

A contrived example

You have three red marbles and one blue marble in your left pocket, and one red marble and two blue marbles in your right pocket.

You will flip a fair coin; if it's heads, you'll draw a marble (uniformly) from your left pocket, if it's tails, you'll draw a marble (uniformly) from your right pocket.

Let B be you draw a blue marble. Let T be the coin is tails.

What is $\mathbb{P}(B|T)$ what is $\mathbb{P}(T|B)$?

4

Application 1: Medical Tests

Helping Doctors and Patients Make Sense of Health Statistics

A researcher posed the following scenario to a group of 160 doctors:

Assume you conduct a disease screening using a standard test in a certain region. You know the following information about the people in this region:

The probability that a person has the disease is 1% (prevalence)

If a person has the disease, the probability that she tests positive is 90% (sensitivity)

If a person does not have the disease, the probability that she nevertheless tests positive is 9% (false-positive rate)

A person tests positive. She wants to know from you whether that means that she has the disease for sure, or what the chances are. What is the best answer?

- A. The probability that she has the disease is about 81%.
- B. Out of 10 people with a positive test, about 9 have the disease.
- C. Out of 10 people with a positive test, about 1 have the disease.
- D. The probability that she has the disease is about 1%

29

Independence for 3 or more events

For three or more events, we need two kinds of independence

Pairwise Independence

Events A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are pairwise independent if
 $\mathbb{P}(A_i \cap A_j) = \mathbb{P}(A_i) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_j)$ for all i, j

Mutual Independence

Events A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are mutually independent if
 $\mathbb{P}(A_{i_1} \cap A_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k}) = \mathbb{P}(A_{i_1}) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_{i_2}) \dots \mathbb{P}(A_{i_k})$
 for every subset $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k\}$ of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

51

Pairwise Independence vs. Mutual Independence

Roll two fair dice (one red one blue) independently

R = "red die is 3"

B = "blue die is 5"

S = "sum is 7"

How should we describe these events?

21