

Goal: Use counting rules to solve problems

Counting

Q: Why is counting important in Computer Science?

- A:
- Security: count # of possible passwords
 - Alg :
 - count steps of algorithm
 - count space (memory) used by algorithm
 - count time of algorithm
 - Network: count connections in a network
 - Architecture: count ways of distributing tasks to processors

Product Rule : If a procedure can be

broken down into two tasks, with n_1 ways to do the first task and n_2 ways to do the second then there are $n_1 \times n_2$ ways to do the procedure. (If k tasks, multiply ways to do first by ways to do second by ways to do 3rd ... up to k .)

Subtraction Rule

If you can do a task n_1 ways or n_2 ways, then the total number of ways to do a task is $n_1 + n_2$ minus the number of ways common to the two approaches.

Q: Suppose you and your best friend are picking into Coffin house. There are 20 singles left and 3 doubles. If you both choose singles or both share a double, how many options of room choices do you have?

1st Choice:

Single or Double

↑
Subtraction rule

single options
1 2 3 ... 20
□ □ □ ... □

+ # double options
1 2 3
□ □ □

- ~~options with both single + double~~ ○

✓ I choose and Friend chooses

20 x 19
(because I've used up one option)

Total: 20 · 19 + 3 = 383

See slides for problems without solutions

Q: How many 5-bit strings start with 1 or end with 00

Start with 1

or

End with 00

Both?

1 0 0 0 0
1 1 1 1 1

+

0 0 0
1 1 1 0 0

-

0 0
1 1 0 0

2 x 2 x 2

2 x 2

choose bit and choose bit and choose bit and choose bit
2 x 2 x 2 x 2

= 16 + 8 - 4 = 20

Q: Suppose you are the track coach and you want to test different options for the 4 person relay team. You have 5 runners: A, B, C, D, and E. If A is on the team, you want her in one of the first 2 positions. If B is on the team, you want her in one of the last 2 positions. How many options will you need to test to find the optimal order?

