# COMP170 Discrete Mathematical Tools for Computer Science

ecture 2 Version 3, Last updated, Sept 15, 2005

Discrete Math for Computer Science K. Bogart, C. Stein and R.L. Drysdale Section 1.2, pp. 9-19

# 1.2 Counting Lists, Permutations, and Subsets

- Using the Sum and Product Principles
- Lists and Functions
- The Bijection Principle
- k-Element Permutations of a Set
- k-Element Subsets of a Set Binomial Coefficients

## Some Simple Examples

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#### There are

10 possibilities for  $X_1$  10 possibilities for  $X_2$  10 possibilities for  $X_3$  10 possibilities for  $X_4$ 

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Note; This is really the *product principle* What are the sets being used?

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$$52 \times 52 \times 52 \times 52 \times 52 \times 52 = 52^6$$

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Each  $L_i$  has 26 possibilities and each  $D_i$  has 10 possibilities so the total number of car plates is

$$26 \times 26 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 26^2 \times 10^4 = 6,760,000$$

We have just seen examples of

#### **Product Principle, Version 2**

If a set S of lists of length m has the properties that

- 1. there are  $i_1$  different first elements of lists in S, and
- 2. for each j > 1 and each choice of the first j 1 elements of a list in S, there are  $i_j$  choices of elements in position j of those lists,
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So sum principle might help us.

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⇒ total number of passwords is

$$52^4 + 52^5 + 52^6 + 52^7 + 52^8$$
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#### Lists and Functions

We've already seen *lists*. Informally, a list of k elements from T is  $L = L_1 L_2 \dots L_k$ , where each  $L_i \in T$ .

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Example: MORE and ROME are two different 4-letter lists from  $T = \{A, B, \dots, Z\}$ 

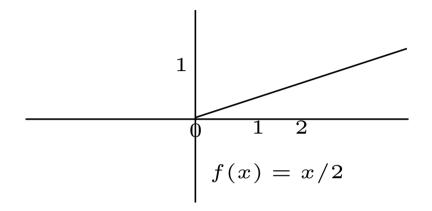
 $\{M,O,R,E\}$  and  $\{R,O,M,E\}$  are the same subset of T.

We now introduce functions.

A function f from set S to set T is a *relationship* that associates exactly one element of T with each element of S

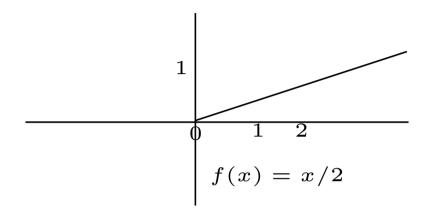
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In continuous math, e.g., basic calculus and algebra, you often have formulas, e.g., f(x)=x/2 that describe the function. In discrete math, where we often deal with finite sets, we can frequently state the full function explicitly: e.g.,

$$f(1) = Sam, f(2) = Mary, f(3) = Sarah$$

We often write a function from S to T as

$$f:S\to T$$

S is the domain of f; T is the range of f.

A k element List,  $L = L_1 L_2 \dots L_k$  from set T can now be defined as a function

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Example: Four element lists from  $\{A, \ldots, Z\}$ 

MORE is the function

$$f(1) = M, f(2) = O, f(3) = R, f(4) = E$$

ROME is the function

$$f(1) = R, f(2) = O, f(3) = M, f(4) = E$$

## Exercises

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- How many functions are there from a 2-element set to a 3-element set?
- How many functions are there from a 3-element set to a 2-element set?

Use  $f_1, f_2, \ldots$  to denote the functions. To describe  $f_i: \{1, 2\} \to \{a, b\}$ , we must specify  $f_i(1)$  and  $f_i(2)$ .

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How do we know we've found *all* of them?

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Set of *all* functions from  $\{1,2\}$  to  $\{a,b\}$  is just the set of 2-element lists from  $\{a,b\}$  which we already saw, by the product principle, has size  $2 \times 2 = 4$ .

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A function  $f: X \to Y$  is **onto**, or a **surjection**, if every element y in range Y is f(x) for some x in domain X.

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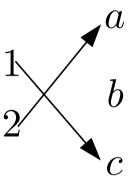
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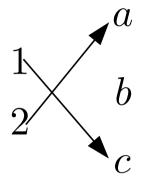
In French sur = "on"

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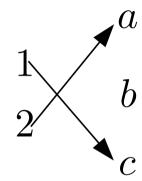


Function 
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Using 2- or 3-element sets as domains & ranges, find an example of a *onto* function that is not *one-to-one*.

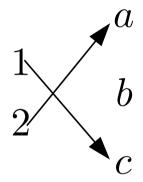
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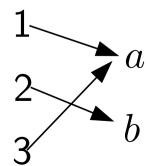
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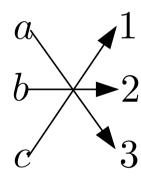
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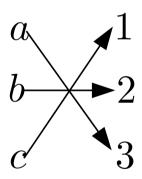
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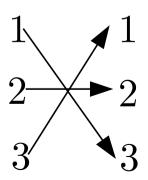
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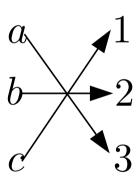
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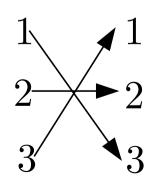


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In a bijection
exactly one arrow
leaves each item on the left
and
exactly one arrow
arrives at each item on the right
so the left and right sides
must have the same size





The following loop is a part of program to determine the number of triangles formed by n points in the plane.

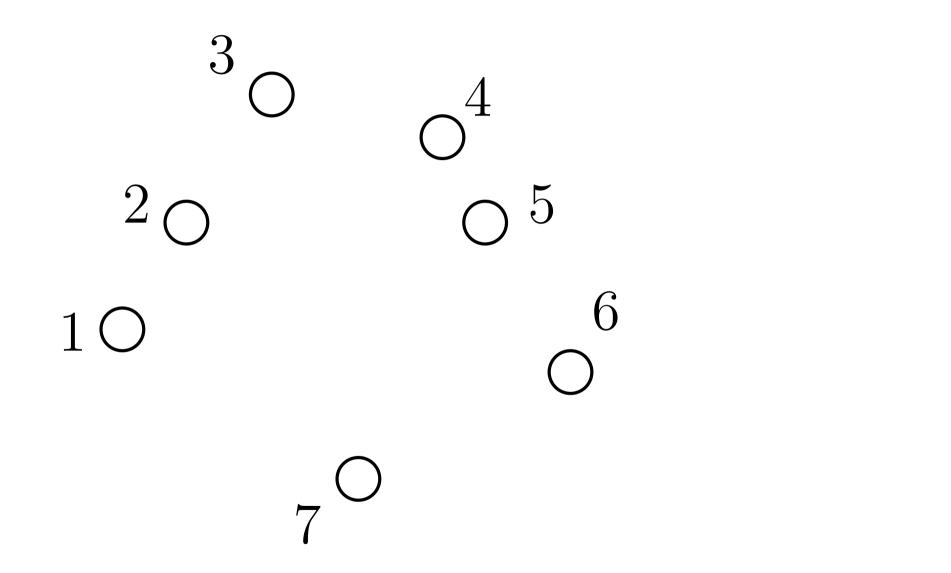
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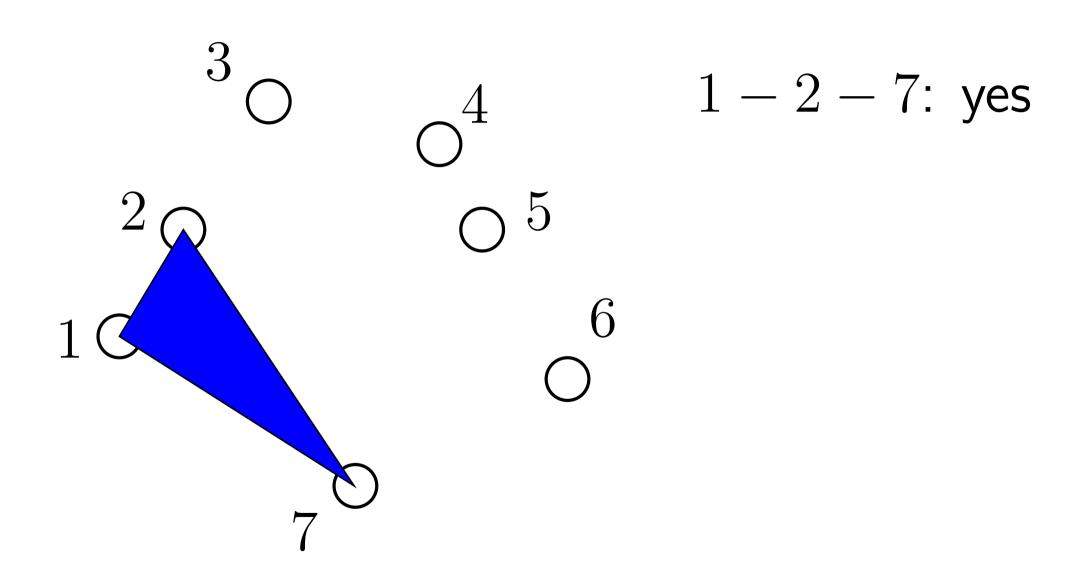
```
(1) trianglecount = 0
(2)  for i = 1 to n
(3)  for j = i+1 to n
(4)  for k = j+1 to n
(5)   if points i, j, k are not collinear
trianglecount = trianglecount + 1
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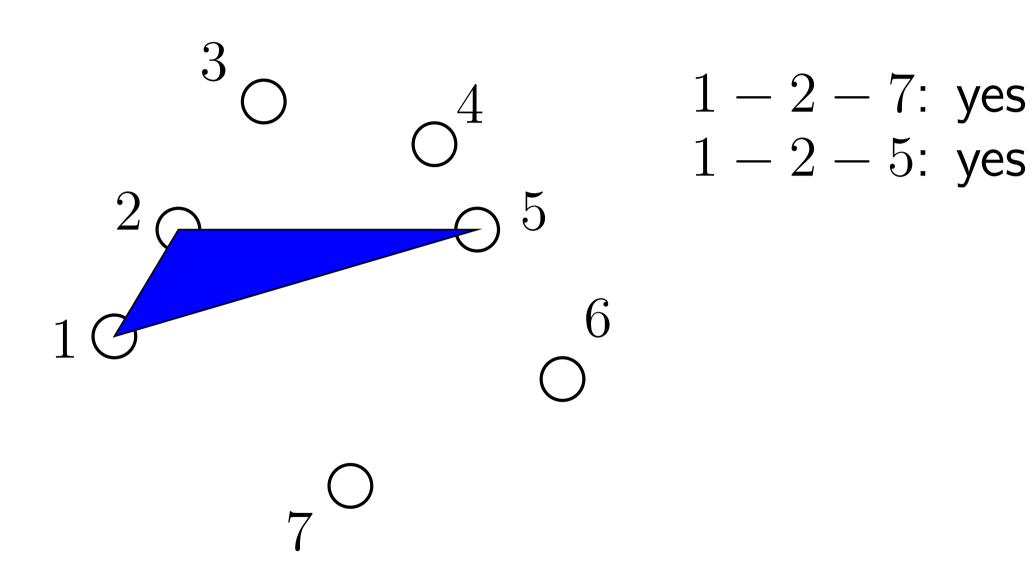
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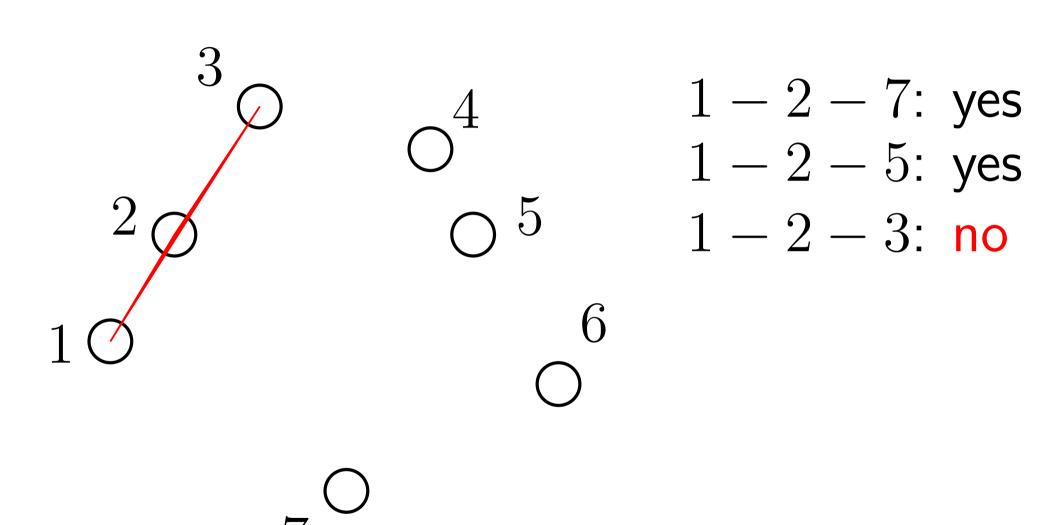
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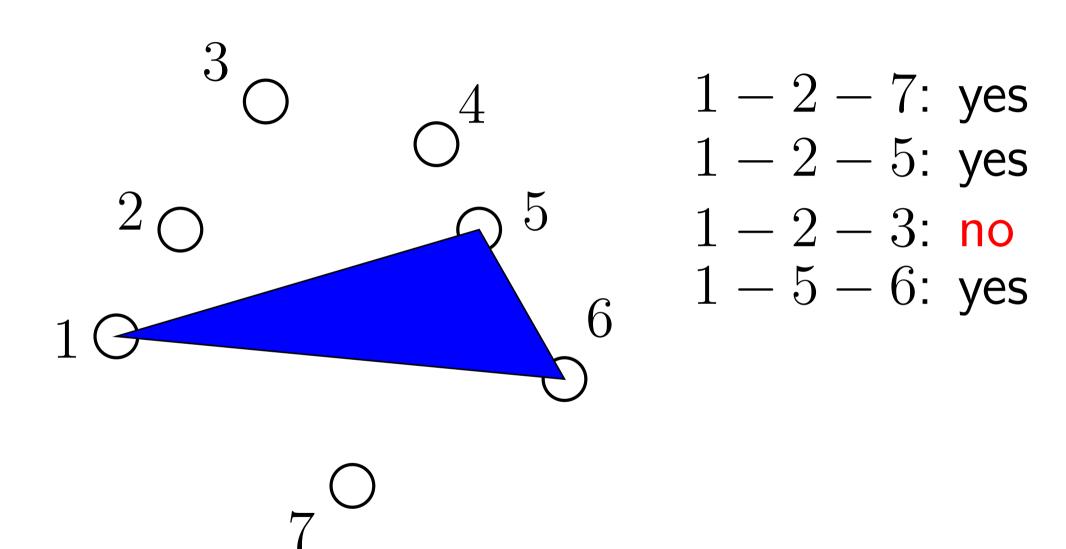
Among all iterations of line 5 in the pseudocode, what is the total number of times this line checks three points to see if they are collinear?

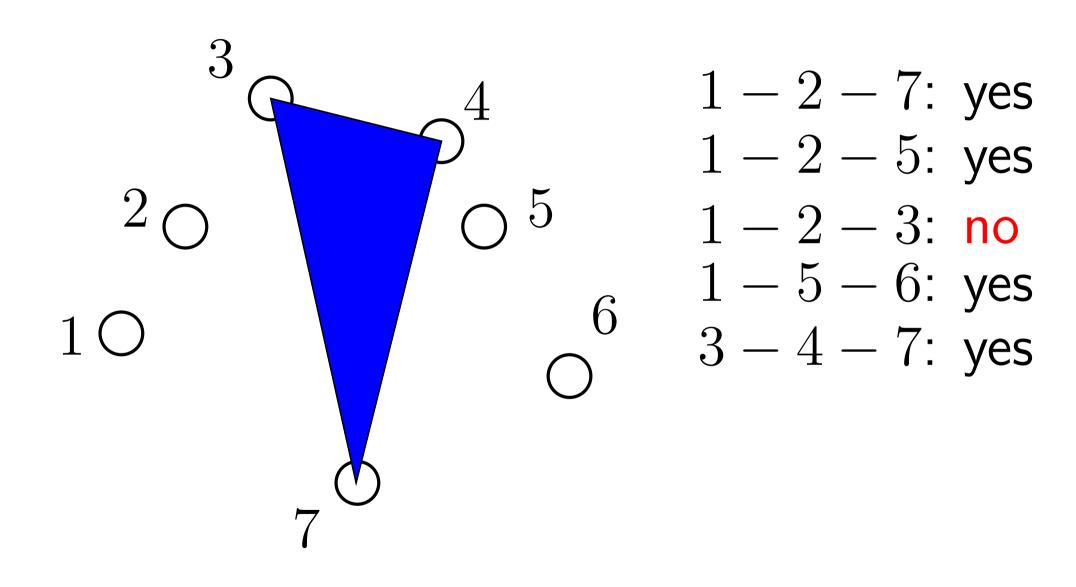


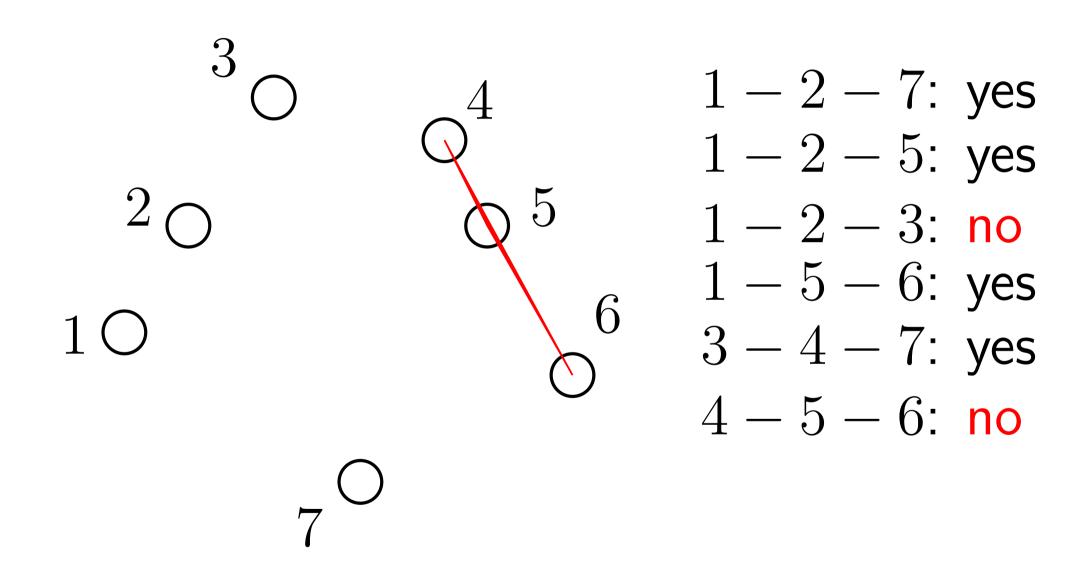


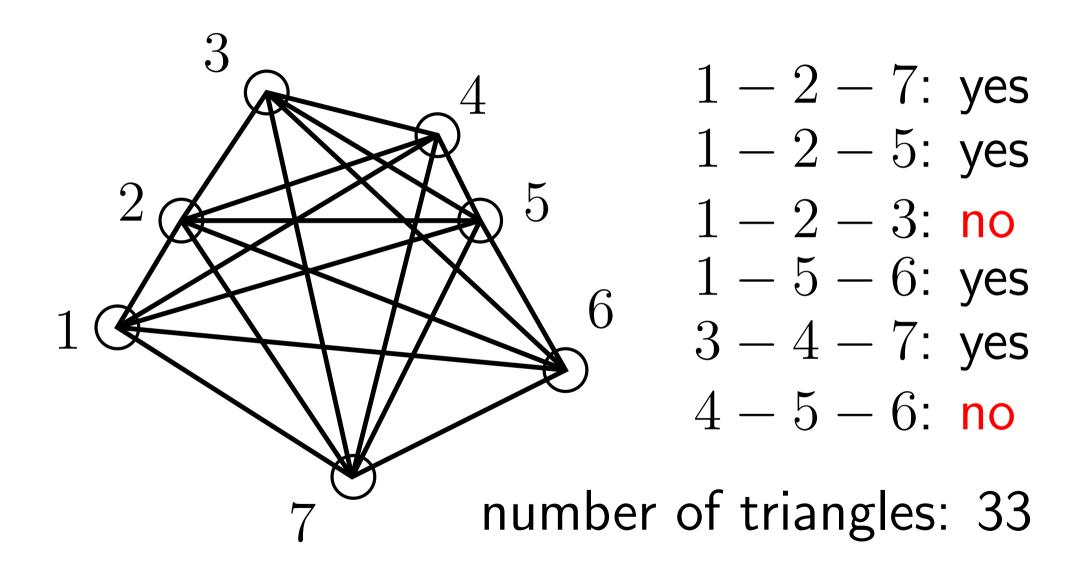












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### A loop

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A loop embedded in a loop

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Thus, compute number of increasing triples!

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f is a bijection because f is one-to-one if (i,j,k) \neq (i',j',k') \Rightarrow f((i,j,k)) \neq f((i',j',k')) f is onto if X is a 3-element subset then it can be written as X = \{i,j,k\} where i < j < k so f((i,j,k)) = X.
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- We actually already saw that  $|X| = |Y| = \binom{n}{2}$

Two sets have the same size if and only if there is a one-to-one function from one set onto the other.

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- Currently, we started with the problem of counting the # of increasing triples and changed it to the problem of counting the # of 3-element sets from  $\{1,2,\ldots,n\}$
- We will now see how to count the # of k-element permutations of  $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ . From this we will derive how to count # of k-element sets.

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- Note that the case of k=n is special; An n-element permutation of a set N of size |N|=n is what we earlier simply called a permutation.

### k-Element Permutations of a Set

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Ex: When n=4, there are 4\times 3\times 2=24 3 -element permutations of \{1,2,3,4\}
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L = \{123, 124, 132, 134, 142, 143, 213, 214, 231, 234, 241, 243, 312, 314, 321, 324, 341, 342, 412, 413, 421, 423, 431, 432\}.
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Note: This type of "dictionary" ordering of tuples (assuming that we treat numbers the same as letters) is called a **lexicographic ordering** and is used quite often.

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$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{6} = \binom{n}{3} \right|$$

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Thus, by version 2 of product principle, there are  $n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1)$  ways to choose a k-element permutation.

We just saw that there are

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In the special case of k=n (a permutation) this reduces to

$$n(n-1)\cdots 3\cdot 2\cdot 1=n!$$

So there are n! different permutations of a set of size n.

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The #of k-element permutations of an n-element set is

$$n^{\underline{k}} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}.$$

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Donald Ervin Knuth (born 1938) is Professor Emeritus of the Art of Computer Programming at Stanford University. He is most famous for his 3+-volume set, The Art of Computer Programming but he's done many other things, including designing the system, TeX, with which these notes were typeset.



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- However, the number of k-element permutations of a k-element set is k! (Theorem 1.1 with n=k).
  - Thus, by sum principle,

$$n^{\underline{k}} = (\# \text{ of blocks}) \times (\# \text{ in each block}) = {n \choose k} k!.$$

For integers n and k with  $0 \le k \le n$ , the number of k-element subsets of an n-element set is

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}.$$

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We just proved this except for case k = 0.

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This will work if we define 0! = 1.

Note: Both cases k = 0 and k = n use fact that 0! = 1.

## Binomial Coefficients

The number of ways of choosing a k-element subset from a set of size n is

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}.$$

This term is called a binomial coefficient. Be aware that there are other, alternative, notations for the same thing, occasionally used, e.g., C(n,k) or nCk