

SOA and CAS: Exam P, Probability¹

Chapter 3: Conditional Probability (Sets)

Yi Li²
January 13, 2024

(1) *Defintion*: Porbability of “one event” depends on “another event”

For example: if a person smokes, then the dying probability of this person is higer than a person who does not smoke. That is the porbability of “dying” depends on “smoking”.

This gives you the conditional probability $P(B|A) = \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)}$

If B set is known to be *mutually exclusive and exhaustitve*

Then, Bayes' Theorem gives

$$\begin{aligned} P(B|A) &= \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)} \\ &= \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A \cap B_1) + P(A \cap B_2) + \dots + P(A \cap B_n)} \\ &= \frac{P(A|B) * P(B)}{P(A|B_1) * P(B_1) + P(A|B_2) * P(B_2) + \dots + P(A|B_n) * P(B_n)} \end{aligned}$$

Now think, what is $P(B|A^C)$?

$$\begin{aligned} P(B|A^C) &= \frac{P(B \cap A^C)}{P(A^C)} \\ &= \frac{P(A) - P(B \cap A)}{1 - P(A)} \end{aligned}$$

(2) *Mutually Exclusive* \iff

$$\begin{cases} P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B), \text{ (Normally you have } P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B), \text{ here } P(A \cap B) = 0) \\ P(A \cup B|H) = P(A|H) + P(B|H) \\ P(A \cap B) = 0 \end{cases}$$

(3) *Mutually Independent* \iff

$$\begin{cases} P(A \cap B) = P(A) * P(B) \\ P(A^C \cap B^C) = P(A^C) * P(B^C), \text{ where } P(A^C) = 1 - P(A) \text{ and } P(B^C) = 1 - P(B) \\ P(A \cap B|H) = P(A|H) * P(B|H) \end{cases}$$

(4) *Identify “Conditional Probability”*:

(4.1) Question asks “Probability of A, given B” \iff Question asks you to calculate $P(A | B)$

(4.2) Question gives: “of those who insure A, 15% insure B”, or “of the policyholders with A, 15% have B”. Both indicate the conditional probability $P(B | A)=15\%$

(4.3) A conditional probability means that the probability of A depends on B. For example: the dying probability of a smoker is definitely different from that of a non-smoker. Therefore, smoking is a condition that affects the probability of death. Note that sometimes the question might be: a random selected person has A, what is the probability of B. This also refers to a conditional probability.

¹The purpose of the use is non-commercial research and/or private study. Please do not copy or distribute without permission of the author.

²Email: liyifnhub@outlook.com This note was drafted when I was preparing for the exam. Please email me if you find any errors. My personal website <http://www.yilifnhub.com>