

Combinatorial Proofs

1) Id what is being counted

↳ # of ways to choose k items out of n

2) LHS counts ①

↳ by defⁿ

3) RHS counts ①

↳ # of hats NOT chosen uniquely determines the chosen items

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

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

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

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

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

correct but bad

not chosen

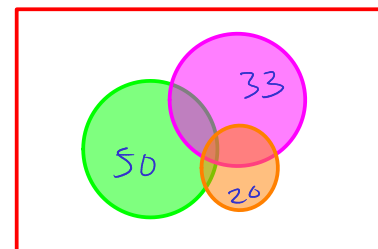
chosen



1 The Count

- (a) How many of the first 100 positive integers are divisible by 2, 3, or 5?

$$50 + 33 + 20 - 16 - 6 - 10 + 3$$



- (b) The Count is trying to choose his new 7-digit phone number. Since he is picky about his numbers, he wants it to have the property that the digits are non-increasing when read from left to right. For example, 9973220 is a valid phone number, but 9876545 is not. How many choices for a new phone number does he have?

99 8 7
 $\star \star \star | \star$
 $\star | \star | \star | \star$
 98 76

9 bars, 7 stars

9941000
 $\star \star |||| \star ||| \star$
 \star

- (c) Now instead of non-increasing, they must be strictly decreasing. So 9983220 is no longer valid, while 9753210 is valid. How many choices for a new phone number does he have now?

2 CS70: The Musical

Edward, one of the previous head TA's, has been hard at work on his latest project, *CS70: The Musical*. It's now time for him to select a cast, crew, and directing team to help him make his dream a reality.

- (a) First, Edward would like to select directors for his musical. He has received applications from $2n$ directors. Use this to provide a combinatorial argument that proves the following identity: $\binom{2n}{2} = 2\binom{n}{2} + n^2$
- (b) Edward would now like to select a crew out of n people. Use this to provide a combinatorial argument that proves the following identity: $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$ (this is called pascal's identity)
- (c) There are n actors lined up outside of Edward's office, and they would like a role in the musical (including a lead role). However, he is unsure of how many individuals he would like to cast. Use this to provide a combinatorial argument that proves the following identity: $\sum_{k=1}^n k \binom{n}{k} = n2^{n-1}$
- (d) Generalizing the previous part, provide a combinatorial argument that proves the following identity: $\sum_{k=j}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{j} = 2^{n-j} \binom{n}{j}$.

(a) LHS counts # of ways to select 2 directors out of $2n$.

RHS: Divide the $2n$ dirs into 2 groups of size n .

$\binom{n}{2}$ ways to select 2 within each of 2 groups,
yielding $2\binom{n}{2}$.



n^2 ways of choosing one dir from group 1 & another from group 2.

(b) LHS: Defⁿ

RHS:



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

(c) What are we counting?

of ways to make a team of size k out of n ppl
and select a lead.

LHS: ① select k .

② select k ppl out of n to cast: $\binom{n}{k}$

③ Choose 1 out of k to be lead actor: $\binom{k}{1} = k$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i \binom{n}{i}$$

RHS: out of n ppl, select 1 lead actor: $\binom{n}{1}$ ways.

2^{n-1} subsets of remaining ppl.

$$\therefore \text{Total \#} = n2^{n-1}$$

(2) LHS: ① Select k .

② Select k ppl out of n to cast: $\binom{n}{k}$

③ Choose j out of k to be lead actors: $\binom{k}{j}$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \binom{i}{j} \binom{n}{i}$$

RHS: out of n ppl, select j lead actors: $\binom{n}{j}$ ways.
 $n-j$ remaining.

2^{n-j} subsets of remaining ppl.

$$\therefore \text{Total \#} = \binom{n}{j} 2^{n-j}$$

3 Bit String

0,1

How many bit strings of length 10 contain at least five consecutive 0's?

$$\binom{6}{5} + \binom{5}{4} + \binom{4}{3} + \binom{3}{2} + \binom{2}{1} + \binom{1}{0}$$

$$6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1$$

$$\underbrace{00000}_{2^5} \text{ --- } \text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$$

$$\underbrace{1 \ 00000}_{2^4} \text{ --- } \text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$$

$$\text{---} \underbrace{1 \ 00000}_{2^4} \text{ --- } \text{---} \text{---}$$

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$$(6)2^5 = 192$$

$$2^5 + 5 \cdot 2^4 = 112$$

$$\underline{\underline{1 \ 1 \ 000 \ 00000}}$$

$$\underline{\underline{11 \ 00000}}$$