



# Permutations & Combinations

DR. NAZLI HARDY

ADAPTED FROM SUSANA EPP:  
DISCRETE MATHEMATICS  
WITH APPLICATIONS

# Lecture Overview

---

- 2 Necessary Tools to Understand Permutations and Combinations
  - Multiplication Principle
  - Addition Principle
- Permutations
  - R-Permutation
- Combinations
  - R-Combinations

# Multiplication Principle & Addition Principle:

---

THE 2 TOOLS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND  
PERMUTATIONS & COMBINATION

# Illustration of Multiplication Principle

---

CAFÉ EXAMPLE

A) How many possible meals consisting of 1 MC & 1 Bev?

# Illustration of Multiplication Principle

---

B) How many possible meals consisting of 1 App & 1 MC & 1 Bev?

C) How many possible meals consisting of 1 App & 1 MC & 1 optional Bev?

# Definition of Multiplication Principle

---

What we have been applying is known as the **multiplication principle**, whereby:

We **multiply** together the **number of ways** of doing **each step** when one activity is constructed in **successive steps. (think AND)**

# Illustration of Addition Principle

---

## TEXTBOOKS EXAMPLE

5 distinct CS books

3 distinct Math books

2 distinct Art books

How many ways can we select 2 books from different subjects from among the books above?

# Definition of Addition Principle

---

What we have been applying is known as the **addition principle**, whereby:

We **add** together the **number of elements** in **each subset** (option) when the elements being counted can be decomposed (separated) into **disjoint sets. (think OR)**



# Example 3

---

How many ways can 3 people sit in a row, next to each other?

# Example 4

---

There is a 6-person committee consisting of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

There are 3 positions to be filled (P, VP, T) [one person can hold only one office]

A) How many ways can we select 3 officers from the 6 people?

B) How many ways can this be done if either \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_ must be president (P)?

# Permutation

---

# Recall Example 3

---

What we have effectively illustrated is **permutation** (ordering)

**$P(n) = n!$**  [the permutation of  $n$  objects (in a row) is  $n$  factorial]

**In how many ways can 3 people sit in a row?**

$P(3) = 3!$

---

**How about if the 3 people were sitting a circle, then in how ways can they sit in a row?**

# r-Permutation

---

# Recall Example 4

---

r-permutation: sometimes, we want to consider an ordering of r elements selected from n available elements

$$P(n, r) = n! / (n-r)!$$

# Example 5:

---

A) There are 8 friends at the movies. In how many ways can they sit together in a row?

B) One of the friends is a medical doctor & needs to sit in an aisle seat (assume each row only has 8 seats and thus, there are 2 aisle seats). In how many ways can the friends now sit? [This can be done using both MP and AP]



---

C) The 8 friends consist of 4 couples, who naturally want to sit next to each other. But for some odd reason, the older of each couple needs to sit on the left-side of the younger one. In how many ways can the 8 friends now sit next to each other? [MD no longer on call]

D) The 8 friends consist of 4 couples, who naturally want to sit next to each other. In how many ways can the 8 friends now sit next to each other? [No odd conditions exist here. MD no longer on call]

# The Photoshoot (part 1)

---

In how many ways can 7 distinct Martians and 5 distinct Earthlings **stand in line** for the photo of the year – but **no 2 Earthlings can stand together**.

Step 1 (line up the Martians)

Step 2 (line up the Earthlings)

Step 3

# The Photoshoot (part 2)

---

In how many ways can 7 distinct Martians and 5 distinct Earthlings **stand in a circle** for the photo of the year – but **no 2 Earthlings can stand together**.

Step 1 (circle up the Martians)

Step 2 (circle up the Earthlings)

Step 3

# Combination

---

# Combination

---

One or more elements selected from a set without regard to order.

Consider 10 students who have come into my office, at the same time, to work on a project – in how many ways can they do so (at the same time)

You will see that only  $r$ -combination is of use to us ...

# r-Combination

---

# r-Combination

---

$$C(n, r) = P(n, r) / r! \quad n \geq 1$$

Similar to r-permutation but will have \_\_\_\_\_ (more or less?) outcomes as there is no emphasis on order

# Example 6

---

In how many ways can we select a committee (or group or team) of 3 people from a group of 10 students?



# Example 7

---

There are 12 employees in a company

A) In how many ways can 5 of the employees be chosen to work on a project together? i.e. how many 5-person teams can be formed?

[Do you see why this is combination and not permutation?]

---

B) There are 2 employees (A & B) who must always work together. Now, in how many ways can 5 of the employees be chosen to work on a project together? i.e. how many 5-person teams can be formed given this condition?

---

C part 1) There are 2 employees (C & D) who refuse to work together. Now, in how many ways can 5 of the employees be chosen to work on a project together? (previous condition with A & B no longer applies)

[Addition method]

---

C part 2) There are 2 employees (C & D) who refuse to work together. Now, in how many ways can 5 of the employees be chosen to work on a project together?

[Difference method]

# Example 8

---

There are 12 students applying for an internship: 5 from Maryland and 7 from Wisconsin

A) In how many ways can we choose 5 students so that 3 are from Maryland and 2 from Wisconsin?

---

B) In how many ways can we choose 5 students so that at least 1 is from Maryland?

[Addition rule or Difference rule?]

---

C) In how many ways can we choose 5 students so that at most 1 is from Maryland?

(Addition Principle or the Difference Method (within the AP)?)

# Example 9

---

How many strings can be formed using the following letters:

M I S S I S S I P P I



# Homework # 7

---