

# COMBINATIONS & PERMUTATIONS etc

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$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

does order matter?

YES

NO

YES

?

?

is repetition  
allowed?

NO

?

?

$n$  items,  $k$  choices : repetition allowed, order matters

order?

repetition?

YES	NO
YES	?
NO	?

$h$  hats,  $t$  shirts,  $s$  shoes,  $j$  jeans a simple multiplication rule

colors

• how many ways to dress?

choice 1  $h \cdot t \cdot s \cdot j$  choice 4

• what if only 2 hats?  $\rightarrow n = 2$  items to choose from

$\hookrightarrow$  on 7 consecutive days?  $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$

$k = 7$  choices to make: choice 1 choice 7

$\hookrightarrow$  same as 7 people, 2 hats each

repetition allowed, order matters.

$\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \neq \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$

$$2^7 = n^k$$

	YES	NO
repetition?	$n^k$	?
order?	?	?

$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

↳ repetition allowed, order matters

	YES	order?	NO
YES	$n^k$	?	
repetition?			
NO	?		?

- how many binary numbers have length  $k$ ?

e.g., 100110, 000101, 000000  
 $k=6$

- how many binary numbers have length  $\leq k$ ?

e.g., 100110, 101, 0  
 $k=6$   $< k$

$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

↳ repetition allowed, order matters

		order?	
		YES	NO
repetition?	YES	$n^k$	?
	NO	?	?

- how many binary numbers have length  $k$ ?

e.g., 100110, 000101, 000000

→  $2^k$

$k$  ordered positions, for each we can choose 0 or 1

↳ like hats & days

$n=2$   
can repeat choices

• how many binary numbers have length  $\leq k$ ?

↳ context: no padding with 0's.

e.g.,  $\underbrace{1001}_{k=6}$ ,  $101$ ,  $0$   
 $< k$

consider lengths  $k, k-1, k-2, \text{etc}$  → disjoint counts, can add results

↳ for each scenario, start with 1.

but don't forget 0

e.g.,

length

$k=4$ :  $1???$

$3$ :  $1??$

$2$ :  $1?$

$1$ :  $1\{\}$

$0$ :  $\{\}\{\}$

$2^k$   
numbers 16

$2^3$  8

$2^2$  4

$2^1$  2

$2^0$  1

1 1

combine with nothing →

no 1's, combine with nothing →

$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

↳ repetition allowed, order matters

		order?	
		YES	NO
repetition?	YES	$n^k$	?
	NO	?	?

- how many decimal numbers have length  $k$ ?  $\rightarrow 10^k$

$k$  ordered positions, for each we can choose  $0, 1, 2, \dots, 9$   $n=10$

• how many decimal numbers have length 0?  $\rightarrow 10^k = 10^0 = 1$ ?

↳ choosing from  $n$  hats on 0 consecutive days. (absurd? 0? 1?)

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Is it just a phrasing issue? A matter of definition?

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Given the set of all decimal strings, how many elements have length 0?

↳ 1 empty string

How many ways can we form an ordered list of 0 items?

↳ 1 empty list

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know what choices  
are valid  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if numbers can't have length 0, require } k \geq 1 \\ \text{for strings, lists, sets, } k=0 \text{ is ok} \end{array} \right.$



$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

↳ repetition allowed, order matters

		order?	
		YES	NO
repetition?	YES	$n^k$	?
	NO	?	?

- how many ways to assign  $k$  tasks to a group of  $n$  people?

- each task is handled by one person.

- ↳ first decide who does task 1, then decide for task 2, etc

- one person could handle multiple tasks.

- ↳ the task group (committee) has  $\leq k$  people

- how many ways to assign 0 tasks to a group of  $n \geq 1$  people?  $\rightarrow n^0 = 1$

- how many ways to assign 0 tasks to a group of 0 people?  $\rightarrow 0^0 = 1$

doing nothing counts as something

combinatorics definition

$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

		does order matter?	
		YES	NO
is repetition allowed?	YES	$n^k$	?
	NO	?	?

$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition not allowed, order matters. ( $k \leq n$ )

easy:  $k=1$  :  $n$  ways to choose 1 item from  $n$

familiar:  $k=n$  :  $n!$  ways to choose  $n$  ordered items from  $n$

- 
- 7 hats, 7 days, must wear a different one each day  $\rightarrow 7!$   
7 options on day 1, 6 remaining options on day 2, 5 on day 3, etc
- 

- 7 hats, 3 days?  
 $n$   $k$

7 options on day 1, 6 remaining options on day 2, 5 on day 3, ~~etc~~

$$7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot \cancel{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{7!}{4!} = \frac{7!}{(7-3)!} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

Notation:  $(7)_3 = (n)_k = P(n, k)$

permutation

$n$  items,  $k$  choices : repetition not allowed, order matters

• 12 people, must choose (i) president (ii) vice president (iii) treasurer

12 items, 3 choices - each person can hold only one position  
 $n$   $k$

$$12 \cdot 11 \cdot 10 = \frac{12!}{(12-3)!} = \overset{(n-0)}{n} \cdot \underset{\substack{0 \\ 1}}{(n-1)} \cdot \underset{\substack{2 \\ 3}}{(n-2)} \cdot \dots \cdot \underset{\substack{K-1 \\ K}}{(n-(K-1))}$$

$$n! = (n)_n = P(n, n)$$

$$n > 0: (n)_0 = P(n, 0) = 1 \quad 1 \text{ way to choose } 0 \text{ items from } n$$

$$\rightarrow 0! = (0)_0 = P(0, 0) = 1 \quad 1 \text{ way to choose } 0 \text{ items from } 0$$

definition

it helps to think of lists or sets:

how many ways can we form an ordered list of 0 items?

$\hookrightarrow$  1 way: the empty list

$$\text{for } n \geq 1: n! = \prod_{i=1}^n i = n \cdot (n-1)! \quad \text{thus for } n=1, 1! = 1 \cdot 0! = 1$$

$n!$  is related to choosing without repetition,  
but also to rearranging:

- how many ways to rearrange (i.e. permute) the letters in "WORD"?  
1 2 3 4  
4!

will revisit this

$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

does order matter?

YES

NO

YES

$$n^k$$

?

is repetition  
allowed?

NO

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

$P(n, k)$

?

combination  
without  
replacement

$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition not allowed, order doesn't matter

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- how many ways can we form a committee of 3, from 12 people?

↳ all duties (tasks) shared, but we need 3 distinct people

↳ not the same as: (i) president (ii) vice president (iii) treasurer & not  $n^k$

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- let's assign order\* temporarily      solution\*:  $P(12,3) = \frac{12!}{(12-3)!}$

- for any triple of people  $A, B, C$  that might be chosen:

↳ could get  $(A, B, C)$   $(A, C, B)$   $(B, A, C)$   $(B, C, A)$   $(C, A, B)$   $(C, B, A)$  3! ways

- solution: eliminate overcounting:  $\frac{12!}{(12-3)! \cdot 3!}$

" $n$  choose  $k$ "

$$C(n, k) = \binom{n}{k} = \frac{P(n, k)}{k!} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)! \cdot k!}$$

$= \binom{n}{n-k}$  how many ways to leave 9 people out?



$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition not allowed, order doesn't matter

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- how many  $\underset{n}{8}$ -bit binary numbers have exactly  $\underset{k}{3}$  1's ?

11100000, 01110000, 01010001 etc

↪ like committee


$$\binom{8}{3} = \frac{8!}{(8-3)! \cdot 3!} = 56$$

$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition not allowed, order doesn't matter

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$$C(n,1) = \binom{n}{1} = \frac{n!}{(n-1)! \cdot 1!} = n = P(n,1)$$

$$C(n,0) = \binom{n}{0} = \frac{n!}{(n-0)! \cdot 0!} = 1 = P(n,0)$$

$$C(n,n) = \binom{n}{n} = \frac{n!}{(n-n)! \cdot n!} = 1 \neq P(n,n)$$


$$C(n,2) = \binom{n}{2} = \frac{n!}{(n-2)! \cdot 2!} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \quad P(n,2) \text{ double-counts}$$

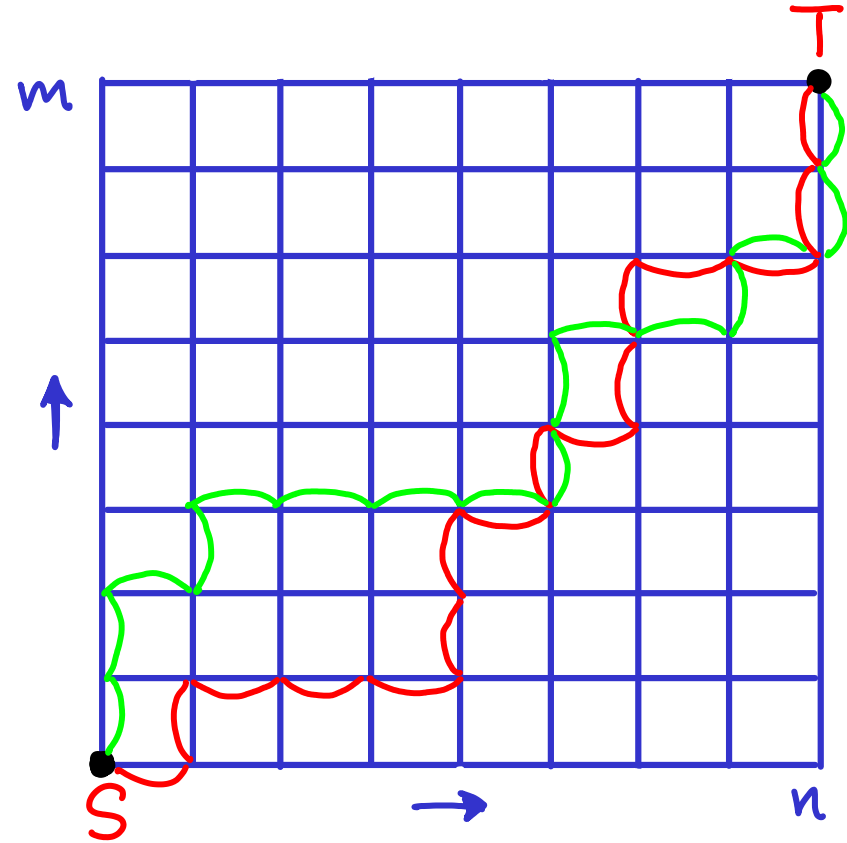
$$C(n,n+1) = \binom{n}{n+1} = 0 = \binom{n}{-1}$$

How many ways are there to get from  $S=(0,0)$  to  $T=(n,m)$  if you always take a step up or to the right?

- $S \rightarrow T$  must have  $n+m$  steps.
- $m$  of these steps go up.
- We must choose when to go up.

~ binary number with length  $n+m$  and exactly  $m$  1's.

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



# CONTEXT

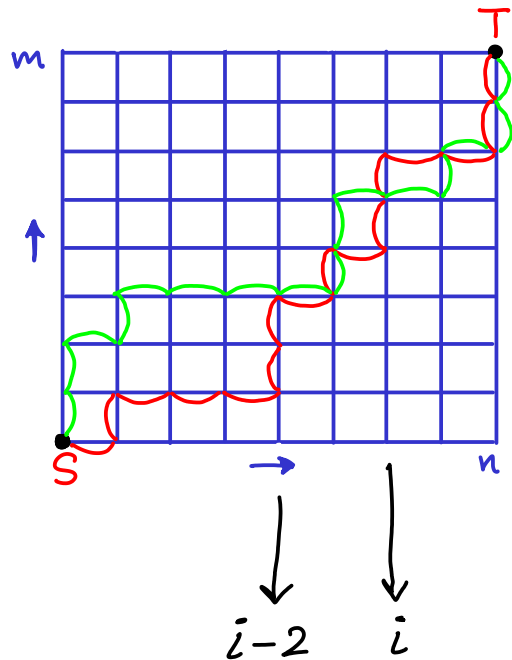
repetition allowed? order matters?

NO

NO

it looks like:

- we can (must) move up repeatedly
- a move up at position  $i$  comes after a move up at position  $< i$



These are out of context

There are  $n+m$  steps

- we can't repeat a move up at the same step
- we care only about the set of steps where we move up.

$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make


does order matter?

YES

NO

YES

$n^k$



combination  
with  
replacement

NO

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

$P(n, k)$

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

$C(n, k)$

is repetition  
allowed?

$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition allowed, order doesn't matter

- 5 types of donuts  $d_1 d_2 d_3 d_4 d_5$  unlimited supply  
 $n$

- how many ways can you choose  $12$  donuts?  $k$  "n multichoose k"

e.g.  $000001$   $1$   $00$   $1$   $0$   $1$   $0000$   
 $d_1$   $d_2$   $d_3$   $d_4$   $d_5$

↪ encoding: need  $12$   $0$ 's, include  $4$  borders ( $1$ 's)  
 $k$   $n-1$

- how many  $16$ -bit binary numbers have exactly  $4$   $1$ 's?  $\binom{16}{4}$   
 $k+(n-1)$   $n-1$

$$\binom{n}{k} = C(k+n-1, n-1) = \binom{k+n-1}{n-1} = C(k+n-1, k) = \binom{k+n-1}{k}$$

$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition allowed, order doesn't matter

---

committees instead of donuts:

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

- form a committee of  $k$  people, from  $n$  countries  
(each country has  $>k$  people, no restrictions on diversity)

- how many ways could countries be represented?

→ "what is the size of the set of country representations?"  
(in a committee of  $k$  people, from  $n$  countries)

\* in a committee of 0 people, from 0 countries? → 1  
empty set

$n$  items,  $k$  choices: repetition allowed, order doesn't matter

	$\binom{k+n-1}{n-1}$	$\binom{k+n-1}{k}$
• 1 type of donut, choose $k \geq 1$ donuts	$\binom{k+1-1}{1-1} = \binom{k}{0} = \frac{k!}{(k-0!)0!} = 1$	$\binom{k+1-1}{k}$
• 0 type of donut, choose $k \geq 1$ donuts	$\binom{k+0-1}{0-1} = \binom{k-1}{-1} = 0$	$\binom{k+0-1}{k}$
• $n \geq 1$ types of donuts, choose 0 donuts	$\binom{0+n-1}{n-1} = \frac{(n-1)!}{(n-1-0)!0!} = 1$	$\binom{0+n-1}{0}$
• 0 type of donut, choose 0 donuts	$\binom{0+0-1}{0-1} = \binom{-1}{-1}$ requires extended definition of $C(n,k)$	$\binom{0+0-1}{0} = 1$



$n$  items to choose from,  $k$  choices to make

does order matter?

YES

NO

is repetition  
allowed?

YES

$$n^k$$

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

$$\left(\binom{n}{k}\right) = C(k+n-1, n-1)$$

NO

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

$$P(n, k)$$

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

$$\binom{n}{k} = C(n, k)$$