

Maximum Probability

Problem Description: Given an urn consisting of 8 balls: 4 red, 2 blue and 2 green. We have to calculate the probability of drawing out n number of balls from the urn, out of which exactly x balls should be red.

Solution Description:

The problem can be broken into two pieces:

- Number of ways to draw n balls from the urn of total 8 balls.
- Number of ways to draw x red balls from a total of 4 red balls.

Probability =

(number of ways to draw x red balls)*(number of ways to draw (n-x) non red balls)

(number of ways to draw n balls)

a. Number of ways to draw n balls:

Since n number of balls are drawn together, the order doesn't matter. So, to select n balls from a total of 8 balls, we shall use combination.

Number of ways = 8C_n .

b. Number of ways to select x red balls out of 4

Again, the order is not important, hence we will use combinations.

Number of ways to draw x red balls = 4C_x

For the remaining n-x balls out of 4 non red balls:

Number of ways for non red balls = ${}^4C_{n-x}$

Probability = Favourable outcome / total number of outcomes

$$= {}^4C_x * {}^4C_{n-x} / {}^8C_n$$

Pseudo-Code:

Method: probability:

Input: Two integers n and x

```
favourable_outcome = ncr(4,x)*ncr(4,n-x)
total_outcomes = ncr(8,n)
answer = (favourable_outcome/total_outcomes)*100
return ans
```

Method: ncr

Input: Two integers n and r

Initialize nfact, rfact, nrfact with 1

```

for i from 1 to n
    nfact=nfact*i;
for i from 1 to r
    rfact=rfact*i;
for i from 1 to n-r
    nrfact=nrfact*i
ans= nfact/(rfact*nrfact)
return (integer) (ans*100)

```

For example:

$n=3$ and $x=1$

Total number of ways to draw 3 balls = ${}^8C_3 = 56$

Desired outcome = ${}^4C_1 * {}^4C_2 = 4 * 6 = 24$

(number of ways to draw 1 red ball and 2 non red balls)

Probability = $24/56 = 0.428$

Answer = $(4/56) * 100 = 42.8$

Integer value of 42.8 = 42 (**ans**)