

(1) (a)

algebraically:

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

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-m)! k! (m-k)!} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

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

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-m)! (m-k)! k!} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

we can see (1) = (2)

combinatorically:

Suppose there are n objects.

We need to pick k and $m-k$ objects out of n objects.

Method 1: Choose m objects first

Then choose k objects from these m objects
so you end up with m objects and $m-k$ objects.

$$\text{Total ways} = \binom{n}{m} \cdot \binom{m}{k}$$

Method 2:

Select k objects from n : $\binom{n}{k}$ ways

Select $m-k$ from remaining $n-k$: $\binom{n-k}{m-k}$ ways.

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$$\text{Total ways} = \binom{n}{k} \binom{n-k}{m-k}$$

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

(b) We know that

$$[x^n] \text{ in } \frac{1}{(1-x)^k} = \binom{n+k-1}{n} \\ = \binom{n+k-1}{k-1}$$

For $k=3$

$$[x^n] \text{ in } \frac{1}{(1-x)^3} = \binom{n+2}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{(1-x)^3} = \binom{2}{2} x^0 + \binom{3}{2} x^1 + \binom{4}{2} x^2 + \dots$$

Multiply by x^2 both sides

$$\frac{x^2}{(1-x)^3} = \binom{2}{2} x^2 + \binom{3}{2} x^3 + \binom{4}{2} x^4 + \dots$$

$$[x^n] \text{ in } \frac{x^2}{(1-x)^3} = \binom{n}{2}$$

$$\therefore g(x) = \frac{x^2}{(1-x)^3}$$