

**Task.** Three boys agree to meet at midday tomorrow. The probability of each boy remembering to meet is  $3/4$ ,  $4/5$ ,  $5/8$ . Calculate the probability that at least two of the boys will remember to meet.

**Solution.** Consider the following 4 events:

$A_{011}$  - “only 1st boy will forget to meet”

$A_{101}$  - “only 2nd boy will forget to meet”

$A_{110}$  - “only 3rd boy will forget to meet”

$A_{111}$  - “only boys will remember to meet”

Thus 0 (resp 1) at position  $i$  means that  $i$ -th boy will forget (resp. remember) to meet.

Then these events are collectively exhaustive.

We should compute the probability  $p$  that at least two of the boys will remember to meet, i.e. the probability

$$p = P(A_{111} \cup A_{110} \cup A_{101} \cup A_{011}).$$

Since the events are collectively exhaustive it follows that

$$p = P(A_{111} \cup A_{110} \cup A_{101} \cup A_{011}) = P(A_{111}) + P(A_{110}) + P(A_{101}) + P(A_{011}).$$

Let  $A_i$  be the event that the  $i$ -th boy will remember to meet, so

$$P(A_1) = 3/4, \quad P(A_2) = 4/5, \quad P(A_3) = 5/8.$$

Then

$$A_{111} = A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3,$$

$$A_{110} = A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \overline{A_3},$$

$$A_{101} = A_1 \cap \overline{A_2} \cap A_3,$$

$$A_{011} = \overline{A_1} \cap A_2 \cap A_3.$$

Assume that events  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$  and  $A_3$  are independent. This means that

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = P(A_1) * P(A_2) * P(A_3) = \frac{3}{4} * \frac{4}{5} * \frac{5}{8} = \frac{60}{160},$$

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \overline{A_3}) = P(A_1) * P(A_2) * (1 - P(A_3)) = \frac{3}{4} * \frac{4}{5} * \frac{3}{8} = \frac{36}{160}$$

$$P(A_1 \cap \overline{A_2} \cap A_3) = P(A_1) * (1 - P(A_2)) * P(A_3) = \frac{3}{4} * \frac{1}{5} * \frac{5}{8} = \frac{15}{160}$$

$$P(\overline{A_1} \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = (1 - P(A_1)) * P(A_2) * P(A_3) = \frac{1}{4} * \frac{4}{5} * \frac{5}{8} = \frac{20}{160}$$

Hence the probability  $p$  that at least two of the boys will remember to meet is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} p &= P(A_{111}) + P(A_{110}) + P(A_{101}) + P(A_{011}) = \frac{60}{160} + \frac{36}{160} + \frac{15}{160} + \frac{20}{160} \\ &= \frac{60 + 36 + 15 + 20}{160} = \frac{131}{160}. \end{aligned}$$

**Answer.**  $p = \frac{131}{160}$ .