

5.4 – Mutually Exclusive Events

Notation: When we want to calculate the probability of two events we write

$$P(A \cup B) = \text{"Probability of A or B"}$$

Mutually Exclusive Events: Events that cannot happen at the same time.

- Examples: - Rolling a six sided die and getting an odd or an even
 - Rolling two dice and getting "doubles" or an odd sum

For **Mutually Exclusive Events** $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

Example 1: Find the probability of rolling two dice and getting either doubles or an odd sum.

		DICE I					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
DICE II	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

$$\frac{6 + 18}{36} \text{ Favourable outcomes} \\ \text{Total outcomes} \\ = \frac{24}{36} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\frac{6}{36} + \frac{18}{36}$$

$P(\text{doubles}) + P(\text{odd sum}) = P(\text{doubles or odd sum})$
 * If two events are mutually exclusive then $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

6 ways to get doubles
 18 ways to get odd sum

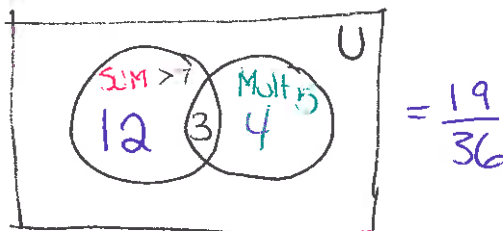
36 possibilities in the sample space.

Example 2: Find the probability of rolling two dice and getting a sum that is greater than 7 or a multiple of 5.

		1	2	3	4	5	6
DICE II	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

$$P(\text{sum} > 7 \cup \text{mult. 5}) = \frac{15 + 7 - 3}{36} \\ = \frac{19}{36}$$

USE VENN DIAGRAM



0 sum > 7
 0 mult 5

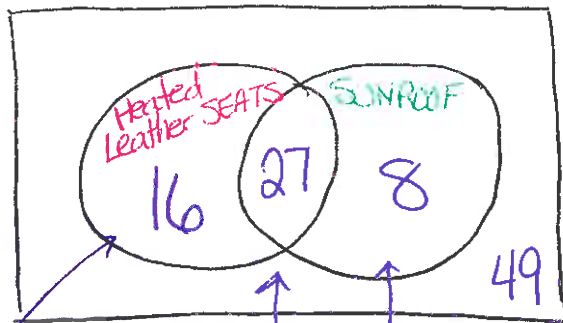
* Not Mutually Exclusive.

* For events that are not Mutually Exclusive:

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

Example 3: A car manufacturer keeps a database of all the cars that are available for sale at all the dealerships in Western Canada. For model A, the database reports that 43% have heated leather seats, 35% have a sunroof, and 49% have neither. Determine the probability of a model A car at a dealership having both heated leather seats and a sunroof.

We can use a Venn Diagram:



- 49% have neither
that means 51%
have either heated
seats or sunroof.

Heated seat circle
must = 43

Sunroof circle
must = 35

Heated seats + Sunroof
 $43 + 35 = 78$
(27 have been counted
twice)

(check all add to 100%? **✓ YES**)

$$P(\text{Heated Seats \& Sunroof}) = 27\%$$

In Summary →

For Mutually Exclusive Events: $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

For Non-Mutually Exclusive Events: $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$