

Lecture 2, Jan 11, 2023

Counting

- Counting is the problem of finding the number of elements in some event A
 - e.g. for a coin flip, if $A = \{ H \}$, then we have one element; for a die, if $A = \{ \text{even} \}$, then we have 3 elements
- Two events A and B are *mutually exclusive* if $A \cap B = \emptyset$
 - For two events that are mutually exclusive, we can add up their number of elements when counting

Multiplying Options

- Where we can choose 1 option from each category, we multiply the category sizes together
 - e.g. choosing a president and VP from n people has $n(n-1)$ possibilities
- Example: How many even 4-digit numbers can we make from $\{ 0, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 \}$?
 - Consider events A and B :
 - * In A , 0 is the last digit so A has $1 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 = 60$ elements
 - * In B , 0 is not the last digit (A and B are mutually exclusive); the last digit could be 2 or 6 and the first digit can be anything but zero or what we chose for the last digit, so we have $2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 = 96$ elements
 - * Since $A \cap B = \emptyset$, the total count is 156

Permutations

- A *permutation* is an ordering of the elements in an event
- Given n items, there are $n!$ permutations
- If we want to permute r items out of n , there are $\frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$ permutations
- With n slots to fill, where there are m kinds of items and n_k of each item, the number of permutations is $\binom{n}{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m} = \frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \dots n_m!}$
- Example: How many distinct ways can we order “ATLANTIC”?
 - $\binom{8}{2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1} = \frac{8!}{2! 2! 1! 1! 1! 1!} = 10080$
- Example: If we flip a coin 10 times, how many sequences have 4 heads?
 - We’re looking at combinations of $HHHHTTTTTT$, so $\binom{n=10}{n_1=4, n_2=6} = \frac{10!}{4!6!} = 210$
 - This gives us a probability of getting 4 heads of $\frac{210}{2^{10}} = \frac{210}{1024}$ (assuming a fair coin)