

Exercises 1: Probability

1. A standard pack of 52 playing cards has 4 suits: clubs, diamonds, hearts, and spades, each with 13 cards. One card is drawn from the full pack at random, then replaced in the pack. Then a second card is drawn from the pack.
 - (a) Calculate the probability that both cards are clubs.
 - (b) Calculate the probability that at least one of the cards selected is a club.
 - (c) Calculate the probability that neither of the cards selected is a club.
2. A short network link consists of two sections, a and b , in series as shown below.



The link functions only if both a and b function. The two sections are independent in that the functionality of one does not affect the functionality of the other. The probability that a continues to be functional during a particular time period is 0.9. The probability that b continues to be functional during a particular time period is 0.95. Determine the probability that the link continues to function during a particular time period.

3. A short network link consists of two sections, c and d , in parallel as shown below.



The link functions if either c or d (or both) function. The two sections are independent in that the functionality of one does not affect the functionality of the other. Consider the following statements.

- C : ' c continues to function during a particular time period'.
- D : ' d continues to function during a particular time period'.

The probability that c continues to function during a particular time period is 0.95. The corresponding probability for d is 0.97.

- Determine the probability that the link continues to function during a particular time period.
 - Using the negation of each of the statements C and D define a logical statement which specifies the failure of the link.
 - Determine the probability of link failure during a particular time period.
4. A short network link consists of three sections, a , b , and c , in series as shown below.



The link functions only if all three of a , b , and c function. The three sections are independent in that the functionality of one does not affect the functionality of any other. The probability that a continues to be functional during a particular time period is 0.95. The corresponding probabilities for b and c are 0.96 and 0.91, respectively. Determine the probability that the link continues to function during a particular time period.

5. For more questions like the network link questions above, try the following NUMBAS test: **Test Yourself** Visit the URL below to try a numbas

exam:

<https://numbas.mathcentre.ac.uk/question/168927/link-probabilities/>

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6. The following Venn diagram represents the occurrence of two events A and B . The outer rectangle is the universal set and the two circular regions represent A and B as shown. The values in the diagram indicate the number of outcomes (total 1000) in each case.

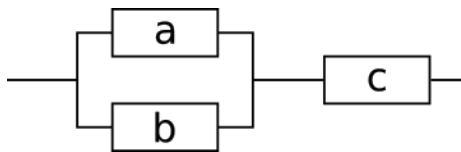


- (a) Determine $P(A)$ and $P(B)$.
- (b) Determine $P(B|A)$ and $P(A|B)$.
7. The following Venn diagram represents the occurrence of two events A and B . The outer rectangle is the universal set and the two circular regions represent A and B as shown. The values in the diagram indicate the number of outcomes (total 1000) in each case.



- (a) Determine $P(A)$ and $P(B)$.
- (b) Determine $P(B|A)$ and $P(A|B)$.
- (c) Determine $P(\neg B|A)$ and compare it with $P(B|A)$.
- (d) Determine $P(B|\neg A)$.
- (e) Determine $P(\neg B|\neg A)$ and compare it with $P(B|\neg A)$.
- (f) Determine $P(\neg A|\neg B)$.
8. A short network link consists of three sections a , b , and c as shown below.

The link functions if c functions and either a or b (or both) function. All sections are independent in the sense that the functionality of one does



not affect the functionality of any other. The probability that a continues to function during a particular time period is 0.94. The corresponding probability for b is 0.92 and for c is 0.96. Statements for the functionality of each part of the link are given below:

- A : ' a continues to function during a particular time period'.
- B : ' b continues to function during a particular time period'.
- C : ' c continues to function during a particular time period'.

The link will function if $(A \vee B) \wedge C = (A + B) \cdot C$ is **True**.

(a) Calculate $P(A \vee B)$ and then determine $P((A \vee B) \wedge C)$.

9. The following NUMBAS test will allow you to practice more questions about conditional probability: **Test Yourself** Visit the URL below to

try a numbas exam:

<https://numbas.mathcentre.ac.uk/question/169052/conditional-probability/>



Answers

1. A normal pack of 52 playing cards has 4 suits: clubs, diamonds, hearts, and spades, each with 13 cards. One card is drawn from the full pack at random, then replaced in the pack. Then a second card is drawn from the pack. Let C denote the event that a club is drawn.

(a) Both are clubs: $P(C \wedge C) = \frac{13}{52} \times \frac{13}{52} = 0.00625$.

(b) To calculate the probability that at least one of the cards is a club, we can find the following probabilities:

- First card is a club, second card is a club: $P(C \wedge C) = \frac{13}{52} \times \frac{13}{52} = 0.00625$;
- First card is not a club, second card is a club: $P(\neg C \wedge C) = \frac{39}{52} \times \frac{13}{52} = 0.1875$;
- First card is a club, second card is not a club: $P(C \wedge \neg C) = \frac{13}{52} \times \frac{39}{52} = 0.1875$.

Then we can add them together:

$$\left(\frac{13}{52} \times \frac{39}{52}\right) + \left(\frac{39}{52} \times \frac{13}{52}\right) + \left(\frac{13}{52} \times \frac{13}{52}\right) = 0.4375.$$

- (c) Neither is a club: $P(\neg C \wedge \neg D) = 1 - 0.4375 = 0.5625 = \frac{39}{52} \times \frac{39}{52}$.
2. $P(A \wedge B) = 0.9 \times 0.95 = 0.855$
3. (a) $P(C \vee D) = P(C) + P(D) - P(C \wedge D) = 0.95 + 0.97 - 0.95 \times 0.97 = 0.9985$
- (b) The link failing corresponds to the following logical expression being true:
- $$\neg(C \vee D) = \neg C \wedge \neg D.$$
- (Or $\overline{C + D} = \overline{C} \cdot \overline{D}$.)
- (c) $P(\neg(C \vee D)) = 1 - P(C \vee D) = 1 - 0.9985 = 0.0015$. Or $P(\neg C \wedge \neg D) = P(\neg C) \times P(\neg D) = 0.05 \times 0.3 = 0.015$.
4. The events are independent, so $P(A \wedge B \wedge C) = P(A) \times P(B) \times P(C) = 0.95 \times 0.96 \times 0.91 = 0.83$.
5. The NUMBAS test provides a worked solution for each question in this part.
6. (a) $P(A) = \frac{135+765}{1000} = 0.9$, $P(B) = \frac{765+85}{1000} = 0.85$
- (b) For this we will need $P(A \wedge B) = \frac{765}{1000} = 0.765$. Then $P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(A)} = \frac{0.765}{0.9} = 0.85$ and $P(A|B) = \frac{0.765}{0.85} = 0.9$.
7. The following Venn diagram represents the occurrence of two events A and B . The outer rectangle is the universal set and the two circular regions represent A and B as shown. The values in the diagram indicate the number of outcomes (total 1000) in each case.
- (a) $P(A) = \frac{13+811}{1000} = 0.824$, $P(B) = \frac{811+124}{1000} = 0.935$
- (b) For this we will need $P(A \wedge B) = \frac{811}{1000} = 0.811$. Then $P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(A)} = \frac{0.811}{0.824} = 0.984$ and $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(B)} = \frac{0.811}{0.935} = 0.867$.
- (c) $P(\neg B|A) = \frac{P(A \wedge \neg B)}{P(A)} = \frac{13}{13+811} = 0.0158$. Notice that this is $1 - P(B|A)$.
- (d) $P(B|\neg A) = \frac{P(\neg A \wedge B)}{P(\neg A)} = \frac{124}{124+52} = 0.705$
- (e) $P(\neg B|\neg A) = \frac{P(\neg A \wedge \neg B)}{P(\neg A)} = \frac{52}{52+124} = 0.295$, $P(B|\neg A) = 0.705$. These are complements again, in that $P(\neg B|\neg A) = 1 - P(B|\neg A)$.
- (f) $P(\neg A|\neg B) = \frac{52}{13+52} = 0.8$
8. (a) $P(A \vee B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \wedge B) = 0.94 + 0.92 - 0.94 \times 0.92 = 0.9952$. (We can use $P(A \wedge B) = P(A) \times P(B)$ since the events are independent.) Then $P((A \vee B) \wedge C) = P(A \vee B) \times P(C) = 0.9952 \times 0.96 = 0.955$.
9. The NUMBAS test provides a worked solution for each question in this part.