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Chapter 2

Probability

- 2.1 Sample Spaces and Events
- 2.2 Axioms, Interpretations, and Properties of Probability
- 2.3 Counting Techniques**
- 2.4 Conditional Probability
- 2.5 Independence

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Equally likely Outcomes

When the various outcomes of an experiment are equally likely, the task of computing probabilities reduces to counting. If $N(A)$ denotes the number of outcomes contained in the event A and if N denotes the number of outcomes in the sample space, then $P(A) = N(A)/N$.

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Ordered Pairs

If the first element of an ordered pair can be selected in n_1 ways, and for each of these n_1 ways the second element of the pair can be selected in n_2 ways, then the number of pairs is $n_1 n_2$.

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Multiplication Rule

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Example

How many strings with one letter followed by one number are there?

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k-Tuples

If a set consists of ordered collections of k elements and there are n_1 possible choices for the first element, for each choice of the first element there are n_2 possible choices for the second element, ..., for each possible choice for the first $k-1$ elements there are n_k choices of the k th element. Then there are $n_1 n_2 \dots n_k$ possible k -tuples.

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Example

A restaurant offers 10 different soups, 5 different main dishes, 8 different desserts and 25 different drinks. How many different menus are there (consisting of one soup, one main dish, one dessert, and one drink)?

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Permutations

An ordered subset is called a **permutation**.

The number of permutations of size k that can be formed from the n objects in a group is

$$P_{k,n} = n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots (n-k+1) = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

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Example

How many 8-letter strings with all different letters are there?

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Example

Assume there is a group with 20 people. Find the probability that at least two of the 20 people have birthday on the same day.

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Combinations

An unordered subset is called a **combination**.

The number of combinations of size k that can be formed from the n objects in a group is

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{P_{k,n}}{k!} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

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Example

How many different teams of four people can be formed from a group of nine people?

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Example

A university warehouse has received a shipment of 20 printers, of which 12 are laser printers and 8 are inkjet models. If 6 of these 20 printers are selected at random to be checked by a technician, what is the probability that

- (a) exactly 3 of the selected ones are laser printers?
- (b) at least 3 of the selected ones are laser printers?
- (c) less than 3 of the selected ones are laser printers?

