

## 8.1 Conditional Probability

The importance of this concept is:

We are often interested in calculating probabilities when some partial information concerning the result of an experiment is available.

For any two events A and B with  $P(B) > 0$ , the conditional probability of A given B has occurred is defined by

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

Note that the conditional probability given  $P(A) > 0$  is

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

### Note

$$P(A | B) + P(A^c | B) = 1$$

$$P(B | A) + P(B^c | A) = 1$$

## 8.2 The Multiplication Rule for $P(A \cap B)$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A | B) \cdot P(B) \text{ or } P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B | A)$$

Let A, B, C, D, ... Be arbitrary events in a sample space. Assume that  $P(A) > 0, P(AB) > 0, P(ABC) > 0$ . Then

$$P(ABC) = P(A)P(B | A)P(C | AB)$$

$$P(ABCD) = P(A)P(B | A)P(C | AB)P(D | ABC)$$

## 8.3 Independence

- For any two events A and B defined on S with  $P(B) > 0, P(A) > 0$

- Then A and B are independent if and only if either of the statements is true.

$$P(A) = P(A | B)$$

$$P(B) = P(B | A)$$

## 8.4 Tree Diagrams

A tree diagram is useful for displaying all outcomes for a multistage experiment and determining their probabilities.

## 8.5 The Law of Total Probability

- Let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  be mutually exclusive and exhaustive events. Then for any other event B

$$P(B) = P(B | A_1)P(A_1) + \dots + P(B | A_k)P(A_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k P(B | A_i)P(A_i)$$

- The events are exhaustive if one  $A_i$  must occur, so that  $A_i \cup \dots \cup A_k = S$
- A set of event is said to be exhaustive when at least one of the events compulsorily occurs.

### 8.5.1 Terminology

- A false positive results when a test indicates a positive status when the true status is negative ( $T | D^c$ )
- A false negative results when a test indicates a negative status when the true status is positive ( $T^c | D$ )
- The Sensitivity (true positive rate) of a test is a probability of a positive test result given the presence of the disease  $P(T | D)$ .
- The Specificity(true negative rate)of a test is a probability of a negative test result given the absence of the disease  $P(T^c | D^c)$

#### Note

- Sensitivity is complementary to the false negative rate.

$$P(T | D) + (T^c | D) = 1$$

- Specificity is complementary to the false positive rate.

$$P(T^c | D^c) + (T | D^c) = 1$$

## 8.6 Bayes' Theorem

Let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  be mutually exclusive and exhaustive events with prior probabilities  $P(A_i)$   $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . then for any other event  $B$  for which  $P(B) > 0$  the posterior probability of  $A_j$  given that  $B$  has occurred is

$$\begin{aligned} P(A_j | B) &= \frac{P(A_j \cap B)}{P(B)} \\ &= \frac{P(B | A_j)P(A_j)}{\sum_{i=1}^k P(B | A_i)P(A_i)} \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, k \end{aligned}$$