

1. (Countings) Count the followings.

- (a) How many permutations of the letters ABCDEFGH containing  $EF$ ?
- (b) How many permutations of the letters ABCDEFGH containing  $ABC$  and  $EFG$ ?
- (c) How many ways are there for 10 dogs and 6 cats to stand in a line so that no two cats stand next to each other?
- (d) How many subsets with an odd number of elements does a set with 8 elements have?
- (e) How many subsets with an even number of elements does a set with 8 elements have?
- (f) (Binomial theorem) Spoiler: (d) and (e) are the same. Is this a coincidence?

2. (Binomial theorem)

- (a) Find the coefficient of  $x^3y^2$  in  $(x + y)^5$ .
- (b) Find the coefficient of  $x^2y^2$  in  $(2x + 3y)^4$ .
- (c) Find the coefficient of  $x^4y^6$  in  $(3x^2 - y^3)^4$ .
- (d) Find the coefficient of  $x$  in  $(x + 1/x)^7$ .
- (e) Find the coefficient of  $x$  in  $(2x^2 - 1/x)^5$ .

3. Prove that, for  $0 \leq k \leq r \leq n$ , we have

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

- (a) by doing algebra, or
- (b) by combinatorial arguments (both sides count the same thing). (Hint: Color  $n$  balls with red, green, and blue,  $n-r$ ,  $r-k$ ,  $k$ -many for each color.)

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  - (f) (Binomial theorem) Spoiler: (d) and (e) are the same. Is this a coincidence?
- 

- (a) Consider  $EF$  as a single group. Then the number of permutations of  $A, B, C, D, EF, G, H$  is  $7!$ .
- (b) Consider  $ABC$  and  $EFG$  as groups. Then the number of permutations of  $ABC, D, EFG, H$  is  $4!$ .
- (c)  $10! \cdot {}_{11}P_6$ .
- (d)  ${}_8C_1 + {}_8C_3 + {}_8C_5 + {}_8C_7 = 8 + 56 + 56 + 8 = 128$ .
- (e)  ${}_8C_0 + {}_8C_2 + {}_8C_4 + {}_8C_6 + {}_8C_8 = 1 + 28 + 70 + 28 + 1 = 128$ .
- (f) It is not a coincidence. Expanding  $0 = (1 - 1)^8$  using binomial theorem gives the equality of (d) and (e), and the same holds for any number  $n$ , not just 8.

2. (Binomial theorem)

- (a) Find the coefficient of  $x^3y^2$  in  $(x + y)^5$ .
  - (b) Find the coefficient of  $x^2y^2$  in  $(2x + 3y)^4$ .
  - (c) Find the coefficient of  $x^4y^6$  in  $(3x^2 - y^3)^4$ .
  - (d) Find the coefficient of  $x$  in  $(x + 1/x)^7$ .
  - (e) Find the coefficient of  $x$  in  $(2x^2 - 1/x)^5$ .
- 

- (a)  ${}_5C_3 = 10$ .
- (b)  ${}_4C_2 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 3^2 = 216$ .
- (c)  ${}_4C_2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot (-1)^2 = 54$ .

(d) Binomial theorem gives

$$(x + 1/x)^7 = \sum_{k=0}^7 {}_7C_k x^k (1/x)^{7-k} = \sum_{k=0}^7 {}_7C_k x^{2k-7},$$

hence  $2k - 7 = 1 \Leftrightarrow k = 4$  gives the coefficient  ${}_7C_4 = 35$ .

(e) Binomial theorem gives

$$(2x^2 - 1/x)^5 = \sum_{k=0}^5 {}_5C_k (2x^2)^k (-1/x)^{5-k} = \sum_{k=0}^5 {}_5C_k 2^k (-1)^{5-k} x^{3k-5}.$$

Since  $3k - 5 = 1 \Leftrightarrow k = 8/3$  is not an integer, there's no  $x$  term in the expansion. In other words, the coefficient is 0.

3. Prove that, for  $0 \leq k \leq r \leq n$ , we have

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

- (a) by doing algebra, or  
 (b) by combinatorial arguments (both sides count the same thing). (Hint: Color  $n$  balls with red, green, and blue,  $n-r$ ,  $r-k$ ,  $k$ -many for each color.)
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(a)

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

- (b) As given in the hint, we count the number of ways to color  $n$  balls with  $(n-r)$  reds,  $(r-k)$  greens, and  $k$  blues. We can color them in the following orders:
- First choose  $(n-r)$  balls and color them reds ( $\binom{n}{n-r}$ ). Then choose  $k$  balls among  $r$  remaining balls and color them blue ( $\binom{r}{k}$ ). The other  $(r-k)$  balls automatically becomes green. This gives the left hand side.
  - Choose  $k$  balls and color them blue ( $\binom{n}{k}$ ). Then choose  $(r-k)$  balls among  $(n-k)$  remaining balls and color them green ( $\binom{n-k}{r-k}$ ). The other  $n-r$  balls automatically becomes red. This gives the right hand side.