

Sec 11.7

Events involving And
conditional probability

Two events are independent events
if the occurrence of either has
no effect on the probability of the
other

[Different from mutual exclusivity]



If A and B are independent
events, then $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$

Example: Draw a card from a
52-card deck. Return it. Draw again.
Find the probability of drawing
a heart twice.

Event A draw a heart

Event B draw a heart.

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16}.$$

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Example:

What is the probability of a family having 3 sons in a row?

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8}$$

~~The End~~

$$P(\text{event happening at least once}) = 1 - P(\text{event does not happen})$$

If the probability that a hurricane hits south Florida in any given year is $\frac{5}{19}$,

a) what is $P(\text{hit in 4 consecutive years})$

$$= \frac{5}{19} \cdot \frac{5}{19} \cdot \frac{5}{19} \cdot \frac{5}{19} = \frac{625}{130321} \approx 0.0048$$

b) what is $P(\text{not hit in next 4 years})$

$$\frac{14}{19} \cdot \frac{14}{19} \cdot \frac{14}{19} \cdot \frac{14}{19} = \frac{38416}{130321} \approx 0.295$$

c) what is $P(\text{hit at least once in 4 years})$

$$1 - 0.29578 \approx 0.7052 \quad 70.5\%$$

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Two events are dependent events if the occurrence of one of them has an effect on the probability of the other.

If A and B are dependent events, then

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B \text{ given that } A \text{ has occurred})$$

Example: Draw a card, ~~not~~ without replacing, draw another.

Event A: First card is a heart

Event B: 2nd card is a heart.

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B \text{ given } A)$$

$$= \frac{13}{52} \cdot \frac{12}{51} = \frac{156}{2652} = \frac{1}{17}$$

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Conditional Probability

The probability of Event B, given that event A has occurred, is called the conditional probability of B, given A. This probability is denoted $P(B|A)$.

Think of this as the probability of B if the sample space is restricted to the outcomes associated with event A.

Example: A letter is selected at random from the English alphabet.

Find the probability of selecting a consonant given that the letter selected precedes j.

$$P(\text{consonant} \mid \text{precedes } j)$$

$$S = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i\} \quad n(S) = 9$$

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~~n~~ number of consonants = 6.

$$P(\text{consonant} \mid \text{precedes } j) = \frac{6}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$$

Example: A card is drawn from a 52-card deck. What is the probability that the card is ~~not~~ the two of hearts, given that it is a heart?

$$P(2 \text{ of hearts} \mid \text{heart})$$

$$\# \text{ hearts} = 13$$

$$\# \text{ of 2 of hearts} = 1$$

$$P(2 \text{ of hearts} \mid \text{heart}) = \frac{1}{13}$$