

# Math 2603 - Lecture 16

## Section 7.3 & 7.4 Probability

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October 17th, 2019

# About midsemester survey

# Main concerns

- Quizzes are too hard
- Quizzes are not very related to HW and lecture
- Examples in lecture are too few and too easy
- Office hour time is bad
- Homework solutions contain error

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## Remark

*I promise that I will definitely curve your quiz grades in the end, to make sure that the average is about 80%.*

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- Lecture slides are helpful
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## Remark

*I will continue on these efforts.*

# Elementary Probability

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 The number of possible outcomes with 5 heads is the number of 5-combinations of 8 elements, which is*

$$\binom{8}{5} = \binom{8}{3} = \frac{8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6}{6} = 56.$$



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$$\binom{8}{5} = \binom{8}{3} = \frac{8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6}{6} = 56.$$

*So the probability is  $\frac{56}{256} = \frac{7}{32}$ .*

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*In these examples, all possible outcomes are **equally likely** to happen. This property enables a simple computation of the probability.*

# The definition

## Definition

A set  $S$  of possible outcomes is called the **sample space** of an **experiment**. An **event** is a subset  $A$  of the sample space. The **probability** of event  $A$ , denoted as  $P(A)$ , measures how likely the event  $A$  will happen. More precisely, how likely any possible outcome in the subset  $A$  will happen.

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## Definition

If all possible outcomes in a finite sample space  $S$  are equally likely to happen, then for any event  $A \subset S$ , we have

$$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|S|}.$$

# The punchline

## Remark

*The previous formula is the key in probability theory. With it, we simply need to do the following 4 steps to compute probabilities:*

- ① *Find sample space  $S$  with equally likely possible outcomes.*
- ② *Count the cardinality  $|S|$  of  $S$ .*
- ③ *For a given event  $A \subset S$ , count the cardinality  $|A|$  of  $A$ .*
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*Usually it's easy to find  $S$  and compute  $|S|$ , while sometimes you need to make sure that the possible outcomes are indeed equally likely.*

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## Remark

*Usually it's easy to find  $S$  and compute  $|S|$ , while sometimes you need to make sure that the possible outcomes are indeed equally likely. Then the essential step is to find  $|A|$ . **Generally speaking, elementary probability problems are just counting problems.***

## More examples

### Example

*A committee of 5 people is randomly chosen from 4 men and 6 women. Find the probability of the following events:*

- ① *Exactly 4 women are on the committee.*
- ② *At least 4 women are on the committee.*

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### Solution

*$S$  consists of all 5-combinations of the  $4 + 6 = 10$  people, so  $|S| = \binom{10}{5} = 252$ . (to be continued)*

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(2) Let  $B$  be the event. There are two cases: 4 women are on the committee or 5 women are on the committee. By the addition rule,  $|B|$  is the sum of possible outcomes in both cases, which is

$$\binom{6}{4} \binom{4}{1} + \binom{6}{5} \binom{4}{0} = 60 + 6 = 66.$$

Hence the probability is  $\frac{|B|}{|S|} = \frac{66}{252} = \frac{11}{42}$ .

## More examples

### Example

*A box contains 30 tickets, each labeled with distinct integers from 1 to 30 inclusive. Find the probability that a ticket drawn randomly from the box bears the number that is divisible by 3 or 5.*



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*The sample space  $S$  has cardinality 30. The event  $A$  is  $\{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \leq 30, 3 \mid x \text{ or } 5 \mid x\}$ .*

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## Solution

*The sample space  $S$  has cardinality 30. The event  $A$  is  $\{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \leq 30, 3 \mid x \text{ or } 5 \mid x\}$ . By the Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion,*

$$|A| = \left\lfloor \frac{30}{3} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{30}{5} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{30}{3 \cdot 5} \right\rfloor = 10 + 6 - 2 = 14.$$

*Hence the probability is  $\frac{|A|}{|S|} = \frac{14}{30} = \frac{7}{15}$ .*

# Properties of probability

## Theorem

*Let  $S$  be the finite sample space of some experiment.*

- ① *If  $A$  is an event, then  $0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$ . In particular,  $P(\emptyset) = 0, P(S) = 1$ .*

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- ③ *If  $A$  and  $B$  are events, then  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$ .*

# Corollary of Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion

## Theorem

*Let  $S$  be the finite sample space of some experiment and  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  be events, then*

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ (-1)^{i+1} \cdot \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_i \leq n} P\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^i A_{j_k}\right) \right].$$

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## Corollary

Let  $S$  be the finite sample space of some experiment and  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  be pairwise mutually exclusive events. Then

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i).$$

# Probability Theory



# Necessary condition of the function $P(A)$

## Remark

*Suppose  $S$  is a sample space containing possible outcomes  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , not necessarily equally likely. Then what property must the values  $P(x_i)(= P(\{x_i\}))$  satisfy?*

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## Remark

*These conditions lead us to the formal definition of probability.*

# Formal definition of probability

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*Suppose  $S$  is a sample space containing possible outcomes  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , not necessarily equally likely. If  $P : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a real-valued function on the sample space  $S$  satisfying*

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## Remark

*Now we can deal with outcomes with unequal possibilities.*

## Example: biased die

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*A biased die has  $P(1) = \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $P(2) = P(3) = \frac{1}{12}$ , and  $P(4) = P(5) = P(6) = \frac{1}{6}$  (here we write  $P(x)$  for  $P(\{x\})$ ). If the die is rolled once, find the probability that*

- ① *an odd number appears;*
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## Solution

(1) The event is  $\{1, 3, 5\}$ , so the probability is  $P(1) + P(3) + P(5) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{7}{12}$ .

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(2) The event is  $\{1, 2\}$ , so the probability is  $P(1) + P(2) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$ .

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## Definition (Conditional probability)

*Let  $A$  and  $B$  be events with  $P(A) > 0$ . The **conditional probability** of  $B$  given  $A$ , denoted  $P(B \mid A)$ , is  $\frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)}$ .*

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## Remark

*Interpretation: given  $A$ , then we have a new sample space  $A$ , and a new event  $B \cap A$ .*

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*We need to find  $P(B \mid A)$ , where  $A$  is the event “at least 1 head appears” and  $B$  is the event “obtaining at most 1 head”, then  $B \cap A$  is “obtaining exactly 1 head”.*

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$$P(A) = 1 - P(A^c) = 1 - \frac{\binom{5}{0}}{2^5} = \frac{31}{32}.$$



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### Corollary

*If  $S$  consists of equally likely possible outcomes and  $P(B | A)$  is well-defined, then  $P(B | A) = \frac{|B \cap A|}{|A|}$ .*

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*Recall the multiplication rule, the steps are independent to each other. We have an analogue in probability theory.*

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## Definition

Events  $A$  and  $B$  are **independent** if  $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$ .

## Proposition

*Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are events with  $P(A) > 0$ . They are independent if and only if  $P(B \mid A) = P(B)$ . In other words, the extra information of  $A$  does not affect the likelihood of  $B$ .*

## Example: defective light bulb

### Example

*Buymore Supermarket orders light bulbs from two suppliers, AA Electronics and AAA Electronics. It buys 30% of its light bulbs from AA and 70% from AAA. 2% of the light bulbs bought from AA are defective, while 3% of the light bulbs bought from AAA are defective. Find the probability that a randomly selected light bulb*

- ① *was purchased from AA and is defective;*
- ② *is defective.*

## Example: defective light bulb

### Solution

*Let  $A$  be the event “the light bulbs was bought from AA”,  $B$  be the event “the light bulbs was bought from AAA”, and  $C$  be the event “the light bulbs is defective”. We are given that  $P(A) = 0.3$ ,  $P(B) = 0.7$ , and  $P(C | A) = 0.02$ ,  $P(C | B) = 0.03$ .*

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(1) This is  $P(A \cap C)$ , which is

$$P(A) \cdot P(C|A) = 0.3 \cdot 0.02 = 0.006 = 0.6\%.$$



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$$\begin{aligned} P(C) &= P(C \cap A) + P(C \cap B) \\ &= P(A)P(C | A) + P(B)P(C | B) \\ &= 0.3 \cdot 0.02 + 0.7 \cdot 0.03 \\ &= 0.027 = 2.7\%. \end{aligned}$$

# A useful formula

## Proposition

*If  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are mutually exclusive events with positive probability and their union is the entire sample space, then for any event  $X$  we have*

$$P(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)P(X | A_i).$$

# A useful formula

## Proposition

*If  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are mutually exclusive events with positive probability and their union is the entire sample space, then for any event  $X$  we have*

$$P(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)P(X | A_i).$$

## Proof.

BY the property of  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ , we know that  $X \cap A_i$ 's are pairwise disjoint and their union is  $X$ .

So  $P(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \cap A_i)$ , and for each  $i$ , we have  $P(X \cap A_i) = P(A_i)P(X | A_i)$ . □

# Bayes's formula

The following formula is fundamental for inference.

## Theorem (Bayes's formula)

*Suppose events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are mutually exclusive and  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$  is the sample space  $S$  and  $P(A_i) > 0$  for all  $i$ . For any event  $X$  with  $P(X) > 0$ , we have*

$$P(A_j | X) = \frac{P(A_j)P(X | A_j)}{P(X)},$$

where

$$P(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)P(X | A_i).$$

## Homework Assignment #9

Section 7.3 Exercise 4(a)(c),  
6(e), 13(b)(c), 25(a).

Section 7.4 Exercise 1(a), 4,  
10(a)(d), 14, 20.