

EE 507 Random Processes

Homework 01

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Contents

Problem 1	2
Solution	2
Problem 2	3
Solution	3
Problem 3	4
Solution	4
Problem 4	6
Solution	6
Problem 5	7
Solution	7
Problem 6	8
Solution	8
Problem 7	10
Solution	10

Problem 1

All of you travelled to Pullman and WSU to begin your education here (maybe by airplane, maybe by car, maybe even by bus or on foot if you grew up in the area). Please consider your latitude (how far North or South you are) as a function of time on this journey. Before you started travelling, this time signal was subject to uncertainty. Please sketch two possible instances of this signal, explaining why each result may occur.

Solution

Problem 2

- a. Please define the following terms:
 - (i) Probability
 - (ii) Outcome
 - (iii) Event
 - (iv) Sample Space
 - (v) Axiom
- b. Please describe, in words, the three axioms of probability.
- c. It's important in defining an experiment to have the correct level of granularity (detail). Please give an example in which the granularity is too low, and one in which the granularity is too high.

Solution

Problem 3

Consider any uncertain experiment, and let A , B , and C be three events defined for the experiment. Please prove the following equalities or inequalities. In doing so, you may use the three axioms, any equalities/inequalities developed in class, standard set theory and algebra concepts, and earlier parts of the problem.

- a. $P(A\bar{B}) = P(A) - P(AB)$
- b. If A is contained in B , then $P(A) \leq P(B)$.
- c. $P(A + B) + P(\bar{A}) + P(\bar{B}) - P(\bar{A} + \bar{B}) = 1$
- d. $P(AB) + P(\bar{A}C) + P(\bar{B}\bar{C}) \leq 1$

Please also give an example showing that the bound can be achieved.

Solution

- a. To Prove: $P(A\bar{B}) = P(A) - P(AB)$

Proof.

From the Law of Total Probability, we know that

$$P(A) = P(A\bar{B}) + P(AB) \quad (1)$$

Rearranging eq. (1), we get:

$$P(A\bar{B}) = P(A) - P(AB) \quad (2)$$

Hence Proved. 😊

□

- b. To Prove: If A is contained in B , then $P(A) \leq P(B)$

Proof.

To Prove: if $A \subseteq B$, then $P(A) \leq P(B)$

From the Law of Total Probability, we know that

$$P(B) = P(B\bar{A}) + P(BA) \quad (3)$$

$$A \subseteq B \implies A \cap B = A \implies P(BA) = P(A)$$

$$\text{or, } P(B) = P(B\bar{A}) + P(A)$$

But, by Axiom 1 of Probability

$$P(B\bar{A}) \geq 0$$

$$\implies P(A) \leq P(B)$$

Hence Proved. 😊

□

c. To Prove: $P(A + B) + P(\bar{A}) + P(\bar{B}) - P(\bar{A} + \bar{B}) = 1$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
LHS &= \{P(A) + P(B) - P(AB)\} + P(\bar{A}) + P(\bar{B}) \quad (\text{Expanding the } LHS) \\
&\quad - \{P(\bar{A}) + P(\bar{B}) - P(\bar{A}\bar{B})\} \\
&= P(A) + P(B) - P(AB) + P(\bar{A}\bar{B}) \\
&= P(A) - P(AB) + P(\bar{A}\bar{B}) + P(B) \quad (\text{Rearranging the equation}) \\
&= P(A\bar{B}) + P(\bar{A}\bar{B}) + P(B) \quad (\text{Using eq. (1)}) \\
&= P(\bar{B}) + P(B) \quad (\text{Using eq. (3)}) \\
&= 1 \quad \text{Hence Proved } \odot
\end{aligned}$$

□

d. To Prove: $P(AB) + P(\bar{A}C) + P(\bar{B}\bar{C}) \leq 1$
Also give an example for the equality case.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
&AB \cap \bar{A}C \cap \bar{B}\bar{C} = \phi \quad (\text{Pairwise Disjoint Sets}) \\
\implies P(AB) + P(\bar{A}C) + P(\bar{B}\bar{C}) &= P(AB + \bar{A}C + \bar{B}\bar{C}) \quad (\text{Axiom 3}) \\
&\leq 1 \quad (\text{Axiom 1}) \\
&\text{Hence Proved } \odot
\end{aligned}$$

□

For the special case of equality

$$P(AB) + P(\bar{A}C) + P(\bar{B}\bar{C}) = 1 \quad (4)$$

We may equate the constituent events of eq. (4) to trivial identities in order to potentially reverse engineer the relationships between the three events A , B and C :

Let

$$AB + \bar{A}C + \bar{B}\bar{C} = A + \bar{A} \quad (5)$$

Making comparisons, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
AB &= A \\
\implies A &\subseteq B \quad (6)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{A}C &= \bar{A} \\
\implies \bar{A} &\subseteq C \quad (7)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{B}\bar{C} &= 0 \\
\implies \bar{B} \cap \bar{C} &= \phi \quad (8)
\end{aligned}$$

From eq. (6) and eq. (7), we obtain the fact that $A = B$ and

Problem 4

Consider an experiment that has four outcomes, A , B , C , and \square .

- a. How many events can be defined for this experiment? What are they?
- b. What is the sample space for the experiment?
- c. For this part, assume that $P(\{A, B, \square\}) = 0.8$, $P(\{A, C\}) = 0.4$ and $P(\{A, \square\}) = 0.4$.
Please find the probabilities of all events defined for this experiment.
- d. For this part, assume that the probabilities $P(\{A, B, \square\})$ and $P(\{A, C\})$ are known, and that we can measure the probability of exactly one more event. Please find all other events such that the knowledge of the three events' probabilities allows us to compute the probabilities of all events.

Solution

Problem 5

You toss three fair coins. What is the probability that at least two show heads? Also, what is the probability that at least two show heads, given that the number of heads showing is even?

Solution

Let E be the experiment of tossing three fair coins. The sample space for E is $\Omega = \{TTT, TTH, THT, THH, HTT, HTH, HHT, HHH\}$.

Let Event A: {At least two heads}

or $A = \{THH, HTH, HHT, HHH\}$

$$\implies P(A) = \frac{4}{8}$$

Let Event B: {Even # of heads}

or $B = \{TTT, TTH, HTT, HHT\}$

$$\implies P(B) = \frac{4}{8}$$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

$$A \cap B = \{THH, HTH, HHT\}$$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{\frac{3}{8}}{\frac{4}{8}} = \frac{3}{4}$$

Problem 6

A simple dartboard is shown below:

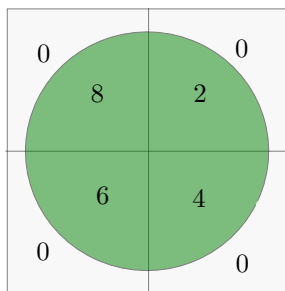


Figure 1: A dart board with given scores for hitting different regions.

Your favourite EE 507 instructor throws a dart at the board. He hits the board with probability 0.7 and misses the board with probability 0.3. Given that he hit the board, he is equally likely to hit any point on it. He receives a score of 0 if he misses the board, and receives the score shown if he hits the board.

- What are the outcomes of this experiment? How many are there?
- What are the events in this experiment? How many are there?
- What is the probability that your instructor's score is more than 3?
- Let's say we repeated the experiment twice, independently. What is the probability that the score is greater than 3 on the first try, and less than or equal to 3 on the second try?
Also what is the probability that the two scores are different?

Solution

Let the experiment of the instructor throwing the dart on the board be called E .

- The outcomes can be listed as $\Omega = \{A_0, A_2, A_4, A_6, A_8\}$ where A_i refers to scoring i points with the dart. A_0 represents the dart missing the board and scoring zero points.
In total there are 5 outcomes for this experiment.
- An event is a subset of the power set of the set of outcomes (Ω) of the experiment.

The power set of Ω is \mathcal{P} :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P} = \{ & \{\phi\}, \{A_0\}, \{A_2\}, \dots \{A_8\}, \\ & \{A_0, A_2\}, \{A_0, A_4\} \dots \{A_8, A_6\}, \\ & \dots \{A_0, A_2, A_4, A_6, A_8\}\end{aligned}$$

Say, a subset $\{A_0, A_4\}$ of \mathcal{P} represents the event {The dart misses the board OR The dart hits the board in the region with 4 points}.

There are $2^5 = 32$ events for this experiment.

- c. $P(\text{Score} > 3) = P(\{A_4, A_6, A_8\})$.

Outcomes are always disjoint events, so we can use Axiom 3.

$$P(\{A_4, A_6, A_8\}) = P(A_4) + P(A_6) + P(A_8) = 3 * 0.7/4 = 0.525.$$

- d. Repeated trials are independent trials. We can simply multiply the individual probabilities to obtain the final probability.

$$\begin{aligned}P(\text{Score} > 3 \text{ on the first trial AND Score} < 3 \text{ on the second trials}) &= P(\text{Score} > 3) * P(\text{Score} \leq 3) \\ &= 0.525(1 - 0.525) = 0.249375\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}P(\text{Both Scores Different}) &= 1 - P(\text{Both Scores Same}) \\ &= 1 - P(\{\{A_0A_0\}, \{A_2A_2\}, \{A_4A_4\}, \{A_6A_6\}, \{A_8A_8\}\}) \\ &= 1 - [0.3^2 + 4 * \{\frac{0.7}{4}\}^2] = 0.7875\end{aligned}$$

Problem 7

Let's say an experiment has three outcomes.

- a. How many events can be defined for this experiment?

Now we say we repeat the experiment twice (once more), independently.

- b. How many outcomes does the combined experiment have?
- c. How many events can be defined for the combined experiment?
- d. How many events for the combined experiment can not be derived from the cartesian products for the individual experiments? Please give an example.

Solution

Let the experiment be called E_1 which has the three outcomes be A, B and C i.e. $\Omega = \{A, B, C\}$

- a. # Events = 2^n where n is the cardinality of the sample space Ω .
Here $n = 3$ and therefore # Events = $2^3 = 8$.

Let the combined experiment be called E_2 . The outcomes of this combined experiment will be represented by the new sample space $\Omega_2 = \{AA, AB, AC, BA, BB, BC, CA, CB, CC\}$.

- b. # Outcomes = Cardinality ($n_2 = n^2$) of the sample space Ω_2 .
Here $n_2 = 3^2 = 9$.
- c. # Events = 2^{n_2}
Here $n_2 = 9$ and therefore # Events = $2^9 = 512$.
- d. # Events of the combined experiment which can be defined from the cartesian products of the individual experiments = $2^n * 2^n = 2^{2n} = 2^6$.
Total # Events of the combined experiment = $2^{n^2} = 2^9$.
Therefore, # Events which cannot be defined from the cartesian products of the individual experiments = $2^{n^2} - 2^{2n} = 2^9 - 2^6 = 512 - 64 = 448$.

Examples for an event of E_2 which can be formed from the cartesian products of the events of E_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}\{A\} \times \{A\} &= \{AA\} \\ \{A, B, C\} \times \{A\} &= \{AA, BA, CA\} \\ \{A, C\} \times \{B\} &= \{AB, CB\}\end{aligned}$$

Examples for events of E_2 which can NOT be formed from the cartesian products of the events of E_1 :

$$\{AB, BC, CA\}$$

$$\{AA, CB\}$$

$$\{BC, CB\}$$