

【Discrete Math】 Day2(2)

【Ch2】 Let us count (4)

2.5 Permutations

If we have an ordered list of n objects, and we rearrange them so that they are in another order, this is called permuting them, and the new order is also called a permutation of the objects.

We also call the rearrangement that does not change anything, a permutation.

So the question is to determine the number of ways n objects can be ordered (i.e. the number of permutations of n objects).

The solution found by the people at the party works in general: we can put any of the n people on the first place; no matter whom we choose, we have $n-1$ choices for the second.

So the number of ways to fill the first two positions is $n \times (n - 1)$. No matter how we have filled the first and second positions.

From this model, we can see that

Theorem 2.4 *The number of permutations of n objects is $n!$.*

The decision tree for the problem will look like this

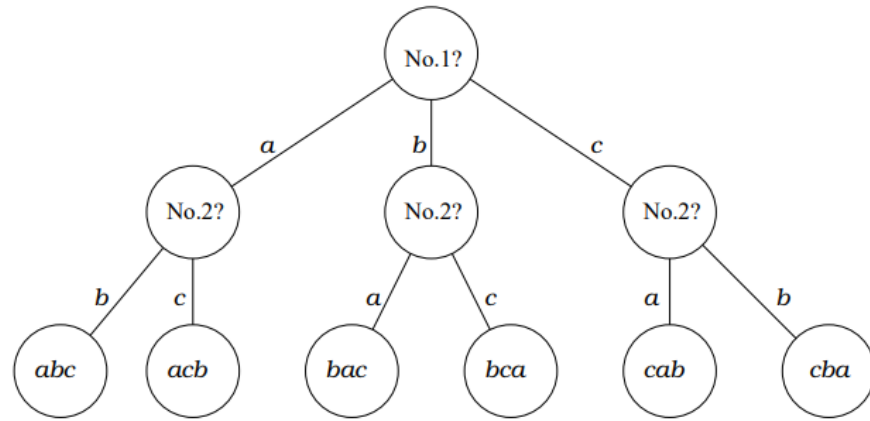


Figure 2: A decision tree for selecting a subset of $\{a, b, c\}$.