



MA204/MA284 : Discrete Mathematics

## Week 3: Binomials Coefficients

Dr Niall Madden

22 & 24 September 2021

- 1 Part 1: Bit strings and lattice paths
  - An “Investigate” activity
  - Bit strings
  - Lattice Paths
- 2 Part 2: Binomial coefficients
  - Calculating binomial coefs
- 3 Part 3: Pascal's triangle
- 4 Part 4: Permutations
  - Examples
  - The binomial coefficient formula
- 5 Exercises

These slides are based on §1.2 of Oscar Levin's *Discrete Mathematics: an open introduction*. They are licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

Tutorials started this week! You should attend one of the sessions listed below.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 – 10					
10 – 11					
11 – 12			CD: <b>MRA201</b>		
12 – 1		EM: CA117			
1 – 2					
2 – 3			AH Online		
3 – 4		AH: Online		CD: Online	
4 – 5				EM: <b>AMB-G008</b>	

Online class will be held on the course room in the Blackboard Virtual Classroom: [eu.bbcollab.com/guest/768da44b88344e86bf5eae54357e2be9](https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/768da44b88344e86bf5eae54357e2be9)

Also, today (Wednesday, 22 Sep) is your last chance to indicate an alternative time for an in-person tutorial:

<https://forms.office.com/r/9uBcpERuqy>



## ASSIGNMENT 1 is now open!

To access the assignment, go to the 2122-MA284 Blackboard page, select [Assignments ... Assignment 1](#).

There are 10 questions.

You may attempt each one up to 10 times.

This assignment contributes approximately 8% to your final grade for Discrete Mathematics.

**Deadline:** 5pm, Friday 1 October 2021.

$$n=4$$



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[N00/4139577452/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/35652310@N00/4139577452/).

$$\{AB, AC, AD, BC, BD, CD\}.$$

### Example

The NUIG Animal Shelter has 4 cats.

- (a) How many choices do we have for a single cat to adopt?  $n=4, k=1$

$$\binom{4}{1} = 4$$

- (b) How many choices do we have if we want to adopt two cats?  $\binom{4}{2} = \binom{3}{1} + \binom{3}{2}$

- (c) How many choices do we have if we want to adopt three cats?  $\binom{4}{3} = 4$

- (d) How many choices do we have if we want to adopt four cats?  $1$

$$\binom{4}{2} = \binom{3}{1} + \binom{3}{2} = 3 + 3 = 6.$$

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**END OF PART 3**

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*Start of ...***PART 4: Permutations**

↳ Order matters

(Combinations - order does not matter)

A **permutation** is an arrangement of objects. Changing the order of the objects gives a different permutation.

**Example:** List all permutations of the letters A, R and T?

ART      RAT      TAR  
ATR      RTA      TRA.

**Important:** order matters - ART  $\neq$  TAR  $\neq$  RAT.

ordering.

A **permutation** is an arrangement of objects. Changing the order of the objects gives a different permutation.

We can also count the number of permutations of the letters A, R and T, without listing them:

Use the multiplicative Prin:

3 choices for the first letter.

2 choices for " 2<sup>nd</sup> "

1 choice " " 3<sup>rd</sup> letter.

By the Multiplicative Prin: Answer is  $3 \times 2 \times 1$   
 $= 6$

More generally, recall that  $n!$  (read “ $n$  factorial”) is

$$n! = n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \cdots \times 2 \times 1$$

E.g.,

$$0! = 1, \quad 1! = 1, \quad 2! = 2, \quad 3! = 6, \quad 4! = 24, \quad 5! = 120, \quad 6! = 720.$$

$$10! = 3,628,800, \quad 20! = 2,432,902,008,176,640,000 \approx 2.43 \times 10^{18}.$$

### Number of permutations

There are

$$n! = n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \cdots \times 2 \times 1$$

(i.e.,  $n$  factorial) permutations of  $n$  (distinct) objects.

↓  
no 2 the same.

To emphasize the **order matters** in permutations, consider the following example.

### Example

In the recent paralympics, **8** athletes contested the Men's Va'a 200m Singles' final. How many different finishing orderings were possible?



(Sam Barnes/Sportsfile)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ans: } & 8! \\ & = 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 \end{aligned}$$

### Permutations of $k$ objects from $n$

The number of permutations of  $k$  objects out of  $n$ ,  $P(n, k)$ , is

$$P(n, k) = n \times (n-1) \times \dots \times (n-k+1) = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

$$\frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-k+1)\cancel{(n-k)}\cancel{(n-k-1)}\dots\cancel{(2)}\cancel{(1)}}{\cancel{(n-k)}\cancel{(n-k-1)}\dots\cancel{(2)}\cancel{(1)}}$$

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-k+1)$$

## Example ( $P(7, 3)$ )

In the recent paralympics, **8** athletes contested the Men's Va'a 200m Singles's final. In how many different ways could the gold, silver, and bronze medals be awarded?

$$n = 8 \quad k = 3$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{8!}{5!} = 8 \times 7 \times 6.$$



TOKYO 2020

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Start List Race Results Official Reports

Sea Forest Waterway - 4 Sep - 11:56 - Official

Rank	Name	Time	Time Behind
1	 AUS McGrath Curtis Sport Class: VL3	50.537	
2	 BRA VIEIRA de PAULA Giovane Sport Class: VL3	52.148	+1.611
3	 GBR WOOD Stuart Sport Class: VL3	52.760	+2.223
4	 UZB SHERKUZIEV Khaytmurot Sport Class: VL3	52.793	+2.256
5	 IRL O'LEARY Patrick Sport Class: VL3	52.910	+2.373
6	 FRA POTDEVIN Eddie Sport Class: VL3	53.055	+2.518
7	 BRA RIBEIRO de CARVALHO Caio Sport Class: VL3	53.246	+2.709
8	 NZL MARTLEW Scott Sport Class: VL3	54.756	+4.219

### Choosing the "back three" on a rugby team...

**Ireland Squad for the Women's Rugby World Cup Qualifiers** has 5 players who (we'll say) call all play on the Left Wing (11), Right Wing (14) or Full-Back (15):

Amee-Leigh Murphy-Crowe • Eimear Considine • Lauren Delany  
Beibhinn Parsons • Lucy Mulhall

1. How many choices do we have for picking the starting back three, without assigning them numbers?



Beibhinn Parsons scoring against Italy last Sunday

$$\binom{5}{3} = 10. \quad \left. \vphantom{\binom{5}{3}} \right\} \text{Combination}$$

2. How many choices for picking a starting 11, 14 and 15 (i.e., numbers are assigned)?

$$5 \times 4 \times 3 = 60. \quad \left. \vphantom{5 \times 4 \times 3} \right\} \text{Permutation.}$$

**Still choosing the back three...**

Our rugby squad has 5 backs that can play at 11, 14, or 15.

There are  $\binom{5}{3}$  ways we can pick 3 of them for our starting team, without allocating numbers.

Once we have picked these three, there are  $3! = 6$  ways we can assign them the 11, 14 and 15 jerseys. That is

$$P(5, 3) = \binom{5}{3} 3!.$$

However, we know  $P(5, 3)$ , so this gives a formula for  $\binom{5}{3}$ .

(1) We know there are  $P(n, k)$  permutations of  $k$  objects out of  $n$ . ✓

(2) We know that

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

(3) Another way of making a permutation of  $k$  objects out of  $n$  is to

(a) Choose  $k$  from  $n$  without order. There are  $\binom{n}{k}$  ways of doing this

(b) Then count all the ways of ordering these  $k$  objects. There are  $k!$  ways of doing this.

(c) By the Multiplicative Principle, ✓ ✓ ✓

$$P(n, k) = \binom{n}{k} k!$$

(4) So now we know that  $\frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{k} k!$

(5) This gives the formula  $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)! k!}$

- Q1. Let  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
- (a) How many subsets are there total?
  - (b) How many subsets have  $\{2, 3, 5\}$  as a subset?
  - (c) How many subsets contain at least one odd number?
  - (d) How many subsets contain exactly one even number?
  - (e) How many subsets are there of cardinality 4?
  - (f) How many subsets of cardinality 4 have  $\{2, 3, 5\}$  as a subset?
  - (g) How many subsets of cardinality 4 contain at least one odd number?
  - (h) How many subsets of cardinality 4 contain exactly one even number?
- Q2. How many subsets of  $\{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$  have cardinality 6 or more? (Hint: Break the question into five cases).
- Q3. How many shortest lattice paths start at  $(3,3)$  and end at  $(10,10)$ ?  
How many shortest lattice paths start at  $(3,3)$ , end at  $(10,10)$ , and pass through  $(5,7)$ ?
- Q4. Suppose you are ordering a large pizza from *D.P. Dough*. You want 3 distinct toppings, chosen from their list of 11 vegetarian toppings.
- (a) How many choices do you have for your pizza?
  - (b) How many choices do you have for your pizza if you refuse to have pineapple as one of your toppings?
  - (c) How many choices do you have for your pizza if you *insist* on having pineapple as one of your toppings?
  - (d) How do the three questions above relate to each other?