

Figgie

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Goal

We want to know what the starting probability that a specified suit is the common suit given that we are dealt n cards of that suit initially.

Notation

C = “Suit is common” (12 of 40 cards are of the common suit)

n = “Initially dealt n of this suit” (of the 10 cards dealt, n are of this suit)

Solution

Bayes’ Theorem

$$p(C | n) = \frac{p(n|C)p(C)}{p(n|C)p(C)+p(n|C')p(C')}$$

Task 1: $p(n | C)$

Restated: Given that a suit is common, what’s the probability that we would draw exactly n of them initially?

$$p(n | C) = \frac{\binom{10}{n} \frac{12!}{(12-n)!} \frac{(40-12)!}{((40-12)-(10-n))!}}{\frac{40!}{10!}}$$

n	$p(\text{dealt } n C \text{ “suit is common”})$
0	1.55%
1	9.78%
2	24.20%
3	30.73%
4	22.00%
5	9.18%
6	2.22%
7	0.31%
8	0.02%
9	0.00%
10	0.00%

Task 2: $p(C) = 25\%$

Task 3: $p(n | C')$

Restated: Given that a suit is not the common suit, what's the probability that we would draw exactly n of them initially?

$$p(n | C') = \frac{\binom{10}{n} \frac{10!}{(10-n)!} \frac{(40-10)!}{((40-10)-(10-n))!}}{\frac{40!}{10!}}$$

n	$p(\text{dealt } n C' \text{ "suit is not common"})$
0	3.54%
1	16.89%
2	31.07%
3	28.82%
4	14.71%
5	4.24%
6	0.68%
7	0.06%
8	0.00%
9	0.00%
10	0.00%

Task 4: $p(C') = 75\%$

Putting It All Together

$$p(C | n) = \frac{p(n|C)p(C)}{p(n|C)p(C)+p(n|C')p(C')} = \frac{\frac{\binom{10}{n} \frac{12!}{(12-n)!} \frac{(40-12)!}{((40-12)-(10-n))!} \frac{1}{4}}{\frac{\binom{10}{n} \frac{12!}{(12-n)!} \frac{(40-12)!}{((40-12)-(10-n))!} \frac{1}{4} + \frac{\binom{10}{n} \frac{10!}{(10-n)!} \frac{(40-10)!}{((40-10)-(10-n))!} \frac{3}{4}}}$$

n	$p(C \text{ is the common suit} n \text{ are dealt})$
0	12.5%
1	16.1%
2	20.6%
3	26.2%
4	33.3%
5	41.9%
6	52.3%
7	63.9%
8	76.1%
9	87.3%
10	95.7%