

The twelvefold way

Putting k balls into n boxes.

Domain (size k)	Range (size n)	All May receive 0	1-1 (injective) Each receives ≤ 1	Onto (surjective) Each receives ≥ 1
dist.	dist.	n^k	$(n)_k$	$n!S(k, n)$
id.	dist.	$\left(\binom{n}{k}\right)$	$\binom{n}{k}$	$\left(\binom{n}{k-n}\right)$
dist.	id.	$S(k, 1) + \dots + S(k, n)$	$\delta_{k \leq n}$	$S(k, n)$
id.	id.	$P(k, 1) + \dots + P(k, n)$	$\delta_{k \leq n}$	$P(k, n)$

Explanation:

$(n)_k = n \cdot (n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)$ is a falling factorial.

$\binom{n}{k}$ is a binomial coefficient (the number of k -element subsets of an n -element set).

$\left(\binom{n}{k}\right) = \binom{n+k-1}{k}$ is the number of k -element multisets chosen from an n -element set.

$S(k, n)$ is the number of ways to partition a k -element set into n classes or parts. (A Stirling number of the second kind).

$P(k, n)$ is the number of partitions of the integer k into n parts.

$\delta_{k \leq n}$ is 1 if $k \leq n$ and zero otherwise.

Note: When $k \leq n$, the sum $S(k, 1) + \dots + S(k, n)$ is known as the Bell number B_k . (Obviously $S(k, k+1) = S(k, k+2) = \dots = S(k, n) = 0$).