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Chapter 3: Dependent and Independent Events, Mutually Exclusive Events Applying Matrices to Probability Problems

There are times when we may deal with probabilities involving **two or more events**. For example, flipping a coin and then rolling a die is an example of two separate events, known as **compound events**.

- **Independent Events**

In some situations involving compound events, the occurrence of one event, A , has *no effect* on the occurrence of another event, B . In such cases, events A and B are **independent**.

Ex. 1: A coin is tossed 3 times and turns up heads each time.

- What is the probability that the fourth toss will be heads?
- Find the probability of tossing four heads in a row.

Ex. 2: A coin is flipped while a six-sided die is rolled. What is the probability of flipping tails *and* rolling a 3 in a single trial?

The Product Rule for Independent Events

A compound probability asks us to find the likelihood that **event A and event B** will occur.

In general, the compound probability of two independent events can be calculated as follows:

$$P(\mathbf{A \text{ and } B}) = P(\mathbf{A}) \times P(\mathbf{B})$$

- **Dependent Events**

Dependent events are events whose outcomes are affected by each other. For example, if two cards are drawn from a deck without replacement, the outcome of the second event depends on the outcome of the first event which is the first card drawn.

Ex.4: Suppose we have a standard deck of 52 cards. What is the probability of selecting two diamonds: a) with replacement? b) without replacement?

The Product Rule for Dependent Events

The probability that both A and B will occur equals the probability of A times the probability of B given that A has occurred:

$$P(\mathbf{A} \text{ and } \mathbf{B}) = P(\mathbf{A}) \times P(\mathbf{B} \text{ given } \mathbf{A}) \text{ or } P(\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}) = P(\mathbf{A}) \times P(\mathbf{B}|\mathbf{A})$$

Ex.5: Cards are drawn from a standard deck of 52 cards without replacement. Calculate the probability of obtaining:

- a) a king, then another king
- b) a club, then a heart
- c) a black card, then a heart, then a diamond

Ex.6: A jar contains blue and purple marbles. Two marbles are chosen without replacement. The probability of selecting a purple marble and then a blue marble is $\frac{16}{69}$, and the probability of selecting a purple marble on the first draw is $\frac{4}{11}$.

- a) What is the probability of selecting a blue marble on the second draw, given that the first marble drawn was purple?
- b) What is the probability of selecting a blue marble on the second draw, given that the first marble drawn was blue?

Ex.7: At an athletic event, athletes are tested for steroids using two different tests. The first test has a 93% probability of giving accurate results, while the second test is accurate 87% of the time. If both tests are used on an athlete who has steroids in his system, what is the probability that:

- a) neither test shows that steroids are present?
- b) both tests show that steroids are present?
- c) at least one of the tests shows that steroids are present?

Ex.8: A hockey team has jerseys in three different colors. There are 4 green, 6 white and 5 orange jerseys in the bag. Todd and Blake are given a jersey at random. What is the probability that both jerseys are the same color?

When we looked at two events **A** and **B** that had some “overlap” (**intersection**), we noted that we could count the total number of **A or B** (**union**) using $n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$. This helped us avoid double counting the number of outcomes where **A and B** could occur together.

- **Mutually Exclusive Events vs. Non-Mutually Exclusive Events**

Mutually exclusive events are events that **cannot occur simultaneously**. For example, getting a 2 and getting a 1 on a single roll of die. **Non-mutually exclusive events** are events that **may occur simultaneously**. For example, when we were looking for the number of ways to select a queen *or* a heart from a standard deck of cards.

Ex.9: Classify the events in each experiment as being either mutually exclusive or non-mutually exclusive.

- a) The experiment is rolling a single die once.
Event A: rolling an even number, Event B: rolling a prime number.
- b) The experiment is playing a game of hockey.
Event A: your team scores a goal, Event B: your team wins the game.
- c) The experiment is selecting a gift.
Event A: the gift is edible, Event B: the gift is an ukulele.

The Addition Rule for Mutually Exclusive Events

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

The Addition Rule for Non-Mutually Exclusive Events

$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

Ex.10: If two standard dice are rolled,

- a) what is the probability of rolling doubles *or* a total of 11?
- b) what is the probability of rolling doubles *or* a total of 10?

Ex.11: The probability that Dana will make the hockey team is $\frac{2}{3}$. The probability that she will make the swimming team is $\frac{3}{4}$. If the probability of Dana making both teams is $\frac{1}{2}$, determine the probability that she will not make either team.

Ex.12: In an animal-behaviour study, hamsters were tested with a number of intelligence tasks, as shown in the table below.

If a hamster is randomly chosen from this study group, what is the likelihood that the hamster has participated in

- a) exactly three tests?
- b) fewer than two tests?
- c) either one or two tests?
- d) no tests or more than three tests?

Number of Tests	Number of Hamsters
0	10
1	6
2	4
3	3
4 or more	5

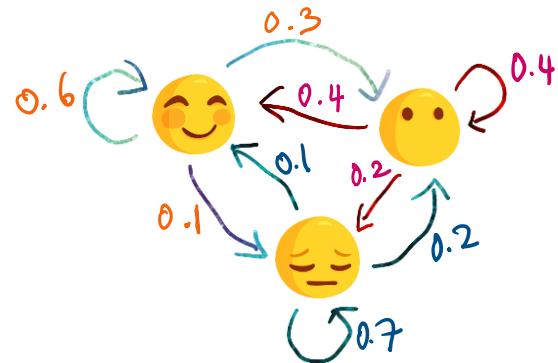
➤ Applying Matrices to Probability Problems

Dependent probabilities can be calculated using Markov Chains, a powerful probability model that can be applied to study stock market trends, consumer habits, etc.

Ex.13: Rami after reflecting on her past experience concluded that the states of her mood (cheerful, sad, so-so) switches according to the following diagram:

- a) Suppose Rami is cheerful today, what is the probability that she is
 - i) cheerful ii) sad iii) so-so
 the next day?
- b) What about 3 days from today?

- initial probability vector:
- transition matrix:



Regular Markov chains always achieve a steady state. A Markov chain is regular if the **transition matrix P** or some power of P has no zero entries. A regular Markov chain will reach the same steady state regardless of the **initial probability vector**.

- c) Determine the long-term probability of each of her mood states.