

Addition Rule and Multiplication Rule

Colby Community College

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We could have also calculated

$$P(H \text{ and } 3) = P(H) \cdot P(3) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{12}$$

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But, $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{8}{12}$, is wrong because we have double counted H6. Thus, we need to subtract $P(H6) = \frac{1}{12}$.

$$P(H \text{ or } 6) = P(H) + P(6) - P(H \text{ and } 6) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$$

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Note

If two events are **mutually exclusive**, then $P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B)$.

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Two cards are red kings, so $P(\text{Red and K}) = \frac{2}{52}$.

Thus,

$$P(\text{Red or K}) = P(\text{Red}) + P(K) - P(\text{Red and K}) = \frac{26}{52} + \frac{4}{52} - \frac{2}{52} = \frac{7}{13}$$

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The probability the event B occurs, given that event A has happened, is represented as $P(B | A)$. This is called a **conditional probability**.

Read as “the probability of B given A .”

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Car color	Speeding ticket	No speeding ticket	Total
Red	15	135	150
Not red	45	470	515
Total	60	605	665

Find the probability someone has gotten a speeding ticket *given* they drive a red car.

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$$P(\text{red} \mid \text{ticket}) = \frac{15}{60} = \frac{1}{4} = 25\%$$

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Note

In general $P(B \mid A) \neq P(A \mid B)$.

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If you pull two cards out of a deck, find the probability that both are hearts.

The probability that the first card is a heart is $P(1^{\text{st}} \heartsuit) = \frac{13}{52}$.

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If you pull two cards out of a deck, find the probability that both are hearts.

The probability that the first card is a heart is $P(1^{\text{st}} \heartsuit) = \frac{13}{52}$.

The probability that the second card is a heart, given that the first card was a heart, is $P(2^{\text{nd}} \heartsuit | 1^{\text{st}} \heartsuit) = \frac{12}{51}$.

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If you pull two cards out of a deck, find the probability that both are hearts.

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The probability that the second card is a heart, given that the first card was a heart, is $P(2^{\text{nd}} \heartsuit | 1^{\text{st}} \heartsuit) = \frac{12}{51}$.

So, the probability that both are spades is

$$P(\text{both } \heartsuit) = P(1^{\text{st}} \heartsuit) \cdot P(2^{\text{nd}} \heartsuit | 1^{\text{st}} \heartsuit) = \frac{13}{52} \cdot \frac{12}{51} = \frac{156}{2652} \approx 5.9\%$$

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Event A Drawing the Ace of Diamonds then a black card.

$$\begin{aligned}P(A \spadesuit \text{ and Black}) &= P(A \spadesuit) \cdot P(\text{Black} \mid A \spadesuit) \\&= \frac{1}{52} \cdot \frac{26}{51} = \frac{1}{102}\end{aligned}$$

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Event B Drawing a black card then the Ace of Diamonds.

$$\begin{aligned}P(\text{Black and A}\heartsuit) &= P(\text{Black}) \cdot P(\text{A}\heartsuit \mid \text{Black}) \\&= \frac{26}{52} \cdot \frac{1}{51} = \frac{1}{102}\end{aligned}$$

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These events are independent and mutually exclusive, so

$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B) = \frac{1}{102} + \frac{1}{102} = \frac{2}{102} \approx 1.96\%$$