

puzzle: prove by induction.

Notation:  $\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{k} \rightarrow n \text{ choose } k, (k=0,1,2,\dots,n).$

$$\binom{n}{0} \binom{n}{1} \binom{n}{2} \dots \binom{n}{n-1} \binom{n}{n} \quad \binom{n}{1}, \binom{n}{n-1} = n$$

The number of zero sets = 1      number of  $n$ -sets = 1

Proposition:  $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$ .

Proof: ① Algebra.

② Bijection between  $\{k\text{-sets}\} \rightarrow \{n-k\text{ sets}\}.$

↳ complement → equi-counting. Count 2 things that are in bijection.

Discrete: Lecture #8

↳ Binomial coefficients

Th: The number of  $k$ -subsets of an ambient  $n$ -set is  $\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$  dividing the multiplicity

Notation:  $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}, n \in \mathbb{N}$        $n$  and  $k$  are integers, because they are counting something.      ordered (perm)



# Discrete: Lect 8 (cont.)

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

→ Think about what they are counting.

FACT 1

→ equi-counting, one complement of another.

FACT 2

$$\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} = 2^n$$

$$\int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$$

→ Counting all subsets.

$$\overline{\cos x} = u$$

Partition the subsets of an  $n$ -set according to the cardinalities.

$$dx = \frac{1}{2}$$

FACT 3

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

$$= \frac{(n+1)n!}{k!(n-k+1)!}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(k-1)!(n-k+1)!} + \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{k \cdot n!}{k!(n-k+1)!} + \frac{n!}{k!(n-k+1)!}$$

② Counting.  $\binom{n+1}{k}$  = number of  $k$ -subsets of an  $n+1$  set.

LHS: (expect a partition) -

$$e.g.: \{1, \dots, n+1\}$$

Separate into  $\mathcal{C}_1$  = collection of  $k$ -subsets containing  $n+1$

$\mathcal{C}_2$  = collection of  $k$ -subsets NOT containing  $n+1$ .

$\mathcal{C}_2$  =  $k$ -subsets of 1 up to  $n$ .

$$\therefore |\mathcal{C}_2| = \binom{n}{k}$$

→ To pick  $\mathcal{C}_1$  means to pick  $k-1$  elements AND put in  $(n+1)$  in the end

So,  $|\mathcal{C}_1| = \# \text{ } k-1 \text{ subsets of } 1 \text{ to } n = \binom{n}{k-1}$

$$\text{So, } \binom{n+1}{k} = |\mathcal{C}_1| + |\mathcal{C}_2| = \binom{n}{k-1} + \binom{n}{k}$$

Row

Pascal's Triangle

0

$$\binom{0}{0}$$

1

$$\binom{1}{0}$$

$$\binom{1}{1}$$

2

$$\binom{2}{0}$$

$$\binom{2}{1}$$

$$\binom{2}{2}$$

3

$$\binom{3}{0}$$

$$\binom{3}{1}$$

$$\binom{3}{2}$$

$$\binom{3}{3}$$

4

$$\binom{4}{0}$$

$$\binom{4}{1}$$

$$\binom{4}{2}$$

$$\binom{4}{3}$$

$$\binom{4}{4}$$

⋮

$$\binom{4}{0}$$

$$\binom{4}{1}$$

$$\binom{4}{2}$$

$$\binom{4}{3}$$

$$\binom{4}{4}$$

from FACT 3: add two above numbers - get number below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 1 & & & & \\ & 1 & & 1 & & & \\ & 1 & 2 & & 1 & & \\ & 1 & 3 & 3 & & 1 & \\ & 1 & 4 & 6 & 4 & & 1 \\ & 1 & 5 & 10 & 10 & 5 & 1 \\ & & & & & & \vdots \end{array}$$

Lots of symmetries!

→ Read in spine,  $\frac{1}{n} \binom{2n}{n}$  = Catalan sequence.  
dividing by  $n$





# Discrete: Lect 8 (cont.)

## The Binomial Formula

For each positive integer  $n$ , and variables  $x$  and  $y$ , we have:

$$(x+y)^n = \binom{n}{0}x^n + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1}y + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}y^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1}xy^{n-1} + \binom{n}{n}y^n$$

$$\hookrightarrow (x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k, \quad k=0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Proof: (by counting).

$$(x+y)^n = \underbrace{(x+y)(x+y)\dots(x+y)}_{n \text{ times}} \begin{cases} xxx\dots xx \\ xxx\dots xy \end{cases}$$

$\hookrightarrow 2^n$  terms of the form  $x^k y^{n-k} \rightarrow$  uncollected.

Each term  $x^k y^{n-k}$  appears by picking  $x$  out of  $k$  parentheses and  $y$  out of the remaining  $n-k$  parentheses.

There are  $\binom{n}{k}$  ways of picking  $k$  parentheses.

$\binom{n}{k}$  = binomial coefficient.

$\hookrightarrow x^k y^{n-k}$  appears  $\binom{n}{k}$  times.

Applications:  $x=1, y=1 \quad 2^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}$

$x=1, y=-1, \quad 0 = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}$

$x=1, \quad (y+1)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} y^k$

differentiate wrt  $y$ :

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

Accounts for overlap.

## Inclusion - Exclusion

Two sets:  $|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2|$

Three sets:  $|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3| = |A_1| + |A_2| + |A_3| - |A_1 \cap A_2| - |A_2 \cap A_3| - |A_1 \cap A_3| + |A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3|$

for  $n$  sets:  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k = |A_1| + |A_2| + \dots + |A_n| - (|A_1 \cap A_2| + \dots + \dots)$$

$\nearrow$  add middle part.

$+ (|A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3| + \dots) \dots$  And so on!

$$= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{\substack{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\} \\ |I|=k}} (-1)^{k-1} \left| \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i \right|$$

