

Number of surjective maps $f: X \rightarrow Y$

where $|X| = m$, $|Y| = n$ and $m \geq n$.

Let S be the set of all maps from $X \rightarrow Y$

and let $Y = \{1, \dots, n\}$.

let S_i be the set of maps $X \rightarrow Y$ s.t.

i does not belong to the image of the map.

Then the set of surjective maps $= S - \bigcup_i S_i$ (Why?)

$$|S| = n^m$$

$$|\bigcup_i S_i| = \sum_i |S_i| - \sum_{i < j} |S_i \cap S_j| + \sum_{i < j < k} |S_i \cap S_j \cap S_k|$$

- ... -

$$= n \cdot (n-1)^m - \binom{n}{2} (n-2)^m + \binom{n}{3} (n-3)^m - \dots$$

(this step is because of "inclusion-exclusion" principle that we did not discuss).

Hence, the number of surjective maps

$$= n^m - n \cdot (n-1)^m + \binom{n}{2} (n-2)^m + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \binom{n}{n-1} 1^m$$

$\text{if } m=3, n=2 \quad \quad \quad = 6$

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THIS FOR THE TEST