

Examples about conditional probability and independence

(1-1) Experiment: Throw a "2-one" dice, i.e. no 6 but two 1's.

Event A: Dice 1 is 1

Event B: Dice 1 is odd

To calculate: $p\{A|B\}$ (meaning the probability of Event A occurring under the condition that Event B occurs)

$$p\{A|B\} = p\{A|B\} = p\{x=1|x \text{ is odd}\} = p\{x=1 \text{ and } x=\text{odd}\}/p\{x=\text{odd}\} = p\{x=1\}/p\{x=\text{odd}\} = (1/3)/(2/3) = 1/2$$

Note that $p\{A|B\} \neq P\{A\}$, so Event A and Event B are dependent (of course they are, by definition).

(1-2) Experiment: Throw a "2-one" dice twice, i.e. no 6 but two 1s.

Event A: Dice 1 is 1

Event B: Dice 2 is odd

To calculate: $p\{A|B\}$

We have $p\{x=1 \text{ and } y=\text{odd}\} = p\{(1,1),(1,3),(1,5)\} = p\{(1,1)\} + p\{(1,3)\} + p\{(1,5)\} = 4/36 + 2/36 + 2/36 = 2/9$ (the original side for "6" also results in "1" for this special dice)

To calculate: $p\{A|B\} = p\{A|B\} = p\{x=1|y \text{ is odd}\} = p\{x=1 \text{ and } y=\text{odd}\}/p\{y=\text{odd}\} = (2/9)/(2/3) = 1/3$

Note that $p\{A\} = p\{x=1\} = 1/3$, so we've verified that Event A and Event B are independent.

(2) Experiment: Rolling two independent dice. Still the "2-one" dice, i.e. no 6 but two 1's.

Event A: Dice 1 < 3

Event B: Dice 2 > 3

To calculate: $p\{A|B\}$

It's trivial that A and B are independent (two different throws have 0 impact on each other).

$$p\{A|B\} = p\{x_1 < 3 | x_2 > 3\} = p\{x_1 < 3 \text{ and } x_2 > 3\} / p\{x_2 > 3\}$$

so that for a "2-one" dice:

$$x_1 = \{1, 2\}, x_2 = \{4, 5\}$$

$$p\{x_2 > 3\} = p\{x=4 \text{ or } x=5\} = p\{x=4\} + p\{x=5\} = 1/6 + 1/6 = 1/3$$

$$p\{x_1 < 3 \text{ and } x_2 > 3\} = p\{(1,4), (1,5), (2,4), (2,5)\} = p\{(1,4)\} + p\{(1,5)\} + p\{(2,4)\} + p\{(2,5)\},$$

where $p\{(1,4)\} = p\{x_1=1 \text{ and } x_2=4\} = 2/36$, (the original {6,4} also results in {1,4} for this special dice)

$$\text{similarly } p\{(1,5)\} = 2/36;$$

$$p\{(2,4)\} = p\{x_1=2 \text{ and } x_2=4\} = 1/36$$

$$\text{similarly } p\{(2,5)\} = 1/36;$$

$$\Rightarrow p\{A \text{ and } B\} = 1/18 + 1/18 + 1/36 + 1/36 = 1/6$$

$$\Rightarrow p\{A|B\} = (1/6) / (1/3) = 1/2$$

$p\{A\} = p\{x=1\} + p\{x=2\} = 1/2 = p\{A|B\}$, so we've verified that A and B are independent.