

## *Section 3 Probability of events*

- 1. The definition and properties of frequency
- 2. Statistical definition of probability
- 3. Classical probability
- 4. Geometric probability
- 5. Axiomatic definition of probability

# 一、The definition and properties of frequency

## 1. Definition

Experiment  $n$  times in the same condition. Event  $A$  happens  $n_A$  times. Then

$\frac{n_A}{n}$  is the frequency of  $A$ , denoted by  $f_n(A)$  .

## 2. Properties

**If  $A$  is any event from  $E$  , then**

**(1)  $0 \leq f_n(A) \leq 1$ ;**

**(2)  $f(\Omega) = 1, f(\emptyset) = 0$ ;**

**(3) if  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  are mutually exclusive, then**

$$f(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_k) = f_n(A_1) + f_n(A_2) + \dots + f_n(A_k).$$

**e. g.** Toss a coin 5 times、 50 times、 500 times, and repeat the experiment 7 times. Observe the number and calculate the frequency of event A, which denotes the number of the head appears.  *$n$  close to infinity,  $f$  changes very slowly.*

Exper iment	$n = 5$		$n = 50$		$n = 500$	
	$n_H$	$f$	$n_H$	$f$	$n_H$	$f$
1	2	0.4	22	0.44	251	0.502
2	3	0.6	25	0.50	249	0.498
3	1	0.2	21	0.42	256	0.512
4	5	1.0	25	0.50	247	0.494
5	1	0.2	24	0.48	251	0.502
6	2	0.4	18	0.36	262	0.524
7	4	0.8	27	0.54	258	0.516

Based on the data, the following laws can be obtained.

(1)  $f$  has volatility(波动性). For different  $n$ ,  
 $f$  is different;

(2) For the experiment of tossing a coin, if  $n$  is small,  $f$  changes drastically, but given  $n$  is large,  $f$  is close to a fixed number, i.e., when  $n$  is close to infinity,  $f$  swings slowly at 0.5.

experimenter	$n$	$n_H$	$f$
De Morgan	2048	1061	0.5181
Buffon	4040	2048	0.5069
K. Pearson	12000	6019	0.5016
K. Pearson	24000	12012	0.5005

$$f_n(A) \xrightarrow[n \text{ large}]{} \frac{1}{2}.$$



# Conclusion

**Given small  $n$ , then the  $f$  of event  $A$  swings large.**

**Given large  $n$ , then the  $f$  is close to a fixed number  $p$ ,  
where  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ .**

**This number shows the possibility of event to happen.**

**It is called probability of the event  $A$ , denoted by**

$$Prob(A) = p \quad \text{or} \quad P(A) = p.$$



## Note.

1 °  $f_n(A) = \frac{n_A}{n}$  and  $P(A)$  are different.

$f_n(A) = \frac{n_A}{n}$  is a random number, which is depended

on E;  $P(A)$  is a fixed number!

2 ° if  $n$  is close to infinity, then  $P(A) \approx f_n(A) = \frac{n_A}{n}$

3 ° Drawbacks of classical probability

(1) Difficult to study, i.e.

needing to experiment many times, to check if

$f_n(A) = \frac{n_A}{n}$  is closed to a fixed number or not.



## Question ?

**One doctor tells you the following information: “you got serious sickness, and one of ten can survive.” “But you are lucky, because nine person who are before you are dead because of this sickness . Thus, you can survive”**

**Is the doctor's conclusion true?**



## 二、 Statistical Definition Of Probability

### 1. Definition 1.2

In  $E$ , if  $n$  is close to infinity, then  $f_n(A)$  is close to a fixed number  $p$ .

*Here  $p$  is called the probability of  $A$ , denoted by  $P(A)=p$ .*

### Properties 1.1

(1) For any  $A$ ,  $0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$ ;

(2)  $P(\Omega) = 1, P(\emptyset) = 0$ ;

**(3) If for any  $i, j \in N$ ,  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ , then**

$$A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m,$$

$$P(A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_m) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_m)$$

**Note: It is difficult to determine the probability of some events.**

# 三、Classical probability

## 1.definition:

If  $E$  has the following **two** properties:

### 1) finiteness

$\Omega$  only has finite sample points:  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n$   
i.e.,  $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n\}$

### 2) Equal probability

$$p(\omega_1) = p(\omega_2) = \dots = p(\omega_n)$$

Then,  $E$  is called classical probability.

## 2. Determine the classical probability(1.3)

For  $E$ , sample space of  $E$  is  $\Omega$  composing by  $n$  sample points,  $A$  is any event, the cardinality of which is  $m$ , i.e.,  $A \subset \Omega, |A| = m$ , then:

$$P(A) = \frac{m}{n} = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|}.$$

This is the classical probability of an event .

**e.g., 1** The number for a company is 200, composed by 160 female.

**A:** choosing one person from the company, and the person is male.  $P(A)=?$

**Solution:** Number of  $\Omega$  :  $n = 200$

$A$  = “the person chose is male”

The number of sample points in  $A$  (the number of male):

$$m = 200 - 160 = 40$$

$$\therefore P(A) = \frac{m}{n} = \frac{40}{200} = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2$$

### **3. Three classical experiments**

- (1) Taking ball model;**
- (2) Allocating room model;**
- (3) Choosing Number model.**



## e.g.,5 Taking ball model

(1) Taking ball without replacement

**Question1:** Given a bag containing  $M$  *white ball* and  $N$  *black balls*, draw out  $m+n$  balls without **replacement**. A: the  $m+n$  balls are composed by  $m$  white balls,  $n$  *black balls*.  $P(A)=?$

**Solution:**

The number of sample point in  $\Omega$ :  $C_{M+N}^{m+n}$

The number of sample point in A:  $C_M^m \cdot C_N^n$

$$\text{Thus: } P(A) = \frac{C_M^m \cdot C_N^n}{C_{M+N}^{m+n}}.$$

## (2) Taking ball with replacement

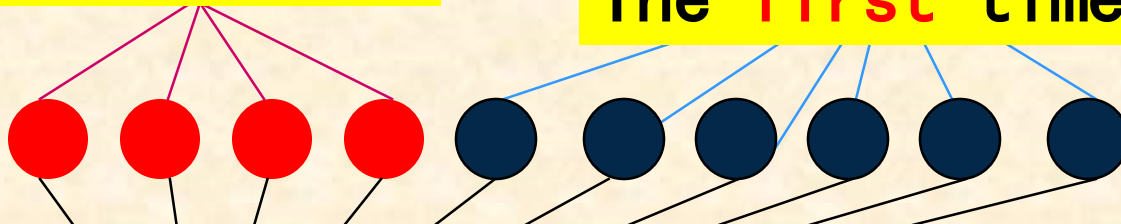
**Question 2:** Given a bag containing 4 red balls and 6 black balls, draw out balls 3 times with replacement. A: the color of the balls taken out are black, black and red.  $P(A)=?$

**Solution:**

The **second** time is black

The **third** time is red

The **first** time is black 6



No. of basic event:  $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 10^3$

The **first** time  $\longrightarrow$  10

The **third** time

The **second** time

## **Solution:**

The no. of sample point in  $\Omega$  :  $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 10^3$ ,

*The no. of sample points in A:*  $6 \times 6 \times 4$ ,

$$\text{Thus: } P(A) = \frac{6 \times 6 \times 4}{10^3} = \mathbf{0.144}.$$

# Allocating Room model

*Given the probability for a certain person (total is  $n$  person) is allocated to a room (total is  $N$  ( $n \leq N$ )) is  $1/N$ .*

**Question:** determine the probability of the following events.

- (1) The **certain**  $n$  rooms have only 1 person in each room;
- (2) There **exist**  $n$  rooms, in which there are 1 person in each room ;
- (3) One **fixed** room has  $m$  ( $m \leq n$ ) person.

**Solution:**

1 °First, calculate the no. of **sample points** in  $\Omega$ .

## Analysis:

Allocate  $n$  person into  $N$  rooms. For every allocation, it corresponds one sample point. Because each person can come into any  $N$  rooms, the total no. to allocate one person into one room is  $N$ . Since there are  $n$  person, there are  $N \times N \times \dots \times N = N^n$  ways to allocate the  $n$  person.

**No. of Sample points in  $\Omega$  :  $N^n$**

2<sup>o</sup> (1) suppose  $A$  = “The certain  $n$  rooms have only 1 person in each room”

No. of Sample points in  $A$ :  $P_n^n = n!$   $\therefore P(A) = \frac{n!}{N^n}$   
(factorial  $n$ )

(2) Suppose  $B$  = “There exist  $n$  rooms, in which there are 1 person in each room ”

**analysis** For event  $B$ , the  $n$  rooms are not chose , thus, the  $n$  rooms can be chose from  $N$  total rooms.

The total no. of ways to choose the rooms is  $C_N^n$

Once the  $n$  person is chose, the no. of ways to allocate the people is  $n!$ , thus,  $B$  contains  $C_N^n \cdot n!$

**sample points.**

$$\therefore P(B) = \frac{C_N^n \cdot n!}{N^n}$$

(3) Suppose  $C$  = “One fixed room has  $m(m \leq n)$  person” .

**analysis** “the ways choosing  $m(m \leq n)$  person from  $n$  person and put him in the fixed room is  $C_n^m$ ” ,

*The other  $n-m$  person can be put in the remaining  $N-1$  rooms. The No. of ways is  $(N-1)^{n-m}$*

Thus, the No. of sample points in  $C$  is:

$$C_n^m \cdot (N-1)^{n-m}$$
$$\therefore P(C) = \frac{C_n^m \cdot (N-1)^{n-m}}{N^n}$$



## Choosing Number model

choose one no. from 0, 1, 2,  $\dots$ ; 9 with replacement.

Suppose  $P(\omega) = \frac{1}{10}$ . Choose 7 numbers,

Determine the probability:

- (1) 7 number are totally different;
- (2) do not have 4 and 7;
- (3) 9 appears 2 times;
- (4) 9 appears at least two times

**Solution:** No. of the sample point in  $\Omega$  :  $10^7$

**(1) A=“7 number are totally different”**

**The no. of sample points in A:**

$$P_{10}^7 = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4$$

$$\therefore P(A) = \frac{P_{10}^7}{10^7} = \frac{10!}{10^7 \cdot 3!}$$

**(2) B=“do not have 4 and 7”**

$$P(B) = \frac{8^7}{10^7} \approx 0.2097$$

**(3) C=“9 appears only 2 times”**

$$P(C) = \frac{C_7^2 \cdot 9^5}{10^7}$$

**(4) D=“9 appears at least two times”.**

$D_k (k \leq 7) = 9 \text{ appears only } k \text{ times}$

$$P(D_k) = \frac{C_7^k \cdot 9^{7-k}}{10^7}$$

**(solution1)**  $D = D_2 + D_3 + \cdots + D_7$

$$P(D) = P(D_2) + P(D_3) + \cdots + P(D_7)$$

$$\therefore P(D) = \sum_{k=2}^7 \frac{C_7^k \cdot 9^{7-k}}{10^7}$$

(solution2)  $\bar{D} = D_0 + D_1$

$$P(D) = 1 - P(\bar{D})$$

$$= 1 - P(D_0) - P(D_1)$$

$$= 1 - \frac{9^7}{10^7} - \frac{C_7^1 \cdot 9^6}{10^7} \approx 0.1497$$

## 四、Geometric probability

### 1. Definition

If  $E$  has the following properties:

1) **infinite**: the  $\Omega$  of the  $E$  is a geometry area, including infinite sample points. Every point in the area corresponds one sample points;

2) **Equally likely possibility**:

If  $|A| = |B|$ , then  $P(A) = P(B)$ , where  $| |$  is the geometric metric of the event. i.e., in one dimensional space,  $| |$  is the length.

Then the model described by  $E$  is Geometric probability model.

## Note.

<b>geometric space</b>	<b>One dimension</b>	<b>two</b>	<b>three</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>metric</b>	<b>length</b>	<b>area</b>	<b>volume</b>	<b>...</b>

## 2. Geometric probability

**Definition.** For  $E$ ,  $m(A)$  is the geometric metric of event  $A$ ,  $\Omega$  is the sample space. If  $0 < m(\Omega) < +\infty$ , then

$$P(A) = \frac{m(A)}{m(\Omega)}$$

**Note.**    **One dimension**    :     $P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|};$

**Two dimension**                                :     $P(A) = \frac{\text{area}A}{\text{area}\Omega};$

**Three dimension**                                :     $P(A) = \frac{\text{volume}A}{\text{volume}\Omega}.$



e.g.8

**B,C are two points in the line segment AD. Cut AD into three segments AB, BC and CD.**

**Question?** What is the probability that these three segment could form a triangle?

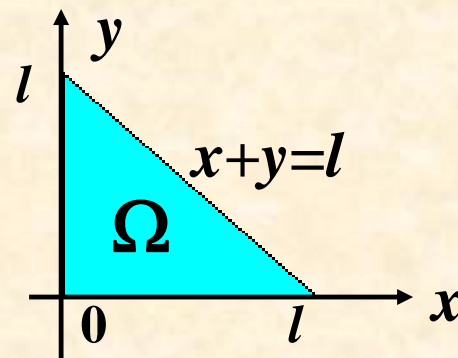
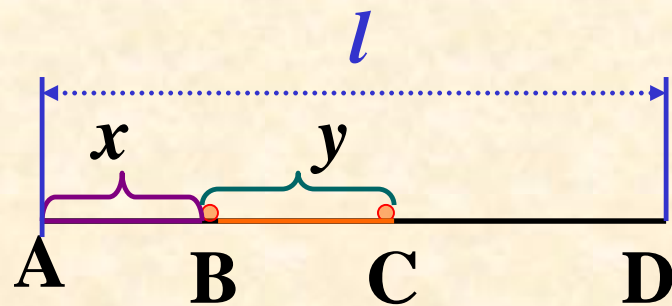
**Solution:**

$$\begin{cases} 0 < x < l, 0 < y < l \\ 0 < l - (x + y) < l \end{cases}$$

**Sample space  $\Omega$ :**

$$0 < x < l, \quad 0 < y < l$$

$$0 < x + y < l$$



**AB, BC and CD can form a triangle**

**$\Leftrightarrow$  The length of any one segment is smaller than the sum of the length of the other two segments.**

$$\therefore 0 < x < l - x, \quad 0 < y < l - y$$

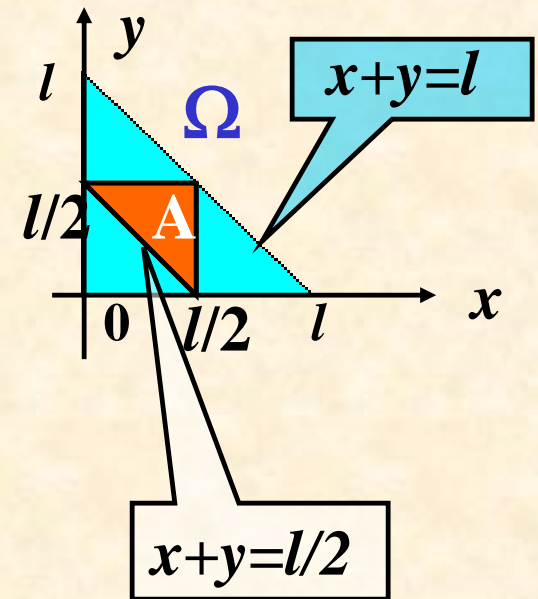
$$\text{and} \quad 0 < l - (x + y) < x + y$$

*denote*  $A =$  “AB, BC, CD can form a triangle”

$$\text{then } A : 0 < x < \frac{l}{2}, \quad 0 < y < \frac{l}{2},$$

$$\frac{l}{2} < x + y < l$$

$$\therefore P(A) = \frac{S(A)}{S(\Omega)} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{l}{2}\right)^2}{\frac{1}{2} l^2} = \frac{1}{4}$$



# 五、Axiomatic definition of probability

**1.definition.** Given  $\Omega$  is the sample space of E, for  $A \subset \Omega$ ,

There exists a real number  $P(A)$  corresponding to A.

If  $P(A)$  satisfied the following properties :

(1) non negative: for and  $A \subset \Omega$ ,  $P(A) \geq 0$  holds;

(2) normalization:  $P(\Omega) = 1$ ;

(3) additivity:

if  $i \neq j$ ,  $A_i A_j = \emptyset$  ( $i, j = 1, 2, \dots$ ) ,it holds

$$\begin{aligned}
 & P(A_1 + A_2 + \cdots + A_m + \cdots) \\
 &= P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \cdots + P(A_m) + \cdots
 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $P(A)$  is the probability of event  $A$ .

## 2. Properties of probability

$$(1) P(\emptyset)=0$$

**Proof:**  $\Omega = \Omega + \emptyset + \emptyset + \cdots$

$$P(\Omega) = P(\Omega) + P(\emptyset) + P(\emptyset) + \cdots$$

$$P(\Omega)=1 \quad \therefore P(\emptyset)=0$$

## (2) additivity:

if  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$  are mutually exclusive with each other, then

$$P\left(\sum_{i=1}^m A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^m P(A_i)$$

**Proof:**  $A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_m = A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_m + \emptyset +$   
 $+ \emptyset + \emptyset + \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} & P(A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_m) \\ &= P(A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_m + \emptyset + \emptyset + \dots) \\ &= P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_m) + P(\emptyset) + P(\emptyset) + \dots \\ &= P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_m) \quad \dots \end{aligned}$$

**(3) For any event  $A$ ,**

$$P(\bar{A}) = 1 - P(A)$$

**Proof:**  $\because A + \bar{A} = \Omega, A\bar{A} = \emptyset$

$$\therefore P(A) + P(\bar{A}) = P(\Omega) = 1$$

$$\text{Thus, } P(\bar{A}) = 1 - P(A)$$

**(4). if  $B \subset A$ , then  $P(A - B) = P(A) - P(B)$**

**Proof  $\because B \subset A \therefore A = A \cup B = B + (A - B)$**

$$\because B(A - B) = BAB = \emptyset$$

$$\therefore P(A) = P(B) + P(A - B)$$

$$\text{Thus, } P(A - B) = P(A) - P(B)$$

**Conclusion1(monotonicity)** if  $B \subset A$ , then  $P(B) \leq P(A)$

**Proof:** By (4), and  $P(A - B) \geq 0$ , the conclusion holds.

**(5) additivity:**

*For any two events  $A, B$ , it holds*

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(AB)$$



**Proof  $\therefore A \cup B = A + (B - A)$**

$$\begin{aligned} B - AB &= B \overline{AB} = B(\overline{A} \cup \overline{B}) \\ &= B\overline{A} \cup B\overline{B} = B\overline{A} \cup \emptyset \\ &= B\overline{A} = B - A \end{aligned}$$

**$\therefore A \cup B = A + (B - AB)$**

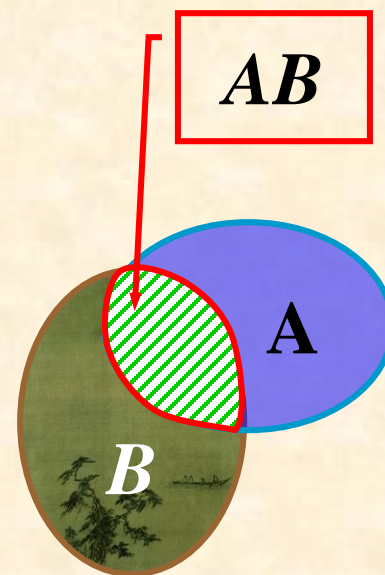
**$\therefore A(B - AB) = A\overline{B} \overline{A} = \emptyset$**

**$\therefore P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B - AB)$**

**$\therefore AB \subset B$**

**$\therefore P(B - AB) = P(B) - P(AB)$**

**Thus,  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(AB)$**



**Conclusion2.**  $P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$

**Generally,**  $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)$

**Conclusion3.** For any events,  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ ,

$$P(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P(A_i A_j) +$$

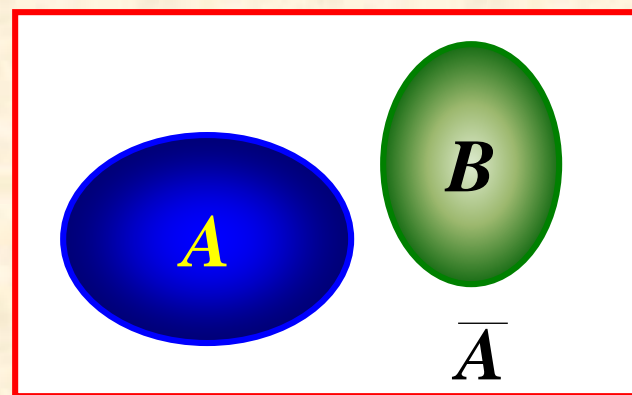
$$\sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} P(A_i A_j A_k) + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} P(A_1 A_2 \cdots A_n)$$

**E.g.10** If  $P(A) = \frac{1}{3}, P(B) = \frac{1}{2},$   
 $P(B\bar{A}) = ?$

(1) If A and B are M.E.

(2)  $A \subset B;$

(3)  $P(AB) = \frac{1}{8}.$



**Solution** (1)  $AB = \emptyset, B \subset \bar{A} \therefore B\bar{A} = B$

Thus,  $P(B\bar{A}) = P(B) = \frac{1}{2}$

$$(2) \quad A \subset B;$$

$$P(B\bar{A}) = P(B - A)$$

$$= P(B) - P(A) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

$$(3) \quad P(AB) = \frac{1}{8}.$$

$$\therefore B\bar{A} = B - A = B - AB \quad AB \subset B$$

$$\therefore P(B\bar{A}) = P(B - AB) = P(B) - P(AB)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{3}{8}.$$