

Problem 137

Calculating the probability of getting two white balls for any given bowl:

Bowl	1	2	3	4	5
White	1	2	3	4	5
Black	4	3	2	1	0
P(2 White)	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{3}{5}$	1

a) The probability that both balls are white is:

$$\sum_{i=1}^5 \frac{P(2 \text{ White in bowl } i)}{5} = \frac{2}{5}$$

b) Given that both balls selected are white, the probability that bowl 3 was selected:
Using Bayes' Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\text{bowl 3} | \text{both white}) &= \frac{P(\text{both white} | \text{bowl 3})P(\text{bowl 3})}{\sum_{i=1}^5 P(\text{both white} | \text{bowl } i)P(\text{bowl } i)} \\
 &= \frac{\frac{3}{10}}{\frac{1}{10} + \frac{3}{10} + \frac{3}{5} + 1} \\
 &= \frac{3}{20}
 \end{aligned}$$