MA204/MA284 : Discrete Mathematics

Week 3: Binomials Coefficients

Dr Niall Madden

22 & 24 September 2021

1 Part 1: Bit strings and latice paths
- An "Investigate" activity
- Bit strings
- Lattice Paths

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- Calculating binomial coefs

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- Examples
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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

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: **MRA201**		
12 – 1		EM: CA117			
1 – 2					
2 – 3			AH Online		
3 – 4		AH: Online		CD: Online	
4 – 5				EM: **AMB**-**G008**	

Online class will be held on the course room in the Blackboard Virtual
Classroom: 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.

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Start of ...

PART 1: Bit strings and latice paths

A rook can move only in straight lines (not diagonally). *Fill in each square of the chess board below with the number of different shortest paths the rook in the upper left corner can take to get to the square, moving one space at a time.* For example, there are **six** paths from the rook to the square **c6**: DDRR, DRDR, DRRD, RDDR, RDRD, and RRDD. (*R = right*, *D = down*).
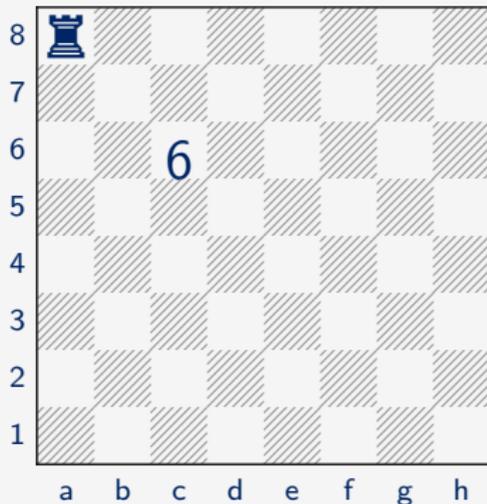
A **bit** is a "binary digits" (i.e., 0 or 1).
A **bit string** is a string (list) of bits, e.g. 1001, 0, 111111, 10101010.

The *length* of the string is the number of bits.
A n-bit string has length n.
The set of all n-bit strings (for given n) is denoted $\mathbf{B}^n$.

Examples:

The *weight* of the string is the number of 1's.

The set of all n-bit strings of weight k is denoted $\mathbf{B}_k^n$.

Examples:

Bit strings

- The set of all n-bit strings (for given n) is denoted $\mathbf{B}^n$.
- The set of all n-bit strings of weight k is denoted $\mathbf{B}_k^n$.

Some counting questions:

1. How many bit strings are there of length 5? That is, what is $|\mathbf{B}^5|$?
2. Of these, how many have weight 3? That is, what is $|\mathbf{B}_3^5|$?

The (integer) *lattice* is the set of all points in the Cartesian plane for which both the x and y coordinates are integers.

A *lattice path* is a **shortest possible path** connecting two points on the lattice, moving only horizontally and vertically.

Example: three possible lattice paths from the points $(0, 0)$ to $(3, 2)$ are:
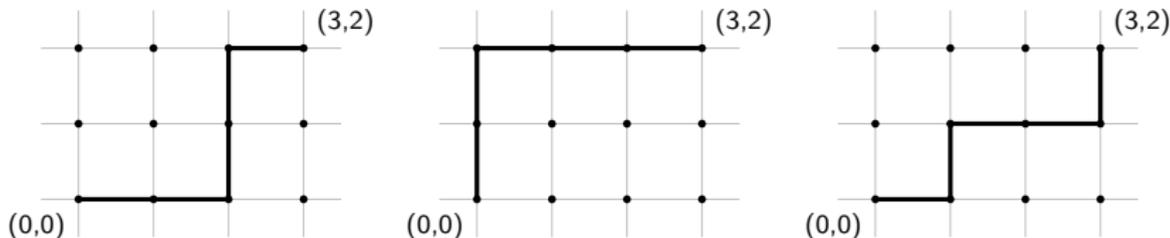
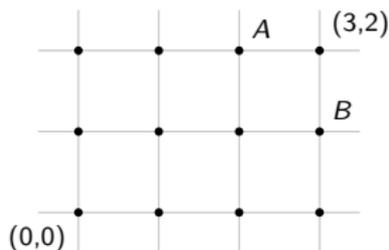**Question:** How many lattice paths are there from $(0, 0)$ to $(3, 2)$?

Useful observation 1

The number of lattice paths from $(0, 0)$ to $(3, 2)$ is the same as $|B_3^5|$.
Why?

Useful observation 2

The number of lattice paths from $(0, 0)$ to $(3, 2)$ is the same as the number
from $(0, 0)$ to $(2, 2)$, plus the number from $(0, 0)$ to $(3, 1)$.

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END OF PART 1

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PART 2: **Binomial coefficients**

Version 1

What is the coefficient of (say) $x^3 y^2$ in $(x + y)^5$?

$$(x + y)^0 = 1$$
$$(x + y)^1 = x + y$$
$$(x + y)^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2$$
$$(x + y)^3 = x^3 + 3x^2 y + 3xy^2 + y^3$$
$$(x + y)^4 = x^4 + 4x^3 y + 6x^2 y^2 + 4xy^3 + y^4$$
$$(x + y)^5 = x^5 + 5x^4 y + 10x^3 y^2 + 10x^2 y^3 + 5xy^4 + y^5$$

So, by doing a lot of multiplication, we have worked out that the coefficient of $x^3 y^2$ is 10 (which is rather familiar....)

But, not surprisingly there this a more systematic way of answering this problem.

Version 2

What is the coefficient of (say) x^3y^2 in $(x + y)^5$?

$$(x + y)^5 = (x + y)(x + y)(x + y)(x + y)(x + y).$$

We can work out the coefficient of x^3y^2 in the expansion of $(x + y)^5$ by counting the number of ways we can choose three x's and two y's in

$$(x + y)(x + y)(x + y)(x + y)(x + y).$$

These numbers that occurred in all our examples are called *binomial coefficients*, and are denoted $\binom{n}{k}$

Binomial Coefficients

For each integer $n \geq 0$, and integer k such that $0 \leq k \leq n$, there is a number

$$\binom{n}{k} \qquad \text{read as "}n\text{ choose }k\text{"}$$

1. $\binom{n}{k} = |\mathbf{B}_k^n|$, the number of n-bit strings of weight k.
2. $\binom{n}{k}$ is the number of subsets of a set of size n, each with cardinality k.
3. $\binom{n}{k}$ is the number of lattice paths of length n containing k steps to the right.
4. $\binom{n}{k}$ is the coefficient of $x^k y^{n-k}$ in the expansion of $(x + y)^n$.
5. $\binom{n}{k}$ is the number of ways to select k objects from a total of n objects.

If we were to skip ahead we would learn that there is a formula for

$$\binom{n}{k} \qquad \text{(that is, "}n \text{ choose } k\text{")}$$

that is expressed in terms of **factorials**.

Recall that the *factorial* of a natural number, *n* is

$$n! = n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \times (n-3) \times ... \times 2 \times 1.$$

Examples:

We will eventually learn that

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

Examples

However, the formula $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$ is not very useful in practice.

Example

Suppose there were 200 students in this Discrete Mathematics class, and we want to arrange a tutorial group of 25 students. How many ways could we do this?

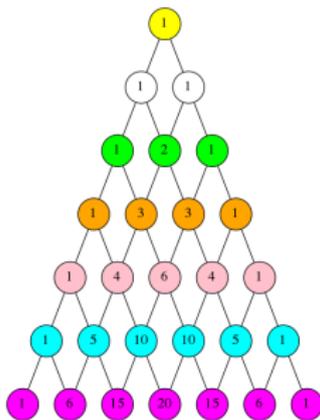Answer: 4.5217×10^{31}. But this is not easy to compute...

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END OF PART 2

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Start of ...

PART 3: Pascal's triangle

Earlier, we learned that if the set of all n-bit strings with weight k is written $\mathbf{B}_k^n$, then

$$|\mathbf{B}_k^n| = |\mathbf{B}_{k-1}^{n-1}| + |\mathbf{B}_k^{n-1}|.$$
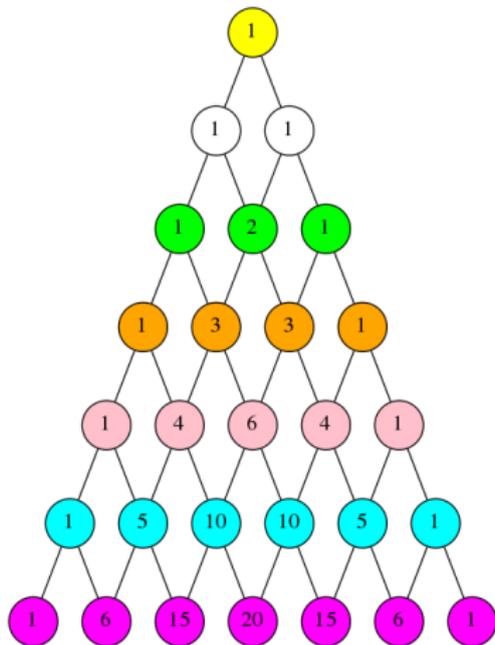
Similarly, we get find that...

Pascal's Identity: a recurrence relation for $\binom{n}{k}$

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

Why:

Pascal's Identity

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

This is often presented as *Pascal's Triangle*

$$\binom{0}{0}$$

$$\binom{1}{0} \qquad \binom{1}{1}$$

$$\binom{2}{0} \qquad \binom{2}{1} \qquad \binom{2}{2}$$

$$\binom{3}{0} \qquad \binom{3}{1} \qquad \binom{3}{2} \qquad \binom{3}{3}$$

$$\binom{4}{0} \qquad \binom{4}{1} \qquad \binom{4}{2} \qquad \binom{4}{3} \qquad \binom{4}{4}$$

Pascal's Identity

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

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/35652310@
N00/4139577452/.

Example

The NUIG Animal Shelter has 4 cats.

(a) How many choices do we have for a single cat to adopt?

(b) How many choices do we have if we want to adopt two cats?

(c) How many choices do we have if we want to adopt three cats?

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

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PART 4: **Permutations**

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?

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

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:

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.,

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

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

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.

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

Example

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

(Sam Barnes/Sportsfile)

Permutations of k objects from n

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

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

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?

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

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

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

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

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 $\{0, 1, \ldots, 9\}$ 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?