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A subset of the sample space is called an **event** 

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The event "a 4 is drawn" is a subset with four elements.

### **Probability Axioms**

**Axiom 1:** For any event *A*,

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**Axiom 2:** If  $\Omega$  represents the entire sample space of an experiment,

 $P(\Omega) = 1$ 

**Axiom 3:** If  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \ldots$  is an infinite collection of **disjoint** events,

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3 \cup \cdots) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$$

 $\sim$ 

Events for which there are no corresponding outcomes have probability zero.

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The probability of an event cannot exceed 1. For any event A,

$$P(A) \le 1$$

For any two events A and B,

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The rule extends to unions of more than two events, but becomes more complicated:

$$P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C)$$

 $-P(A \cap B) - P(A \cap C) - P(B \cap C) + P(A \cap B \cap C)$ 

## **Counting Rules for Ordered Pairs**

Suppose an ordered pair

 $(P_i, Q_j)$ 

is to be made up with  $P_i$  chosen from a set of n candidates:

 $P_i \in \{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n\}$ 

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Then the number of distinct ordered pairs that can possibly result is:

 $n \times m$ 

# **Counting Rules for n-tuples**

The rule extends to ordered triples: If

 $(P_i, Q_j, R_k)$ 

is to be made up with  $P_i$  chosen from a set of n candidates,  $Q_j$  from a set of m, and  $R_k$  from a set of o, the number of distinct ordered pairs that can possibly result is:

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In general, if we are choosing an ordered list of k elements with  $n_1$  choices for the first element,  $n_2$  for the second, and so on, the number of possible ordered k - tuples is:

 $n_1 \cdot n_2 \cdot n_3 \cdots n_k$ 

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The number of permutations (ordered subsets) of size k taken from a set of n objects is:

$$P_{k,n} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

#### **Combinations**

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The number of combinations (unordered subsets) of size k chosen from a set of n objects is:

$$C_{k,n} = \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

A soccer league has 11 teams in division 1 and 10 in division 2. If the championship match always has one team from division 1 and one from division 2, how many different pair of teams are possible in the championship game?

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Answer: 110 (by the product rule for ordered pairs with  $n_1 = 11$  and  $n_2 = 10$ , the number of pairs is  $n_1n_2 = 11 \cdot 10 = 110$ )

A certain car is available with a choice of 5-speed manual, 4-speed manual, or automatic transmission, and two or four wheel drive. How many combinations of transmission and drive are possible?

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Answer: 6 (by the product rule for ordered pairs with  $n_1 = 3$ and  $n_2 = 2$ , the number of pairs is  $n_1n_2 = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$ )

An Asian resturaunt offers combination plates with three items chosen from a list of 10. How many different combination plates are possible?

An Asian resturaunt offers combination plates with three items chosen from a list of 10. How many different combination plates are possible?

Answer: This will be the number of subsets containg three elements chosen from a set of 10, with order not important.

Because the order does not matter, we use **combinations** 

$$C_{3,10} = \binom{10}{3} = \frac{10!}{3!7!} = \frac{10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 120$$

You can use the spreadsheet function =COMBIN(10,3) to compute this.

Another resturaunt offers a luncheon special with 4 choices of appetizer, 5 choices of entree, and 3 choices of desert. How many different meals are possible?

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Answer: Use the more general form of the product rule, with  $n_1 = 4$ ,  $n_2 = 5$ , and  $n_3 = 3$ . The number of different meals is:

$$n_1 \cdot n_2 \cdot n_3 = 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 3 = 6$$

A class of 420 students will elect a president, vice president, and secretary. If no one is allowed to hold two offices, how many different sets of class officers are possible?

A class of 420 students will elect a president, vice president, and secretary. If no one is allowed to hold two offices, how many different sets of class officers are possible?

Answer: This will be the number of subsets containg three elements chosen from a set of 420, with order important.

Because the order matters, we use **permutations** 

$$P_{3,420} = \frac{420!}{417!} = 420 \cdot 419 \cdot 418 = 73,559,640$$

You can use the spreadsheet function =PERMUT(420,3) to compute this.



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