Counting

Chapter 6

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

COMBINATORICS

- Combinatorics is the mathematics of counting and arranging objects. Counting of objects with certain properties (enumeration) is required to solve many different types of problem.
- Applications, include topics as diverse as codes, circuit design and algorithm complexity [and gambling]

Counting

- Enumeration, the counting of objects with certain properties, is an important part of combinatorics.
- We must count objects to solve many different types of problems. For example, counting is used to:

1. Determine number of ordered or unordered arrangement of objects.
2. Generate all the arrangements of a specified kind which is important in computer simulations.
3. Compute probabilities of events.
4. Analyze the chance of winning games, lotteries etc.
5. Determine the complexity of algorithms.

Section Summary

- The Sum Rule
- The Product Rule
- The Subtraction Rule
- The Division Rule
- Examples, Examples, and Examples
- Tree Diagrams

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 to do the second task, 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.

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,

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

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 and taken up fully in Chapter 8.

Basic Counting Principles: The Sum Rule

Example:

Suppose there are 7 different optional courses in Computer Science and 3 different optional courses in Mathematics. How many ways student can choose a course.

Solution: By the sum rule it follows that there are $7 + 3 = 10$ choices for a student who wants to take one optional course.

Basic Counting Principles: The Sum Rule

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.

Basic Counting Principles: The Sum Rule

Example: A student can choose a computer project from one of the three lists. The three lists contain 23, 15 and 19 possible projects, respectively. How many possible projects are there to choose from?

Solution: The student can choose a project from the first list in 23 ways, from the second list in 15 ways, and from the third list in 19 ways. Hence, there are

$23 + 15 + 19 = 57$ projects to choose from.

Basic Counting Principles: The Product Rule

The Product Rule: A procedure can be broken down into a sequence of two 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.

Product Rule in Terms of Sets

- If $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m$ 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.
- The task of choosing an element in the Cartesian product $A_1 \times A_2 \times \cdots \times A_m$ 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:
  $|A_1 \times A_2 \times \cdots \times A_m| = |A_1| \cdot |A_2| \cdot \cdots \cdot |A_m|.$

The Product Rule

Example: How many ways a student can choose one optional course each from computer science and mathematics courses if there are 7 different optional courses in Computer Science and 3 different optional courses in Mathematics.

Solution:

A student who wants to take one optional course of each subject, there are $7 \times 3 = 21$ choices.

The Product Rule

Example: The chairs of an auditorium are to be labeled with two characters, a letter followed by a digit. What is the largest number of chairs that can be labeled differently?

Solution:

The procedure of labeling a chair consists of two events, namely,

Assigning one of the 26 letters: A, B, C, …, Z and

Assigning one of the 10 digits: 0, 1, 2, …, 9

By product rule, there are $26 \times 10 = 260$ different ways that a chair can be labeled by both a letter and a digit.

The Product Rule

Example: Find the number n of ways that an organization consisting of 15 members can elect a president, treasurer, and secretary. (assuming no person is elected to more than one position)

Solution:

The president can be elected in 15 different ways; following this, the treasurer can be elected in 14 different ways; and following this, the secretary can be elected in 13 different ways. Thus, by product rule, there are

$$n = 15 \times 14 \times 13 = 2730$$

different ways in which the organization can elect the officers.

The Product Rule

Example: There are four bus lines between A and B; and three bus lines between B and C.

Find the number of ways a person can travel:

a) By bus from A to C by way of B;

b) Round trip by bus from A to C by way of B;

c) Round trip by bus from A to C by way of B, if the person does not want to use a bus line more than once.

The Product Rule

a) By bus from A to C by way of B;

Solution:

$$A \xrightarrow{4} B \xrightarrow{3} C.$$

There are 4 ways to go from A to B and 3 ways to go from B to C; hence there are $4 \times 3 = 12$ ways to go from A to C by way of B.

The Product Rule

b) Round trip by bus from A to C by way of B;

Solution:

The person will travel from A to B to C to B to A for the round trip. i.e. (A →B →C →B →A)

$$A \xrightarrow{4} B \xrightarrow{3} C \xrightarrow{3} B \xrightarrow{4} A$$

The person can travel 4 ways from A to B and 3 way from B to C and back.

Thus there are $4 \times 3 \times 3 \times 4 = 144$ ways to travel the round trip.

The Product Rule

c) Round trip by bus from A to C by way of B, if the person does not want to use a bus line more than once.

Solution:

$$A \xrightarrow{4} B \xrightarrow{3} C \xrightarrow{2} B \xrightarrow{3} A$$

The person can travel 4 ways from A to B and 3 ways from B to C, but only 2 ways from C to B and 3 ways from B to A, since bus line cannot be used more than once. Hence there are

$4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 = 72$ ways

to travel the round trip without using a bus line more than once.

The Product Rule

Example: A bit string is a sequence of 0's and 1's.How many bit string are there of length 4?

Solution:

Each bit (binary digit) is either 0 or 1.

Hence, there are 2 ways to choose each bit. Since we have to choose four bits therefore,

$$2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^4 = 16$$

the product rule shows, there are a total of different bit strings of length four.

The Product Rule

Example: How many bit strings of length 8:

(i) begin with a 1?

(ii) begin and end with a 1?

Solution:

(i) If the first bit (left most bit) is a 1, then it can be filled in only one way. Each of the remaining seven positions in the bit string can be filled in 2 ways (i.e., either by 0 or 1). Hence, there are

$$1 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^7 = 128$$

different bit strings of length 8 that begin with a 1.

The Product Rule

(ii) begin and end with a 1?

Solution:

If the first and last bit in an 8 bit string is a 1, then only the intermediate six bits can be filled in 2 ways, i.e. by a 0 or 1. Hence there are

$$1 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 1 = 2^6 = 64$$

different bit strings of length 8 that begin and end with a 1.

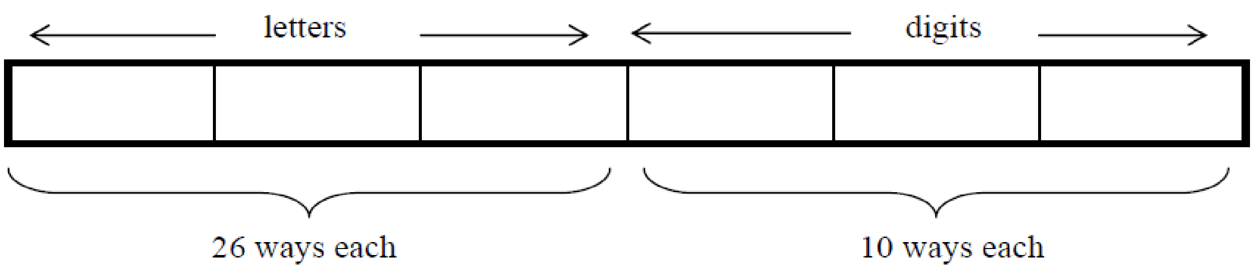
The Product Rule

Example: Suppose that an automobile license plate has three letters followed by three digits.

(a) How many different license plates are possible?

Solution:

Each of the three letters can be written in 26 different ways, and each of the three digits can be written in 10 different ways.



Hence, by the product rule, there is a total of

$26 \times 26 \times 26 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 17{,}576{,}000$

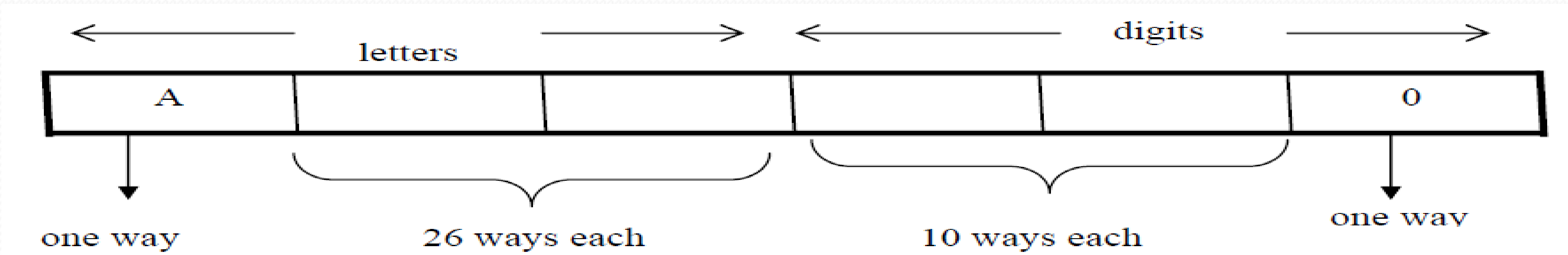
different License plates possible.

The Product Rule

(b) How many license plates could begin with A and end on 0?

Solution:

The first and last place can be filled in one way only, while each of second and third place can be filled in 26 ways and each of fourth and fifth place can be filled in 10 ways.



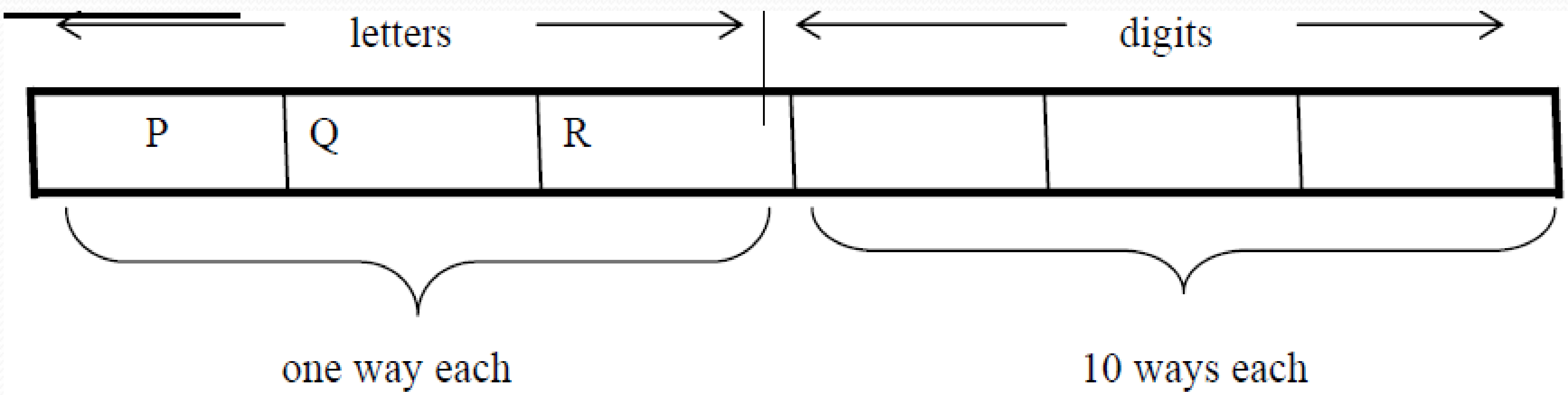
Number of license plates that begin with A and end in 0 are

$$1 \times 26 \times 26 \times 10 \times 10 \times 1 = 67600$$

The Product Rule

(c) How many license plates begin with PQR.

Solution:



Number of license plates that begin with PQR are

$$1 \times 1 \times 1 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000 \text{ ways.}$$

The Product Rule

(d) How many license plates are possible in which all the letters and digits are distinct?

Solution:

The first letter place can be filled in 26 ways. Since, the second letter place should contain a different letter than the first, so it can be filled in 25 ways. Similarly, the third letter place can be filled in 24 ways. And the digits can be respectively filled in 10, 9, and 8 ways.

Hence;

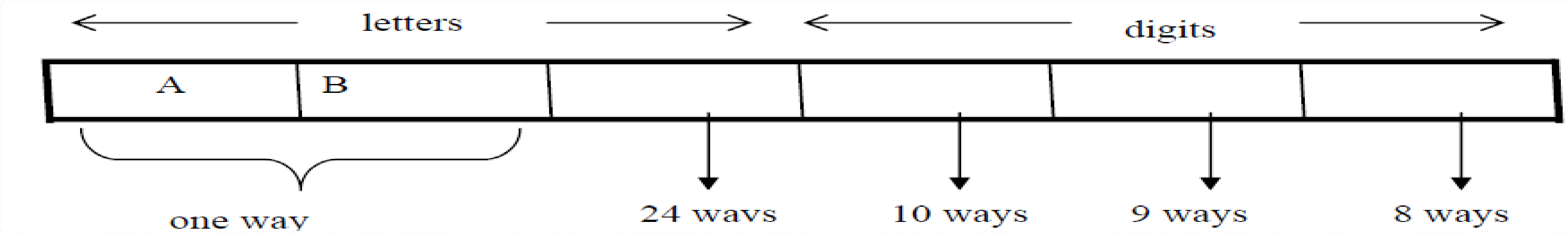
number of license plates in which all the letters and digits are distinct are

$$26 \times 25 \times 24 \times 10 \times 9 \times 8 = 11,232,000$$

The Product Rule

(e) How many license plates could begin with AB and have all three letters and digits distinct.

Solution:



The first two letters places are fixed (to be filled with A and B), so there is only one way to fill them. The third letter place should contain a letter different from A & B, so there

are 24 ways to fill it.

The three digit positions can be filled in 10 and 8 ways to have distinct digits. Hence, desired number of license plates are

$$1 \times 1 \times 24 \times 10 \times 9 \times 8 = 17280$$

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: $800 \cdot 800 \cdot 10{,}000 = 6{,}400{,}000{,}000$.

NUMBER OF ITERATIONS OF A NESTED LOOP

Example: Determine how many times the inner loop will be iterated when the following algorithm is implemented and run

For i: = 1 to 4

For j : = 1 to 3

[Statement in body of inner loop. None contain branching statements that lead out of the inner loop.]

next j

next i

<u>**Solution:**</u>

The outer loop is iterated four times, and during each iteration of the outer loop, there are three iterations of the inner loop.

Hence, by product rules the total number of iterations of inner loop is $4 \cdot 3 = 12$

Example: Determine how many times the inner loop will be iterated when the following algorithm is implemented and run.

for i = 5 to 50

for j: = 10 to 20

[Statement in body of inner loop. None contain branching statements that lead out of the inner loop.]

next j

next i

Solution:

The outer loop is iterated $50 - 5 + 1 = 46$ times and during each iteration of the outer loop there are $20 - 10 + 1 = 11$ iterations of the inner loop. Hence by product rule, the total number of iterations of the inner loop is $46 \times 11 = 506$.

Example: Determine how many times the inner loop will be iterated when the following algorithm is implemented and run.

for i: = 1 to 4

for j: = 1 to i

[Statements in body of inner loop. None contain branching statements that lead outside the loop.]

next j

next i

Solution:

The outer loop is iterated 4 times, but during each iteration of the outer loop, the inner loop iterates different number of times.

For first iteration of outer loop, inner loop iterates 1 times.

For second iteration of outer loop, inner loop iterates 2 times.

For third iteration of outer loop, inner loop iterates 3 times.

For fourth iteration of outer loop, inner loop iterates 4 times.

Hence, total number of iterations of inner loop = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10.

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:

- First consider variable names one character in length. Since such names consist of a single letter, there are 26 variable names of length 1.
- Next, consider variable names two characters in length. Since the first character is a letter, there are 26 ways to choose it. The second character is a digit, there are 10 ways to choose it. Hence, to construct variable name of two characters in length, there are $26 \times 10 = 260$ ways.
- Finally, by sum rule, there are $26 + 260 = 286$ possible variable names in the programming language.

Combining the Sum and Product Rule

Example: A computer access code word consists of from one to three letters of English alphabets with repetitions allowed. How many different code words are possible.

Solution:

Number of code words of length 1 = 26^1

Number of code words of length 2 = 26^2

Number of code words of length 3 = 26^3

Hence, the total number of code words =

$$26^1 + 26^2 + 26^3 = 18{,}278$$

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 $P = P_6 + P_7 + P_8$.

Finding P_6 directly is difficult. To find P_6 it is easier to find the number of strings of uppercase letters and digits that are six characters long, including those with no digits, and subtract from this the number of strings with no digits. By the product rule, the number of strings of six characters is 36^6 ,and the number of strings with no digits is 26^6

Counting Passwords(Continued)

- To find each of P6, P7, and P8 , 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:
- $P_6 = 36^6 - 26^6$ = 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.
- Consequently, P = $P_6 + P_7 + P_8$ = 2,684,483,063,360.

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.

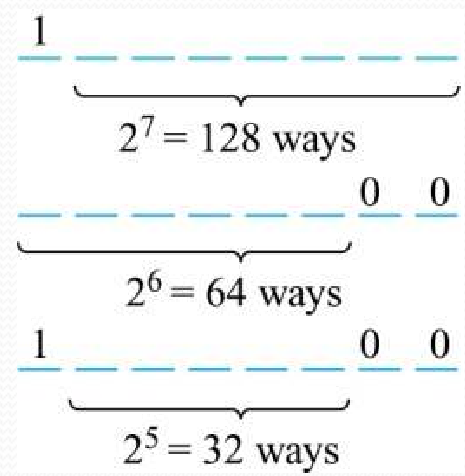
- Also known as, the *principle of inclusion-exclusion*:

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

Counting Bit Strings

Example: How many bit strings of length eight start either 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 $128 + 64 - 32 = 160$.

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?

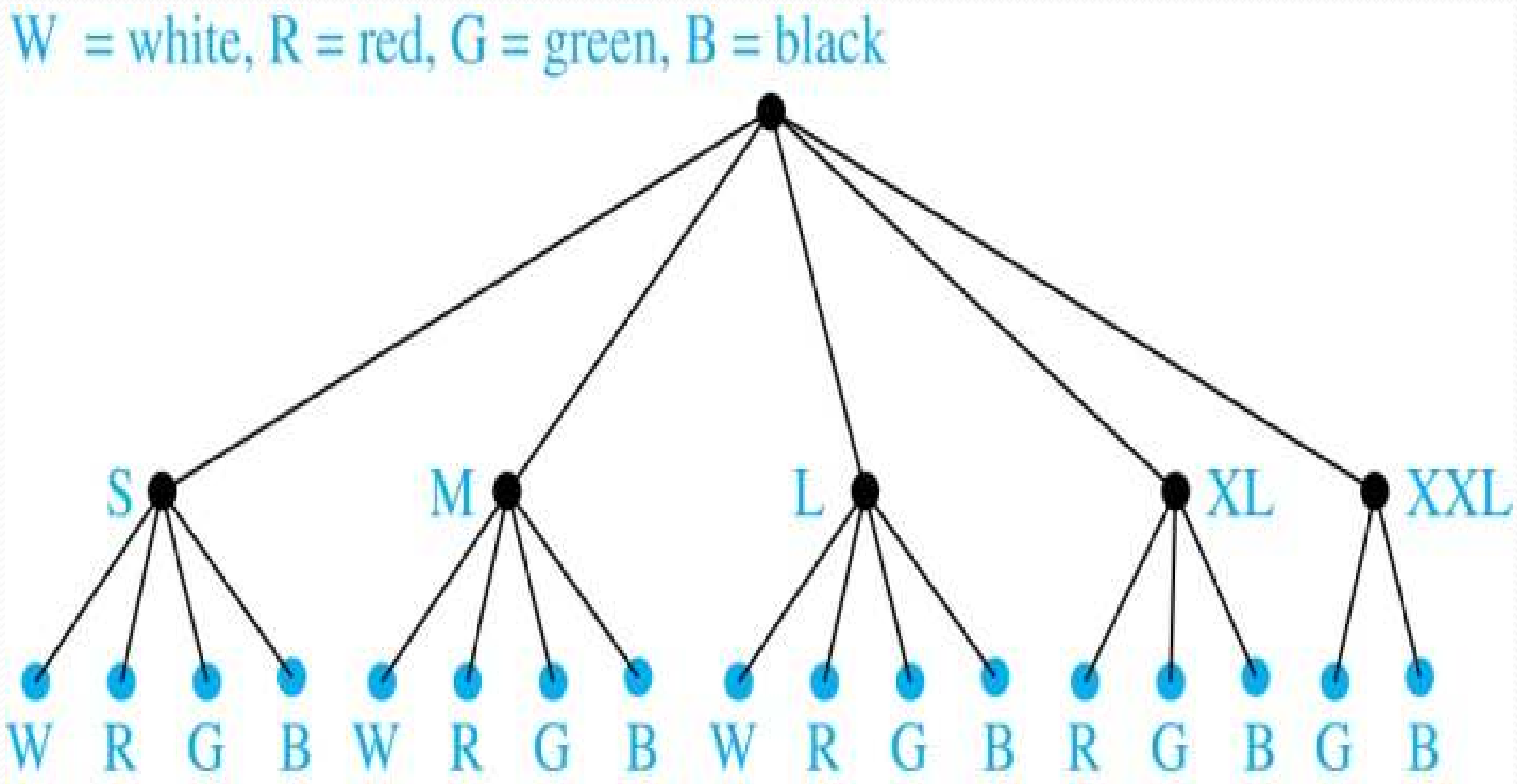
Solution: Suppose the elements in the domain are $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m$. There are n ways to choose the value of a_1 and $n-1$ ways to choose a_2, etc. The product rule tells us that there are $n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-m+1)$ such functions.

Tree Diagrams

- **Tree Diagrams**: We can solve many counting problems through the use of *tree diagrams*, where a branch represents a possible choice and the leaves represent possible outcomes.
- **Example**: Suppose that "I Love Discrete Math" T-shirts come in five different sizes: S,M,L,XL, and XXL. Each size comes in four colors (white, red, green, and black), except XL, which comes only in red, green, and black, and XXL, which comes only in green and black. What is the minimum number of shirts that the campus book store needs to stock to have one of each size and color available?

Tree Diagrams

- **Solution**: Draw the tree diagram.



- The store must stock 17 T-shirts.

The Pigeonhole Principle

Section 6.2

Section Summary

- The Pigeonhole Principle
- The Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

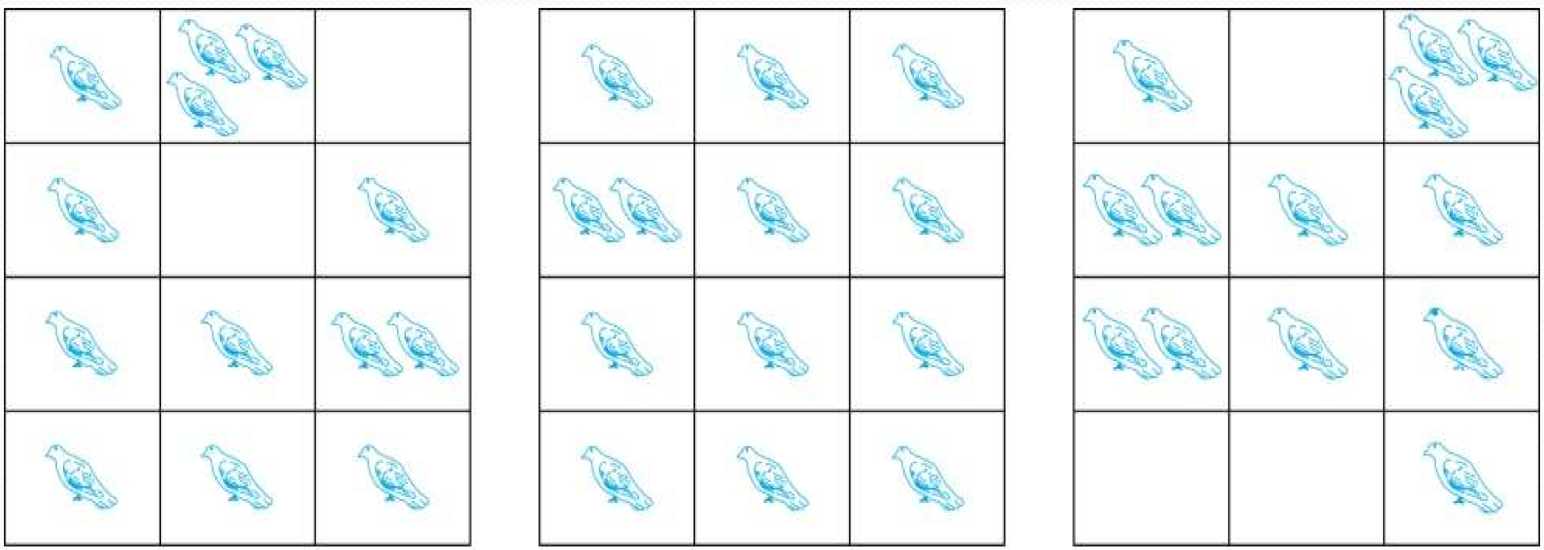
The Pigeonhole Principle

Pigeonhole Principle: If k is a positive integer and $k + 1$ objects 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

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



(a) (b) (c)

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 the box for y 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. ◀

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

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

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. ◀

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. $\lceil 367/366 \rceil = 2$

Example: Among 100 people there are at least $\lceil 100/12 \rceil = 9$ who were born in the same month.

Example: In any set of 27 English , must be at least two that begin with the same letter, since there are 26 letters in the English alphabet. $\lceil 27/26 \rceil = 2$

The Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

Example: What is the minimum number of students required in a Discrete Mathematics class to be sure that at least six will receive the same grade, if there are five possible grades, A, B, C, D, and F.

Solution:

The minimum number of students needed to guarantee that at least six students receive the same grade is the smallest integer N such that $\lceil N/K \rceil = \lceil N/5 \rceil = 6$. The smallest such integer is

$$N = K(\lceil N/K \rceil - 1) + 1 = 5(6-1)+1 = 5 \cdot 5 + 1 = 26.$$

Thus 26 is the minimum number of students needed to be sure that at least 6 students will receive the same grades.

Permutations and Combinations

Section 6.3

Section Summary

- Permutations
- Combinations
- Combinatorial Proofs

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; and 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 $P(n,0) = 1$, since 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 there are eight runners in a race. The winner receives a gold medal, the second place finisher receives a silver medal, and the third-place finisher receives a bronze medal. How many different ways are there to award these medals, if all possible outcomes of the race can occur and there are no ties?
- **Solution**: The number of different ways to award the medals is the number of 3-permutations of a set with eight elements. Hence, there are

$$P(8, 3) = 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 = 336$$

possible ways to award the medals.

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:

$$P(7,7) = 7! = 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 5040$$

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*.

$P(6,6) = 6! = 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 720$

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)

Combinations

Example:

- Let S be the set $\{a, b, c, d\}$. Then $\{a, c, d\}$ is a 3-combination from S. It is the same as $\{d, c, a\}$ 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 $P(n, r) = C(n,r) \cdot P(r,r)$. 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:

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

- 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, $C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$. ◀

This result can be proved without using algebraic manipulation. →

Combinatorial Proofs

- **Definition** 1: A *combinatorial proof* of an identity is a proof that uses one of the following methods.
  - A *double counting proof* uses counting arguments to prove that both sides of an identity count the same objects, but in different ways.
  - A *bijective proof* shows 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 $r < n$:

  - *Bijective 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. ◀

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

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 . The terms in the expansion of $(x + y)^n$ are of the form $x^{n-j}y^j$ for $j = 0,1,2,\ldots,n$. To form the term $x^{n-j}y^j$, it is necessary to choose $n-j$ xs from the n sums. Therefore, the coefficient of $x^{n-j}y^j$ is $\binom{n}{n-j}$ which equals $\binom{n}{j}$. ◀

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, $x\,y^2$, 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 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 $(x + y)^3 = x^3 + 3x^2y + 3x\,y^2 + y^3$.
- Next we present the binomial theorem gives the coefficients of the terms in the expansion of $(x + y)^n$.

Using the Binomial Theorem

Example:

What is the expansion of $(x+y)^4$?

Solution: From the binomial theorem it follows that

$$(x+y)^4 = \sum_{j=0}^{4} \binom{4}{j} x^{4-j} y^j$$

$$= \binom{4}{0}x^4 + \binom{4}{1}x^3y + \binom{4}{2}x^2y^2 + \binom{4}{3}xy^3 + \binom{4}{4}y^4$$

$$= x^4 + 4x^3y + 6x^2y^2 + 4xy^3 + y^4.$$

Using the Binomial Theorem

What is the coefficient of $x^{12}y^{13}$ in the expansion of $(x+y)^{25}$?

Solution: From the binomial theorem it follows that this coefficient is

$$\binom{25}{13} = \frac{25!}{13!\,12!} = 5{,}200{,}300.$$

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

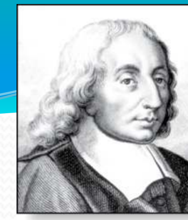
Proof (*using binomial theorem*): With x = 1 and y = 1, from the binomial theorem we see that:

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

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

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 (*combinatorial*): Let T be a set where $|T| = n + 1$, $a \in T$, and $S = T - \{a\}$. There are $\binom{n+1}{k}$ subsets of T containing k elements. Each of these subsets either:

- contains a with $k - 1$ other elements, or
- contains k elements of S and not a.

There are

- $\binom{n}{k-1}$ subsets of k elements that contain a, since there are $\binom{n}{k-1}$ subsets of $k - 1$ elements of S,
- $\binom{n}{k}$ subsets of k elements of T that do not contain a, because there are $\binom{n}{k}$ subsets of k elements of S.

Hence,

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

See Exercise 19 *for an algebraic proof.*

Pascal's Triangle

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

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\binom{0}{0} \\
\binom{1}{0}\ \binom{1}{1} \\
\binom{2}{0}\ \binom{2}{1}\ \binom{2}{2} \\
\binom{3}{0}\ \binom{3}{1}\ \binom{3}{2}\ \binom{3}{3} \\
\binom{4}{0}\ \binom{4}{1}\ \binom{4}{2}\ \binom{4}{3}\ \binom{4}{4} \\
\binom{5}{0}\ \binom{5}{1}\ \binom{5}{2}\ \binom{5}{3}\ \binom{5}{4}\ \binom{5}{5} \\
\binom{6}{0}\ \binom{6}{1}\ \binom{6}{2}\ \binom{6}{3}\ \binom{6}{4}\ \binom{6}{5}\ \binom{6}{6} \\
\binom{7}{0}\ \binom{7}{1}\ \binom{7}{2}\ \binom{7}{3}\ \binom{7}{4}\ \binom{7}{5}\ \binom{7}{6}\ \binom{7}{7} \\
\binom{8}{0}\ \binom{8}{1}\ \binom{8}{2}\ \binom{8}{3}\ \binom{8}{4}\ \binom{8}{5}\ \binom{8}{6}\ \binom{8}{7}\ \binom{8}{8} \\
\cdots
\end{array}
$$

(a)

By Pascal's identity:

$$\binom{6}{4} + \binom{6}{5} = \binom{7}{5}$$

$$
\begin{array}{c}
1 \\
1 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 2 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 4 \quad 6 \quad 4 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 5 \quad 10 \quad 10 \quad 5 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 6 \quad 15 \quad 20 \quad 15 \quad 6 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 7 \quad 21 \quad 35 \quad 35 \quad 21 \quad 7 \quad 1 \\
1 \quad 8 \quad 28 \quad 56 \quad 70 \quad 56 \quad 28 \quad 8 \quad 1 \\
\cdots
\end{array}
$$

(b)

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