

$n$  balls into  $m$  distinguishable bins:



$\begin{matrix} \bullet & \square & \bullet \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{matrix}$

Distinguishable  
balls

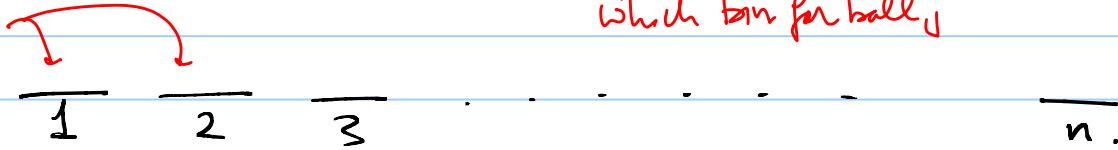
Indistinguishable  
(= identical) Balls.

|   |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| No restrictions   | $m^n$  | $\binom{n+m-1}{m-1}$ |
| At most one ball per bin.<br>$(n \leq m)$   | $m \cdot (m-1) \cdots (m-n+1)$<br>$P(m, n)$  | $\binom{m}{n}$       |
| Specific # in each bin.<br>$r_i$ in bin $i$ .<br>$r_1 + r_2 + \cdots + r_m = n$ . | $\frac{n!}{(r_1)! (r_2)! \cdots (r_m)!} = \binom{n}{r_1} \binom{n-r_1}{r_2} \cdots \binom{r_2}{r_m}$ | 1.                   |

If same # balls in each bin then it must be that  $m$  evenly divides  $n$ . Then  $\frac{n}{m}$  in each bin ( $r_1 = r_2 = \cdots = r_m = \frac{n}{m}$ ).

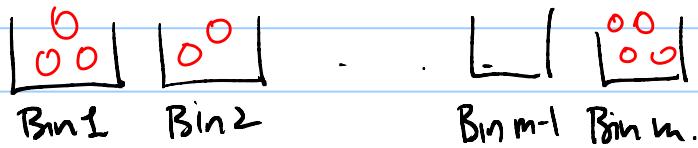
Distinguishable balls into distinguishable bins (no restrictions).

$m$  choices for each position.  $j^{\text{th}}$  position indicates which bin for ball  $j$



- # strings of length  $n$  over an alphabet with  $m$  characters.
- Schedule planning :  $n$  days , choose one of  $m$  activities per day.
- Assignment of  $n$  different people to  $m$  different projects (no restrictions on #people in each project).

Indistinguishable Balls , Distinguishable Bins (no restrictions).

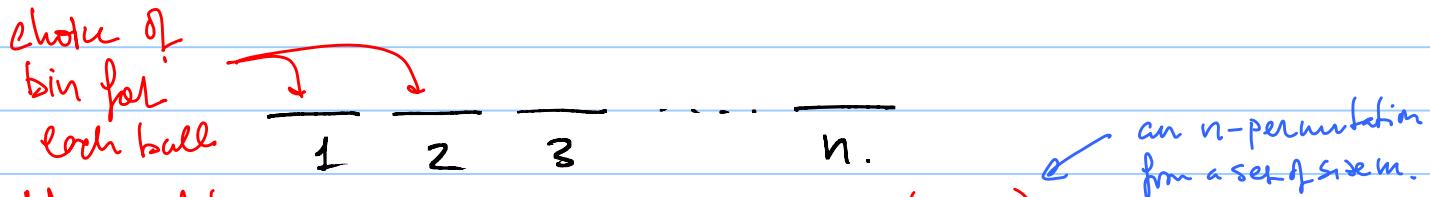


$$n \leq m \text{ or } n \geq m$$

- Selecting  $n$  items from  $m$  varieties (large supply of each variety).  
 $\# \text{balls in bin } j = \# \text{chosen from Variety } j$ .
- Solutions to :  $X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_m = n$   
 $X_i$ 's are non-negative integers.  
 $X_j = \# \text{balls in bin } j$ .
- $n$  identical jobs assigned to  $m$  different processes.



$n$  distinguishable balls into  $m$  distinguishable bins.  
At most one per bin. Need  $m \geq n$ .



No repetitions:  $m(m-1) \dots (m-n+1) = P(m, n)$ .

- Distribute  $n$  different prizes to  $m$  different people  
at most one per person.
- Select class officers from an 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.  
Order of selection matters:

Pres VP Treas Secretary

- Schedule of  $n$  days in choirs for each day — no repetitions.

$n$  indistinguishable balls into  $m$  distinguishable bins.  
At most one per bin. Need  $m \geq n$ .

- Select a subset of size  $n$  from a set of size  $m$ .



Which of the  $n$  bins get balls?

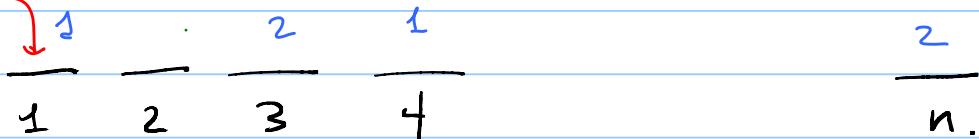
- Select a committee of size  $n$  from a club w/  $m$  members. (No special roles)
- # binary string with  $m$  bits and  $n$  1's

$n$  distinguishable balls into  $m$  distinguishable bins.  $r_j$  balls in bin  $j$ .

Must have  $r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + \dots + r_m = n$ .

↪ total # balls.

Bin selection  
for each ball.



$$\frac{r_1 \cdot 1's}{(r_1)!} \quad \frac{n!}{(r_2)!(r_3)!\dots(r_n)!}$$

$r_2 \cdot 2's$

$r_m \cdot m's.$

- Placement of people in offices. Each office has a capacity. Total capacity = total # of people.

- Schedule choice of  $m$  activities per day.  
 $n$  days total.  $r_j = \#$  times activity  $j$  occurs in the schedule.

$n$  indistinguishable balls into  $m$  distinguishable bins.  $r_j$  balls in bin  $j$ .

Must have  $r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + \dots + r_m = n$ .

↪ total # balls.

- 10 candy bars to 5 kids. (candy bars all same)  
Same # to each kid.  
 $\Rightarrow 2$  to each kid.