

Midterm Exam (Solutions)

1(b):

Define F as “failure to learn”. Then, $P(F|A) = 0.2$, $P(F|B) = 0.1$, $P(A) = 0.7$, $P(B) = 0.3$.

By Bayes’ rule, $P(A|F) = \frac{P(F|A) \times P(A)}{P(F|A) \times P(A) + P(F|B) \times P(B)} = \frac{0.2 \times 0.7}{0.2 \times 0.7 + 0.1 \times 0.3} = \frac{0.14}{0.17} \cong 82.35\%$.

2(b):

Since A and B are mutually exclusive, $A \cap B = \emptyset$, and consequently $P(A \cap B) = 0$.

For A and B to be independent, we need to have $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$. This is possible if and only if $P(B) = 0$.

3(b):

There are $\binom{50}{3} = 19,600$ ways to choose the 3 winners. Each of these is equally likely.

a. There are $\binom{4}{3} = 4$ ways for the organizers to win all of the prizes. The probability is $4/19600$.

b. There are $\binom{4}{2} \binom{46}{1} = 276$ ways the organizers can win two prizes and one of the other 46 people to win the third prize. So, the probability is $276/19600$.

c. $\binom{4}{1} \binom{46}{2} = 4140$. The probability is $4140/19600$.

d. $\binom{46}{3} = 15,180$. The probability is $15180/19600$.

4(b):

Let $Y = \#$ of homeowners preferring brand A . Thus, Y is binomial with $n = 15$ and $p = 0.5$.

Using the Appendix, $P(Y \geq 10) = 1 - P(Y \leq 9) = 1 - 0.849 = 0.151$.

5(b):

Let $Y = \#$ of tosses until the first head. Thus, Y has geometric distribution with $p=q=1/2$.

$P(Y \geq 12 | Y > 10) = P(Y > 11 | Y > 10) = P(Y > 1) = 1/2$.