

# Permutations + Combinations

## Permutation Warm-up

Q: There are 10 singles left in Coffin and you and 2 friends want to pick 3 of them.  
How many ways could you choose rooms.

- A) 30      B) 300      C) 720      D) 1000

## Combination Warm-up

Q: There are 10 singles left in Coffin and you and 2 friends want to pick 3 of them.

Suppose you just want to pick 3 rooms now, and you'll figure out who will stay where later.

How many ways could you pick 3 rooms?

- A)  $\frac{720}{6}$       B)  $\frac{720}{3}$       C)  $\frac{720}{2}$       D) 720



We know 720 ways if care about order.

If care about order, these are all different

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (2, 3, 5), (2, 5, 3), (3, 2, 5), (3, 5, 2) \\ (5, 2, 3), (5, 3, 2) \end{array} \right.$$

$\begin{array}{ccc} \nearrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \text{My} & \text{Friend} & \text{Friend} \\ \text{pick} & \text{1} & \text{2} \\ & \text{pick} & \text{pick} \end{array}$

But if don't care about order, these are all the same.  $\{2, 3, 5\}$

$\Rightarrow$  Over counting by a factor of 6 for each set!

$$720/6 = 120$$

We will learn rules (like product + subtraction rules) to handle these types of situations

$$P: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

$$C: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

Cartesian product:

Sets  $A, B, C, \dots, K$

k-tuple  
↓

$$\text{Then } A \times B \times C \times \dots \times K = \left\{ (a, b, c, \dots, k) : a \in A \wedge b \in B \wedge c \in C \wedge \dots \wedge k \in K \right\}$$

e.g.  $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$  then  $(a, c) \in S \times S$

Also  $\{a, b, c, d\}^3 = S \times S \times S$  e.g.  $(c, c, a) \in S \times S \times S$

Q: Which of the following is in  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$

A)  $\{1, 2\}$     B)  $\{1, 1\}$     C)  $(0, 2)$ ,    D)  $(1, 1)$

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Also  $\{a, b, c, d\}^3 = S \times S \times S$  e.g.  $(c, c, a) \in S \times S \times S$

Q: Which of the following is in  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$

A)  $\{1, 2\}$

↑  
not ordered

B)  $\{1, 1\}$

↑  
not a  
valid expression

C)  $(0, 2)$

↑  
 $0 \notin \mathbb{N}$

D)  $(1, 1)$

↑  
✓

We will learn rules (like product + subtraction rules) to handle these types of situations

$$P: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

$$C: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

$P(n, k)$  = # of ways to pick  $k$  distinct elements from a set of  $n$  elements, if the order matters.  
 (k-permutation)

↑  
"n pick k"

" $nP_k$ "

no repeats  
↓

$C(n, k)$  = # of ways to pick  $k$  distinct elements from a set of  $n$  elements, if the order doesn't matter  
 (k-combination)

↑  
"n choose k"

" $nC_k$ "

" $\binom{n}{k}$ "

no repeats  
↓

$$\text{ex: } P(10, 3) = 720$$

(roommate problem)  
(choose rooms now)

$$C(10, 3) = 720/6$$

(roommate problem)  
(choose rooms later)

Q: What is the mathematical formula for  $P(n, k)$ ?  
For  $C(n, k)$ ?

(Randomly choose person to explain)

$$m! = m \cdot (m-1) \cdot (m-2) \cdot (m-3) \cdots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

$$0! = 1$$

Use product rule!

$$A. P(n, k) = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{choices} \\ \text{for 1st} \\ \text{element}}}{n} \cdot \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{choices} \\ \text{for 2nd} \\ \text{element}}}{(n-1)} \cdot \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{choices} \\ \text{for 3rd} \\ \text{element}}}{(n-2)} \cdots \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{choices} \\ \text{for } k^{\text{th}} \\ \text{element}}}{(n-k+1)} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

$$C(n, k) = \frac{P(n, k)}{\substack{\# \text{ of orderings} \\ \text{of } k \text{ elements}}} \leftarrow \text{"permutations"} = \frac{P(n, k)}{P(k, k)} = \frac{n! \cdot 0!}{(n-k)! \cdot k!} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)! \cdot k!}$$