

# **MA1024 – Methods of Mathematics**

## **Section: Probability and Statistics**

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## 1. Introduction to statistical experiments and outcomes

In Statistics we mainly have observational or experimental data.

- A Statistical Experiment is a process which is designed and conducted to acquire necessary experimental data under a controlled or an uncontrolled background.

*Rolling a die is an example for an experiment with an uncontrolled background where as observing the growth of a plant under a treatment exemplifies an experiment with an controlled background.*

- The experiment can have more than one possible outcome and each possible discrete outcome or the scale of continuous outcome can be specified in advance.

### **Discrete Outcomes**

Number of Heads resulted  
in 5 flips of a coin

$$S = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

Number of motor vehicles  
crashed in an accident

$$S = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \text{more than } 5\}$$

### **Continuous Outcomes**

The excess amount of  
water/day in a power  
station in  $\text{m}^3$ .

Duration for recurrence of  
a cancer in weeks.

- The outcome of the experiment purely depends on chance.

- A sample survey, a census or a cohort study will be carried out usually to gather observational data.

- ❖ *In a sample survey a **sample** of elements from a target population is selected to conduct the **survey**.*

- ❖ *A **census** acquires information about the members of a given population of interest.*

- ❖ *A cohort is a group of subjects who share a particular event together during a particular time span.*

- Gathered data will be effectively used to perform statistical analysis to make decisions in scientific research.

- A **sample space** is a set of elements that represents all possible outcomes of a statistical experiment.

*When you randomly pick a card out of 52 cards in a deck, the sample space is the 52 cards with a distinct sign and a number/letter combination in the deck.*

- A **sample point** is an element of a sample space.

Eg: The card with 9-Hearts

- An **event** is a subset of a sample space - one or more sample points.

Eg: Aces

## Types of events

Two events are **mutually exclusive** if they have no sample points in common.

Consider the events  $A = \{\text{Heart-J}, \text{Spade-Q}, \text{Heart-K}, \text{Spade-A}\}$ ,  $B = \{\text{Club-A}, \text{Diamond-A}\}$  and  $C = \{\text{Hearts-A}, \text{Clubs-A}\}$

Events A and B are mutually exclusive, and Events A and C are mutually exclusive; since they have no points in common.

Events B and C have common sample points, so they are not mutually exclusive.

- Two events are **independent** when the occurrence of one does not affect the probability of the occurrence of the other.

Suppose you pick a card from one deck and pick another card from a different deck.

Then each picking of a card is an independent event since neither card which is picked will effect the picking of the other.

## Counting Rules

The solution to many statistical experiments involves being able to count the number of points in a sample space.

- **Rule 1:** If an experiment consists of a sequence of  $k$  steps in which there are  $n_1$  possible results for the first step,  $n_2$  possible results for the second step, and so on, then the total number of experimental outcomes is given by  $(n_1)(n_2) \dots (n_k)$ .

Eg: A code with a capital English letter followed by a digit.

$$26 \times 10$$



## Example

A businessman has 4 shirts and 7 ties. How many different shirt-tie outfits can he create?

*Solution:* For each outfit, he can choose one of four shirts and one of seven ties. Therefore, the business man can create  $(4)(7) = 28$  different shirt-tie outfits.

● A helpful graphical representation of a multiple-step experiment is a **Tree Diagram**. A tree diagram is a graphical representation that helps in visualizing a multiple step experiment.

## Permutations and Combinations

In general,  $n$  objects can be arranged in  $n(n - 1)(n - 2) \dots (3)(2)(1)$  ways. This product is represented by the symbol  $n!$ , which is called **n factorial**. (By convention,  $0! = 1$ .)

A **permutation** is an arrangement of all or part of a set of objects, *with* regard to the order of the arrangement.

Example: The letters A, B & C can be arranged a number of different ways ABC, ACB, BAC, BCA, CBA and CAB. Each of these arrangements is a permutation.

The number of permutations of  $n$  objects taken  $r$  at a time is denoted by  ${}^n\text{P}_r$ .

**Rule 2:** The number of permutations of  $n$  objects taken  $r$  at a time is

$${}^n\text{P}_r = n(n - 1)(n - 2) \dots (n - r + 1)$$

$${}^n\text{P}_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

A **combination** is a selection of all or part of a set of objects, *regardless of* the order in which they were selected.

The number of combinations of  $n$  objects taken  $r$  at a time is denoted by  ${}^nC_r$ .

**Rule 3:** The number of Combinations of  $n$  objects taken  $r$  at a time is

$${}^nC_r = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-r+1)}{r!} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} = \frac{{}^nP_r}{r!}$$

**Rule 4:** Suppose that a multi-set  $M$  contains  $n$  items of  $k$  different types, such that there are exactly  $r_1$  items of type 1,  $r_2$  items of type 2, and so on. Then the number of distinct permutations of the items in  $M$  is

$$\frac{n!}{r_1! r_2! \dots r_k!}$$

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**Ex:** Five beads, one of each of the colours red, green, yellow, blue, and pink, are threaded on a circular wire. In how many different orders can the beads occur round the circle?