

6.3

# Permutations and Combinations

# Section Summary

- ✓ **Permutations**
- ✓ **Combinations**
- ✓ **Combinatorial Proofs**

# Permutation

*permutation* : an **ordered arrangement** of the elements of a set

*r-permutation* : an **ordered arrangement** of  $r$  elements of a set

**【Theorem 1】** The number of  $r$ -permutations of a set with  $n$  distinct elements is

$$P(n, r) = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

*Proof:* Using the product rule.

$n$  choices for the first element,  $(n - 1)$  for the second one,  $(n - 2)$  for the third one...

**Note :**

- $P(n, 0) = 1$ , since there is only one way to order zero elements.
- $P(n, n) = n!$

# Solving Counting Problems by Counting Permutations

**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

**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

***r*-combination:** an **unordered selection** of  $r$  elements of a set

**Note:** An  $r$ -combination is simply a subset of a set with  $r$  elements.

$C(n, r)$ : the number of  $r$ -combination of a set with  $n$  element

$$C(n, r) = \binom{n}{r} \circ \circ \circ \text{Binomial coefficient}$$
$$= \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

**【 Theorem 2 】** The number of  $r$ -combination of a set with  $n$  elements, where  $n$  is a positive integer and  $r$  is an integer with  $0 \leq r \leq n$ , equals

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

**[[Example 1]] A soccer club has 8 female and 7 male members.  
For today's match, how many possible configurations are  
there?**

- (1) The coach wants to have 6 female and 5 male players on the grass.**
- (2) The coach wants to have 11 players with at most 5 male players on the grass.**

***Solution:***

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & C(8, 6) \cdot C(7, 5) \\ &= 8!/(6! \cdot 2!) \cdot 7!/(5! \cdot 2!) \\ &= 28 \cdot 21 \\ &= 588 \end{aligned}$$

$$(2) \quad C(8, 6)C(7, 5)+C(8, 7)C(7, 4)+C(8, 8) C(7, 3)$$

**【 Corollary 1 】 Combination Corollary**

Let  $n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integers with  $r \leq n$ . Then

$$C(n, r) = C(n, n-r)$$

*Proof:*

(1) 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,  $C(n, r) = C(n, n-r)$ .



### 【 Corollary 1 】 Combination Corollary

Let  $n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integers with  $r \leq n$ . Then

$$C(n, r) = C(n, n-r)$$

*Proof:*

#### (2) Using Combinatorial Proof

A combinatorial proof of an identity:

- ◆ double counting proofs

uses counting arguments to prove that both sides of the identity count the same objects but in different ways.

- ◆ bijective proofs

show that there is a bijection between the sets of objects counted by the two sides of the identity.

# Combinatorial Proofs

- Here are two combinatorial proofs that

$$C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$$

when  $r$  and  $n$  are nonnegative integers with  $r < n$ :

- *Bijjective Proof*: Suppose that  $S$  is a set with  $n$  elements. The function that maps a subset  $A$  of  $S$  to  $\bar{A}$  is a bijection between the subsets of  $S$  with  $r$  elements and the subsets with  $n - r$  elements. Since there is a bijection between the two sets, they must have the same number of elements.
- *Double Counting Proof*: By definition the number of subsets of  $S$  with  $r$  elements is  $C(n, r)$ . Each subset  $A$  of  $S$  can also be described by specifying which elements are not in  $A$ , i.e., those which are in  $\bar{A}$ . Since the complement of a subset of  $S$  with  $r$  elements has  $n - r$  elements, there are also  $C(n, n - r)$  subsets of  $S$  with  $r$  elements.

6.4

# Binomial Coefficients

## Section Summary

- ✓ The Binomial Theorem
- ✓ Pascal's Identity and Triangle
- ✓ Other Identities Involving Binomial Coefficients

# 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  $(x + y)^n$ .

# The Binomial Theorem

## 【 Theorem 1 】 The Binomial Theorem

Let  $x$  and  $y$  be variables, and let  $n$  be a nonnegative integer. Then

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

*Proof:*

We use combinatorial reasoning .

The 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 1〕** 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  $j = 13$ .

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

# Corollaries for the Binomial Theorem

Let  $n$  be a nonnegative integer. Then

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} = 2^n$$



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

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} = 0$$

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

$$\sum_{k=0}^n 2^k \binom{n}{k} = 3^n$$

Proof (*combinatorial*): Consider the subsets of a set with  $n$  elements. There are  $\binom{n}{0}$  subsets with zero elements,  $\binom{n}{1}$  with one element,  $\binom{n}{2}$  with two elements, ..., and  $\binom{n}{n}$

with  $n$  elements. Therefore the total is  $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}$ .

Since, we know that a set with  $n$  elements has  $2^n$  subsets, we conclude:  $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} = 2^n$ .



# PASCAL'S Identity

## 【 Theorem 2 】 PASCAL'S Identity

Let  $n$  and  $k$  be positive integers with  $k \leq n$ . Then

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

*Proof:*

$A = \{x, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$

the basis of *Pascal's triangle*

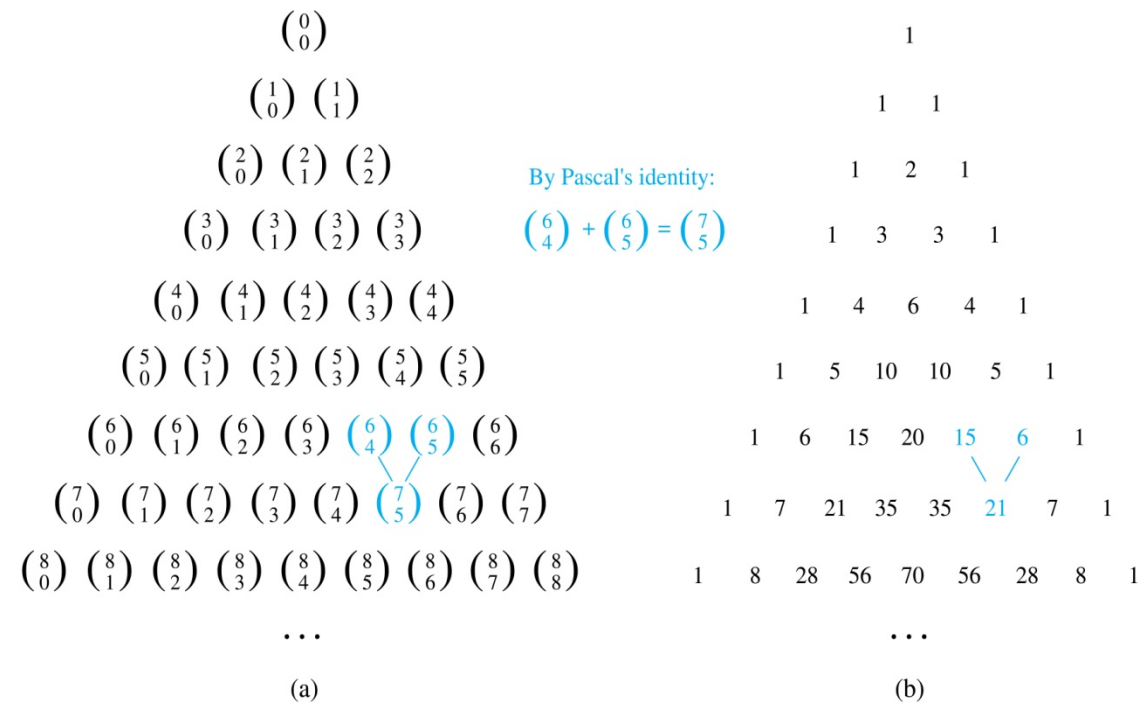
We construct subsets of size  $k$  from a set with  $n + 1$  elements.

The total will include

- all of the subsets from the set of size  $n$  which do not contain the element  $x$   $C(n, k)$ ,  
plus
- the subsets of size  $k - 1$  with the element  $x$  added  $C(n, k-1)$ .

# 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.



## Other Identity Involving Binomial Coefficients

### 【 Theorem 3 】 Vandermonde's Identity

Let  $m, n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integer with  $r$  not exceeding either  $m$  or  $n$ . Then

$$\binom{m+n}{r} = \sum_{k=0}^r \binom{m}{r-k} \binom{n}{k}$$

*Proof:*

$A$  and  $B$  are two disjoint sets.

$|A|=m$  ,  $|B|=n$ ,

$C(m+n, r)$  ---- the number of ways to pick  $r$  elements  
from  $A \cup B$

Another way to pick  $r$  element from  $A \cup B$  is to pick  $r-k$  elements  
from  $A$  and then  $k$  elements from  $B$ , where  $0 \leq k \leq r$

**【 Corollary 4 】** If  $n$  is a nonnegative integer. Then

$$\binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2$$

*Proof:*

**We use Vandermonde's Identity with  $m=r=n$  to obtain**

$$\binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{n-k} \binom{n}{k} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2$$

**【 Theorem 4 】** Let  $n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integer with  $r \leq n$ .  
Then

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

*Proof:*

The left-hand side counts the bit strings of length  $n+1$  containing  $r+1$  1s.

We show that the right-hand side counts the same objects by considering the cases corresponding to the possible locations of the final 1 in a string with  $r+1$  ones.

$$\sum_{k=r+1}^{n+1} \binom{k-1}{r} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

## **Homework:**

### **SE:**

**P.413 20,28, 30**

**P.421 10,24,27**

### **EE:**

**P.413 20,30, 32**

**P.444 14,28,31**