

“sigma notation” simply indicates we’ll be adding together a bunch of these guys

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

“n choose k” combinations formula we learned about earlier

With x = Probability of flipping a coin and getting a Head,

and y = Probability of flipping a coin and getting a Tail,

Use the binomial theorem <https://medium.com/i-math/the-binomial-theorem-explained> to calculate the probability of flipping a coin 4 times and getting 1 tail and 3 heads.

$$\binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k$$

x = Probability of flipping a coin and getting Heads

y = Probability of flipping a coin and getting Tails

n = number of trials

k = Number of times for a specific outcome within n trials

$$x = 50\% \text{ or } 0.50$$

$$y = 50\% \text{ or } 0.50$$

$n = 4$ coin flips
 $k = 1$ getting 1 tail

$$\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \binom{4}{1} 0.50^3 0.50^1$$

$$\frac{4!}{1!(4-1)!} = 4 (0.125 \times 0.50)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$4 (0.0625)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$0.25$$

or

25%

c) What if you had a biased coin that would come up heads 60% of the time.

- 1) Calculate the probability using the binomial theorem.
- 2) Simulate the results like in b)

$x = 60\%$ or 0.60
 $y = 40\%$ or 0.40
 $n = 4$ coin flips
 $k = 1$ getting 1 tail

$$\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \binom{4}{1} 0.60^3 0.40^1$$

$$\frac{4!}{1!(4-1)!} = 4 (0.216 \times 0.40)$$

$$4 (0.0864)$$

$$0.3456$$

or

$$34.56\%$$

34.56%

