

A seam on an aircraft requires 25 rivets. We are interested in the probability that a given rivet is defective. We know that the probability that *at least one rivet is defective* is 0.2. It is easier to work with the complement of this event: the probability that *none of the rivets is defective* is  $1 - 0.2 = 0.8$ .

Let  $A_i$  be the event that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  rivet is *not defective*. We are told that the events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{25}$  are mutually independent and that each occurs with the same probability. Let  $q$  be that probability (so  $q = P(A_1) = P(A_2) = \dots = P(A_{25})$ ). Hence the probability that *none of the rivets is defective* is

$$\begin{aligned} P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_{25}) &= P(A_1) P(A_2) \dots P(A_{25}) \quad (\text{from independence}) \\ &= q^{25} \quad (\text{because } P(A_i) = q \text{ for each } i). \end{aligned}$$

By hypothesis, then, we have  $q^{25} = 0.8$ . Thus

$$q = (0.8)^{\frac{1}{25}} \approx 0.9911.$$

Therefore the probability that a given rivet *is defective* is  $\boxed{1 - q \approx 0.0089}$ .