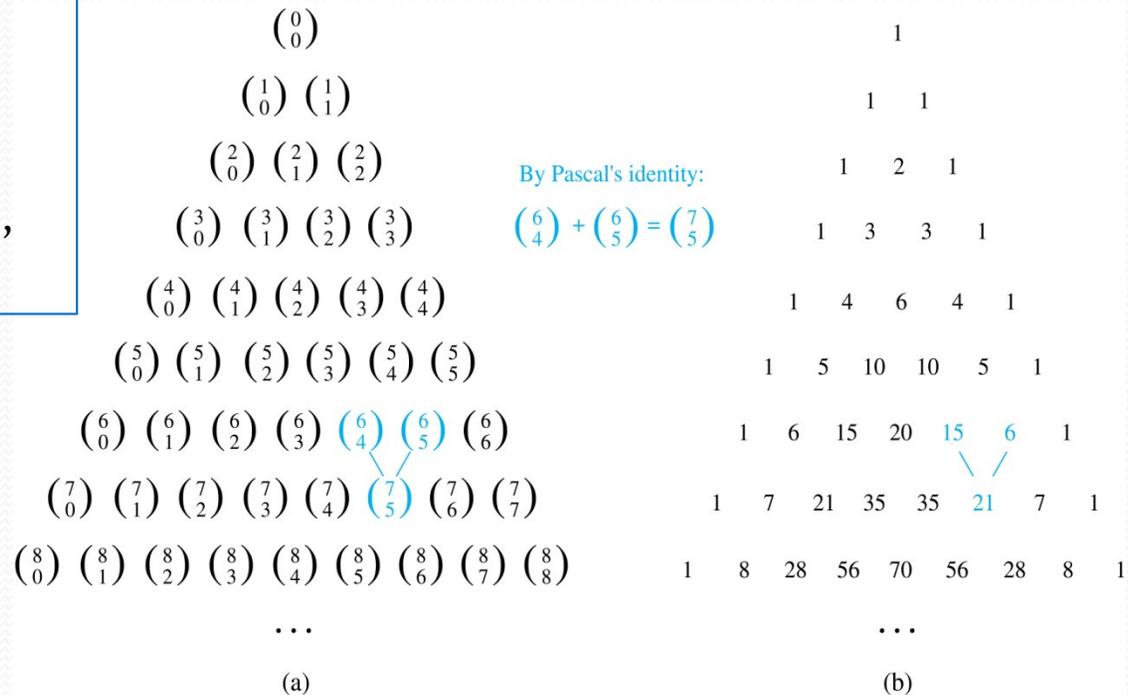
**Pascal's Identity:** If  $n$  and  $k$  are integers with  $n \geq k \geq 0$ , then

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

**Proof:** Exercise

# Pascal's Triangle

The  $n$ th row in the triangle consists of the binomial coefficients  $\binom{n}{k}$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .



By Pascal's identity, adding two adjacent binomial coefficients results in the binomial coefficient in the next row between these two coefficients.