

Section 6.4
Use of Counting Techniques in Probability

Let S be a uniform sample space and let E be any event. Then, $P(E) = \frac{n(E)}{n(S)}$.

Example 1: Consider the experiment of tossing a fair coin 10 times.

$$2^{10} = 1024$$

a. Find the probability that the coin lands heads exactly 7 times.

$$\# \text{ times lands 7 heads exactly} = C(10, 7) = 120$$

$$P(7H) = \frac{120}{2^{10}} = \frac{120}{1024} \approx 0.12$$

b. Find the probability that the coin lands heads at most 2 times.

$$0H, 1H, 2H \\ C(10, 0) + C(10, 1) + C(10, 2) = 56$$

$$P(\text{at most } 2H) = \frac{56}{1024} \approx 0.05$$

c. Find the probability that the coin lands tails at least 9 times.

$$9T \text{ or } 10T \\ C(10, 9) + C(10, 10) = 11$$

$$P(\text{at least } 9T) = \frac{11}{1024} \approx 0.01$$

d. Find the probability that the coin lands tails at least once.

$$1T \text{ or } 2T \text{ or } 3T \dots 10T$$

$$0T \text{ can occur} = C(10, 0) = 1$$

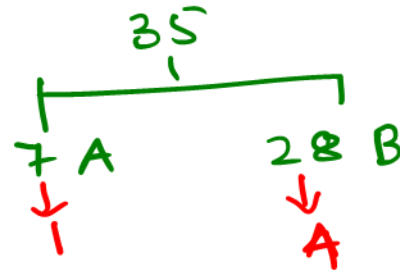
$$\text{At least one tail will occur} = 1024 - 1 = 1023$$

$$P(\text{at least } 1T) = \frac{1023}{1024} \approx 0.999$$

Example 2: In a survey of 35 consumers at a local supermarket, 7 indicated that they buy brand A of a certain product and the rest indicated that they buy brand B of the same product. You choose 5 customers surveyed at random.

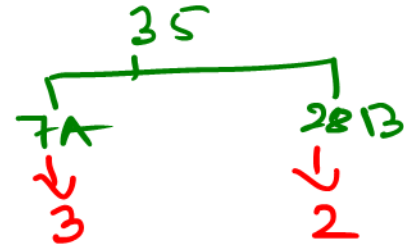
a. What is the probability that 4 buy brand B and 1 buys brand A?

$$\frac{C(7,1) \cdot C(28,4)}{C(35,5)} \approx 0.44$$



b. What is the probability that 3 buy brand A?

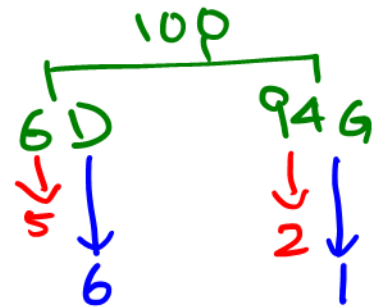
$$\frac{C(7,3) \cdot C(28,2)}{C(35,5)} \approx 0.04$$



Example 3: A department store is shipped 100 remote controlled cars of which 6 are defective. A customer selects 7 cars at random.

a. What is the probability that at least 5 will be defective?

$$\frac{C(6,5) \cdot C(94,2) + C(6,6) \cdot C(94,1)}{C(100,7)} \approx 0.000016$$



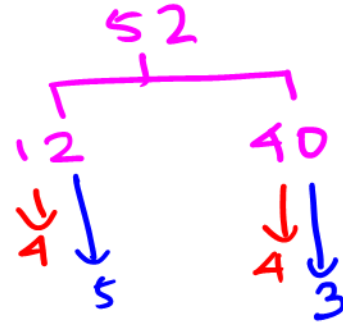
b. What is the probability that at most 4 will be defective?

$$\frac{C(100,7) - [C(6,5) \cdot C(94,2) + C(6,6) \cdot C(94,1)]}{C(100,7)} \approx 0.999998$$

Example 4: Eight cards are selected at random from a well-shuffled deck of 52 playing cards.

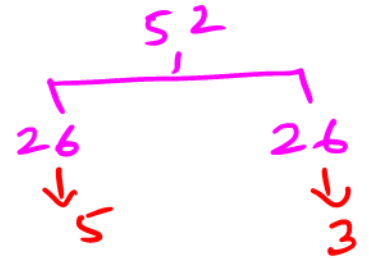
a. What is the probability that either 4 face cards or 5 face cards are chosen?

$$\frac{C(12,4) \cdot C(40,4) + C(12,5) \cdot C(40,3)}{C(52,8)} \approx 0.0705$$



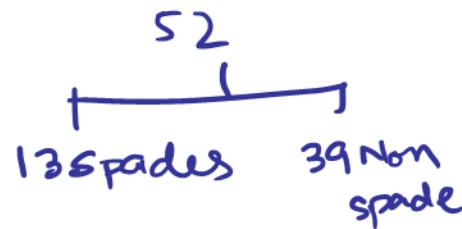
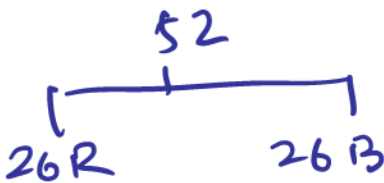
b. What is the probability that 5 cards are red?

$$\frac{C(26,5) \cdot C(26,3)}{C(52,8)} \approx 0.227$$



c. What is the probability that 3 cards are red or 4 cards are spade?

$$\frac{C(26,3) \cdot C(26,5) + C(13,4) \cdot C(39,4)}{C(52,8)}$$



* A bag contains 6 black marbles and 8 white marbles. 2 marbles are chosen one at a time without replacement. What is the probability that the second one is white?

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{(B, W)} & & \text{(W, W)} \\
 & \frac{6}{14} \cdot \frac{8}{13} & + & \frac{8}{14} \cdot \frac{7}{13} \approx 0.571 \\
 & = & \frac{48}{14 \cdot 13} & + \frac{56}{14 \cdot 13} = \frac{1}{14 \cdot 13} (48 + 56)
 \end{aligned}$$

* There are two bags A and B. A has 6 black and 8 white marbles and B has 5 black and 9 white marbles. One bag is chosen at random and a marble is drawn. What is the probability the marble is black?

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{A} & & \text{B} \\
 & \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{6}{14} & + & \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{5}{14} = \frac{11}{28} \\
 & \frac{1}{C(2,1)} \frac{C(6,1)}{C(14,1)} & + & \frac{1}{C(2,1)} \frac{C(5,1)}{C(14,1)}
 \end{aligned}$$