

PROBABILITY FORMULA CHEAT SHEET

1. Factorial

$$n! = n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \times \dots \times 1$$

2. Permutation (Order Matters)

$$nPr = n! / (n-r)!$$

Used when arrangement/order matters.

3. Combination (Order Does NOT Matter)

$$nCr = n! / (r!(n-r)!)$$

Used when selecting items without caring about order.

4. Probability Distribution Condition

Sum of all probabilities must equal 1.

$$\sum f(x) = 1$$

5. Example (Your Question)

(a) $f(x) = c(x^2 + 4)$ → sum values then set $c \times \text{total} = 1$

(b) $f(x) = c \cdot C(2, x) \cdot C(3, 3-x)$ → use combination formula

6. Combination Formula Used in Part (b)

$$C(n, r) = n! / (r!(n-r)!)$$

Examples:

$$C(2, 0) = 1, C(2, 1) = 2, C(2, 2) = 1$$

$$C(3, 3) = 1, C(3, 2) = 3, C(3, 1) = 3$$

Quick Summary

Permutation → Order matters

Combination → Order does NOT matter

Probability distribution → Total probability = 1