Question

A bolt is manufactured by 3 machines a, b and c. Machine a turn out twice as many items as b, and machines b and c produce equal number of items. 2% of bolts produced by a and b are defective and 4% of bolts produced by c are defective. All bolts are put into 1 stock pile and 1 is chosen from this pile. What is the probability that it is defective.

Solution

Let A be the event 'an item has been produced by machine a', B be the event 'an item has been produced by machine b', C be the event 'an item has been produced by machine c' and D be the event ' the item being defective'.

Then

 $P(A) = \frac{1}{2}, P(B) = \frac{1}{4}, P(C) = \frac{1}{4}.$

P(D | A) = 0.02, P(D | B) = 0.02, P(D | C) = 0.04.

By theorem of total productivity,

$$P(D) = P(A)P(D | A) + P(B)P(D | B) + P(C)P(D | C) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.02 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 0.02 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 0.04 =$$
$$= \frac{1}{4} (0.04 + 0.02 + 0.04) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 0.1 = 0.25 \cdot 0.1 = 0.025.$$

Answer: 0.025.

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