

The Rules of Sum and Product

The Rule of sum and the Rule of Product are used to decompose difficult counting problems into simple problems.

The Rule of SUM

If a sequence of tasks T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m can be done in w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m ways respectively (the condition is that no task can be performed simultaneously), then the number of ways to do one of these tasks is $w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_m$. If we consider two tasks A and B which are disjoint (i.e. $A \cap B = \emptyset$), then mathematically

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B|$$

Example

Assume, there are three list for a computer project.

List 1: 23

List 2: 15

List 3: 19

No. project is on more than one list.

How many possible projects are there to choose from?

$$\text{Ans: } - 23 + 15 + 19 = 57 \text{ ways}$$

Combinations: - It is a selection of some given elements in order does not matter. The no. of all combinations of n things, taken r at a time is

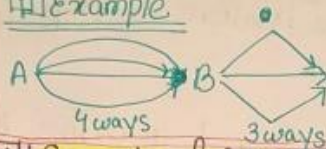
$${}^n C_r = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

COUNTING

Counting mainly encompasses fundamental counting rule, the Permutation rule and the combination rule.

ways respectively and every task arrives after the occurrence of the previous task, then there are $w_1 \times w_2 \times \dots \times w_m$ ways to perform the tasks. Mathematically, if a task B arrives after a task A, then, $|A \times B| = |A| \times |B|$

Example



So, there are $4 \times 3 = 12$ ways to reach, C to from A.

Example of Rule of Sum and Product

A boy lives at X and wants to go to school at Z. From his home X he has to first reach Y and then Y to Z. He may go to X to Y by either 3 bus routes or 2 train routes. From there, he can either choose 4 bus routes or 5 train routes to reach Z. How many ways are there to go from X to Z.

solⁿ: - For from X to Y, he can go in $3+2=5$ ways } Rule of Sum
Thereafter, he can go Y to Z in $4+5=9$ ways }
Hence, from X to Z, he can go in $5 \times 9 = 45$ ways } Rule of Product.

Inclusion-Exclusion Principle

Let's assume a task can be done in n_1 or n_2 ways. But some of n_1 ways to do the tasks are same as the some of the n_2 ways to do the task. (in this situation) we also subtract the number of ways to do the task that are among the n_1 and n_2 ways

Let's rephrase this using sets: - A_1 and A_2 are two sets.

$|A_1|$ ways to select an element from A_1 . $|A_2|$ ways to select an element from A_2 . So the no. of ways to select an element from A_1 or A_2 is.

$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2|$$

we subtract the no. of ways to select an element common on both sets.

Example

Consider 350 applicants for a job, 250 majored in CS, 147 majored in Business, 51 majored in CS and Business both so, how many of these applicants majored neither in CS nor in Business.

solⁿ: using the Inclusion-Exclusion Principle: -

$$|A_1 \cup A_2| = |A_1| + |A_2| - |A_1 \cap A_2| = 250 + 147 - 51 = 346$$

So, $350 - 346 = 4$ of the applicants major neither in Bus nor in CS.

Example: Find the no. of subsets of the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ having 3 elements.

$$\text{solⁿ: } - {}^6 C_3 = \frac{6!}{3!(6-3)!} = 20 //$$