

Quiz 3, January 25, 2011

Introduction to Probability - MATH/STATS 425, Winter 2012

Urn A contains 1 red and 3 blue balls, urn B contains 2 red and 5 blue balls. One randomly chosen ball is transferred from urn B to urn A. Next, a random ball is chosen from urn A. What is the probability that this ball is red?

Hint: condition on the color of the transferred ball.

$R_T = \{\text{the transferred ball is red}\}$, $B_T = \{\text{the transferred ball is blue}\}$.

$$P(R_T) = \frac{2}{7}, \quad P(B_T) = \frac{5}{7}.$$

If R_T occurs, urn A will contain 2 red & 3 blue.

If B_T occurs, urn A will contain 1 red & 4 blue.

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow P(R) &= P(R|R_T)P(R_T) + P(R|B_T)P(B_T) \\ &= \frac{2}{5} \cdot \frac{2}{7} + \frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{5}{7} = \frac{9}{35}. \end{aligned}$$