

Awesome
Some
Great Theoretical Ideas
in Computer Science
for
with Ben Wolf

15-251

Counting III

Lecture 8 (February 7, 2008)



How many integer solutions
to the following equation?

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 30$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 \geq 0$$

Think of x_k as being the number of
gold bars that are allotted to pirate k

$$\begin{pmatrix} 34 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

How many integer solutions
to the following equation?

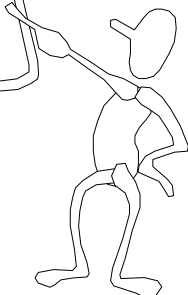
$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \dots + x_n = k$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n \geq 0$$

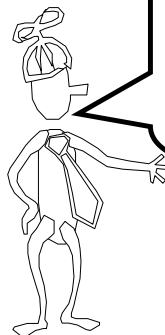
$$\begin{pmatrix} n + k - 1 \\ n - 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} n + k - 1 \\ k \end{pmatrix}$$

The Binomial Formula

$$(X+Y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \begin{pmatrix} n \\ k \end{pmatrix} X^{n-k} Y^k$$



There is much, much
more to be said
about how
polynomials encode
counting questions!



Power Series Representation

$$(1+X)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} X^k$$

“Product form” or “Generating form”

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{n}{k} X^k \quad \text{For } k > n, \binom{n}{k} = 0$$

“Power Series” or “Taylor Series” Expansion

By playing these two representations against each other we obtain a new representation of a previous insight:

$$(1+X)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} X^k$$

Let $x = 1$, $2^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}$

The number of subsets of an n -element set

By varying x , we can discover new identities:

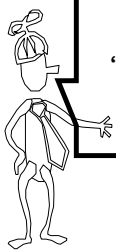
$$(1+X)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} X^k$$

Let $x = -1$, $0 = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^k$

Equivalently, $\sum_{k \text{ odd}} \binom{n}{k} = \sum_{k \text{ even}} \binom{n}{k}$

The number of subsets with even size is the same as the number of subsets with odd size

$$(1+X)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} X^k$$



Proofs that work by manipulating algebraic forms are called “algebraic” arguments. Proofs that build a bijection are called “combinatorial” arguments

$$\sum_{k \text{ odd}} \binom{n}{k} = \sum_{k \text{ even}} \binom{n}{k}$$



Let O_n be the set of binary strings of length n with an odd number of ones.

Let E_n be the set of binary strings of length n with an even number of ones.

We gave an algebraic proof that

$$|O_n| = |E_n|$$

A Combinatorial Proof

Let O_n be the set of binary strings of length n with an odd number of ones

Let E_n be the set of binary strings of length n with an even number of ones

A combinatorial proof must construct a bijection between O_n and E_n

An Attempt at a Bijection

Let f_n be the function that takes an n -bit string and flips all its bits

f_n is clearly a one-to-one and onto function

for odd n . E.g. in f_7 we have:

0010011 $\rightarrow$ 1101100
1001101 $\rightarrow$ 0110010

...but do even n work? In f_6 we have

110011 $\rightarrow$ 001100
101010 $\rightarrow$ 010101

Uh oh. Complementing maps evens to evens!

A Correspondence That Works for all n

Let f_n be the function that takes an n -bit string and flips only the first bit. For example,

0010011 $\rightarrow$ 1010011
1001101 $\rightarrow$ 0001101

110011 $\rightarrow$ 010011
101010 $\rightarrow$ 001010

$$(1+X)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} X^k$$



The binomial coefficients have so many representations that many fundamental mathematical identities emerge...

The Binomial Formula

$$(1+X)^0 = 1$$

$$(1+X)^1 = 1 + 1X$$

$$(1+X)^2 = 1 + 2X + 1X^2$$

$$(1+X)^3 = 1 + 3X + 3X^2 + 1X^3$$

$$(1+X)^4 = 1 + 4X + 6X^2 + 4X^3 + 1X^4$$

Pascal's Triangle: k^{th} row are coefficients of $(1+X)^k$

Inductive definition of k^{th} entry of n^{th} row:

$$\text{Pascal}(n,0) = \text{Pascal}(n,n) = 1;$$

$$\text{Pascal}(n,k) = \text{Pascal}(n-1,k-1) + \text{Pascal}(n-1,k)$$

"Pascal's Triangle"



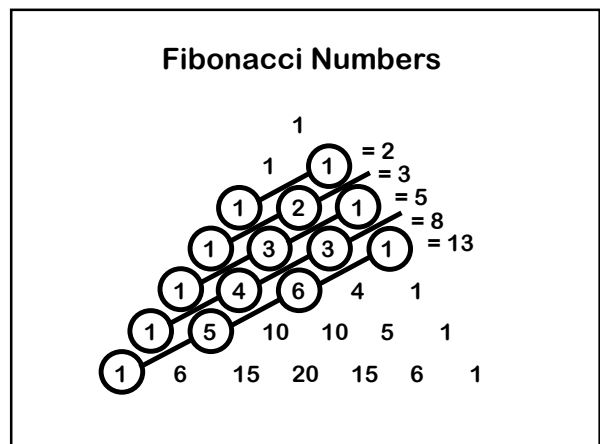
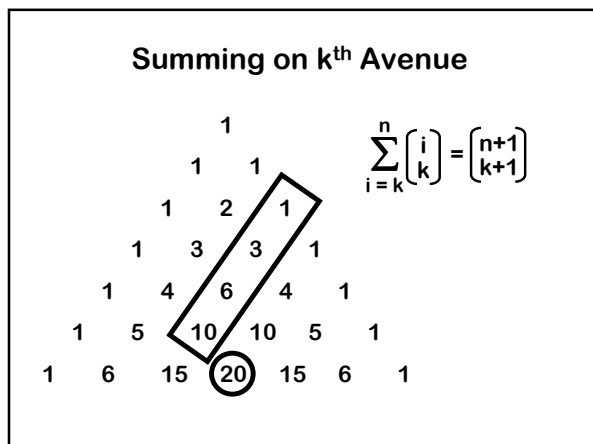
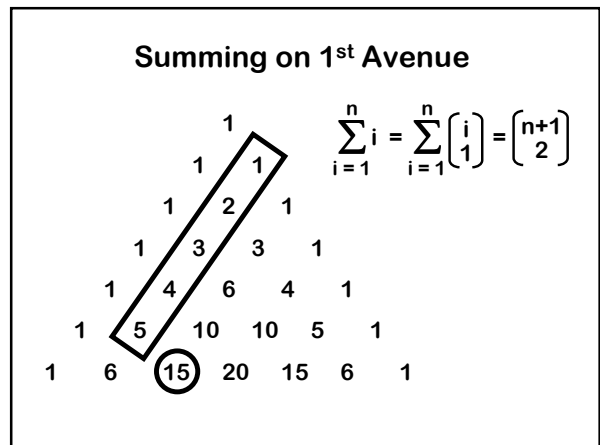
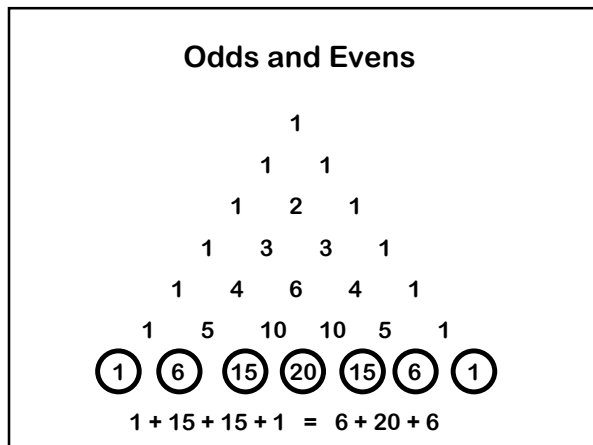
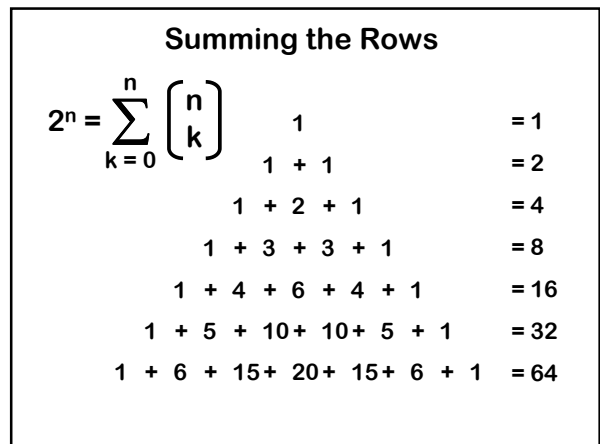
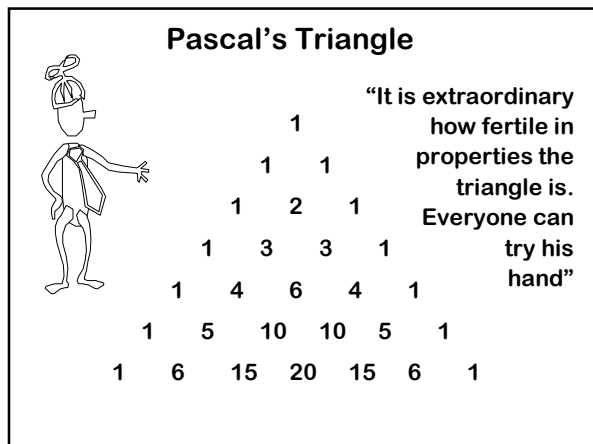
$$\binom{0}{0} = 1$$

$$\binom{1}{0} = 1 \quad \binom{1}{1} = 1$$

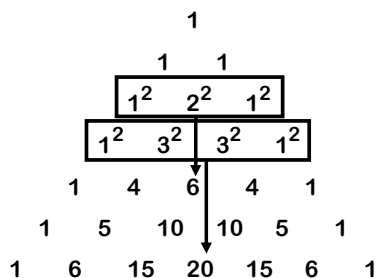
$$\binom{2}{0} = 1 \quad \binom{2}{1} = 2 \quad \binom{2}{2} = 1$$

$$\binom{3}{0} = 1 \quad \binom{3}{1} = 3 \quad \binom{3}{2} = 3 \quad \binom{3}{3} = 1$$

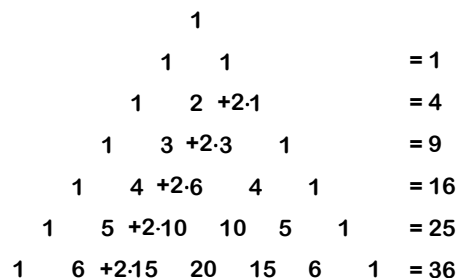
- Al-Karaji, Baghdad 953-1029
- Chu Shin-Chieh 1303
- Blaise Pascal 1654



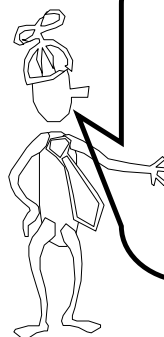
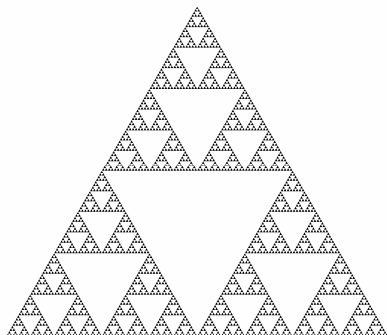
Sums of Squares



Al-Karaji Squares

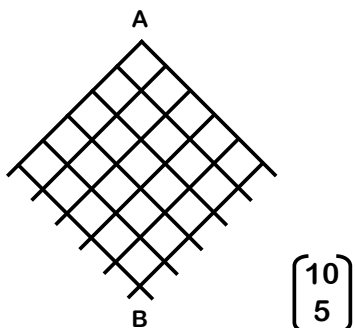


Pascal Mod 2

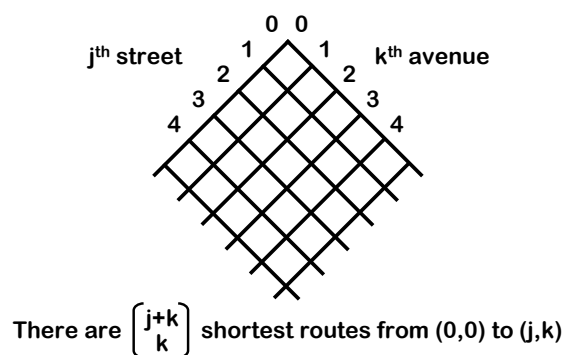


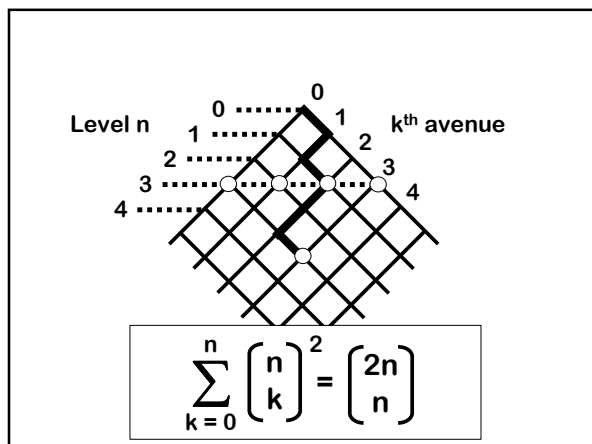
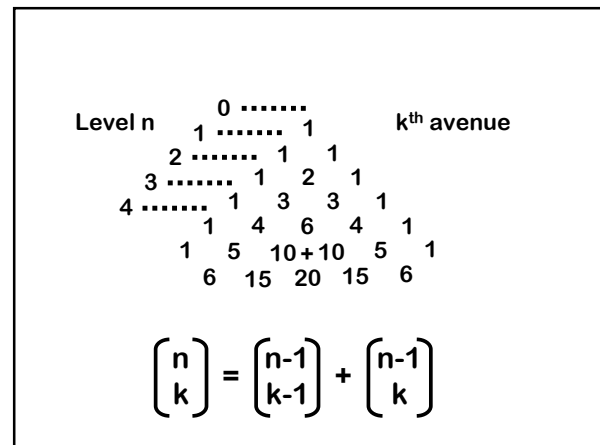
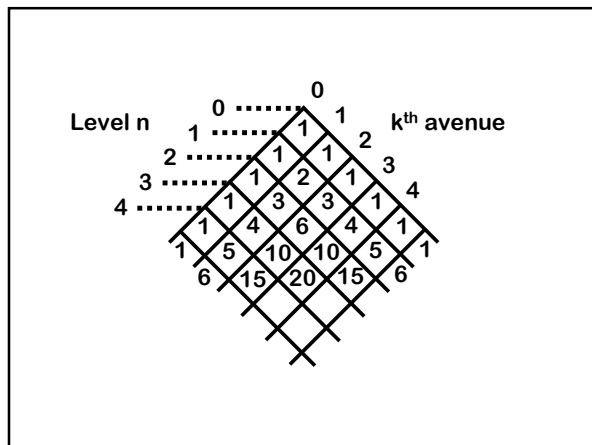
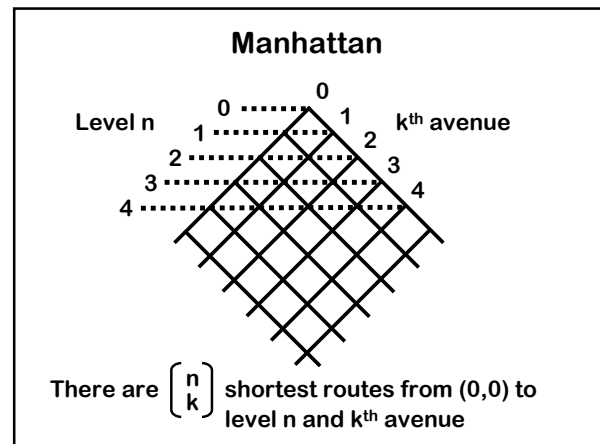
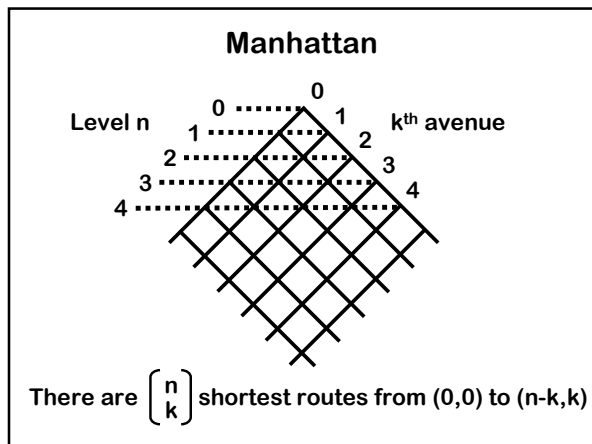
All these properties can be proved inductively and algebraically. We will give *combinatorial* proofs using the Manhattan block walking representation of binomial coefficients

How many shortest routes from A to B?



Manhattan





Vector Programs

Let's define a (parallel) programming language called VECTOR that operates on possibly infinite vectors of numbers. Each variable $\vec{V}$ can be thought of as:

$\langle *, *, *, *, *, *, \dots \rangle$

Vector Programs

Let k stand for a scalar constant
 $\langle k \rangle$ will stand for the vector $\langle k, 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$

$$\langle 0 \rangle = \langle 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$\vec{V} + \vec{T}$ means to add the vectors position-wise

$$\langle 4, 2, 3, \dots \rangle + \langle 5, 1, 1, \dots \rangle = \langle 9, 3, 4, \dots \rangle$$

Vector Programs

$\text{RIGHT}(\vec{V})$ means to shift every number in $\vec{V}$ one position to the right and to place a 0 in position 0

$$\text{RIGHT}(\langle 1, 2, 3, \dots \rangle) = \langle 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \rangle$$

Vector Programs

Example:

$$\vec{V} := \langle 6 \rangle;$$

$$\vec{V} := \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V}) + \langle 42 \rangle;$$

$$\vec{V} := \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V}) + \langle 2 \rangle;$$

$$\vec{V} := \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V}) + \langle 13 \rangle;$$

Store:

$$\vec{V} = \langle 6, 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 42, 6, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 2, 42, 6, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 13, 2, 42, 6, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 13, 2, 42, 6, 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

Vector Programs

Example:

$$\vec{V} := \langle 1 \rangle;$$

Loop n times

$$\vec{V} := \vec{V} + \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V});$$

Store:

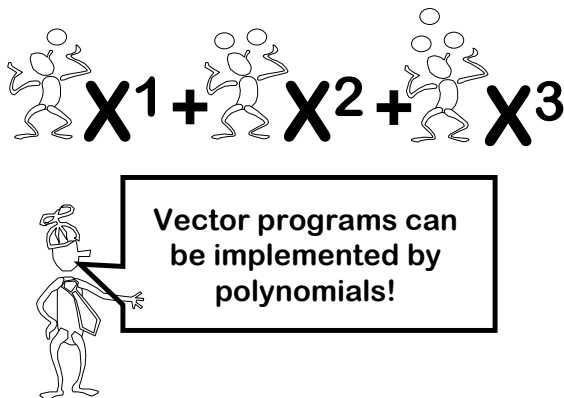
$$\vec{V} = \langle 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 1, 2, 1, 0, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle 1, 3, 3, 1, \dots \rangle$$

$$\vec{V} = n^{\text{th}} \text{ row of Pascal's triangle}$$



Programs $\rightarrow$ Polynomials

The vector $\vec{V} = \langle a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots \rangle$ will be represented by the polynomial:

$$P_V = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i X^i$$

Formal Power Series

The vector $\vec{V} = \langle a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots \rangle$ will be represented by the formal power series:

$$P_V = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i X^i$$

$$\vec{V} = \langle a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots \rangle$$

$$P_V = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i X^i$$

$\langle 0 \rangle$ is represented by 0
 $\langle k \rangle$ is represented by k
 $\vec{V} + \vec{T}$ is represented by $(P_V + P_T)$
 $\text{RIGHT}(\vec{V})$ is represented by $(P_V X)$

Vector Programs

Example:

$\vec{V} := \langle 1 \rangle;$ $P_V := 1;$

Loop n times
 $\vec{V} := \vec{V} + \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V});$ $P_V := P_V + P_V X;$

$\vec{V} = n^{\text{th}}$ row of Pascal's triangle

Vector Programs

Example:

$\vec{V} := \langle 1 \rangle;$ $P_V := 1;$

Loop n times
 $\vec{V} := \vec{V} + \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V});$ $P_V := P_V(1+X);$

$\vec{V} = n^{\text{th}}$ row of Pascal's triangle

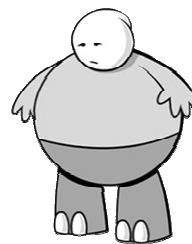
Vector Programs

Example:

$\vec{V} := \langle 1 \rangle;$
 Loop n times
 $\vec{V} := \vec{V} + \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V});$

$\vec{V} = n^{\text{th}}$ row of Pascal's triangle

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \vec{V} := \langle 1 \rangle; \\ \text{Loop n times} \\ \vec{V} := \vec{V} + \text{RIGHT}(\vec{V}); \end{array} \right\} P_V = (1+X)^n$$



Here's What
You Need to
Know...

- Polynomials count
- Binomial formula
- Combinatorial proofs of binomial identities
- Vector programs