

# Discrete Structures

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# Text book

Discrete Mathematics and Its Application, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

Kenneth H. Rosen

# References

**Discrete Mathematics and Its Application**, 7<sup>h</sup> Edition

By Kenneth H. Rose

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**Elementary Statistics**, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Mario F. Triola

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/CircularPermutation.html>

<https://www.zero-factorial.com/whatis.html>

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# Counting Sample Points

- ❑ In many cases, we shall be able to solve a probability problem by counting the number of points in the **sample space without actually listing each element**.
- ❑ The **fundamental principle of counting**, often referred to as the **multiplication rule**, is stated in Rule 2.1.

**Rule 2.1:** If an operation can be performed in  $n_1$  ways, and if for **each of these ways a second operation** can be performed in  $n_2$  ways, then **the two operations** can be performed together in  $n_1 n_2$  ways.

□ **Example** : How many **sample points** are there in the **sample space** when a **pair of dice** is thrown once?

## Solution :

- ❑ The first die gives us,  $n_1 = 6$  ways.
- ❑ For each of these **6 ways**, the **second die** gives us,  $n_2 = 6$  ways.
- ❑ Therefore, the pair of dice give us  $n_1 n_2 = (6)(6) = 36$  possible ways.

**Example :** If a **22-member club** needs to elect a **chair** and a **treasurer**, how many **different ways** can these **two** to be elected?



## Solution :

- ❑ For the **chair position**, we have  $n_1 = 22$  ways
- ❑ For the **treasurer** position, for each of those **21 possibilities**, we have  $n_2 = 21$ ways
- ❑ Total number of ways =  $n_1 \times n_2 = 22 \times 21 = 462$

□ **Rule 2.2:** If an operation can be performed in  $n_1$  ways, and **if for each of these a second operation** can be performed in  $n_2$  ways, and for each of the **first two a third operation** can be performed in  $n_3$  ways, and so forth, then the sequence of  $k$  operations can be performed in  $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$  ways.

□ **Example:** Sam is going to assemble a computer by himself. He has the choice of chips from **two brands**, a **hard drive** from **four**, **memory** from **three**, and an **accessory bundle** from **five** local stores. How many **different ways** can Sam order the parts?

## **Solution :**

$$n_1 = 2 \text{ (No of brands)}$$

$$n_2 = 4 \text{ (No of hard drives)}$$

$$n_3 = 3 \text{ (No of memory sticks)}$$

$$n_4 = 5 \text{ (No of accessory bundles)}$$

$$\square \text{ Total number of ways} = n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3 \times n_4 = 2 \times 4 \times 3 \times 5 = 120$$

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**The Subtraction Rule** If a task can be done in either  $n_1$  ways or  $n_2$  ways, then the number of ways to do the task is  $n_1 + n_2$  minus the number of ways to do the task that are common to the two different ways.

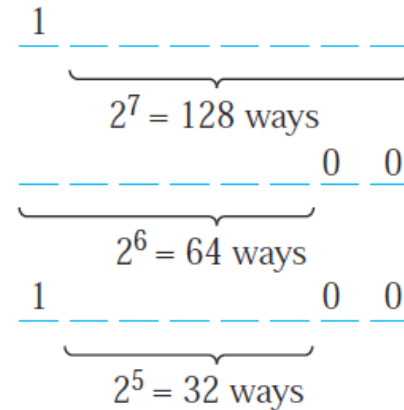
The subtraction rule is also known as the **principle of inclusion–exclusion**, especially when it is used to count the number of elements in the union of two sets.



Suppose that  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are sets. Then, there are  $|A_1|$  ways to select an element from  $A_1$  and  $|A_2|$  ways to select an element from  $A_2$ . The number of ways to select an element from  $A_1$  or from  $A_2$ , that is, the number of ways to select an element from their union, is the sum of the number of ways to select an element from  $A_1$  and the number of ways to select an element from  $A_2$ , minus the number of ways to select an element that is in both  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . Because there are  $|A_1 \cup A_2|$  ways to select an element in either  $A_1$  or in  $A_2$ , and  $|A_1 \cap A_2|$  ways to select an element common to both sets, we have

$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2|$$

**Example** How many bit strings of **length eight** either start with a **1 bit** or end with the two **bits 00**?



## Solution

$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2|$$

$|A_1|$  = A bit string of length eight that begins with a **1** =  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^7 = 128$  ways.

$|A_2|$  = A bit string of length eight that end with the two **bits 00** =  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^6 = 64$  ways.

$|A_1 \cap A_2|$  = A bit strings of **length eight** start with a **1 bit** and end with the two **bits 00** =  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^5 = 32$  ways

$\therefore |A_1 \cup A_2|$  = The number of bit strings of length eight that begin with a 1 or end with a 00 =  **$128 + 64 - 32 = 160$**

**Example** A computer company receives **350 applications** from computer graduates for a job planning a line of new Web servers. Suppose that **220** of these applicants majored in **computer science**, **147** majored in **business**, and **51** majored both in **computer science and in business**. How many of these applicants majored **neither in computer science nor in business**?

## Solution

$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2|$$

Let  $A_1$  be the set of students who majored in computer science

$A_2$  the set of students who majored in business

$A_1 \cup A_2$  is the set of students who majored in computer science or business (or both)

$A_1 \cap A_2$  is the set of students who majored both in **computer science and in business**

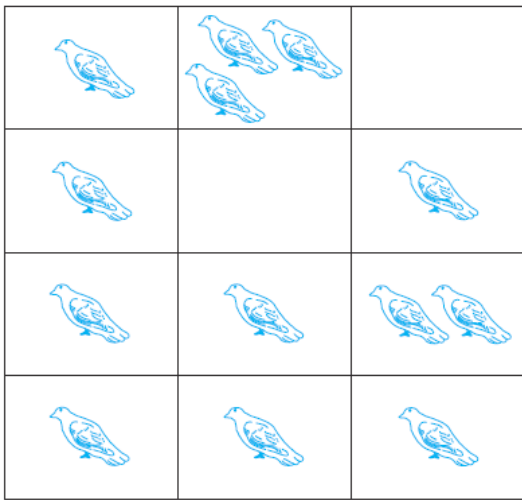
**By the subtraction rule** the number of students who majored either in computer science or in business (or both) equals

$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2| = 220 + 147 - 51 = 316.$$

We conclude that  **$350 - 316 = 34$**  of the applicants **majored neither in computer science nor in business.**

# The Pigeonhole Principle

- Suppose that a flock of **20 pigeons** flies into a set of **19 pigeonholes** to roost. Because there are 20 pigeons but only 19 pigeonholes, a **least one of these 19 pigeonholes must have at least two pigeons** in it.
- To see why this is true, note that if each pigeonhole had at most one pigeon in it, at most 19 pigeons, one per hole, could be accommodated.
- This illustrates a general principle called the **pigeonhole principle**, which states that **if there are more pigeons than pigeonholes**, then there must **be at least one pigeonhole with at least two pigeons** in it (see Figure 1). Of course, this principle applies to other objects besides pigeons and pigeonholes.



(a)



(b)



(c)

**FIGURE 1** There Are More Pigeons Than Pigeonholes.

# THE PIGEONHOLE PRINCIPLE

**Theorem 1 THE PIGEONHOLE PRINCIPLE** If  $k$  is a positive integer and  $k + 1$  or more objects are placed into  $k$  boxes, then there is at least one box containing two or more of the objects.



**Example** Among any group of **367 people**, there must be at least **two with the same birthday**, because there are only **366 possible birthdays**.

**Solution:**

Number of days in a leap year = 366 days

Total number of people in a group = 367

By the principle of Pigeonhole, there must be at least **two with the same birthday**, because there are only **366 possible birthdays**.

Note: There are two calendars--one for **normal years** with **365 days**, and one for **leap years** with **366 days**

**Example** In any group of **27 English words**, there must be at least two that begin with the same letter, because there are **26** letters in the English alphabet.

**Example** How many students must be in a class to guarantee that **at least two students receive** the same score on the final exam, if the exam is graded on a scale from **0 to 100 points**?

**Solution:**

**Total number of possible scores = 101**

**The pigeonhole principle** shows that among any **102 students** there must be **at least 2 students** with the same score.

# Permutation

**Permutation:** A **permutation** is an arrangement of all or part of a set of objects.

OR

An arrangement of a set of  **$n$  objects** in a **given order** is called a ***permutation*** of the objects (taken all at **a time**).

**Example:** Consider the three **letters  $a, b$ , and  $c$** .

The possible **permutations** are  **$abc, acb, bac, bca, cab$ , and  $cba$** .

# Permutation

- ❑ **Definition** For any **non-negative integer  $n$** ,  **$n!$** , called “ **$n$  factorial,”** is defined as  **$n! = n(n - 1) \cdots (2)(1)$** , with special case  **$0! = 1$** .
- ❑ **Theorem 2.1:** The number of permutations of  **$n$  objects** is  **$n!$** .
- ❑ **Example** The number of permutations of the **four letters  $a, b, c$ , and  $d$**  will be  **$4! = 24$** .

# Why 0! one?

The idea of the factorial (in simple terms) is used to compute the number of permutations (combinations) of arranging a set of **n numbers**.

n	Number of permutations (n!)	Visual examples
1	1	{1}
2	2	{1, 2}, {2, 1}
3	6	{1, 2, 3}, {1, 3, 2}, {2, 1, 3}, {2, 3, 1}, {3, 1, 2}, {3, 2, 1}
⋮	⋮	⋮
0	1	{ }

# Why 0! one?

$$n! = n \times (n - 1)!$$

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

Substitute 1, we get

$$\Rightarrow (1 - 1)! = \frac{1!}{1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0! = 1$$



# Permutations Rule (When items are all different)

□ **Theorem 2.2:** The number of permutations of  **$n$**  distinct objects taken  **$r$**  at a time is  ${}_nP_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$ , where  **$r \leq n$**

# Permutations Rule (When items are all different)

1. There are  $n$  *different* items available. (This rule **does not apply** if some of the items are identical to others.)
2. We **select  $r$**  of the  $n$  items (without replacement).
3. We consider **rearrangements** of the **same items** to be **different sequences**. (The permutation of  **$ABC$**  is different from  **$CBA$**  and is counted separately)

# Permutations Rule (When items are all different)

□ If the preceding **requirements are satisfied**, the number of **permutations (or sequences)** of  **$r$  items** selected from  **$n$  different** available items **(without replacement)** is  ${}_nP_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$ , where  $r \leq n$ .

**Example :** In one year, **three awards (research, teaching, and service)** will be given to a class of **25** graduate students in a statistics department. If each student can receive at **most one award**, how many possible selections are there?

**Solution :** Since the awards are **distinguishable**, it is a permutation problem. The total number of sample points is

$${}_{25}P_3 = \frac{25!}{(25-3)!} = \frac{25!}{22!} = (25)(24)(23) = 13,800.$$

Or

$$n_1 = 25 \text{ (research)}$$

$$n_2 = 24 \text{ (teaching)}$$

$$n_3 = 23 \text{ (service)}$$

$$\text{Total number of ways} = n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3 = 25 \times 24 \times 23 = 13800$$

**Example** Find the number of ways of forming **four-digit codes** in which no digit is repeated.

## Solution

To form a four-digit code with no repeating digits, you need to select 4 digits from a group of 10,

so  $n = 10$  and  $r = 4$ .

$${}_{10}P_4 = \frac{10!}{(10-4)!} = \frac{10!}{6!} = 5040$$

So, there are **5040** possible four-digit codes that do not have repeating digits.

Or

$n_1 = 10$  (number of digits available for the first digit)

$n_2 = 9$  (number of digits for the second digit)

$n_3 = 8$  (number of digits for the third digit)

$n_4 = 7$  (number of digits for the fourth digit)

Total number of ways =  $n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3 \times n_4 = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 = 5040$

**Example** How many 4-digit numbers are there with no digit repeated?



## Solution

$n_1 = 9$  (total number available for the first digit of a number)

$n_2 = 9$  (total number available for the second digit of a number)

$n_3 = 8$  (total number available for the third digit of a number)

$n_4 = 7$  (total number available for the fourth digit of a number)

Total number of ways =  $n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3 \times n_4 = 9 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 = 4536$

**Example Forty-three race cars** started the **2013 Daytona 500**. How many ways can the cars finish first, second, and third?

## Solution

You need to select three race cars from a group of 43, so  $n = 43$  and  $r = 3$ . Because the order is important, the number of ways the cars can finish first, second, and third is

$${}_{43}P_3 = \frac{43!}{(43 - 3)!} = \frac{43!}{40!} = \frac{43 \times 42 \times 41 \times 40!}{40!} = 74,046.$$

Or

$$n_1 = 43 \text{ (first)}$$

$$n_2 = 42 \text{ (second)}$$

$$n_3 = 41 \text{ (third)}$$

$$\text{Total number of ways} = n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3 = 43 \times 42 \times 41 = 74046$$

**Theorem 2.3:** The number of **permutations** of  **$n$**  **objects** arranged in a circle is  **$(n - 1)!$** .

**Example** In how many ways can **6 people** be seated at a **round table**?

**Solution**

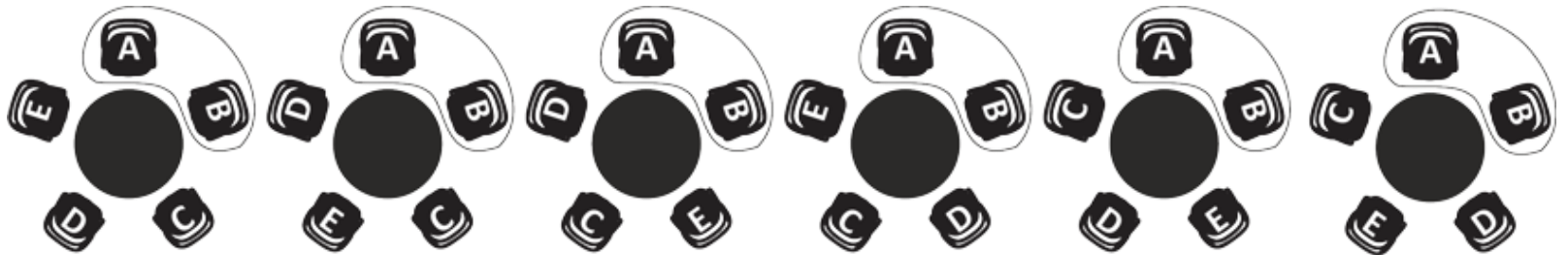
**Here  $n = 6$**  (total number of people)

The total number of ways =  $(6 - 1)! = 120$

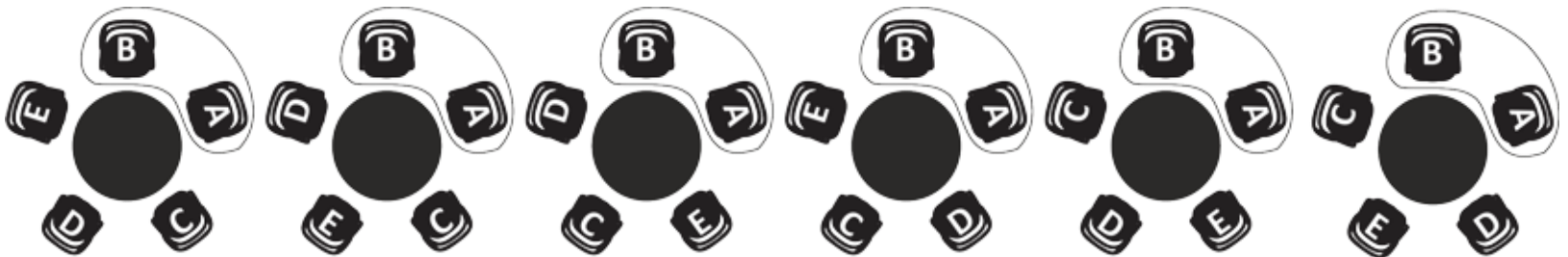
**Example** Find the number of ways in which **5 people A, B, C, D, E** can be seated at **a round table**, such that

- a. A and B** must always sit together.
- b. C and D** must not sit together.

□ **Solution a.** If we wish to seat **A and B** together in all arrangements, we can consider these **two as one unit**, along with 3 **others**. So effectively we've to arrange **4 people** in a circle. The number of ways =  $(4 - 1)! = 6$



But in each of these arrangements, **A** and **B** can themselves interchange places in **2 ways**.



Therefore, the total number of ways will be  $6 \times 2 = 12$ .

## 5 people A, B, C, D, E

- ❑ **b.** The total number of ways will be  $(5 - 1)!$  or **24**.
- ❑ Similar to **a.** above, the number of cases in which **C** and **D** are seated together, will be **12**.
- ❑ Therefore the required number of ways =  $24 - 12 =$   
**12.**



# Permutations when repetition is allowed

- ❑ So far we have considered **permutations** of **distinct objects**. That is, all the objects were completely different or distinguishable.
- ❑ Obviously, if the letters ***b*** and ***c*** are both equal to ***x***, then the **6 permutations** of the letters ***a***, ***b***, and ***c*** become ***axx***, ***axx***, ***xax***, ***xax***, ***xxa***, and ***xxa***, of which only **3** are distinct.
- ❑ Therefore, with **3 letters**, **2 being the same**, we have  **$3!/2! = 3$**  distinct permutations.

# Permutations Rule (When some items are identical to others)

□ **Theorem 2.4:** The number of **distinct permutations** of  **$n$  things** of which  **$n_1$**  are of one kind,  **$n_2$**  of a second kind, . . . ,  **$n_k$**  of a  **$k^{\text{th}}$**  kind is

$$\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2! \cdots n_k!}$$

*where  $n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + \dots + n_k = n$ .*

# Permutations Rule (When some items are identical to others)

## Requirements

1. There are  $n$  items available, and some items are identical to others.
2. We select all of the  $n$  items (without replacement).
3. We consider rearrangements of distinct items to be different sequences.

If the preceding requirements are satisfied, and if there are  $n_1$  alike,  $n_2$  alike,  $\dots$ ,  $n_k$  alike, the number

$$\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2! \cdots n_k!}$$

**Example** A building contractor is planning to develop a subdivision. The subdivision is to consist of **6 one-story houses, 4 two-story houses, and 2 split-level houses.** In how many **distinguishable** ways can the houses be arranged?

## Solution

The total number of arrangements =  $\frac{12!}{6! 4! 2!}$

$$= 13,860$$

distinguishable ways

**Example** Calculate the number of distinguishable permutations of the letters **AAAABBC**.

## Solution

The total number of arrangements =  $\frac{7!}{4! 2! 1!}$

$$= 105$$

distinguishable ways

□ **Example** In a college football training session, the defensive coordinator needs to have **10 players** standing in a row. Among these **10 players**, there are **1 freshman**, **2 sophomores**, **4 juniors**, and **3 seniors**. How many **different ways** can they be arranged in a row if only their **class level** will be distinguished?



## □ Solution

**$n = 10$**  (Total number of players)

**$n_1 = 1$**  (Total number of freshman)

**$n_2 = 2$**  (Total number of sophomores)

**$n_3 = 4$**  (Total number of juniors)

**$n_4 = 3$**  (Total number of seniors)

$$\begin{aligned}\text{The total number of arrangements} &= \frac{10!}{1! 2! 4! 3!} \\ &= 12,600.\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 2.5:** The number of ways of **partitioning** a set of  **$n$  objects** into  **$r$  cells** with  **$n_1$  elements** in the first cell,  **$n_2$  elements** in the second, and so forth, is

$$\binom{n}{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r} = \frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \cdots n_r!}$$

where  **$n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_r = n$**

**Example :** In how many ways can **7 graduate** students be assigned to **1 triple** and **2 double** hotel rooms during a conference?

**Solution :**

$$\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2! \cdots n_k!}$$

**Here  $n = 7$**

$$n_1 = 3$$

$$n_2 = 2$$

$$n_3 = 2$$

The total number of possible partitions would be

$$\frac{7!}{3! 2! 2!} = 210$$

**Theorem 2.6:** The number of combinations of  **$n$  distinct objects** taken  **$r$**  at a time is

$${}_nC_r = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}, \text{ where } r \leq n.$$

# Combinations Rule

## Requirements

1. There are ***n different*** items available.
2. We select ***r*** of the ***n items*** (**without replacement**).
3. We consider rearrangements of the **same items** to **be the same**. (The combination ***ABC*** is the same as ***CBA***.)

If the preceding requirements are satisfied, the number of **combinations** of ***r items*** selected from ***n different items*** is

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

# Combination vs. Permutations

❑ The **2-permutations** of the letters **A, B, C, and D** are:

**AB, AC, AD, BA, BC, BD, CA, CB, CD, DA, DB, DC.**

❑ The combinations of two out of these four letters are:

**AB, AC, AD, BC, BD, CD.**

(Since the elements of a combination are unordered, **BA** is not viewed as being distinct from **AB**.)

❑ **Example:** In a lottery, each ticket has **5 one-digit numbers 0-9** on it.

a) You win if your ticket has the **digits in any order**.  
What are your chances of winning?

b) You would win only if your ticket has the digits in **the required order**. What are your chances of winning?



Solution:

There are 10 digits to be taken 5 at a time.

a) The number of ways of **selecting 5** tickets **from 10** is

$${}_{10}C_5 = \frac{10!}{5!(10-5)!} = \frac{10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6}{5!} = 252$$

∴ The chances of winning are **1 out of 252** (**0.0040** or **0.3968 %**)

❑ b) Since the order matters, we should use permutation instead of combination.

$${}_{10}P_5 = \frac{10!}{(10-5)!} = \frac{10!}{5!} = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 = \mathbf{30240}$$

∴ The chances of winning are 1 out of 30240 (or **0.0033 %**)

# Suggested Readings

**6.1 The Basics of Counting**

**6.2 The Pigeonhole Principle**

**6.3 Permutations and Combinations**