

Probability spaces, independence, and conditional probability: in principle

1. What are the two ingredients of a *finite probability space*?
2. Joint probability distributions: suppose that (X, \mathbb{P}_X) and (Y, \mathbb{P}_Y) are finite probability spaces. How do we define a probability distribution on the product $X \times Y$? How do we interpret the meaning of this new probability space? Illustrate with an example.
3. Subspaces: suppose that B is an event in some probability space (Ω, \mathbb{P}) , and that $\mathbb{P}(B) > 0$.
 - (a) How do the events of Ω give us a set of events for B ?
 - (b) How does the probability distribution \mathbb{P} give us a probability distribution \mathbb{P}_B on B ? What must we be careful about when doing this, and why is it so important that B had $\mathbb{P}(B) > 0$?
4. Suppose that A and B are events in some probability space (Ω, \mathbb{P}) .
 - (a) What does it mean for A and B to be *mutually exclusive*? Illustrate with an example.
 - (b) What does it mean for A and B to be *independent*? Illustrate with an example.
5. Suppose that A and B are events in some probability space, and that $\mathbb{P}(B) > 0$.
 - (a) How do we define the *conditional probability* $\mathbb{P}(A | B)$?
 - (b) In words, what does this tell us?
 - (c) How does this relate to our notion of *subspaces*?
 - (d) What can be determined about this conditional probability if A and B are *independent*?

... and in practice

6. Let (Ω, \mathbb{P}) be the probability space for two fair six-sided dice being rolled.
 - (a) How can this probability space be considered as a product?
 - (b) Compute the probabilities of each of the following, and determine which pairs of the events are independent:
 - (i) The first roll is even.
 - (ii) The first roll is a 1, 2, or 3.
 - (iii) The second roll is a multiple of 3.
 - (iv) The second roll is a 1, 2, or 3.
 - (c) Let B be the event that the sum of the dice is between 3 and 6, inclusive.
 - (i) Find the probability distribution for the the subspace given by B ; what adjective describes this distribution, and why?
 - (ii) Determine $\mathbb{P}(A_k | B)$ for each $k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$, where A_k is the event that the first roll is k . Are any of these event A_k mutually exclusive of B ? Are any independent of B ?
 - (iii) Determine $\mathbb{P}(A | B)$ and $\mathbb{P}(B | A)$, if A is the event that both rolls are equal.
7. Let (Ω, \mathbb{P}) be the probability space for ten flips of a fair coin, and let B be the event that exactly 5 of the flips are H.
 - (a) Compute $P(A | B)$ and $P(B | A)$, if A is the event that the first five flips are all H.
 - (b) Consider the subspace of (Ω, \mathbb{P}) given by B , Compute the probabilities of the three events below in this subspace:
 - (i) The first flip is T.
 - (ii) The second flip is T.
 - (iii) The first two flips are both T.
 Are the events (i) and (ii) independent events in this subspace? Discuss.
 - (c) Again consider the subspace of (Ω, \mathbb{P}) given by B . Compute the probabilities of the two events below and that of their intersection.
 - (i) The first three flips are H.
 - (ii) The last three flips are H.
 What describes the relationship between these two events in this subspace?