

Conditional Probability and Independence

Roll 2 dice, and let $X =$ the # on the first die
 $Y =$ the # on the second die

The joint probability distribution $P(X, Y)$ gives the prob. of each combination of values of X and Y .

In the case of two dice, $P(X)$ doesn't depend on $P(Y)$,

so we have independence, which implies $P(X, Y) = P(X)P(Y)$

Let's roll two 3-sided dice to see why:

	X	Y	
$P(X=1) = \frac{1}{3}$	1	1	} $P(X=1, Y=3) = \frac{1}{9}$
	1	2	
	1	3	
}	2	1	} $P(\underline{Y=2} X=3) = \frac{1}{3}$
	2	2	
	2	3	
}	3	1	} $P(\underline{Y=2} X=3) = \frac{1}{3}$
	3	2	
	3	3	

$\xrightarrow{\text{"and"}}$
 \downarrow
 $\xrightarrow{\text{given that (conditioned on)}}$

This is a conditional probability.

Equivalent def. of independence: $P(Y=1|X=1) = P(Y=1)$

\uparrow
 $P(Y)$ doesn't depend on X

Ex. 3-6

$\rightarrow H: \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}$

$\rightarrow T: 0.6, 0.2, 0.2$

C	D	$P(C, D)$
H	1	$\frac{1}{6}$
H	2	$\frac{1}{6}$
H	3	$\frac{1}{6}$
T	1	$\frac{3}{10}$
T	2	$\frac{1}{10}$
T	3	$\frac{1}{10}$

given
 \downarrow
4. $P(D=1|C=T)$

$$\frac{\frac{3}{10}}{\frac{3}{10} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{10}} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$P(D=1, C=T)$

$$P(D=1) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{3}{10}$$