

Learning Goal: Introduction to Probability

3 Basic Types of Probability:

1. Subjective Probability
 - an estimate of likelihood based on intuition and experience
 - example: "I think...."
2. Empirical (Experimental) Probability
 - an estimate of likelihood based on an experiment by the number of trials
 - example: "3 out of 5 times I tried rolling a die is 2."
3. Theoretical Probability
 - an estimate of likelihood based on analysis
 - example: "There's 50% chance of getting a head when flipping a coin."

Outcomes: possible results

Event: an occurrence

Trial: an examination/experiment

Sample Space: all possible outcomes of an event

Notation:

$$P(A) = \frac{n(A)}{n(S)}, 0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$$

0 = impossible; 1 = occurs 100% of the time

Example#1: Event: Flipping a coin



$$P(\text{head}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(\text{tail}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Example#2: Event: Flipping a coin if **both** sides are head.



$$P(\text{head}) = \frac{1}{1} = 1$$

$$P(\text{tail}) = \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

Example#3:

Event: Rolling a die:



$P(1) = \frac{1}{6}$	$P(4) = \frac{1}{6}$
$P(2) = \frac{1}{6}$	$P(5) = \frac{1}{6}$
$P(3) = \frac{1}{6}$	$P(6) = \frac{1}{6}$

Example#4:

Event: Rolling a pair of standard dice to find the sum:

	1st die	2nd die	1	2	3	4	5	6
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	
2		3	4	5	6	7	8	
3		4	5	6	7	8	9	
4		5	6	7	8	9	10	
5		6	7	8	9	10	11	
6		7	8	9	10	11	12	

$P(1) = \frac{0}{36}$	$P(\text{evens}) = \frac{18}{36} = \frac{1}{2}$
$P(2) = \frac{1}{36}$	$P(\text{odds}) = \frac{1}{2}$
$P(3) = \frac{2}{36} = \frac{1}{18}$	$P(\text{doubles}) = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6}$
$P(4) = \frac{3}{36} = \frac{1}{12}$	$P(\text{prime}) = \frac{15}{36} = \frac{5}{12}$
$P(7) = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6}$	$P(\text{composite}) = \frac{7}{12}$
$P(\text{not } 7) = \frac{5}{6}$	

$P(A') =$ **Complement** of event A
A = event A doesn't happen

$$P(A) + P(A') = 1$$

Example#5: Given the sample space {1,2,3,4,5,6,.....50}

$P(\text{evens}) = \frac{1}{2}$	$P(\text{odds}) = \frac{1}{2}$
$P(\text{prime}) = \frac{15}{50} = \frac{3}{10}$ <small>{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47}</small>	$P(\text{composite}) = \frac{34}{50} = \frac{17}{25}$
$P(\text{perfect squares}) = \frac{7}{50}$	$P(\text{perfect cubes}) = \frac{3}{50}$
$P(\text{not perfect squares}) = \frac{43}{50}$	$P(\text{not perfect cubes}) = \frac{47}{50}$

Tree Diagram:

① Determine the probability of tossing at least 2 tails with 3 coins



$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$$