1 Venn Diagram

Out of 1,000 computer science students, 400 belong to a club (and may work part time), 500 work part time (and may belong to a club), and 50 belong to a club and work part time.

(a) Suppose we choose a student uniformly at random. Let C be the event that the student belongs to a club and P the event that the student works part time. Draw a picture of the sample space Ω and the events C and P.

(b) What is the probability that the student belongs to a club?

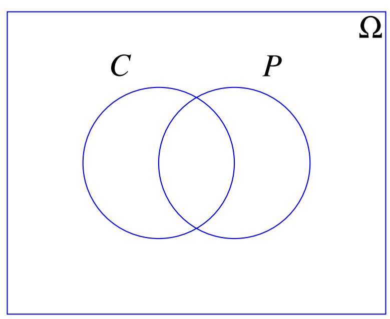
(c) What is the probability that the student works part time?

(d) What is the probability that the student belongs to a club AND works part time?

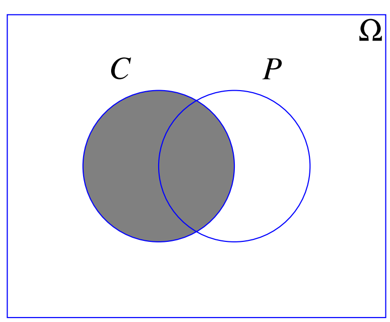
(e) What is the probability that the student belongs to a club OR works part time?

Solution:

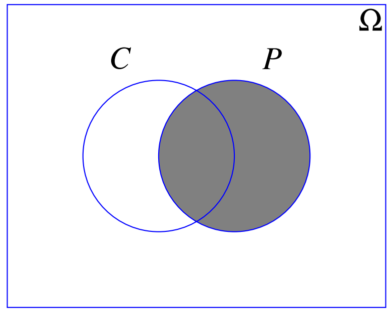
(a) The sample space will be illustrated by a Venn diagram.



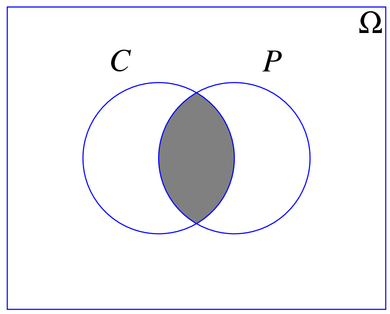
(b) $\mathbb{P}[C] = \frac{|C|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{400}{1000} = \frac{2}{5}$.



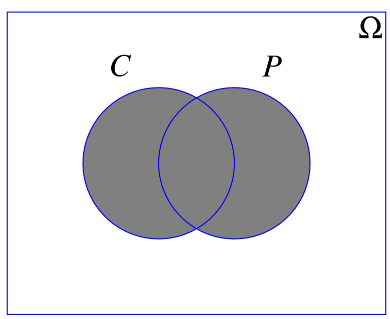
(c) $\mathbb{P}[P] = \frac{|P|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{500}{1000} = \frac{1}{2}$.



(d) $\mathbb{P}[P \cap C] = \frac{|P \cap C|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{50}{1000} = \frac{1}{20}$.



(e) $\mathbb{P}[P \cup C] = \mathbb{P}[P] + \mathbb{P}[C] - \mathbb{P}[P \cap C] = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{5} - \frac{1}{20} = \frac{17}{20}$.



2 Flippin' Coins

Suppose we have an unbiased coin, with outcomes H and T, with probability of heads $\mathbb{P}[H] = 1/2$ and probability of tails also $\mathbb{P}[T] = 1/2$. Suppose we perform an experiment in which we toss the coin 3 times. An outcome of this experiment is (X_1, X_2, X_3), where $X_i \in \{H, T\}$.

(a) What is the *sample space* for our experiment?

(b) Which of the following are examples of *events*? Select all that apply.

- $\{(H,H,T),(H,H),(T)\}$
- $\{(T,H,H),(H,T,H),(H,H,T),(H,H,H)\}$
- $\{(T,T,T)\}$
- $\{(T,T,T),(H,H,H)\}$
- $\{(T,H,T),(H,H,T)\}$

(c) What is the complement of the event $\{(H,H,H),(H,H,T),(H,T,H),(H,T,T),(T,T,T)\}$?

(d) Let A be the event that our outcome has 0 heads. Let B be the event that our outcome has exactly 2 heads. What is $A \cup B$?

(e) What is the probability of the outcome (H,H,T)?

(f) What is the probability of the event that our outcome has exactly two heads?

(g) What is the probability of the event that our outcome has at least one head?

Solution:

(a) $\Omega = \{(H,H,H),(H,H,T),(H,T,H),(H,T,T),(T,H,H),(T,H,T),(T,T,H),(T,T,T)\}$

(b) An event must be a subset of Ω, meaning that it must consist of possible outcomes.

- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

(c) $\{(T,H,H),(T,H,T),(T,T,H)\}$

(d) $\{(T,H,H),(H,H,T),(H,T,H),(T,T,T)\}$

(e) Since $|\Omega| = 2^3 = 8$ and every outcome has equal probability, $\mathbb{P}[(H,H,T)] = 1/8$.

(f) The event of interest is $E = \{(H,H,T),(H,T,H),(T,H,H)\}$, which has size 3. Whence $\mathbb{P}[E] = 3/8$.

(g) If we do not see at least one head, then we must see at exactly three tails. The event $\overline{E} = \{(T,T,T)\}$ of seeing exactly three tails is thus the complement of the event E that we see at least one head. $\overline{E}$ occurs with probability $(1/2)^3 = 1/8$, so its complement E must occur with probability $1 - 1/8 = 7/8$.

3 Counting & Probability

Consider the equation $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6 = 70$, where each x_i is a non-negative integer. We choose one of these solutions uniformly at random.

(a) What is the size of the sample space?

(b) What is the probability that both $x_1 \geq 30$ and $x_2 \geq 30$?

(c) What it the probability that either $x_1 \geq 30$ or $x_2 \geq 30$?

Solution:

(a) $\binom{75}{5}$. This is stars and bars.

(b) Put 30 balls each into the x_1 bin and the x_2 bin. We are left with 10 balls to distribute, whence there are $\binom{15}{5}$ possibilities. So the probability is $\binom{15}{5}/\binom{75}{5}$.

(c) Let A_i be the event that $x_i \geq 30$, then by inclusion-exclusion $\mathbb{P}[A_1 \cup A_2] = \mathbb{P}[A] + \mathbb{P}[B] - \mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = \left[\binom{45}{5} + \binom{45}{5} - \binom{15}{5}\right] / \binom{75}{5}$.