

ECO239

Week 7
Probability (2)

Product rule for independent events

$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \times P(B)$
Or more generally, $P(A_1, \text{ and, } \dots \text{ and } A_k) = P(A_1) \times \dots \times P(A_k)$

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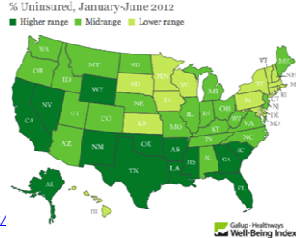
You toss a coin twice, what is the probability of getting two tails in a row?

$$P(T \text{ on the first toss}) \times P(T \text{ on the second toss}) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Practice

A recent Gallup poll suggests that 25.5% of Texans do not have health insurance as of June 2012. Assuming that the uninsured rate stayed constant, what is the probability that two randomly selected Texans are both uninsured?

- (a) 25.5^2
- (b) 0.255^2
- (c) 0.255×2
- (d) $(1 - 0.255)^2$

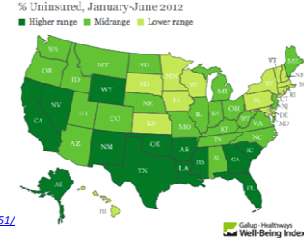


<http://www.gallup.com/poll/156851/>

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Practice

- If we were to randomly select 5 Texans, what is the probability that at least one is uninsured?

(25.5% of Texans do not have health insurance)

Putting everything together...

If we were to randomly select 5 Texans, what is the probability that at least one is uninsured?

- If we were to randomly select 5 Texans, the sample space for the number of Texans who are uninsured would be:
 $S = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- We are interested in instances where at least one person is uninsured:
 $S = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- So we can divide up the sample space into two categories:
 $S = \{0, \text{at least one}\}$

Putting everything together...

Since the probability of the sample space must add up to 1:

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{at least 1 uninsured}) \\ &= 1 - P(\text{none insured}) \end{aligned}$$

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At least 1:

$$P(\text{at least one}) = 1 - P(\text{none})$$

Practice

Roughly 20% of undergraduates at a university are vegetarian or vegan.

What is the probability that, among a random sample of 3 undergraduates, at least one is vegetarian or vegan?

- (a) $1 - 0.2 \times 3$
- (b) $1 - 0.2^3$
- (c) 0.8^3
- (d) $1 - 0.8 \times 3$
- (e) $1 - 0.8^3$

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 - (d) $1 - 0.8 \times 3$
 - (e) $1 - 0.8^3$
- $P(\text{at least 1 from veg})$
 $= 1 - P(\text{none veg})$
 $= 1 - 0.8^3$
 $= 1 - 0.512 = 0.488$

General multiplication rule

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- If A and B represent two outcomes or events, then

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A | B) \times P(B)$$
 Note that this formula is simply the conditional probability formula, rearranged.
- It is useful to think of A as the outcome of interest and B as the condition.

Independence and conditional probabilities

Consider the following (hypothetical) distribution of gender and major of students in an introductory statistics class:

	social science	non-social science	total
female	30	20	50
male	30	20	50
total	60	40	100

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- The probability that a randomly selected student is a social science major given that they are female is $30 / 50 = 0.6$.

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female	30	20	50
male	30	20	50
total	60	40	100

- The probability that a randomly selected student is a social science major is $60 / 100 = 0.6$.
- The probability that a randomly selected student is a social science major given that they are female is $30 / 50 = 0.6$.
- Since $P(SS | M)$ also equals 0.6, major of students in this class does not depend on their gender: $P(SS | F) = P(SS)$.

Independence and conditional probabilities (cont.)

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Independence and conditional probabilities (cont.)

Generally, if $P(A | B) = P(A)$ then the events A and B are said to be independent.

- Conceptually: Giving B doesn't tell us anything about A .
- Mathematically: We know that if events A and B are independent, $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \times P(B)$. Then,

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \text{ and } B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A) \times P(B)}{P(B)} = P(A)$$

Joint and Marginal Probability

- Joint Probability: $P(A \cap B) =$ (#outcomes satisfying A and B)/(total # of elementary outcomes)
- Marginal Probability:
 $P(A) = P(A \cap B_1) + P(A \cap B_2) + \dots + P(A \cap B_k)$
 $P(B) = P(A_1 \cap B) + P(A_2 \cap B) + \dots + P(A_h \cap B)$
 Where A_i and B_j are mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive.



Practice

Event A: Frequency of watching "Big Bang Theory" {Regularly, Occasionally, Never}
 Event B: education status {Low, Middle, High}

	High	Middle	Low	
Regularly	$P(H \cap R) = 0.04$	$P(M \cap R) = 0.13$	$P(L \cap R) = 0.04$	$P(R) =$
Occasionally	$P(H \cap O) = 0.10$	$P(M \cap O) = 0.11$	$P(L \cap O) = 0.06$	$P(O) =$
Never	$P(H \cap N) = 0.13$	$P(M \cap N) = 0.17$	$P(L \cap N) = 0.22$	$P(N) =$
	$P(H) =$	$P(M) =$	$P(L) =$	1

	High	Middle	Low	
Regularly	$P(H \cap R) = 0.04$	$P(M \cap R) = 0.13$	$P(L \cap R) = 0.04$	$P(R) = 0.21$
Occasionally	$P(H \cap O) = 0.10$	$P(M \cap O) = 0.11$	$P(L \cap O) = 0.06$	$P(O) = 0.27$
Never	$P(H \cap N) = 0.13$	$P(M \cap N) = 0.17$	$P(L \cap N) = 0.22$	$P(N) = 0.52$
	$P(H) = 0.27$	$P(M) = 0.41$	$P(L) = 0.32$	1

Bayes' Theorem

The conditional probability formula we have seen so far is a special case of the Bayes' Theorem, which is applicable even when events have more than just two outcomes.

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} = \frac{P(A|B)P(B)}{P(A)}$$

=> Marginal probability

$$P(B) = P(B \cap A_1) + P(B \cap A_2) + \dots + P(B \cap A_k)$$

$$\Rightarrow P(B) = P(B|A_1)P(A_1) + P(B|A_2)P(A_2) + \dots + P(B|A_k)P(A_k)$$

$$\Rightarrow P(A|B)$$

$$= \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B|A_1)P(A_1) + P(B|A_2)P(A_2) + \dots + P(B|A_k)P(A_k)}$$

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Bayes' Theorem

P(outcome A of variable 1 | outcome B of variable 2)

$$= \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B|A_1)P(A_1) + P(B|A_2)P(A_2) + \dots + P(B|A_k)P(A_k)}$$

where A_2, \dots, A_k represent all other possible outcomes of variable 1.



Practice

- Suppose 1% of women aged 40-50 have breast cancer. 80% of mammograms detect breast cancer given the cancer exists. 9% chance of false positive (tested positive given no cancer).

Q1. What is the probability a woman has breast cancer given that she just had a positive result?

Q2: What is the probability of the false test results?

HINT:

event A: a positive test result,
event B: the women has breast cancer.

More HINT

- We are looking for... $P(B|A)$ or $P(\text{cancer} | \text{positive})$
- What we are given are:
- $P(B) = 0.01$
- $P(A|B) = 0.8$
- $P(A|\bar{B}) = 0.09$

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A|B)P(B)}{P(A)} = \frac{0.8 * 0.01}{0.0971} = 0.0824$$

$$P(A) = P(A|B)P(B) + P(A|\bar{B})P(\bar{B}) = 0.8 * 0.01 + 0.09 * 0.99 = 0.0971$$

Q2

- False Test Results

Case1: Given negative result, there is cancer.

Case2: Given positive result, there is no cancer.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &P(\bar{B}|\bar{A}) + P(\bar{B}|A) \\
 &= \frac{P(\bar{A}|\bar{B})P(\bar{B})}{P(\bar{A})} + \frac{P(\bar{B}|A)P(A)}{P(A)} \\
 &= \frac{0.2 * 0.01}{1 - 0.0971} + \frac{0.09 * 0.99}{0.0971} \\
 &= 0.0022 + 0.9176 = 0.9198
 \end{aligned}$$

Breast cancer screening

- American Cancer Society estimates that about 1.7% of women have breast cancer.
<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancerbasics/cancer-prevalence>
- Susan G. Komen For The Cure Foundation states that mammography correctly identifies about 78% of women who truly have breast cancer.
<http://www5.komen.org/BreastCancer/AccuracyofMammograms.html>
- An article published in 2003 suggests that up to 10% of all mammograms result in false positives for patients who do not have cancer.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1360940>

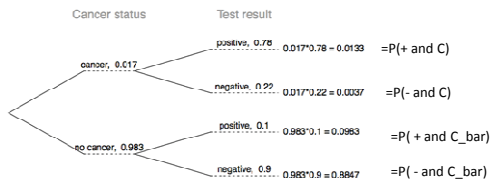
Note: These percentages are approximate, and very difficult to estimate.

Inverting probabilities

When a patient goes through breast cancer screening there are two competing claims: patient had cancer and patient doesn't have cancer. If a mammogram yields a positive result, what is the probability that patient actually has cancer?

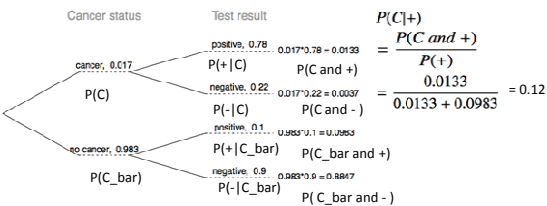
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Note: Tree diagrams are useful for inverting probabilities: we are given P(+|C) and asked for P(C+).

Practice

Suppose a woman who gets tested once and obtains a positive result wants to get tested again. In the second test, what should we assume to be the probability of this specific woman having cancer?

- (a) 0.017
- (b) 0.12
- (c) 0.0133
- (d) 0.88

Practice

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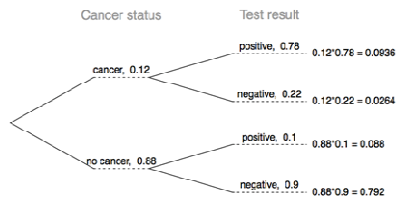
What is the probability that this woman has cancer if this second mammogram also yielded a positive result?

- (a) 0.0936
- (b) 0.088
- (c) 0.48
- (d) 0.52

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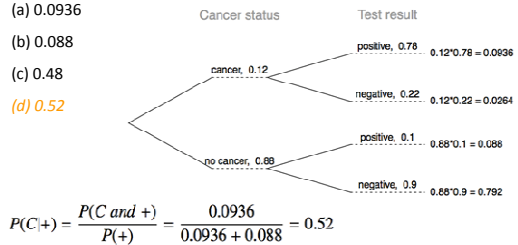
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Quiz 5 (Nov.15,2016)

Event A: 30% of students subscribing "Economists".
 Event B: 45% of students subscribing "Newsweek".
 10% of students subscribing both magazines.

Q1: What is the probability that a randomly chosen student subscribes "Economists" given that she also subscribes "Newsweek"?

Q2: What is the probability that a student does not subscribe either?

Q3. Are event A and event B statistically independent? Explain by using conditional probability.

Quiz 5_2 (Nov.15,2016)

- Consider a standard deck of 52 cards with four suits.
- Event A: the card is with figures (J,Q,K)
- Event B: the card is a black suit

Q1: Construct the probability table and calculate each probability.

Q2: Find the probability that the card is with a figure given that the card is a red suit.