

$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  Natural numbers  
 $\mathbb{P} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  Positive integers

$$[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

Let's get a formula for  $f(k, n)$  where  $k, n \in \mathbb{P}$  defined by  
 $f(k, n) = \#\{(S_1, \dots, S_k) \mid S_i \subseteq [n] \text{ \& } S_1 \cap S_2 \cap \dots \cap S_k = \emptyset\}.$

$$\underline{k=1} \quad S_1 \subseteq [n] \quad S_1 = \emptyset \quad f(1, n) = 1$$

$$\underline{n=1} \quad S_i \subseteq [1] \quad f(k, 1) =$$

$$S_i = \begin{cases} \emptyset \\ [1] \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{one of } S_i\text{'s} = \emptyset \\ \text{others anything.} \end{array}$$

$$S_1 = \emptyset \quad 2^{k-1} \text{ choices for } S_i \quad i = 2, \dots, k.$$

$$S_i \neq \emptyset$$

Better: only bad thing is if  $S_i = [1] \quad \forall i.$

$$\underline{f(k, 1) = 2^k - 1}$$

$$f(2, n) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} 2^{n-i}$$

$\uparrow$  choose  $S_1$  freely.       $\nwarrow$  choose  $S_2$  from  $[n] \setminus S_1$ .

$$f(k, n)$$

Choose  $S_1, \dots, S_{k-1}$  freely (?)

$$\boxed{S_1 \cap \dots \cap S_{k-1} = T} \quad \#T = i$$

Choose  $S_k$  from  $[n] - T$ .  $\leftarrow 2^{n-i}$

$$f(k, n) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} f(k-1, n-i) 2^{n-i}$$

$\uparrow$  choose  $T$        $\uparrow$  choose  $S_k$  s.t.  $S_k \cap T = \emptyset$        $f(k-1, n-i)$

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{choose } S_1, \dots, S_{k-1} \\ \text{s.t. } S_1 \cap \dots \cap S_{k-1} = T \end{array} \right\} (S_1 \cap T) \cap \dots \cap (S_{k-1} \cap T) = \emptyset$

$$f(k, n) = \#\{S_1, \dots, S_k \mid S_i \subseteq [n] \text{ \& } S_1 \cap S_2 \cap \dots \cap S_k = \emptyset\}.$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} f(k-1, n-i) 2^{n-i}$$

$\uparrow$  Choose  $T \subseteq [n]$  of size  $i$        $\uparrow$  Choose  $S_k$  s.t.  $S_k \cap T = \emptyset$   
 $\uparrow$  Choose  $S_1, \dots, S_{k-1}$  s.t.  $S_1 \cap \dots \cap S_{k-1} = T$

$$f(1, n) = 1.$$

$$F_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} f(k, n) \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

Aside:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} f_n \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad g(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} g_n \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

Convolution product:

$$f(x)g(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} f_{n-i} g_i \right) \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

Take  $g(x) = e^x = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!}$   
 $g_i = 1.$

$$F_k(x) = e^x F_{k-1}(2x) \quad \leftarrow \quad F_1(x) = e^x$$

$$= e^{(x + 2x + 4x + \dots + 2^{k-1}x)} = e^{(2^k - 1)x}$$

$$= \sum_{n \geq 0} (2^k - 1)^n \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

$$F_1(x) = e^x$$

$$F_2(x) = e^x F_1(2x) = e^x e^{2x} = e^{x+2x}$$

$$F_3(x) = e^x F_2(2x) = e^x e^{2x+4x} = e^{x+2x+4x}$$

$$f(k, n) = (2^k - 1)^n$$

For each  $i=1, \dots, n$ , put  $i$  into any of  $S_1, \dots, S_k$   
but not all of them  
 $2^k - 1$