

Consider functions $f: X \rightarrow Y$ where X and Y are finite sets with $|X| = m$ and $|Y| = n$.

- The number of functions from X to Y is n^m .
- The number of injective functions $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is denoted by $P(n, m)$ and

$$P(n, m) = \begin{cases} n! / (n-m)! & \text{if } m \leq n \\ 0 & \text{if } m > n \end{cases} \quad (*)$$

(*) The fact that $P(n, m) = 0$ for $m > n$ is a version of the 'pigeon-hole principle'!

- The number of bijections $f: X \rightarrow Y$ equals $n!$ if $m = n$ and 0 if $m \neq n$. (**)

- The number of surjective functions $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is

$$\begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m < n \\ n! & \text{if } m = n \\ \text{complicated} & \text{if } m > n \end{cases}$$

(**) Important observation: A function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ between finite sets X and Y is injective iff it is surjective.