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Several important laws frequently simplify the computation of probabilities.

Additive Rules

Theorem 2.10 If A and B are any two events, then

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B).$$

PROOF. Use the Venn diagram.

Additive Rules

Corollary 1 If A and B are mutually exclusive, then

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PROOF. Since if A and B are mutually exclusive, $A \cap B = \emptyset$, corollary 1 is an immediate result of Theorem 2.10.

Corollary 2 If A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are mutually exclusive, then

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_n).$$

Additive Rules

Example 2.27 John is going to graduate from an industrial engineering department in a university by the end of the semester. After being interviewed at two companies he likes, he assesses that his probability of getting an offer from company A is 0.8, and the probability he gets an offer from company B is 0.6. If, on the other hand, he believes that the probability that he will get offers from both companies is 0.5. What is the probability that he will get at least one offer from these two companies?

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Solution Using the additive rule we have

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) = 0.8 + 0.6 - 0.5 = 0.9.$$

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a total of 11 occurs for only 2 of the sample points.
- all sample points are equally likely, we have $P(A) = 1/6$ and $P(B) = 1/18$.

The events A and B are mutually exclusive, therefore

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{18} = \frac{2}{9}.$$

Additive Rules

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Theorem 2.11 For three events A , B , and C ,

$$P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(A \cap B) - P(A \cap C) - P(B \cap C) + P(A \cap B \cap C).$$

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How to prove?

Additive Rules

about A and A'

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Theorem 2.12 If A and A' are complementary events, then

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Sometimes, it is more difficult to calculate the probability that an event occurs than it is to calculate the probability that the event does not occur.

Additive Rules

Example 2.30 If the probabilities that an automobile mechanic will service 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 or more cars on any given workday are, respectively, 0.12, 0.19, 0.28, 0.24, 0.10 and 0.07, what is the probability that he will service at least 5 cars on his next day at work?

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$$P(E') = 0.12 + 0.19 = 0.31,$$

it follows that $P(E) = 1 - 0.31 = 0.69$.

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2. $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n = S$.

Corollary 3 If $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a partition of S , then

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_n) = P(S) = 1$$

6. Conditional Probability

The probability of an event B occurring when it is known that some event A has occurred.

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denoted by $P(B|A)$, read "the probability of B , given A ".

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Example

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event B : get a perfect square

$$B = \{1, 4\}, P(B) = 1/3$$

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find the probability that B occurs, relative to the space A
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$$P(B|A) = 2/5.$$

Conditional Probability

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We can also write

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$P(A \cap B)$ and $P(A)$: from the original sample space S .

Conditional Probability

Definition 2.9 The conditional probability of B , given A , denoted by $P(B|A)$, is defined by

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} \quad \text{if } P(A) > 0.$$

Conditional Probability

Example 2.31 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, (b) departed on time given that it has arrived on time.

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Solution

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

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Solution

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

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

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

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$P(A|D')$ is an '**updating**' of $P(A)$

Independent Events

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$P(B|A) \neq P(B)$, indicating that B **depends** on A

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We have $P(B|A) = P(B)$, the events A and B are said to be **independent**.

Independent Events

Definition 2.10 Two events A and B are **independent** if and only if

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

Otherwise, A and B are **dependent**.

7. Multiplicative Rules

Multiplying the formula

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by $P(A)$, we obtain the **multiplicative rule**.

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We can also write $P(A \cap B) = P(B)P(A|B)$.

Multiplicative Rules

Example 2.32 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?

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$A \cap B$: A occurs, and then B occurs after A has occurred

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A) = \frac{5}{20} \times \frac{4}{19} = \frac{1}{19}.$$

Multiplicative Rules

Example 2.33 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?

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Solution B_1 : a black ball from bag 1;

B_2 : a black ball from 2; W_1 : a white ball from bag 1.

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

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How to prove?

Multiplicative Rules

Example 2.34 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.

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Solution A : the fire engine is available

B : the ambulance is available

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

Multiplicative Rules

Theorem 2.15

If the events $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_k$ can occur, then

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

Multiplicative Rules

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If the events $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_k$ are independent, then

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3 \cap \dots \cap A_k) = P(A_1)P(A_2)P(A_3) \dots P(A_k).$$

Multiplicative Rules

Example 2.36 Three cards are draw 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.

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Solution We have

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

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Solution We have

$$P(A_1) = 2/52, \quad P(A_2|A_1) = 8/51, \quad P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) = 12/50,$$
$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = P(A_1)P(A_2|A_1)P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) = 8/5525.$$

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Solution the sample space

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$$P(H) = 2/3, \quad P(T) = 1/3$$

event A : get 2 tails and 1 head; $A = \{TTH, THT, HTT\}$

$$P(TTH) = P(T)P(T)P(H) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = 2/27.$$

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Solution the sample space

$$S = \{HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, TTT\}.$$

$$P(H) = 2/3, \quad P(T) = 1/3$$

event A : get 2 tails and 1 head; $A = \{TTH, THT, HTT\}$

$$P(TTH) = P(T)P(T)P(H) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = 2/27.$$

Similarly, $P(THT) = P(HTT) = 2/27$,

$$P(A) = 2/27 + 2/27 + 2/27 = 2/9.$$

8. Bayes' Rule

Theorem of Total Probability

Example 2.38 In a certain assembly plant, three machines, B_1 , B_2 and B_3 make 30%, 45%, and 25%, respectively, of the products. It is known from past experience that 2%, 3% and 2% of the products made by each machine, respectively, are defective. Suppose that a finished products is randomly selected. What is the probability that it is defective?

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Solution

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Solution

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= P(B_1 \cap A) + P(B_2 \cap A) + P(B_3 \cap A) \\ &= P(B_1)P(A|B_1) + P(B_2)P(A|B_2) + P(B_3)P(A|B_3) \end{aligned}$$

Theorem of Total Probability

On the other hand,

$$P(B_1)P(A|B_1) = 0.3 \times 0.02 = 0.006,$$

$$P(B_2)P(A|B_2) = 0.45 \times 0.03 = 0.0135,$$

$$P(B_3)P(A|B_3) = 0.25 \times 0.02 = 0.005.$$

Theorem of Total Probability

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$$P(B_3)P(A|B_3) = 0.25 \times 0.02 = 0.005.$$

Therefore,

$$P(A) = 0.006 + 0.0135 + 0.005 = 0.0245$$

Theorem of Total Probability

Theorem 2.16 If the events B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k constitute a partition of the sample space S such that $P(B_i) \neq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, then for any event A of S

$$P(A) = \sum_{i=1}^k P(B_i \cap A) = \sum_{i=1}^k P(B_i)P(A|B_i).$$

Bayes' Rule

Example 2.39 With reference to Example 2.38, if a product were chosen randomly and found to be defective, what is the probability that it was made by machine B_3 ?

Bayes' Rule

Example 2.39 With reference to Example 2.38, if a product were chosen randomly and found to be defective, what is the probability that it was made by machine B_3 ?

Solution

$$P(B_3|A) = P(B_3 \cap A)/P(A)$$

$$= \frac{P(B_3)P(A|B_3)}{P(B_1)P(A|B_1) + P(B_2)P(A|B_2) + P(B_3)P(A|B_3)}$$

$$= \frac{0.005}{0.006 + 0.0135 + 0.005} = \frac{0.005}{0.0245} = \frac{10}{49}.$$

Bayes' Rule

Theorem 2.17 (Bayes' Rule) If the events B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k constitute a partition of the sample space S , where $P(B_i) \neq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, then for any event A in S such that $P(A) \neq 0$,

$$P(B_r|A) = \frac{P(B_r)P(A|B_r)}{\sum_{i=1}^k P(B_i)P(A|B_i)}, \text{ for } r = 1, 2, \dots, k$$