

We have  $k$  balls and  $n$  boxes. We want to count the number of assignments  $f$  of balls to boxes. We considered 3 conditions on  $f$ : arbitrary (no conditions at all), injective (no box receives more than one ball), surjective (every box has to receive at least one ball). We also considered conditions on the balls: indistinguishable (we can't tell the balls apart) and distinguishable (we can tell the balls apart) and similarly for the boxes: they can be distinguishable or indistinguishable.

balls/boxes	$f$ arbitrary	$f$ injective	$f$ surjective
dist/dist	$n^k$ , see (1)	$(n)_k$ , see (2)	$n!S(k, n)$ , see (3)
indist/dist	$\binom{n+k-1}{k}$ , see (4)	$\binom{n}{k}$ , see (5)	$\binom{k-1}{n-1}$ , see (6)
dist/indist	$\sum_{i=1}^n S(k, i)$ , see (7)	$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \geq k \\ 0 & \text{if } n < k \end{cases}$ , see (8)	$S(k, n)$ , see (9)
indist/indist	$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i(k)$ , see (10)	$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \geq k \\ 0 & \text{if } n < k \end{cases}$ , see (11)	$p_n(k)$ , see (12)

- (1) These are strings of length  $k$  in an alphabet of size  $n$ .
- (2) These are strings of length  $k$  without repetitions in an alphabet of size  $n$ . Recall that
 
$$(n)_k = n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots (n-k+1).$$
- (3) These are ordered set partitions of  $[k]$  into  $n$  blocks. Recall that  $S(k, n)$  is the Stirling number of the second kind, i.e., the number of partitions of  $[k]$  into  $n$  blocks.
- (4) These are multisets of  $[n]$  of size  $k$ ; equivalently, weak compositions of  $k$  into  $n$  parts.
- (5) These are subsets of  $[n]$  of size  $k$ .
- (6) These are compositions of  $k$  into  $n$  parts.
- (7) These are set partitions of  $[k]$  where the number of blocks is  $\leq n$ .
- (8) If  $n < k$ , then we can't assign  $k$  balls to  $n$  boxes without some box receiving more than one ball (pigeonhole principle), so the answer is 0 in that case. If  $n \geq k$ , then there is certainly a way to make an assignment, but they're all the same: we can't tell the boxes apart, so it doesn't matter where the balls go.
- (9) These are set partitions of  $[k]$  into  $n$  blocks.
- (10) These are the number of integer partitions of  $k$  where the number of parts is  $\leq n$ . Remember that  $p_i(k)$  is the notation for the number of integer partitions of  $k$  into  $i$  parts.
- (11) The reasoning here is the same as (8).
- (12) These are the number of integer partitions of  $k$  into  $n$  parts.