

3a. Consider any processing operation that has two types A and B. Now, let's count the number of ways we can pick  $k$  objects from  $n$  and apply processing operation A on  $l$  of the  $k$  objects and operation B on the remaining  $k-l$  objects. We can count this in two equivalent ways.

- $\binom{n}{k}\binom{k}{l}$ , which involves picking  $k$  objects from  $n$ , and then picking the  $l$  from amongst those  $k$ .
- $\binom{n}{l}\binom{n-l}{k-l}$ , which involves picking  $l$  objects from  $n$ , and then picking the  $k-l$  from amongst the remaining  $n-l$ .

This concludes the proof.

3b. Let's say we have  $m$  boys and  $n$  girls to pick a total of  $k$  people from. We can count this in two equivalent ways.

- $\binom{m+n}{k}$ , which involves picking  $k$  objects from amongst the total of  $m+n$  people.
- $\sum_{i=0}^k \binom{m}{i}\binom{n}{k-i}$ , which involves counting  $k+1$  exclusive possibilities, wherein in each possibility, we pick a certain number  $i$  of boys from amongst the  $m$  boys, and the remaining  $k-i$  required people from the  $n$  girls.

This concludes the proof.

3c. This can easily be proven by repeated application of the rule  $\binom{n+k+1}{k} = \binom{n+k}{k} + \binom{n+k}{k-1}$ , to the last term in this equation all the way down to  $\binom{n}{0}$ . Induction seems like the cleanest way to setup this proof.

3d. The algebraic proof is based on differentiating the two sides of the binomial expression for  $(1+t)^n$  and then replacing  $t$  with 1. But this is a bit mundane. So let's give a combinatorial proof instead.

Consider  $n$  objects, and say we need to do two things - first pick at least one of them, and then designate a leader from amongst those picked. We can count this in two equivalent ways.

- $\sum_{i=1}^n \binom{n}{i}i$ , which involves counting  $k$  exclusive possibilities, wherein in each possibility, we first pick a certain number  $i$  of objects from among the  $n$  objects, and then designate one of those  $i$  objects as leader.
- $n2^{n-1}$ , which involves first picking a leader, and then picking 0 or more objects from the remaining  $n-1$  objects.

This concludes the proof.

3e. We'll use the binomial theorem. Consider the expression  $(1+a)^n(1-a)^n = (1-a^2)^n$  and its full expansion. We'd like to specifically find the coefficient of

the term  $a^n$  in the expansion. We can count this in two equivalent ways.

- by picking for each value of  $k$  in the range  $[0, n]$ ,  $a^k$  from the expansion of  $(1 + a)^n$  and multiplying it with  $a^{n-k}$  from the expansion of  $(1 - a)^n$ , thus implying that the desired coefficient would be  $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{n-k} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k}$ .
- by picking the coefficient of  $a^n$  in the expansion of  $(1 - a^2)^n$ , which happens to be 0 in case  $n$  is odd, and  $(-1)^{n/2} \binom{n}{n/2}$  in case  $n$  is even.

This concludes the proof.