

Examination #1 Solution

Friday, February 16, 2001, 12:05 – 12:55 PM

1. (20 points)

(10 points) Simplify $[2 \ 5] \cap ([1 \ 3] \cup [4 \ 6])^c$

Answer: $[2 \ 5] \cap ([1 \ 3] \cup [4 \ 6])^c = [2 \ 5] \cap ((-\infty \ 1) \cup (3 \ 4) \cup (6 \ \infty)) = \mathbf{(3 \ 4)}$

(10 points) Simplify $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} [5 \ 7 - (3n)^{-1}]$

Answer: $\bigcup_{n=1}^N [5 \ 7 - (3n)^{-1}] = [5 \ 7 - (3N)^{-1}]$. Thus, $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} [5 \ 7 - \frac{1}{3N}] = \mathbf{[5 \ 7]}$

2. (25 points)

During the flight from Madison to Minneapolis, coffee and tea are served. A passenger must choose either coffee or tea. If a passenger chooses coffee, he or she must decide one of four possible flavors: (i) black (no cream and no sugar), (ii) cream only, (iii) sugar only, and (iv) cream and sugar.

(a) (10 points) Suppose that the probability a passenger chooses coffee is 0.4. *Given* that a passenger wants coffee, the probability that this person wants black coffee is 0.3. What is the probability that an arbitrary passenger in this flight wants a black coffee?

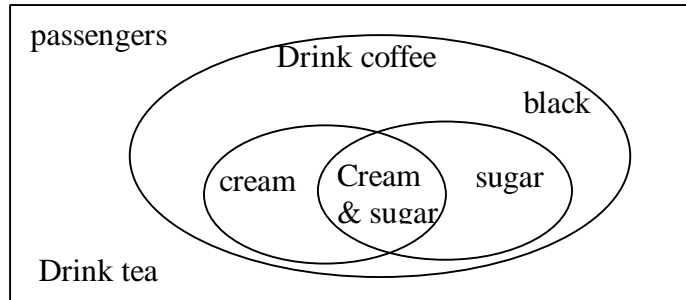
Answer: Denote event $C =$ a passenger chooses coffee, and event $B =$ chooses black coffee. Then $P(C) = 0.4$, and $P(B|C) = P(B \cap C)/P(C) = 0.3$. An arbitrary passenger chooses black coffee $= B \cap C$. Hence $\mathbf{P(B \cap C) = P(B|C)P(C) = 0.3 * 0.4 = 0.12}$.

(b) (10 points) Continue from part (a). Suppose that the probability a passenger chooses coffee and wants to add sugar to it (choice of sugar only or cream-and-sugar) is 0.24; and that the probability a passenger chooses coffee and wants to add cream to it (choice of cream only or cream-and-sugar) is 0.16. What is the probability that a passenger wants *both* cream and sugar in the coffee *given* that this passenger wants a cup of coffee?

Answer: Denote $S =$ add sugar, and $R =$ add cream. We have $P(C \cap S) = 0.24$, $P(C \cap R) = 0.16$. We want to find $P(S \cap R|C)$. Note that $P(S|C) = P(C \cap S)/P(C) = 0.24/0.4 = 0.6$, and $P(R|C) = P(C \cap R)/P(C) = 0.16/0.4 = 0.4$. Also, $P(B|C) = 1 - P(S \cup R|C) = 0.3$. Hence, $P(S \cup R|C) = 0.7 = P(S|C) + P(R|C) - P(S \cap R|C) = 0.6 + 0.4 - P(S \cap R|C)$. Therefore, $\mathbf{P(S \cap R|C) = 1 - 0.7 = 0.3}$.

(c) (5 points) Let the *universe* of a Venn diagram be all the passengers on a flight. Plot a Venn diagram depicting passengers not drinking coffee as well as drinking coffee with the four different ways.

Answer:



3. (30 points)

The University Department of Information Technology has n dial-up lines to serve remote access to campus network by students and faculty. The probability that a dial-up line is busy is independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) among all n dial-up lines. Suppose that on a Friday night, the probability that a dial-up line is busy is 0.7

(a) (10 points) What is the probability that all dial-up lines are busy when you dial in?

Answer: Define $X_i = 1$ if a dial up line is busy. Then it is a Bernoulli random variable with parameter $p = 0.7$. Thus, $P(X_i = 1) = 0.7$, and $P(X_i = 0) = 0.3$. Probability of all dial-up lines are busy is

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, \dots, X_n = 1) = p^n = 0.7^n$$

(b) (10 points) A switching computer will find an idle dial-up line when you dial in whenever there is one or more lines available. What is the probability that when you dial in, you can connect to one of the n dial up line?

Answer: Note that unless all dial-up lines are busy, you can always connect to one of the dial-up line. Thus, the answer is $1 - p^n = 1 - 0.7^n$.

(c) (10 points) What is the probability that exactly k ($0 \leq k \leq n$) dial-up lines are idle?

Answer: $\binom{n}{k} 0.3^k 0.7^{n-k}$; $0 \leq k \leq n$.

4. (25 points)

Dr. Who taught the probability course several times. He found that 75% of students who did homework pass the exam; while only 15% of students who did not do homework pass the exam.

(a) (15 points) If 80% of students do the homework in a class, what percentages of students pass the exam?

Answer: $P(\text{pass}|\text{H}) = 0.75$, and $P(\text{pass}|\text{H}^c) = 0.15$. $P(\text{H}) = 0.8$, and $P(\text{H}^c) = 1 - 0.8 = 0.2$. Hence, $P(\text{pass} \cap \text{H}) = P(\text{pass}|\text{H})P(\text{H}) = 0.75 * 0.8 = 0.6$, $P(\text{pass} \cap \text{H}^c) = P(\text{pass}|\text{H}^c)P(\text{H}^c) = 0.15 * 0.2 = 0.03$. Use total probability, $P(\text{pass}) = P(\text{pass} \cap \text{H}) + P(\text{pass} \cap \text{H}^c) = 0.6 + 0.03 = 0.63$.

(b) (10 points) Of those students who pass the exam, what percentages did homework?

Answer: $P(\text{H}|\text{pass}) = P(\text{H} \cap \text{pass})/P(\text{pass}) = 0.6/0.63 = 20/21 = 0.9524$.