

Practice Questions 3: Solutions to unsolved problems

1. We have the following information:

$$P(\text{Math} \cap \text{Science}) = 0.3 \text{ and } P(\text{Math}) = 0.7$$

$$\text{We want } P(\text{Science}/\text{Math}) = \frac{P(\text{Math} \cap \text{Science})}{P(\text{Math})} = 0.3/0.7$$

2. Let E_i be the event that the first i cards have no pairs among them. We want the value of $P(E_4)$.

We can see clearly that $E_4 \subset E_3 \subset E_2 \subset E_1$, which implies that $E_4 \cap E_3 \cap E_2 \cap E_1 = E_4$.

Therefore, $P(E_4) = P(E_4 \cap E_3 \cap E_2 \cap E_1)$.

$$\begin{aligned} P(E_4 \cap E_3 \cap E_2 \cap E_1) &= P(E_1) * P(E_2|E_1) * P(E_3|E_2 \cap E_1) * P(E_4|E_3 \cap E_2 \cap E_1) \\ &= \frac{52}{52} * \frac{48}{51} * \frac{44}{50} * \frac{40}{49} \end{aligned}$$

3. Let U_i : be the event *Up – to – date in week i* and B_i : be the event *behind in week i*

We know $P(U_1) = 0.8$ which means that $P(B_1) = 1 - 0.8 = 0.2$.

Now, $P(U_2) = P(U_1) * P(U_2|U_1) + P(B_1) * P(U_2|B_1) = 0.8 * 0.8 + 0.2 * 0.4 = 0.72$

$$P(B_2) = P(B_1) * P(B_2|U_1) + P(B_1) * P(B_2|B_1) = 0.8 * 0.2 + 0.2 * 0.6 = 0.28$$

We are interested in $P(U_3)$. Same as above, we have:

$$P(U_3) = P(U_2) * P(U_3|U_2) + P(B_2) * P(U_3|B_2) = 0.72 * 0.8 + 0.28 * 0.4 = 0.688$$

4. There are $52 * 51 * 50$ possibilities of 3 cards. Of these there are $13 * 50 * 12$ ways to choose the cards so that the first and third are spades and $13 * 12 * 11$ where all three are spades.

Our probability of interest is :

$$\frac{(13 * 12 * 11)/(52 * 51 * 50)}{(13 * 50 * 12)/(52 * 51 * 50)} = \frac{11}{50}$$

5. Let the probability that A wins is X .

The probability that A does not win at 1st draw is $2/3$. If this happens, then B is exactly in the same situation as A was at the beginning, so now his chance to win is X . So probability that B wins is $(2/3)*X$.

Similarly, probability that C wins is $(2/3)^2*X$.

Sum of all probabilities is one.

$$X + (2/3)X + (2/3)^2X = 1$$

$$X = 9/16$$

Therefore the probabilities of interest are:

The probability that A wins is $9/19 = 0.4737$

The probability that B wins is $6/19 = 0.3158$

The probability that C wins is $4/19 = 0.2105$

6. There are 4 possible outcomes here, corresponding to the 4 combinations of success and failure of the two chefs.

SS: Both succeed

FF: Both fail

SF: A succeeds B fails

FS: A fails B succeeds

We know the following:

$$P(SS)+P(SF) = 2/3$$

$$P(SS)+P(FS) = 1/2$$

$$P(SS)+P(FS)+P(SF) = 3/4$$

We know that $P(SS)+P(SF)+P(FS)+P(FF)=1$. Using the 4 equations above we get the separate probabilities as: $P(SS)=5/12$, $P(SF)=1/4$, $P(FS)=1/12$, $P(FF)=1/4$.

The conditional probability of interest is:

$$P(\{SF\} | \{SF, FS\}) = \frac{1/4}{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}}$$