

1. Let

$$\binom{n}{m}$$

denote the number of subsets of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ which have cardinality m . These are the *binomial coefficients*. Thus $\binom{3}{2} = 3$, and $\binom{3}{0} = 1$.

(a) Argue that for any n and m , with $n \geq 1$ and $m \leq n$,

$$\binom{n}{m} = \binom{n-1}{m} + \binom{n-1}{m-1}.$$

(b) One can define $S = \{(n, m) : n \geq m\}$ structurally by the following iterative method:

- $(0, 0)$ is in $S = \mathbb{N}^2$.
- If (n, m) is in S , then $(n+1, m)$ is in S .
- If (n, m) is in S , and $n \leq m+1$, then $(n, m+1)$ is in S .

Prove using structural induction that for all $(n, m) \in S$,

$$\binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!},$$

where we define $0! = 1$, and $(n+1)! = (n+1) \cdot n!$.

(c) Argue by induction on n that for all $n \geq 0$, and any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$(x+y)^n = \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} x^m y^{n-m}.$$

(d) Let

$$\binom{n}{m, k}$$

denote the number of pairs of disjoint subsets $S_1, S_2 \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ with $\#(S_1) = m$ and $\#(S_2) = k$. Can you find (and prove) analogous properties of the statements above for this function?

- How many numbers below 2022 are divisible by two, three, or five.
- How many functions from $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ to $\{A, B, C, D\}$ are onto?
- Recall that a graph H is *bipartite* if one can write its vertex set as a disjoint union $V_1 \cup V_2$, where each edge in H connects an element of V_1 to an element of V_2 . Let $G = (V, E)$ be an arbitrary graph with $\#(E) = K$ edges, which is not necessarily bipartite. In this problem, we will prove G has a Bipartite subgraph containing at least $K/2$ edges. One element of the proof will be a stronger version of the pigeonhole principle:

(Strong Pigeonhole Principle) Given N pigeons placed in M holes, there exists a hole containing at least $\lceil N/M \rceil$ pigeons.

(a) For any edge $e = (v_1, v_2) \in E$, let

$$T_e = \{W \subset V : v_1 \text{ or } v_2 \text{ is in } W, \text{ but not both}\}.$$

Argue that $\#(T_e) = 2^{\#(V)-1}$.

- Using the calculation above, show that there exists $W \subset V$ such that the number of edges between W and W^c is at least $K/2$ (Hint: The holes are the subsets of V , the pigeons are the edges).
- Conclude that there exists a subgraph of G , which is bipartite, and contains at least $K/2$ edges.