ECS 315: Probability and Random Processes **2015/1**

HW Solution 2 — Due: Sep 2, 9:19 AM (in tutorial session)

Lecturer: Prapun Suksompong, Ph.D.

Instructions

(a) ONE part of a question will be graded (5 pt). Of course, you do not know which part will be selected; so you should work on all of them.

(b) It is important that you try to solve all problems. (5 pt)
The extra question at the end is optional.

(c) Late submission will be heavily penalized.

Problem 1. (**Classical Probability and Combinatorics**) Shuffle a deck of cards and cut it into three piles. What is the probability that (at least) a court card will turn up on top of one of the piles.

Hint: There are 12 court cards (four jacks, four queens and four kings) in the deck.

Solution: In [Lovell, 2006, p. 17–19], this problem is named "Three Lucky Piles".
Method 1: When somebody cuts three piles, they are, in effect, randomly picking three cards from the deck. There are $52 \times 51 \times 50$ possible outcomes. The number of outcomes that do not contain any court card is $40 \times 39 \times 38$. So, the probability of having at least one court card is

$$\boxed{\frac{52 \times 51 \times 50 - 40 \times 39 \times 38}{52 \times 51 \times 50} \approx 0.553.}$$

Method 2: Note that our solution above, especially the part where we use the words "in effect", may not be so evident to some of you. If you want to solve this question directly, you can approach it using the total probability theorem. In the beginning, we shuffle the cards. So, after the shuffling, we will have a deck of 52 cards with all the possible 52! permutations being equally likely. (In our mind,) we label the cards with #1 to #52 from the top to bottom. Now, the next step is to cut it into three piles. Note that this is the same as choosing two cards (from #2 (top) to #52 (bottom)) to indicate where the two boundaries (which are the same as the two cards at the top of second and third piles) are. Note also that this process is usually biased. Most will try to divide the deck into three piles of approximately equal size. So, it is *unlikely* that you will have the first piles with 50 cards, the second with only one card, and the third with only one card. So, classical probability can not be used here. We only know that there are $\binom{51}{2} = 1,275$ ways to perform the cutting for a particular deck and they are not equally likely. Let event $B_1, \dots, B_{1275}$ denote each of these cases. For example, B_{134} may be the case in which the cutting positions are at cards #32 and #45. So, the top cards on the three piles are cards #1, #32, and #45. Let A be the event that at least one of these cards is a court card. Of course, the "at least one" counting problem can be simplified by considering the opposite case. A^c is the event that none of the three top cards is a court card. So, there are $52 - 12 = 40$ choices for card #1. There are $40 - 1 = 39$ choices for card #32. There are $39 - 1 = 38$ choices for card #45. For the remaining $52 - 3 = 49$ cards, there is no restriction. So, there are 49! choices. In total, we have $40 \times 39 \times 38 \times (49!)$ shuffled patterns among the 52! equally likely possibilities that satisfy A^c. Therefore,

$$P(A|B_{134}) = \frac{52! - 40 \times 39 \times 38 \times (49!)}{52!} = 1 - \frac{40 \times 39 \times 38}{52 \times 51 \times 50} \approx 0.553.$$

The same reasoning applies to any cutting positions. So, $P(A|B_k) \approx 0.553$ for any k. By the total probability theorem,

$$P(A) = \sum_{k=1}^{1275} P(A|B_k)P(B_k) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{1275} 0.553P(B_k) = 0.553\sum_{k=1}^{1275} P(B_k) = 0.553 \times 1 = 0.553.$$

Observe that we still don't know the value of each $P(B_k)$ but we know that the sum of them is 1.

Problem 2. (**Classical Probability**) There are three buttons which are painted red on one side and white on the other. If we tosses the buttons into the air, calculate the probability that all three come up the same color.

Remarks: A *wrong* way of thinking about this problem is to say that there are four ways they can fall. All red showing, all white showing, two reds and a white or two whites and a red. Hence, it seems that out of four possibilities, there are two favorable cases and hence the probability is 1/2.

Solution: There are 8 possible outcomes. (The same number of outcomes as tossing three coins.) Among these, only two outcomes will have all three buttons come up the same color. So, the probability is $2/8 = \boxed{1/4}$.

Problem 3. Each of the possible five outcomes of a random experiment is equally likely. The sample space is $\{a, b, c, d, e\}$. Let A denote the event $\{a, b\}$, and let B denote the event $\{c, d, e\}$. Determine the following:

(a) $P(A)$

(b) $P(B)$

(c) $P(A^c)$

(d) $P(A \cup B)$

(e) $P(A \cap B)$

[Montgomery and Runger, 2010, Q2-54]

Solution: Because the outcomes are equally likely, we can simply use classical probability.

(a) $P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|} = \boxed{\frac{2}{5}}$

(b) $P(B) = \frac{|B|}{|\Omega|} = \boxed{\frac{3}{5}}$

(c) $P(A^c) = \frac{|A^c|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{5-2}{5} = \boxed{\frac{3}{5}}$

(d) $P(A \cup B) = \frac{|\{a,b,c,d,e\}|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{5}{5} = \boxed{1}$

(e) $P(A \cap B) = \frac{|\emptyset|}{|\Omega|} = \boxed{0}$

Problem 4. If A, B, and C are disjoint events with $P(A) = 0.2$, $P(B) = 0.3$ and $P(C) = 0.4$, determine the following probabilities:

(a) $P(A \cup B \cup C)$

(b) $P(A \cap B \cap C)$

(c) $P(A \cap B)$

(d) $P((A \cup B) \cap C)$

(e) $P(A^c \cap B^c \cap C^c)$

[Montgomery and Runger, 2010, Q2-75]

Solution:

(a) Because A, B, and C are disjoint, $P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C) = 0.3 + 0.2 + 0.4 = \boxed{0.9.}$

(b) Because A, B, and C are disjoint, $A \cap B \cap C = \emptyset$ and hence $P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(\emptyset) = \boxed{0}$.

(c) Because A and B are disjoint, $A \cap B = \emptyset$ and hence $P(A \cap B) = P(\emptyset) = \boxed{0}$.

(d) $(A \cup B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C)$. By the disjointness among A, B, and C, we have $(A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C) = \emptyset \cup \emptyset = \emptyset$. Therefore, $P((A \cup B) \cap C) = P(\emptyset) = \boxed{0}$.

(e) From $A^c \cap B^c \cap C^c = (A \cup B \cup C)^c$, we have $P(A^c \cap B^c \cap C^c) = 1 - P(A \cup B \cup C) = 1 - 0.9 = \boxed{0.1.}$

Problem 5. The sample space of a random experiment is $\{a, b, c, d, e\}$ with probabilities 0.1, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, and 0.2, respectively. Let A denote the event $\{a, b, c\}$, and let B denote the event $\{c, d, e\}$. Determine the following:

(a) $P(A)$

(b) $P(B)$

(c) $P(A^c)$

(d) $P(A \cup B)$

(e) $P(A \cap B)$

[Montgomery and Runger, 2010, Q2-55]

Solution:

(a) Recall that the probability of a finite or countable event equals the sum of the probabilities of the outcomes in the event. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= P(\{a, b, c\}) = P(\{a\}) + P(\{b\}) + P(\{c\}) \\ &= 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.2 = \boxed{0.4.} \end{aligned}$$

(b) Again, the probability of a finite or countable event equals the sum of the probabilities of the outcomes in the event. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} P(B) &= P(\{c, d, e\}) = P(\{c\}) + P(\{d\}) + P(\{e\}) \\ &= 0.2 + 0.4 + 0.2 = \boxed{0.8.} \end{aligned}$$

(c) Applying the complement rule, we have $P(A^c) = 1 - P(A) = 1 - 0.4 = \boxed{0.6.}$

(d) Note that $A \cup B = \Omega$. Hence, $P(A \cup B) = P(\Omega) = \boxed{1.}$

(e) $P(A \cap B) = P(\{c\}) = \boxed{0.2.}$

Extra Question

Here is an optional question for those who want more practice.

Problem 6. (**Combinatorics**) Consider the design of a communication system in the United States.

(a) How many three-digit phone prefixes that are used to represent a particular geographic area (such as an area code) can be created from the digits 0 through 9?

(b) How many three-digit phone prefixes are possible in which no digit appears more than once in each prefix?

(c) As in part (a), how many three-digit phone prefixes are possible that do not start with 0 or 1, but contain 0 or 1 as the middle digit?

[Montgomery and Runger, 2010, Q2-45]

Solution:

(a) From the multiplication rule (or by realizing that this is ordered sampling with replacement), $10^3 = \boxed{1,000}$ prefixes are possible

(b) This is ordered sampling without replacement. Therefore $(10)_3 = 10 \times 9 \times 8 = \boxed{720}$ prefixes are possible

(c) From the multiplication rule, $8 \times 2 \times 10 = \boxed{160}$ prefixes are possible.