

★ The prob of an event is the Total weight for all the outcomes in the event.

Ex: the prob of "X being a prime number" =  $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6}$   
event {2,3,5} +  $\frac{1}{6} = 0.5$   
outcome " "

★ Set / Event operations

① Empty set / Null event  $\emptyset$

I.e: No outcome in a null event.



Q: What is the prob of a null event?

Ans: 0. (∵ count nothing)

② Global set  $S = \{\text{every thing}\}$

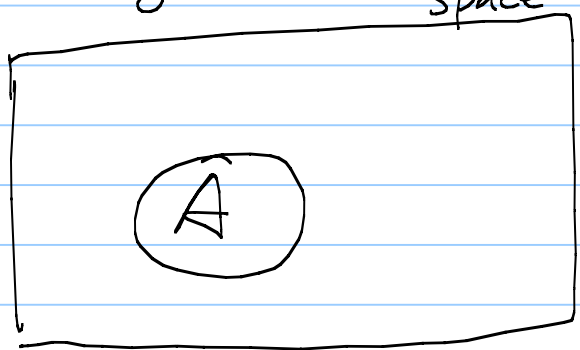
Q: What is the prob of a global event

Ans: 1 (∵ count everything)

★ Venn's Diagram: A tool to help

S: the global set / sample space

us visualize the set operations.



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③ Compliment event "c" <sup>o.g.</sup>  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 7\}$

④  $A^c$   $A = \{1, 3\}$

$A^c = \{2, 7\}$  everything else

E.g.  $S = \{x: x > 0\}$   $A = \{x: 1 < x < 3\}$ ,  $A^c = \{x: 0 < x \leq 1 \text{ or } 3 \leq x\}$

④ Union "U"

E.g.  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$   $B = \{2, 3, 7\}$   
 $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 7\}$ , Not  $\{1, 3, 3, 7\}$

E.g.  $B = \{x: 2 \leq x \leq 5\}$

$A \cup B = \{x: 1 < x \leq 5\}$

⑤ Intersection "∩"

E.g.  $A \cap B = \{x: 2 \leq x < 3\}$   
 $A \cap B = \{3, 2\}$

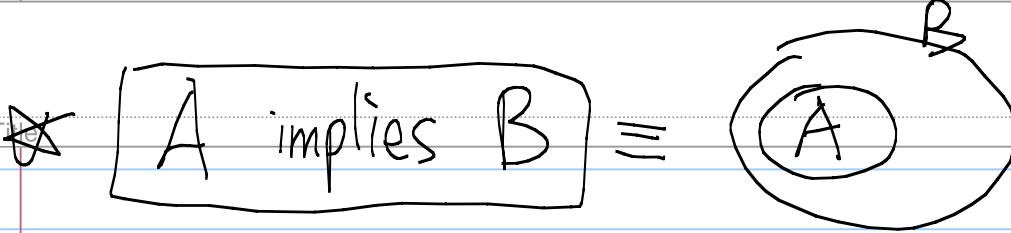
Why are we interested in the set operations?

Ans: We are more interested in the

Weights assigned to each set. Nonetheless, knowing how to include/exclude an

outcome is essential before we can

properly count the total weight assigned for an event.



Ex:  $A = \{ \text{all multiples of } 4 \}$ .  $A \text{ implies } B$ .  
4, 8, 12

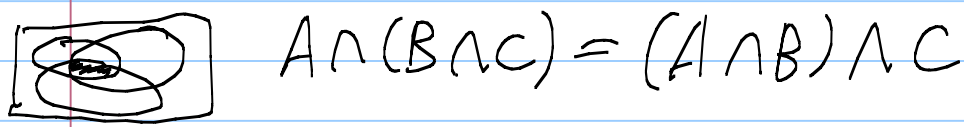
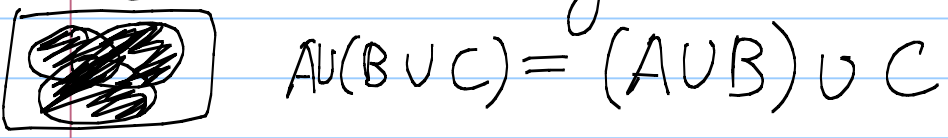
$B = \{ \text{all multiples of } 2 \}$ .  $\forall X$  is a multiple of 4 then  $X$  must be a multiple of 2.  
2, 4, 6, 8, ...

⑤ Commutativity

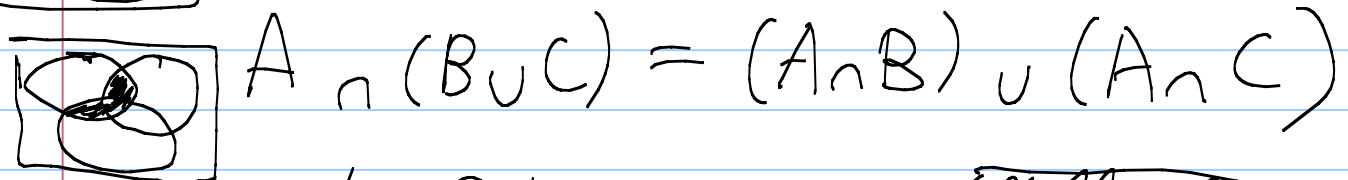
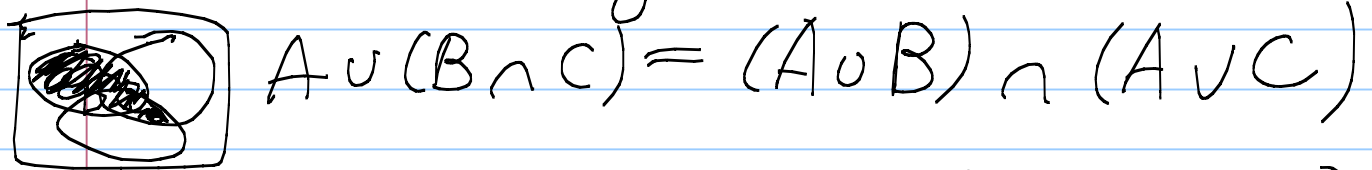
$A \cup B = B \cup A$  OR : In at least one

$A \cap B = B \cap A$  AND : In ALL.

⑦ Associativity



⑧ Distributivity

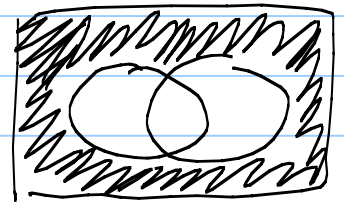


⑨ Demorgan's Rule

$(A \cap B)^c = A^c \cup B^c$



$(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$



Once we know how to include/exclude events/sets, we need to assign weights

A valid W.A satisfies the following 3 axioms

Axiom 1:

Each weight must be non-negative  
 $P(A) \geq 0$

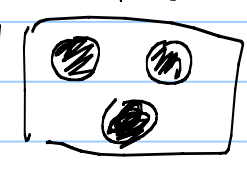
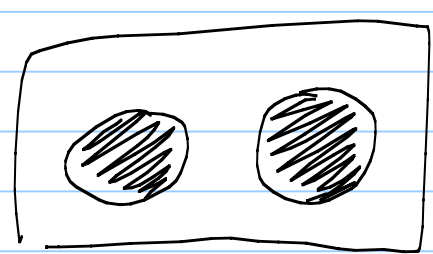
Axiom 2: The total weight must be 1.  
 $P(S) = 1$

Axiom 3: If two events are disjoint, i.e., they can not happen simultaneously,

$$\parallel A \cap B = \emptyset$$

then the weights of either A or B happens must be the sum of individual weights

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$$



Similarly: if  $A \cap B = B \cap C = C \cap A = \emptyset$

Then  $P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C)$

Axiom 3.1: If any two  $A_i, A_j$  are disjoint, then

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$$

The above "axioms" are very intuitive and can be taken as granted and used to show some non-intuitive results.

Corollary 1

$$P(A^c) = 1 - P(A)$$

Corollary 2

$$P(A) \leq 1$$

Corollary 3

$$P(\emptyset) = 0$$

Corollary 5


Corollary 4

If  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are disjoint, then

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = \sum_{k=1}^n P(A_k)$$

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

Ex:  $X$  is the outcome of a fair 6-faced die.

$$\begin{aligned}
& P(X \text{ is a prime or } X \geq 5) \\
&= P(X=2, 3, 5, 6) = \frac{4}{6} \\
&= P(X=2, 3, 5) + P(X=5, 6) - P(X=5) \\
&= \frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6} - \frac{1}{6} \quad \parallel \text{The weight of } X=5 \text{ is double counted.}
\end{aligned}$$


### Corollary 7

If  $A \subseteq B$ , then  $P(A) \leq P(B)$

A is a subset of B

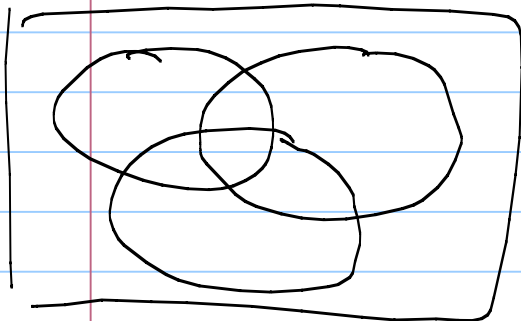
A implies B



### Corollary 6

Question for the team: Explain the following "inclusion/exclusion" principle by the Venn Diagram

$$P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C)$$



$$- P(A \cap B) - P(B \cap C) - P(C \cap A) + P(A \cap B \cap C)$$

Q:  $P(A \cup B \cup C \cup D) = ?$

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We start by "set operations": how to include/exclude the events.

② Then discuss properties of a valid W.A.

③ The next question is how to construct a valid W.A. by ourselves.

Case 1: The sample space is discrete. (ex: A card game, a coin)

Step 1: Specify the non-negative weight for each outcome. & <sup>Step 2:</sup> Make sure the total sum is 1.

Ex: A coin has two outcomes  $\{H, T\}$

We can assign  $P(H) = \frac{1}{3}$   $P(T) = \frac{2}{3}$ .

In many cases, we are interested in random experiments that have output being integers, then the weight assignment is described by

$$P_k = P(X = k)$$

This special type of experiments is called "discrete random variable" & the associated weight assignment is called "discrete distribution"

\* random: we do not know what the outcome will be.

Variable: The outcome is <sup>(usually)</sup> a number.

Discrete: values are integers

\* The  $P_k$  used for describing a discrete distribution (W.A) is called the prob mass function (pmf)

Example: A fair die is a discrete random variable & its distribution is described by pmf

$$P_1 = P_2 = P_3 = \dots = P_6 = \frac{1}{6}, \text{ all other } P_k = 0$$

If we let 0 denote tail, 1 for head, then the previous coin experiment is a discrete R.V. & its distribution is described by the following pmf.

$$P_0 = \frac{2}{3} \quad P_1 = \frac{1}{3} \quad \text{all other } P_k = 0$$

Example: A discrete R.V has sample space  $S = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \infty\}$  and its pmf (W.A) is

$$P_k = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{4}\right)^k \quad \text{for } k = 0, \dots, \infty$$

Q: Is this a valid W.A

Ans: Check ①  $P_k \geq 0$  for all  $k$  ✓  
②  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k = \frac{0.25}{1 - (1 - 0.25)} = 1$  ✓  
Yes



\* We define W.A first & then make 021  
prob statements.

\* Be careful when we try to design a W.A  
to "retro-fit" some prob. statement.

Ex:  $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$  ex: 1: sunny  
2: rainy  
3: snowy

If someone says that

The prob ( $X \neq 2$ ) is  $\frac{5}{8}$

prob ( $X \neq 1$ ) =  $\frac{1}{4}$

Q: Are these two statements consistent?  
(Equivalently, can we find a valid  
W.A satisfying the above two statements?)

A: Suppose we can, then we will have  
the pmf  $P_1, P_2, P_3$

Then we have

Not valid

$$\begin{cases} P_1 + P_3 = \frac{5}{8} \\ P_2 + P_3 = \frac{1}{4} \\ P_1 + P_2 + P_3 = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} P_1 = \frac{3}{4}, P_2 = \frac{3}{8} \\ P_3 = -\frac{1}{8} \end{cases}$$

Case 2: Suppose the sample space is continuous, and the output of a random experiment is the real number. Ex: the temperature, the time that the instructor enters the classroom.

We say this type of random experiment is a continuous random variable, its W.A is a continuous distribution

The W.A is described by the area underneath a curve.

Namely



$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f_X(x) dx$$

① To make sure the sum is 1, we need

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_x(x) = 1.$$

② Note that  $f_x(x)$  stays above zero  $\therefore$  all weights must be non-negative.

The curve  $f_x(x)$  is termed the prob density function (pdf)

$$\text{Ex: } f_x(x) = \begin{cases} 2 e^{-2x} & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Q: Is  $f_x(x)$  a valid pdf (describing a valid W.A.?)

Ans: Check ①  $f_x(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$  ✓

$$\text{② } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_x(x) dx \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} 0.5 e^{-0.5x} dx = 1. \quad \text{Since ①, ②} \Rightarrow \text{Yes, } f_x(x) \text{ is valid.}$$

Q. Do we need to have  $f_x(x) \leq 1$  for all  $x$ ?

Ans: No. in this example  $f_x(0) = 2.$

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Example: Today's temperature is uniformly/  
equally likely distributed between  
(5 F, 40 F)

What is the prob that  $P(T > 32)$ ?

Ans: Step 1: Find the sample space

$$S = (5, 40) \quad \Bigg| \quad S = \mathbb{R} \quad \text{any real number}$$

Step 2: Construct the W.A. Since it is a continuous random variable. We need to specify a curve  $f_X(x)$ .

\*.° Uniformly/equally likely, the curve should be flat  
 $f_X(x) = c$  | be flat over (5,40)  
 $f_X(x) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } 5 < x < 40 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

To be a valid W.A.

$$\int_5^{40} f_X(x) dx = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 35c = 1 \quad c = \frac{1}{35}$$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{35}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1$$

$$= \int_5^{40} c dx = 1$$

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{35} & \text{if } 5 < x < 40 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Step 3: Count the prob of the desired event.