June 8th, 2019 Probability

- (Sample Space) A sample space S is a set. The elements of the set S will be called "outcomes" and should be viewed as a listing of all possibilities that might occur. We will call the process of actually selecting one of these outcomes an "experiment".
- (Temporary Definition of Event) Given a sample space S, an "event" is any subset  $E \subset S$ .
- (Probability Space Axioms) Let S be a sample space and let F be the collection of all events. A "probability" is a function P : F → [0, 1] such that:
  (1) P(S) = 1; and
  (2) If F = 1; and

(2) If  $E_1, E_2, ...$  are a countable collection of disjoint events (that is,  $E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$ ), then  $P(\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(E_j)$ .

- 1. We toss a coin and note down the outcome. Write down the sample space S for this experiment. A coin is considered "fair" if each of these outcomes is equally likely. Which axioms or properties above can be used to reach the (obvious) conclusion that both outcomes have a 50% chance of occurring?
- 2. A jar contains a large collection of red, green, and white marbles. Marbles are drawn from the jar one at a time. The color of the marble is recorded and it is put back in the jar before the next draw. Let  $R_n$  denote the event that the  $n^{th}$  draw is a red marble and let  $G_n$  denote the event that the  $n^{th}$ draw is a green marble. For example,  $R_1 \cap G_2$  would denote the event that the first marble was red and the second was green. In terms of these events (and appropriate set-theoretic symbols – union, intersection, and complement) find expressions for the events in parts (a), (b), and (c) below.
  - (a) The first marble drawn is white. (We might call this  $W_1$ , but show that it can be written in terms of the  $R_n$  and  $G_n$  sets described above).
  - (b) The first marble drawn is green and the second marble drawn is not white.
  - (c) The first and second draws are different colors.
  - (d) Let  $E = R_1 \cup G_2$  and let  $F = R_1^c \cap R_2$ . Are E and F disjoint? Why or why not?
- 3. Let A and B denote events in a Sample Space S. Let P be a probability on S. Complete the following table:

P(A)	P(B)	$P(A \cup B)$	$P(A \cap B)$	P(A-B)	P(B-A)	$P(A \triangledown B)$
0.7	0.6	0.9				
			0.1	0.3	0.2	
	0.8	1	0			
0.6	0.4		0.4			
0.5	0.5	0.5				
	0.6		0.2	0.1		
		0.5	0	0.3		
		0.8		0.4	0.1	
0	0.3					
1	0.4					
0.8			0.5			0.4
0.4		0.7				0.5

4. Two dice are rolled. How likely is it that their sum will equal eight ?

Let S be a sample space with probability P. Let A and B be two events with P(B) > 0. Then the conditional probability of A given B written as P(A|B) and is defined by

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}.$$

1. Suppose we have coloured balls distributed in three boxes in quantities as given by the table below:

	Box 1	Box 2	Box 3
Red	4	3	3
Green	3	3	4
Blue	5	2	3

A box is selected at random. From that box a ball is selected at random. How likely is it that a red ball is drawn?

- 2. A probability class has fifteen students four seniors, eight juniors, and three sophomores. Three different students are selected at random to present homework problems. What is the probability the selection will be a junior, a sophomore, and a junior again, in that order?
- 3. Shyam is randomly selected from the citizens of Hyderabad by the Health authorities. A laboratory test on his blood sample tells Shyam that he has tested positive for Swine Flu. It is found that 95% of people with Swine Flu test positive but 2% of people without the disease will also test positive. Suppose that 1% of the population has the disease. What is the probability that Shyam indeed has the Swine Flu ?
- 4. (Polya's Urn Scheme) Suppose there is an urn that contains r red balls and b black balls. A ball is drawn at random and its colour noted. It is replaced with c > 0 balls of the same colour. The procedure is then repeated. For j = 1, 2, ..., let  $R_j$  and  $B_j$  be the events that the j-th ball drawn is red and black respectively. What is  $P(R_1)$  and  $P(R_2)$ ?