

Virtual Laboratories > 1. Foundations > 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

7. Counting Measure

Definitions and Basic Properties

Suppose that S is a finite set. If $A \subseteq S$ then the **cardinality** of A is the number of elements in A , and is denoted $\#(A)$. The mapping

$$A \mapsto \#(A)$$

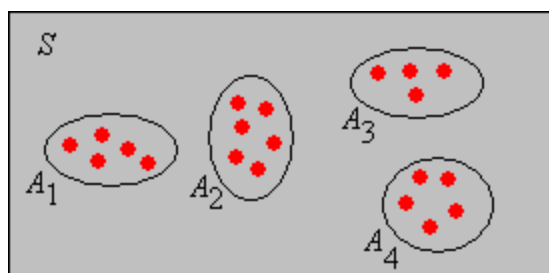
is called **counting measure**. Counting measure plays a fundamental role in discrete probability structures, and particularly those that involve [sampling from a finite set](#). The set S is typically very large, hence efficient counting methods are essential. The first combinatorial problem is attributed to the Greek mathematician [Xenocrates](#).

In many cases, a set of objects can be counted by establishing a **one-to-one correspondence** between the given set and some other set. Naturally, the two sets have the same number of elements, but for some reason, the second set may be easier to count.

The Addition Rule

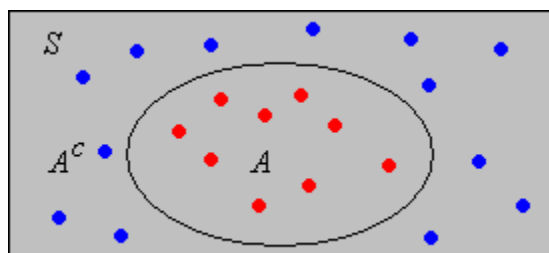
The **addition rule** of combinatorics is simply the additivity axiom of counting measure. If $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a collection of disjoint subsets of a finite set S then

$$\#\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \#(A_i)$$



Properties

1. Show that $\#(A^c) = \#(S) - \#(A)$

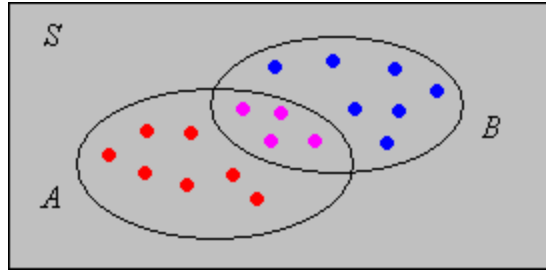


2. Show that $\#(B \setminus A) = \#(B) - \#(B \cap A)$

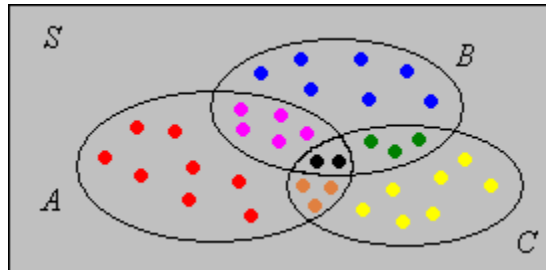
- If $A \subseteq B$ then $\#(B \setminus A) = \#(B) - \#(A)$.
- If $A \subseteq B$ then $\#(A) \leq \#(B)$.

The Inclusion-Exclusion Formula

3. Show that $\#(A \cup B) = \#(A) + \#(B) - \#(A \cap B)$



4. Show that $\#(A \cup B \cup C) = \#(A) + \#(B) + \#(C) - \#(A \cap B) - \#(A \cap C) - \#(B \cap C) + \#(A \cap B \cap C)$



[Exercise 3](#) and [Exercise 4](#) can be generalized to a union of n events; the generalization is known as the **inclusion-exclusion** formula.

5. Suppose that $\{A_i : i \in I\}$ is a collection of subsets of S where $\#(I) = n$. Show that

$$\#\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i\right) = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} \sum_{(J \subseteq I) \text{ and } (\#(J)=k)} \#\left(\bigcap_{j \in J} A_j\right)$$

The general **Bonferroni inequalities**, named for **Carlo Bonferroni**, state that if sum on the right is truncated after k terms ($k < n$), then the truncated sum is an *upper* bound for the cardinality of the union if k is odd (so that the last term has a positive sign) and is a *lower* bound for the cardinality of the union if k is even (so that the last terms has a negative sign).

The Multiplication Rule

The **multiplication rule** of combinatorics is based on the formulation of a *procedure* (or *algorithm*) that generates the objects to be counted. Specifically, suppose that the procedure consists of k steps, performed sequentially, and that for each j , step j can be performed in n_j ways regardless of the choices made on the previous steps. Then the number of ways to perform the entire algorithm (and hence the number of objects) is

$$n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k.$$

The key to a successful application of the multiplication rule to a counting problem is the clear formulation of an algorithm that generates the objects being counted, so that each object is generated once and only once. That is, we must neither over-count nor undercount.

The first two exercises below give equivalent formulations of the multiplication principle.

6. Suppose that S is a set of sequences of length k , and that we denote a generic element of S by (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) . Suppose that for each j , x_j has n_j different values, regardless of the values of the previous coordinates. Show that the cardinality of S is $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$.

7. Suppose that T is an ordered tree with depth k and that each vertex at level $i - 1$ has n_i children for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$. Show that the number of vertices at level k is $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$.

Product Sets

8. Suppose that S_i is a set with n_i elements for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$. Show that

$$\#(S_1 \times S_2 \times \cdots \times S_k) = n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$$

9. Show that if S is a set with n elements, then S^k has n^k elements.

10. Show that the number of ordered samples of size k that can be chosen with replacement from a population of n objects is n^k .

Functions and Bit Strings

11. Show that the number of functions from a set A of n elements into a set B of m elements is m^n .

Recall that the set of functions from a set A into a set B (regardless of whether the sets are finite or infinite) is denoted B^A . The result in the previous exercise is motivation for this notation.

12. Elements of $\{0, 1\}^n$ are sometimes called **bit strings** of length n . Show that the number of such strings is 2^n .

Algebras of Sets

13. Suppose that $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a collection of n subsets of a set S . Show that there are 2^{2^n} different (in general) sets that can be constructed from the n given sets, using the operations of union, intersection, and complement. These sets form the **algebra** generated by the given sets.

a. Show that there are 2^n pairwise disjoint events of the form $B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \cdots \cap B_n$ where $B_i = A_i$ or $B_i = A_i^c$ for each i .

- b. Argue that every set that can be constructed from $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a union of some (perhaps all, perhaps none) of the events in (a).

14. In the [Venn diagram applet](#), observe the diagram of each of the 16 events that can be constructed from A and B .

15. Suppose that S is a set with n elements and that A is a subset of S with k elements. Show that the number of subsets of S that contain A is 2^{n-k} .

Computational Exercises

16. A license number consists of two letters (uppercase) followed by five digits. How many different license numbers are there?



17. Suppose that a Personal Identification Number (PIN) is a four-symbol code word in which each entry is either a letter (uppercase) or a digit. How many PINs are there?



18. In the board game *Clue*, Mr. Boddy has been murdered. There are 6 suspects, 6 possible weapons, and 9 possible rooms for the murder.

- The game includes a card for each suspect, each weapon, and each room. How many cards are there?
- The outcome of the game is a sequence consisting of a suspect, a weapon, and a room (for example, *Colonel Mustard with the knife in the billiard room*). How many outcomes are there?
- Once the three cards that constitute the outcome have been randomly chosen, the remaining cards are dealt to the players. Suppose that you are dealt 5 cards. In trying to guess the outcome, what hand of cards would be best?



19. An experiment consists of rolling a fair die, drawing a card from a standard deck, and tossing a fair coin. How many outcomes are there?



20. A fair die is rolled 5 times and the sequence of scores recorded. How many outcomes are there?



21. Suppose that 10 persons are chosen their birthdays recorded. How many possible outcomes are there?



22. In the card game *Set*, each card has 4 properties: **number** (one, two, or three), **shape** (diamond, oval, or squiggle), **color** (red, blue, or green), and **shading** (solid, open, or stripped). The deck has one card of each (number, shape, color, shading) configuration. A **set** in the game is defined as a set of three cards which, for each property, the cards are either all the same or all different.

- How many cards are in a deck?

b. How many sets are there?



23. A fair coin is tossed 10 times and the sequence of scores recorded.

- How many sequences are there?
- How many sequences are there that contain exactly 3 heads?



24. A string of lights has 20 bulbs, each of which may be good or defective. How many configurations are there?



25. The die-coin experiment consists of rolling a die and then tossing a coin the number of times shown on the die. The sequence of coin results is recorded.

- How many outcomes are there?
- How many outcomes are there with exactly 2 heads?



26. Run the [die-coin experiment](#) until exactly 2 heads occurs.

The Galton Board

The **Galton Board**, named after **Francis Galton**, is a triangular array of pegs. Galton, apparently too modest to name the device after himself, called it a **quincunx** from the Latin word for five twelfths (go figure). The rows are numbered, from the top down, by $(0, 1, \dots)$. Row k has $k + 1$ pegs that are labeled, from left to right by $(0, 1, \dots, k)$. Thus, a peg can be uniquely identified by an ordered pair (i, j) where i is the row number and j is the peg number in that row.

A ball is dropped onto the top peg $(0, 0)$ of the Galton board. In general, when the ball hits peg (i, j) , it either bounces to the left to peg $(i + 1, j)$ or to the right to peg $(i + 1, j + 1)$. The sequence of pegs that the ball hits is a **path** in the Galton board.

27. Show that there is a one-to-one correspondence between each pair of the following three collections:

- Bit strings of length n
- Paths in the Galton board from $(0, 0)$ to a peg in row n .
- Subsets of a set with n elements.

Thus, from the previous exercise, each of these collections has 2^n elements.

28. Open the [Galton board applet](#).

- a. Move the ball from $(0, 0)$ to $(10, 6)$ along a path of your choice. Note the corresponding bit string and subset.
- b. Generate the bit string 011100101 . Note the corresponding subset and path.
- c. Generate the subset $\{2, 4, 5, 9, 12\}$. Note the corresponding bit string and path.
- d. Generate all paths from $(0, 0)$ to $(4, 2)$. How many paths are there?

[Virtual Laboratories](#) > [1. Foundations](#) > [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#)

[Contents](#) | [Applets](#) | [Data Sets](#) | [Biographies](#) | [External Resources](#) | [Key words](#) | [Feedback](#) | [©](#)