

planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

conditional probability

Canonical name Conditional Probability
Date of creation 2013-03-22 12:21:54
Last modified on 2013-03-22 12:21:54

Owner yark (2760) Last modified by yark (2760)

Numerical id 8

Author yark (2760) Entry type Definition Classification msc 60A99

Related topic ConditionalEntropy Related topic BayesTheorem

Related topic ConditionalExpectation

Let $(\Omega, \mathfrak{B}, \mu)$ be a probability space, and let $X, Y \in \mathfrak{B}$ be events. The *conditional probability* of X given Y is defined as

$$\mu(X|Y) = \frac{\mu(X \cap Y)}{\mu(Y)} \tag{1}$$

provided $\mu(Y) > 0$. (If $\mu(Y) = 0$, then $\mu(X|Y)$ is not defined.) If $\mu(X) > 0$ and $\mu(Y) > 0$, then

$$\mu(X|Y)\mu(Y) = \mu(X \cap Y) = \mu(Y|X)\mu(X),\tag{2}$$

and so also

$$\mu(X|Y) = \frac{\mu(Y|X)\mu(X)}{\mu(Y)},\tag{3}$$

which is Bayes' Theorem.