

Probability and Statistics for Engineers Homework Five  
TMATH 390

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## Problem 1

A college library has five copies of a certain text on reserve. Two copies (1 and 2) are first editions, and the other three (3, 4, and 5) are second editions. A student examines these books in random order, stopping only when a second edition has been selected. One outcome is 4, and another is 215.

- (a) List all outcomes in the sample space  $S$ .
- (b) Let  $A$  denote the event that exactly one book must be examined. What outcomes are in  $A$ ?
- (c) Let  $B$  be the event that book 4 is the one selected. What outcomes are in  $B$ ?
- (d) Let  $C$  be the event that book 2 is not examined. What outcomes are in  $C$ ?

**Answer to a** The sample space of an experiment are all of the possible outcomes of a chance experiment. The sample space for this chance experiment is:

$$S = [3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 123, 124, 125, 213, 214, 215]$$

**Answer to b** The event that exactly one book must be examined means that the student randomly picked up a second edition book first:

$$A = [3, 4, 5]$$

**Answer to c** The event that book 4 is selected doesn't necessarily mean that it is the first book selected, but it could also be the second or third after one or both of the first two first edition books were selected:

$$B = [4, 14, 25, 124, 214]$$

**Answer to d** The event that book 2 is not examined means that we could have any simple event that does not contain 2:

$$C = [3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15]$$

## Problem 2

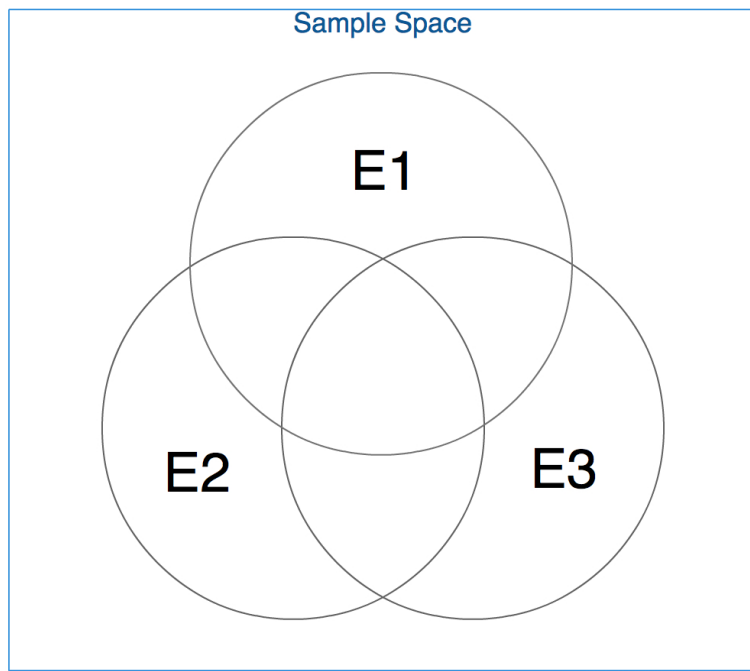
An engineering firm is constructing power plants at three different sites. Define the events  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ , and  $E_3$  as follows:

- $E_1$  = the plant at site 1 is completed by the contract date.
- $E_2$  = the plant at site 2 is completed by the contract date.
- $E_3$  = the plant at site 3 is completed by the contract date.

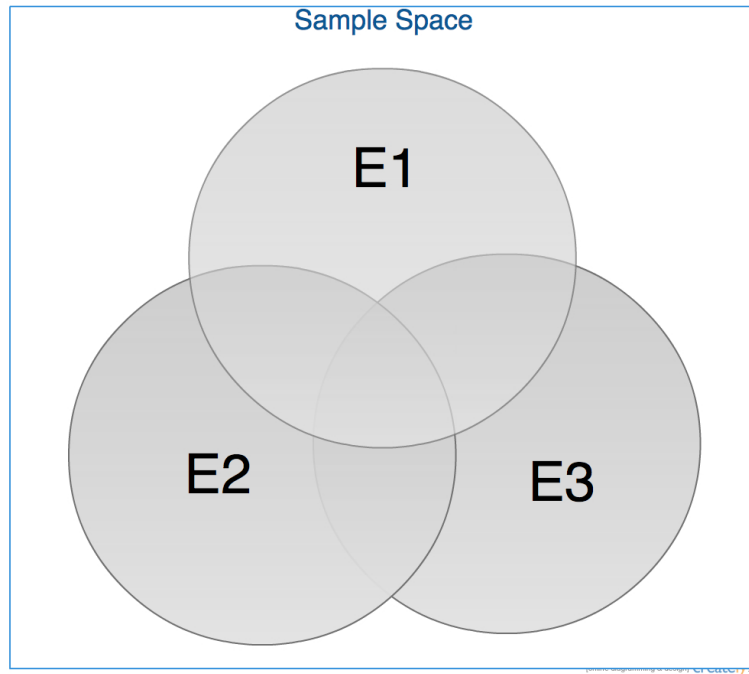
Draw a Venn diagram that depicts these three events as intersecting circles. Shade the region on the Venn diagram corresponding to each of the following events (redraw the Venn diagram for each question):

- At least one plant is completed by the contract date.
- All plants are completed by the contract date.
- None of the plants are completed by the contract date.
- Only the plant at site 1 is completed by the contract date.
- Exactly one of the three plants is completed by the contract date.
- Either the plant at site 1 or site 2 or both of the two plants are completed by the contract date.

Original Venn diagram:



Answer to a



### Problem 3

Let  $A_i = i$ th student got a perfect score on midterm 1, for  $i = 1, \dots, 18$ .

- (a) Interpret  $\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{18} A_i\right)'$  in English.
- (b) Interpret  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{18} A'_i$  in English. Is it equivalent to part a?

**Answer to a**  $\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{18} A_i\right)'$  is the same as saying the complement of  $A_1$ , and  $A_2$ , and ... and  $A_{18}$ . Basically, students 1 through 18 did not get a perfect score on the first midterm, but any other combination of these students getting a perfect score on the first midterm is possible (i.e.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ ).

**Answer to b**  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{18} A'_i$  is the same as saying  $A'_1$ , or  $A'_2$ , or ... or  $A'_{18}$ . Basically, any combination of students 1 through 18 can get a perfect score on their first midterm, however it is not possible for all 18 students to get a perfect score.

Part a and part b are the same.

## Problem 4

Using everything we have learned about events and probability, prove that

$$P(A|B) + P(A'|B) = 1$$

Do not assume that events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent (i.e.  $P(A \cap B) \neq P(A) \cdot P(B)$ ). Explain each step of your calculation.

**Answer to problem 4**  $P(A|B)$  = the conditional probability of  $A$  occurring given that event  $B$  has already occurred. We know that these probabilities must be between 0 and 1, so  $0 \leq P(A|B) \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq P(A'|B) \leq 1$ . Also, from the definition, we know that event  $B$  has already occurred, so we're really just adding together the probabilities of whether  $A$  will occur or not.  $P(A|B)$  is the probability that  $A$  will occur and  $P(A'|B)$  is the probability that  $A$  will not occur. Since there are only two possibilities, then the summation of those two possibilities should equal 1, or a 100% chance. Meaning that there is a 100% chance that  $A$  will either occur or not occur given that  $B$  has already occurred.

## Problem 5

Five companies (A, B, C, D, and E) that make electrical relays compete each year to be the sole supplier of relays to a major automobile manufacturer. The auto company's records show that the probabilities of choosing a company to be the sole supplier are

Supplier chose:	A	B	C	D	E
Probability:	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.25	0.15

- (a) Suppose that supplier E goes out of business this year, leaving the remaining 4 companies to compete with one another. What are the new probabilities of companies A, B, C, and D being chosen as the sole supplier this year?  
 (b) Suppose the auto company narrows the choice of suppliers to companies A and C. What is the probability that company A is chosen this year?

**Answer to a** If company E were to go out of business then to determine the probabilities of the other companies being chosen, we have to use the equation:

$$P(\text{Other Company}|E') = \frac{P(\text{Other Company})}{P(E')}$$

This gives us a new table:

A	B	C	D
0.3529	0.2352	0.1176	0.2941

**Answer to b** If we narrowed down our decision to companies A and C, then we would use the equations:

$$\begin{aligned} P(A|B' + D' + E') &= \frac{P(A)}{P(B' + D' + E')} \\ &= \frac{0.3}{1 - (0.2 + 0.25 + 0.15)} \\ &= 0.75 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P(C|B' + D' + E') &= \frac{P(C)}{P(B' + D' + E')} \\ &= \frac{0.1}{1 - (0.2 + 0.25 + 0.15)} \\ &= 0.25 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore there is a 75% chance of choosing company A and a 25% chance of choosing company C.



## Problem 6

Number 5.16 in your book on page 214:

In Exercise 6, suppose that there is a probability of 0.01 that a digit is incorrectly sent over a communication channel (i.e., that a digit sent as a 1 is received as a 0, or vice versa). Consider a message that consists of exactly 60% 1s.

- (a) What is the proportion of 1s received at the end of the channel?
- (b) If a 1 is received, what is the probability that a 1 was sent? Hint: Use the tree diagram from Exercise 6.

Exercise 6 for reference: Information theory is concerned with the transmission of data, usually encoded as a stream of 0s and 1s, over communication channels. Because channels are "noisy", there is a chance that some 0s sent through the channel are mistakenly received at the other end as 1s, and vice versa. The majority of digits sent, however, are not altered by the channel.

Draw a tree diagram that depicts the type of bit sent (either 0 or 1) and the type of bit received at the end of the channel.

**Answer to a**

**Answer to b**

## Problem 7

Number 5.19 in your book on page 214:

In forensic science, the probability that any two people match with respect to a given characteristic (hair color, blood type, etc.) is called the *probability of a match*. Suppose that the frequencies of blood phenotypes in the population are as follows:

A	B	AB	O
0.42	0.10	0.04	0.44

- (a) What is the probability that two randomly chosen people both have blood type A?
- (b) Repeat the calculation in part (a) for the other three blood types.
- (c) Find the probability that two randomly chosen people have matching blood types. Note: A person can have only one phenotype.
- (d) The probability that two people do not match for a given characteristic is called *discriminating power*. What is the discriminating power for the comparison of two people's blood types in part (c)?

**Answer to a**

**Answer to b**

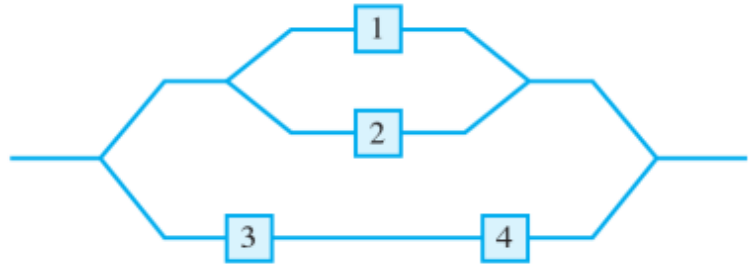
**Answer to c**

**Answer to d**

## Problem 8

Number 5.21 in your book on page 214:

Consider a system of components connected as shown in the following figure:



Components 1 and 2 are connected in parallel, so that their subsystem functions correctly if either component 1 or 2 functions. Components 3 and 4 are connected in series, so their subsystem works only if both components work correctly.

If all components work independently of one another and  $P(\text{a given component works}) = 0.9$ , calculate the probability that the entire system works correctly.

**Answer to problem 8**

## Problem 9

Let  $p$  be the sample proportion, written as  $p = \frac{n_f}{n}$ , where  $n$  = sample size, and  $n_f$  =, the number of females in the sample. Show that  $E[p] = \pi$  and  $V[p] = \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{n}$ , where  $\pi$  = proportion of females in population. Hint: Use what you know about Binomial distributions.

**Answer to problem 9**

## Problem 10

A survey of the members of a large professional engineering society is conducted to determine their views on proposed changes to an ASTM measurement standard. Suppose that 80% of the entire membership favor the proposed changes. Hint: Use the result from the previous problem.

- (a) Calculate the mean and standard deviation of the sampling distribution of the proportion of engineers in samples of size 25 who favor the proposed changes.
- (b) Calculate the mean and standard deviation of the sampling distribution of the proportion of engineers in samples of size 100 who favor the proposed changes.

**Answer to a**

**Answer to b**

## Problem 11

The lifetime of a certain battery is normally distributed with a mean value of 8 hours and a standard deviation of 1 hour. There are four such batteries in a package.

- (a) What is the probability that the average lifetime of the four batteries exceeds 9 hours?
- (b) If  $T$  denotes the average lifetime of the four batteries in a randomly selected package, find the numerical value of  $T_0$  for which  $P(T \geq T_0) = 0.95$ .

**Answer to a**

**Answer to b**

## Problem 12

The number of flaws  $x$  on an electroplated automobile grill is known to have the following probability mass function:  $p(0) = 0.6$ ,  $p(1) = 0.2$ ,  $p(2) = 0.1$ ,  $p(3) = 0.1$ .

- (a) Calculate the mean and standard deviation of  $x$ .
- (b) What are the mean and standard deviation of the sampling distribution of the average number of flaws per grill in a random sample of 50 grills?
- (c) For a random sample of 50 grills. Calculate the approximate probability that the average number of flaws per grill exceeds 0.8.

**Answer to a**

**Answer to b**

**Answer to c**