



## *Chapter 1 Random event*

- 1、Origin and application of probability
- 2、Random phenomenon
- 3、Random experiment
- 4、Sample space, Sample point
- 5、Random event
- 6、Conclusion

# 一、Origin and application of Probability

## 1. Origin of Probability

In 1654, a French gambler called **Mere** ask **Pascal** one question “A game is played between two person. The one who firstly scores three points wins the game. Given one player win *1 point*, while the other *0 point*, and the game stops. How to distribute the total bet 64 pistoles” . **Pascal and Fermat** communicated and solved this problem, which builds the foundation for the theory of probability.



## 2. Application of Probability

Probability is one **branch** of Mathematics, which studies the **laws of random phenomenon**. It has been applied in almost all areas in today's society: forecasting the weather, predicting earth quakes, describing the effect of medicines, and so on.

## 二、Random Phenomenon

Phenomenon in Real life: **Certain; (random)uncertain**

### 1.Certain Phenomenon

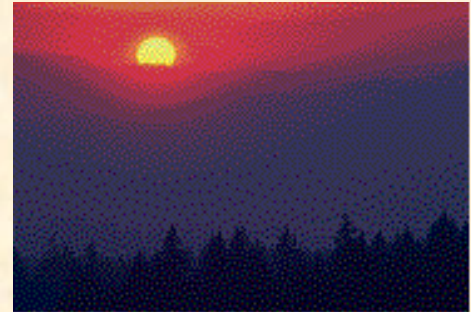
Definition: Given some conditions, the phenomenon must happen.

#### Example:

“The Sun rises in the east” ,

“Water flows downwards from above”

“The same charges repel each other”



Characteristic of  
the certain  
phenomenon



Conditions  
determine the  
outcome

## 2. Random Phenomenon

Given the same conditions , the outcome will  
depend on **chance** and **can not** be predicted with certainty

**Example 1** “toss a coin, and observe that if the  
head appears” .



The outcomes can be **Positive** or **negative**.



**Example 2** “fire a gun to a target many times, observe the location of the bullet” .



**Outcomes:** “the location can be different” .

**Example 3** “toss a die, observe the number showing on the top face ”



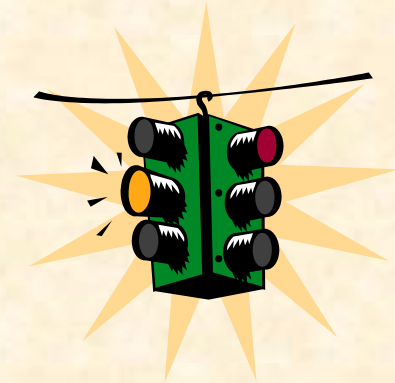
**Outcome:**

“1”, “2”, “3”,  
“4”, “5” or “6”.

**Example 4** “Select one product and observe if it is good” .

**Outcome:**  
**good, bad**

**Example 5** “Cross the road, and observe the traffic lights” .  
**Outcome:** red, green or yellow.



**Example 6** “Observe the service life of one fixed bulb” Outcome could be 0 or many years.

### 3. Classification of random phenomenon

**Unrepeatable :** phenomenon cannot appear in same condition (example 6)

**Repeatable:** phenomenon can appear in same condition (example 1-5)

**Characteristic of  
random phenomenon**



**Condition can not  
decide the outcomes**



## Note

1. **Random phenomenon** shows the **uncertain** relationship between **conditions** and the **outcomes**
2. Observe **once**, the outcome is **uncertain**, but if you experiment **many times**, the outcomes have **laws**. Probability is a course to study this kind laws of random phenomenon.

**How to study random phenomenon?**

**By performing random experiments.**

**question** what is random experiments?



### 三、 Random experiment

**Definition:** the experiment with the following **three properties** is called **random experiment**.

1. the E can be done **repeatedly** under the same condition;
2. The outcome is more than one, and the outcomes are known;
3. Before the experiment, the outcome is uncertain

## Note

1. Random experiment is denoted by  $E$  .

**Example** “Toss a coin,  
and observe if the head  
side appears or not” .



## Analysis

(1) The experiment can be conducted  
**repeatedly** in the same conditions.

(2) Outcomes are two:

head, tail;



(3) Before the experiment, we can  
not predict the outcome.

Conclusion: YES.

Similarly, the following experiment are also E.

1. “toss a balance die, observe the number” .



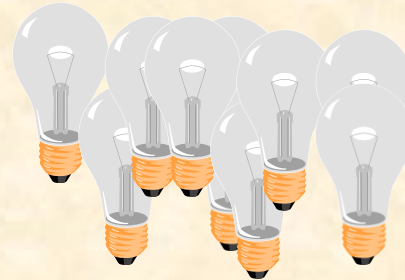
2. “select 3 products, count the  
number of good product” .



**3. Count the no. of people waiting for bus.**



**4. Test the service life of one bulb from a pile of bulbs.**



## 四、Sample space, sample point

**Question:** How to describe the outcome of the  $E$ ?

**Set theory provides us with useful approaches.**

**Definition.** The set of all possible outcomes of a  $E$  is called the sample space, denoted by  $\Omega$ .

The element of the  $\Omega$  is called sample point, i.e.  $E$ 's *outcome*(which cannot be decomposed), denoted by  $\omega$ .

**Example1.** Toss a coin, observe if the head happens ,



$$\Omega_1 = \{H, T\}.$$



**Example 2. Toss a die, observe the no. on the top face.**



$$\Omega_2 = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}.$$

**Example 3. Select 3 products, and observe the situation of the products( good or bad)**

**Denote good product by Z and bad one by C .**

$$\Omega_3 = \{ ZZZ, ZZC, ZCZ, CZZ, \\ ZCC, CCZ, CZC, CCC \}.$$

**Example4 Count the no. waiting  
for the bus at 10 o'clock .**

$$\Omega_4 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}.$$



**Example5 Observe the  
average temperature in  
April.**

$$\Omega_5 = \{t | T_1 < t < T_2\}.$$



**Example 6** Select one bulb from a pile of bulbs, and test the service life.

$$\Omega_6 = \{t \mid t \geq 0\}.$$



**Example 7** Record the no. of the 120 emergency call in Xi' an last night.

$$\Omega_7 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}.$$



# class exercise

**What are the sample spaces?**

- 1. Toss three dies, and observe the sum of the number of the dies .**
- 2. An experiment consists of tossing a coin and then flipping it a second time if a head occurs. If a tail occurs on the first flip then a die is tossing once .**

- Note**
1. With different Es, sample spaces are different .
  2. For the same E, if we are interested in different aims, then the sample spaces are different.

**Example** : “**toss one coin there times**” ,  
if we observe if positive side occurs, then

$$\Omega = \{ HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, \\ HTT, TTH, THT, TTT \}.$$

If we observe the number of the head happing, then

$$\Omega = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}.$$



**The first step to describe the random experiment is to built the sample space.**



## 五、The concept of random event

For the  $E$ , normally we pay attention if some event will happen or not, Which is **random event**.

### 1. Basic conception

**(Random) event** the subset of the  $\Omega$ .



**Example** toss a die and observe the number.

the number on the face of the die is “1”, “2”, ..., “6”, “less than 4”, “even” are all events.

**Certain event:** the event that will always happen is called certain event.

**Example:** tossing a die, the number “less or equal to 6” is certain event.

The sample space is also certain event.

**impossible event:** the event which can not happen.

**Example** Toss a die “**the number is greater than 6**” is impossible event.

Certain event is the opposite of impossible, vice versa, they are complementary events.

**2. note**



(1) normally, we use capital letter  $A, B, C, \dots$  to denote events.

For example, tossing a die, and observe the number. we can suppose  $A =$  “number less than 4”,

$B =$  “number more than 5” and so on .

## (2) Relation among E, sample space and events

Every E has one sample space, and the subset of sample space is called event.

Experiment  $\longrightarrow$  Sample space  $\xrightarrow{\text{subset}}$  event

Event  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Certain event} \\ \text{Impossible event} \end{array} \right.$

# 六、Conclusion

## 1.Characteristic of random phenomenon:

Condition can not decide outcomes.

## 2. Phenomenon can be studied by experiment.

Experiment {

- (1) repeated ;
- (2) The outcomes is more than 2,  
and the sample space is konwn;
- (3)Before the exercise, the outcome is  
uncertain.