

## 11. Permutations and Combinations

### **Fundamental Counting Principles**

#### **The Additive Rule**

Suppose that x and y are two **disjoint events, that is, they** never occur together. Further, suppose that x occurs in m ways and y occurs in n ways. **Then** x **or** y **can occur in** m **+** n **ways.** This rule can be extended to more than two mutually exclusive events also.

**Example:** Ramesh Kumar Joshi is taken to a toy shop "Gizmos" containing 15 distinct toy cars, 17 distinct toy dolls and 6 distinct toy guns. Find the number of ways in which Ramesh can choose a toy **Sol.** If Ramesh is allowed to choose exactly one of the above mentioned toys in the shop, he will have to choose one toy out of 15 + 17 + 6 = 38 toys. There are 38 ways in which Ramesh can choose a toy.

#### **The Product Rule**

If one thing can be done in  $\mathbf{m}$  different ways and a second thing can be done in  $\mathbf{n}$  different ways, then the two things in succession can be done in  $\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{n}$  different ways. This principle is known as **product Rule** 

**Example:** If there are 3 routes from town A to B and 5 routes from town B to C, Total how many different routes are there from A to C?

**Sol.** 
$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

If there are m ways of doing a thing, n ways of doing a second thing and p ways of doing a third thing, then the total number of "distinct" ways of doing all these together is m x n x p.

**Example:** Suppose, there are five routes for going from a place A to another place B and six routes for going from the place B to a third place C. Find the number of different ways through which a person can go from A to C via B.

**Sol.** Since there are five different routes from A to B person can go from A to B in five different ways. After reaching B, he has six different ways of finishing the second part of his journey (i.e. going from B to C). Thus one way of going from A to B there are six different ways of completing the journey from A to C via B. Hence, the total number of differ t ways of finishing both parts of the journey (i.e. from A to B and then from B to C) = 5 times six different ways  $5 \times 6 = \text{no.}$  of ways from the first point to the second point  $\times$  number of ways from the second point to the third point.

#### **Factorial Function**

Here we introduce a very useful function, called the factorial function. This function is very convenient for calculations and formulae to be used in this lecture.



**Definition:** If n is a natural number, then n factorial, denoted by n! or ∟n is defined to be the

product 
$$I \times 2 \times 3 \dots (n-1) \times n$$

That is 
$$n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \dots (n-1) \times n$$

As a special case, we define 0! = 1We now list the value of n! for some values of n.

$$0! = 1$$

$$1! = 1$$

$$2! = 1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$3! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$$

$$4! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$$

$$5! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 = 120$$

$$6! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 = 720.$$

We can also define n! recursively as follows:

$$n! = n (n - 1)!$$
 for  $n \ge 1$ 

Thus 
$$7! = 7(6!) = 7(720) = 5040;$$

And 
$$8! = 8 (7!) = 8 (5040) = 40320$$
.

## **Properties of Factorials:**

- > It is a natural number.
- ightharpoonup If  $n \ge 5$ , then n! ends in a zero or the unit's digit of n! always is zero.
- ➤ If  $n \ge 1$  then n! is divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, ..., n.
- ➤ If  $n \ge 1$ , the n! is divisible by r! for  $1 \le r \le n$  In fact

$$\frac{n!}{r!} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)...(r+l)r(r-1)...2.1}{r(r-1)...2.1} = n(n-1)(n-2)...(r+1)$$

 $\triangleright$  Product of r( $\ge$ 1) consecutive natural numbers can be written as quotient of two factorials.

Let the r consecutive natural numbers be m, m + 1, m + 2... m + r - 1.

Then, m × (m + 1) × (m + 2) ... x (m + r - 1) = 
$$\frac{(m-1)! m(m+1)...(m+r-1)}{!} = \frac{(m+r-1)!}{(m-1)!}$$

#### **Permutations**

A permutation is an arrangement of all or part of a number of things in a **definite order**. For example, the permutations of the three letters a, b, c taken all at a time **abc, acb, bca, bac, cba cab**. The permutations of the three letters a, b, c taken two at a time are **ab, ac, ba, bc, ca, cb**.

- Number of Permutations of n different things taken r at a time
- ▶ If n and r are positive integers such that  $1 \le r \le n$ , then the number of all permutations of n distinct things, taken r at a time is denoted by the symbol P (n, r) or  $n_P$

$$n_{p_r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} = n (n-1) (n-2) ... (n-r+1)$$

When r = n, 
$$n_{p_r}$$
 =  $n_{p_n}$  = n (n - 1) (n - 2) ... 1 = n!



Thus  $8_{p_3}$  denotes the numbers of permutations of 8 different things taken 3 at a time, and  $s_{p_s}$  denotes the number of permutations of 5 different things taken 5 at a time.

In permutations, the order of arrangement is taken into account; when the order is changed, a different permutation is obtained.

**Example:** Find the values of  $5_{P_1}$ ,  $5_{P_2}$ ,  $5_{P_3}$ ,  $5_{P_4}$ ,  $5_{P_5}$  and  $10_{P_7}$ 

Sol.

$$5_{P_1} = 5$$
,  $5_{P_2} = 5 \times 4 = 20$ ,  $5_{P_3} = 5 \times 4 \times 3 = 60$ ,

$$5_{P_4} = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 = 120,$$

$$5_{P_5} = 5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \ 1 = 120$$

$$10_{P_7} = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 = 604800.$$

**Example:** Find the total number of ways in which 4 persons can take their places in a cab having 6 seats

Sol. The number of ways in which 4 persons can take their places in a cab having 6 seats

$$6_{p_4} = 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 = 360 \text{ ways}$$

# **Important:**

- > The total number of permutations of n different things taken all at a time is n!
- ightharpoonup The total number of arrangements of n different things taken r at a time, in which a particular thing always, occurs = r  $imes n-1_{p_{r-1}}$
- ightharpoonup The total number of permutations of n different things taken r at a time in which a particular thing never occurs =  $n-1_{P_r}$
- $\triangleright$  The total number of permutations of n dissimilar things taken r at a time with repetitions =  $n^r$ , Circular Permutation
- The number of permutations of n things taken all at a time when p of them are alike and of one kind, q of them are alike and of second kind, all other being different, is  $\frac{n!}{p!q!}$

Remark: The above theorem can be extended if in addition to the above r things are alike and of third kind and so on, then total permutation =  $\frac{n!}{p! \, q! \, r!}$ 

**Example:** In how many ways 6 people can stand in a queue?

**Sol.** The number of ways in which 6 people can stand in a queue = 6! = 720.

**Example:** How many 4 digits number (repetition is not allowed) can be made by using digits 1 - 7 if



4 will always be there in the number?

**Sol.** Total digits (n) = 7

Total ways of making the number if 4 is always there =  $r \times n - 1_{p_{r-1}} = 4 \times 6_{p_3} = 480$ .

**Example:** How many different 3 letter words can be made by 5 vowels, if vowel 'A' will never be included?

**Sol.** Total letters (n) = 5 So total number of ways =  $n - 1_{P_r} = 5 - 1_{P_3} = 4_{P_3} = 24$ .

Example: How many 3 digits number can be made by using digits 1 to 7 if repetition is allowed?

**Sol.** Total digits (n) = 7

So total ways =  $7^3$  = 343

**Example:** Find the number of permutations of the letters of the world ASSAS5 ATION.

Sol. We have 13 letters in all of which 3 are A's, 4 are S's, 2 are I's and 2 are N's

The number of arrangements =  $\frac{13!}{3!4!2!2!}$ 

**Example:** Find the number of permutations of the letters of the words 'DADDY DID A DEADLY DEED'.

**Sol.** We have 19 letters in all of which 9 are Ds; 3 are As; 2 are ys; are Es and the rest are all distinct. Therefore the number of arrangements =  $\frac{19!}{9!3!2!3!}$ 

**Example:** How many different word 'ORDINATE'?

- > So that THE VOWELS OCCUPY ODD PLACES.
- Beginning with 'O'
- > Beginning with 'O' and ending with 'E'.

Sol.

- ➤ ORDINATE contains 8 letters: 4 odd places, 4 vowels.
  - Number of arrangements of the vowels 4! Also number of arranging consonants is 4! Number of words =  $4! \times 4! = (4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)^2 = 576$ .
- > When O is fixed we have only seven letters at our disposal
  - $\rightarrow$  Number of words = 7! = 5040
- ➤ When we have only six letters at our disposal, leaving 'O' and 'E' which are fixed Number of permutations = 6! = 720.

#### **Circular Permutation**



So far we have discussed permutation of objects (or things) in a row. This type of permutations is generally known as **linear permutations.** If we arrange the objects along a closed curve viz. a circle, the permutations are known as **circular permutations.** 

As we have seen in the earlier sections of this chapter that every linear arrangement has a beginning and an end, but there is nothing like a beginning or an end in a circular permutation. Thus, in a circular permutation, we consider one object as fixed and the remaining objects are arranged as in case of linear arrangements.

The number of ways of arranging n distinct objects around a circle is (n - 1)!& the total number when taken r at a time will be  $\frac{n_{p_r}}{r}$ 

**Note:** In the above, anti-clockwise and clockwise order of arrangements are considered as distinct permutations.

**Example:** How many ways can 7 Australians sit down at a round table?

Sol. 7 Australians can take their seat at the round table in (7 - 1)! 6! ways,

**Example:** In how many ways can 12 persons among whom two are brothers be arranged along a circle so that there is exactly one person between the two brothers?

**Sol.** One person between the two brothers can be chosen in  $10_{p_1}=10$  ways. The remaining 9 persons can be arranged in  $9_{p_9}=9!$  The two brothers can be arranged in 2! Ways. Therefore, the total number of ways = (9!) (10) (2!) = (10!) (2!)  $\sim$  Important

> If there be no difference between clockwise and anticlockwise arrangements, the total no. of circular permutations of n things taken all at a time is  $\frac{(n-1)!}{2}$  and the total number when taken r at a time will be  $\frac{n_{p_r}}{2r}$ 

**Example:** In how many ways can a garland of 10 different flowers be made?

**Sol.** Since, there is no difference between clockwise and anticlockwise arrangements, the total no. of ways = (10 - 1)! / 2 = 9! / 2.

#### **Combinations**

A combination is a grouping or selection of all or part of a number of things without reference to the arrangement of the things selected. Thus the combinations of the three letters a, b, c taken 2 at a time are ab, ac, bc. Note that ab and ba are 1 combination but 2 permutations of the letters a, b.

The symbol  $n_{\mathcal{C}_r}$  represents the number of combinations (selections, groups) of n different things taken r at a time. Thus  $9_{\mathcal{C}_4}$  denotes the number of combinations of 9 different things taken 4 at time.

**Note:** The sym C(n, r) having the same meanings as  $n_{\mathcal{C}_r}$  is sometimes used.



#### **Difference between Permutation & Combination**

In a combination only a group is made and the order in which the objects are arrangement in a definite order is considered.

### **Examples**

- > ab and ba are two different permutations, but each represents the same combination.
- > abc, acb, bac, cab, cab, cba are six different permutations but each one f them represents the same combination, namely a group of three objects a, b and c.

Remark: We use the word arrangements for permutations and 'selections' for combinations.

Number of combinations of n different things taken r at a time

$$n_{C_r} = \frac{n_{p_r}}{r!} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)...(n-r+l)}{n!}$$

**Examples:** The number of handshakes that may be exchanged among a party of 12 students if each student shakes hands once with each other student is

$$12_{C_2} = \frac{12!}{2!(12-2)!} = \frac{12!}{2!10!} = \frac{12 \times 11}{1 \times 2} = 66$$

The following formulas very useful in simplifying calculations:

 $n_{\mathcal{C}_r}$  =  $n_{\mathcal{C}_{n-r}}$  (complementary combination).

This formula indicates at the number of selections of r out of n things is the same as the number of selections of n - r out of n things. Like given in the following cases:

$$5_{C_1} = \frac{5}{1} = 5$$
  $5_{C_2} = \frac{5 \times 4}{1 \times 2} = 10$   $5_{C_3} = \frac{5!}{5!} = 1$   $9_{C_7} = \frac{9 \times 8}{1 \times 2} = 36$ ,  $22_{C_{22}} = \frac{25 \times 24 \times 23}{1 \times 2 \times 3} = 2300$ 

Note that in each case the numerator and denominator have the same number of factors.

**Example:** In how many ways a hockey team of eleven can be elected from 16 players?

**Sol.** Total number of ways = 
$$16_{C_{11}} = \frac{16!}{11! \times 5!} = \frac{16 \times 15 \times 14 \times 13 \times 12}{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1} = 4368.$$

#### **Practice Exercise**

The following exercise is to be taken by the students as a homework assignment. Only after going



through the theory provided. A sincere student shall stand to gain 01 of speed and conceptual clarity after having solved this exercise.

**DIRECTIONS:** For the following questions, four options are given. Choose the best option.

- 1. The letters is of the word ENTRANCE are arranged in all possible ways. The number of arrangements having the E's and N's together is
  - 1) 7!
- 2) 6!
- 3) 8!
- 4) 9!
- 2. A picnic party of four persons is to be selected from 8 Males and 3 females so as to include at least one Female. The possible numbers of ways are?
  - 1) 168
- 2) 84
- 3)8
- 4) 260
- 3. How many numbers, each consisting of four different digits, can be formed with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3?
  - 1) 15
- 2) 19
- 3) 18
- 4) 24
- 4. How many numbers lying between 3000 and 4000 and which are divisible by 5 can be made with the digits 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8? (Digits are not to be repeated in any number)
  - 1) 11
- 2) 12
- 3) 13
- 4) 14
- 5. The total number of ways of answering 5 objective type questions. Each question having 4 choice
  - 1) 256
- 2) 512
- 3) 1024
- 4) 4096
- 6. A "necklace" is a string with several beads on it. It is allowed to rotate a necklace but not to turn it over. How many different necklaces can be made using 13 different beads?
  - 1) 13!
- 2) 13!/2
- 3) 12!
- 4) 12!/2
- 7. The number of ways of distributing 10 different books among 4 students  $(S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4)$  such that  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  get 2 books each and  $S_3$  and  $S_4$  get 3 books each is
  - 1) 12600

- 2) 15200 3)  $10C_4$  4)  $\frac{10!}{2!2!3!3!}$
- 8. Each of two friends has 20 stamps and 10 postcards. We call an exchange fair if they exchange a stamp for a stamp or a postcard for a postcard. How many ways are there to carry out one fair exchange between these two friends?
  - 1) 350
- 2) 400
- 3) 600
- 4) 500
- 9. 4 men and 3 women are to be seated in a row so that the women occupy the even places. How many .such arrangements are possible?
  - 1) 7!
- 2) 44
- 4) 30
- 4) 6!
- 10. In how many ways can 4 men and 4 women be seated at a round table if each woman is to be

between two men?

- 1) 288
- 2) 144
- 3) 1440
- 4) 2880
- 11. By stringing together 9 different coloured beads, how many different bracelets can be made?
- 2) 40320
- 3) 80640
- 4) 10080
- 12. How many parallelograms are formed by a set of 4 parallel lines intersecting another set of 7 parallel lines?
  - 1) 121
- 2) 139
- 3) 115
- 4) 126
- 13. In how many ways can 3 women be selected out of 15 women; if one particular woman is always included and two particular women are always excluded?
  - 1)66
- 2) 77
- 3) 88
- 4) 99
- 14. In how many ways can a person choose 1 or more out of 4 electrical appliances?
  - 1) 10
- 2) 12
- 3) 14
- 4) 15
- 15. A father has 2 apples and 3 pears. Each weekday (Monday through Friday) he gives one of the fruits to his daughter. In how many ways can this be done?
  - 1) 120
- 2) 10
- 3) 24
- 4) 12
- 16. How many ways are there to place a set of chess pieces on the first row of chess board. The set consists of a king, a queen identical rooks, knights & bishops?
  - 1) 8!
- $2).8^{8}$
- 3)5040
- 4) 4280
- 17. Seven nouns, five verbs, and two adjectives are written on a black board. We can form a sentence by choosing one word of each type, and we do not care about how much sense the Sentence makes. How many ways are there to do this?
  - 1)  $7^2 \times 5^2 \times 2^2$
- 2)  $7^1 \times 5^1 \times 2^1 \times 3!$  3)  $7! \times 5! \times 2!$  4)  $2^7 \times 2^5 \times 2^2$

- 18. The numb of arrangements of the letters of the word SALOON, if the two O's do not come together, is
  - 1) 360
- 2) 720
- 3) 240
- 4) 120
- 19. A class is composed of two brothers and six other boys. In how many ways can all the boys be seated at a round table so that the two brothers are not seated besides each other?
  - 1) 720
- 2) 1440
- 3) 3600
- 4) 4320
- 20. Three dice are rolled. Find the number of possible outcomes in which at one dice shows 4?
  - 1) 91
- 2) 100
- 3) 64
- 4) 1
- 21. Six boys and six girls sit along a line alternately in x ways and along a circle (again alternately) in y ways, then find the relation between x and y.



- 1) x = 12y
- 2) x = 2y
- 3) x = 6y
- 4) None of these
- 22. Three men have 4 coats, 5 waist coats and 6 caps. In how many ways car. They wear them?
  - 1) 17280
- 2) 172800
- 3) 1728000 4) 1728
- 23. How many different words can be formed of the letters of the word "MATHEMATICS", so that no two vowels are together?
  - 1) 1058400
- 2) 105840
- 3) 105.84000 4) None of these
- 24. In the above question if the relative position of the vowels and consonant remains unaltered then how many different words can be formed?
  - 1) 15120
- 2) 151200
- 3) 15200
- 4) 15210
- 25. How many 6 digit number can be formed from the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 which are divisible by 4 and digits are not repeated?
  - 1) 192
- 2) 122
- 3) 140
- 4) 242

#### **Answers:**

<b>1.</b> 2	<b>2.</b> 4	<b>3.</b> 3	<b>4.</b> 2	<b>5.</b> 3
<b>6.</b> 3	<b>7.</b> 4	<b>8.</b> 4	9. 2	<b>10.</b> 2
<b>11.</b> 1	<b>12.</b> 4	13. 1	14. 4	<b>15.</b> 2
<b>16.</b> 3	<b>17.</b> 2	<b>18.</b> 3	<b>19.</b> 3	<b>20.</b> 2
<b>21.</b> 2	<b>22.</b> 2	<b>23.</b> 1	<b>24.</b> 1	<b>25.</b> 1