

WEEK 6

Permutations & Combinations

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- (1) Understanding differences between counting with order (permutation) and counting without regard to order (combination)
- (2) Use permutations and combinations to answer real life applications

PERMUTATION

- # A permutation is an ordered arrangement of all or some of n objects.
- # We will learn about :
 - Permutations when objects are distinct
 - (i) repetition not allowed
 - (ii) repetition allowed

Permutation Formula

The no. of possible permutations of ' n ' objects from a collection of ' n ' distinct objects is given by the

formula,

$$n \times (n-1) \times \dots \times (n-r+1)$$

and is denoted by ${}^n P_r$.

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

SPECIAL CASES :

$$(1) {}^n P_0 = \frac{n!}{(n-0)!} = \frac{n!}{n!} = 1$$

There is only one ordered arrangement of 0 objects.

$$(2) {}^n P_1 = \frac{n!}{(n-1)!} = n$$

There are 'n' ways of choosing one object from 'n' objects.

$$(3) {}^n P_n = \frac{n!}{(n-n)!} = \frac{n!}{0!} = n!$$

We can arrange n distinct objects in $n!$ ways - multiplication principle of counting.

Application

Question: From a committee of 8 persons, in how many ways can we choose a chairman & a

vice chairman assuming one person can not hold more than one position?

Solution: $n = 8$
 $\lambda = 2$

$$\therefore {}^n P_{\lambda} = \frac{n!}{(n-\lambda)!} = \frac{8!}{(8-2)!} = \frac{8!}{6!} = 8 \times 7 = 56 \text{ ways}$$

Question: Find the no. of 4-digit no.s that can be formed using the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 if no digit is repeated.

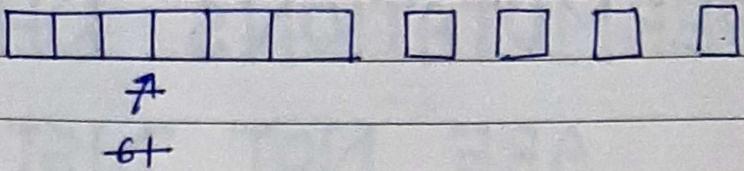
Solution: $n = 5$
 $\lambda = 4$

$$\therefore {}^n P_{\lambda} = \frac{n!}{(n-\lambda)!} = \frac{5!}{(5-4)!} = \frac{5!}{1!} = 5! = 120$$

Question: Six people go to the cinema. They sit in a row with 10 seats. Find how many ways can this be done if

- (i) they can sit anywhere
- (ii) all the empty seats are next to each other

Solution: (i) $n = 10$ $\therefore {}^n P_{\lambda} = \frac{n!}{(n-\lambda)!} = \frac{10!}{4!} = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \text{ ways}$
 $\lambda = 6$

(iii) Box method

$$\therefore \text{No. of ways} = 6! \times 5! \times 4! \times 3! = 120 \times 24 \\ = {}^7P_6 = 5040$$

Permutation formula (repetition is allowed)

The no. of possible permutations of n objects from a collection of n distinct objects when repetition is allowed is given by the formula

$$n \times n \times n \times \dots \times n$$

and is denoted by n^n .

For example : Take AB, C, . What are the possible arrangements taken two at a time.

$$n = 3 \quad r = 2 \quad \therefore n^r = 3^2 = 9$$

i.e. AB, AC, BA, BC, CA, CB,
AA, BB, CC.

July 6, 2021

classmate

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PERMUTATIONS WHEN OBJECTS ARE NOT DISTINCT

EXAMPLE: Rearranging letters

- Suppose we want to rearrange the letters in the word "DATA". How many ways can it be done?
- There are three distinct letters : D, A, T
- As seen in the example, we can treat the two A's in DATA as distinct. Say A_1 & A_2 .
- If they are treated as distinct objects, then based on the earlier formula,
Total no. of arrangements = $4! = 24$
- A_1 & A_2 can be arranged among themselves in $2!$ ways
- A_1 & A_2 are essentially the same. Hence the total no. of ways the letters in "DATA" can be arranged as $\frac{4!}{2!} = 12$

PERMUTATION FORMULA

The no. of permutations of n objects when p of them are of one kind and rest distinct is equal to $\frac{n!}{p!}$

Example : Suppose we want to rearrange the letters in the word "STATISTICS". How many ways can it be done?

- Total of 10 letters of which there are 5 distinct letters : S, T, A, I, C.
- 'S' appears 3 times, 'T' appears 3 times, 'A' once, 'I' twice, and 'C' once

Permutation Formula

The no. of permutations of n objects where p_1 is of one kind, p_2 is of second kind, and so on p_k of k^{th} kind is given by

$$\frac{n!}{p_1! p_2! \dots p_k!}$$

- Applying the above formula to the word "STATISTICS"

$$n = 10, p_1 = 3, p_2 = 3, p_3 = 1, p_4 = 2, p_5 = 1$$

∴ Hence, the total no. of ways = $\frac{10!}{3! \times 3! \times 1! \times 2! \times 1!}$
 $= 50,400$

CIRCULAR PERMUTATIONS

EXAMPLE :

- How many ways can 4 people sit in a round table?
- We consider 2 cases : each selection is called a combination of 3 different objects taken 2 at a time
 - # Clockwise & anticlockwise are different
 - # Clockwise & anticlockwise are same.

#1. CLOCKWISE & ANTICLOCKWISE ARE DIFFERENT

The number of ways n distinct objects can be arranged in a circle (clockwise & anticlockwise are different) is equal to $(n-1)!$

#2. CLOCKWISE & ANTICLOCKWISE ARE SAME

The number of ways n distinct objects can be arranged in a circle (clockwise & anticlockwise are same) is equal to $\frac{(n-1)!}{2}$

SOLVING FOR n & r USING PERMUTATION FORMULA

1. Find the value of n if ${}^n P_4 = 20 {}^n P_2$

$$\underline{\text{Sol.}} \quad \frac{n!}{(n-4)!} = 20 \times \frac{n!}{(n-2)!}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(n-2)!}{(n-4)!} = 20 \Rightarrow \frac{(n-2)(n-3)(n-4)!}{(n-4)!} = 20$$

$$\Rightarrow n^2 - 3n - 2n + 6 = 20$$

$$\Rightarrow n^2 - 5n - 14 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow n^2 - (7-2)n - 14 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow n^2 - 7n + 2n - 14 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (n-7)(n+2) = 0$$

$$\therefore \boxed{n=7} \text{ or } n=-2$$

Answ. (Rejected)

2. Find the value of n if $\frac{{}^n P_4}{{}^{n-1} P_4} = \frac{5}{3}$

$$\underline{\text{Sol.}} \quad {}^n P_4 \times 3 = 5 \times {}^{n-1} P_4$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n!}{(n-4)!} (3) = (5) \frac{(n-1)!}{(n-1-4)!}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3 \times \frac{n(n-1)!}{(n-4)(n-5)!} = 5 \times \frac{(n-1)!}{(n-5)!}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3n = 5n - 20 \Rightarrow 2n = 20 \Rightarrow \boxed{n=10}$$

3. Find λ if ${}^5P_\lambda = 2 \cdot {}^6P_{\lambda-1}$

Sol.

$$\frac{5!}{(5-\lambda)!} = 2 \times \frac{6!}{(6-(\lambda-1))!}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5-\lambda}{(5-\lambda)!} \frac{(7-\lambda)!}{(5-\lambda)!} = 2 \times \frac{6!}{5!}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(7-\lambda)!}{(5-\lambda)!} = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(7-\lambda)(6-\lambda)(5-\lambda)!}{(5-\lambda)!} = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow 42 - 7\lambda - 6\lambda + \lambda^2 = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 13\lambda + 30 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - (10+3)\lambda + 30 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 10\lambda + 3\lambda + 30 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda-10)(\lambda-3) = 0$$

$$\lambda = 10 \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda = 3$$

We know, $\lambda \leq n \therefore \lambda = 10$ (Rejected)

Thus, $\boxed{\lambda = 3}$ Ans:

COMBINATIONS

- # Combinations → selection of objects
- # Unlike permutations, here ORDER is not important.

Example : Consider A, B, C - possible combinations taking two at a time

AB , AC , BC

- Note each combination gives rise to $2!$ arrangements
- All combinations give $3 \times 2 = 6$ arrangements.
- No. of combinations $\times 2! =$ No. of permutations

NOTATION AND FORMULA

- In general, each combination of r objects from n objects can give rise to $r!$ arrangements.
- The no. of possible combinations of r objects from a collection of n distinct objects is denoted by ${}^n C_r$ and is given by

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

- Another common notation is $\binom{n}{r}$ which is also referred to as the binomial coefficient.

Some Useful Results

$$1. {}^n C_r = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!} = {}^n C_{(n-r)}$$

In other words, selecting r objects from n objects is the same as rejecting $n-r$ objects.

$$2. {}^n C_n = 1$$

$$3. {}^n C_0 = 1$$

$$4. {}^n C_r = {}^{n-1} C_{r-1} + {}^{n-1} C_r ; 0 \leq r \leq n$$

Example : Choosing questions in an exam :

In an examination, a question paper consists of 12 questions divided into two parts i.e., Part I and Part II, containing 7 and 5 questions, resp. A student is required to attempt 8 questions in all, selecting at least 3 from each part. In how many ways can a student select the questions?

Solution: ${}^7 C_3 {}^5 C_5 + {}^7 C_4 {}^5 C_4 + {}^7 C_5 {}^5 C_3$

$$= 35 + 175 + 210$$

$$= 420$$

Example : GAME OF CARDS

lets consider the case of choosing four cards from a deck of 52 cards.

Sol. \Rightarrow Total number of ways of choosing four cards from 52 cards $= {}^{52}C_4 = \frac{52!}{4! 48!} = 2,70,725$

\Rightarrow All four cards are of the same suit

$${}^4C_1 \times {}^{13}C_4 = 4 \times \frac{13!}{4! 9!} = 2860$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Cards are of same colour } {}^2C_1 \times {}^{26}C_4 = 2 \times \frac{26!}{4! 22!} = 2,99,00$$

Example : Choosing a cricket team

Select a cricket team of 11 from 17 players in which only 5 players can bowl. The requirement is the cricket team of 11 must include exactly 4 bowlers. How many ways can the selection be done?

Solution. \Rightarrow Total no. of players available for selection = 17
No. of bowlers = 5

\rightarrow Need four bowlers = This selection can be done in 5C_4 ways

\rightarrow Remaining seven players can be selected from

remaining 12 players in ${}^{12}C_7$ ways

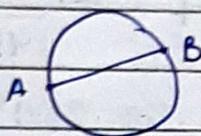
→ Total no. of ways the selection can be done is

$${}^5C_7 \times {}^{12}C_7 = 5 \times 792 = 3960 \text{ way}$$

Example: DRAWING LINES IN A CIRCLE

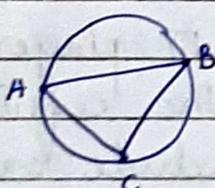
Given n points on a circle, how many lines can be drawn connecting these points?

Sol. → $n = 2$ points, one line can be drawn connecting the points.



line segment : AB

→ $n = 3$ points, three lines can be drawn connecting the points



line segments : AB, AC, BC

→ In general, given n points,

No. of line segments that can be drawn connecting the points = nC_2

Applications Of PnC

- # Important to distinguish between situations involving combinations and situation involving permutations
- # PERMUTATIONS : order matters
- COMBINATIONS : order does not matter

EXAMPLE 1 → Finishing A Race

consider the situation of 8 athletes participating in a 100 m race in a competition with several rounds.

- (1) How many different ways can you award the Gold, Silver & Bronze medals?
- (2) How many different ways can you choose the top 3 athletes to proceed to the next round in the competition?

Solution: (1) Order is important
Hence we need permutation

$$\therefore {}^n P_r = {}^8 P_3 = \frac{8!}{(8-3)!} = 8 \times 7 \times 6 = 336 \text{ ways}$$

(2) Order is not important
Hence we need combination

$${}^n C_2 = {}^8 C_3 = \frac{8!}{3! 5!} = \frac{8 \times 7 \times 6}{3 \times 2} = 56 \text{ ways}$$

EXAMPLE 2 : Selecting a Team

consider the situation of a class with 40 students.

(1) How many different ways can we choose 2 leaders?

(2) How many different ways can we choose a captain & a vice captain?

Solution: (1) Order not important
Hence we need combination.

$$\therefore {}^n C_2 = {}^{40} C_2 = \frac{40!}{2! 38!} = \frac{40 \times 39}{2} = 780 \text{ ways}$$

(2) Order is important
Hence, permutation.

$$\therefore {}^n P_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} = \frac{40!}{38!} = 40 \times 39 = 1560 \text{ ways}$$

EXAMPLE 3 : Drawing lines in a circle

Given n points on a circle, how many lines can be drawn connecting these points?

- Solution:
1. If the segment has a direction line segment AB is different from BA .
Order is important.
Hence, total no. of ways = ${}^n P_2$
 2. If line segment has no direction. Line segment AB is same as BA .
Order is not important.
Hence, total no. of ways is = ${}^n C_2$

Tutorials

1. If all the permutations of the word 'GRAPH' are arranged in dictionary order, then what will be the 73rd word?
2. There are 5 special dishes in a collection of 10 dishes. In how many ways can we have 7 dishes in a sequence such that at least three special dishes are served and special dishes are served consecutively?
3. Choose the correct options:
 - (a) If a coin is to be tossed 7 times, the no. of outcomes in which at most 3 heads appear are 64.
 - (b) If a fair die is rolled thrice, the no. of outcomes of in which the sum of the results is odd is 36.
 - (c) The no. of ways of selecting at least one Indian and at least 1 American for a debate from a group comprising 3 Indians and 4 Americans is 105.
 - (d) Two adults and 3 children can sit around a circular table in 12 ways such that the adults always sit together.

4. There are 4 black dogs and 16 brown dogs are running on ground such that no three dogs are in a straight line - suddenly 2 of the brown dogs started following one black dog making a st. line , and the remaining 3 black dogs started following one of the remaining brown dogs . How many st lines can be formed passing through the dogs ?
5. Find the no. of ways to arrange n people from n people along a circular table considering that seating is same if each person has same neighbours no matter which side he/she is seated?
6. In how many ways we can arrange the 26 letters of the alphabet such that the first letter is a vowel and there are exactly 8 letters between A & B ?

Solutions