

10/6/25

---

$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$

proof:  $\binom{n}{k}$  counts the number of subsets of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  of size  $k$

$\binom{n}{n-k}$  counts the number of subsets of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  of size  $n-k$

Take a set  $A$  inside  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  of size  $k$ .

$$A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

Then,  $A^c$  is the unique set corresponding to  $A$  of size  $n-k$

---

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

$$P(X < k) = P_X(0) + P_X(1) + \dots + P_X(k-1)$$

↑  
The probability  
that we get less  
than  $k$  heads after  
 $n$  flips of a coin

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i}$$

$$Y \sim \text{NegBin}(k, p)$$

$$P(Y > n) = P(X < k)$$

↑  
probability that it takes  
more than  $n$  flips to get  
 $k$  heads

$$= \sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} P_Y(i) = \sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} \binom{i-1}{k-1} p^k (1-p)^{i-k}$$

$$\binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k+1} = \binom{n+1}{k+1}$$

↑  
number of  
sets of size  $k$   
in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

↑  
number of sets  
of size  $k+1$   
in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

↑  
number of sets of size  
 $k+1$  in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n+1\}$

$$\{1, 2, \dots, n\} \cup \{n+1\} = \{1, 2, \dots, n, n+1\}$$

— Take a subset of size  $k+1$  ↗

case 1: our subset does not have  $n+1$  in it

$$\binom{n}{k+1}$$

↖ disjoint

case 2: our subset has  $n+1$  in it

$$\binom{n+1-1}{k+1-1} = \binom{n}{k}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \binom{n+1}{k+1} = \binom{n}{k+1} + \binom{n}{k}$$