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Example 2.34: The probability that a regularly scheduled flight departs on time is $P(D) = 0.83$; the probability that it arrives on time is $P(A) = 0.82$; and the probability that it departs and arrives on time is $P(D \cap A) = 0.78$. Find the probability that a plane (a) arrives on time, given that it departed on time, and (b) departed on time, given that it has arrived on time.

***Solution*:** Using Definition 2.10, we have the following.

(a) The probability that a plane arrives on time, given that it departed on time, is

$$P(A|D) = \frac{P(D \cap A)}{P(D)} = \frac{0.78}{0.83} = 0.94.$$

(b) The probability that a plane departed on time, given that it has arrived on time, is

$$P(D|A) = \frac{P(D \cap A)}{P(A)} = \frac{0.78}{0.82} = 0.95.$$

The notion of conditional probability provides the capability of reevaluating the idea of probability of an event in light of additional information, that is, when it is known that another event has occurred. The probability $P(A|B)$ is an updating of $P(A)$ based on the knowledge that event B has occurred. In Example 2.34, it is important to know the probability that the flight arrives on time. One is given the information that the flight did not depart on time. Armed with this additional information, one can calculate the more pertinent probability $P(A|D')$, that is, the probability that it arrives on time, given that it did not depart on time. In many situations, the conclusions drawn from observing the more important conditional probability change the picture entirely. In this example, the computation of $P(A|D')$ is

$$P(A|D') = \frac{P(A \cap D')}{P(D')} = \frac{0.82 - 0.78}{0.17} = 0.24.$$

As a result, the probability of an on-time arrival is diminished severely in the presence of the additional information.

Example 2.35: The concept of conditional probability has countless uses in both industrial and biomedical applications. Consider an industrial process in the textile industry in which strips of a particular type of cloth are being produced. These strips can be defective in two ways, length and nature of texture. For the case of the latter, the process of identification is very complicated. It is known from historical information on the process that 10% of strips fail the length test, 5% fail the texture test, and only 0.8% fail both tests. If a strip is selected randomly from the process and a quick measurement identifies it as failing the length test, what is the probability that it is texture defective?

***Solution*:** Consider the events

$$L\text{: length defective,} \qquad T\text{: texture defective.}$$

Given that the strip is length defective, the probability that this strip is texture defective is given by

$$P(T|L) = \frac{P(T \cap L)}{P(L)} = \frac{0.008}{0.1} = 0.08.$$

Thus, knowing the conditional probability provides considerably more information than merely knowing $P(T)$.

The Product Rule, or the Multiplicative Rule

Theorem 2.10: If in an experiment the events A and B can both occur, then

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A), \text{ provided } P(A) > 0.$$

Thus, the probability that both A and B occur is equal to the probability that A occurs multiplied by the conditional probability that B occurs, given that A occurs. Since the events $A \cap B$ and $B \cap A$ are equivalent, it follows from Theorem 2.10 that we can also write

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B \cap A) = P(B)P(A|B).$$

In other words, it does not matter which event is referred to as A and which event is referred to as B.

Definition 2.11: Two events A and B are **independent** if and only if

$$P(B|A) = P(B) \quad \text{or} \quad P(A|B) = P(A),$$

assuming the existences of the conditional probabilities. Otherwise, A and B are **dependent**.

The condition $P(B|A) = P(B)$ implies that $P(A|B) = P(A)$, and conversely. For the card-drawing experiments, where we showed that $P(B|A) = P(B) = 1/4$, we also can see that $P(A|B) = P(A) = 1/13$.

Theorem 2.10: If in an experiment the events A and B can both occur, then

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A), \text{ provided } P(A) > 0.$$

Thus, the probability that both A and B occur is equal to the probability that A occurs multiplied by the conditional probability that B occurs, given that A occurs. Since the events $A \cap B$ and $B \cap A$ are equivalent, it follows from Theorem 2.10 that we can also write

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B \cap A) = P(B)P(A|B).$$

In other words, it does not matter which event is referred to as A and which event is referred to as B.

Example 2.36: Suppose that we have a fuse box containing 20 fuses, of which 5 are defective. If 2 fuses are selected at random and removed from the box in succession without replacing the first, what is the probability that both fuses are defective?

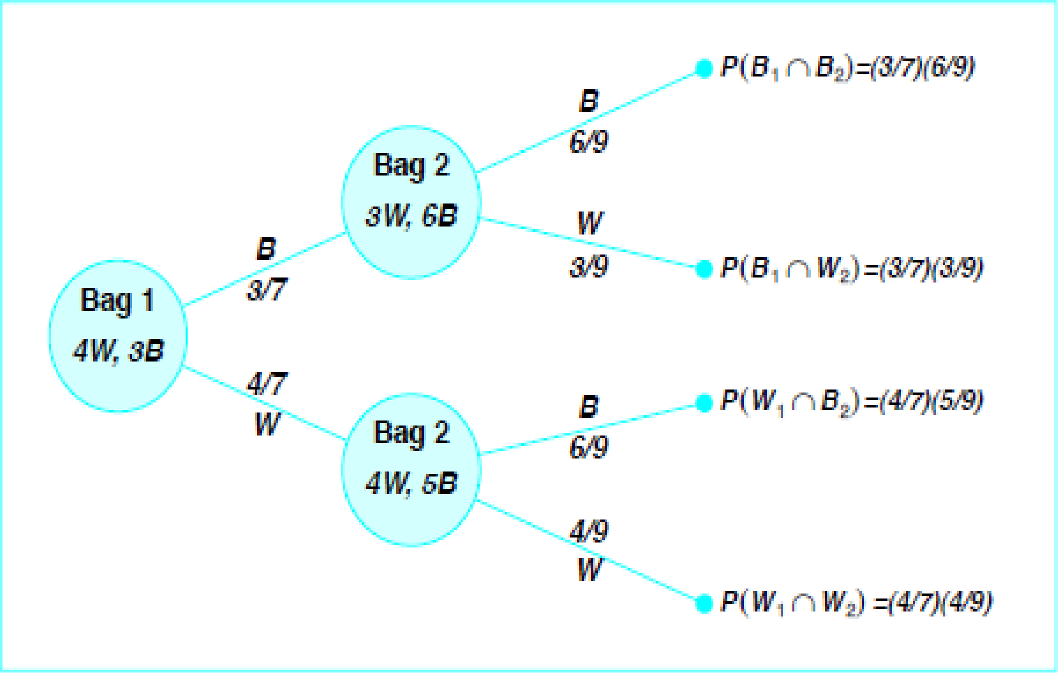
Solution: We shall let A be the event that the first fuse is defective and B the event that the second fuse is defective; then we interpret $A \cap B$ as the event that A occurs and then B occurs after A has occurred. The probability of first removing a defective fuse is $1/4$; then the probability of removing a second defective fuse from the remaining 4 is $4/19$. Hence,

$$P(A \cap B) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)\left(\frac{4}{19}\right) = \frac{1}{19}.$$

Example 2.37: One bag contains 4 white balls and 3 black balls, and a second bag contains 3 white balls and 5 black balls. One ball is drawn from the first bag and placed unseen in the second bag. What is the probability that a ball now drawn from the second bag is black?

Solution: Let B_1, B_2, and W_1 represent, respectively, the drawing of a black ball from bag 1, a black ball from bag 2, and a white ball from bag 1. We are interested in the union of the mutually exclusive events $B_1 \cap B_2$ and $W_1 \cap B_2$. The various possibilities and their probabilities are illustrated in Figure 2.8. Now

$$P[(B_1 \cap B_2) \text{ or } (W_1 \cap B_2)] = P(B_1 \cap B_2) + P(W_1 \cap B_2)$$
$$= P(B_1)P(B_2|B_1) + P(W$$
$$= \left(\frac{3}{7}\right)\left(\frac{6}{9}\right) + \left(\frac{4}{7}\right)\left(\frac{5}{9}\right.$$



Independent events

Theorem 2.11: Two events A and B are independent if and only if

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B).$$

Therefore, to obtain the probability that two independent events will both occur, we simply find the product of their individual probabilities.

Example 2.38: A small town has one fire engine and one ambulance available for emergencies. The probability that the fire engine is available when needed is 0.98, and the probability that the ambulance is available when called is 0.92. In the event of an injury resulting from a burning building, find the probability that both the ambulance and the fire engine will be available, assuming they operate independently.

Solution: Let A and B represent the respective events that the fire engine and the ambulance are available. Then

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B) = (0.98)(0.92) = 0.9016.$$

Theorem 2.12: If, in an experiment, the events $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k$ can occur, then

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \cdots \cap A_k) = P(A_1)P(A_2|A_1)P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) \cdots P(A_k|A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \cdots \cap A_{k-1}).$$

If the events $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k$ are independent, then

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \cdots \cap A_k) = P(A_1)P(A_2) \cdots P(A_k).$$

Example 2.40: Three cards are drawn in succession, without replacement, from an ordinary deck of playing cards. Find the probability that the event $A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3$ occurs, where A_1 is the event that the first card is a red ace, A_2 is the event that the second card is a 10 or a jack, and A_3 is the event that the third card is greater than 3 but less than 7.

***Solution*:** First we define the events

A_1: the first card is a red ace,

A_2: the second card is a 10 or a jack,

A_3: the third card is greater than 3 but less than 7.

Now

$$P(A_1) = \frac{2}{52}, \quad P(A_2|A_1) = \frac{8}{51}, \quad P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) = \frac{12}{50},$$

and hence, by Theorem 2.12,

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = P(A_1)P(A_2|A_1)P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) = \left(\frac{2}{52}\right)\left(\frac{8}{51}\right)\left(\frac{12}{50}\right) = \frac{8}{5525}.$$

Definition 2.12: A collection of events $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1, \ldots, A_n\}$ are mutually independent if for any subset of $\mathcal{A}$, $A_{i_1}, \ldots, A_{i_k}$, for $k \leq n$, we have

$$P(A_{i_1} \cap \cdots \cap A_{i_k}) = P(A_{i_1}) \cdots P(A_{i_k}).$$

2.73 If R is the event that a convict committed armed robbery and D is the event that the convict pushed dope, state in words what probabilities are expressed by

(a) $P(R|D)$;

(b) $P(D'|R)$;

(c) $P(R'|D')$.

2.74 A class in advanced physics is composed of 10 juniors, 30 seniors, and 10 graduate students. The final grades show that 3 of the juniors, 10 of the seniors, and 5 of the graduate students received an A for the course. If a student is chosen at random from this class and is found to have earned an A, what is the probability that he or she is a senior?

2.75 A random sample of 200 adults are classified below by sex and their level of education attained.

Education	Male	Female
Elementary	38	45
Secondary	28	50
College	22	17

If a person is picked at random from this group, find the probability that

(a) the person is a male, given that the person has a secondary education;

(b) the person does not have a college degree, given that the person is a female.

2.76 In an experiment to study the relationship of hypertension and smoking habits, the following data are collected for 180 individuals:

	Nonsmokers	Moderate Smokers	Heavy Smokers
H	21	36	30
NH	48	26	19

where H and NH in the table stand for *Hypertension* and *Nonhypertension*, respectively. If one of these individuals is selected at random, find the probability that the person is

(a) experiencing hypertension, given that the person is a heavy smoker;

(b) a nonsmoker, given that the person is experiencing no hypertension.

2.77 In the senior year of a high school graduating class of 100 students, 42 studied mathematics, 68 studied psychology, 54 studied history, 22 studied both mathematics and history, 25 studied both mathematics and psychology, 7 studied history but neither mathematics nor psychology, 10 studied all three subjects, and 8 did not take any of the three. Randomly select

Solve Q 2.67 2.71