



B.Com Honours

Semester IV

Calicut University

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Course Code: COM4CJ205 • Module 3 Notes

Module III: Set Theory, Probability, & Combinatorics

Establishes mathematical foundations for risk evaluation, random events, set operations, conditional probability, and combinatorial decision-making.

Unit 5: Set Theory & Venn Diagrams

Set operations: Union ($(A \cup B)$), Intersection ($(A \cap B)$), Difference ($(A - B)$), and Complement ((A')). Venn diagrams visually represent event spaces and overlapping consumer segments.

Unit 6: Probability Concepts & Approaches

Quantitative measure of likelihood ($(0 \leq P(E) \leq 1)$). Approaches: Classical / A priori, Empirical / Relative Frequency, and Subjective. Conditional Probability: $(P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)})$.

Unit 7: Theorems of Probability – Addition & Multiplication

1. Addition Theorem:

For non-mutually exclusive events: $(P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B))$

2. Multiplication Theorem:

For independent events: $(P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B))$

Unit 8: Permutations & Combinations

Permutations (Order matters): $({}^n P_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!})$.

Combinations (Order irrelevant): $({}^n C_r = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!})$.

Practical Problem 1 (Probability Addition & Multiplication Solved Numerical): In a market research study of 100 consumers: 60 read Magazine A, 50 read Magazine B, and 30 read both Magazine A & B. Calculate (a) Probability that a randomly selected consumer reads at least one magazine ($P(A \cup B)$), (b) Probability that a consumer reads Magazine A given they read Magazine B ($P(A|B)$), and (c) Check whether reading Magazine A and B are statistically independent.

Step-by-Step Solved Probability Calculations:

- 1. Individual Probabilities:
 $(P(A) = 60/100 = 0.60)$; $(P(B) = 50/100 = 0.50)$; $(P(A \cap B) = 30/100 = 0.30)$.
- 2. Probability of Reading At Least One Magazine ($P(A \cup B)$):
 $(P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) = 0.60 + 0.50 - 0.30 = \mathbf{0.80} \text{ ext{ (or 80%)}})$
- 3. Conditional Probability ($P(A|B)$):
 $(P(A|B) = P(A \cap B) / P(B) = 0.30 / 0.50 = \mathbf{0.60} \text{ ext{ (or 60%)}})$

- **4. Independence Test Check:**

$(P(A) \text{ imes } P(B) = 0.60 \text{ imes } 0.50 = 0.30).$

Since $(P(A \cap B) = 0.30 = P(A) \text{ imes } P(B))$, the events are **statistically independent!**

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