

# PROBABILITY

## PROBLEM SHEET 1

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1. a) For the first digit we have 6 possibilities, for the second we have 5 ... for the last one we have one possibility, so the answer is  $6! = 720$

b) The first digit is always 2, so we have to form a 5-digit number from  $\{1; 3; 4; 5; 6\}$ . The number of ways is  $5! = 120$  (same reasoning from a))

c) For the even numbers  $\{2, 4, 6\}$  we know that they can be in positions 1, 3, 5 or 2, 4, 6 in the 6-digit number we want to form. There are  $3!$  cases to arrange them for both cases and  $3!$  ways to arrange the odd numbers. So, the total number of ways is  $2 \cdot 3! \cdot 3! = 72$

d) If 1 is on the first position, 2 can be on positions 3, 4, 5 or 6. This way, for the second position we have 4 possible digits:  $\{3; 4; 5; 6\}$ , for the third we have still 4 possibilities:  $\{2; 3; 4; 5; 6\} \setminus \{1\}$  the digit already chosen and so on.

We basically have:

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \ a \ b \ c \ d \ e \\ \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \\ 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 96 \text{ ways} \end{array}$$

If 1 is in the middle, we need 2 to not be neither on its left, nor on its right. The number of cases for each position  $\overset{1}{\text{in the middle}}$  is the same, so we'll only treat case  $ab1cde$  and multiply the result by 4 (4 middle digits)

For b we have 4 cases  $\{3; 4; 5; 6\}$ , for c 3 cases  $\{3; 4; 5; 6\} \setminus \{b\}$ , for a we have 3 cases  $\{3; 4; 5; 6; 2\} \setminus \{b, c\}$ . For d 2 cases and for e 1 case.

So, the result is  $4 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 72$  ways

We multiply that by 4 and we get  $72 \cdot 4 = 288$  ways

The case where 1 is last digit is the same as when 1 is the first digit, so there are 96 ways in this case.

Summing up, we get the result:  $96 + 288 + 96 = 480$  ways.

2. a) There are 2 E's, 1 D, 2 A's, 2 M's, so the number of arrangements is

$$\frac{7!}{2! \cdot 2! \cdot 2!} = 630$$

b) The number of favorable cases where we obtain 5 Heads and 3 Tails is equal to the number of arrangements of 5H's and 3T's, which is  $\frac{8!}{3! \cdot 5!} = \binom{8}{3} = 56$ . The total number of cases is  $2^8 = 256$ , so the probability is  $\frac{56}{256} = \frac{7}{32}$ .

c) We need to calculate the number of distinct configurations of 9 outcomes of rolling a fair die. Basically, we need to calculate the number of ways we can arrange three 1's, two 2's, two 3's, one 4 and one 5, and this number is equal to  $\frac{9!}{3! \cdot 2! \cdot 2!} = 15120$  favorable cases. The total number of cases is  $6^9$ , so the probability is  $\frac{9!}{6^9} = \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 \cdot 8 \cdot 9}{6^9} = \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2}{6^6} = \frac{5 \cdot 7 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 6}{6^8} =$

$$= \frac{5 \cdot 7 \cdot 2 \cdot 6}{6^7} = \frac{5 \cdot 7 \cdot 2}{6^6} = \frac{70}{46656} = \frac{35}{23328}$$

3.  $[n+1] = \{1; 2; 3; \dots; n+1\}$

$(n+1)$  is a subset of  $[n+1]$  with distinct elements

First of all, we will calculate the total number of  $(n+1)$ -subsets. Each subset contains  $(n+1)$  distinct numbers from  $\{1; 2; \dots; n+1\}$ . So, the result here is the number of ways we choose  $(n+1)$  elements from  $(n+1)$ . The formula for this is  $\binom{n+1}{n+1} = \frac{(n+1)!}{(n-n)! (n+1)!}$

Now, each  $(n+1)$ -subset has an element that is bigger than all the others. Because we have  $(n+1)$  distinct elements from  $[n+1]$ , we know that this element is at least  $(n+1)$ . So, if we want to calculate the number of  $(n+1)$ -subsets with the greatest element  $(k+1)$ , we have the result 0 for all  $k < n$  (because there are none). For  $k \geq n$ , every  $(n+1)$ -subset needs to have elements from  $\{1; 2; \dots; k+1\}$ . However, they need to have  $(k+1)$  in the set so that it is the greatest element from the set. We are left with  $n$  elements to be chosen from  $\{1; 2; \dots; k\}$ , so we have  $\binom{k}{n}$  in total. For every  $(k+1)$ , the number of  $(n+1)$ -subsets is equal to  $\binom{k}{n}$  and all  $(n+1)$ -subsets have an element  $(k+1)$  <sup>from  $n+1$  to  $m$</sup>  which is the greatest from the list.

So, we get to the conclusion that

$$\sum_{k=n}^m \binom{k}{n} = \binom{n+1}{n+1} \text{ (calculating the number of } (n+1)\text{-subsets in 2 ways)}$$

4. a)  $P(\emptyset) = 0$ .

$$A_1 = A_1 \cup \emptyset$$

$A_1$  and  $\emptyset$  are disjoint, as  $A_1 \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$   $| \Rightarrow P(A_1 \cup \emptyset) = P(A_1) + P(\emptyset)$

$$P(A_1) = P(A_1) + P(\emptyset)$$

$$0 = P(\emptyset)$$

b)  $P(A \setminus B) = P(A) - P(A \cap B)$

We can define  $X = A \setminus B$   
 $Y = B \setminus A$  and  $Z = A \cap B$

From there we get that  $A = X \cup Z$ ;  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$   
 $B = Y \cup Z$ ;  $X \cap Z = \emptyset$ ;  $Y \cap Z = \emptyset$

The initial equality becomes

$$P(X) = P(X \cup Z) - P(Z)$$

$$P(X) = P(X) + P(Y) - P(Z), \text{ which is True}$$

c)  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$

Again, we use  $X = A \setminus B$        $A = X \cup Z$

$Y = B \setminus A$ , so       $B = Y \cup Z$

$Z = A \cap B$        $X \cap Y = \emptyset$       and  $A \cup B = X \cup Y \cup Z$

$$Y \cap Z = \emptyset$$

$$X \cap Z = \emptyset$$

$$X \cap Y = \emptyset$$

The initial equality becomes

$$P(X \cup Y \cup Z) = P(X \cup Z) + P(Y \cup Z) - P(Z)$$

$$P(X) + P(Y) + P(Z) = P(X) + P(Z) + P(Y) + P(Z) - P(Z), \text{ which is True}$$

5. a) So, for at least one of B and C to occur we need  $B \cup C$ . Also, we need that A does not occur, so  $A^c$  occurs, so the expression is  $(B \cup C) \cap A^c$  or  $(B \cup C) \setminus A$ .

b) We will form the sets:

$M_1$  - elements that are only in A, and not in B or C  $\Rightarrow M_1 = A \setminus (B \cup C)$

$M_2$  - elements that are only in B, and not in A or C  $\Rightarrow M_2 = B \setminus (A \cup C)$

$M_3$  - elements that are only in C, and not in A or B  $\Rightarrow M_3 = C \setminus (A \cup B)$

$M_4$  - elements that are only in A and B, but not in C  $\Rightarrow M_4 = (A \cap B) \setminus C$

$M_5$  - elements that are only in A and C, but not in B  $\Rightarrow M_5 = (A \cap C) \setminus B$

$M_6$  - elements that are only in B and C, but not in A  $\Rightarrow M_6 = (B \cap C) \setminus A$

$M_7$  - elements that are in A, B and C  $\Rightarrow M_7 = A \cap B \cap C$

So, we get that:

$$A = M_1 + M_4 + M_5 + M_7 \quad A \cap B = M_4 + M_7 \quad A \cup B = M_1 + M_2 + M_3 + M_4 + M_5 + M_6 + M_7$$

$$B = M_2 + M_4 + M_6 + M_7 \quad ; \quad B \cap C = M_6 + M_7 \quad ; \quad B \cup C = M_2 + M_3 + M_4 + M_5 + M_6 + M_7; \quad A \cap B \cap C = M_7$$

$$C = M_3 + M_5 + M_6 + M_7 \quad A \cap C = M_5 + M_7 \quad A \cup C = M_1 + M_3 + M_4 + M_5 + M_6 + M_7$$

and  $M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, M_5, M_6, M_7$  are disjoint

The probability from a) is  $P((B \cup C) \cap A^c) = P((B \cup C) \setminus A)$  and from our notations that equals to  $P(M_2) + P(M_3) + P(M_6)$ .

The right side of the equality is:

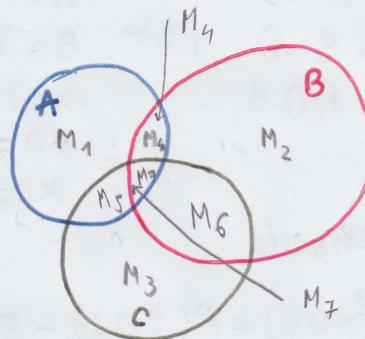
$$P(B) + P(C) - P(B \cap C) - P(A \cap C) - P(A \cap B) + P(A \cap B \cap C)$$

We will replace  $P(M_i) = x_i$ , for easier calculus ( $i=1, 2, \dots, 7$ )

The right side becomes:

$$(x_2 + x_4 + x_6 + x_7) + (x_3 + x_5 + x_6 + x_7) - (x_6 + x_7) - (x_5 + x_7) - (x_6 + x_7) + x_7 = \\ = x_2 + x_3 + x_6 = P(M_2) + P(M_3) + P(M_6), \text{ which is equal to what we obtained in the left side.}$$

To visualize things easier, we can make a Venn diagram for A, B and C:



c) So, we will have the events:

- A - the number is divisible by 4
- B - the number is divisible by 5 (for the numbers from  $\{1; 2; \dots; 600\}$ )
- C - the number is divisible by 7

Therefore, we want to know the probability of  $(B \cup C) \setminus A$ .

From b), we know that

$$P((B \cup C) \setminus A) = P(B) + P(C) - P(B \cap C) - P(A \cap C) - P(A \cap B) + P(A \cap B \cap C)$$

$$P(B) = \frac{1}{5} \text{ (as there are 120 numbers divisible by 5 out of 600 in total)}$$

$$P(C) = \frac{85}{600} = \frac{17}{120} \text{ (as there are 85 numbers divisible by 7 } \rightarrow 7 \cdot 1, 7 \cdot 2, \dots, 7 \cdot 85 = 595 \text{ out of 600 in total)}$$

$$P(B \cap C) = \frac{17}{600} \text{ (17 numbers divisible by 5 and 7 (equivalent to divisible by 35 as } (5, 7) = 1 \rightarrow 35 \cdot 1, 35 \cdot 2, \dots, 35 \cdot 17 = 595 \text{ out of 600 in total))}$$

$$P(A \cap C) = \frac{21}{600} = \frac{7}{200} \text{ (21 numbers divisible by 4 and 7 (equivalent to divisible by 28 as } (4, 7) = 1 \rightarrow 28 \cdot 1, 28 \cdot 2, \dots, 28 \cdot 21 = 588 \text{ out of 600))}$$

$$P(A \cap B) = \frac{30}{600} = \frac{1}{20} \text{ (30 numbers divisible by 4 and 5 (equivalent to divisible by 20 as } (4, 5) = 1 \rightarrow 20 \cdot 1, 20 \cdot 2, \dots, 20 \cdot 30 = 600 \text{ out of 600))}$$

$$P(A \cap B \cap C) = \frac{4}{600} = \frac{1}{150} \text{ (4 numbers divisible by 4, 5 and 7 (equivalent to divisible by 140 as } [4, 5, 7] = 140 \rightarrow 140 \cdot 1, 140 \cdot 2, 140 \cdot 3, 140 \cdot 4 = 560 \text{ out of 600))}$$

So, the probability we need is:

$$P = \frac{120}{600} + \frac{85}{600} - \frac{17}{600} - \frac{21}{600} - \frac{30}{600} + \frac{4}{600} = \frac{141}{600} = \frac{47}{200}.$$

6. a) The probability of at least two of them to celebrate their birthdays on the same day is actually  $1 -$  the complement of this, which is the probability that all  $m$  people have different birthdays.

So, for the first person we choose a random day. The probability that the second person has a different birthday is  $\frac{364}{365}$ . The third one remains with 363 days out of 365, so the probability is  $\frac{363}{365}$  ... the  $m^{\text{th}}$  person remains with  $(366-m)$  days out of 365, so the probability is  $\frac{366-m}{365}$ .

Let it be  $P(A_i)$  the probability that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  person doesn't share his/her birthday with anyone before. This way, our probability is

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_m) = P(A_1) \cdot P(A_2 | A_1) \cdot \dots \cdot P(A_m | A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_{m-1})$$

Therefore, from what we discussed,  $P(A_i | A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_{i-1}) = \frac{366-i}{365}$ , for  $i$  from 1 to  $m$ .

$$\text{Thus, } P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_m) = \frac{365 \cdot 364 \cdot 363 \cdot \dots \cdot (366-m)}{365^m}, \text{ as } P(A_1) = \frac{365}{365} = 1$$

Our probability will then be

$$P = 1 - \frac{365 \cdot 364 \cdot \dots \cdot (366-m)}{365^m} \quad \left| \Rightarrow \frac{365 \cdot 364 \cdot \dots \cdot (366-m)}{365^m} < \frac{1}{2} \right.$$

We want that  $P > \frac{1}{2}$

This happens for  $m \geq 23$ .

b) In case a) the probability of each event  $A_i$  depended on the outcomes of the previous ones, however, in this case,  $P(B_i)$  is the probability of a person  $i$  to have a different birthday than you. These events are independent and  $P(B_i) = \frac{364}{365}$ , for any  $i$ .

So, if there are  $m$  people in the room and you are one of them, the probability that nobody shares your birthday is:

$$P = \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^{m-1}.$$

From  $m = 254$   $P$  becomes  $< \frac{1}{2}$ , so the probability that someone shares your birthday, which is  $1-P$ , becomes  $> \frac{1}{2}$ . So, there needs to be at least 254 people, one of which is you for this to happen.

$$7. P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq m} P(A_i \cap A_j) + \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq m} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) - \dots \\ + (-1)^{m+1} P\left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right)$$

a) For key 1 to be on hook 1, the number of favorable cases is  $(m-1)!$  as key 2 can be on either hooks 2, 3, ..., m, key 3 the same except the hook for key 2 and so on. Thus, we have  $(m-1) \cdot (m-2) \dots \cdot 1 = (m-1)!$  ways of arranging the keys on books such as key 1 is on hook 1. The total number of cases is obviously  $m!$ , so the probability is  $P(A_1) = \frac{(m-1)!}{m!} = \frac{1}{m}$ .

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2) = P(A_1) \cdot P(A_2 | A_1)$$

$P(A_2 | A_1)$  is  $\frac{1}{m-1}$ , each of the remaining hooks : 2, 3, ..., m having the same chance to have key 2 on them. So,  $P(A_1 \cap A_2) = \frac{1}{m} \cdot \frac{1}{m-1} = \frac{(m-2)!}{m!}$

b) We need to count all pairs  $(i, j)$  with  $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ .

For  $i=1, j \in \{2, 3, \dots, m\}$  -  $(m-1)$  pairs

For  $i=2, j \in \{3, 4, \dots, m\}$  -  $(m-2)$  pairs

for  $i=n-2, j \in \{n-1, n\}$  - 2 pairs

For  $i=m-1, j=m$  - 1 pair (+)

$$\text{Total} - \frac{(m-1)m}{2} \text{ pairs} = \binom{m}{2} \text{ pairs}$$

c) This probability is actually  $P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right)$  and we will calculate it using the inclusion-exclusion formula.

Generalising point a), we find that  $P\left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq k} A_i\right) = \frac{(m-k)!}{m!}$  for each  $k$  from 1 to  $m$ . This happens because if we want to fix the first  $k$  keys on the corresponding hooks, the rest of  $(m-k)$  keys have  $(m-k)!$  different ways to be arranged on the remaining hooks, and this applies for any  $k$  keys.

Generalising point b), we obtain that there are  $\binom{m}{k}$   $k$ -tuples  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$  with  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_k$ ,  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k \in \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m\}$  because for each  $k$ -tuple we need a combination of  $k$  elements from a set of  $m$  (and this  $k$ -tuples can't have the same elements in different order, as they are ordered increasingly).

So, the sum of probabilities becomes:

$$P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) = \binom{m}{1} \cdot \frac{(m-1)!}{m!} - \binom{m}{2} \cdot \frac{(m-2)!}{m!} + \dots + (-1)^n \binom{m}{m-1} \cdot \frac{1! + (-1)^{m-1}}{m!} \binom{m}{m} \cdot \frac{0!}{m!}$$

$$P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{m}{k} \cdot \frac{(m-k)!}{m!} \cdot (-1)^{k+1}$$

$$P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{m!}{(m-k)! \cdot k!} \cdot \frac{(m-k)!}{m!} \cdot (-1)^{k+1}$$

$$P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{k!} \cdot (-1)^{k+1} = \frac{1}{1!} - \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} - \dots + (-1)^m \cdot \frac{1}{(m-1)!} + (-1)^{m+1} \cdot \frac{1}{m!}$$

d)  $P_m(0)$  is the probability that every key is on a wrong hook. Basically, the complement of this is the probability that at least one key is on the correct hook, which we calculated above.

$$\text{So, } P_m(0) = \frac{1}{2!} - \frac{1}{3!} + \frac{1}{4!} - \dots + (-1)^{m-1} \cdot \frac{1}{(m-1)!} + (-1)^m \cdot \frac{1}{m!} (1 - P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right))$$

We'll calculate  $P_m(n)$  by approaching the problem this way:  
 Imagine we fix  $n$  keys to be on the right hooks. What's the probability that, given the fact that  $n$  keys are on the right hooks, the other  $(m-n)$  are not on the right hooks, so that exactly  $n$  keys are on the right hooks?  
 This probability is exactly  $P_{m-n}(0)$  as we are left with a set of  $(m-n)$  keys and  $(m-n)$  hooks and we want every key to be on a wrong one.  
 However, we fixed the  $n$  keys that are correct, so we need to establish what probability it is for  $n$  keys to be correct and this is  $\sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_n \leq m} P(A_{i_1} \cap A_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_n})$   
 which we calculated at c) and it is equal to  $\frac{1}{n!}$ .

We know already that for every  $m \geq 1$   $P_m(0) = \sum_{k=2}^m \frac{1}{k!} \cdot (-1)^k$ , so, by replacing  $m$  with  $(m-n)$  we get  $P_{m-n}(0) = \sum_{k=2}^{m-n} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!}$ , which is also equal to  $\sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!}$  because for  $k=0$  we get  $\frac{1}{1}$  and for  $k=1$  we get  $-\frac{1}{1}$ , which added are 0 and the sum remains the same.

$$\text{So, } P_m(n) = \frac{1}{n!} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!}, \text{ which we needed to prove.}$$

e) Case  $m=1$

$$P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq 1} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^1 P(A_i)$$

$$P(A_1) = P(A_1) \text{ True}$$

Induction

We assume  $P(m)$  holds i.e.  $P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j) + \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} P\left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right)$  for any  $m$  events  $A_i, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$

And we need to prove that  $P(m+1)$  is True

$$P(m+1): P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} A_i\right) = P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i \cup A_{n+1}\right) = P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) + P(A_{n+1}) - P\left(\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) \cap A_{n+1}\right)$$

(we used  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$ , which is known to be True from a. c.)

$P\left(\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) \cap A_{n+1}\right) = P\left((A_1 \cap A_{n+1}) \cup (A_2 \cap A_{n+1}) \cup \dots \cup (A_n \cap A_{n+1})\right)$  as we applied the distributivity of " $\cap$ " over " $\cup$ ".

Now, the RHS is  $P(n)$  for  $(A_1 \cap A_{n+1}), (A_2 \cap A_{n+1}), \dots, (A_n \cap A_{n+1})$ , so

$$P\left(\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) \cap A_{n+1}\right) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_{n+1}) - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_{n+1}) + \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k \cap A_{n+1}) - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} P\left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i \cap A_{n+1}\right), \text{ because if we group } k \text{ elements from } (A_1 \cap A_{n+1}), (A_2 \cap A_{n+1}), \dots, (A_n \cap A_{n+1}) \text{ and we calculate their intersection, we will have a lot of } A_{n+1} \cap A_{n+1}, \text{ which will be reduced to a single } A_{n+1} \text{ eventually.}$$

By replacing  $P\left(\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right) \cap A_{n+1}\right)$  into  $P(n+1)$  we obtain exactly

$$P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} A_i\right) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} P(A_i) - \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} P(A_i \cap A_j) + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n+1} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_n \leq n+1} P(A_{i_1} \cap A_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_n}) + (-1)^{n+2} P\left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} A_i\right), \text{ which proves}$$

that  $P(n+1)$  is True (we also used  $P(n)$  for replacing  $P\left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i\right)$ )

In conclusion, the "inclusion-exclusion" formula is proven.