CSE 312: Foundations of Computing II
Quiz Section #3: Conditional Probability

Review: Main Theorems and Concepts

Conditional Probability: $\mathbb{P}(A|B) =$ ______________________________

Independence: Events E and F are independent iff $\mathbb{P}(E \cap F) =$ ______________________________, or equivalently $\mathbb{P}(F) =$ ______________________________, or equivalently $\mathbb{P}(E) =$ ______________________________

Bayes Theorem: $\mathbb{P}(A|B) =$ ______________________________

Partition: Nonempty events $E_1, \ldots, E_n$ partition the sample space Ω iff

- $E_1, \ldots, E_n$ are exhaustive: ______________________________, and
- $E_1, \ldots, E_n$ are pairwise mutually exclusive: ______________________________
  - Note that for any event A (with $A \neq \emptyset, A \neq \Omega$): ____________ partition Ω

Law of Total Probability (LTP): Suppose $A_1, \ldots, A_n$ partition Ω and let B be any event. Then

$\mathbb{P}(B) =$ ______________________________

Bayes Theorem with LTP: Suppose $A_1, \ldots, A_n$ partition Ω and let B be any event. Then $\mathbb{P}(A_1|B) =$ ____. In particular, $\mathbb{P}(A|B) =$ ____

Chain Rule: Suppose $A_1, \ldots, A_n$ are events. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(A_1 \cap \ldots \cap A_n) = \text{\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_}$$

Exercises

1. Suppose we randomly generate a number from the natural numbers $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \ldots\}$. Let A_k be the event we generate the number k, and suppose $\mathbb{P}(A_k) = (\frac{1}{2})^k$. Once we generate a number, suppose the probability that we win \$$j$ for $j = 1, \ldots, k$ is "uniform", that is, each has probability $\frac{1}{k}$. Let B be the event we win exactly \$1. What is $\mathbb{P}(A_1|B)$? You may use the fact that $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j \cdot a^j} = \ln(\frac{a}{a-1})$ for $a > 1$.

2. Suppose there are three possible teachers for CSE 312: Martin Tompa, Anna Karlin, and Larry Ruzzo. Suppose the ratio of grades $A : B : C : D : F$ for Martin's class is $1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5$, for Anna's class is $3 : 4 : 5 : 1 : 2$, and for Larry's class is $5 : 4 : 3 : 2 : 1$. Suppose you are assigned a grade randomly according to the given ratios when you take a class from one of these professors, irrespective of your performance. Furthermore, suppose Martin teaches your class with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ and Anna and Larry

have an equal chance of teaching if Martin isn't. What is the probability you had Martin, given that you received an A? Compare this to the unconditional probability that you had Martin.

3. Suppose we have a coin with probability p of heads. Suppose we flip this coin n times independently. Let X be the number of heads that we observe. What is $\mathbb{P}(X = k)$, for $k = 0, \ldots n$? Verify that $\sum_{k=0}^{n} \mathbb{P}(X = k) = 1$, as it should.

4. Suppose we have a coin with probability p of heads. Suppose we flip this coin until we flip a head for the first time. Let X be the number of times we flip the coin *up to and including* the first head. What is $\mathbb{P}(X = k)$, for $k = 1, 2, \ldots$? Verify that $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X = k) = 1$, as it should.

5. Corrupted by their power, the judges running the popular game show America's Next Top Mathematician have been taking bribes from many of the contestants. During each of two episodes, a given contestant is either allowed to stay on the show or is kicked off. If the contestant has been bribing the judges, she will be allowed to stay with probability 1. If the contestant has not been bribing the judges, she will be allowed to stay with probability 1/3, independent of what happens in earlier episodes. Suppose that 1/4 of the contestants have been bribing the judges. The same contestants bribe the judges in both rounds.

   (a) If you pick a random contestant, what is the probability that she is allowed to stay during the first episode?

   (b) If you pick a random contestant, what is the probability that she is allowed to stay during both episodes?

   (c) If you pick a random contestant who was allowed to stay during the first episode, what is the probability that she gets kicked off during the second episode?

   (d) If you pick a random contestant who was allowed to stay during the first episode, what is the probability that she was bribing the judges?

6. A parallel system functions whenever at least one of its components works. Consider a parallel system of n components and suppose that each component works with probability p independently.

   (a) If the system is functioning, what is the probability that component 1 is working?

   (b) If the system is functioning and component 2 is working, what is the probability that component 1 is working?

7. A girl has 5 blue and 3 white marbles in her left pocket, and 4 blue and 4 white marbles in her right pocket. If she transfers a randomly chosen marble from left pocket to right pocket without looking, and then draws a randomly chosen marble from her right pocket, what is the probability that it is blue?

8. In a certain population, everyone is equally susceptible to colds. The number of colds suffered by each person during each winter season ranges from 0 to 4, with probability 0.2 for each value (see table below). A new cold prevention drug is introduced that, for people for whom the drug is effective,

changes the probabilities as shown in the table. Unfortunately, the effects of the drug last only the duration of one winter season, and the drug is only effective in 20% of people, independently.

number of colds	no drug or ineffective	drug effective
0	0.2	0.4
1	0.2	0.3
2	0.2	0.2
3	0.2	0.1
4	0.2	0.0

(a) Sneezy decides to take the drug. Given that he gets 1 cold that winter, what is the probability that the drug is effective for Sneezy?

(b) The next year he takes the drug again. Given that he gets 2 colds in this winter, what is the updated probability that the drug is effective for Sneezy?

(c) The third winter he decides not to bother taking the drug and gets 2 colds. He argues that the drug must not have been effective for him, since he got the same number of colds last year as this year. Comment on his logic.

9. Guildenstern has three coins C_1, C_2, C_3 in a bag. C_1 has $\mathbb{P}(\text{heads}) = 1$, C_2 has $\mathbb{P}(\text{heads}) = 0$, and C_3 has $\mathbb{P}(\text{heads}) = p$. He takes a random coin from the bag, each coin equally probable, and flips this same coin some number of times.

   (a) Suppose q is the conditional probability that he flipped coin C_1, given that the flip came up heads. Determine p as a function of q.

   (b) What is the probability that the first n flips come up tails?

   (c) Given that the first n flips come up tails, what is the probability he flipped C_1? C_2? C_3?

10. Guildenstern has a fair coin and a "magic" coin that comes up heads with probability $p_1 > \frac{1}{2}$. Suppose he picks a coin at random, with probability p_2 of choosing the magic coin and $1 - p_2$ of choosing the fair coin, and tosses it n times. All of the tosses come up heads. He would like to convince Rosencrantz that he flipped the magic coin. Rosencrantz only believes him if the conditional probability that it is the magic coin, given the n heads, is at least 99%. Derive a function $n = f(p_1, p_2)$ that gives the minimum number of consecutive heads n to convince Rosencrantz that Guildenstern flipped the magic coin. Remember that n must be a positive integer.

11. This problem demonstrates that independence can be "broken" by conditioning. Let D_1 and D_2 be the outcomes of two independent rolls of a fair die. Let E be the event "$D_1 = 1$", F be the event "$D_2 = 6$", and G be the event "$D_1 + D_2 = 7$". Even though E and F are independent, show that

$$\mathbb{P}(E \cap F \mid G) \neq \mathbb{P}(E \mid G)\, \mathbb{P}(F \mid G).$$