

A Probability law for a finite sample space S is a function

$$P: \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

In sec. (7.1) we use

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|} \quad \left. \vphantom{P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{the uniform} \\ \text{Probability law} \end{array}$$

for any $E \subseteq S$.

Properties

$$(1) \text{ for } E \subseteq S: 0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$$

$$(2) \quad P(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$(3) \quad P(S) = 1$$

(4) if $E_1, \dots, E_k$ are pairwise disjoint events in S , then

$$P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k) = P(E_1) + \dots + P(E_k)$$

Exercise

Prove (1)-(4) for the uniform law P .

Proof of (4)

$$P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k) = \frac{|E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k|}{|S|}$$

$$= \frac{|E_1| + \dots + |E_k|}{|S|} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{since } E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset \\ \text{for } i \neq j \end{array} \right.$$

$$= \frac{|E_1|}{|S|} + \dots + \frac{|E_k|}{|S|} = P(E_1) + \dots + P(E_k)$$

Ex.

a single die is thrown. what is the probability that the number is at least 5?

$$S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}, |S| = 6$$

$$E = \{5, 6\}, |E| = 2$$

$$\therefore P(E) = \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3} = .333...$$

Ex.

Two dice are thrown. what is the probability that the sum of the numbers is 8?

$S =$

	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	11	12	13	14	15	16
2	21	22	23	24	25	26
3	31	32	33	34	35	36
4	41	42	43	44	45	46
5	51	52	53	54	55	56
6	61	62	63	64	65	66

$E =$

← 8
9
10
11
12

$$|S| = 36, |E| = 5$$

$$\therefore P(E) = \frac{5}{36} = .1388\dots$$

Sum	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$P(\text{Sum})$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{4}{36}$	$\frac{5}{36}$	$\frac{6}{36}$	$\frac{5}{36}$	$\frac{4}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$

↑
highest
Probability

Ex.

what is the Prob. that a 5-card
Poker hand contains 4 of a kind.

Suits

H D C S

A

K

Q

J

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

Red Black

Kinds

$S = \{ \text{5-card Poker hands} \}$

$$|S| = \binom{52}{5} = 2,598,960$$

$$E = \{ \text{hands with 4 of a kind} \}$$

$$|E| = \binom{13}{1} \binom{4}{4} \binom{48}{1}$$

$$= 13 \cdot 1 \cdot 48 = 624$$

$$\therefore P(E) = \frac{624}{2,598,960} = .00024 \dots$$

Ex.

what is the Prob. that a 5-card
Poker hand contains 3 of a kind
(and not 4 of a kind).

$$E = \{ 3 \text{ of a kind} \}$$

$$|E| = \binom{13}{1} \cdot \binom{4}{3} \cdot \binom{48}{2} = 58,656$$

$$\therefore P(E) = \frac{94}{4165} = .0226 \dots$$

Theorem

Given $E \subseteq S$, the probability of $\bar{E} = S - E$ is

$$P(\bar{E}) = 1 - P(E)$$

Proof.

note $\bar{E} \cap E = \emptyset$ and $\bar{E} \cup E = S$.

$$\therefore 1 = P(S) = P(E \cup \bar{E}) = P(E) + P(\bar{E})$$

$$\therefore P(\bar{E}) = 1 - P(E) \quad \blacksquare$$

Ex.

What is the Prob. that a 5-card
Poker hand contains at least
one ace?

$$E = \{ \text{hands with } \geq 1 \text{ ace} \}$$

$$\bar{E} = \{ \text{hands with } 0 \text{ aces} \}$$

$$|\bar{E}| = \binom{48}{5} = 1,712,304$$

$$\therefore P(E) = 1 - P(\bar{E})$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1,712,304}{2,598,960}$$

$$= .34115 \dots$$

Theorem

Given $E_1, E_2 \subseteq S$,

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$$

Proof

divide

$$|E_1 \cup E_2| = |E_1| + |E_2| - |E_1 \cap E_2|$$

by $|S|$.



Ex.

What is the Prob. that a 5-card
Poker hand contains a red ace?

$$E_1 = \{ \text{hand contains AH} \} \quad |E_1| = \binom{51}{4}$$

$$E_2 = \{ \text{" " AD} \} \quad |E_2| = \binom{51}{4}$$

$$E_1 \cap E_2 = \{ \text{" " both AH and AD} \} \quad |E_1 \cap E_2| = \binom{50}{3}$$

$$\therefore P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$$

$$= \frac{2 \cdot \binom{51}{4} - \binom{50}{3}}{\binom{52}{5}}$$

$$= .18476 \dots$$

Ex.

to win a Super lottery you must
Pick 7 correct numbers out of
40.

$$|S| = \binom{40}{7}, |E| = 1$$

$$P(E) = \frac{1}{18,643,560} = (5.36...) 10^{-8}$$

In general

$$P(\text{win}) = \frac{\# \text{ ways of winning}}{\# \text{ ways of playing}}$$

Ex.

In another state the lottery commission picks 12 numbers from $\{1, 2, \dots, 60\}$. To win you must pick 6 out of these 12.

$$P(\text{win}) = \frac{\binom{12}{6}}{\binom{60}{6}} = (1.85 \dots) 10^{-5}$$

Ex.

Find the Prob. that a random string of length 10 from $\{a, \dots, z\}$ has no repeated letters.

$$S = \{\text{strs. of len. 10 from } \{a, \dots, z\}\}$$

$$|S| = 26^{10}$$

$$E = \{\text{strs. in } S \text{ with no repetition}\}$$

$$|E| = P(26, 10) = \frac{26!}{(26-10)!} = \frac{26!}{16!}$$

$$\therefore P(E) = \frac{26!}{16! \cdot 26^{10}} = .1365 \dots$$

Exercise

Find a formula for the Prob.
that a random string of length k
from an alphabet of size n
has no repeated symbols.

note: if $k > n$, then the Prob.
is 0 by the Pigeonhole Principle.

7.2 Probability Theory

In general a Probability law

$$P: \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

(for a finite sample space S) must satisfy the following axioms.

(1) for all $E \subseteq S$: $P(E) \geq 0$

(2) $P(S) = 1$

(3) (additivity) If $E, F \subseteq S$ are disjoint ($E \cap F = \emptyset$), then

$$P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F).$$

Exercise

Prove

$$\bullet P(\emptyset) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\bullet \text{ for any } E \subseteq S: P(E) \leq 1$$

$$\bullet \text{ for } E_1, \dots, E_k \text{ pairwise disjoint,}$$

$$P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k) = P(E_1) + \dots + P(E_k)$$

Prove that $P(\emptyset) = 0$:

$$1 = P(S) = P(S \cup \emptyset) = P(S) + P(\emptyset)$$

$$\therefore 1 = 1 + P(\emptyset)$$

$$\therefore P(\emptyset) = 0$$

Exercise

use axioms (1), (2) and (3) to Prove
all theorems from (7.1)

Notation

if $x \in S$, then write

$$P(x) = P(\{x\})$$