

# Math 323 - Assignment 2

Sada Sólomon, Ignacio - Id 260708051

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## Problem 1

*A chest has 3 drawers. Each drawer has 2 boxes. The boxes of one drawer contain a silver coin in each respectively. The boxes in one drawer both contain a silver coin respectively, the boxes in another drawer both contain a gold coin respectively, and in the last drawer one box contains a silver coin and the other a gold coin. A drawer is then selected at random, and then a box is also selected at random such that it is then opened. The coin is found to be silver. What is the probability that the coin in the other box is gold?*

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## Problem 2: WMS 2.54

*A group of three undergraduate students and five graduate students are available to fill certain student government posts. If four students are to be randomly selected from this group, find the probability that exactly two undergraduate students will be among the four chosen.*

*Solution.*

We have 4 positions available and 8 students in total. Therefore, the total number of position fillings is

$$C_4^8 = \frac{8!}{4!(8-4)!} = 70$$

We now consider that the 8 students are separated into 3 undergraduates and 5 graduates. Among the 4 available positions, exactly 2 must be undergraduates. Therefore, the number of position fillings in which this holds is:

$$C_2^3 \times C_2^5 = \frac{3!}{2!(3-2)!} \times \frac{5!}{2!(5-2)!} = 30$$

We can now calculate the probability that exactly two positions are filled by undergraduates, given that there are 3 undergraduates and 5 graduates available:

$$\frac{C_2^3 \times C_2^5}{C_4^8} = \frac{30}{70} = \boxed{\frac{3}{7}}$$

□

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### Problem 3: WMS 2.56

*A student prepares for an exam by studying a list of ten problems. She can solve six of them. For the exam, the instructor selects five problems at random from the ten on the list given to the students. What is the probability that the student can solve all five problems on the exam?*

*Solution.*

What is the probability that the student solves 5 out of 10 randomly chosen problems correctly, given that she can solve 6 out of the 10 problems correctly?

First we find the possible combinations of 5 out of 10 problems:

$$C_5^{10} = \frac{10!}{5!(10-5)!} = 252$$

Now we calculate the possible ways that out of 6 problems, she can correctly solve 5 problems:

$$C_5^6 = \frac{6!}{5!(6-5)!} = 6$$

Thus, the probability that she will get 5 out of 10 randomly selected problems right, given that she knows 6 problems correctly, is:

$$\frac{C_5^6}{C_5^{10}} = \frac{6}{252} = \boxed{\frac{1}{42}}$$

□

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## Problem 4: WMS 2.97

Consider the following portion of an electric circuit with three relays. Current will flow from point  $a$  to point  $b$  if there is at least one closed path when the relays are activated. The relays may malfunction and not close when activated. Suppose that the relays act independently of one another, and close properly when activated, with a probability of 0.9.

- a) What is the probability that the current will flow when the relays are activated?
- b) Given that current flowed when the relays were activated, what is the probability that relay functioned?

*Solution.*

- a) Let  $P(A) :=$  The probability that the current flows when all the relays are activated.  $P(A)$  can be given by first finding the probability that the current will not flow when all the relays are activated,  $P(A^C)$ , and subtract it from 1:

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= 1 - P(A^C) \\ &= 1 - ((1 - 0.9) \times (1 - 0.9) \times (1 - 0.9)) \\ &= 1 - (0.1)^3 \\ &= 1 - 0.001 \\ &= \boxed{0.999} \end{aligned}$$

- b) Now we let  $A$  be the event where the current is flowing, and  $B$  be the event where relay 1 is closed properly. We know that in any case where relay 1 is closed properly, the current flows, so  $B \subset A$ . Moreover,  $P(A \cap B) = P(B)$ . Now, we can find the probability that relay 1 functioned given that the current flows when the relays are activated  $P(B | A)$ :

$$P(B | A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} = \frac{0.9}{0.999} = \boxed{\frac{100}{111}}$$

□