



## Re: Placing Balls in Urns and Expected values

all partitions reduces to  $(2m - 1)!/m!(m-1)$ .  
 The sum of both coefficients divided by this coefficient gives the probability of  $(n-2)$  urns to be empty.

To compute probability, we must index the balls. Consider the case where  $n = 2$ ; 2 balls and 2 urns. If we do not index the balls, there are 3 arrangements:

```
|o| | | | | | | | |o|
|o| | | |o| |o| | | |o|
-----
```

but they are not equally likely. Coloring the balls (b for blue, r for red) does not change the probabilities, however, it does show the proper probabilities; each ball can be in each urn with equal probability:

```
|b| | | | | | | | |b|
|r| | | |b| |r| |r| |b| | | |r|
-----
```

That is, each ball will be in the left urn 50% and the right urn 50%, as shown above.

So labelling the balls determines the proper probabilities.

Very nice little demonstration. Of course, that only holds for "classical" balls; for indistinguishable quantum-mechanical balls, the first (unlabelled) version holds for bosonic balls, and only the middle configuration of the unlabelled version is possible at all for fermionic balls.

R.G. Vickson

The distinction is not given by properties of balls, bosonic or fermionic, but on the way, how we count. For example, 3 balls (i index) and 3 urns (j index):

- (1,0,0)
- (0,1,0)
- (0,1,0)

The column sums (eventually diagonal elements in the quadratic form) are (1,2,0). Any distinction vanishes.

Ones in the matrix are distinguished only by their position. It is necessary to use the second polynomial coefficient to take account on the position of ones in columns ( $m$ -permutations).

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If ones have their index (are distinguishable), the third index must be used

(1\_a,0,0)

(0,1\_b,0)

(0,1\_c,0).

Instead of  $n^m$  possibilities, the solution of this problem leads to the growing factorial function.

kunzmilan

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