

# Chapter 5.2 In-class Exercise

This is the instruction page, make sure to fill out your answers in the worksheet later in the document

## 1. The rule of sums

**The rule of sums** In combinatorics, the rule of sum or addition principle is a basic counting principle. Stated simply, it is the idea that if we have A ways of doing something and B ways of doing another thing and we can not do both at the same time, then there are  $A + B$  ways to choose one of the actions.

More formally, the rule of sum is a fact about set theory. It states that sum of the sizes of a finite collection of pairwise disjoint sets is the size of the union of these sets. That is, if  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n$  are pairwise disjoint sets, then we have:

$$|S_1| + |S_2| + \dots + |S_n| = |S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \dots \cup S_n| \text{ }^a$$

<sup>a</sup>From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule\\_of\\_sum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_sum)

### Question 1

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10%

Uttam wants to read a new book series. He can either pick up the whole series of “Native Tongue”, which is *3 books*, or the whole series of “Seed to Harvest”, which is *4 books*. How many books are there total that Uttam could read?

---

**Question 2**

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10%

Jennifer is trying to set up their class schedule so it won't interfere with work. They can fit in the following:

- Morning classes: 3 per week
- Night classes: 6 per week
- Weekend classes: 4 per week

Jennifer cannot take a combination of morning, night, and weekend classes. How many different classes does she have to choose from?

**Hint** When questions are phrased as “can choose **either ... OR ...**”, this usually points to **adding** the size of both sets.

**The rule of sums with overlap** If the list to count can be split into two pieces of size  $z$  and  $y$ , and the pieces have  $x$  objects in common, then the original list has  $x + y - z$  entries. In terms of sets, we can write this as  $n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$  for all sets  $A$  and  $B$ . <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>From Discrete Math Mathematical Reasoning and Proofs with Puzzles, Patterns and Games, by Ensley and Crawley

**Question 3**

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10%

Ryan has 107 games in his Steam library. Of those, 32 have the category “action”, 14 have the category “RPG”, and 8 are categorized as both “action” AND “RPG”, so they end up getting double-counted.

- a. How many games are action or RPG? (Use the rule of sums with overlap)
- b. How many games are NOT action or RPG? (The total, minus  $a$ .)

## 2. The rule of products

**The rule of products** In combinatorics, the rule of product or multiplication principle is a basic counting principle (a.k.a. the fundamental principle of counting). Stated simply, it is the idea that if there are  $a$  ways of doing something and  $b$  ways of doing another thing, then there are  $a \cdot b$  ways of performing both actions. <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule\\_of\\_product](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_product)

### Question 4

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10%

Cristine is painting her nails, and can choose a color and a top coat. For colors, she has *Red and Purple*, and for top coats, she has *Holo, Matte, and Gloss*. She will choose one color and one top coat.

- List out all possible combinations of color+top coat
- How many total combinations are there?

**Hint** When questions are phrased as “choose ... AND ...”, you will usually **multiply** the size of both sets.

### Question 5

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10%

On an old arcade machine, the highscore entries allow for 3 letters for a player to sign their name.

- How many options are there for the first, second, and third letter?
- If you're choosing a first letter **and** a second letter **and** a third letter, how many possible combinations are there?

### 3. More questions?!

**Question 6**

\_\_\_\_\_ / 15%

In C++, a variable name can have any letters, with lowercase and uppercase counting as different characters. The variable name can also have numbers 0 through 9, except a number cannot be the first character of the name.<sup>1</sup>

- a. For a single-character variable name, how many options are there? (Remember: can't use a number, but can use an uppercase or a lowercase letter).

1.

---

[a-zA-Z]

- b. For a two-character variable name, how many options are there? (Counting uppercase, lowercase, and numbers.)

1.

---

[a-zA-Z]

2.

---

[a-zA-Z0-9]**Question 7**

\_\_\_\_\_ / 15%

Suppose that we are rolling two dice...<sup>2</sup>

- a. How many possible outcomes are there for rolling two 6-sided dice?
- b. How many outcomes are there where you get the same number twice?
- c. How many ways can you roll two dice and NOT get the same number on both?

---

<sup>1</sup>Based on a similar problem from Jim Van Horn's POGIL worksheet

<sup>2</sup>Based on a similar problem from Jim Van Horn's POGIL worksheet

**Question 8**

\_\_\_\_\_ / 20%

Moneybank requires users to create a password. The password restrictions are that it must be 2 to 4 characters long, and each character can be either an uppercase letter [A-Z] or a digit [0-9]. Answer the following questions to figure out how many possible passwords there are. <sup>3</sup>

- a. How many possibilities are there for a 2-character password? (Take into account letters AND numbers!)

An additional restriction: Each password must contain at least one digit. Subtract all possible ways to have all six characters be a letter... Continue answering the questions to solve.

- b. How many possibilities with just 26 letters?
- c. How many six-character passwords? (Take **a.** and subtract **b.**)

Now follow the above to figure out for...

- d. How many possible passwords with 3 characters?
- e. How many possible passwords with 4 characters?
- f. How many possible passwords, with either 2 characters, 3 characters, or 4 characters. (Are we using the rule of sums or the rule of products here? Notice the wording...)

---

<sup>3</sup>Based on a similar problem from Jim Van Horn's POGIL worksheet

## Chapter 5.2 In-class Exercise Worksheet

**Team:** Please write down all people in your team.

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
- 

### Grading

Question	Weight	0-4	Adjusted score
1	10%		
2	10%		
3	10%		
4	10%		
5	10%		
6	15%		
7	15%		
8	20%		

---

### Answer sheet

10% Question 1: Books

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

---

10% Question 2: Classes

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

---

10% Question 3: Video games

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

a.

b.

---

**10%** Question 4: Nail polish

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

a.

b.

---

**10%** Question 5: Highscore

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

a.

b.

---

**15%** Question 6: Variables

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

a.

b.

---

**15%** Question 7: Dice

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

a.

b.

c.

---

**20%** Question 8: Passwords

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.