

## The twelvefold way

Putting  $k$  balls into  $n$  boxes.

Domain (size $k$ )	Target (size $n$ )	All May receive 0	1-1 (injective) Each receives $\leq 1$	Onto (surjective) Each receives $\geq 1$
dist.	dist.	$n^k$	$(n)_k$	$n!S(k, n)$
id.	dist.	$\binom{\binom{n}{k}}$	$\binom{n}{k}$	$\binom{\binom{n}{k-n}}$
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:**

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

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

$\binom{\binom{n}{k}}$  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  $S(k, k + 1) = S(k, k + 2) = \dots = S(k, n) = 0$ ).