

## Probability and Counting

$$\text{Probability} = \frac{\text{cases with order}}{\text{total cases with order}} = \frac{\text{cases without order}}{\text{total cases without order}}$$

### Example I

There are three red coins and two blue coins. Find the probability of picking two coins that are the same color.

#### Solution I: With Order

Number of cases for choosing coins with same color:  $3 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 1$

Total cases:  $5 \cdot 4$

$$\therefore \frac{3 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 1}{5 \cdot 4} = \frac{8}{20} = \boxed{\frac{2}{5}}$$

#### Solution II: Without Order

Number of cases for choosing coins with same color:  ${}_3C_2 + {}_2C_2$

Total cases:  ${}_5C_2$

$$\therefore \frac{{}_3C_2 + {}_2C_2}{{}_5C_2} = \frac{4}{10} = \boxed{\frac{2}{5}}$$

To choose the best method to use to solve a problem depends on each problem. Counting with order may or may not be more convenient compared to counting without order.

### Example II

Five coins are tossed in the air simultaneously. What is the probability that there are two coins that landed on head?

#### Solution I: With Order

Number of cases of two coins landing on the head:  $\frac{5!}{2!3!}$  (Arrangement of two heads and three tails)

Total cases:  $2^5$

$$\therefore \frac{\frac{5!}{2!3!}}{2^5} = \frac{10}{32} = \boxed{\frac{5}{16}}$$

#### Solution II: Without Order

Number of cases of two coins landing on the head:  ${}_5C_2$

Total cases:  ${}_5C_0 + {}_5C_1 + {}_5C_2 + {}_5C_3 + {}_5C_4 + {}_5C_5$

$$\therefore \frac{{}_5C_2}{{}_5C_0 + {}_5C_1 + {}_5C_2 + {}_5C_3 + {}_5C_4 + {}_5C_5} = \frac{10}{2^5} = \boxed{\frac{5}{16}}$$

In a more advanced problem, counting with order was more simple than counting without order.

## Problem

Your wardrobe contains two red socks, two green socks, two blue socks, and two yellow socks. It is currently dark right now, but you decide to pair up the socks randomly. What is the probability that none of the pairs are of the same color?

**Key Word** Counting Strategy, Principle of Inclusion and Exclusion

### Solution I: Without Order

Total case without order:  $\frac{8!}{4! \cdot 2^4}$

Principle of Inclusion and Exclusion is applied for cases without order!!

$$\frac{8!}{4! \cdot 2^4} - \frac{6!}{3! \cdot 2^3} \cdot 4C_1 + \frac{4!}{2! \cdot 2^2} \cdot 4C_2 - \frac{2!}{1! \cdot 2^1} \cdot 4C_3 + \frac{0!}{0! \cdot 2^0} \cdot 4C_4 = 60$$

Therefore,  $\frac{60}{105} = \boxed{\frac{4}{7}}$  □

### Solution II: With Order

Let us count by letting that the number of cases does change when the arrangement of each pair change while the number remains the same if the arrangement occurred within a pair.

Total possibility:  $8C_2 \cdot 6C_2 \cdot 4C_2 \cdot 2C_2$

For specific case, choose two groups from 4 types of socks, or  $4C_2$ . Within each chosen pair, choose one socks each, or  $2C_1 \cdot 2C_1$ . WLOG, the next three pairs may be chosen.

Case I: (1, 1)

$$2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 = 4$$

Case II: (2, 1)

$$2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 = 32$$

Case III: (2, 2)

$$2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 \cdot 4C_2 = 24$$

$$\therefore \frac{4C_2 \cdot 2C_1 \cdot 2C_1 (4+32+24)}{8C_2 \cdot 6C_2 \cdot 4C_2 \cdot 2C_2} = \boxed{\frac{4}{7}}$$
□

If the number of cases increase, PIE, or Solution I, must be utilized.

## Problem

Given that  $468751 = 5^8 + 5^7 + 1$  is a product of two primes, find both of them.

**Solution** Let  $x = 5$

$$\begin{aligned}x^8 + x^7 + 1 &= x^8 + x^7 + x^6 - x^6 + 1 = x^6(x^2 + x + 1) - x^6 + 1 \\&= x^6(x^2 + x + 1) - x^6 - x^5 - x^4 + x^5 + x^4 + 1 = x^6(x^2 + x + 1) - x^4(x^2 + x + 1) + x^5 + x^4 + 1 \\&= x^6(x^2 + x + 1) - x^4(x^2 + x + 1) + x^5 + x^4 + x^3 - x^3 + 1 = x^6(x^2 + x + 1) \\&\quad - x^4(x^2 + x + 1) + x^3(x^2 + x + 1) - x^3 + 1 \\&= x^6(x^2 + x + 1) - x^4(x^2 + x + 1) + x^3(x^2 + x + 1) - (x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1) \\&= (x^2 + x + 1)(x^6 - x^4 + x^3 - x + 1) \\&= 31 \cdot 15121\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the two prime factors are [31 and 15121]. □