

Assignment 1

AI1110: Probability and Random Variables

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10.15.1.4: Which of the following cannot be the probability of an event ?

(A) $\frac{2}{3}$ (B) -1.5 (C) 15% (D) 0.7

Solution:

Probability of an event E , written as $\Pr(E)$

$$\Pr(E) = \frac{\text{Number of outcomes favourable to } E}{\text{Total Number of possible outcomes in sample space}} \quad (1)$$

From the definition of probability $\Pr(E)$, number of favourable outcomes is always less than or equal to the number of all possible outcomes.

$$0 \leq \Pr(E) \leq 1 \quad (2)$$

(A) $\Pr(E) = \frac{2}{3}$

$$\because 0 \leq \frac{2}{3} \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

From (2) ,

It can be probability of an event.

(B) $\Pr(E) = -1.5$

$$\because -1.5 < 0 \quad (4)$$

From (2) ,

It cannot be a probability of any event.

(C) $\Pr(E) = 15\%$

$$15\% = \frac{15}{100} \quad (5)$$

$$\because 0 \leq \frac{15}{100} \leq 1 \quad (6)$$

From (2) ,

It can be probability of an event.

(D) $\Pr(E) = 0.7$

$$\because 0 \leq 0.7 \leq 1 \quad (7)$$

From (2) ,

It can be a probability of an event.