

Re: Calculus XOR Probability

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- *From:* cbrown@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 9 May 2006 11:30:27 -0700
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Tony Orlow wrote:

cbrown@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx said:

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cbrown@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx said:

These facts can be deduced from the /definition/ of "limit of a sequence of sets of points" that I gave previously.

I don't know what you mean by "a line of some sort, with a real measure of length", so I can't otherwise comment on whether or not your statement is correct or incorrect; it is meaningless to me, mathematically speaking; although as regular English usage it seems contradicted by the example I just gave.

A disk contradicts a line? Dear god, now you sound like Lester!

So you propose that the statement "a disk is a line of some sort, with a real measure of length" is /not/ contradicted by your definition of "a line of some sort, with a real measure of length", when we take this definition as being the regular English usage of that phrase?

Cheers – Chas

Re: Calculus XOR Probability

It's not the same thing. If I call your dog an elephant, have I proven an inconsistency in your dog?

No, but if you say "you have an elephant in your backyard", and I say "What the hell!!!! Where?" and you point to my dog, we have a disagreement about what an "elephant" is. To resolve this confusion in the future, it is helpful to have a definition that we can agree on and apply independently, instead of my having to ask you to literally point at the thing you are calling "an elephant" every time you say "elephant".

You offer a disk as an example of a line, and that's supposed to contradict anything I said about lines?

No, read what I said. I simply asked if the statement "the disk is a line of some sort" is contradicted by /your definition/ of "a line of some sort". I presume the answer is "yes, because the disk is not a line of some sort; which you can see for yourself because {insert demonstration that a disk does not satisfy your definition of a line of some sort}".

If the disk fit the definition of a line I gave, the definition would need refinement. As it stands, I don't know what your point is.

My point is: your definition needs refinement. It does not tell me, for example, if $\{(a,b) : b = a^2 * \sin(1/a), 0 < a < 1\}$ is "some sort of line" or is instead, an elephant.

Similarly, is the set $\{(a,b) : b = 1 - a, a,b \geq 0\}$ a "line" or a "fractal line"? You seem to believe that if I call that set by the name "the diagonal", then it is a line, but if I call that set "the limit of a sequence of curves", then it is a "fractal line" – even though it's the same set in both cases.

If I call my dog "Jumbo" is he an elephant, because "Jumbo" is the name of an elephant?

Cheers – Chas

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