

Data Science 1

Probability

Counting Methods 1

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Introduction

From the last few videos it is clear that counting is very important.

Multiplication Rule

If we have two experiments E_1 and E_2 where E_1 can occur in n_1 ways and E_2 can occur in n_2 ways then the combined experiment can occur in $n_1 \times n_2$ ways.

Example

We have already seen this with the example with the dice. If we roll two dice it is a combined experiment of rolling one dice two times. Recall:

$$\mathcal{S} = \{ \square, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \cdot \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} \}.$$

Hence, are $n_1 = 6$ for roll one and $n_2 = 6$ for roll two which gives

$$n_1 \times n_2 = 6 \times 6 = 36$$

As before we have 36 possible outcomes.

This is easier to calculate than how we came up with them last time.

Example

Almost all countries require motor vehicles to be registered with the government and a license plate is issued. Suppose the license plate is written in the following form: Letter Digit Letter Letter Digit Digit using the English alphabet. How many possible unique license plates are there?

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How many choices do I have for the second letter? $n_3 = 26$

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How many choices do I have for the third letter? $n_4 = 26$

How many choices do I have for the second digit? $n_5 = 10$

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How many choices do I have for the third letter? $n_4 = 26$

How many choices do I have for the second digit? $n_5 = 10$

How many choices do I have for the third digit? $n_6 = 10$

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How many choices do I have for the second digit? $n_5 = 10$

How many choices do I have for the third digit? $n_6 = 10$

Hence the combined experiment has $n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3 \times n_4 \times n_5 \times n_6 = 26 \times 10 \times 26 \times 26 \times 10 \times 10 = 17,576,000$ possible outcomes.

Sampling with out replacement

In the above examples we were using a *Sampling with Replacement* approach. This means that once an outcome has been observed in the combined experiment it can be observed again.

In *Sampling with out replacement* once an outcome is seen it cannot be seen again.

Example

You and I go to a trendy new cafe for tea. The waiter brings a box of tea and upon inspection we see that there are seven tea bags all of which are different flavors. Hence if you have Earl Grey then I cannot and similarly if I have Mint then you cannot. We agree to let you choose first.

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How many choices of tea do you have? $n_1 = 7$

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How many choices of tea do you have? $n_1 = 7$

How many choices of tea do I have? $n_2 = 6$

Example

You and I go to a trendy new cafe for tea. The waiter brings a box of tea and upon inspection we see that there are seven tea bags all of which are different flavors. Hence if you have Earl Grey then I cannot and similarly if I have Mint then you cannot. We agree to let you choose first.

How many choices of tea do you have? $n_1 = 7$

How many choices of tea do I have? $n_2 = 6$

Hence there is $n_1 \times n_2 = 7 \times 6 = 42$ ways we could have tea.

Summary

The Multiplication rule allows us to count all the possible number of outcomes without enumerating every single outcome.

Sampling **with** replacement allows for an outcome to reappear in the combined experiment.

Sampling **with out** replacement does not allow for an outcome to reappear in the combined experiment.