

## Lecture 11: Distribution of ball into boxes

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## 1 Distribution of Ball into Boxes

### 1.1 Problem Statement

How many ways to distribute  $n$  balls into  $k$  bins under different condition

1. Balls are distinguishable or indistinguishable ?
2. Bins are distinguishable or indistinguishable ?
3. If the balls are distinguishable, ordering matters or not?
4. Can some of the bins be empty?

### 1.2 Solution

#### 1.2.1 Case 1

How many ways we can distribute  $n$  distinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins and ordering does not matter?

There are  $n$  distinguishable balls and we can put  $k-1$  bars in between the  $n$  balls. So total no of permutations of  $n$  balls and  $k-1$  bars is  $(n+k-1)!/(k-1)!$ .

#### 1.2.2 Case 2

How many ways we can distribute  $n$  indistinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins ?

There are  $n$  indistinguishable balls and we can put  $k-1$  bars in between the  $n$  balls. So total no of permutations of indistinguishable balls and  $k-1$  bars is  $(n+k-1)!/((k-1)!*(n!))$ .

#### 1.2.3 Case 3

How many ways we can distribute  $n$  distinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins and ordering matters?

Taking 1st ball has  $k$  choices

Taking 2nd ball has  $k$  choices

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Taking  $n$ th ball has  $k$  choices.

Total no of ways =  $k^n$ .

#### 1.2.4 Case 4

How many ways we can distribute  $n$  indistinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins when bin is non empty?

let us say  $x_i$  ball in  $i$ th bin.

$$x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = n.$$

Since  $x_1 > 1, x_2 > 1, \dots, x_k > 1$ .

$$y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_k = n - k.$$

$y_1 > 0, y_2 > 0, \dots, y_k > 0$ .

$$\text{Total no of ways} = \binom{n-1}{k-1}$$

### 1.2.5 Case 5

How many ways to distribute  $n$  indistinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins using generating function?

let us denote generating function as  $P(x)$ .

$$P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_ix^i + \dots$$

$a_i$  = no of distributing  $i$  ball into  $k$  bins.

$$p(x) = (1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^i + \dots) \cdot (1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^i + \dots) \cdot \dots \cdot (1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^i + \dots).$$

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{(1-x)^k}$$

$$p(x) = (1-x)^{-k}$$

$$\text{Coefficient of } x^n = \binom{n+k-1}{k-1}$$

### 1.2.6 Case 6

How many ways we can distribute  $n$  distinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins and ordering matters using generating function?

let us denote generating function as  $p(x)$ .

$$p(x) = n! \left( 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^i}{i!} + \dots \right)^k$$

$$p(x) = n! e^k$$

*Coefficient of  $x^n$  in  $p(x)$  is total no of ways of distributing distinguishable balls into  $k$  distinct bins and ordering matters using generating function is  $e^k n^n$ .*

### 1.2.7 case 7

How many ways to distribute  $n$  indistinguishable balls into  $k$  non empty distinct bins using generating function?

let us denote generating function as  $P(x)$ .

$$P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_ix^i + \dots$$

$a_i$  = no of distributing  $i$  ball into  $k$  bins.

$$p(x) = (x + x^2 + \dots + x^i + \dots) \cdot (x + x^2 + \dots + x^i + \dots) \cdot \dots \cdot (x + x^2 + \dots + x^i + \dots).$$

$$p(x) = x^k \frac{1}{(1-x)^k}$$

$$P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_ix^i + \dots$$

$$a_i = (1-x)^{-k}$$

$$\text{Coefficient of } x^n = \binom{n-1}{k-1}$$

## 1.3 References

This is how you reference Section ??, Theorem ?? or Figure ?. You can also make a citation [?].