

**3.1  
The Basics of Counting**

**3.2  
The Pigeonhole Principle**

**3.3  
Permutations & Combinations**

**3.5  
Generalized Permutations & Combinations**

**3.6  
Generating Permutations & Combinations**

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# Agenda

- Basic Counting Principles
  - Multiplication / Addition Principle
  - Inclusion-Exclusion Principle
  - Permutation / Combination
- Distributing Objects into Boxes
- Generating Permutations & Combinations

# Why Counting?

- The **brute force attack** is the **most common** way (time consumed but effective) in **hacking**
- How security of your password?
  - 5 digits at most
  - Each digit either 0-9, a-z or A-Z
- How many times a hacker need to try in the worst situation?



# Why Counting?

- Counting problems arise throughout **mathematics** and **computer science**
  - For example
    - the number of experiment outcomes
    - the number of operations in an algorithm (time complexity)

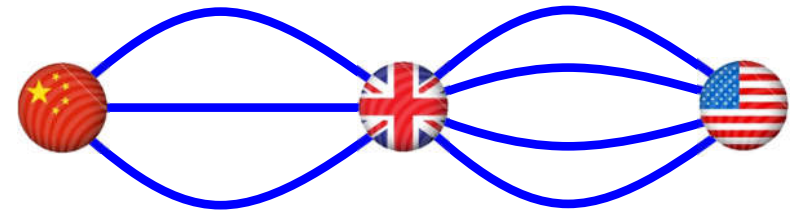
# Basic Counting Principle

- Multiplication / Addition Principle
- Inclusion-Exclusion Principle
- Permutation / Combination

## Basic Counting Principles

# Multiplication (Product) Rule

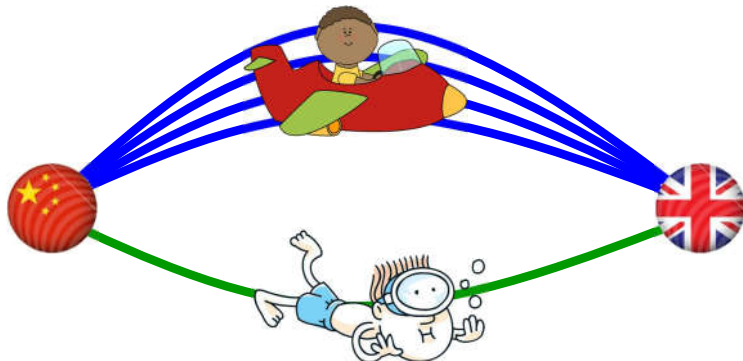
- If a task can be constructed in  $t$  successive steps and step  $i$  can be done in  $n_i$  ways, where  $i = 1 \dots t$ , then the number of different possible ways is  $n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_m$



## Basic Counting Principles

# Addition (Sum) Rule

- If a task can be done in one of  $n_1$  ways, in one of  $n_2$  ways, ..., or in one of  $n_m$  ways, where all sets of  $n_j$  ways are disjoint, then the number of ways is  $n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_m$



## Basic Counting Principles: Multiplication/Addition Principle

# Example 1

- In 1999, a virus named "**Melissa**" is created by **David L. Smith** based on a **Microsoft Word macro**
- Melissa sends an email "Here is that document you asked for, don't show it to anybody else." to the **top 50 people** in the address book



- How many emails are sent after **4 iterations**?
    - 1<sup>st</sup> iteration: **1**
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration: **1 x 50 = 50**
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration: **50 x 50 = 2,500**
    - 4<sup>th</sup> iteration: **2500 x 50 = 6,250,000** (By Multiplication Rule)
- 6,377,551** (By Addition Rule)

## Example 2

- A programming language **Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code (BASIC)**
- GW-BASIC (1986) in MS-DOS

```
GW-BASIC 3.22
(C) Copyright Microsoft 1983,1984,1985,1986,1987
60300 Bytes free
Ok
10 PRINT "Hello, world!"
20 END
_
LIST 2RUN 3LOAD 4SAVE 5CONT 6"LPT1 7TRON 8TROFF 9KEY @SCREEN
```

## Example 2

- In **BASIC**, the requirements of a **variable name**
  - A string of 1 or 2 alphanumeric characters (a-z or 0-9)
  - Begin with a letter
  - Uppercase and lowercase letters are not distinguished
  - Different from the 5 strings of two characters that are reserved
- How many **different variable names** are there in this version of BASIC?

- A string of 1 or 2 alphanumeric characters (number & letter)
- Begin with a letter
- Uppercase and lowercase letters are not distinguished
- Different from the 5 strings of two characters that are reserved

### Number of variables names containing 1 character ( $V_1$ )

- $V_1 = 26$ , because a one-character variable name must be a letter

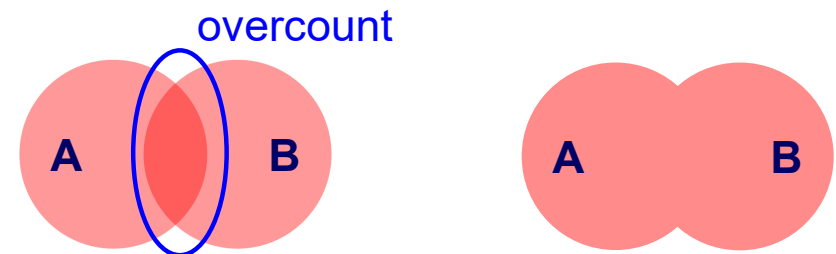
### Number of variables names containing 2 characters ( $V_2$ )

- For  $V_2$ , by the product rule there are  $26 \times 36$  strings of length two that begin with a letter and end with an alphanumeric character
- However, five of these are excluded,  $V_2 = 26 \times 36 - 5 = 931$

Total number is  $V_1 + V_2 = 26 + 931 = 957$

## Inclusion-Exclusion Principle

- Suppose that a task can be done in **A** or in **B** ways
- But **some** of the set of **A** ways to do the task are the **same** as some of the **B** ways to do the task

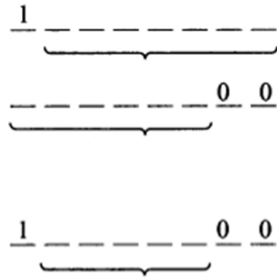


- Avoid the overcount

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$

## Example 1

- How many bit strings of length 8, either start with a 1 bit or end with the two bits 00?
- Start with 1:**  $2^7 = 128$  ways
- End with 00:**  $2^6 = 64$  ways
- Some of these strings are the same
  - The bit strings of length eight start with a 1 bit and end with the two bits 00
  - $2^5 = 32$
- $128 + 64 - 32 = 160$**



## Example 2

- A computer company receives **350** applications
- Suppose that
  - 220** majored in computer science
  - 147** majored in business
  - 51** majored both in computer science and in business
- How many of these applicants majored neither in computer science nor in business?
- Let  $A_1$  : the set of students majored in computer science  
 $A_2$  : the set of students majored in business
- $|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2| = 220 + 147 - 51 = 316$
- $350 - 316 = 34$**  of the applicants majored neither in computer science nor in business

## Permutation

- A **permutation** of a set of **distinct  $n$  objects** is an ordered arrangement of these objects

$$\underbrace{\quad}_{1^{\text{st}}} \underbrace{\quad}_{2^{\text{nd}}} \dots \underbrace{\quad}_{r^{\text{th}}} \dots \underbrace{\quad}_{n^{\text{th}}}$$

$$n \cdot (n-1) \cdot \dots \cdot (n-r+1) \cdot \dots \cdot 1 = n!$$



### General Case

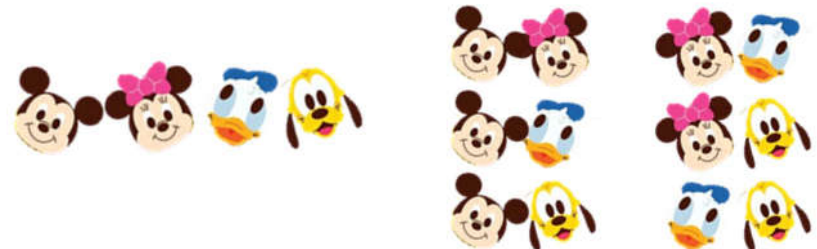
The ordering of  $r$  elements selected from  $n$  distinct elements is called  **$r$ -permutation**

$${}_n P_r = P(n, r) = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

## Combination

- The **unordered selection** of  $r$  elements from  $n$  distinct elements is called  **$r$ -combination**
  - It is a subset of the set with  $r$  elements

$${}_n C_r = C(n, r) = \binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$



# Combination

- $C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$
- **Algebraic Proof**

$$\begin{aligned}
 C(n, r) &= \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} \\
 &= \frac{n!}{(n-(n-r))!(n-r)!} \\
 &= C(n, n-r)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Combination



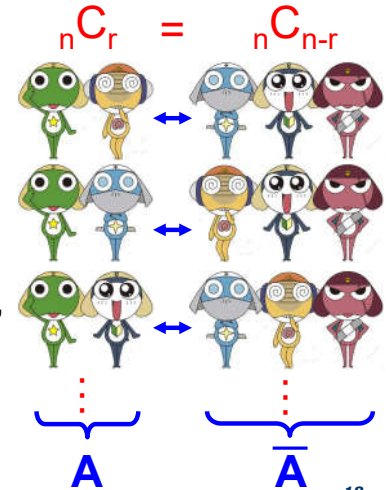
- **Combinatorial proof**

- Using counting arguments to prove that both sides of the **identity count** the same objects **but in different ways**

- Using combinatorial proof for  $C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$

Suppose that **S** is a **set with n elements**.

Every **subset A** of **S** with **r elements** corresponds to a **subset of S** with **n - r elements**, namely **A**. Consequently,  $C(n, r) = C(n, n - r)$



# Permutation / Combination

- **Proof**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{6} \quad \quad \quad \text{3} \quad \quad \quad \text{2} \\
 & {}_3P_2 = {}_3C_2 \times {}_2P_2
 \end{aligned}$$

Number of r-permutations of n elements      Number of r-permutations of r elements

$$P(n, r) = \underbrace{C(n, r)}_{\text{Number of r-combinations of n elements}} \cdot \underbrace{P(r, r)}_{\text{Number of r-permutations of r elements}}$$

$$\frac{P(n, r)}{P(r, r)} = \frac{n!/(n-r)!}{r!/(r-r)!} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

# Example

- Your class has **10 students**. How many different ways the committee can be set up:
  1. A committee of **four**  ${}_{10}C_4$
  2. A committee of **four** and **one** person is to serve as **chairperson**  ${}_{10}C_4 \cdot {}_4C_1$
  3. A committee of **four** and **two** **co-chairpersons**  ${}_{10}C_4 \cdot {}_4C_2$
  4. **Two committees**:  ${}_{10}C_4 \cdot {}_4C_2 \cdot {}_{10}C_3 \cdot {}_3C_1$ 
    - One with **four** members with **two** **co-chairs**
    - One with **three** members and a **single chair**

# Pascal's Identity and Triangle

## Pascal's Identity

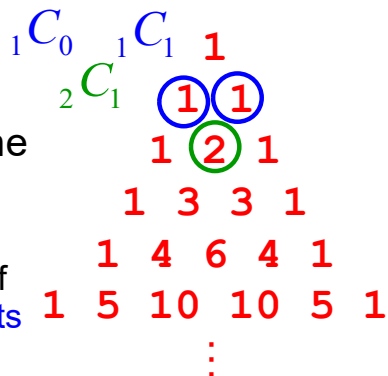
Let  $n$  and  $k$  be positive integers with  $n \geq k$ . Then

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

## Pascal's triangle

A geometric arrangement of the binomial coefficients in a triangle

- binomial coefficient is the sum of two adjacent binomial coefficients in the previous row



# Pascal's Identity and Triangle

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

- Suppose  $T$  is a set containing  $n + 1$  elements
- Let  $a$  be an element in  $T$ , and let  $S = T - \{a\}$
- There are  $\binom{n+1}{k}$  subsets of  $T$  containing  $k$  elements
- $\binom{n+1}{k}$  subsets contains either

- $\binom{n}{k-1}$   $k - 1$  elements of  $S$  and  $a$ , or
- $\binom{n}{k}$   $k$  elements of  $S$  and not  $a$

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



# Vandermonde's Identity

## Theorem: Vandermonde's Identity

- Let  $m$ ,  $n$ , and  $r$  be nonnegative integers with  $r$  not exceeding either  $m$  or  $n$ . Then

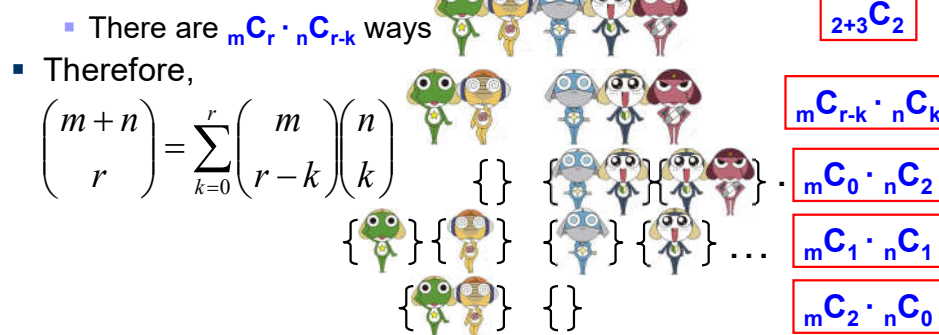
$$\binom{m+n}{r} = \sum_{k=0}^r \binom{m}{r-k} \binom{n}{k}$$

# Vandermonde's Identity

$$\binom{m+n}{r} = \sum_{k=0}^r \binom{m}{r-k} \binom{n}{k}$$

## Proof

- Suppose:  $m$  items in a first set and  $n$  items in a second set
- The total number of ways to pick  $r$  elements from the union of these sets is  $\binom{m+n}{r}$
- Another way is to pick  $k$  elements from the first set and then  $r - k$  elements from the second set, where  $k$  is an integer with  $0 \leq k \leq r$



# Theorem of Binomial Coefficients

## Theorem

Let  $n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integers with  $r \leq n$ .  
Then

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

# Theorem of Binomial Coefficients

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

$4+1 \binom{4+1}{1+1}$	$1 \binom{1}{1}$	$2 \binom{2}{1}$	$3 \binom{3}{1}$	$4 \binom{4}{1}$
00011	11000	01100	00110	00011
00101	10100	01010	01010	00101
00110		10010	01001	01001
01001			10001	10001
01010				
01100				
10001				
10010				
10100				
11000				

consider the possible locations of the final 1

# Theorem of Binomial Coefficients

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

## Proof:

- Consider  $\binom{n+1}{r+1}$  counts the bit strings of length  $n+1$  containing  $r+1$  ones

$010100110 \dots 0$  contain  $r+1$  1s  
└──────────────────┘  
 $n+1$  bits

- Another counting way is to consider the possible locations, named  $k$ , of the final 1
- $k$  should equal to  $r+1, r+2, \dots, \text{or } n+1$ 
  - $r+1 \leq k \leq n+1$

$01110 \dots 10100$   
└──────────────────┘ ○  
 $k-1$  bits contain  $r$  1s

# Theorem of Binomial Coefficients

$$\binom{n+1}{r+1} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

$01110 \dots 10100$   
└──────────────────┘ ○  
 $k-1$  bits contain  $r$  1s

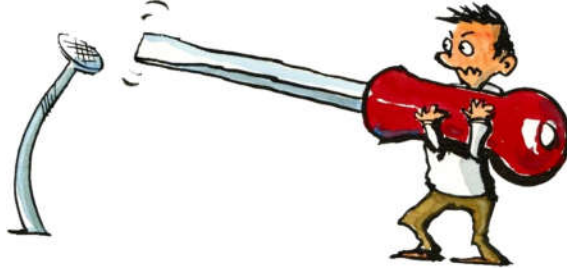
- Consider the first  $k-1$  bits
  - In this  $k-1$  bits, there should be  $r$  1s
  - There are  $\binom{k-1}{r}$  ways
  - Recall,  $r+1 \leq k \leq n+1$

$$\sum_{k=r+1}^{n+1} \binom{k-1}{r} = \sum_{j=r}^n \binom{j}{r}$$

By the change of variables  $j = k - 1$

# Counting Problems

- How to apply what you have learn to solve the counting problems?
  - Multiplication / Addition Principle
  - Inclusion-Exclusion Principle
  - Permutation / Combination
  - List all the possibilities



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# Counting Problems



- Many counting problems can be treated as the ways **objects** can be placed into **boxes**

Distinguishable (labeled)

Distinguishable (labeled)

Indistinguishable (unlabeled)

Objects

Boxes


Indistinguishable (unlabeled)

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# Counting Problems



- General Algorithm
  - First **check whether** “Permutation / Combination” can be applied, otherwise, you need to “List all the possibilities”
  - Try to **break down** the problem into a subpart by using “Multiplication / Addition Principle” and “Inclusion-Exclusion Principle”

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## Counting Problems

### Example 1



- There are five students (A, B, C, D & E) How many ways are there to arrange them:
  - into 5 seats? **5!**
  - into 5 seats and A and B sit next to each other?  **$2 \times 4!$**  (AB and BA)
  - into 5 seats and A and B not sit next to each other?  **$5! - 2 \times 4!$**
  - into a round table?  **$5! / 5$**  (each pattern counts 5 times)

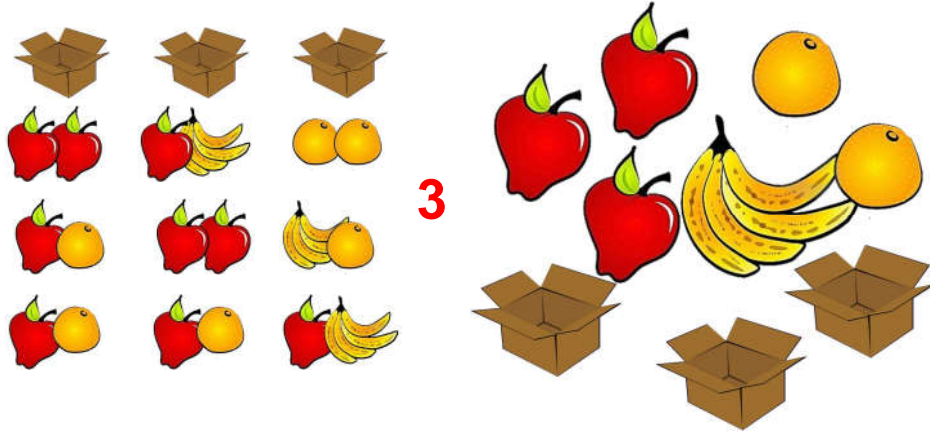
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# Example 2



- How many ways to put 3 apples, 2 oranges and 1 banana to 3 indistinguishable boxes and each box contains 2 items?



# Example 3



- How many ways are there to select 5 bills from a cash box containing \$1 bills, \$2 bills, \$5 bills, \$10 bills, \$20 bills, \$50 bills, and \$100 bills?

Assume:

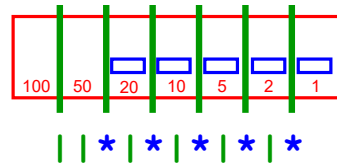
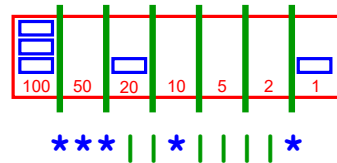
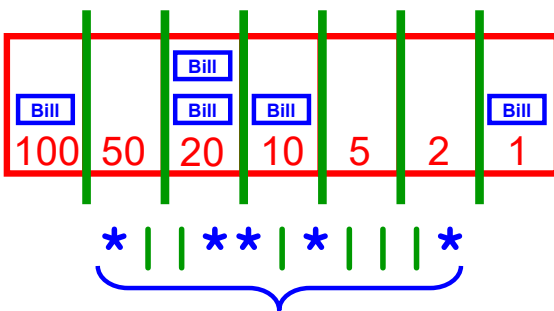
- Order of selecting does not matter
- Bills of each denomination are indistinguishable
- At least five bills of each type



# Example 3



Select five bills from \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100



7 - 1 = 6 bars (lines between 7 boxes)  
 5 stars (5 bills)  
 Total, 11 characters

$${}_{11}C_5 = 11! / (5!6!) = 462$$

# Example 4



- How many solutions does the equation  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 11$  have?

- where  $x_1, x_2,$  and  $x_3$  are nonnegative integers.

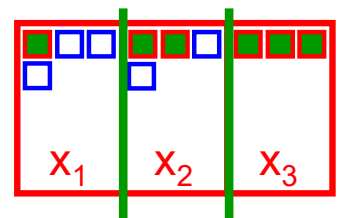
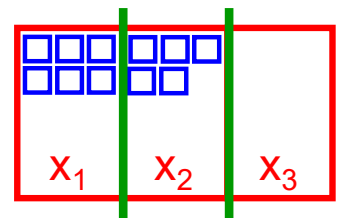
$$n = 3, r = 11$$

$${}_{11+3-1}C_{3-1} = 78$$

- where  $x_1, x_2,$  and  $x_3$  integers and  $x_1 \geq 1, x_2 \geq 2,$  and  $x_3 \geq 3.$

$$n = 3, r = 11 - 6 = 5$$

$${}_{5+3-1}C_{3-1} = 21$$



■ unmovable

## Example 5

- How many ways are there to pack 6 copies of the same book into 4 identical boxes, where a box can contain as many as six books?
- By listing all the possibilities
 

6, 0, 0, 0	3, 3, 0, 0
5, 1, 0, 0	3, 2, 1, 0
4, 2, 0, 0	3, 1, 1, 1
4, 1, 1, 0	2, 2, 2, 0
	2, 2, 1, 1
- There are 9 ways**

## Generating Permutations & Combinations

- Sometimes permutations or combinations need to be generated but not just counted
  - E.g. all 3-combination for the set  $\{a, b, \dots, e\}$
  - $\{a, b, c\}$ ,  $\{a, b, d\}$ ,  $\{a, b, e\}$ ,  $\{a, c, d\}$ , ...
- How can we **systemically generate** all the combinations of the elements of a finite set?

## Generating Combinations

- Recall that the bit string **representation** corresponding to a subset
  - For  $k^{\text{th}}$  position:
    - 1 :  $a_k$  is in the subset
    - 0 :  $a_k$  is not in the subset



### Generating Combinations

## Next Larger Bit String

- Algorithm: Generating the **next bit string**  $(b_{n-1}, b_{n-2}, \dots, b_1, b_0)$ , where the current bit string is not equal to 11...11)
  1.  $i = 0$
  2. while  $b_i = 1$ 
    - 2.1  $b_i = 0$
    - 2.2  $i = i + 1$
  3.  $b_i = 1$
- Treat it as adding "1" to a binary number**

## Example

- Find out the next combination using next larger bit string algorithm for



1.  $i = 0$
2. while  $b_i = 1$ 
  - 2.1  $b_i = 0$
  - 2.2  $i = i + 1$
3.  $b_i = 1$

- Next:



## Next Larger r-combinations

- Algorithm: Generating the next larger r-combinations after  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r\}$  by given a set  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <math>i = r</math></li> <li>2. while <math>a_i = n - r + i</math> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 <math>i = i - 1</math></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <math>a_i = a_i + 1</math></li> <li>4. for <math>j = i + 1</math> to <math>r</math> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 <math>a_j = a_i + j - i</math></li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <div style="font-size: 2em;">}</div> | <p>locate the last <math>a_i</math><br/>ie <math>a_i \neq n - r + 1</math></p> <p>add 1 to <math>a_i</math></p> <p>From <math>a_{i+1}</math> to <math>a_r</math><br/>Assign new values</p> | $\{a_1, a_2\}$<br>$\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$   |
|  |                                      |  | $\{1, 2\}$<br>$\{1, 3\}$<br>$\{1, 4\}$<br>$\{2, 3\}$<br>$\{2, 4\}$<br>$\{3, 4\}$ |

## Example 1

- Find the next larger 4-combination of the set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  after  $\{1, 2, 5, 6\}$

1.  $i = r$
2. while  $a_i = n - r + i$ 
  - 2.1  $i = i - 1$
3.  $a_i = a_i + 1$
4. for  $j = i + 1$  to  $r$ 
  - 4.1  $a_j = a_i + j - i$

- $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 5, \text{ and } a_4 = 6$
- The last  $a_i$  such that  $a_i \neq n - r + 1$  is  $a_2$  ( $i = 2$ )

### Next larger 4-combination

$$a_4 = 6 = 6 - 4 + 4$$

$$a_3 = 5 = 6 - 4 + 3$$

$$a_2 = 2 \neq 6 - 4 + 2$$

- $a_2 = a_2 + 1 = 2 + 1 = 3$
- $a_3 = a_2 + j - i = 3 + 3 - 2 = 4$
- $a_4 = a_2 + j - i = 3 + 4 - 2 = 5$

- Hence :  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$

## Example 2

- List all 3-combination for the set  $\{a, b, \dots, e\}$

- Assume  $\{a, b, \dots, e\} = \{1, 2, \dots, 5\}$
- For all  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. $\{a, b, c\}$ | 6. $\{a, d, e\}$  |
| 2. $\{a, b, d\}$ | 7. $\{b, c, d\}$  |
| 3. $\{a, b, e\}$ | 8. $\{b, c, e\}$  |
| 4. $\{a, c, d\}$ | 9. $\{b, d, e\}$  |
| 5. $\{a, c, e\}$ | 10. $\{c, d, e\}$ |

1.  $i = r$
2. while  $a_i = n - r + i$ 
  - 2.1  $i = i - 1$
3.  $a_i = a_i + 1$
4. for  $j = i + 1$  to  $r$ 
  - 4.1  $a_j = a_i + j - i$

# Generating Permutations

- Any set can be placed in one-to-one correspondence with the set  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ 
  - The permutations of any set of  $n$  elements can be listed by generating the permutations of the  $n$  smallest positive integers
- The algorithms based on the lexicographic (or dictionary) ordering is discussed

# Generating Permutations

- Algorithm: Generating the **next permutation** of  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  in Lexicographic Order by given permutation is  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , where  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  is not equal to  $(n, n-1, \dots, 2, 1)$ 
    - $j = n - 1$
    - while  $a_j > a_{j+1}$ 
      - $j := j - 1$
    - $k = n$
    - while  $a_j > a_k$ 
      - $k = k - 1$
    - interchange  $a_j$  and  $a_k$
    - $r = n$
    - $s = j + 1$
    - while  $r > s$ 
      - interchange  $a_r$  and  $a_s$
      - $r = r - 1$  and  $s = s + 1$
- $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{2. while } a_j > a_{j+1} \\ \text{2.1 } j := j - 1 \end{array} \right\} j \text{ is the largest subscript with } a_j < a_{j+1}$
- $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{4. while } a_j > a_k \\ \text{4.1 } k = k - 1 \end{array} \right\} k \text{ is the largest subscript with } a_j < a_k$
- $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{6. } r = n \\ \text{7. } s = j + 1 \\ \text{8. while } r > s \\ \text{8.1 interchange } a_r \text{ and } a_s \\ \text{8.2 } r = r - 1 \text{ and } s = s + 1 \end{array} \right\} \text{Sort the number after the } j^{\text{th}} \text{ position in ascending order}$
- $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$   
 $\{1, 2, 3\}$
- 
- $\{1, 2, 3\}$   
 $\{1, 3, 2\}$   
 $\{2, 1, 3\}$   
 $\{2, 3, 1\}$   
 $\{3, 1, 2\}$   
 $\{3, 2, 1\}$

## Generating Permutations

### Example

- What is the **next permutation** in lexicographic order after **362541**?
- The **last pair** of  $a_j$  and  $a_{j+1}$  where  $a_j < a_{j+1}$  is  **$a_3 = 2$  and  $a_4 = 5$**
- The **least integer** to the right of 2 that is **greater than 2** is  **$a_s = 4$**
- Exchange  $a_j$  and  $a_s$ 
  - Hence, 4 is placed in the third position
- 5, 2, 1** are **placed in order** in the last three positions
- Hence, the next permutation is **364125**

## Generating Permutations

### r-Permutations

- How can we list all  $r$ -permutations from a set  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ ?
  - r-combination**  
 $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$   
 $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
  - Use “next larger  $r$ -combinations” lists all  $r$ -combinations
    - $\{1, 2, 3\}$  **n-permutation**  $\{1, 2, 3\}$
    - $\{1, 2, 4\}$   $\{1, 3, 2\}$
  - For each  $r$ -combination, use  $n$ -permutation to list all permutations
    - $\{1, 3, 4\}$   $\{2, 1, 3\}$
    - $\{2, 3, 4\}$   $\{2, 3, 1\}$
    - $\{3, 1, 2\}$
    - $\{3, 2, 1\}$

# Pigeonhole Principle

- Suppose that a flock of 26 pigeons flies into a set of 25 pigeonholes to roost
- What can we conclude?



# Pigeonhole Principle

- A least one of these 25 pigeonholes must have at least two pigeons in it
  - Because there are 26 pigeons but only 25 pigeonholes
- This is Pigeonhole Principle



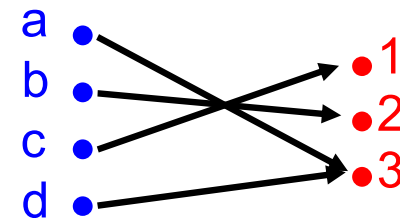
# Pigeonhole Principle

- Pigeonhole Principle  
If  $k$  is a positive integer and  $k + 1$  or more objects are placed into  $k$  boxes, then there is at least one box containing two or more of the objects
  - Also called the Dirichlet Drawer Principle  
the nineteenth-century German mathematician Dirichlet

- Proof by contraposition ( $p \rightarrow q \equiv \neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ )
  - Suppose that none of the  $k$  boxes contains more than one object
  - Then the total number of objects would be at most  $k$
  - This is a contradiction

# Pigeonhole Principle

- Corollary  
A function  $f$  from a set with  $k + 1$  or more elements to a set with  $k$  elements is not one-to-one



# Pigeonhole Principle

## Example 1

How many words we should have if there must be at least two that begin with the same letter?

- 27 English words, because 26 letters in the English alphabet

## Example 2

How many people we should have if there must be at least two with the same birthday?

- 367 people because 366 possible birthdays

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# Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

**Pigeonhole Principle** states that if  $k + 1$  or more objects are placed into  $k$  boxes, then there is at least one box containing two or more of the objects

How about if we have

- $2k + 1$  objects?
- $3k + 2$  object?
- $nk + 1$  object?

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# Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

## Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

If  $N$  objects are placed into  $k$  boxes, then there is at least one box containing at least  $\lceil N/k \rceil$  objects

## Proof by Contradiction

- Suppose that none of the boxes contains more than  $\lceil N/k \rceil - 1$  objects
- The total number of objects is at most

$$k \left( \left\lceil \frac{N}{k} \right\rceil - 1 \right) < k \left( \left( \frac{N}{k} + 1 \right) - 1 \right) = N \quad \boxed{\lceil N/k \rceil < (N/k) + 1}$$

- This is a contradiction because there are a total of  $N$  objects

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# Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

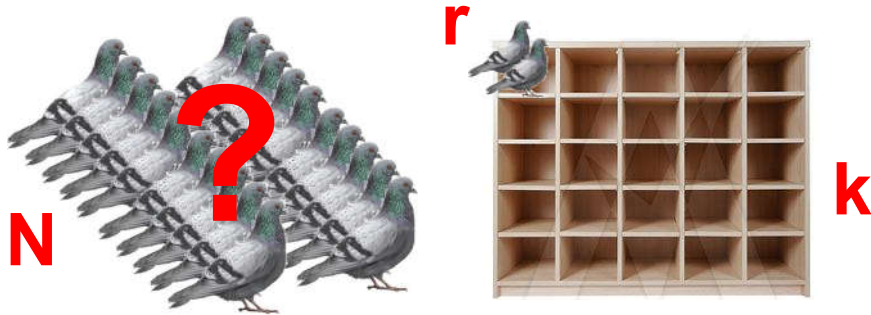
A common type of problem asks for the minimum number of objects such that at least  $r$  of these objects must be in one of  $k$  boxes when these objects are distributed among the boxes



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# Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

- According to generalized pigeonhole principle, when we have  $N$  objects, there must be **at least  $r$  objects** in **one of the  $k$  boxes** as long as  $\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$ 
  - $N$ , where  $N = k(r - 1) + 1$ , is the **smallest integer** satisfying  $\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$



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# Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

- $\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$ ,  $N = k(r - 1) + 1$ , is the **smallest integer** satisfying  $\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$
- Could a smaller value of  $N$  suffice?
- No**
  - If  $k(r - 1)$  objects
  - We could put  $r - 1$  of them in **each** of the  $k$  boxes
  - No** box would have **at least  $r$  objects**

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## Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

### Example 1

$$\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$$

$$N = k(r - 1) + 1$$

- How many people out of 100 people were born in the same month?
- $N = 100$
- $k = 12$
- $r = ?$
- $\lceil 100/12 \rceil = 9$  who were born in the same month

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## Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

### Example 2

$$\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$$

$$N = k(r - 1) + 1$$

- What is the least number of area codes needed to guarantee that the 25 million phones in a state can be assigned distinct 10-digit telephone numbers?
- Assume that telephone numbers are of the form  $NXX-NXX-XXXX$ , where the first three digits form the area code,  $N$  represents a digit from 2 to 9 inclusive, and  $X$  represents any digit.
- Different phone numbers for  $NXX-XXXX$  is  $8 \times 10^6 = 8,000,000$
- $N = 25,000,000$ ,  $k = 8,000,000$
- At least  $\lceil 25,000,000 / 8,000,000 \rceil = 4$  of them must have identical phone numbers
- Hence, at least four area codes are required

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### Example 3

$$\lceil N/k \rceil \geq r$$

$$N = k(r - 1) + 1$$

- Show that among any  $n + 1$  positive integers not exceeding  $2n$  there must be an integer that divides one of the other integers
- Assume we have  $n + 1$  integers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n+1}$
- Let  $a_j = 2^{k_j} q_j$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n + 1$ , where  $k_j$  is a nonnegative integer and  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{n+1}$  are all odd positive integers less than  $2n$
- According to pigeonhole principle, because only  $n$  odd positive integers less than  $2n$ , two of the integers  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{n+1}$  must be equal
- Let  $q$  be the common value of  $q_i$  and  $q_j$ , then,  $a_i = 2^{k_i} q$  and  $a_j = 2^{k_j} q$
- It follows that if  $k_i < k_j$ , then  $a_i$  divides  $a_j$ ; otherwise  $a_j$  divides  $a_i$

$$\frac{a_j}{a_i} = \frac{2^{k_j} q}{2^{k_i} q} = 2^{k_j - k_i}$$

### Applications: Subsequence

- Suppose that  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N$  is a sequence of real numbers.
- A subsequence of this sequence is a sequence of the form  $a_{i_1}, a_{i_2}, \dots, a_{i_m}$  where  $1 < i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_m < N$

### Example

- Example:
  - $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_5 = 5, 8, 2, 3, 1$
  - 5, 3, 1 is a subsequence?  $a_1, a_4, a_5$  ✓
  - 8, 1 is a subsequence?  $a_2, a_5$  ✓
  - 2, 3, 5, 8 is a subsequence?  $a_3, a_4, a_1, a_2$  ✗

### Applications: Subsequence

- A sequence is called strictly increasing if each term is larger than the one that precedes it
- A sequence is called strictly decreasing if each term is smaller than the one that precedes it



# Applications: Subsequence

## Theorem

Every sequence of  $n^2 + 1$  distinct real numbers contains a subsequence of length  $n + 1$  that is either strictly increasing or strictly decreasing

## Example

- Given a sequence: 8, 11, 9, 1, 4, 6, 12, 10, 5, 7
  - 10 term =  $3^2 + 1$
- What is the length of the longest increasing / decreasing subsequences?  $n+1 = 4$ 
  - Increasing sequence
    - 1, 4, 6, 12
    - 1, 4, 6, 7
    - 1, 4, 6, 10
    - 1, 4, 5, 7
  - Decreasing sequence
    - 11, 9, 6, 5

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# Applications: Subsequence Proof

- Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n^2+1}$  be a sequence of  $n^2 + 1$  distinct real numbers
- Associate an ordered pair  $(i_k, d_k)$  to the term  $a_k$ , where
  - $i_k$  is the length of the longest increasing subsequence starting at  $a_k$
  - $d_k$  is the length of the longest decreasing subsequence starting at  $a_k$

$$\begin{matrix} \textcircled{5}, & 8, & 2, & \textcircled{3}, & 1 \\ (i_1, d_1) = & (2, 3) & & (i_4, d_4) = & (1, 2) \end{matrix}$$

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# Applications: Subsequence Proof

$$\begin{matrix} \textcircled{5}, 8, 2, \textcircled{3}, 1 \\ (2, 3) \quad (1, 2) \end{matrix}$$

- Suppose no increasing or decreasing subsequences is longer than  $n$
- $i_k$  and  $d_k$  are both positive integers less than or equal to  $n$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n^2 + 1$
- By the product rule,  $n^2$  possible ordered pairs for  $(i_k, d_k)$
- By the pigeonhole principle two of  $n^2 + 1$  ordered pairs are equal
- Therefore, there exist terms  $a_s$  and  $a_t$ , with  $s < t$  such that  $i_s = i_t$  and  $d_s = d_t$

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# Applications: Subsequence Proof

$$\dots, a_s, \dots, a_t, \dots$$

There exist terms  $a_s$  and  $a_t$ , with  $s < t$  such that  $i_s = i_t$  and  $d_s = d_t$

$$\begin{matrix} \textcircled{5}, 8, 2, \textcircled{3}, 1 \\ (2, 3) \quad (1, 2) \end{matrix}$$

- We will show that this is impossible
- Because the terms of the sequence are distinct, either  $a_s < a_t$  or  $a_s > a_t$
- If  $a_s < a_t$ , then, because  $i_s = i_t$ , an increasing subsequence of length  $i_t + 1$  can be built starting at  $a_s$ , by taking  $a_s$  followed by an increasing subsequence of length  $i_t$  beginning at  $a_t$
- This is a contradiction
- Similarly, if  $a_s > a_t$ , it can be shown that  $d_s$  must be greater than  $d_t$ , which is a contradiction

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# Applications: Ramsey Theory

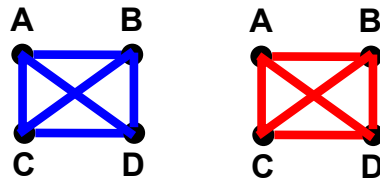
- **Ramsey theory**, after the English mathematician F. Ramsey, deals with the **distribution of subsets of elements of sets**

- Two people either **friends** or **enemies**



- **Mutual Friend/Enemies**

A B C D are mutual friends/enemies

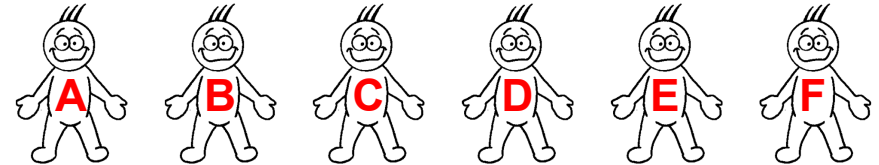


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## Applications: Ramsey Theory

### Example 1

- Assume that in a **group of six people**
- Show that there are **either three mutual friends** or **three mutual enemies** in the group

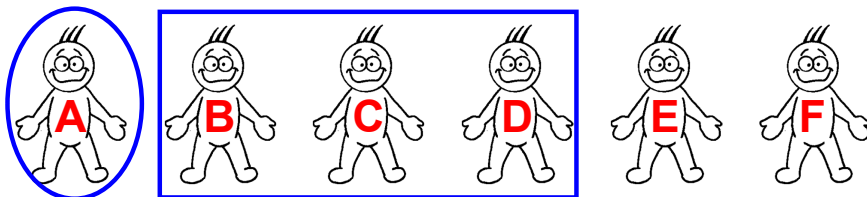


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## Applications: Ramsey Theory

### Example 1

- Let **A** be **one of the six people**
- According to pigeonhole principle ( $\lceil 5/2 \rceil = 3$ ), **A** **at least** has **three friends**, or **three enemies**
- **Former Case:** suppose that **B, C, and D** are friends
  - If any **two** of these **three people** are **friends**, then these two and **A** form a group of **three mutual friends**
  - **Otherwise**, **B, C, and D** form a set of **three mutual enemies**
- **Similar to the latter case**



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# Applications: Ramsey Theory

- **Ramsey number  $R(m, n)$**

- **The minimum number of people** at a party such that there are **either  $m$  mutual friends or  $n$  mutual enemies**, assuming that every pair of people at the party are friends or enemies
- **$m$  and  $n$**  are positive integers **greater than or equal to 2**

- **Example**

- What is  **$R(3, 3)$** ?
  - Answer should be **6**
  - In a group of five people where every two people are friends or enemies, there may not be three mutual friends or three mutual enemies

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# Applications: Ramsey Theory

- 5 people cannot guarantee having 3 mutual friends/enemies

