

Unit 2 Day 3  
Probability  
(4-3) Conditional Probability and  
Multiplication Rule

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### I. Conditional Probability

A conditional probability is the probability that an event will occur, when another event is known to occur or to have occurred.

The "probability of B given A" is written as  $P(B | A)$  and is found by:

$$P(B | A) = \frac{P(A \text{ and } B)}{P(A)}$$

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**Example**

A machine produces parts that are either good (90%), slightly defective (2%), or obviously defective (8%). Produced parts get passed through an automatic inspection machine, which is able to detect any part that is obviously defective and discard it. What is the quality of the parts that make it through the inspection machine and get shipped? (We want to compute the probability that a part is good given that it passed the inspection machine)

$$\frac{\text{good}}{\text{passed}} = \frac{0.90}{1 - 0.08} = \frac{0.90}{0.92} = 0.978$$

97.8% of the time

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**Example**

Using a standard deck of playing cards, determine the probability that...

a) The card is a king GIVEN that a face card is drawn.  
 $\frac{(K \text{ and } fc)}{(fc)} = \frac{4}{12} = \frac{1}{3}$

b) The card is face card GIVEN that a red card is drawn.  
 $\frac{(fc \text{ and } rd)}{(rd)} = \frac{6}{26} = \frac{3}{13}$

c)  $P(2 | \text{number card}) = \frac{(2 \text{ and } nc)}{(nc)} = \frac{4}{36} = \frac{1}{9}$

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**Example**

	BA	MA	PhD	total
male	180	60	240	480
female	159	23	194	376
total	339	83	434	856

a) The person is female GIVEN that he/she has a BA.  $\frac{F + BA}{BA} = \frac{159}{339}$

b)  $P(MA | \text{male}) = \frac{\text{male MA}}{\text{male}} = \frac{60}{480} = \frac{1}{8}$

c)  $P(BA \text{ or } PhD | \text{female}) = \frac{BA + PhD}{\text{female}} = \frac{159 + 194}{376}$

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### II. Multiplication Rules

Multiplication rules can be used to find the probability of two or more events that occur in sequence.

**Example**

A coin is flipped and a die is rolled. Find the probability of getting tails on the coin and a 4 on the die.

$\frac{1}{2}$  (from coin)  $\cdot$   $\frac{1}{6}$  (from die)  $= \frac{1}{12}$

1	2	3	4	5	6
H	H	H	H	H	H
1	2	3	4	5	6
T	T	T	T	T	T

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Two events A and B are **independent events** if the fact that **A occurs does not affect the probability of B occurring.**

**Multiplication Rule:**  $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$

**Example**

Drawing a queen then an ace (replace after drawing)

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{queen} & \text{ace} \\ \frac{4}{52} & \frac{4}{52} \\ \frac{1}{13} & \cdot \frac{1}{13} = \frac{1}{169} \end{array}$$

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**Example**

A Harris poll found that 46% of Americans say they suffer great stress once a week. If three people are selected at random, find the probability that all three will say they suffer from great stress at least once a week.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1^{\text{st}} & 2^{\text{nd}} & 3^{\text{rd}} \\ 0.46 & \cdot 0.46 & \cdot 0.46 \\ & & (.46)^3 = 0.097 \\ & & \boxed{9.7\%} \end{array}$$

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When the outcome of the **first event** affects the outcome of the **second event**, the events are **dependent events**

**Multiplication Rule:**  $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B|A)$

**Example**

Drawing a queen and then an ace (not replacing)

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{queen} & \text{ace} \\ \frac{4}{52} & \cdot \frac{4}{51} \\ \frac{1}{13} & \cdot \frac{4}{51} = \frac{4}{663} \end{array}$$

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**Example**

Oliver has a bag of batteries (some work and some don't). There are 15 batteries in the bag and 5 of them don't work. What is the probability that Oliver is going to choose two that work, so he can play with his microphone?

$$\begin{array}{cc} 1^{\text{st}} & 2^{\text{nd}} \\ \frac{10}{15} & \cdot \frac{9}{14} \\ \frac{2}{3} & \cdot \frac{3}{7} = \frac{3}{7} \end{array}$$

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Independent????

Take 4 cards from the deck

10 of hearts, 10 of clubs, 5 of hearts, and the jack of spades

Are the events A: picking a heart and B: picking a 10 independent of each other?

← Independent

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

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{heart and 10} \\ \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{4} \checkmark \end{array} \quad \text{Independent}$$

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