



# Counting

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# Basic counting

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- **SUM RULE:** *if a task can be done in  $n_1$  ways and a second task can be done in  $n_2$  ways and they cannot be done at the same time, then there are  $n_1 + n_2$  ways to do either tasks.*

Example: A student can choose a project from one of 3 lists, containing 23, 15 and 19 projects. How many possible projects are there to choose from?

Solution:  $23 + 15 + 19$



# Basic counting

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- **PRODUCT RULE:** *if a procedure can be broken in two tasks and there are  $n_1$  ways to do the first part and  $n_2$  ways to do the second after the first has been completed, then there are  $n_1 * n_2$  ways to do the procedure.*

Example: How many DNA sequences of length 100 are possible?

Solution:  $4^{100}$



# Basic counting

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- **THE PIGEONHOLE PRINCIPLE:** *if  $k+1$  or more objects are placed into  $k$  boxes, then there is at least one box containing 2 or more of the objects.*

Example: In a room there are 100 people. What is the minimal number of people were born in the same month?

Solution:  $[100/12]$



# Counting methods: Example 1

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**Example 1:** You draw one card from a deck of cards. What's the probability that you draw an ace?

$$P(\text{draw an ace}) = \frac{\text{\# of aces in the deck}}{\text{\# of cards in the deck}} = \frac{4}{52} = .0769$$

# Counting methods: Example 2

**Example 2.** What's the probability that you draw 2 aces when you draw two cards from the deck?

$$P(\text{draw ace on first draw}) = \frac{\text{\# of aces in the deck}}{\text{\# of cards in the deck}} = \frac{4}{52}$$

$$P(\text{draw an ace on second draw too}) = \frac{\text{\# of aces in the deck}}{\text{\# of cards in the deck}} = \frac{3}{51}$$

$$\therefore P(\text{draw ace AND ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{3}{51}$$

# Counting methods: Example 2

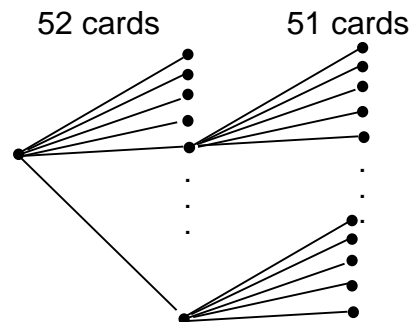
Two counting method ways to calculate this:

## 1. Consider order:

$$P(\text{draw 2 aces}) = \frac{\text{\# of ways you can draw ace, ace}}{\text{\# of different 2 - card sequences you could draw}}$$

Numerator:  $A_{\clubsuit}A_{\diamondsuit}, A_{\clubsuit}A_{\heartsuit}, A_{\clubsuit}A_{\spadesuit}, A_{\diamondsuit}A_{\heartsuit}, A_{\diamondsuit}A_{\spadesuit}, A_{\heartsuit}A_{\diamondsuit}, A_{\heartsuit}A_{\clubsuit}, A_{\heartsuit}A_{\spadesuit}, A_{\spadesuit}A_{\clubsuit}, A_{\spadesuit}A_{\diamondsuit}, \text{ or } A_{\spadesuit}A_{\heartsuit} = 12$

Denominator =  $52 \times 51 = 2652$  -- why?



$$\therefore P(\text{draw 2 aces}) = \frac{12}{52 \times 51}$$

# Counting methods: Example 2

## 2. Ignore order:

$$P(\text{draw 2 aces}) = \frac{\text{\# of pairs of aces}}{\text{\# of different two - card hands you could draw}}$$

Numerator:  $A\clubsuit A\heartsuit, A\clubsuit A\spadesuit, A\heartsuit A\spadesuit, A\clubsuit A\heartsuit, A\heartsuit A\clubsuit, A\clubsuit A\spadesuit = 6$

$$\text{Denominator} = \frac{52 \times 51}{2} = 1326$$

Divide  
out  
order!

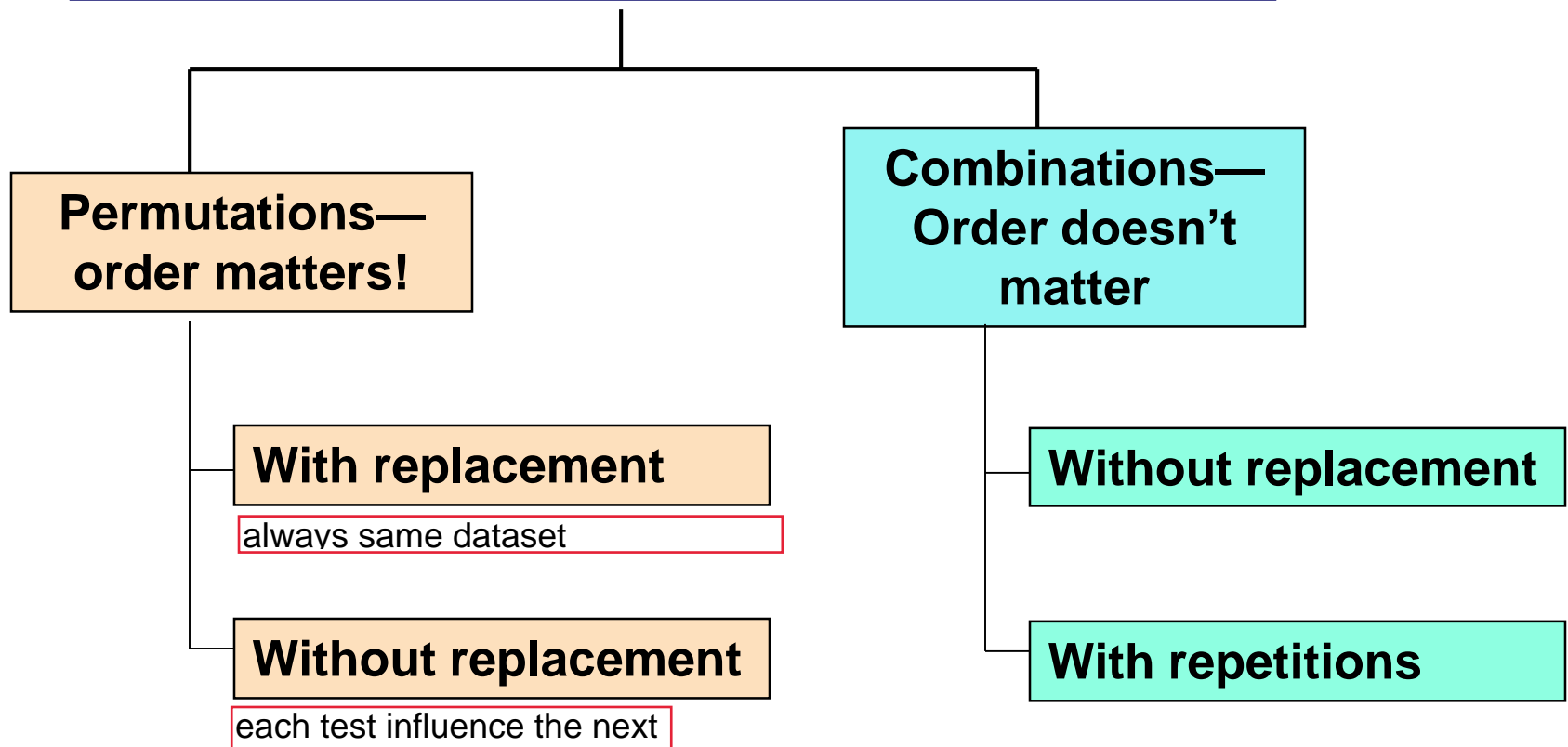
$$\therefore P(\text{draw 2 aces}) = \frac{6}{\frac{52 \times 51}{2}}$$





# Summary of Counting Methods

## Counting methods for computing probabilities





# Summary of Counting Methods

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**Counting methods for computing probabilities**

**Permutations—  
order matters!**

**With replacement**

**Without replacement**



# Permutations—Order matters!

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A permutation is an ordered arrangement of objects.

With replacement—once an event occurs, it can occur again  
(after you roll a 6, you can roll a 6 again on the same die).

Without replacement—an event cannot repeat (after you draw  
an ace of spades out of a deck, there is 0 probability of  
getting it again).



# Summary of Counting Methods

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**Counting methods for computing probabilities**

**Permutations—  
order matters!**

**With replacement**

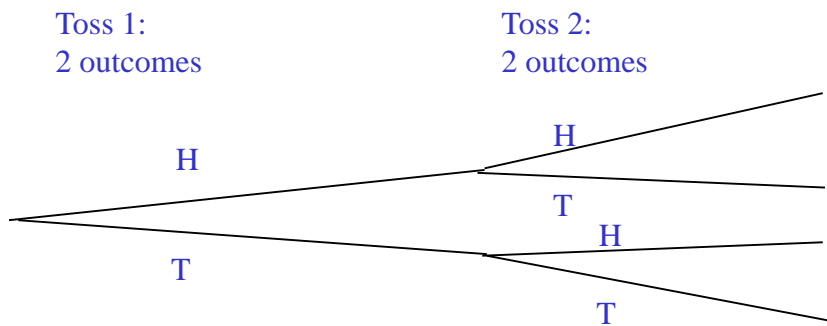


# Permutations—with replacement

With Replacement – Think coin tosses, dice, and DNA.

“memoryless” – After you get heads, you have an equally likely chance of getting a heads on the next toss (unlike in cards example, where you can’t draw the same card twice from a single deck).

What’s the probability of getting two heads in a row (“HH”) when tossing a coin?



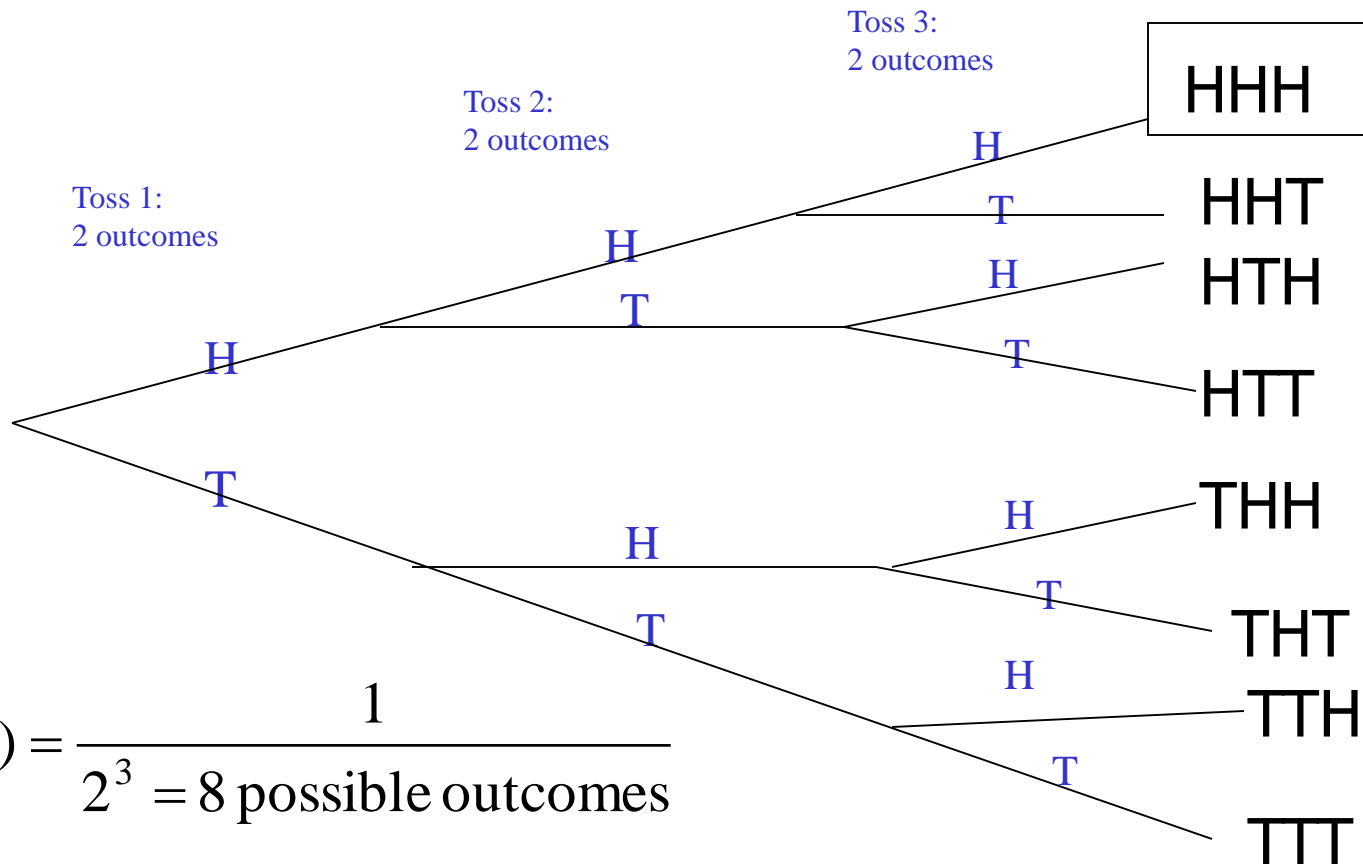
$2^2$  total possible outcomes: {HH, HT, TH, TT}

$$P(HH) = \frac{1 \text{ way to get HH}}{2^2 \text{ possible outcomes}}$$



# Permutations—with replacement

What's the probability of 3 heads in a row?



$$P(HHH) = \frac{1}{2^3 = 8 \text{ possible outcomes}}$$



# Permutations—with replacement

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When you roll a pair of dice (or 1 die twice),  
what's the probability of rolling 2 sixes?

$$P(6,6) = \frac{1 \text{ way to roll } 6, 6}{6^2} = \frac{1}{36}$$

What's the probability of rolling a 5 and a 6?

$$P(5 \& 6) = \frac{2 \text{ ways : } 5,6 \text{ or } 6,5}{6^2} = \frac{2}{36}$$



# Summary: order matters, with replacement

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Formally, “permutations” and “with replacement” → use powers →

outcomes<sup>tries</sup>

(# possible outcomes per event)<sup>the # of events</sup> =  $n^r$





# Summary of Counting Methods

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**Counting methods for computing probabilities**

**Permutations—  
order matters!**

**Without replacement**



# Permutations—without replacement

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**Without replacement**—Think cards (w/o reshuffling) and seating arrangements.

**Example:** You are moderating a debate of gubernatorial candidates. How many different ways can you seat the panelists in a row? Call them Arianna, Buster, Camejo, Donald, and Eve.



# Permutation—without replacement

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→ “Trial and error” method:

Systematically write out all combinations:

A B C D E

A B C E D

A B D C E

A B D E C

A B E C D

A B E D C



Quickly becomes a pain!

Easier to figure out patterns using a the probability tree!

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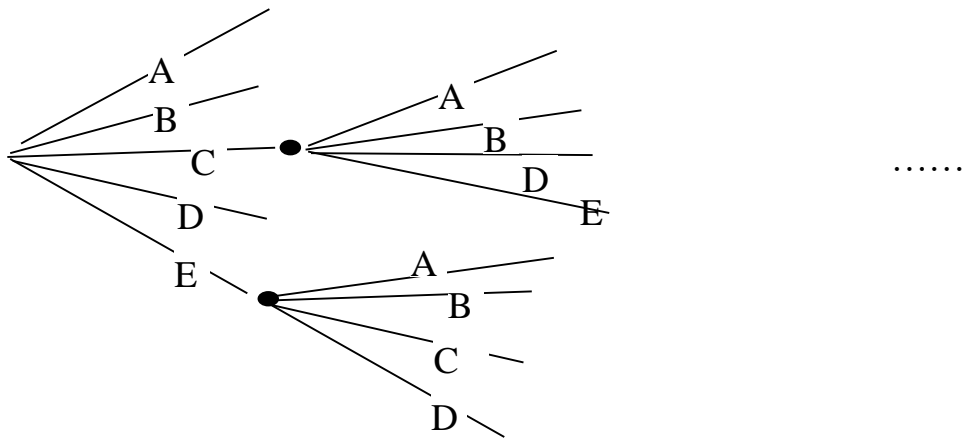


# Permutation—without replacement

Seat One:  
5 possible

Seat Two:  
only 4 possible

Etc....



# of permutations =  $5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 5!$

There are  $5!$  ways to order 5 people in 5 chairs  
(since a person cannot repeat)

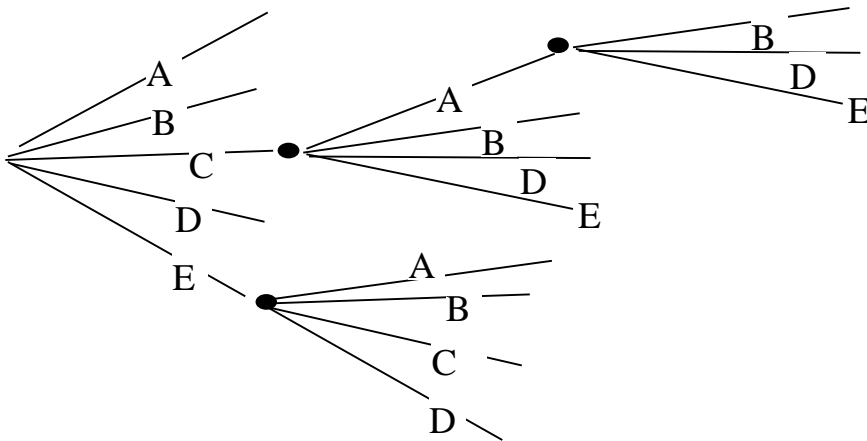
# Permutation—without replacement

What if you had to arrange 5 people in only 3 chairs (meaning 2 are out)?

Seat One:  
5 possible

Seat Two:  
Only 4 possible

Seat Three:  
only 3 possible



$$5 \times 4 \times 3 =$$

$$\frac{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{2 \times 1} = \frac{5!}{2!} =$$

$$\frac{5!}{(5 - 3)!}$$



# Permutation—without replacement

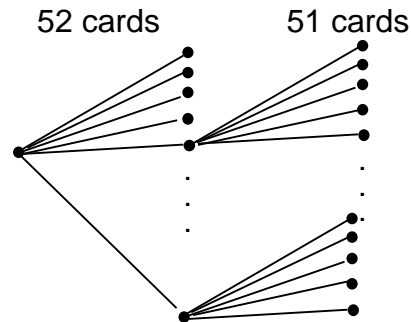
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Note this also works for 5 people and 5 chairs:

$$\frac{5!}{(5-5)!} = \frac{5!}{0!} = 5!$$

# Permutation—without replacement

How many two-card hands can I draw from a deck when order matters (e.g., ace of spades followed by ten of clubs is different than ten of clubs followed by ace of spades)



$$\frac{52!}{(52 - 2)!} = 52 \times 51$$



# Summary: order matters, without replacement

*Formally, "permutations" and "without replacement" → use factorials →*

$$\frac{(n \text{ people or cards})!}{(n \text{ people or cards} - r \text{ chairs or draws})!} = \frac{n!}{(n - r)!}$$

or  $n(n - 1)(n - 2) \dots (n - r + 1)$





# Practice problems:

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1. A wine taster claims that she can distinguish four vintages or a particular Cabernet. What is the probability that she can do this by merely guessing (she is confronted with 4 unlabeled glasses)?  $\frac{1}{4!}$
2. In some states, license plates have six characters: three letters followed by three numbers. How many distinct such plates are possible?  $26^3 + 10^3$  NB: without replacement



# Answer 1

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1. A wine taster claims that she can distinguish four vintages or a particular Cabernet. What is the probability that she can do this by merely guessing (she is confronted with 4 unlabeled glasses)? (hint: without replacement)

$P(\text{success}) = 1 \text{ (there's only way to get it right!)} / \text{total \# of guesses she could make}$

Total # of guesses one could make randomly:

glass one:

4 choices

glass two:

3 vintages left

glass three:

2 left

glass four:

no “degrees of freedom” left

$$= 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 4!$$

$$\therefore P(\text{success}) = 1 / 4! = 1/24 = .04167$$



# Answer 2

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2. In some states, license plates have six characters: three letters followed by three numbers. How many distinct such plates are possible? (hint: with replacement)

$26^3$  different ways to choose the letters and  $10^3$  different ways to choose the digits

$$\therefore \text{total number} = 26^3 \times 10^3 = 17,576 \times 1000 = 17,576,000$$



# Summary of Counting Methods

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**Counting methods for computing probabilities**

**Combinations—  
Order doesn't  
matter**

**Without replacement**



## 2. Combinations—Order doesn't matter

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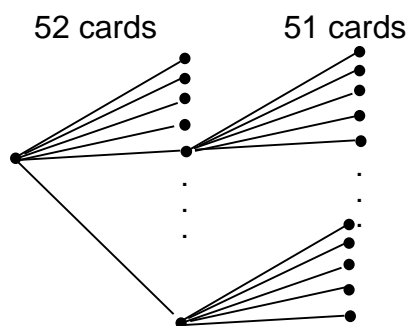
Introduction to combination function, or  
“choosing”

Written as:  ${}_nC_r$  or  $\binom{n}{r}$

Spoken: “ $n$  choose  $r$ ”

# Combinations

How many two-card hands can I draw from a deck when order does not matter (e.g., ace of spades followed by ten of clubs is the same as ten of clubs followed by ace of spades)

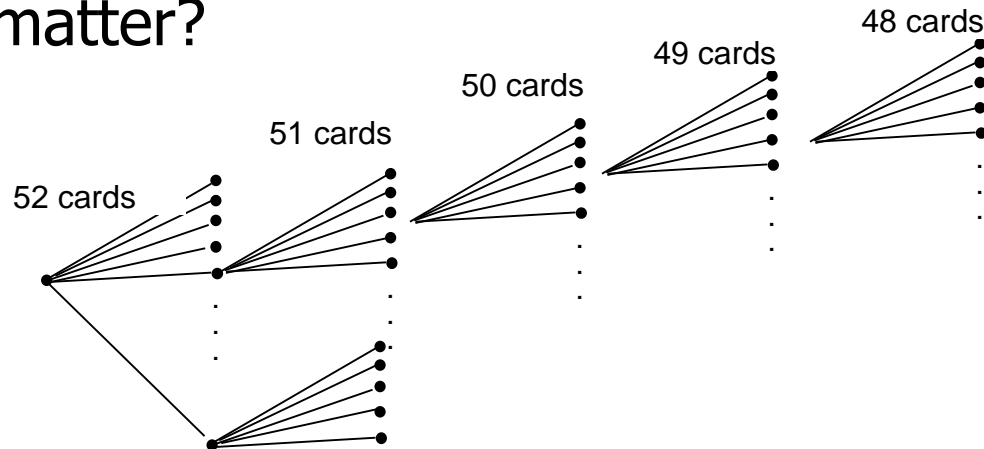


$$\frac{52 \times 51}{2} = \frac{52!}{(52 - 2)!2}$$



# Combinations

How many five-card hands can I draw from a deck when order does not matter?



$$52 \times 51 \times 50 \times 49 \times 48$$

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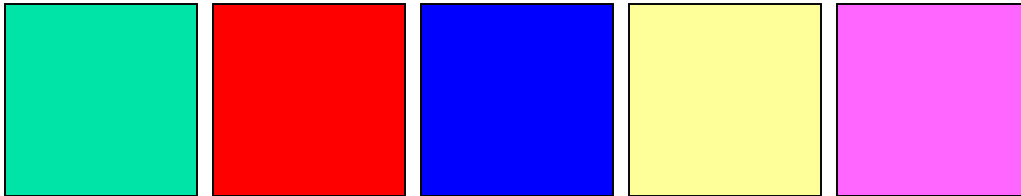
?



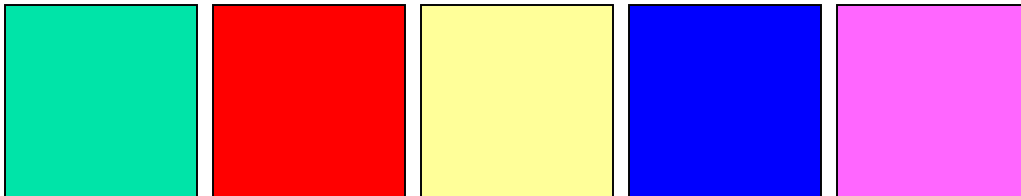
# Combinations

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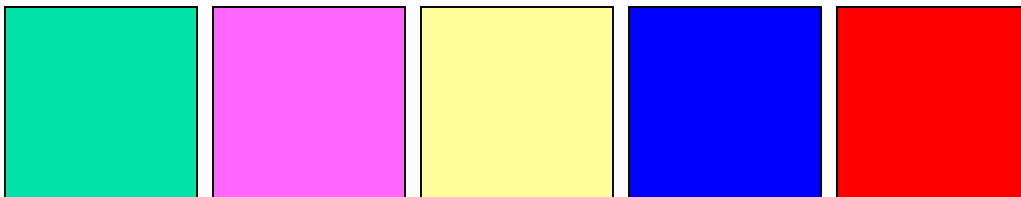
1.



2.



3.



....

How many repeats total??

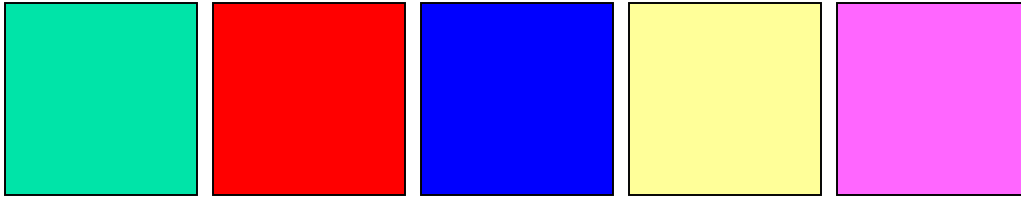




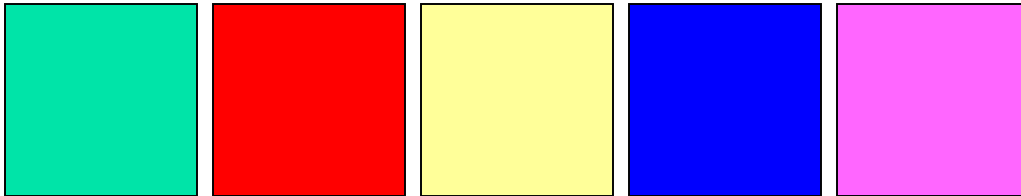
# Combinations

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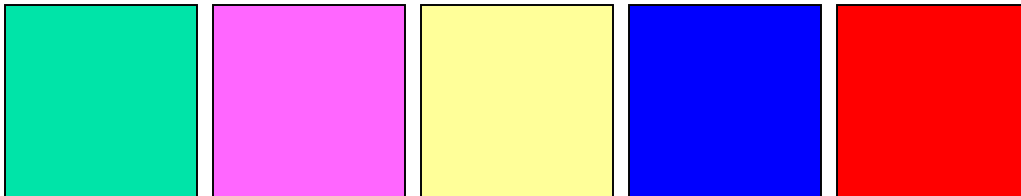
1.



2.



3.



.... i.e., how many different ways can you arrange 5 cards...?



# Combinations

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That's a permutation  
without replacement.

$$5! = 120$$

$$\text{total \# of 5 - card hands} = \frac{52 \times 51 \times 50 \times 49 \times 48}{5!} = \frac{52!}{(52 - 5)!5!}$$



# Combinations

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- How many unique 2-card sets out of 52 cards?

$$\frac{52 \times 51}{2} = \frac{52!}{(52-2)!2!}$$

- 5-card sets?

$$\frac{52 \times 51 \times 50 \times 49 \times 48}{5!} = \frac{52!}{(52-5)!5!}$$

- r-card sets?

$$\frac{52!}{(52-r)!r!}$$

- r-card sets out of n-cards?

$$\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$$



# Combinations

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Example 2: You are moderating a debate of 3 men and 2 women. How many different ways (in terms of gender) can you seat the candidates in a row?

Recall: Arianna, Buster, Camejo, Donald, and Eve.  
Obviously, if you only consider gender, there will be fewer arrangements.

consider it as sitting 2 people in five seats and the other three will stay accordingly

For example:

arrangement A B C D E ( $\text{♀} \text{♂} \text{♂} \text{♂} \text{♀}$ ) =  
arrangement E C B D A ( $\text{♀} \text{♂} \text{♂} \text{♂} \text{♀}$ )

This one arrangement: ♀♂ ♂♂ ♀ (women occupy ends, men center 3 seats) covers 12 distinct scenarios:

A B C D E  
A B D C E  
A C B D E  
A C D B E  
A D B C E  
A D C B E  
E B C D A  
E B D C A  
E C B D A  
E C D B A  
E D B C A  
E D C B A

6 permutations of the 3 men  
(=3!) x 2 permutations of the  
women (=2!) = 12

12 permutations → 1 gender-  
based seating arrangement

Similarly: ♂ ♂ ♂ ♀ ♀ covers  $3! \times 2!$  permutations.

B C D E A

B D C E A

C B D E A

C D B E A

D B C E A

D C B E A

B C D A E

B D C A E

C B D A E

C D B A E

D B C A E

D C B A E

6 permutations of the 3 men  
( $=3!$ )  $\times$  2 permutations of the  
women ( $=2!$ ) = 12

$\therefore$  5! possible arrangements of A, B, C, D, and E are reduced to  $5!/12$  or  $5!/(3!2!)$



# Summary

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This is also a “choosing” problem, since you are choosing 3 out of 5 seats to go to the men (the rest go to the women)

$${}_5C_3 = {}_5C_2 = \quad = 5!/(3!2!) = 10$$



# Summary: combinations

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If  $r$  objects are taken from a set of  $n$  objects without replacement and disregarding order, how many different samples are possible?

*Formally, “order doesn’t matter” and “without replacement” → use choosing →*

$$\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$$

binomial  
coefficient





# Examples—Combinations

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A lottery works by picking 6 numbers from 1 to 49.  
How many combinations of 6 numbers could you choose?

$$\binom{49}{6} = \frac{49!}{43!6!} = 13,983,816$$

Which of course means that your probability of winning is  $1/13,983,816$



# Examples

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How many ways can you get 3 heads in 5 coin tosses?

$$\binom{5}{3} = \frac{5!}{3!2!} = 10$$

combination of three heads in five 'slot'



# Counting Methods

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**Counting methods for computing probabilities**

**Combinations—  
Order doesn't  
matter**

**With repetitions**



# Stars and bars

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- Suppose you have three possible type of biscuits, say Chocolate, Nuts, Vanilla. You are picking 5 from a set that contains more than 5 biscuits of each type.
- How many ways to select the 5 biscuits do you have?



# Stars and bars

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- Chocolate, Nuts, Vanilla (three kinds)
- $* * * * *$  = 5 biscuits
- $* * * | * | *$  = 3 Chocolate, 1 Nuts, 1 Vanilla
- $* * * | | * *$  = 3 Chocolate, 0 Nuts, 1 Vanilla
- ...



# Stars and bars

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■ \* \* \* | \* | \*

- There are  $5*+2|| = 7$  objects and we can pick  $7!$  possibilities. However, swapping two stars or two bars do not change the picture, then

■  $7!/(5! 2!)= \binom{n+k-1}{n} = \frac{(n+k-1)!}{n!(k-1)!}$

N='slot'  
K=different element

always the number of combinations divided by the factorial of the number of elements for which we don't care of the order

# Summary of Counting Methods

NB

Counting methods for computing probabilities

**Permutations—  
order matters!**

**With replacement:  $n^r$**

**Without replacement:  
 $n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)=$**

$$\frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

**Combinations—  
Order doesn't  
matter**

**Without replacement:**

$$\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$$

**With repetitions:**

$$\binom{n+k-1}{n} = \frac{(n+k-1)!}{n!(k-1)!}$$