

15. Three Letters Are Chosen At Random From The Word TRANSFORMATION. What Is The Probability That They

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Understanding probability in the context of letter selection from words is a fascinating aspect of combinatorics and statistical reasoning. In this article, we explore the probability that, when three letters are chosen at random from the word TRANSFORMATION, certain conditions are met. We will analyze different scenarios, including the likelihood of selecting specific letters, the chance of selecting distinct letters, and other related probabilistic questions. This comprehensive explanation aims to deepen your understanding of probability concepts applied to letter selection, with detailed calculations and logical reasoning.

Understanding the Word TRANSFORMATION

Before delving into probability calculations, it is essential to understand the structure and composition of the word TRANSFORMATION.

Letter Composition and Frequency

The word TRANSFORMATION consists of 14 letters. Let's identify and count each letter's occurrence:

- T: 2 times
- R: 2 times
- A: 2 times
- N: 2 times
- S: 1 time
- F: 1 time
- O: 1 time
- M: 1 time
- I: 1 time

Summary of letter counts:

Letter	Count
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T	2
---	---

R	2
---	---

A	2
---	---

N	2
---	---

S	1
---	---

F	1
---	---

O	1
---	---

M	1
---	---

I	1
---	---

Total letters: 14

Fundamental Concepts in Probabilistic Letter Selection

To analyze the probability of selecting certain combinations of letters, we should understand some fundamental probabilistic and combinatorial principles.

Sample Space

- When three letters are chosen at random from the word TRANSFORMATION (assuming each letter is equally likely and the selection is done without replacement), the total number of possible outcomes (sample space size) is the number of combinations of 14 letters taken 3 at a time:

1. Number of possible combinations: $C(14, 3) = 14! / (3! 11!) = 364$

- Each of these 364 combinations is equally likely if we assume random selection without replacement.

Types of Probabilistic Questions

Some common questions that may arise include:

- What is the probability that all three selected letters are identical?
- What is the probability that all three letters are distinct?
- What is the probability that at least two letters are the same?
- Specific letter selection probabilities (e.g., probability of selecting 'T', 'A', and 'S', etc.)

In this article, we focus on the general problem: "What is the probability that three randomly chosen letters from the word TRANSFORMATION meet certain criteria?"

Calculating Probabilities for Various Scenarios

We will now explore different scenarios systematically.

Scenario 1: Probability that all three selected letters are the same

This involves selecting three identical letters from the available duplicate letters.

Analysis

- Only the letters with at least 3 copies qualify for this scenario.
- Since in TRANSFORMATION no letter appears 3 times or more, the maximum count per letter is 2.
- Therefore, it is impossible to select three identical letters from this word.

Conclusion:

Probability = 0

Scenario 2: Probability that all three selected letters are distinct

This is a common scenario, often relevant in probability problems involving combinations.

Analysis

- Since the total number of letters is 14, and some letters are repeated, the total number of 3-letter combinations with all distinct letters depends on the counts.

Calculations

- First, identify the number of distinct letters:

Letter	Count
--------	-------

-----	-----
-------	-------

T	2
---	---

R	2
---	---

A	2
---	---

N	2
---	---

S	1
---	---

F	1
---	---

O	1
---	---

M	1
---	---

I	1
---	---

- Number of distinct letter types: 9 (T, R, A, N, S, F, O, M, I).

- The total number of ways to select 3 different letters from these 9 types:

$$C(9, 3) = 9! / (3! 6!) = 84$$

- For each such set, the number of actual letter combinations depends on the number of copies of each letter selected.

However, since we are choosing letters at random from the entire set of 14 letters, and not just the

types, we need to consider the total number of possible 3-letter arrangements (364).

To find the probability that all three are distinct letters:

1. Count the number of 3-letter combinations with all distinct letters, considering the counts.

2. Alternatively, compute the probability directly:

- Total number of 3-letter combinations with all distinct letters:

1. Choose 3 different letter types: $C(9, 3) = 84$

2. For each such set, determine the number of arrangements based on counts.

But because the counts of each letter are limited, the total number of combinations with all distinct letters is:

- For each set of 3 distinct letter types, the number of ways to select one occurrence of each (given the counts).

- Since each letter has at least 1 copy, and the total copies are sufficient:

Total combinations with all distinct letters:

Sum over all $C(9, 3)$ of product of counts for each chosen letter.

But for simplicity, since we're just choosing at random from the total set, the probability can be approximated as:

$P(\text{all distinct}) = \text{Number of 3-letter combinations with all distinct letters} / \text{Total combinations}.$

Given the complexity, a simplified approach considers the probability that the three randomly selected letters are all different:

$\text{Probability} = (\text{Number of favorable outcomes}) / 364.$

Because the total number of arrangements is 364, and the counts of each letter influence the number of favorable outcomes, an approximate calculation is:

- The probability that the first selected letter is any letter: $14/14 = 1.$
- The second letter is different from the first: there are 13 remaining letters, but considering counts, the probability depends on the specific letter chosen.
- To avoid overcomplication, we can approximate the probability assuming all 14 letters are equally likely:

$P(\text{all distinct}) \approx (\text{Number of combinations with distinct letters}) / 364.$

But since the counts are unequal, a precise calculation requires more detailed combinatorics.

Key Takeaway:

The probability that all three selected letters are distinct is significantly high given the variety of letters, but an exact value requires detailed combinatorial calculations.

Scenario 3: Probability that at least two selected letters are the same

This is the complement of the previous scenario.

$$P(\text{at least two same}) = 1 - P(\text{all distinct})$$

Given the high likelihood of at least one duplicate due to repeated letters, this probability is quite high.

Scenario 4: Probability that a specific letter is chosen in the selection

Suppose we are asked:

- What is the probability that the letter 'T' is among the three selected letters?

Calculation

- Total number of 3-letter combinations: 364.
- Number of combinations that include at least one 'T':

1. Calculate the total combinations without 'T':

- Remaining $14 - 2 = 12$ letters (excluding 'T').

- Number of 3-letter combinations from these 12 letters:

$$C(12, 3) = 220.$$

2. Therefore, number of combinations that include at least one 'T':

Number with at least one 'T' = Total combinations - combinations with no 'T' = 364 - 220 = 144.

- Probability that 'T' is among the selected letters:

$$P('T' \text{ in selection}) = 144 / 364 \approx 0.3956.$$

Similarly, for other letters, analogous calculations can be performed.

Advanced Probabilistic Analysis

In more complex scenarios, we might consider the probability of selecting certain patterns, such as:

- Exactly two 'A's and one different letter.
- The probability that the selected three letters form a specific set.

These involve multinomial coefficients and conditional probabilities.

Applications and Real-World Relevance of Such Probabilistic Analysis

Understanding probabilities in letter selection has several practical applications across fields:

Applications in Cryptography

- Analyzing the likelihood of certain letter combinations helps in designing secure encryption algorithms.

Language Processing and Data Analysis

- Probabilistic models assist in natural language processing

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the total number of ways to choose 3 letters from the word TRANSFORMATION?

The word TRANSFORMATION has 14 letters with repetitions: T(2), R(2), A(2), N(2), S(1), F(1), O(2), M(1), I(1). The total number of distinct letters is 9. The total combinations depend on whether repetitions are considered or not. If considering all possible arrangements, total combinations are calculated based on the frequency of each letter.

What is the probability that all three chosen letters are distinct from the word TRANSFORMATION?

First, determine the total number of distinct letters: T, R, A, N, S, F, O, M, I (9). Number of ways to choose 3 different letters: $C(9, 3) = 84$. Total number of 3-letter arrangements from 14 letters: $C(14, 3) = 364$. Therefore, the probability that all three are distinct is $84/364 \approx 0.231$.

What is the probability that all three chosen letters are the same from the word TRANSFORMATION?

Letters with at least 3 repetitions are T, R, A, N, and O (each appears 2 or more times). Since none appears 3 times, the probability of choosing 3 identical letters is zero.

What is the probability that exactly two of the chosen letters are the same from TRANSFORMATION?

Considering the repeated letters: T, R, A, N, O (each appears twice). Number of ways to select 2 identical and 1 different letter depends on the counts. For each letter with 2 occurrences, ways to choose 2 identical: $C(2, 2) = 1$. For the third letter: choose from remaining 8 distinct letters. Total favorable outcomes can be calculated accordingly. The probability is then (number of favorable outcomes) divided by total combinations.

How do you compute the probability of selecting 3 letters that include at least one vowel from TRANSFORMATION?

Vowels in the word are A, I, O. Count the total combinations that include at least one vowel by subtracting the number of combinations with no vowels from the total combinations. Then divide by total combinations to get the probability.

What is the probability that the three letters form a sequence where two are vowels and one is a consonant?

Number of vowel choices: A, I, O (3), and consonants: T, R, S, F, M, N (6). Number of ways to choose 2 vowels: $C(3, 2)=3$, and 1 consonant: 6. Total combinations: $3 \times 6 = 18$. This is divided by total combinations to get the probability.

Are the probabilities affected by the repeated letters in the word TRANSFORMATION?

Yes, because repeated letters influence the total number of unique combinations and the counts of specific arrangements, especially when selecting identical letters or combinations involving repetitions.

What is the probability that the three chosen letters are all different and include at least one vowel?

First, find total combinations with all different letters: 84. Next, count how many include at least one vowel. Since vowels are A, I, O, and total distinct letters are 9, count the combinations with at least one vowel and all different. The probability is the count divided by total combinations.

How does the presence of repeated letters in TRANSFORMATION influence the calculation of probabilities?

Repeated letters increase the complexity of calculating probabilities because they allow for multiple identical selections, affecting counts of favorable outcomes, especially for events involving identical letters or specific repetitions.

Can you determine the probability that the three chosen letters are all vowels from the word TRANSFORMATION?

Vowels are A, I, O. Number of vowels in the word: A(2), I(1), O(2). Total vowels: 5. Number of ways to choose 3 vowels considering repetitions: $C(5, 3) = 10$. Total number of 3-letter combinations from 14 letters: 364. Therefore, the probability is $10/364 \approx 0.027$.

Additional Resources

Three Letters Are Chosen At Random From The Word TRANSFORMATION – this intriguing

probability problem invites us to explore the fascinating intersection of combinatorics and probability theory. At first glance, it seems like a straightforward question: what is the probability of selecting three specific letters from the word "TRANSFORMATION"? However, upon closer examination, it reveals layers of complexity involving character counts, total possible combinations, and the nuances of probability calculations in finite sets. This article delves deep into this problem, offering a comprehensive analysis of the various aspects involved, from understanding the word's structure to calculating probabilities step-by-step, and exploring the implications of different scenarios.

Understanding the Word "TRANSFORMATION"

Before diving into probability calculations, it is essential to understand the structure of the word "TRANSFORMATION." This word contains 14 letters: T, R, A, N, S, F, O, R, M, A, T, I, O, N. Notably, some letters repeat, which significantly impacts the total number of possible combinations when selecting letters at random.

Letter Frequency Analysis

Analyzing the frequency of each letter helps in understanding the selection possibilities:

- T: 2 times
- R: 2 times
- A: 2 times
- N: 2 times
- S: 1 time
- F: 1 time
- O: 2 times
- M: 1 time
- I: 1 time

Total letters = 14

The repeated letters (T, R, A, N, O) each occur twice, while the rest appear once. This repetition influences the probability calculations, especially when considering the likelihood of selecting specific letters or combinations.

Key Concepts in the Probability Calculation

Calculating the probability of selecting certain letters from "TRANSFORMATION" involves several core concepts:

- Sample Space: The total number of possible 3-letter combinations that can be drawn from the 14 letters.
- Favorable Outcomes: The number of 3-letter combinations that satisfy the specific condition (e.g., all three are the same, all distinct, etc.).
- Probability: The ratio of favorable outcomes to total outcomes.

The complexity arises from whether the selection is with or without replacement, and whether the order of selection matters.

Assumption: Selection Without Replacement

In most standard probability problems involving choosing items from a set, the assumption is that the selection is without replacement, meaning once a letter is chosen, it cannot be chosen again in the same selection. This assumption aligns with typical interpretations unless specified otherwise.

Total Number of Possible 3-Letter Selections

The first step is to determine the total number of ways to select 3 letters from the 14-letter word without regard to order.

Calculating Total Combinations

Since the selection is without replacement, the total number of combinations is given by the combination formula:

$$\text{Total combinations} = \binom{14}{3} = \frac{14 \times 13 \times 12}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = 364$$

This total considers all possible groups of three letters, regardless of order.

Note: If the problem considers permutations (where order matters), the total would be permutations: $P(14, 3) = \frac{14!}{11!} = 14 \times 13 \times 12 = 2184$. However, most probability questions regarding combinations of letters tend to focus on combinations unless specified.

Scenarios and Probabilities

The problem statement is incomplete in the excerpt, but typical questions include:

- Probability that all three chosen letters are the same
- Probability that all three are distinct

- Probability that exactly two are the same
- Probability that certain specific letters are chosen

In this section, we examine each scenario separately.

1. Probability That All Three Letters Are the Same

Given the repeated letters, it is possible for all three selected letters to be identical only if the letter appears at least three times. However, in "TRANSFORMATION," no letter appears three times; the maximum is two. Therefore:

Probability = 0

Because no letter repeats three times, selecting three identical letters is impossible.

2. Probability That All Three Letters Are Distinct

This is a common scenario and involves calculating how many 3-letter combinations consist of different letters.

Step 1: Count total distinct letters

Total unique letters in "TRANSFORMATION" are:

T, R, A, N, S, F, O, M, I

Number of distinct letters = 9

Step 2: Number of ways to choose 3 distinct letters

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & \backslash binom{9}{3} = \frac{9 \times 8 \times 7}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = 84 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Total combinations

Total possible 3-letter combinations from 14 letters:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & \backslash binom{14}{3} = 364 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Calculate probability

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & P(\text{all distinct}) = \frac{\text{Number of favorable outcomes}}{\text{Total outcomes}} = \frac{84}{364} \\ & = \frac{21}{91} \approx 0.2308 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Result: Approximately 23.08% chance that three randomly selected letters are all different.

3. Probability That Exactly Two Letters Are the Same

This scenario considers selecting two identical letters and one different letter.

Step 1: Identify letters with duplicates

Letters with duplicates: T, R, A, N, O (each appears twice).

Step 2: Select the letter to be duplicated

Number of choices: 5 (T, R, A, N, O)

Step 3: Choose the third distinct letter

Remaining distinct letters (excluding the chosen duplicate):

Total unique letters (excluding the duplicate):

- If we pick, for example, T (which appears twice), then remaining distinct letters are:

R, A, N, S, F, O, M, I

Total remaining: 8

But note that since T appears twice, selecting both T's is not possible without replacement; however, since the selection is without replacement, choosing both T's isn't possible in a single selection as only one T is available at a time. But in combinatorics, when selecting two identical elements from a multiset, the count is different.

Step 4: Determine the number of favorable outcomes

- For each letter with duplicates:

- Number of ways to select 2 identical letters: $\binom{2}{2} = 1$

- Number of ways to select the third different letter: remaining unique letters (excluding the chosen letter). For example, if T is chosen, remaining distinct letters are R, A, N, S, F, O, M, I – total 8.

- Total number of combinations for each duplicate letter:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & 1 \times 8 = 8 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

- Since there are 5 such letters, total favorable combinations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & 5 \times 8 = 40 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Calculate probability

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & P(\text{exactly two same}) = \frac{40}{364} \approx 0.1099 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Result: Approximately 10.99% chance that three randomly selected letters contain exactly two identical letters.

Advanced Considerations

While the above covers the basic scenarios, more complex questions can be posed, such as:

- The probability that the three selected letters include at least one vowel or consonant.
- The probability that the chosen letters form a specific pattern.
- The probability of selecting a particular set of letters, e.g., {A, R, T}.

Each scenario involves similar combinatorial reasoning but may require more detailed analysis of the specific letter counts and possible combinations.

Features and Limitations

Pros:

- Provides comprehensive understanding of combining probability and combinatorics.
- Demonstrates how letter frequency affects selection probabilities.
- Useful for educational purposes in teaching probability concepts.

Cons:

- Assumes selection without replacement; real-world scenarios may differ.
- The calculation can become complex with more detailed conditions.
- The problem's ambiguity can lead to multiple interpretations unless explicitly clarified.

Conclusion

The problem of selecting three random letters from "TRANSFORMATION" offers a rich exploration of probability principles, especially considering the repeated characters and the total set size. By analyzing the total possible combinations, the frequency of each letter, and the specific conditions such as all distinct or containing duplicates, we gain insight into how probability is influenced by the structure of the data set. Whether for academic exercises or practical applications, understanding these foundational concepts enhances our ability to tackle similar combinatorial probability problems effectively.

In summary, the probability that three randomly selected letters from "TRANSFORMATION" are all distinct is approximately 23.08%, while the chance of selecting exactly two identical letters is around 10.99%. Scenarios involving all three being the same are impossible given the letter frequencies. These calculations highlight the importance of considering element multiplicities and total possibilities in probability assessments, enriching our comprehension of combinatorial reasoning.

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