

In-class problem linked to lecture pages 47-59

Consider a room with 10 non-interacting fireflies. Each firefly illuminates 20% of the time. Calculate the probability that 30% are in the top half, 40% are in the right 1/3, and all are illuminated.

Physics 301

Answer to in-class problem. G. led to lecture
47-59:

$$P_{TOT} = P_{vertical} + P_{horizontal} + P_{illum.}$$

$$P = \frac{N!}{n!(N-n)!} p^n q^{N-n}$$

For $P_{vertical}$, $N = 10$

$$n = 3$$

$$p = 0.5$$

$$q = 0.5$$

$$P_{vertical} = \frac{10!}{3!7!} (0.5)^3 (0.5)^7 = 0.117$$

For $P_{horizontal}$, $N = 10$

$$n = 4$$

$$p = 0.33$$

$$q = 0.67$$

$$P_{horizontal} = \frac{10!}{4!6!} (0.33)^4 (0.67)^6 = 0.225$$

For P_{illum} , $N=10$
 $n=10$

$$p = 0.2$$

$$q = 0.8$$

$$P_{\text{illum}} = \frac{10!}{10!0!} (0.2)^0 (0.8)^0 = 10^{-7}$$

$$P_{\text{TOT}} = (0.117)(0.225) \times 10^{-7} = 2.7 \times 10^{-9}$$