

Mustafa Jarrar: Lecture Notes in Discrete Mathematics.  
Birzeit University, Palestine, 2015

# Functions

7.1. Introduction to Functions

7.2 One-to-One, Onto, Inverse functions

7.3 Application: The Pigeonhole Principle



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Watch this lecture  
and download the slides



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**Acknowledgement:**

This lecture is based on (but not limited to) to chapter 7 in “Discrete Mathematics with Applications by Susanna S. Epp (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)”.

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### The Pigeonhole Principle

The diagram shows four pigeons on the left, each on a small rectangular platform. They are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. On the right, there are four circular pigeonholes, also numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Arrows indicate the mapping: pigeon 1 goes to hole 1, pigeon 2 to hole 2, pigeon 3 to hole 3, and pigeon 4 to hole 4. A larger diagram to the right shows five pigeons in a set labeled 'Pigeons' and four pigeonholes in a set labeled 'Pigeonholes'. Arrows show pigeons 1, 2, 3, and 4 mapping to holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. Pigeon 5 has an arrow pointing to hole 3, illustrating that two pigeons share the same hole.

**Pigeonhole Principle**

A function from one finite set to a smaller finite set cannot be one-to-one: There must be a least two elements in the domain that have the same image in the co-domain.

We will study this idea and use it to solve several types of problems

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### Applying the Pigeonhole Principle

In a group of six people, must there be at least two who were born in the same month? If the the group is thirteen?

13 people (pigeons)

$x_1 \bullet$

$x_2 \bullet$

$\vdots$

$x_{12} \bullet$

$x_{13} \bullet$

$\xrightarrow{B}$

$B(x_i) = \text{birth month of } x_i$

12 months (pigeonholes)

$\bullet \text{ Jan}$

$\bullet \text{ Feb}$

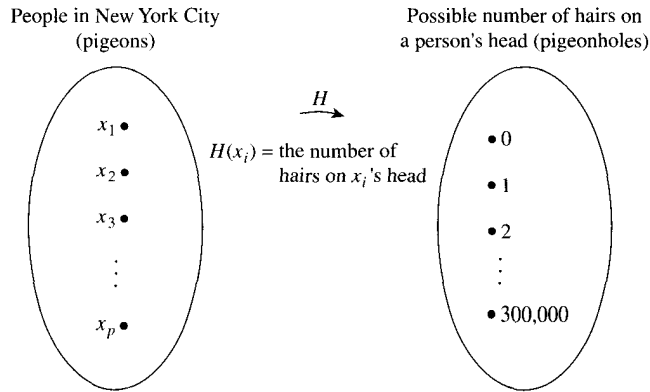
$\vdots$

$\bullet \text{ Dec}$

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### Applying the Pigeonhole Principle

Among the residents of New York City, must there be at least two people with the same number of hairs on their heads?

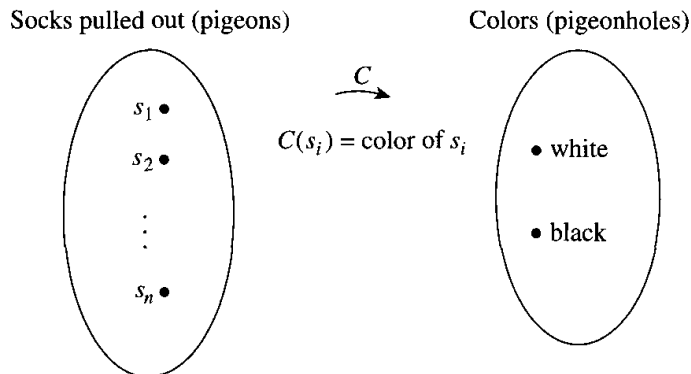


Given that (5M in New York, 3M hairs in a head)

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### Finding the Number to Pick to Ensure a Result

A drawer contains ten black and ten white socks. You reach in and pull some out without looking at them. What is the *least* number of socks you must pull out to be sure to get a matched pair? Explain how the answer follows from the pigeonhole principle

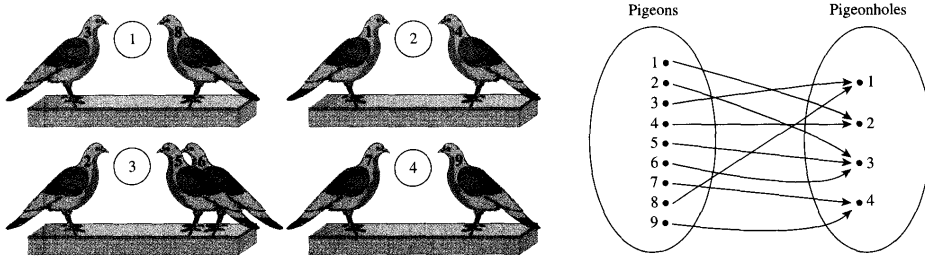


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### Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

if  $n$  pigeons fly into  $m$  pigeonholes and, for some positive integer  $k$ ,  $n > km$ , then at least one pigeonhole contains  $k+1$  or more pigeons.

For example: Let  $m = 4$ ,  $n = 9$ , and  $k = 2$ .



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### Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

if  $n$  pigeons fly into  $m$  pigeonholes and, for some positive integer  $k$ ,  $n > k \cdot m$ , then at least one pigeonhole contains  $k+1$  or more pigeons.

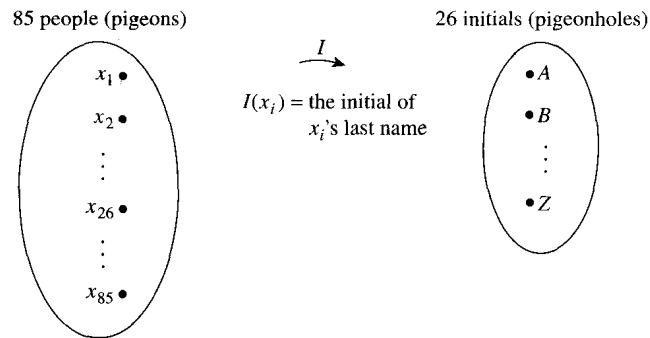
**Generalized Pigeonhole Principle**

For any function  $f$  from a finite set  $X$  to a finite set  $Y$  and for any positive integer  $k$ , if  $N(X) > k \cdot N(Y)$ , then there is some  $y \in Y$  such that  $y$  is the image of at least  $k + 1$  distinct elements of  $X$ .

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### Applying the Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

Show how the generalized pigeonhole principle implies that in a group of 85 people, at least 4 must have the same last initial.



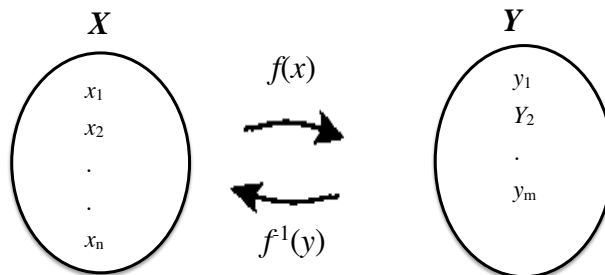
$85 > 3 \cdot 26 = 78$ . thus at least  $(3+1)$  must have the same last initial

### Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

An other way (Contrapositive) of forming the Pigeonhole Principle: if we have  $m$  pigeonholes and  $n$  pigeons; for some positive integer, if each pigeonhole has at most  $k$  pigeons, then then are at most  $k \cdot n$  pigeons.

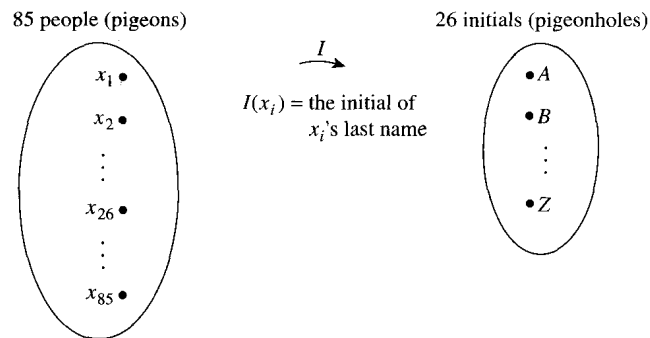
**Generalized Pigeonhole Principle (Contrapositive Form)**

For any function  $f$  from a finite set  $X$  to a finite set  $Y$  and for any positive integer  $k$ , if for each  $y \in Y$ ,  $f^{-1}(y)$  has at most  $k$  elements, then  $X$  has at most  $k \cdot N(Y)$  elements.



### Applying the Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

Suppose no 4 people out of the 85 had the same last initial. Then at most 3 would share any particular one?



Total number of people is at most  $3 \cdot 26 = 78$ . But this contradicts the fact that there are 85 people in all. Hence at least 4 people share a last initial.

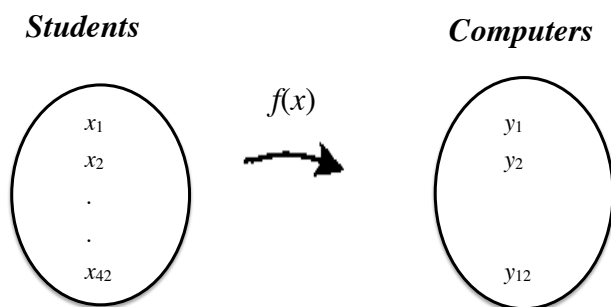
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### Using the Contrapositive Form of the Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

There are 42 students who are to share 12 computers. Each student uses exactly 1 computer, and no computer is used by more than 6 students. Show that at least 5 computers are used by 3 or more students.

$k$ : number of computers used by 3 or more students.

→ We must show that  $k \geq 5$



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## Using the Contrapositive Form of the Generalized Pigeonhole Principle

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$6k$ : # of students using computers with 3 or more

$12-k$ : # of computers used by at most 2 students

$2(12-k) = 24-2k$ : # of students on computers used by 2 st. at most.

$(6k) + (24-2k) = 4k + 24$ : max # of students

42: all students

$4k + 24 \geq 42$

So  $k \geq 5$