

**Exercise 1.**

- (a)  $\mathcal{A}$  must contain  $\emptyset$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $\{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 4, 6\}$ . Such a collection is already closed under union, intersection and complement. So it's precisely  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- (b)  $\mathcal{A}$  must contain  $\emptyset$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $\{1, 2\}$ ,  $\{3, 4\}$  and  $\{5, 6\}$ , thus (using the union) also  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ,  $\{1, 2, 5, 6\}$  and  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . It's immediate to check that such a collection is already closed under intersection and complement. So it's precisely  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- (c)  $\mathcal{A}$  must contain every singleton, and thus  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ , because  $\Omega$  is finite and thus every subset can be written as the *countable* (finite) union of the singletons of its elements.

**Exercise 2.** Let  $\Omega := \{r, b, g, w\}$ . We can construct the  $\sigma$ -algebra formed by  $\emptyset, \Omega$  and:

1. nothing else.
2. One singleton, and thus also its complement. These are 4 different algebras (one for every singleton).
3. One set of cardinality 2, and thus also its complement. These are  $6/2 = 3$  different algebras (there are 6 choices for sets of cardinality 2, but every such a set determines also the other one).
4. *One set of cardinality 3: these algebras are exactly the same of the second point.*
5. *One set of cardinality 4: same of first point.*
6. Two singletons, and thus also their complements, their union and the complement of their union. These are 6 different algebras (one for every choice of two singletons).
7. Two sets of cardinality 2. *If the two sets are disjoint, the algebras are the same of third point.* If the two sets are not disjoint, then their intersection is a singleton. Now it's easy to check that we can construct every singleton, and thus these algebras are all  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ . Thus we have found just 1 more algebra.
8. *Two sets of cardinality 3: same of sixth point.*

9. Three singletons: it's immediate to construct the other singleton, and thus we obtain  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .
10. Three sets of cardinality 2: it's easy to check that in this case we can always construct every singleton, and thus we get  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .
11. Three sets of cardinality 3: it's easy to check that in this case we can always construct every singleton, and thus we get  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .
12. Four singletons: this is trivially  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .

So the different  $\sigma$ -algebras are 15. The non-isomorphic ones are as many as the non-italic points, i.e. 5.

### Exercise 3.

- (a)  $\mathbb{P}[A \cap B^c] = \mathbb{P}[A] - \mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = \mathbb{P}[A] - \mathbb{P}[A]\mathbb{P}[B] = \mathbb{P}[A](1 - \mathbb{P}[B]) = \mathbb{P}[A]\mathbb{P}[B^c]$ .
- (b)  $\mathbb{P}[A^c \cap B^c] = \mathbb{P}[B^c] - \mathbb{P}[A \cap B^c] = \mathbb{P}[B^c] - \mathbb{P}[A]\mathbb{P}[B^c] = \mathbb{P}[B^c](1 - \mathbb{P}[A]) = \mathbb{P}[B^c]\mathbb{P}[A^c]$ .

### Exercise 4.

**Note:** the following solution might look too complex/heavy/elaborated. I am pretty sure there aren't much easier ways to solve the exercise, but I could be wrong. Nevertheless, one thing is for sure: **answers of the type “if the firstborn is a girl, then the chance that the second is a boy is  $1/2$ , because the events are clearly independent” MAKE. NO. SENSE.** The exercise is given *precisely* to force us to set up a theoretical environment which models the real problem, but where we can *formally prove* the statements. And indeed such independence can be *proved* in the following model. Of course, one can argue that my probability space doesn't faithfully model the real problem, but that's a different story.

**Solution.** We define  $\Omega := \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\}$ . By 0 we mean boy and by 1 we mean “girl”.

- (a) We take  $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  and  $\mathbb{P}[\omega] := \frac{1}{2^3}$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega$ . Since  $\Omega$  is finite, this completely determines  $\mathbb{P}$  on  $\mathcal{A}$  (by the additive property).
- (b) Recall that  $\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \mathbb{P}[A \cap B]/\mathbb{P}[B]$ . Let  $A := \{(x, y, z) \in \Omega \mid y = 0\}$  and  $B := \{(x, y, z) \in \Omega \mid x = 1\}$ . Then the exercise asks us to compute  $\mathbb{P}[A|B]$ , and it's very easy to check that  $\mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = \frac{1}{2^2}$  and  $\mathbb{P}[B] = \frac{1}{2}$ , thus the result is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

- (c) Define  $A := \{(x, y, z) \in \Omega \mid x = y = z = 1\} = \{(1, 1, 1)\}$  and  $B := \{(x, y, z) \in \Omega \mid x = 1 \vee y = 1 \vee z = 1\}$ . We shall compute  $\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \mathbb{P}[A \cap B] / \mathbb{P}[B]$ . Observe that  $\mathbb{P}[A] = \frac{1}{2^3}$ . Furthermore, trivially  $A \subseteq B$ , thus  $\mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = \mathbb{P}[A] = \frac{1}{2^3}$ . Now observe that  $\mathbb{P}[B] = 1 - \mathbb{P}[B^c]$ , and trivially  $B^c = \{(0, 0, 0)\}$ . Thus  $\mathbb{P}[B] = 1 - \frac{1}{2^3}$ . So

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{1}{2^3} \cdot \frac{2^3}{2^3 - 1} = \frac{1}{7}.$$

**Exercise 5.**

- (a) Let  $A$  denote the event “ $X = 4$ ” and  $B$  denote the event “all coins show head”. We are asked to find  $\mathbb{P}[A|B]$ . By Bayes theorem we know that

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{\mathbb{P}[B|A]\mathbb{P}[A]}{\mathbb{P}[B]}.$$

Now observe that (after setting up an appropriate abstract model for this problem we could prove that)  $\mathbb{P}[A] = \frac{8}{110}$  and  $\mathbb{P}[B|A] = \frac{1}{2^4}$ . It is left to compute  $\mathbb{P}[B]$ . Let  $C_k$  be the event “ $X = k$ ”. Of course such events are pairwise disjoint and they cover  $\Omega$ . So by the rule of total probability we have

$$\mathbb{P}[B] = \sum_{k=1}^{10} \mathbb{P}[B|C_k]\mathbb{P}[C_k] = \sum_{k=1}^{10} \frac{1}{2^k} \frac{2k}{110} = \frac{1}{110} \sum_{k=1}^{10} k \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{k-1} = \frac{1}{110} \frac{509}{128}.$$

So

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{1}{2^4} \frac{1}{110} \frac{509}{128} \frac{110}{8} = \frac{509}{2^{14}}.$$

- (b) Let  $D$  be the event “ $X$  is even”. We are asked to check whether

$$\mathbb{P}[D \cap B] = \mathbb{P}[D]\mathbb{P}[B].$$

We already know  $\mathbb{P}[B]$ . Let's compute  $\mathbb{P}[D \cap B]$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[D \cap B] &= \mathbb{P}[B|D]\mathbb{P}[D] \\ &= \mathbb{P}[B|C_2 \uplus C_4 \uplus C_6]\mathbb{P}[D] \\ &= \left(\mathbb{P}[B|C_2] + \mathbb{P}[B|C_4] + \mathbb{P}[B|C_6]\right)\mathbb{P}[D] \quad (\text{immediate to check}) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^4} + \frac{1}{2^6}\right)\mathbb{P}[D] \\ &= \frac{25}{64}\mathbb{P}[D]. \end{aligned}$$

But  $\mathbb{P}[B] \neq \frac{25}{64}$ , and thus  $D$  and  $B$  are not independent.