

Bloomberg

Engineering

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee: Expressing Probabilities as Floating-Point Values

CppCon 2022  
September 16, 2022

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TechAtBloomberg.com

first things first

# Welcome to my talk

## Outline

1. Introduction
2. Reprise “Birthday Problem”
3. Quantify Dinosaur Pee
4. Discuss floating-point values
5. Answer four questions

## Introduction

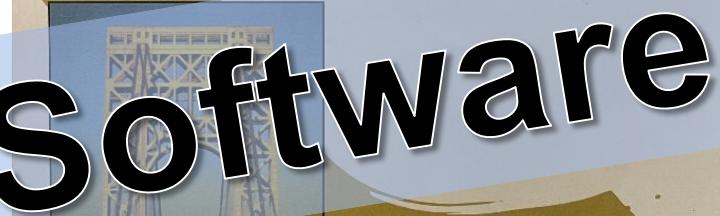
### Who am I?

# John Lakos

- I work at Bloomberg in New York City (c. 2001)
- I'm active with the C++ Standards Committee:
  - Initial engagement (c. 2005)
  - Voting member (c. 2007)
- I've written a few books:
  - Large-Scale C++ Software Design (c. 1996)
  - Large-Scale C++ (Volume I):  
    Process and Architecture (c. 2019)
  - Embracing Modern C++ Safely (c. 2021)

# Large-Scale C++ Software Design

John Lakos



1996

ADDISON-WESLEY PROFESSIONAL COMPUTING SERIES

# Large-Scale C++ Volume I

Process and Architecture

John Lakos



2019

ADDISON-WESLEY PROFESSIONAL COMPUTING SERIES

ESSENTIAL COMPUTING SERIES





noexcept: CppCon`21



# EMBRACING MODERN C++ SAFELY



JOHN LAKOS | VITTORIO ROMEO | ROSTISLAV KHLEBNIKOV | ALISDAIR MEREDITH

# Working on some more books...

- C++ Allocators for the Working Programmer  
**(CAWP) – 2023**      **ISBN: 9780138060725**
- Practical Contract-Driven Programming  
**(PCDP) – 2024**
- Embracing Modern C++ *Safely* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)  
**(EMC++S2ed) – 2025**
- Large-Scale C++ Volume III:  
Verification and Testing  
**(LSC++V3:V&T) – TBD**

Large-Scale C++ Volume III:

# Verification & Testing

## Topics Covered

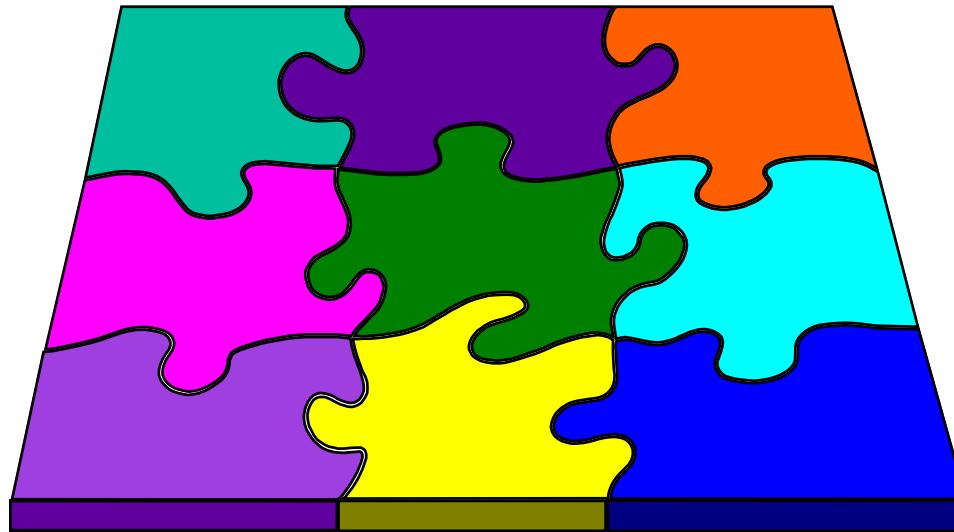
- Ch. 7: Component-Level Testing
  - The absolute need for unit testing
- Ch. 8: Test-Data Selection Methods
  - Identifying test data systematically
- Ch. 9: Test-Case Implementation Techniques
  - Rendering individual test cases effectively
- Ch. 10: Test-Case Ordering
  - Exploiting previously tested, more primitive functionality

## Ch. 8: Test-Data Selection Methods

How do we choose our test inputs (“test vectors”)?

- **Ad hoc** – whatever makes sense
- **Boundary conditions** – look at the edges of our algorithms
- **Area testing** – try everything in an area or region
- **Orthogonal dimensions** – choosing a canonical value and then varying each dimension independently
- **Random/statistical** – relying on chance to detect unanticipated problems
- **Depth-Ordered Enumeration** – systematic testing around the origin of a design space
- **Category partitioning** – systematic testing based on equivalence classes

# Data Selection: Boundary Conditions



## Boundary Conditions

There are at least three kinds of boundaries to consider:

Those...

1. *Defined by the Interface*
2. *Created by the Implementation*
3. *Imposed by the Platform*

## Boundary Conditions

**Recall the birthday problem:**

What is the probability that two or more people in a room of  $n$  people have the same birthday?



# Boundary Conditions

## Birthday Problem

- What is the *minimum number* of people we would need in a room for the probability that “*at least two* of them have the same birthday” is *greater than 50%*?
- Simplifying Assumptions:
  - Only the day of the year matters.
  - All years have 365 days (no leap years)
  - Birthdays are uniformly distributed over the days of the year.
- How does the probability vary with the number of people in the room?

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### Birthday Function

- Let's design a function that provides a probability value in the range [0.0 .. 1.0] as a function of the number of people in a room.
- What is the interface?
  - Function Name? Return Type? Parameter Name & Type?
- What is the contract?
  - What does it do? How wide should we make it?
  - Essential Behavior? (What must happen on valid input?)
  - Undefined Behavior? (What input values are not allowed?)

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### Birthday Function

```
double sameBirthday(int numPeople);  
// Return the probability that at least  
// two of the specified (randomly-  
// chosen) 'numPeople' were born on the  
// same day of the same month. People  
// born on February 29th are excluded.  
// The behavior is undefined unless  
// '0 <= numPeople'.
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

$$P(1) = 0$$

$$P(2) = 0/365 + 365/365 * 1/365$$

$$P(3) = 1/365 + 364/365 * 2/365$$

$$P(4) = P(3) + (1 - P(3)) * 3/365$$

$$P(5) = P(4) + (1 - P(4)) * 4/365$$

. . .

$$P(363) = P(362) + (1 - P(362)) * 362/365$$

$$P(364) = P(363) + (1 - P(363)) * 363/365$$

$$P(365) = P(364) + (1 - P(364)) * 364/365$$

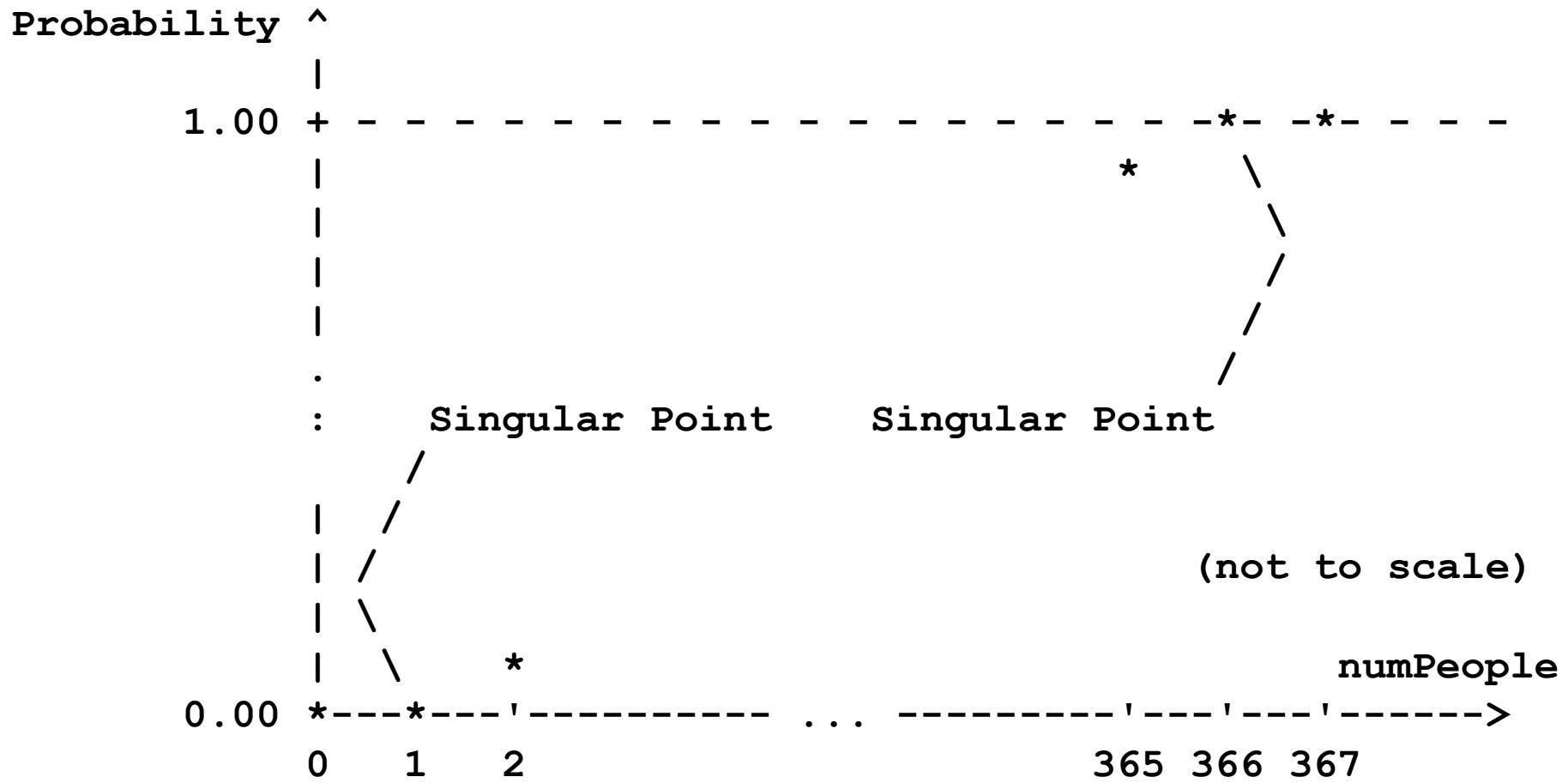
$$P(366) = P(365) + (1 - P(365)) * 365/365 = 1$$

$$P(367) = 1$$

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday



## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

```
ASSERT(0.0 == sameBirthday(0)); // external interface boundary
ASSERT(0.0 == sameBirthday(1)); // internal singular point
ASSERT(0.0 < sameBirthday(2)); // internal interface boundary

ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(365)); // internal interface boundary
ASSERT(1.0 == sameBirthday(366)); // internal singular point
ASSERT(1.0 == sameBirthday(367)); // internal interface boundary

ASSERT(1.0 == sameBirthday(INT_MAX));
                           // external interface boundary
                           // also platform boundary
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

```
ASSERT(0.0 == sameBirthday(0)); // external interface boundary  
ASSERT(0.0 == sameBirthday(1)); // internal singular point  
ASSERT(0.0 < sameBirthday(2)); // internal interface boundary
```

```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(365)); // internal interface boundary  
ASSERT(1.0 == sameBirthday(366)); // internal singular point  
ASSERT(1.0 == sameBirthday(367)); // internal interface boundary  
ASSERT(1.0 == sameBirthday(368)); // external interface boundary
```

**Assertion Failure!**

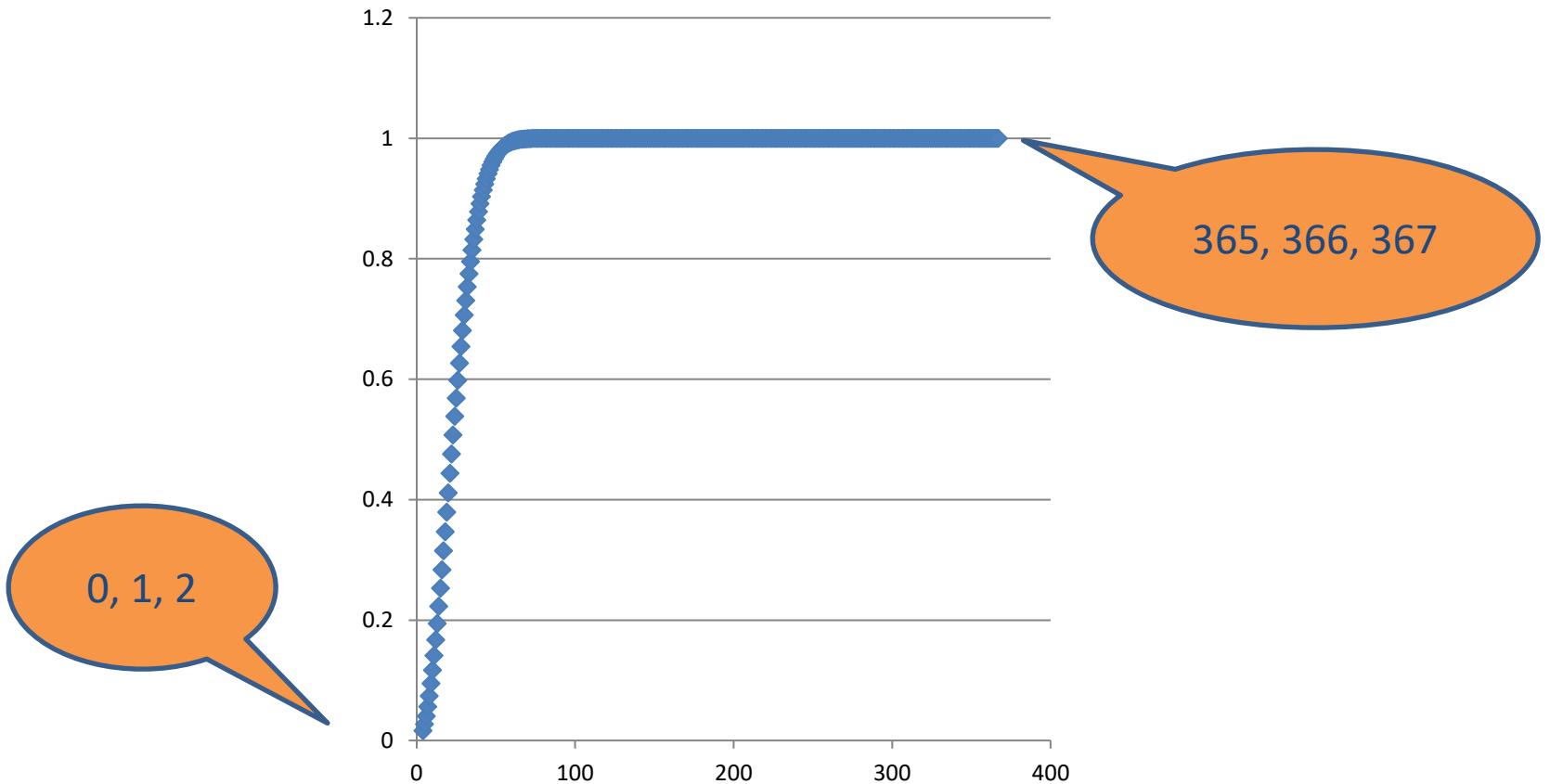
also platform boundary

**WHY?**

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

**sameBirthday**

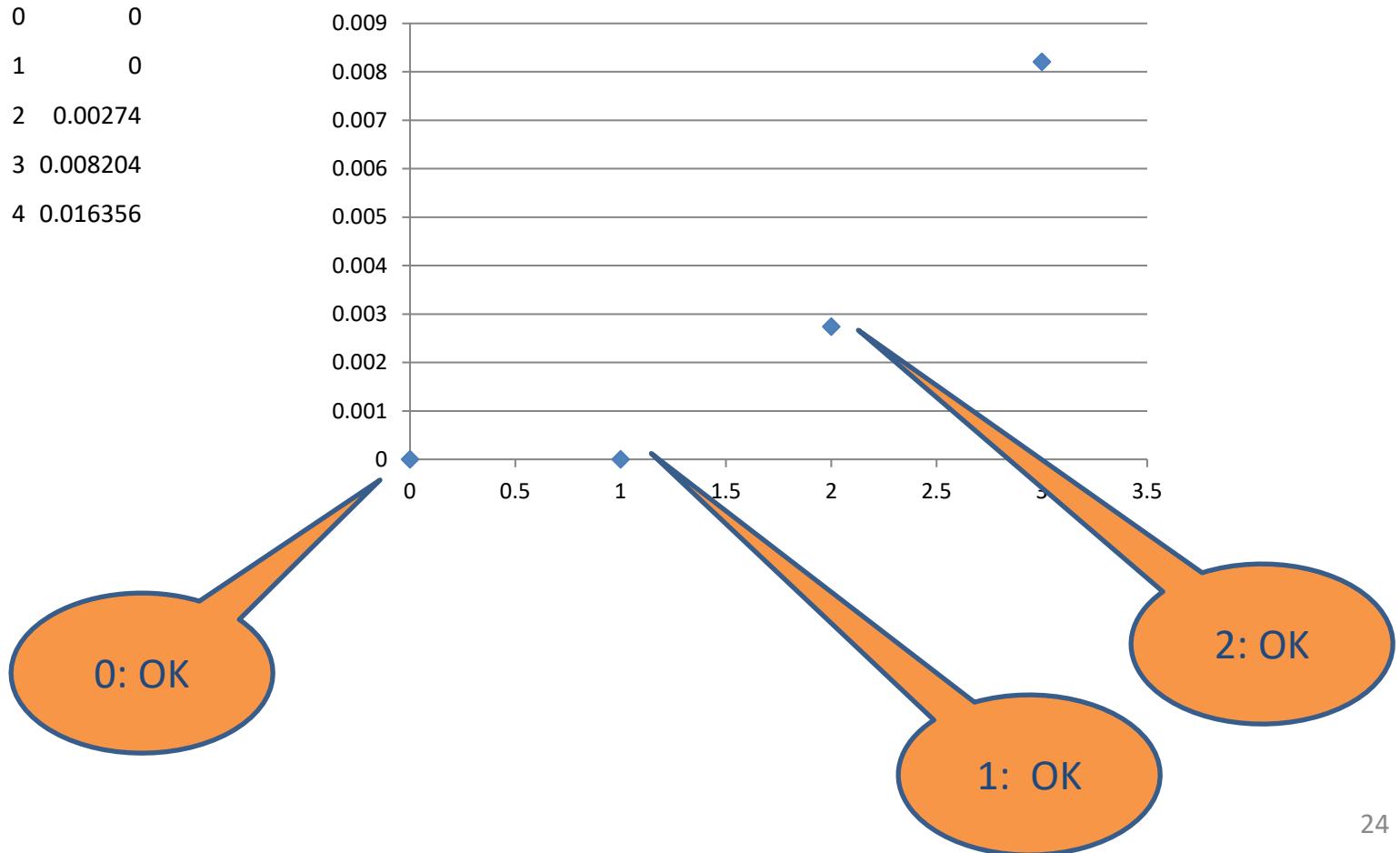


# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

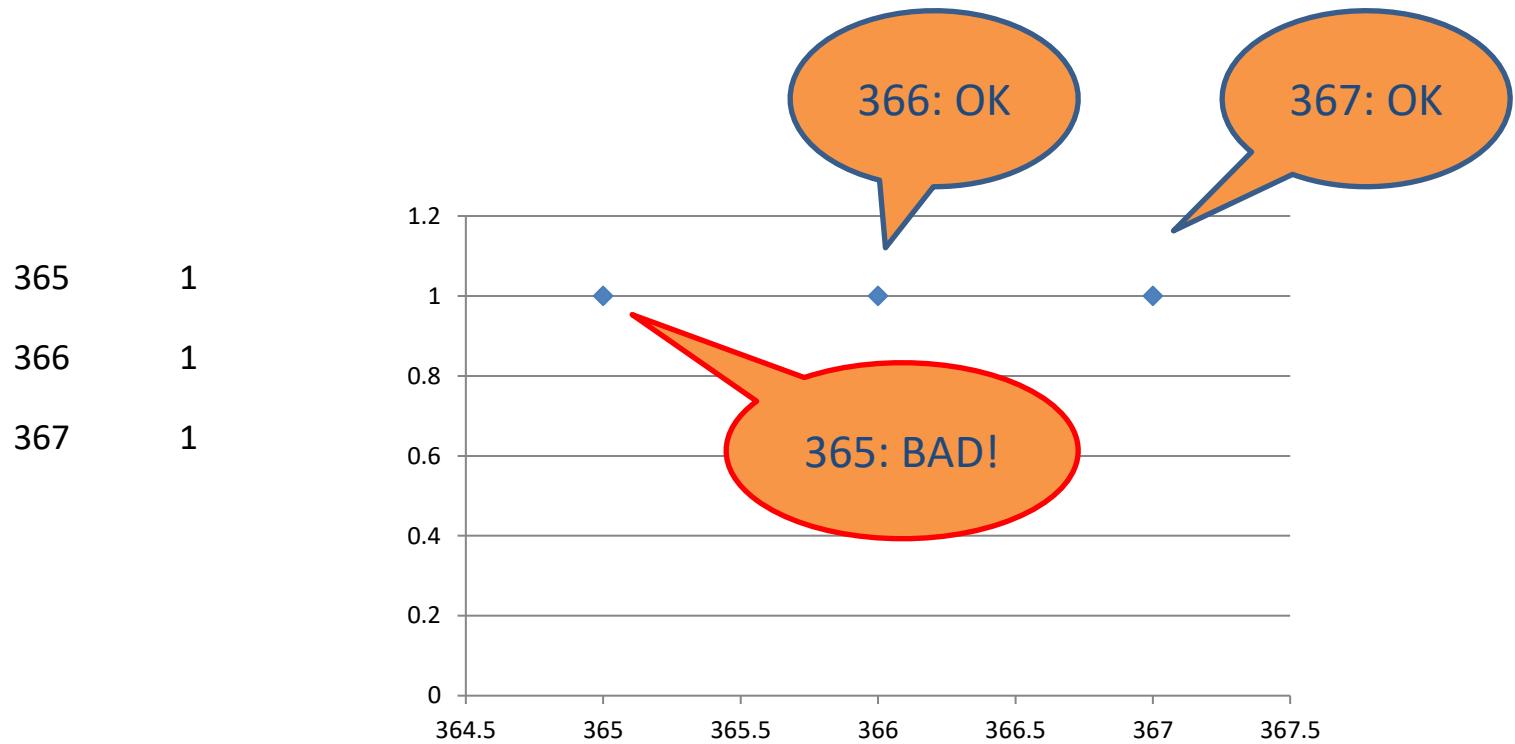
0	0
1	0
2	0.00274
3	0.008204
4	0.016356



# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

**sameBirthday**

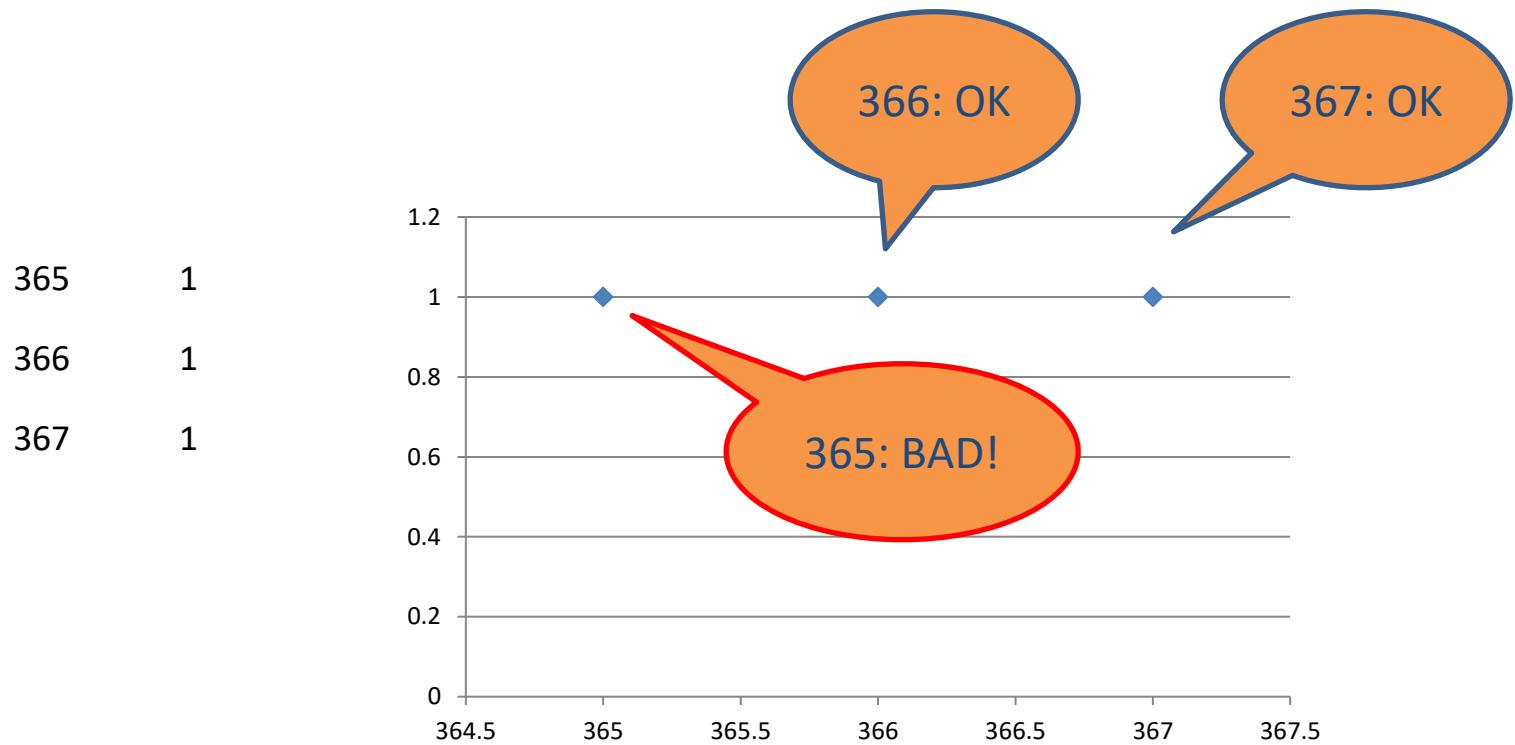


```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(365)); // FAIL
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

**sameBirthday**

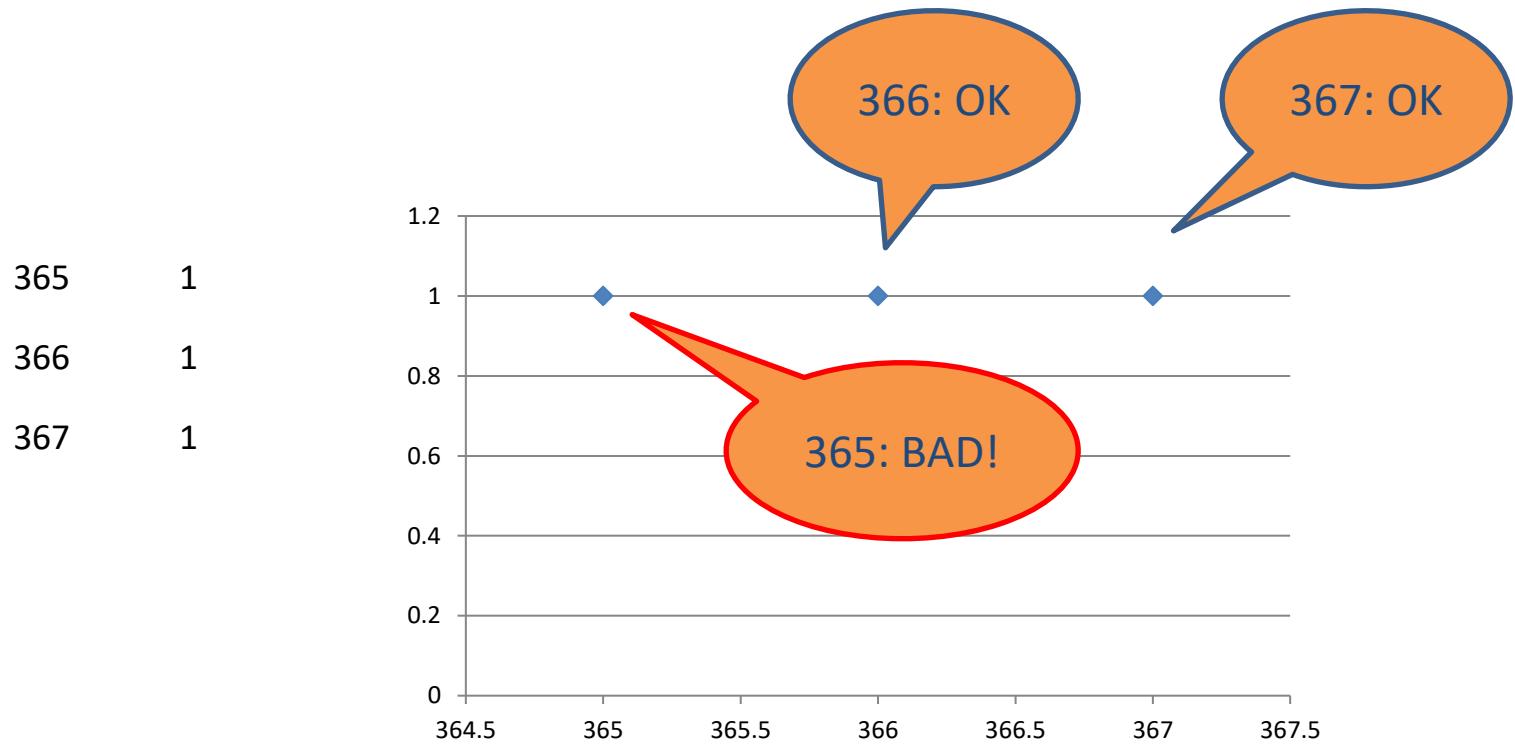


```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(364)); // FAIL
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

**sameBirthday**



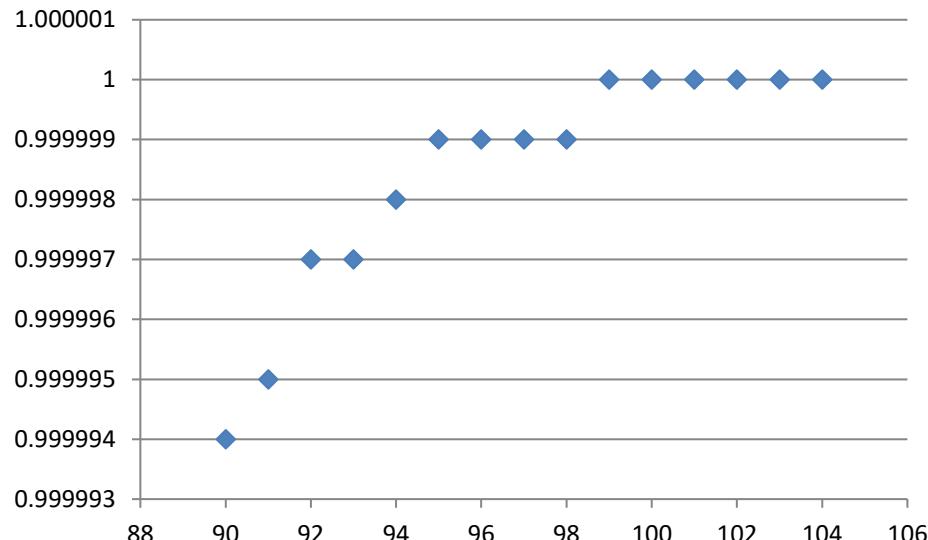
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(363)); // FAIL
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



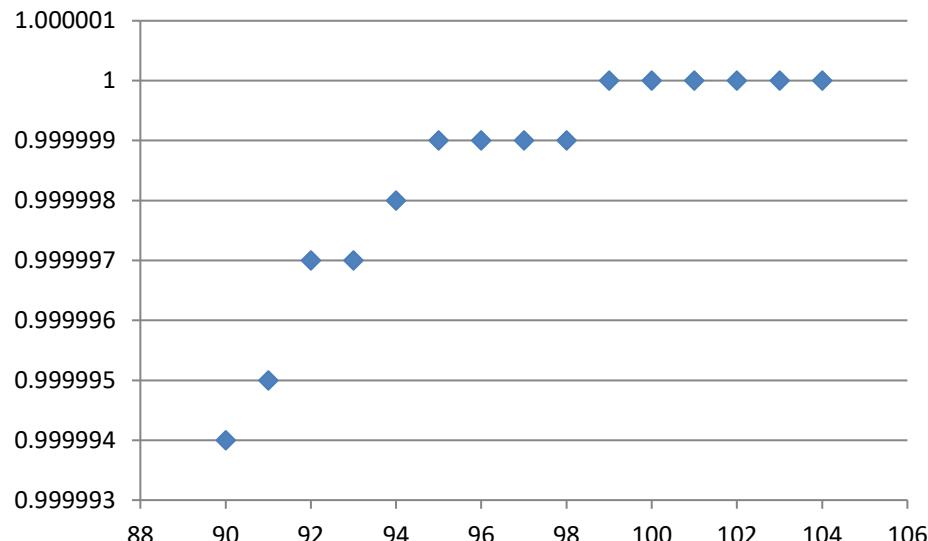
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(98)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



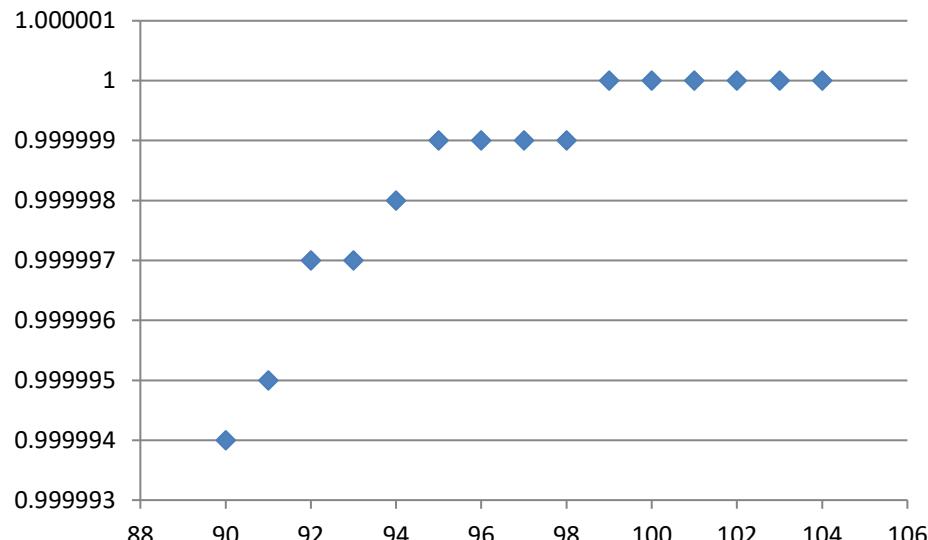
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(99)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



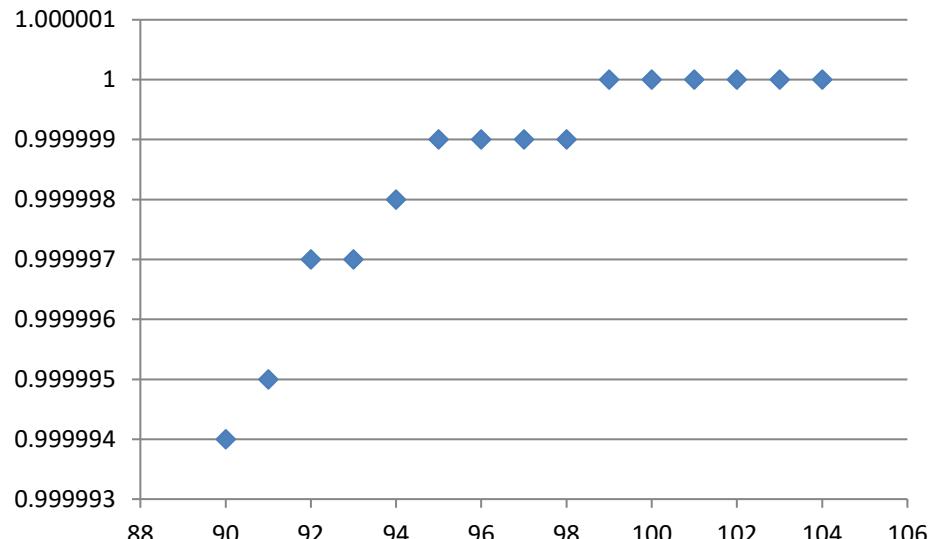
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(100)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



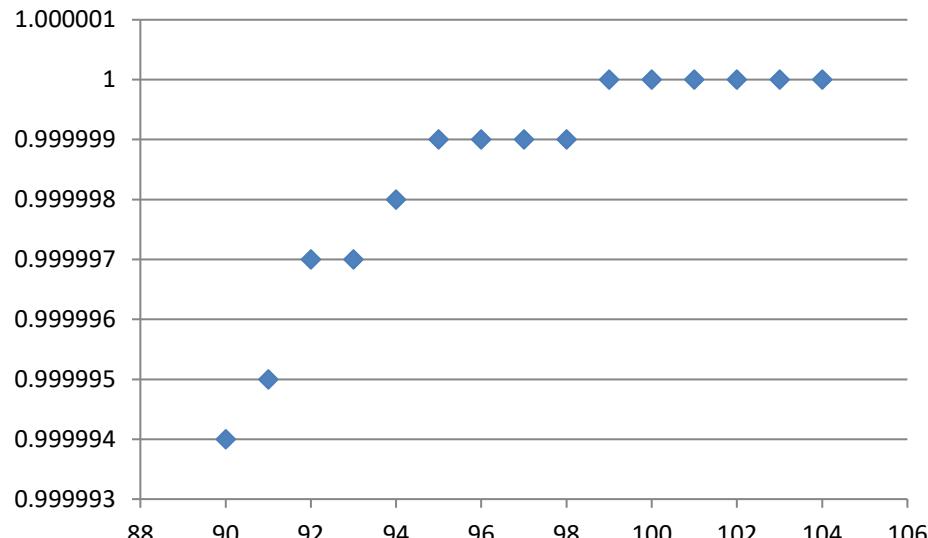
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(101)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



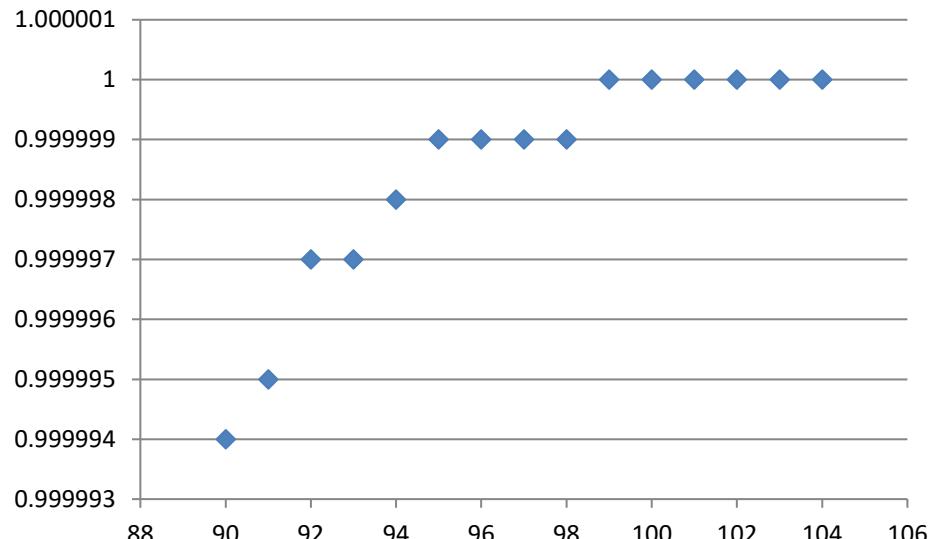
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(102)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



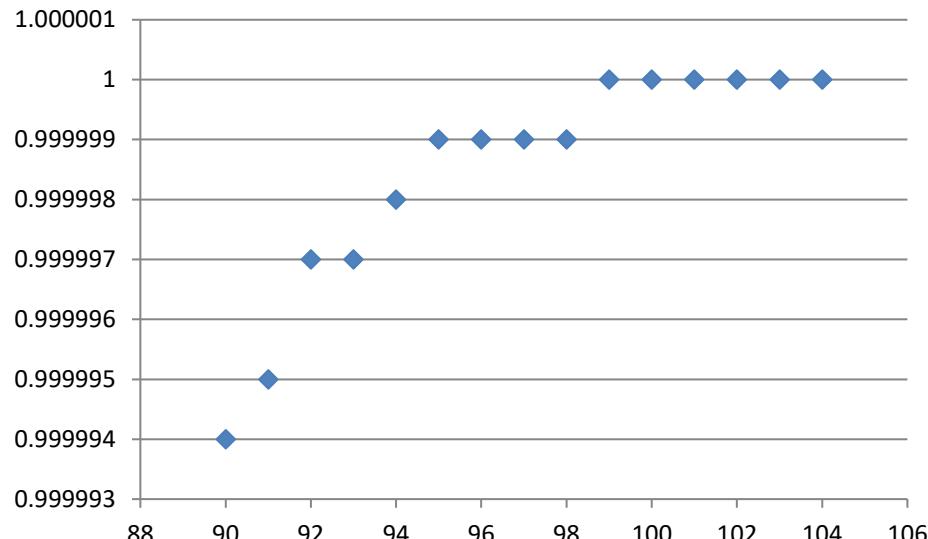
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(103)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



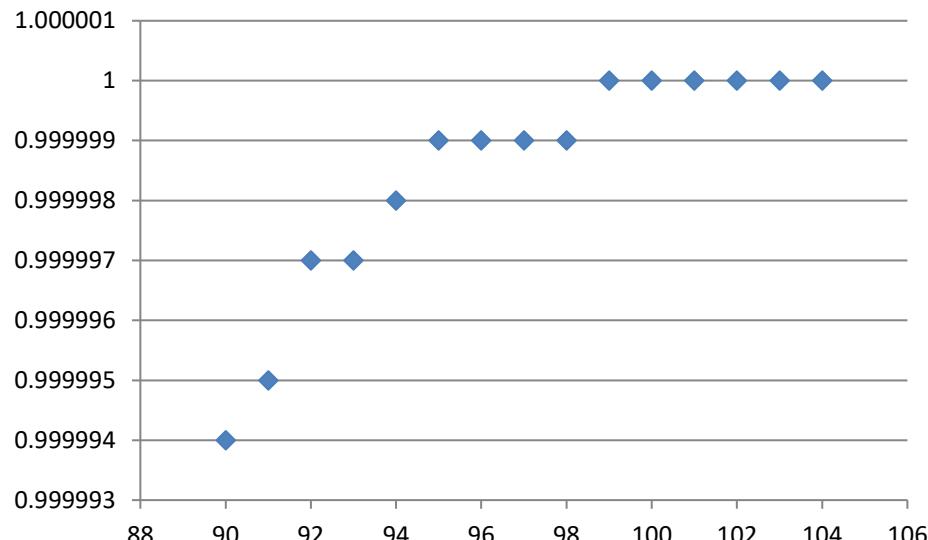
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(110)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



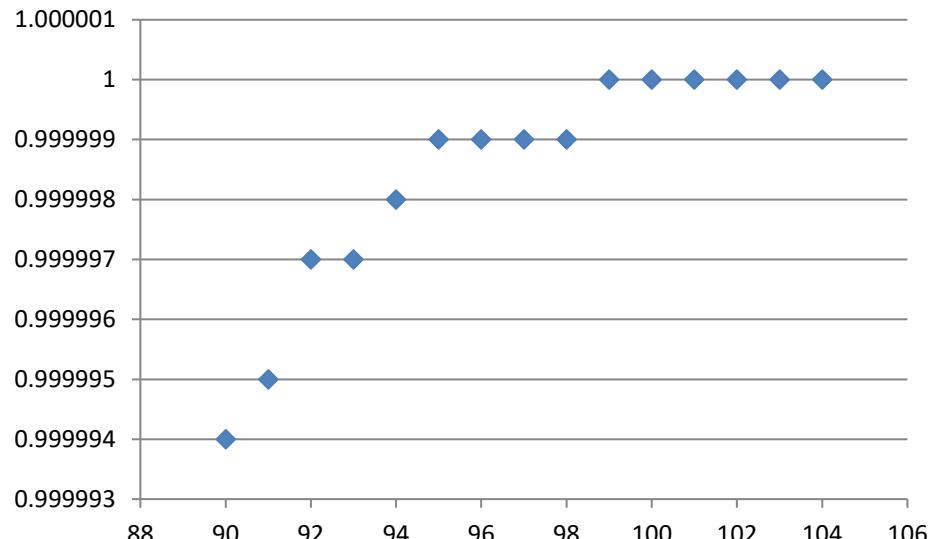
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(120)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



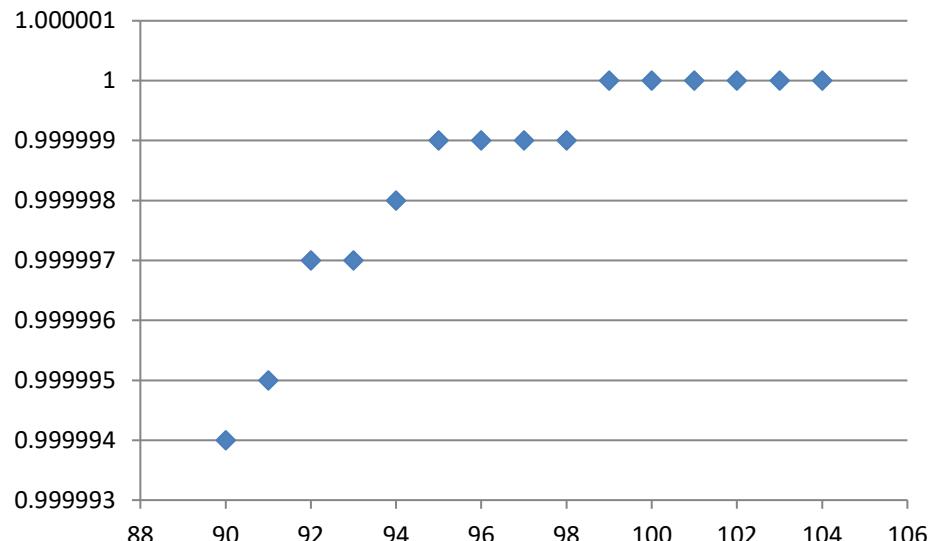
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(150)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



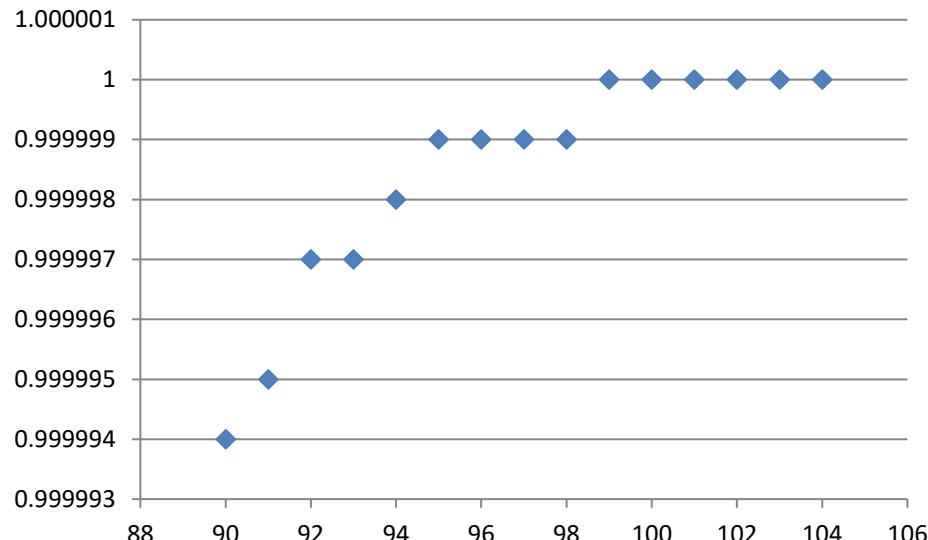
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(200)); // FAIL
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



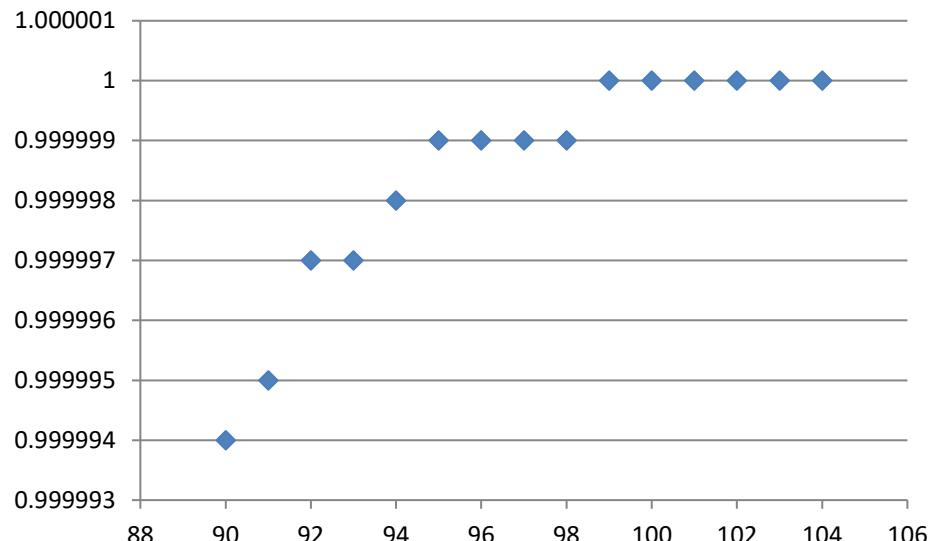
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(175)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



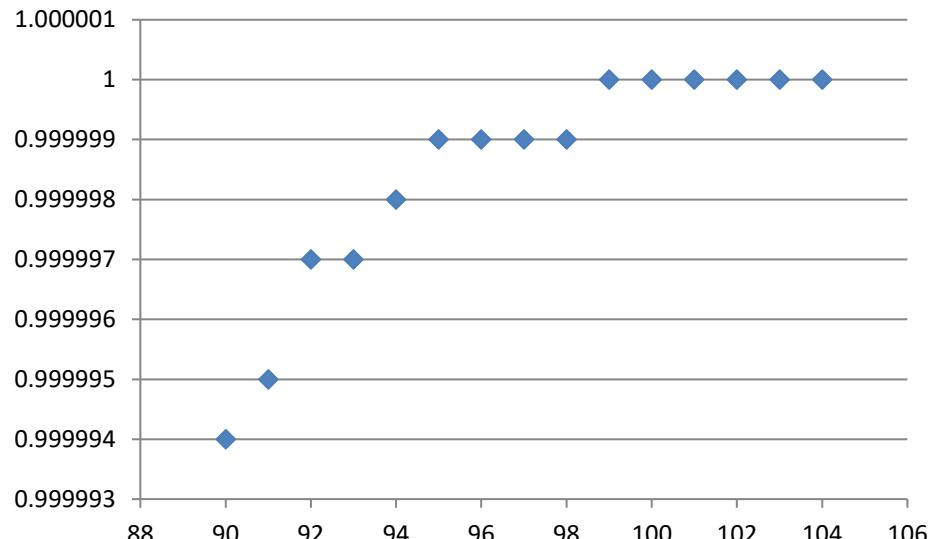
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(185)); // FAIL
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



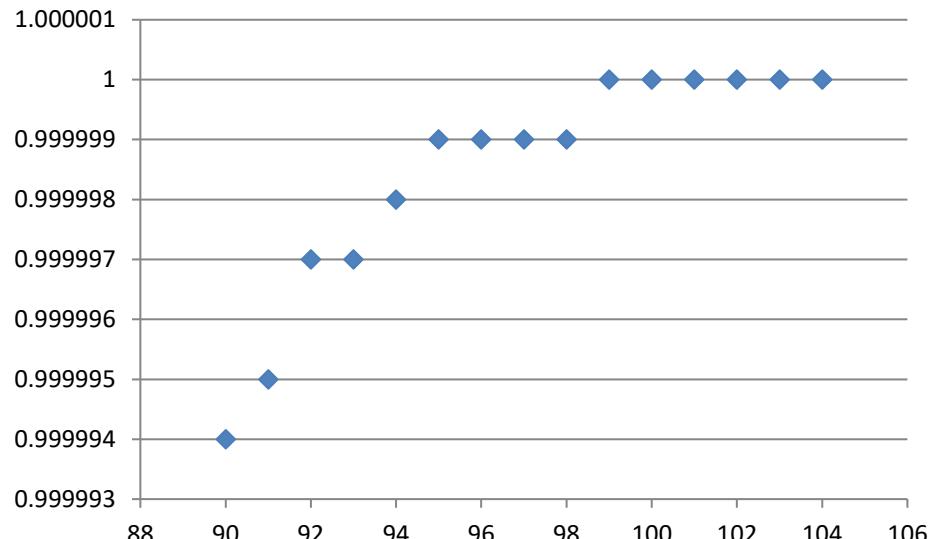
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(180)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



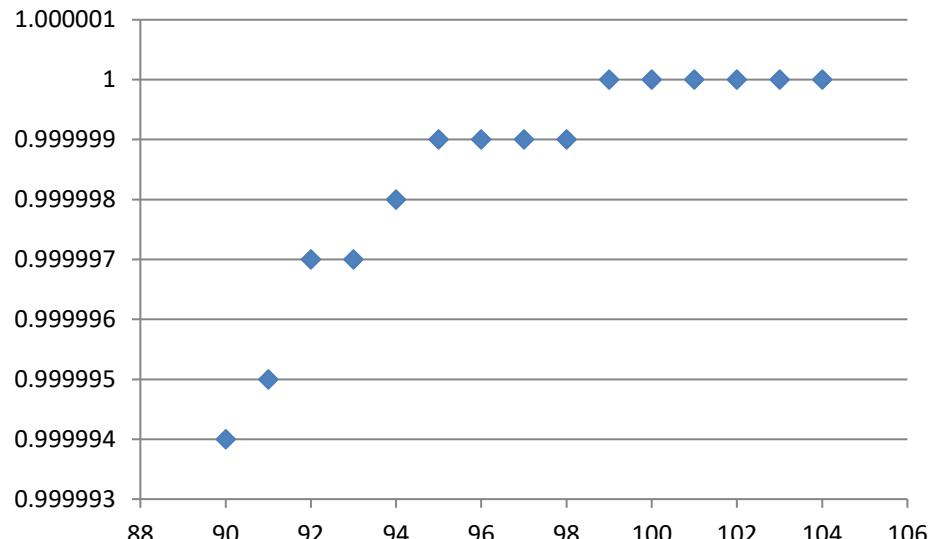
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(182)); // SUCCESS
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1



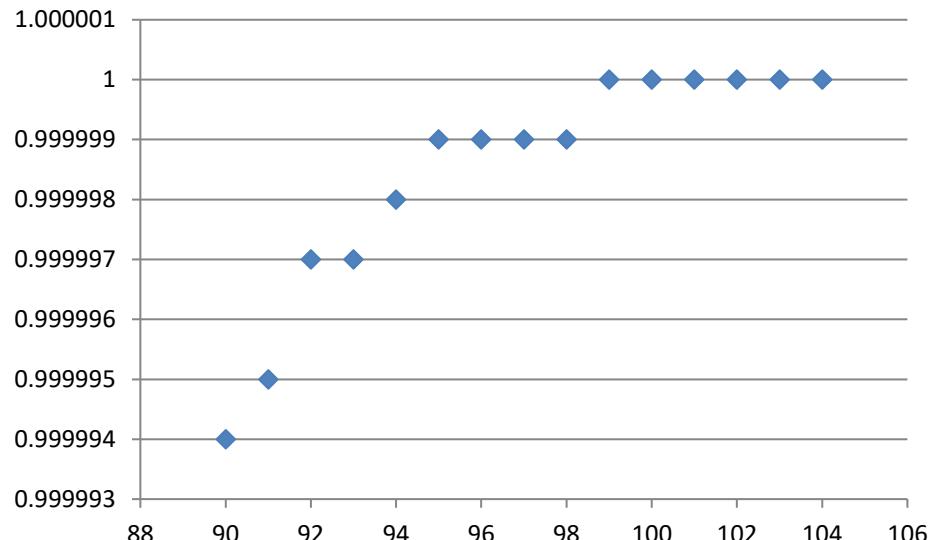
```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(184)); // FAIL
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

90	0.999994
91	0.999995
92	0.999997
93	0.999997
94	0.999998
95	0.999999
96	0.999999
97	0.999999
98	0.999999
99	1
100	1
101	1
102	1
103	1
104	1
105	1

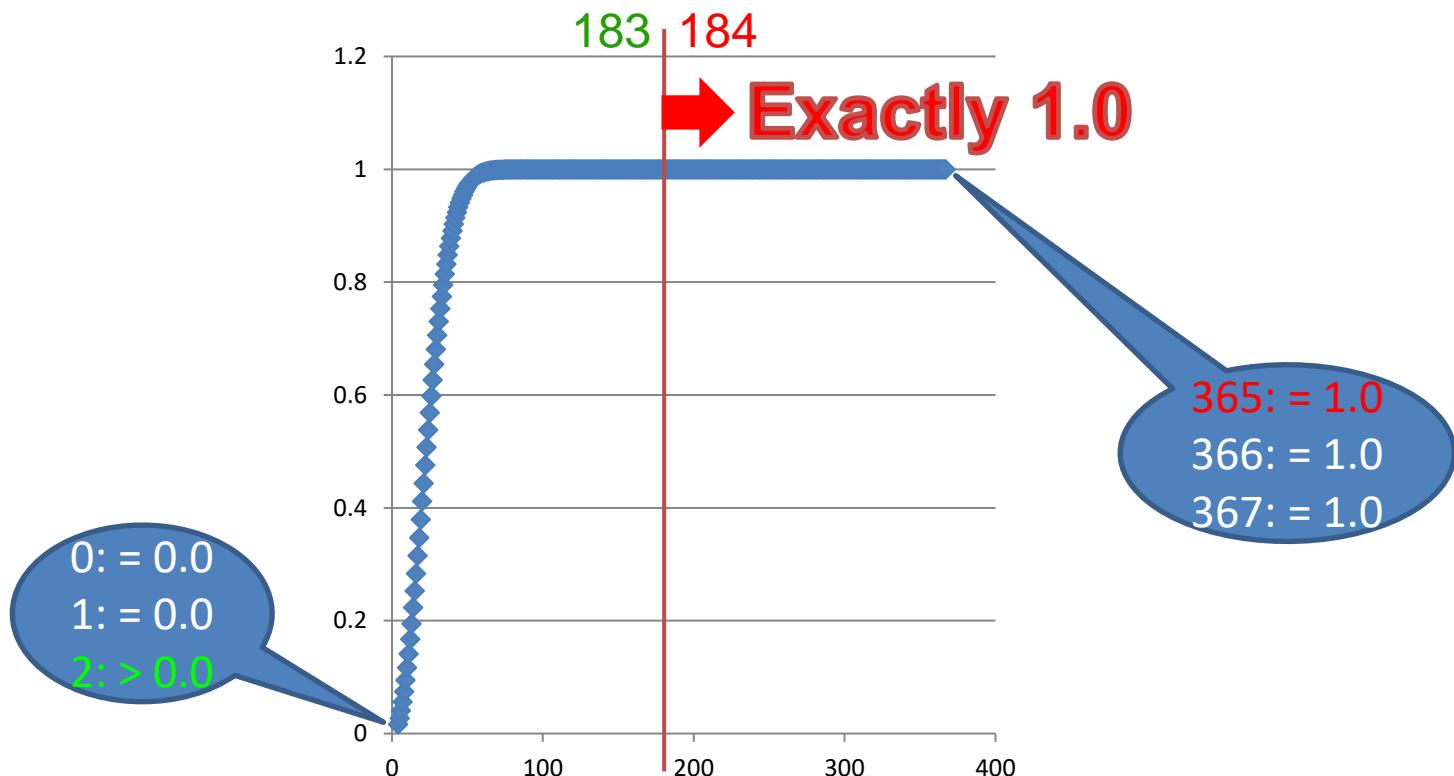


```
ASSERT(1.0 > sameBirthday(183)); // SUCCESS
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

**sameBirthday**



## Boundary Conditions

`sameBirthday`

So, what's  
*wrong* with our  
implementation?

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

```
#include <assert.h>

double sameBirthday(int numPeople)
{
    assert(0 <= numPeople);

    if (numPeople > 365) {
        return 1.0;
    }

    double probability = 0.0;

    for (int i = 1; i < numPeople; ++i) {
        probability += (1.0 - probability) * i / 365.0;
    }

    return probability;
}
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

`sameBirthday`

We have encountered a

*platform-imposed*

boundary condition

between 183 and 184

people!

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

Using a double to represent “*Almost One*”

### IEEE-754

```

sign-bit  11-bit exponent      52-bit mantissa
 /        /
0 01111111110 11111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111
+ 2^-1 * [ 1 + 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + 1/16 + ... + 1 * 2^-51 + 1 * 2^-52 ]

```

Almost One:  $1 - 2^{-52} = \underbrace{0.9999\ 9999\ 9999\ 9999}$

```

0 0111111111 00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
+ 2^0 * [ 1 + 0/2 + 0/4 + 0/8 + 0/16 + ... + 0 * 2^-51 + 0 * 2^-52 ]
One: 1 = 1.0000 0000 0000 0000

```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### Using a double to represent “Almost Zero”

## IEEE-754

sign-bit    11-bit exponent    52-bit mantissa  
/           /    /  
0 00000000000 0001  
  
+  $2^{-1022} * [ 0/2 + 0/4 + 0/8 + 0/16 + \dots + 0 * 2^{-51} + 1 * 2^{-52} ]$

Almost Zero:  $2^{-1074} = 4.9406\ 5645\ 8412\ 466 * 10^{-324}$

→ ~~0~~ 00000000000 00  
~~0~~ 00000000000 00

+  $2^{-1022} * [ 0/2 + 0/4 + 0/8 + 0/16 + \dots + 0 * 2^{-51} + 0 * 2^{-52} ]$

Zero:  $0 = 0.0$  ← zero exponent & mantissa (sign bit is ignored)

## Boundary Conditions

~~sameBirthday~~

- How can we fix our implementation for sameBirthday?
  - We can't: No viable implementation exists!
- What should we do?
  - Rework our interface & contract.
- How?
  - Use what we've learned about non-uniformity in the dynamic range of IEEE-754 double values.

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### uniqueBirthday

- We can express the probability  $P(N)$  that no two of  $N$  people have the same birthday:

$$P(N) = \frac{365}{365} \times \frac{364}{365} \times \frac{363}{365} \times \frac{362}{365} \times \cdots \times \frac{366-N}{365} = \frac{365!}{(365-N)! \times 365^N}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(365) &= \frac{365!}{365^{365}} \cong e^{-365} \times \sqrt{2\pi \times 365} \\ &\cong 1.45 \times 10^{-157} \end{aligned}$$

*Stirling's approx.* \*

$$\gg 4.9406\ 5645\ 8412\ 466 * 10^{-324}$$

- With **double uniqueBirthday(int numPeople)**, we can at least REPRESENT the results for the entire range of valid inputs.

\* *Stirling's approximation:*  $n! \approx n^n e^{-n} \sqrt{2\pi n} (1 + \dots)$

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### uniqueBirthday

```
double uniqueBirthday(int numPeople);  
    // Return the probability that at least  
    // no two of the specified (randomly-  
    // chosen) 'numPeople' were born on the  
    // same day of the same month. People  
    // born on February 29th are excluded.  
    // The behavior is undefined unless  
    // '0 <= numPeople'.
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### sameBirthday

```
#include <assert.h>

double sameBirthday(int numPeople)
{
    assert(0 <= numPeople);

    if (numPeople > 365) {
        return 1.0;
    }

    double probability = 0.0;

    for (int i = 1; i < numPeople; ++i) {
        probability += (1.0 - probability) * i / 365.0;
    }

    return probability;
}
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### uniqueBirthday

```
#include <assert.h>

double uniqueBirthday(int numPeople)
{
    assert(0 <= numPeople);

    if (numPeople > 365) {
        return 0.0;
    }

    double probability = 1.0;

    for (int i = 364; i >= 366 - numPeople; --i) {
        probability *= (1.0 - probability) * i/365.0;
    }

    return probability;
}
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### uniqueBirthday

```
#include <assert.h>

double uniqueBirthday(int numPeople)
{
    assert(0 <= numPeople);

    if (numPeople > 365) {
        return 0.0;
    }

    double probability = 1.0;

    for (int i = 364; i >= 366 - numPeople; --i) {
        probability *= i/365.0;
    }

    return probability;
}
```

## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

### uniqueBirthday

```
#include <assert.h>

double uniqueBirthday(int numPeople)
{
    assert(0 <= numPeople);

    if (numPeople > 365) {
        return 0.0;
    }

    double probability = 1.0;

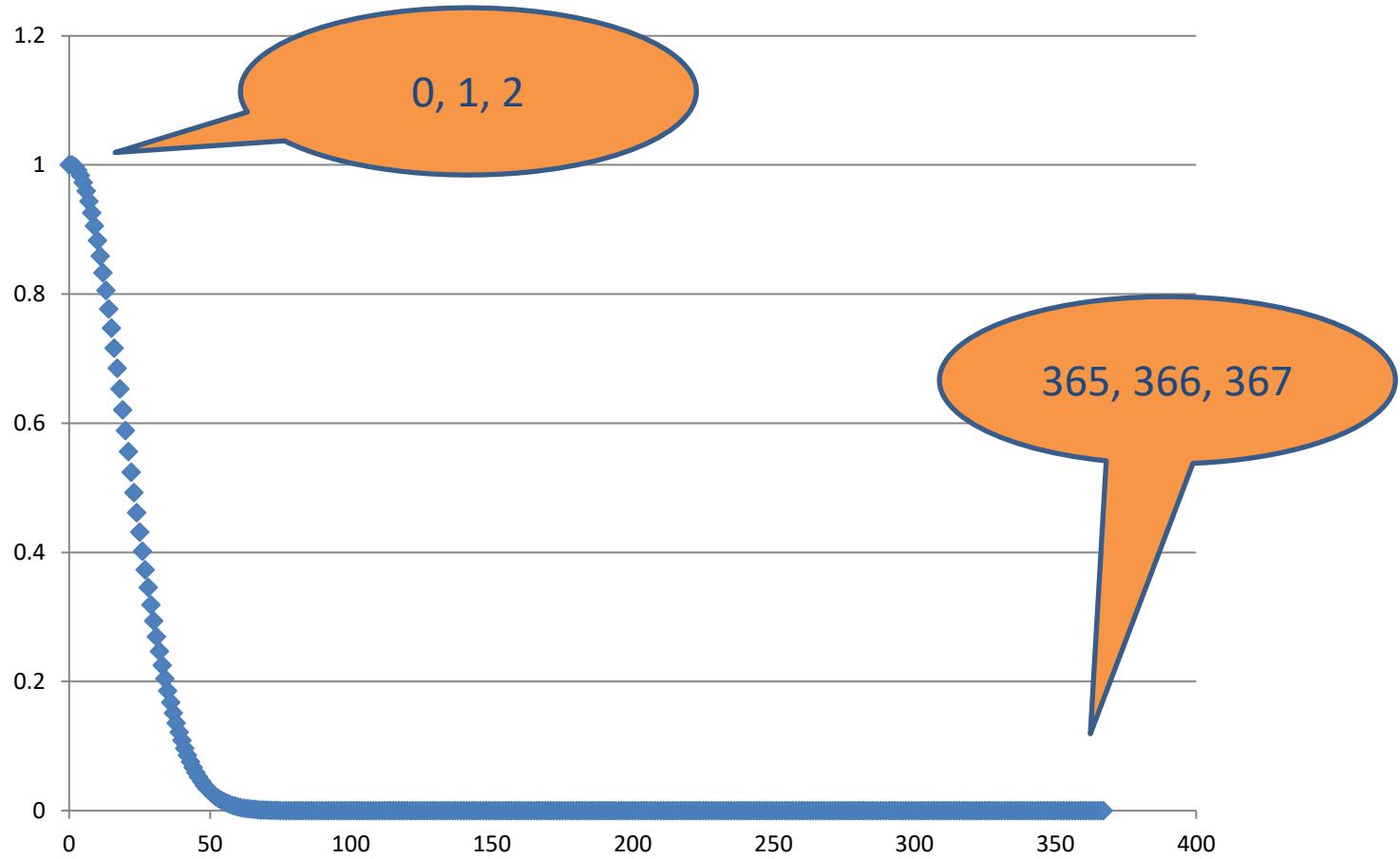
    for (int i = 364; i >= 366 - numPeople; --i) {
        probability *= i/365.0;
    }

    return probability;
}
```

# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

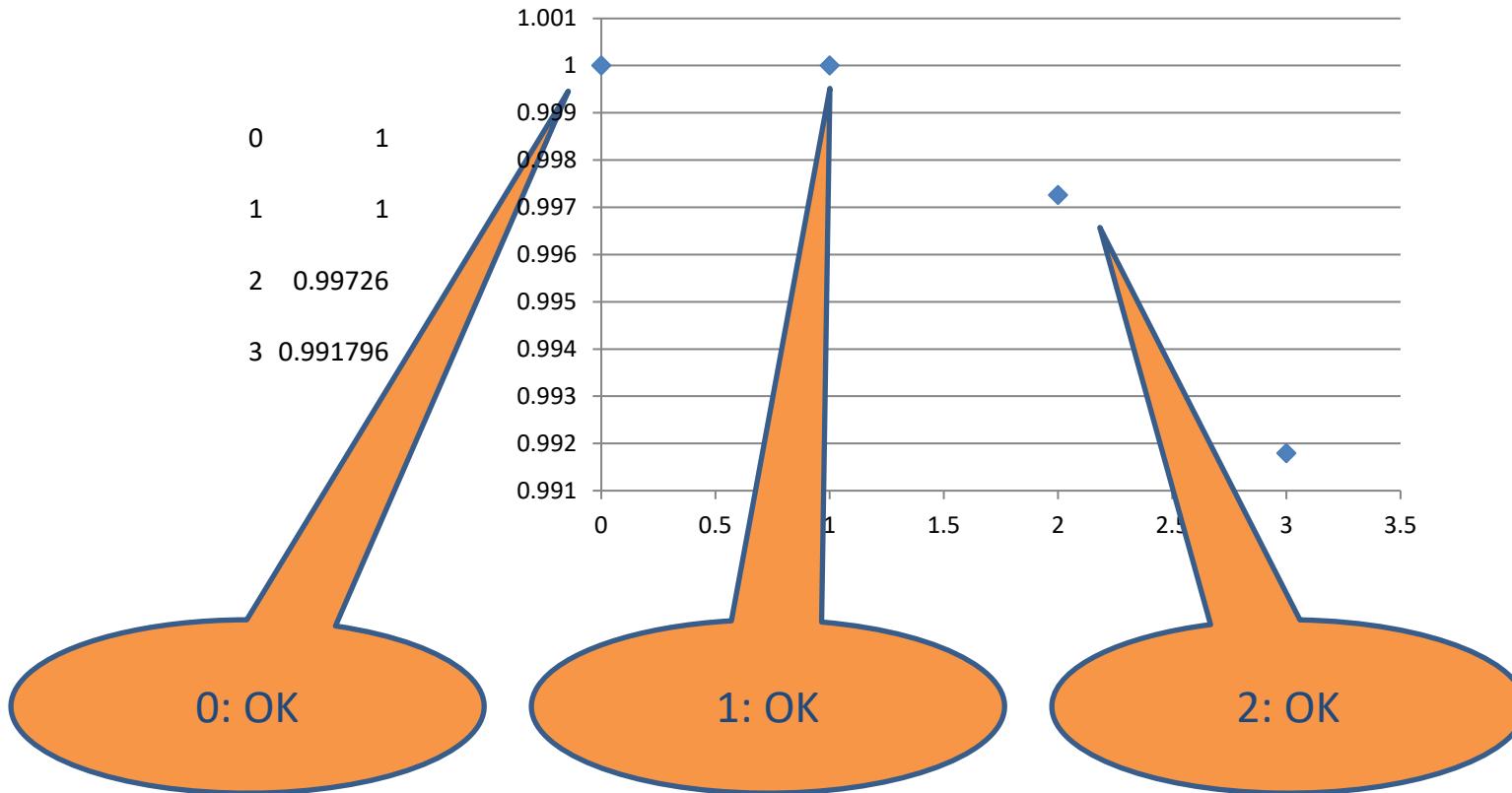
uniqueBirthday



# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

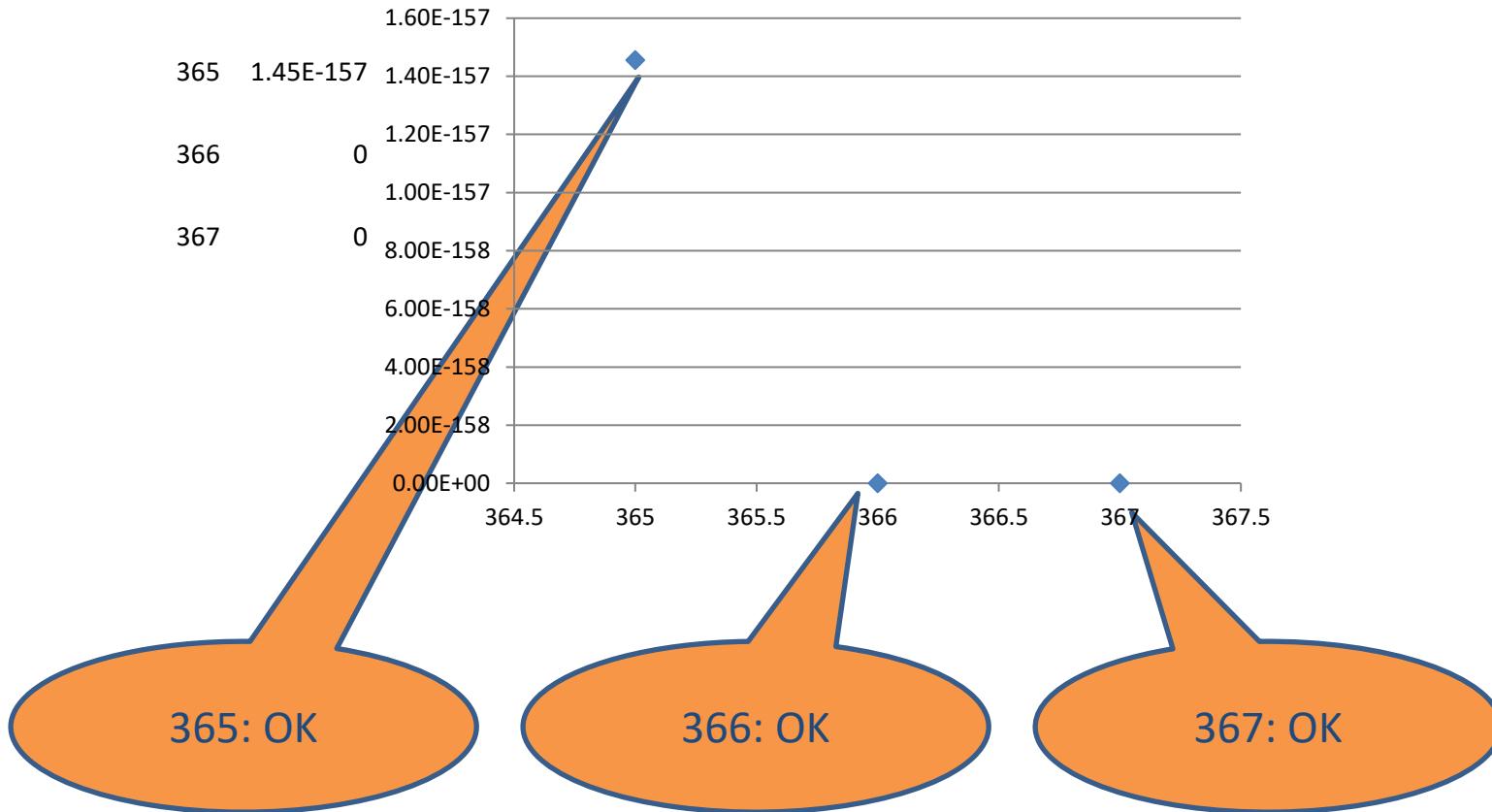
uniqueBirthday



# Designing Component-Level Function Tests

## Boundary Conditions

uniqueBirthday

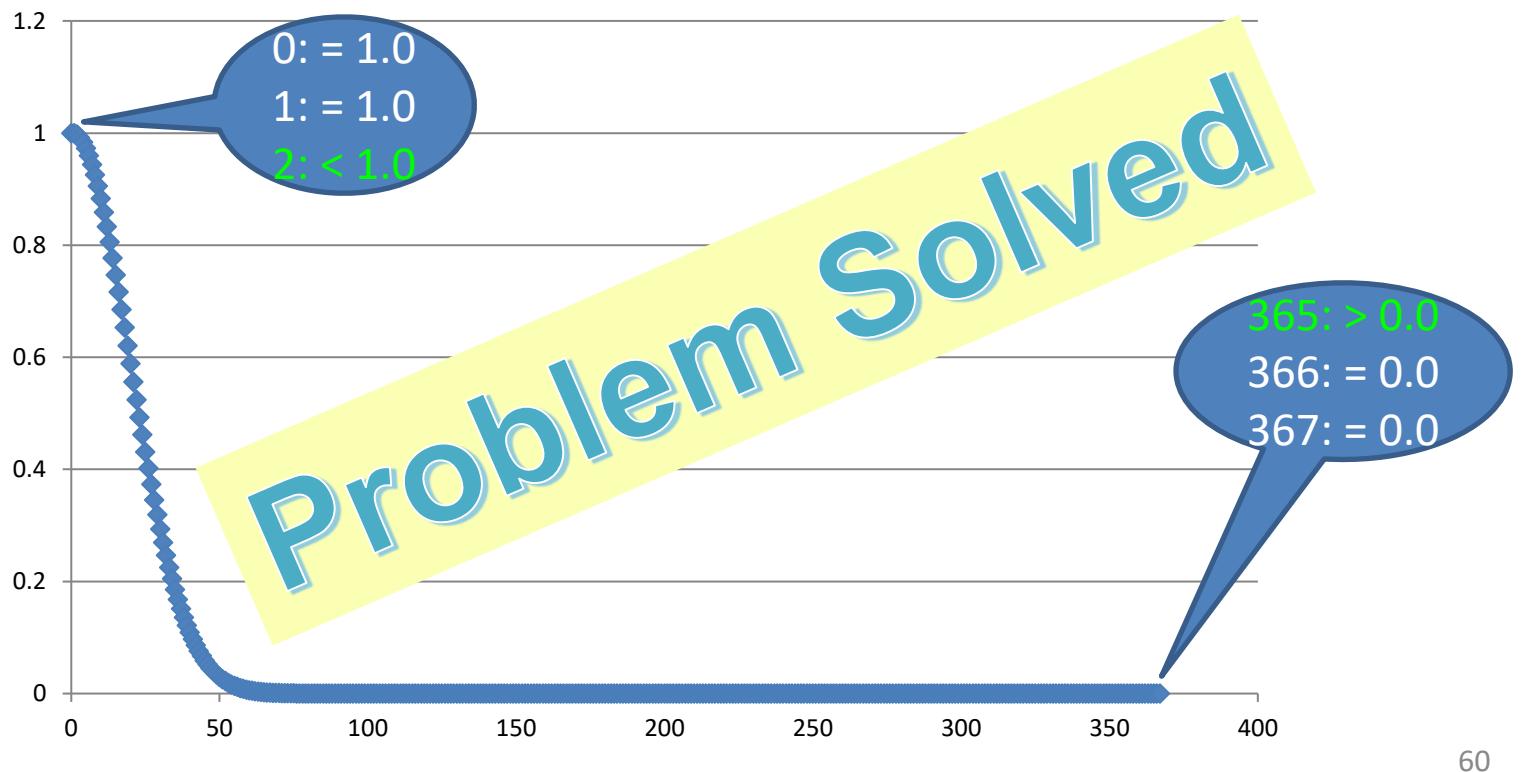


## Designing Component-Level Function Tests

# Boundary Conditions

uniqueBirthday

```
double uniqueBirthday(int n);
```



# Boundary Conditions

## Observations

- We cannot expect to know everything *a priori*.
- The purpose of our initial testing here was to verify certain basic assumptions.
- Creating just a few thoughtful tests at critical *interface boundaries* helped us to discover important *platform boundaries*, which, in turn, led us to redesign our function's interface.
- Thorough testing does not necessarily tell us how to solve a problem; it does, however, alert us to when we haven't done so yet.



Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Combinatorics is fun!

Today's main topic:

How much of the  
world's water is  
dinosaur pee?

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# How did this topic come up?



Meet my stepdaughter Ava

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# How did this topic come up?

### Considerations

Many dinosaurs peeing

Many liters of water on earth

Many millions of years of peeing

Many molecules in a liter of water

Could it be that every molecule of water on earth is tainted?

What is the probability of that?

Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

**What's your intuition?**

**I came up with four questions**

Assume that *all* dinosaurs have equal access to *all* water (e.g., no polar ice caps).

Remember your answers and score yourself at the end of the talk.

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Question 1

What *proportion* of the Earth's water is **dinosaur pee** today?

- (a) 0
- (b) almost 0
- (c) some
- (d) almost 1
- (e) 1

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Question 2

What is the **probability** that *ALL* molecules of  
**water** on earth were once **inside a dinosaur?**

- (a) 0
- (b) almost 0
- (c) somewhere in the middle
- (d) almost 1
- (e) 1

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Question 3

Suppose the *expected* amount of untainted water turns out to be on the order of a single molecule; what would then be the probability that ALL the molecules were tainted?

- (a) 0
- (b) almost 0
- (c) somewhere in the middle
- (d) almost 1
- (e) 1

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Question 4

If I have an 8-ounce (236.5 ml) glass of water today, what is the **probability** that it has *no* dinosaur pee in it?

- (a) 0
- (b) almost 0
- (c) somewhere in the middle
- (d) almost 1
- (e) 1

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Question Recap

Record your answers now please

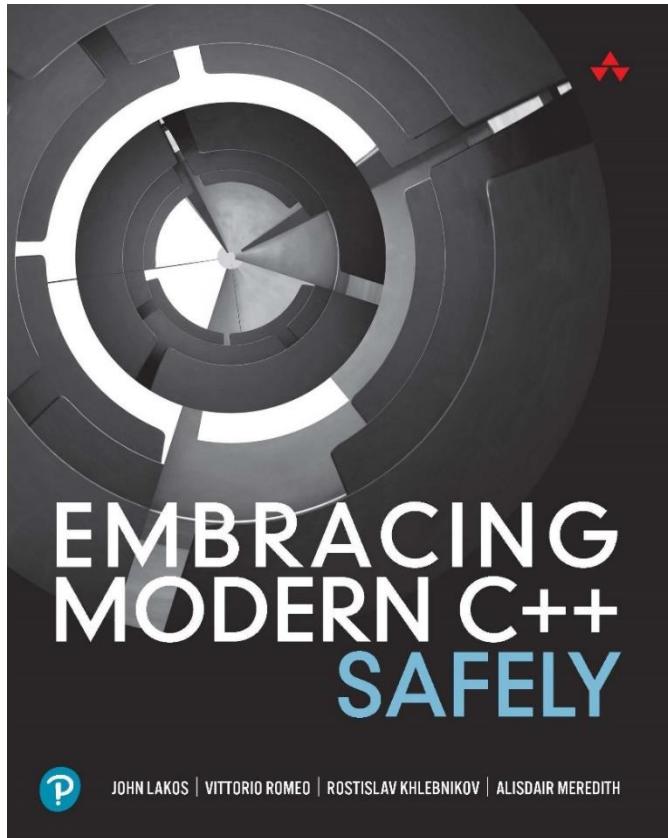
1. What fraction of all water is pee?
2. What's the chance every molecule is pee?
3. What would <sub>ans.</sub> 2. be if <sub>ans.</sub> 1. were “*all but 1 molecule*”?
4. What's the chance my cup of water is pure?

Answers: (a) **0**    (b) **0+**    (c) **~0.5**    (d) **1-**    (e) **1**

Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

The answers would have to wait!

I was busy writing EMC++S!



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

The answers would have to wait!

Over time, I accumulated some facts:

- Dinosaurs lived for about **165 million years**.
- Earth has about **1.26e21 liters (kg\*)** of water.  
1,260,000,000,000,000,000 liters  
(1,260 Billion Billion liters)

**Open question**

How much water did dinosaurs drink per year?

\*Note that a kg and a liter of H<sub>2</sub>O are the same at 1 ATM and 4° C.

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Finally, I was done with EMC++S

I used the simplifying assumption:

- All dinosaurs have access to all water

I also made a WAG (wild-ass guess):

- Dinosaur mass = animal mass today

More Facts:

- All animals today =  $\sim 4e9$  tons =  $3.62874e12$  kg
- A reptile **pees** between 10-30 ml per kg per day.

Let's call it 20 ml/kg/day of **dino pee**

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Deriving the *annual* rate of dino pee

total dinosaur mass: **3.62874e12 kg**

daily rate of **dino pee per kg:** **20 ml/day/kg**

total *daily* **dino pee:**

**0.02 liter/day/kg \* 3.62874e12 kg = 7.25748e10 liter/day**

total *annual* **dino pee:**

**365.25 day/year \* 7.25748e10 liter/day**  
**= 2.6507946e13 liter/year**

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Recall differential equations

Let  $y(t)$  = untainted water (liters) at time  $t$ .

Let  $R$  = initial fractional rate ( $\text{time}^{-1}$ ) at which water is consumed...

(...and peed).

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -Ry$$

$$\frac{dy}{y} = -Rdt$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} dy = \int -R dt$$

$$\ln y = -Rt + \text{Constant}$$

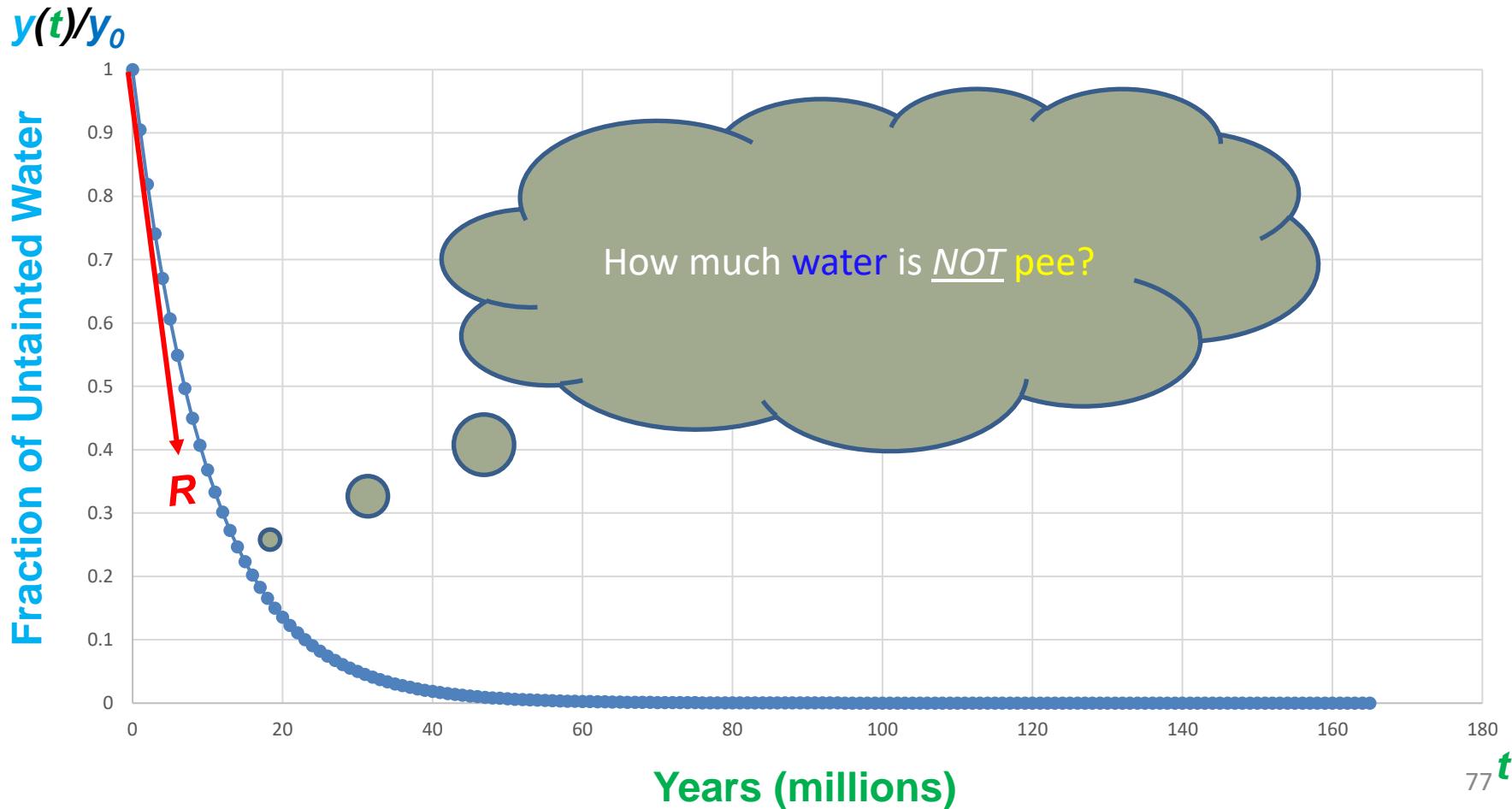
$$y(t) = y_0 e^{-Rt}$$

Total Water

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Q1. How much water is pee?

Modeling the problem with  $e^{-Rt}$



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Deriving the annual rate of decay,  $R$

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \frac{\text{AnnualPee}}{y_0 = \text{TotalWater}} \\ &= \frac{2.6507946\text{e}13 \text{ liters/year}}{1.26\text{e}21 \text{ liters}} \\ &= 2.10381\text{e}-08/\text{year} \end{aligned}$$

Note:  $R = -\ln(1 - \text{AnnualPee}/\text{TotalWater})$  but, for sufficiently small  $x$ ,  $e^{-x} \approx 1 - x$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Plug in the  $R$  and  $t$  and get the answer

$$y(t) = y_0 e^{-Rt}$$

$$\frac{y(165,000,000)}{y_0} = e^{-2.10381e-08 * 165,000,000}$$

unit-less

Answer →  $= 0.031077024$   
 $= 3.11\%$  (untainted) (D?)  
(Almost all?)

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

**Q1. How much water is pee?**

**What if we use daily  $R$  and  $t$ ?**

$$R_{\text{daily}} = \frac{R}{365.25} \quad t_{\text{daily}} = 365.25t$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_{\text{daily}}(t_{\text{daily}}) &= y_0 e^{-R_{\text{daily}} t_{\text{daily}}} \\ &= y_0 e^{-365.25 \frac{Rt}{365.25}} \\ &= y_0 e^{-Rt} = y(t) \end{aligned}$$

No Difference!

It all cancels out.

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

#### Another Model: discrete probability

Let  $t$  be time (in units of years)— i.e.,  $\Delta_t = 1$  year

Let  $R$  be the fractional decay rate (in units of time $^{-1}$ )

Let  $y$  be the expected quantity of pure water:

$$y(t) \cong y_0 (1 - R\Delta_t)^{t/\Delta_t}$$

Why?

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

**Q1. How much water is pee?**

**Another Model: discrete probability**

*Because...*

$$e^x = \lim_{\mu \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{\mu}\right)^\mu$$

**(We'll talk about compounding shortly)**

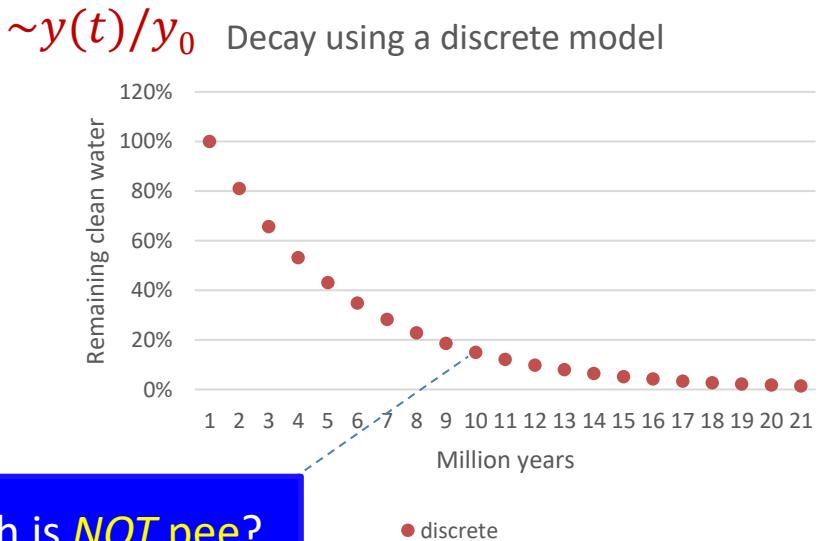
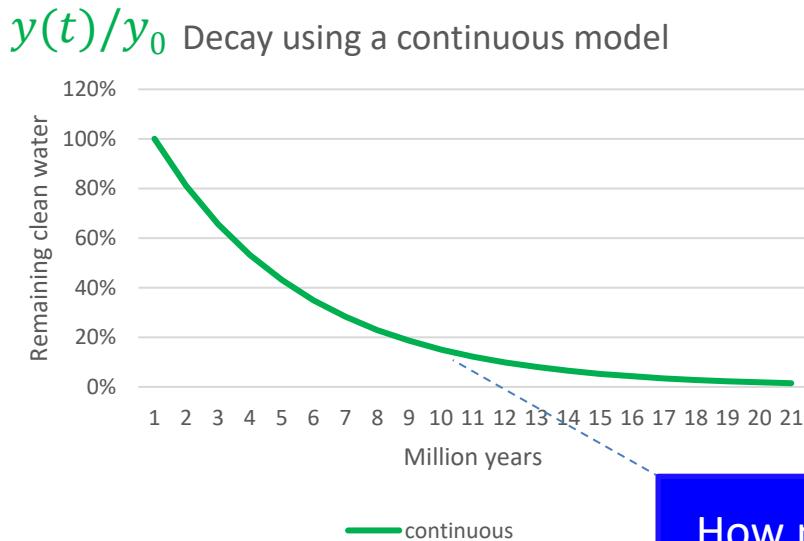
## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Another Model: discrete probability

$$y(t)/y_0 = e^{-Rt}$$

$$y(t)/y_0 \cong (1 - R\Delta_t)^{t/\Delta_t}$$



How much is NOT pee?

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Q1. How much water is pee?

## Does discrete probability make a difference?

million years	continuous	discrete (annual)	difference*
0	1.000000000000000	1.000000000000000	0.000000000000000
25	0.59099217614322	0.59099217287355	0.0000000378656
50	0.34927175226250	0.34927174839780	0.0000000447565
75	0.20641687293497	0.20641686950896	0.0000000396761
100	0.12199075692852	0.12199075422885	0.0000000312644
125	0.07209558290654	0.07209558091219	0.0000000230962
150	0.04260792543225	0.04260792401787	0.0000000163796
165	0.03107702434069	0.03107702320593	0.0000000131415

Data:

$t \leq 165$  M years      (ours)  
 $R = 2.10381e-8/\text{year}$       (ours)

How much is pure?

\*difference = abs(discrete – continuous)

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Compound Interest

$$A = P(1 + I)^N$$

$A$  = final amount               $P$  = principal  
 $I$  = interest rate               $N$  = time periods  
                                      (annual)    (years)

$$A_k = P(1 + I/k)^{kN}$$

$k$  = compounding factor

For daily compounding  $k \cong 365.25$

*Note, financial products that have daily compounding are often marketed with a different annual percentage rate (APR). For example, a 2% APR results from a 1.98% rate compounded daily.*

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee Compounding

Let  $t$  be time (in units of years)— i.e.,  $\Delta_t = 1$  year

Let  $R$  be the fractional decay rate (in units of time $^{-1}$ )

Let  $y$  be the expected quantity of pure water (liters)

$$y(t) \cong y_0(1 - R\Delta_t)^{t/\Delta_t}$$

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee Compounding

Let  $t$  be time (in units of years)— i.e.,  $\Delta_t = 1$  year

Let  $R$  be the fractional decay rate (in units of time $^{-1}$ )

Let  $y$  be the expected quantity of pure water (liters)

Let  $k$  be the compounding factor:

$$y(t) \cong y_0 \left(1 - \frac{R}{k} \Delta_t\right)^{kt/\Delta_t}$$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# How much water is pee?

Using *infinite precision* with our data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	0.03107702434070	0
per day	365.25	0.03107702433759	0.00000000999716
per year	1	0.03107702320593	0.00000365146361
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	0.03107701299304	0.00003651463471
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	0.03107691086412	0.00036514620805
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	0.03107588957926	0.00365144817284
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	0.03106567715860	0.03651309073776
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	0.03096359581703	0.36499158486497
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	0.02994713891235	3.63575809563761

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
t = 165M years (ours)  
R = 2.10381e-8/year (ours)

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Other attempts at this problem

I watched a great video on  
this subject by *In-que-ri-ty*.

Inquerity19: <https://youtu.be/i67uCBetsyU>

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach

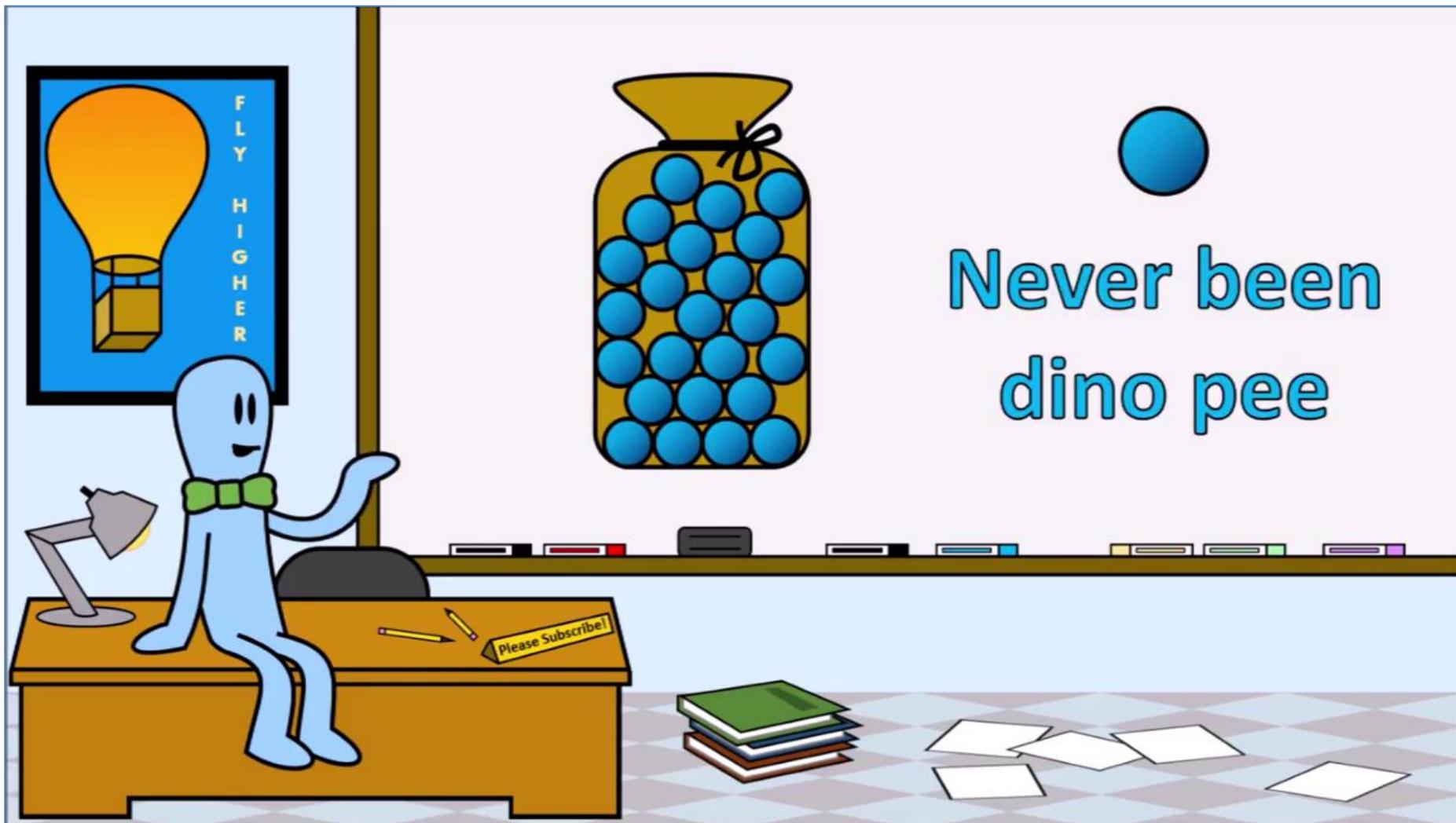


## Inquerity's Approach

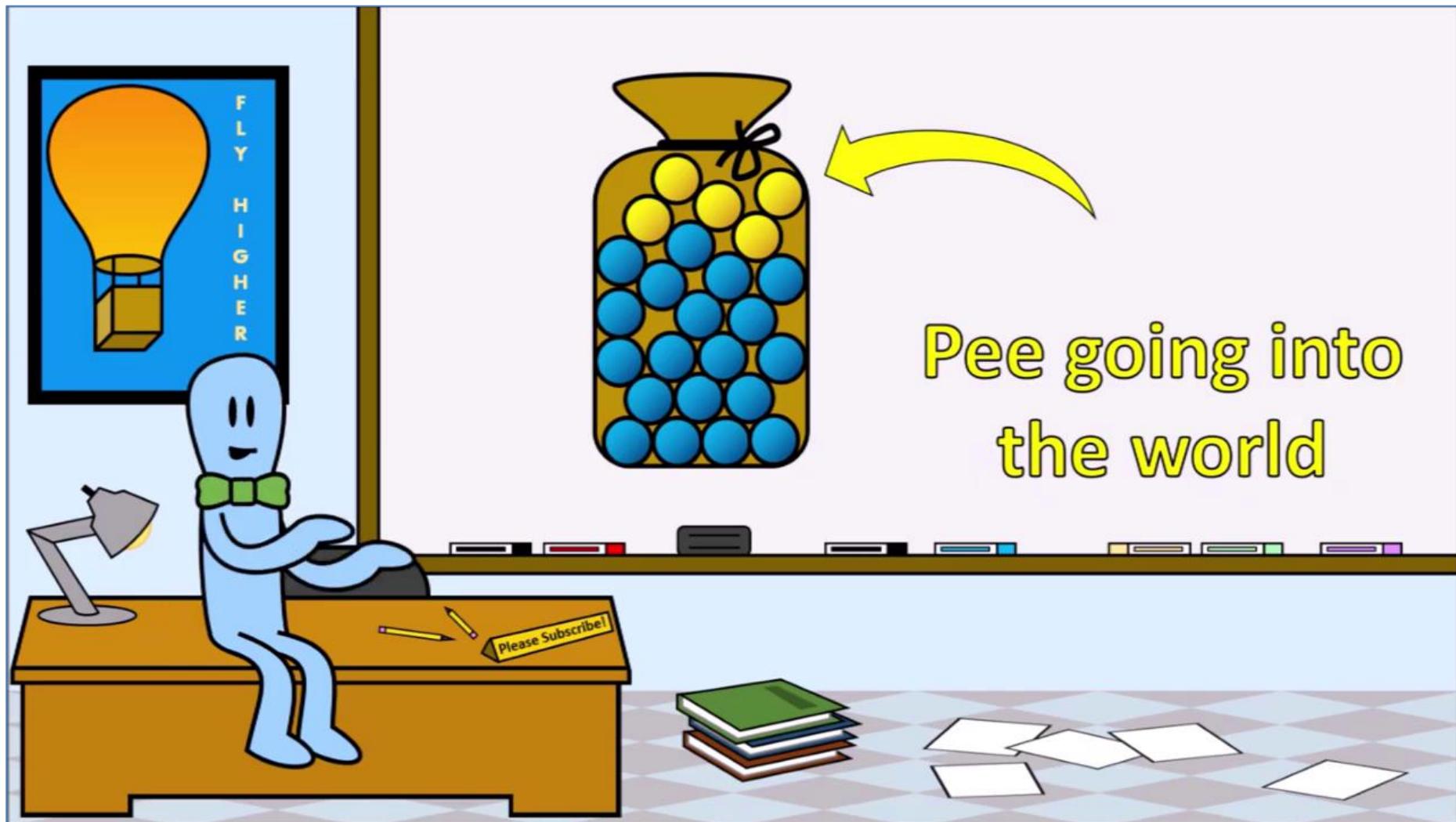


Probability of  
pulling out a  
yellow marble  
after each turn.

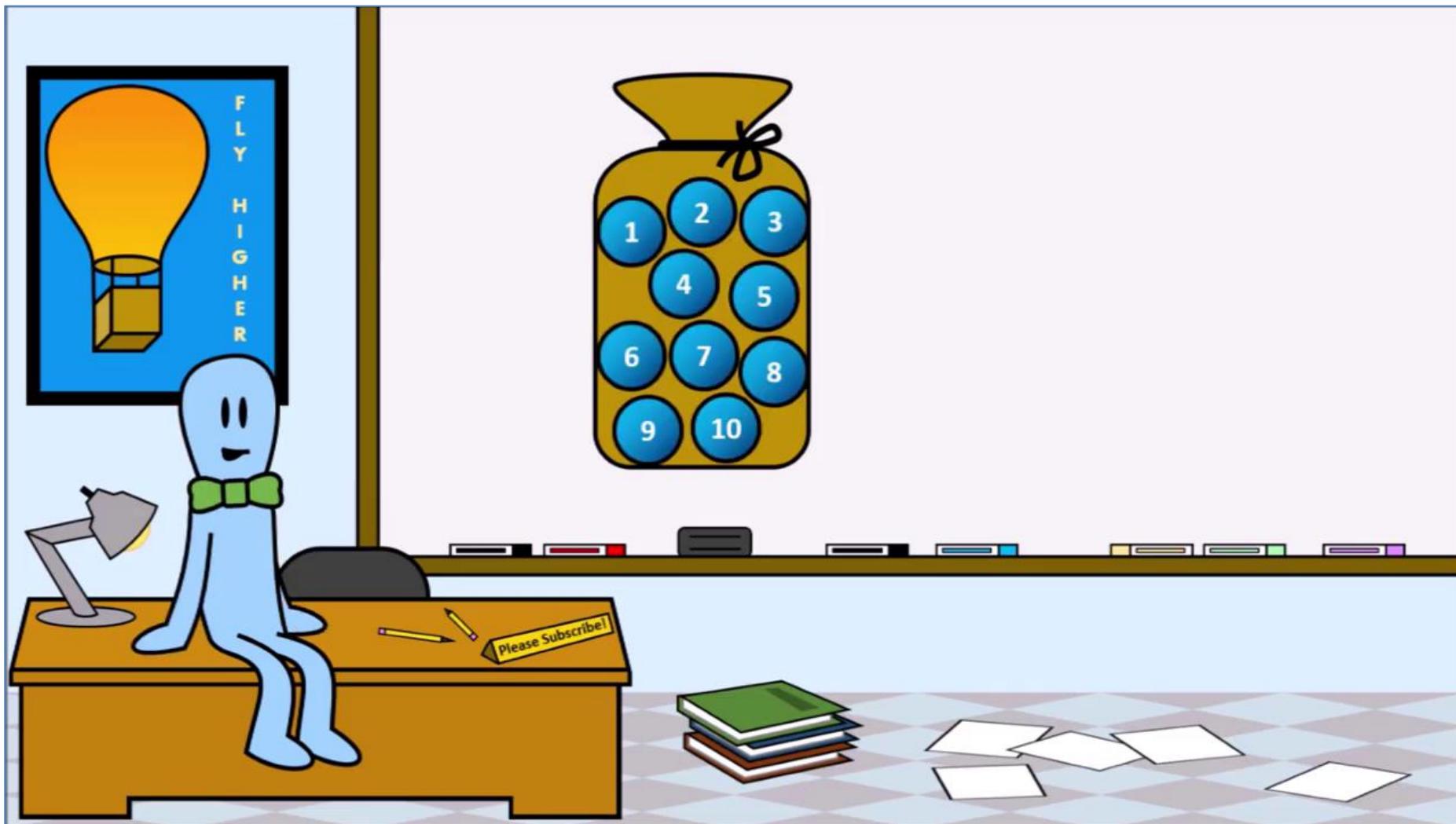
## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach

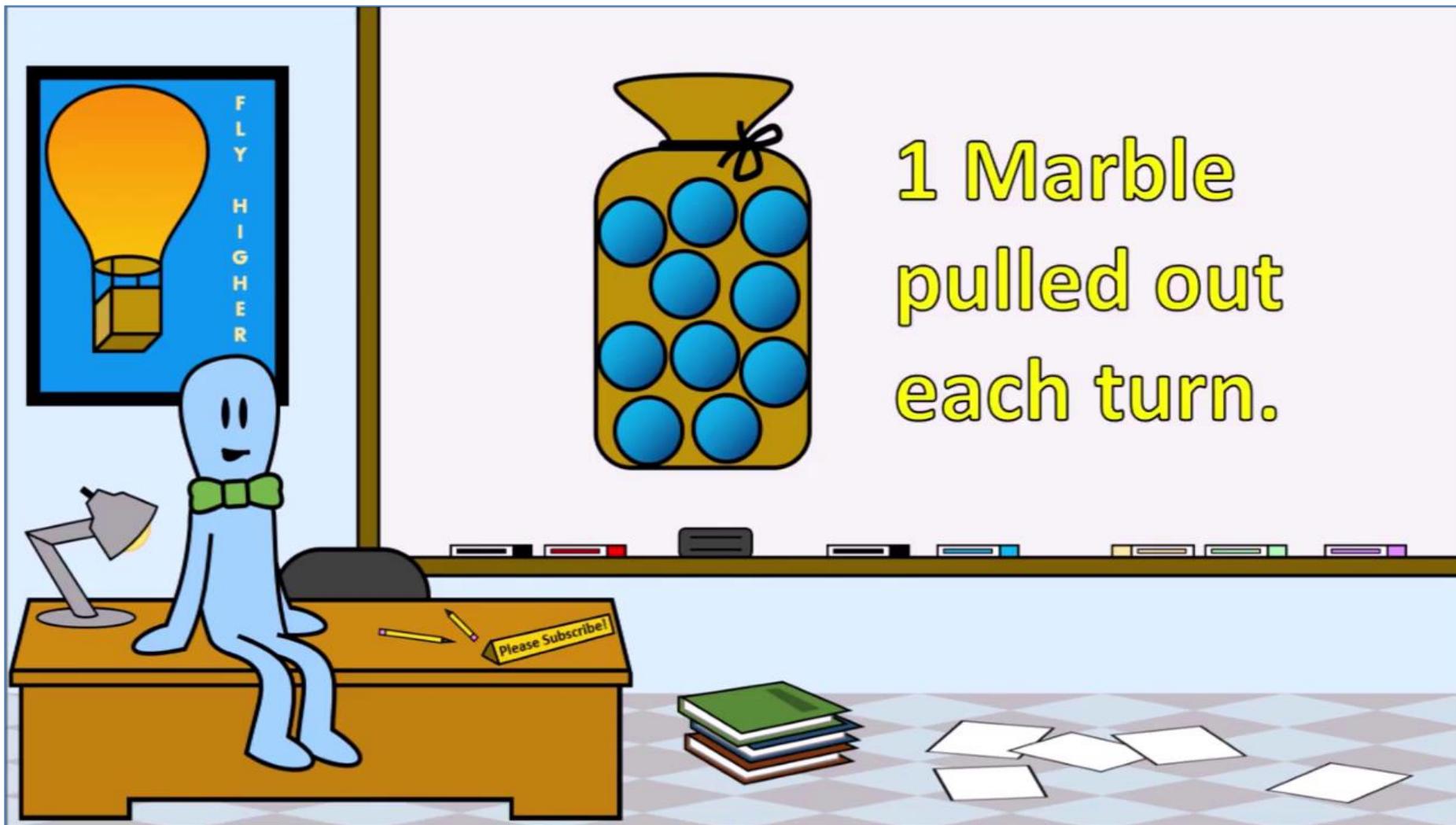


## Inquerity's Approach



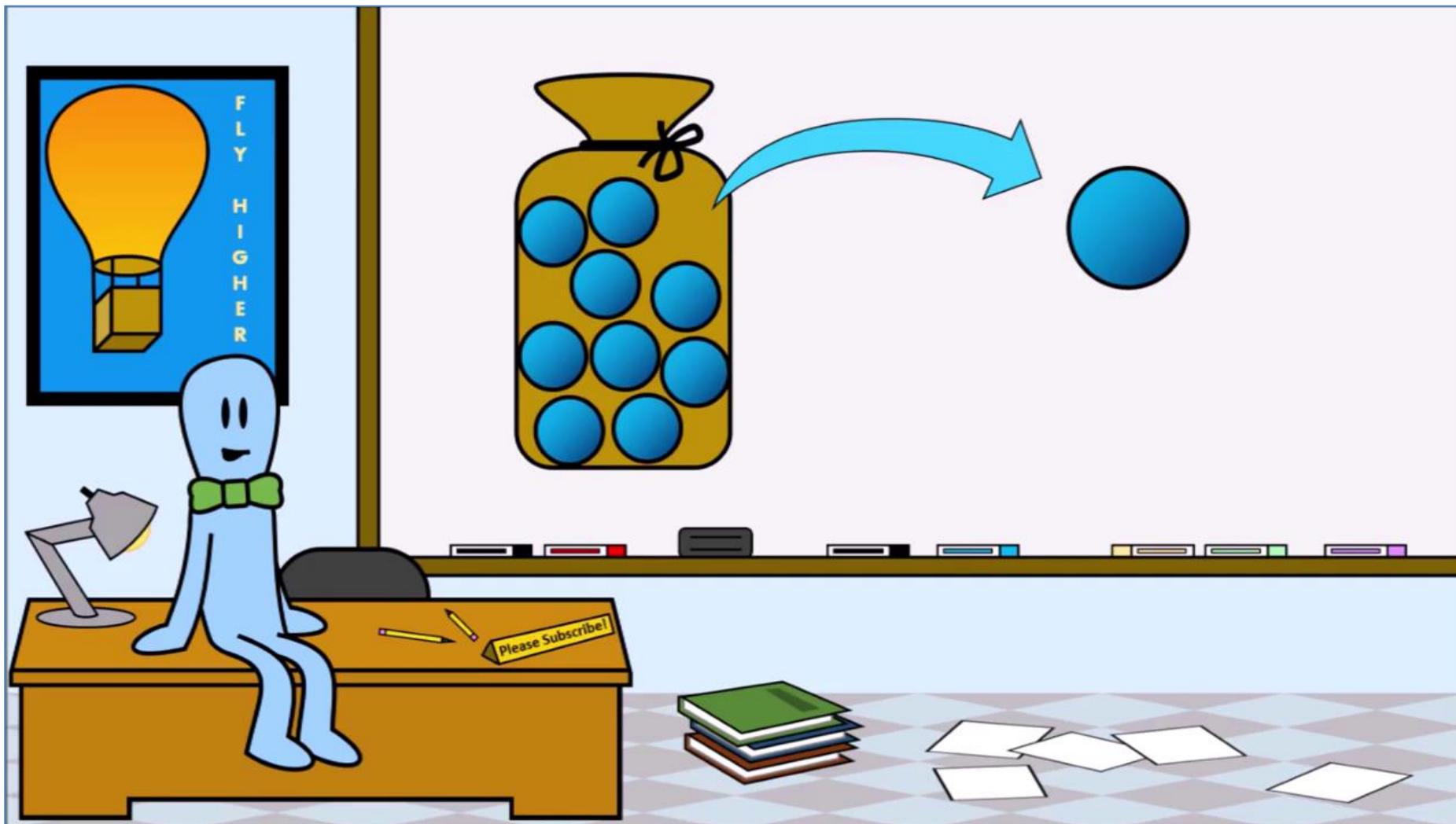
Probability of  
pulling out a  
yellow marble  
after each turn.

## Inquerity's Approach

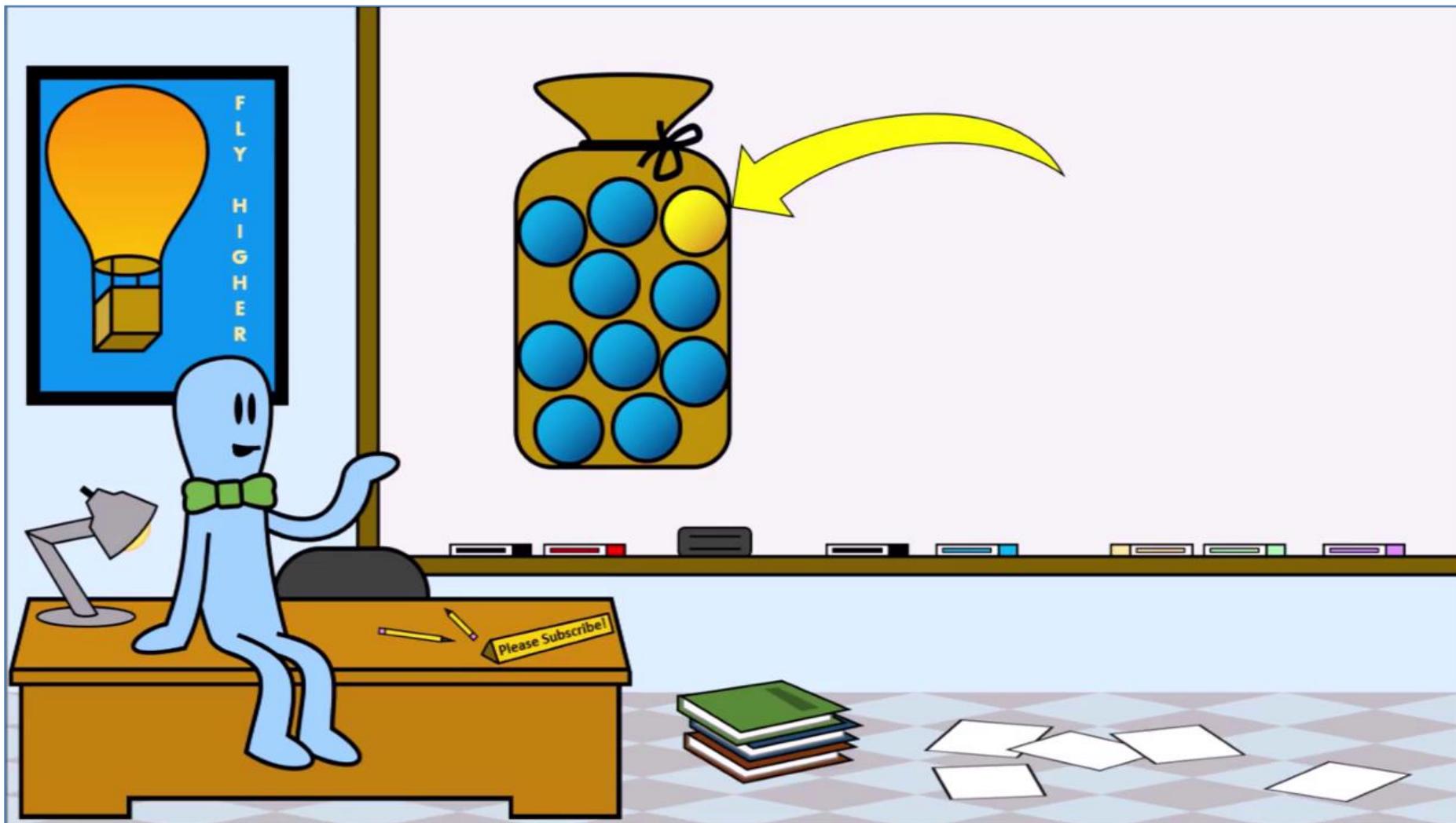


1 Marble  
pulled out  
each turn.

## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach



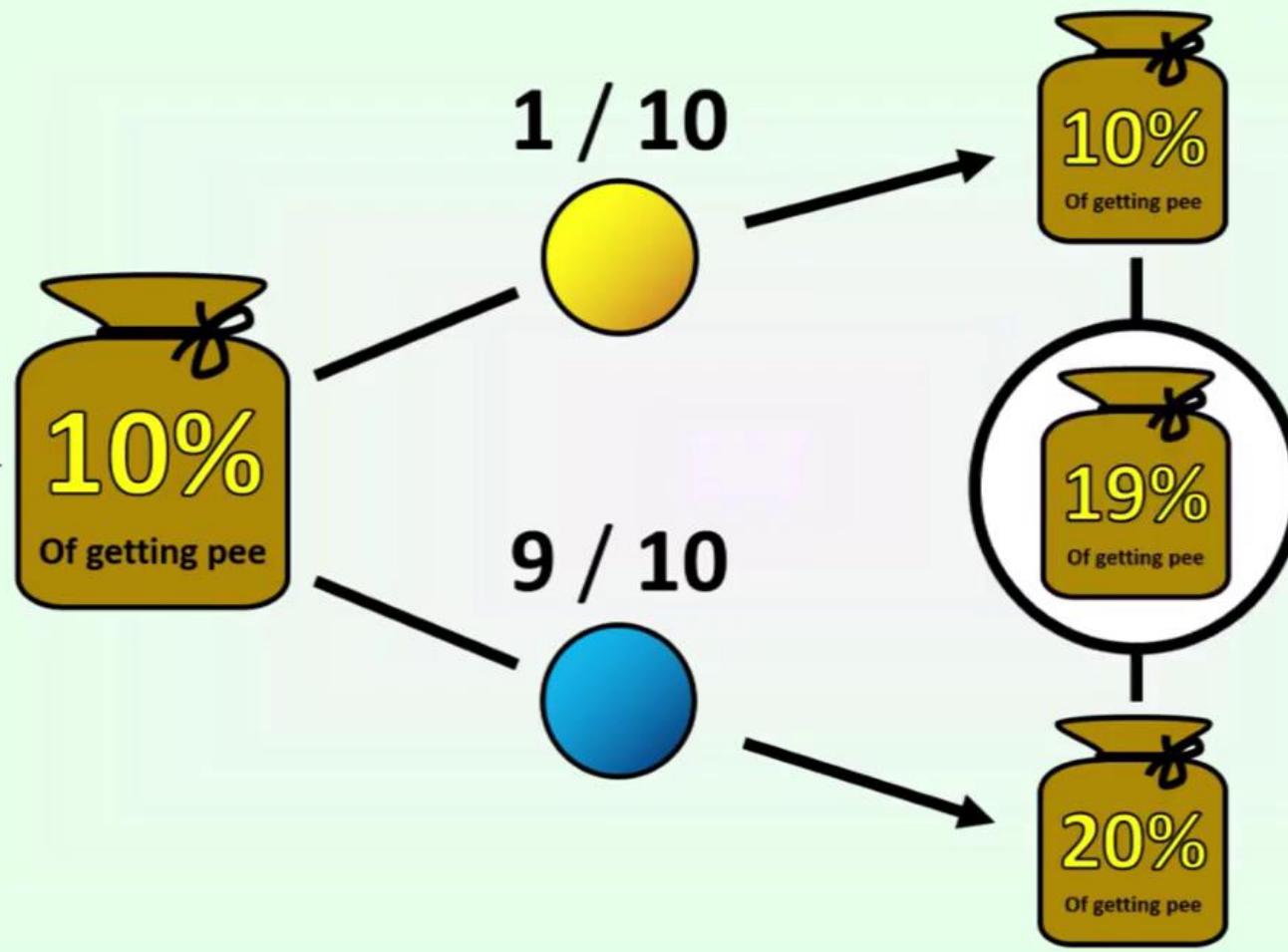
## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach



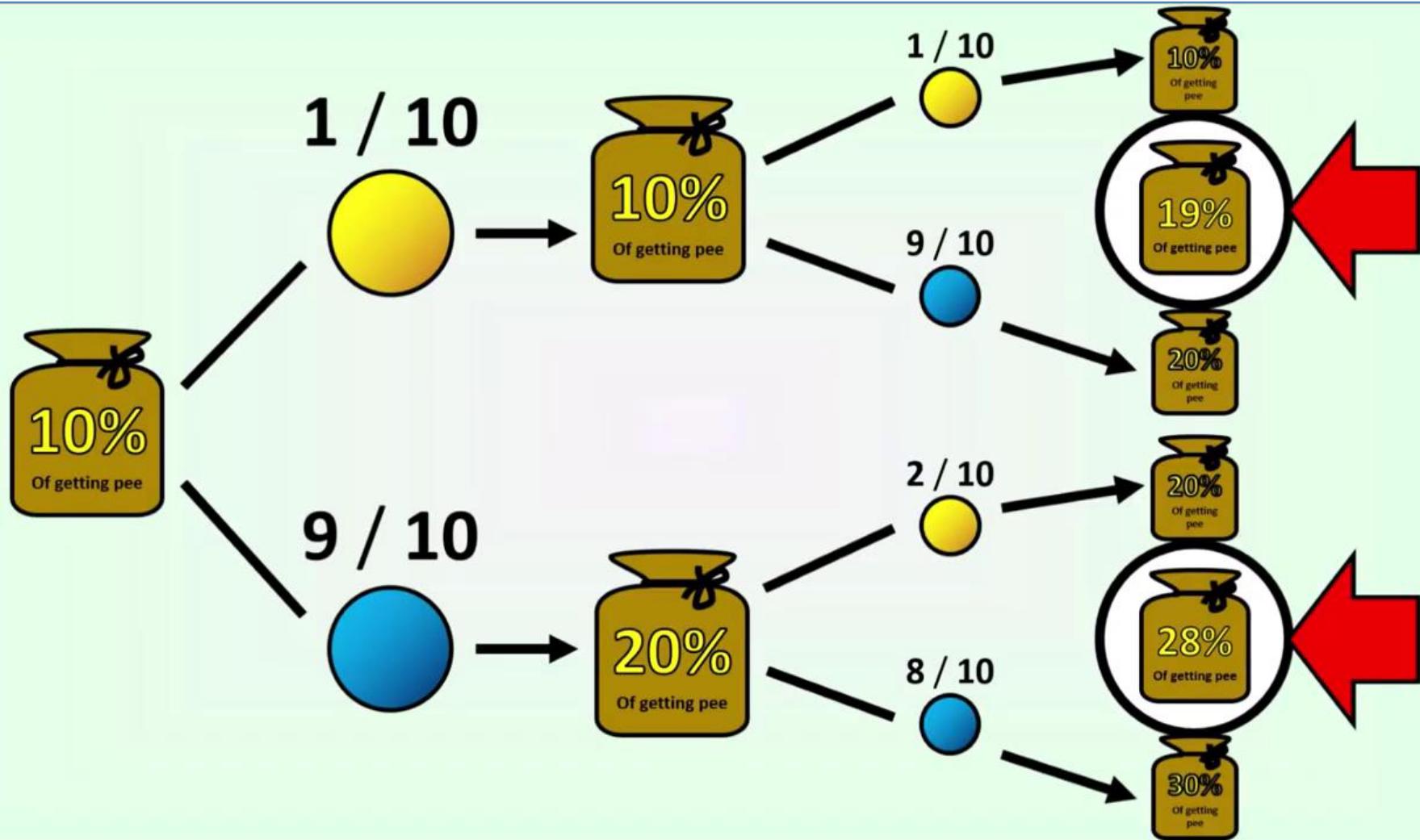
## Inquerity's Approach



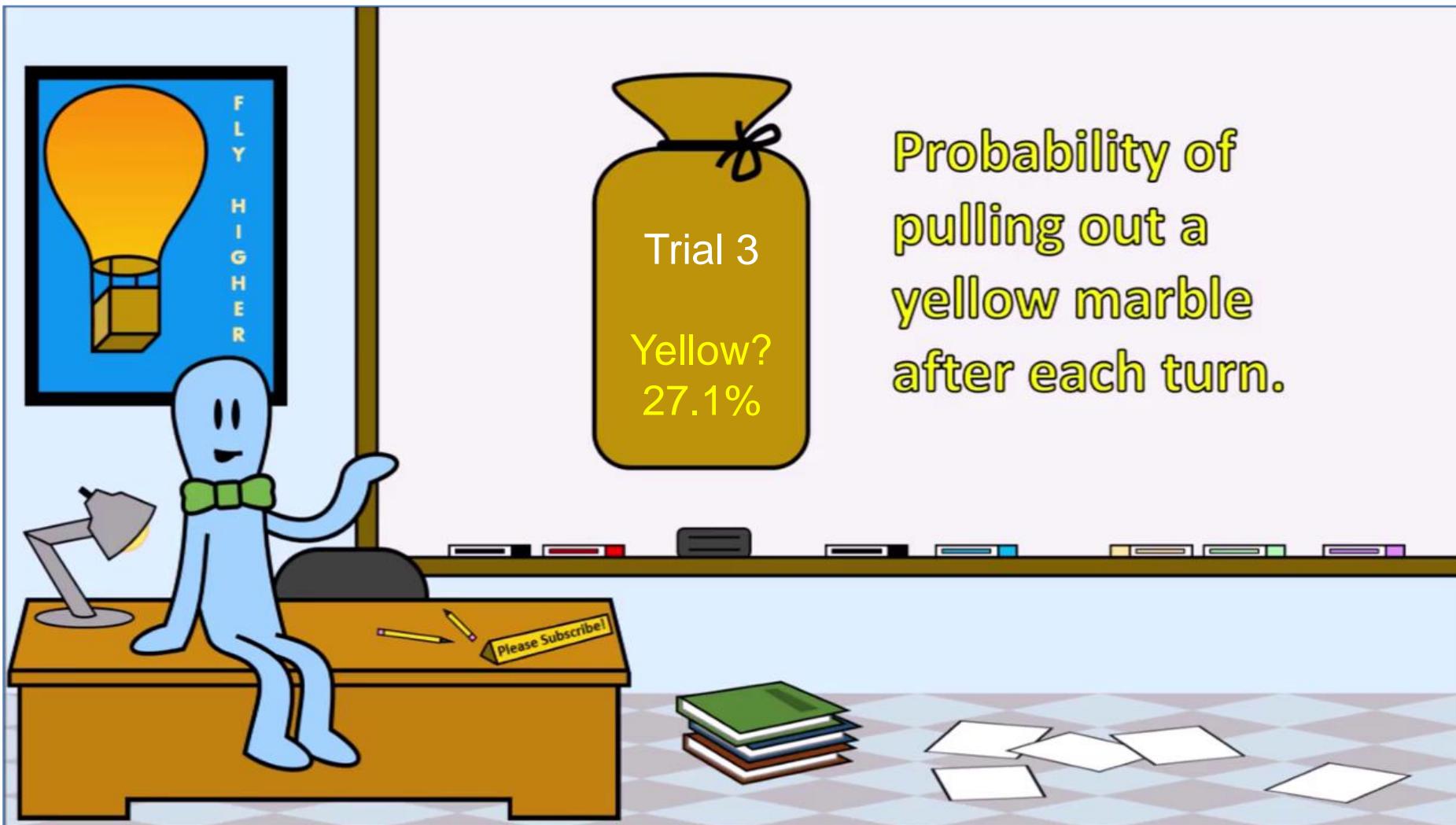
## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach

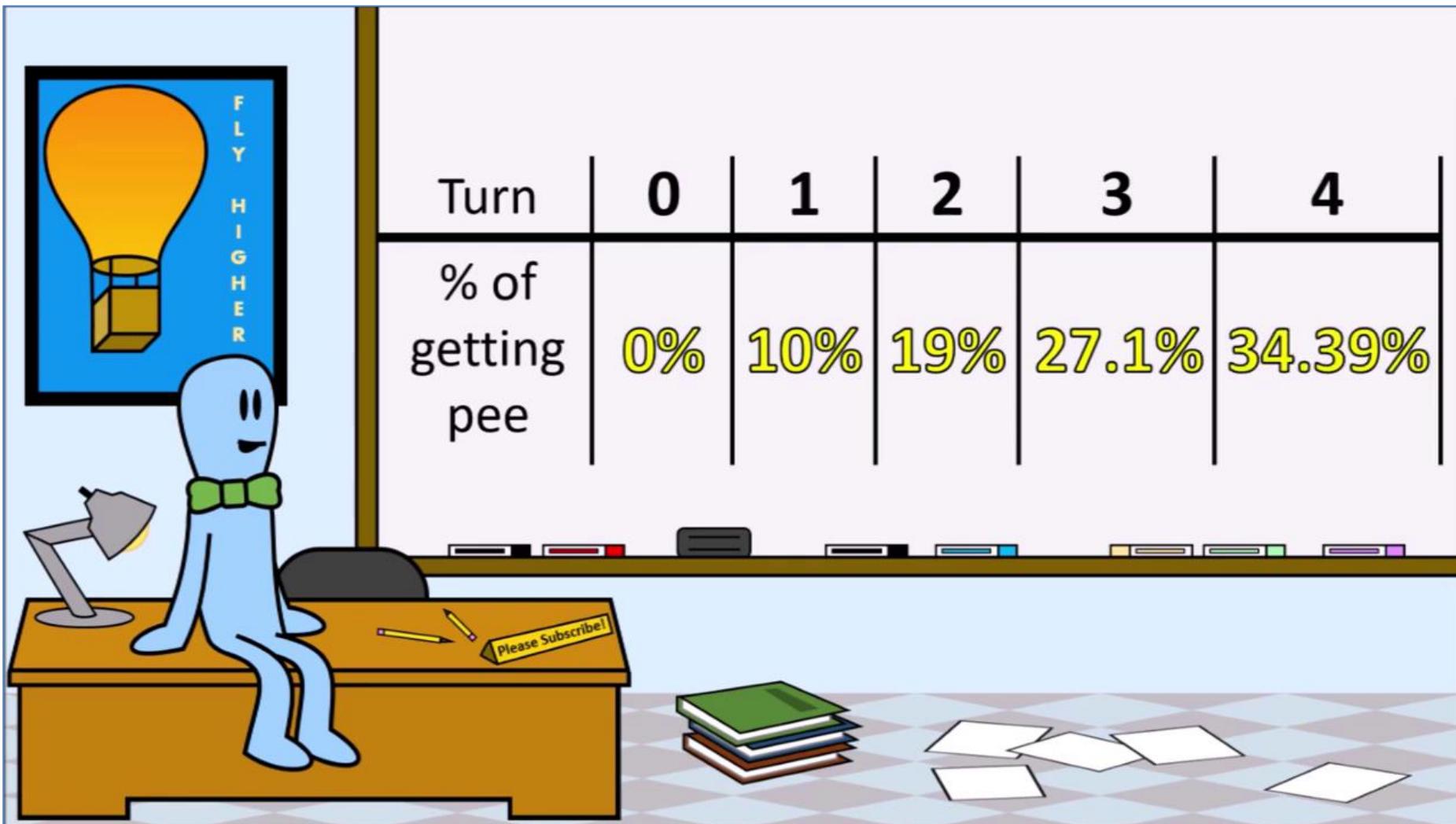


## Inquerity's Approach

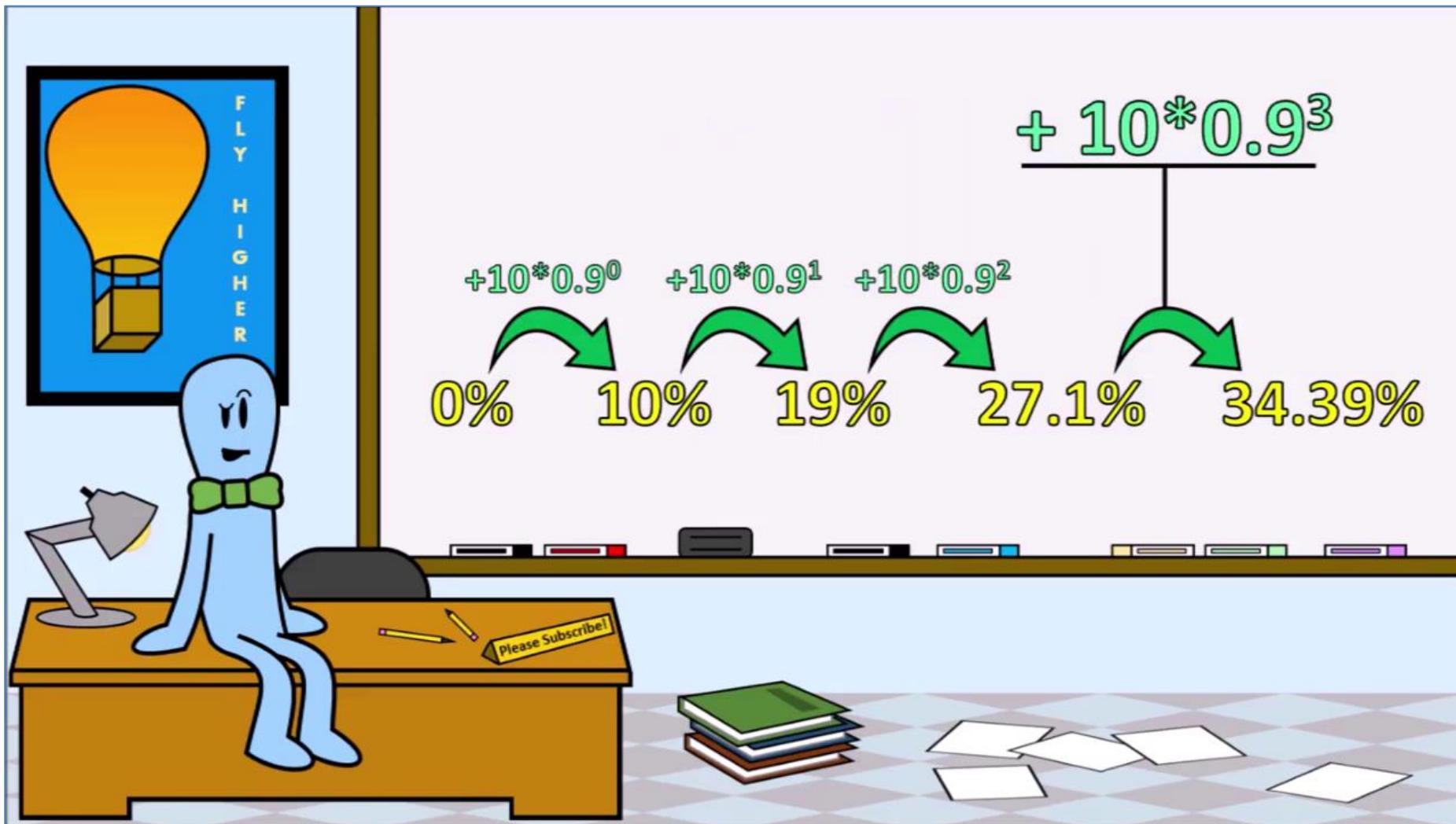


Probability of  
pulling out a  
yellow marble  
after each turn.

## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach

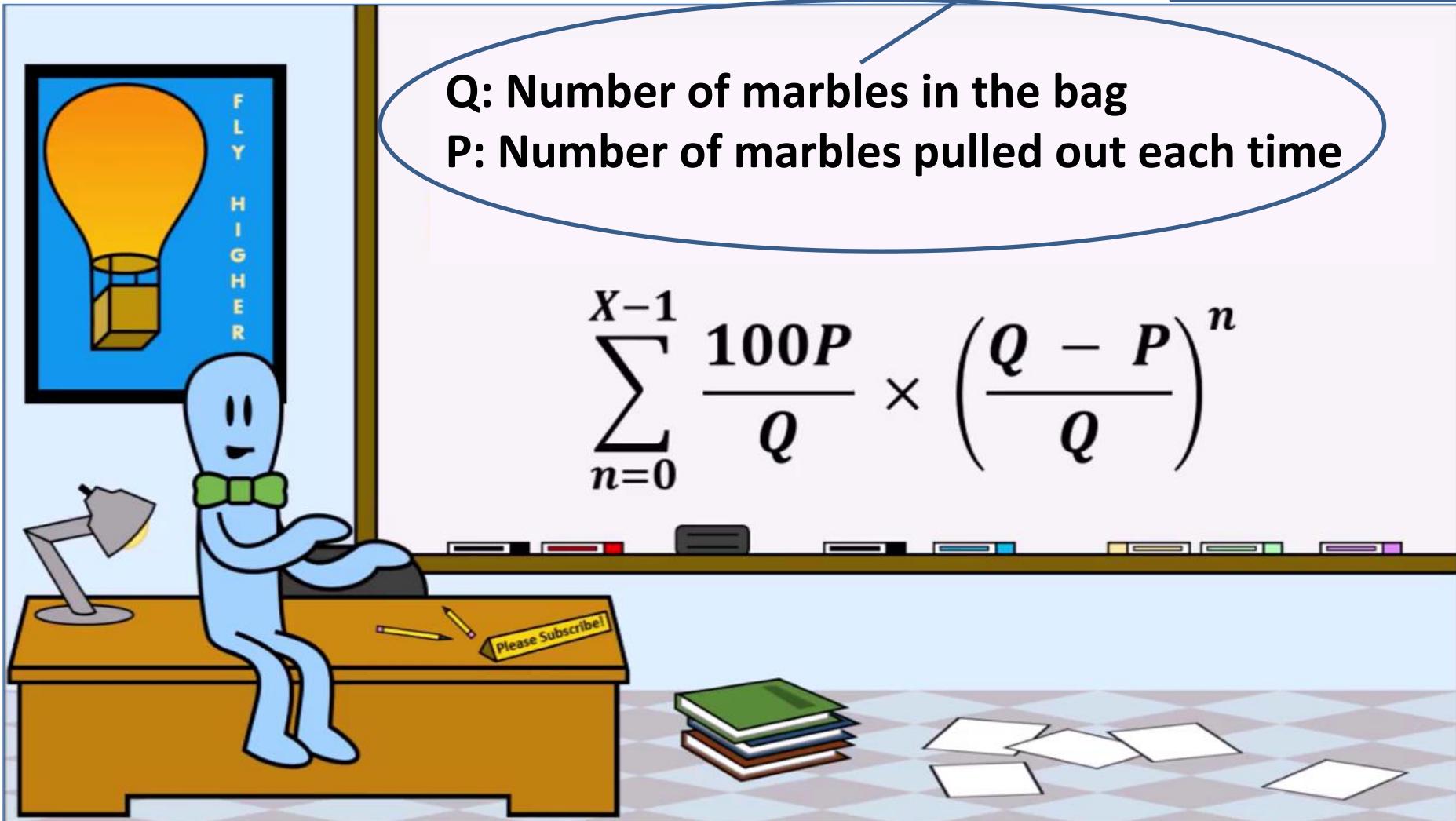


I added these two annotations for this presentation.

## Inquerity's Approach

**Q: Number of marbles in the bag**  
**P: Number of marbles pulled out each time**

$$\sum_{n=0}^{X-1} \frac{100P}{Q} \times \left( \frac{Q - P}{Q} \right)^n$$



## Inquiry's Approach

# Deriving the *geometric sum* formula

$$\begin{aligned}\%Pee &= \sum_{n=0}^{X-1} \frac{100P}{Q} \times \left(\frac{Q-P}{Q}\right)^n \\&= \sum_{n=0}^{X-1} 100 \times (1 - R) \times R^n \\&= \sum_{n=0}^{X-1} AR^n = A + AR + AR^2 + \cdots + AR^{X-1}\end{aligned}$$

Not like our **R**


$$\text{Let } R = 1 - \frac{P}{Q}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Let } A &= 100 \times \frac{P}{Q} \\&= 100 \times (1 - R)\end{aligned}$$

## Inquiry's Approach

# Deriving the *geometric sum* formula

$$S = \sum_{n=0}^{X-1} AR^n = AR^0 + AR^1 + AR^2 + \cdots + AR^{X-2} + AR^{X-1}$$

$$RS = AR^1 + AR^2 + \cdots + AR^{X-2} + AR^{X-1} + AR^X$$

$$S - RS = AR^0 + \cancel{AR^1} + \cancel{AR^2} + \cdots + \cancel{AR^{X-2}} + \cancel{AR^{X-1}} - AR^X$$
$$- \cancel{AR^1} - \cancel{AR^2} - \cdots - \cancel{AR^{X-2}} - \cancel{AR^{X-1}}$$

$$S(1 - R) = AR^0 - AR^X$$

$$S = \frac{AR^0 - AR^X}{1 - R}$$

$$= \frac{A(1 - R^X)}{1 - R}$$

## Inquerity's Approach

# Deriving the *geometric sum* formula

Now plugging Inquerity's symbols

$$R = 1 - \frac{P}{Q}$$
$$A = 100 \times \frac{P}{Q} = 100 \times (1 - R)$$

into *geometric sum* formula

$$\sum_{n=0}^{X-1} AR^n = \frac{A(1 - R^X)}{1 - R}$$

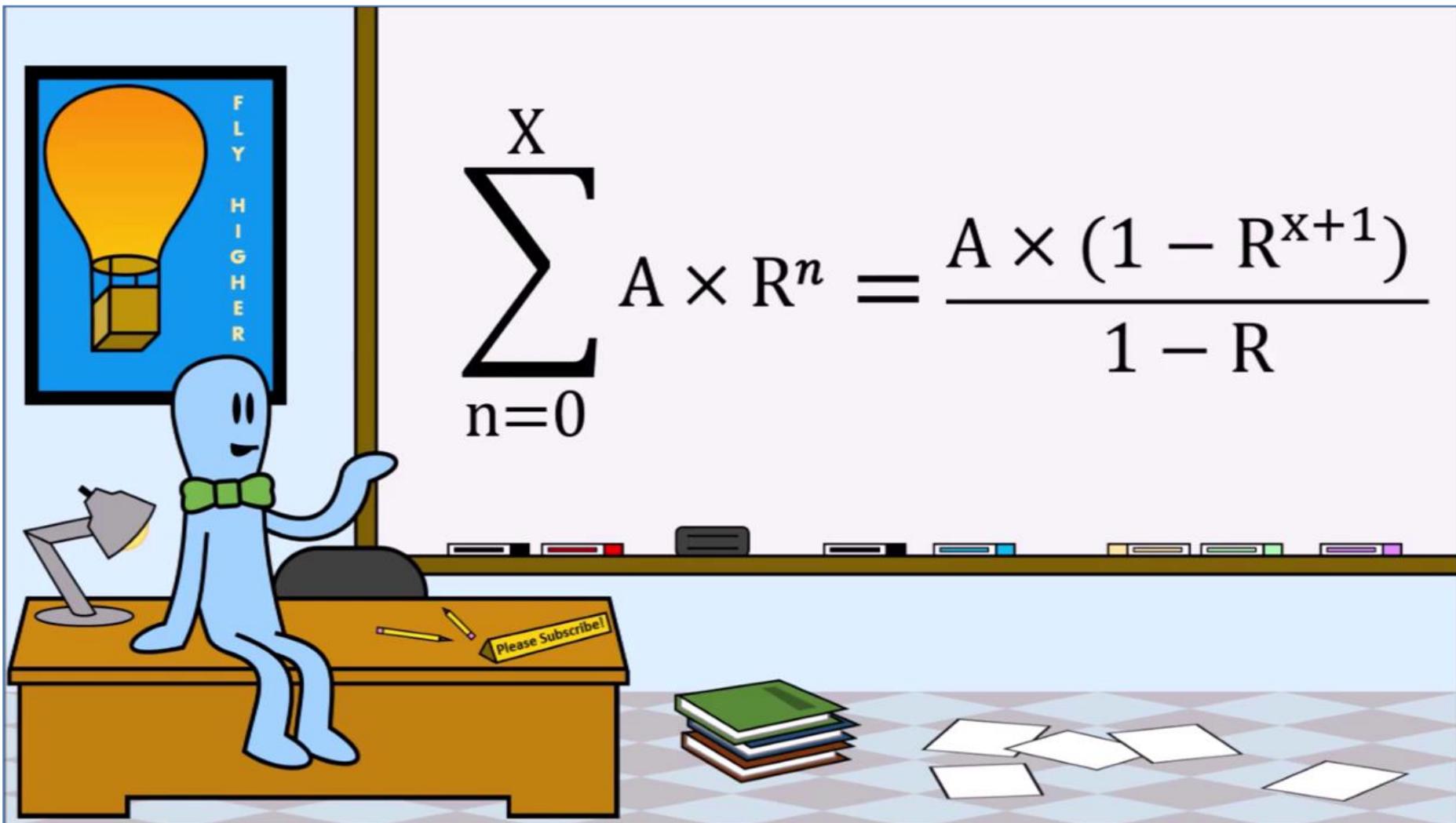
we get

$$\%Pee = \sum_{n=0}^{X-1} \frac{100P}{Q} \times \left(\frac{Q-P}{Q}\right)^n = 100 \times \frac{P}{Q} \times \frac{\left(1 - \left(1 - \frac{P}{Q}\right)^X\right)}{1 - \left(1 - \frac{P}{Q}\right)}$$

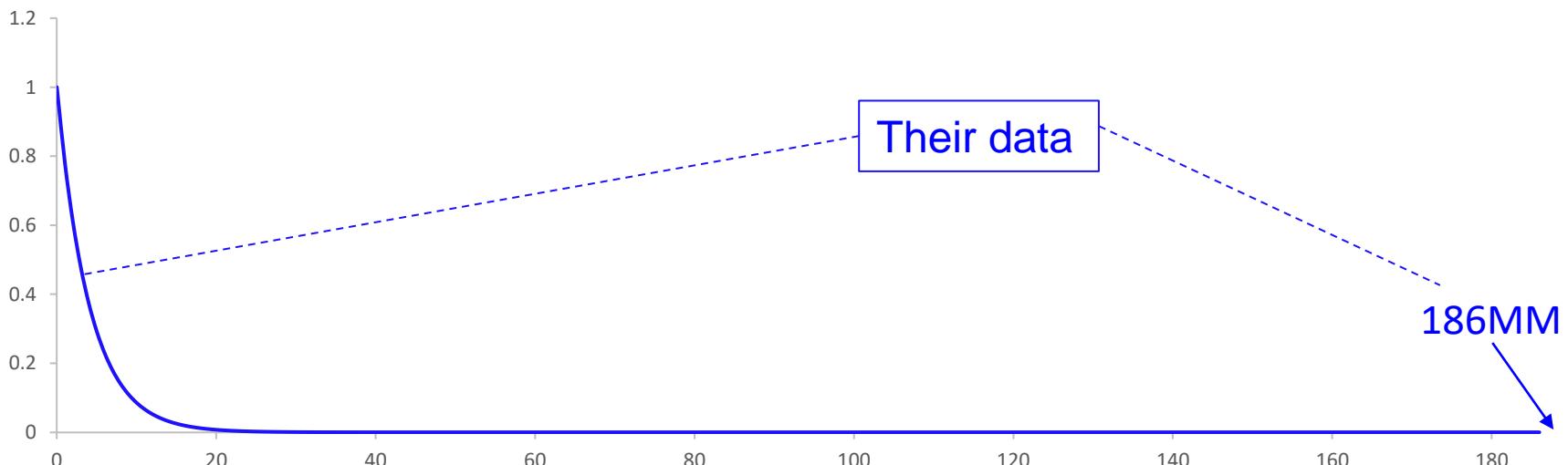
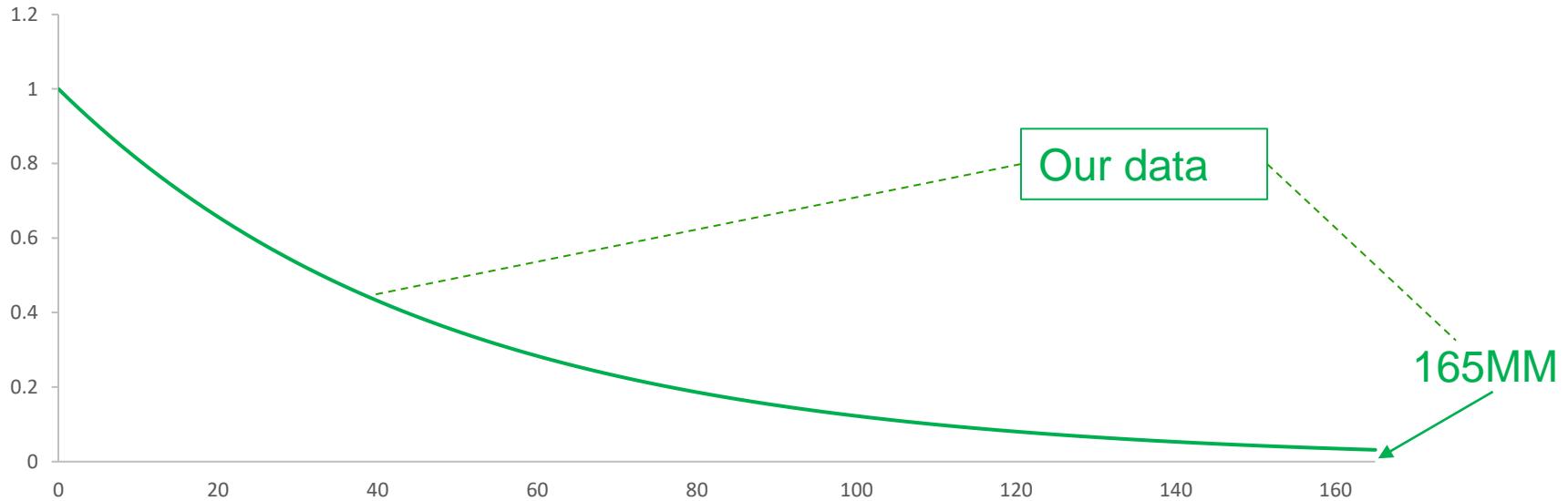


We'll meet  
again

## Inquerity's Approach



# Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach

# Inquerity used “Alternative Facts”

### 1. Time scale:

- a. We used 165,000,000 years.
- b. They used 186,000,000 years.

1.

(~10% more)

Inquerity's Approach

# Assuming *our* pee rate

$$y(t) = y_0 e^{-Rt}$$

Our time scale:

$$\begin{aligned} y(165,000,000)/y_0 &= e^{-2.10381e-08 * 165,000,000} \\ &= 0.0311 = 3.11\% \text{ untainted} \end{aligned}$$

Their time scale:

$$\begin{aligned} y(186,000,000)/y_0 &= e^{-2.10381e-08 * 186,000,000} \\ &= 0.0200 = 2.00\% \text{ untainted} \end{aligned}$$

## Inquerity's Approach

# Pure water remaining after 186M years

Using *infinite precision* with **our rate** and **Inquerity's time scale**

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	0.0199787394168875	0
per day	365.25	0.0199787394146360	0.0000000112695
per year	1	0.0199787385945236	0.0000041161953
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	0.0199787311932486	0.0000411619509
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	0.0199786571805470	0.0004116192662
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	0.0199779170583381	0.0041161683756
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	0.0199705163166065	0.0411592548932
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	0.0198965569936879	0.4113493923953
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	0.0191618274674012	4.0889063741219

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 t = 186M years (theirs)  
 R = 2.10381e-8/year (ours)

# Inquiry's Approach

## Assuming *our* pee rate

### Does discrete probability make a difference?

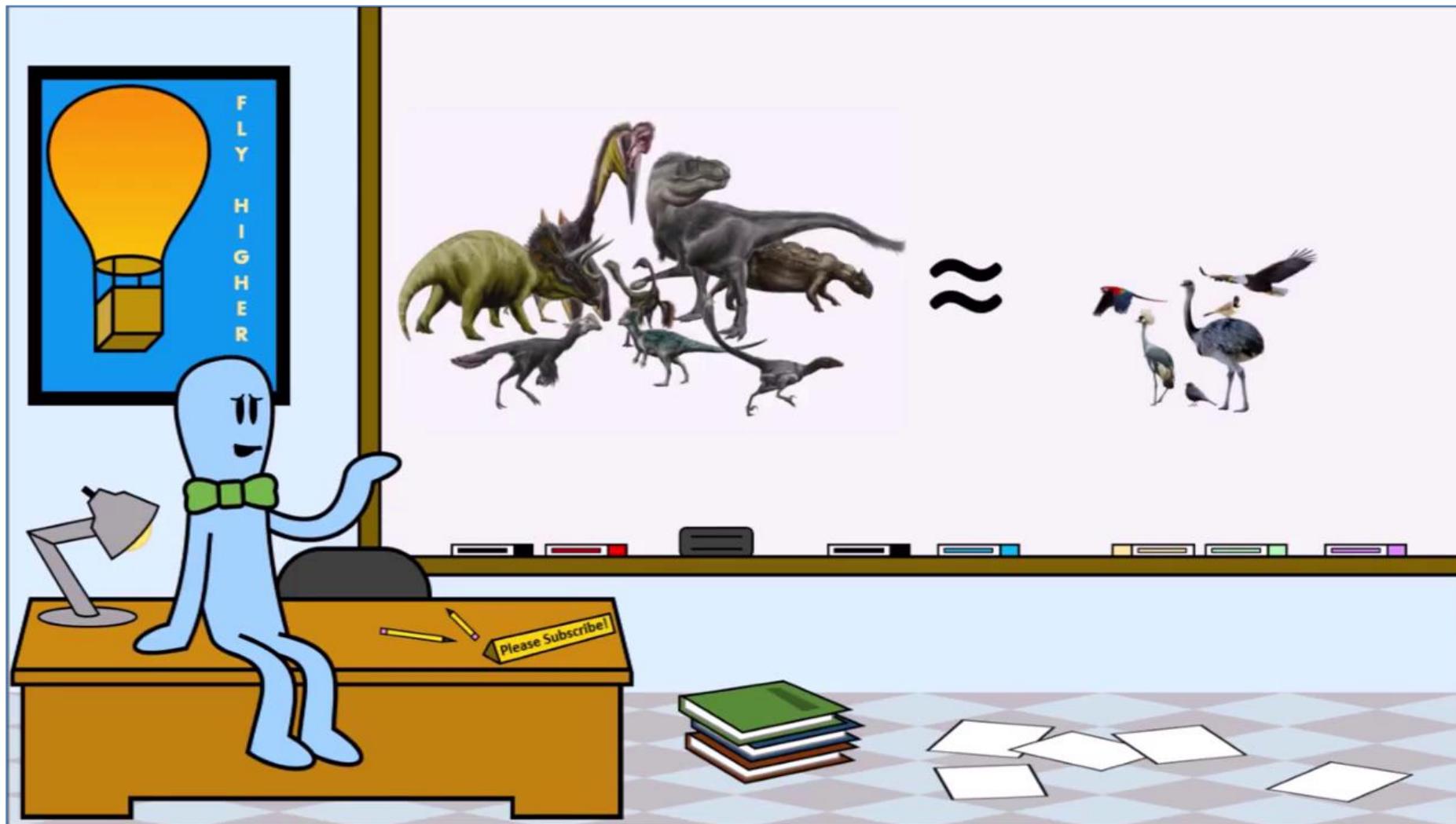
million years	continuous	discrete (annual)	difference*
0	1.00000000000000	1.00000000000000	0.00000000000000
25	0.59099217614322	0.59099217287355	0.00000000378656
50	0.34927175226250	0.34927174839780	0.00000000447565
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100	0.12199075692852	0.12199075422885	0.00000000312644
125	0.07209558290654	0.07209558091219	0.00000000230962
150	0.04260792543225	0.04260792401787	0.00000000163796
165	0.03107702434069	0.03107702320593	0.00000000131415
175	0.02518095057216	0.02518094959696	0.00000000097520
186	0.01997873941689	0.01997873859452	0.00000000082237

\*difference = abs(discrete – continuous)

Data:

R = 2.10381e-8/year (ours)

## Inquerity's Approach



**Inquerity** used birds to estimate dinosaur pee

## Inquerity's Approach

# Inquerity used “Alternative Facts”

- Inquerity's **pee rate** was based on a *bird model* and *domestic turkey* water consumption.

## 2. Pee rate:

- We estimated  $2.650\text{e}13$  liters/year
- They estimated  $3.097\text{e}14$  liters/year

1.

(~10x more )

## Inquerity's Approach

Deriving their daily rate of decay,  $R_{daily}$

$$R_{daily} = \frac{DailyPee}{TotalWater}$$

$$= \frac{8.48e11 \text{ kg/day}}{1.26e21 \text{ kg}}$$

$$= 6.73015873e-10/\text{day}$$

Multiply by 365.25 days/year

$$R = R_{annual} = 2.45819048e-8/\text{year}$$

## Inquerity's Approach

Pure water remaining after 186M years

Using *infinite precision* with *Inquerity's* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	$1.3900648155 \times 10^{-20}$	0
per day	365.25	$1.3900647941 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0000015385932
per year	1	$1.3900570037 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0005619698639
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	$1.3899866999 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0056195648148
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	$1.3892838455 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0561822679091
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	$1.3822736851 \times 10^{-20}$	0.5604868419451
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	$1.3139803625 \times 10^{-20}$	5.4734464241540
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	$7.8505325107 \times 10^{-21}$	43.5239823105508
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	$1.6234881670 \times 10^{-23}$	99.8832077361464

$$* \text{ error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 186\text{M years}$  (theirs)  
 $R = 6.73016\text{e-}10/\text{day}$  (theirs)

# Inquerity's Approach

## Assuming *their* pee rate

### Does discrete probability make a difference?

million years	continuous	discrete (annual)	difference*
0	1.000000000000000	1.000000000000000	0.000000000000000
25	0.00214315261380	0.00214315099499	1.61880391399×10 <sup>-9</sup>
50	4.593103126 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	4.593096187 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	6.9386850585×10 <sup>-12</sup>
75	9.843720970 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	9.843698664 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	2.230598310×10 <sup>-14</sup>
100	2.109659632 × 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.109653258 × 10 <sup>-11</sup>	6.374014392×10 <sup>-17</sup>
125	4.521322555 × 10 <sup>-14</sup>	4.521305480 × 10 <sup>-14</sup>	1.707560056×10 <sup>-19</sup>
150	9.689884253 × 10 <sup>-17</sup>	9.689840338 × 10 <sup>-17</sup>	4.391472497×10 <sup>-22</sup>
165	2.426333242 × 10 <sup>-18</sup>	2.426321146 × 10 <sup>-18</sup>	1.209580044×10 <sup>-23</sup>
175	2.076690076 × 10 <sup>-19</sup>	2.076679096 × 10 <sup>-19</sup>	1.098019091×10 <sup>-24</sup>
186	1.390064815 × 10 <sup>-20</sup>	1.390057003 × 10 <sup>-20</sup>	7.811745352×10 <sup>-26</sup>

\*difference = abs(discrete – continuous)

Data:

R = 6.73016e-10/day (theirs)

## Inquerity's Approach

Pure water remaining after 165M years

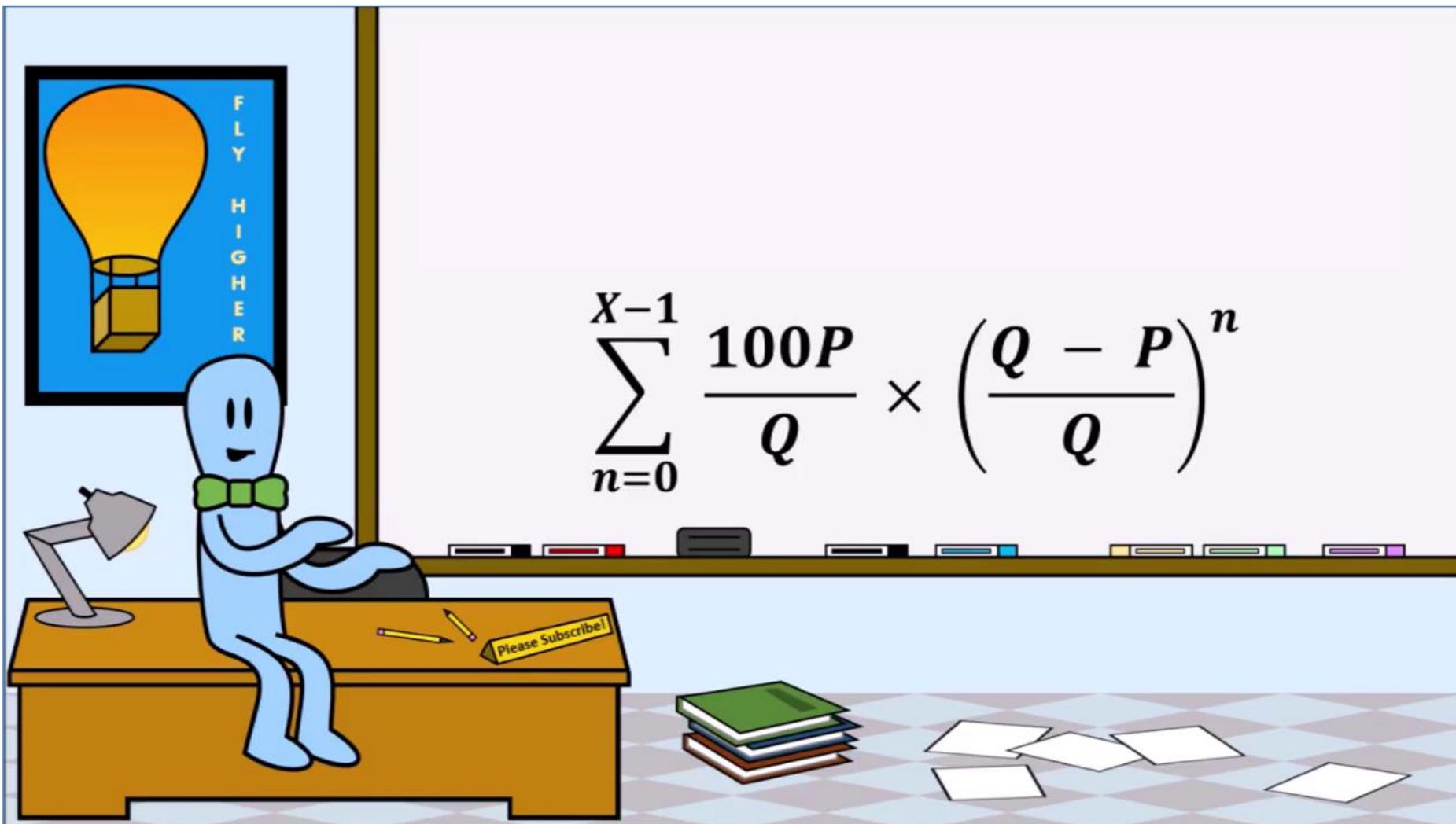
Using *infinite precision* with *Inquerity's rate*

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	$2.4263348435 \times 10^{-18}$	0
per day	365.25	$2.4263348104 \times 10^{-18}$	0.0000013648815
per year	1	$2.4263227477 \times 10^{-18}$	0.0004985217954
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	$2.4262138880 \times 10^{-18}$	0.0049851134721
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	$2.4251255416 \times 10^{-18}$	0.0498406880240
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	$2.4142671348 \times 10^{-18}$	0.4973636993121
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	$2.3081530972 \times 10^{-18}$	4.8707929451980
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	$1.4616054550 \times 10^{-18}$	39.7607688451025
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	$6.0738395589 \times 10^{-21}$	99.7496701836063

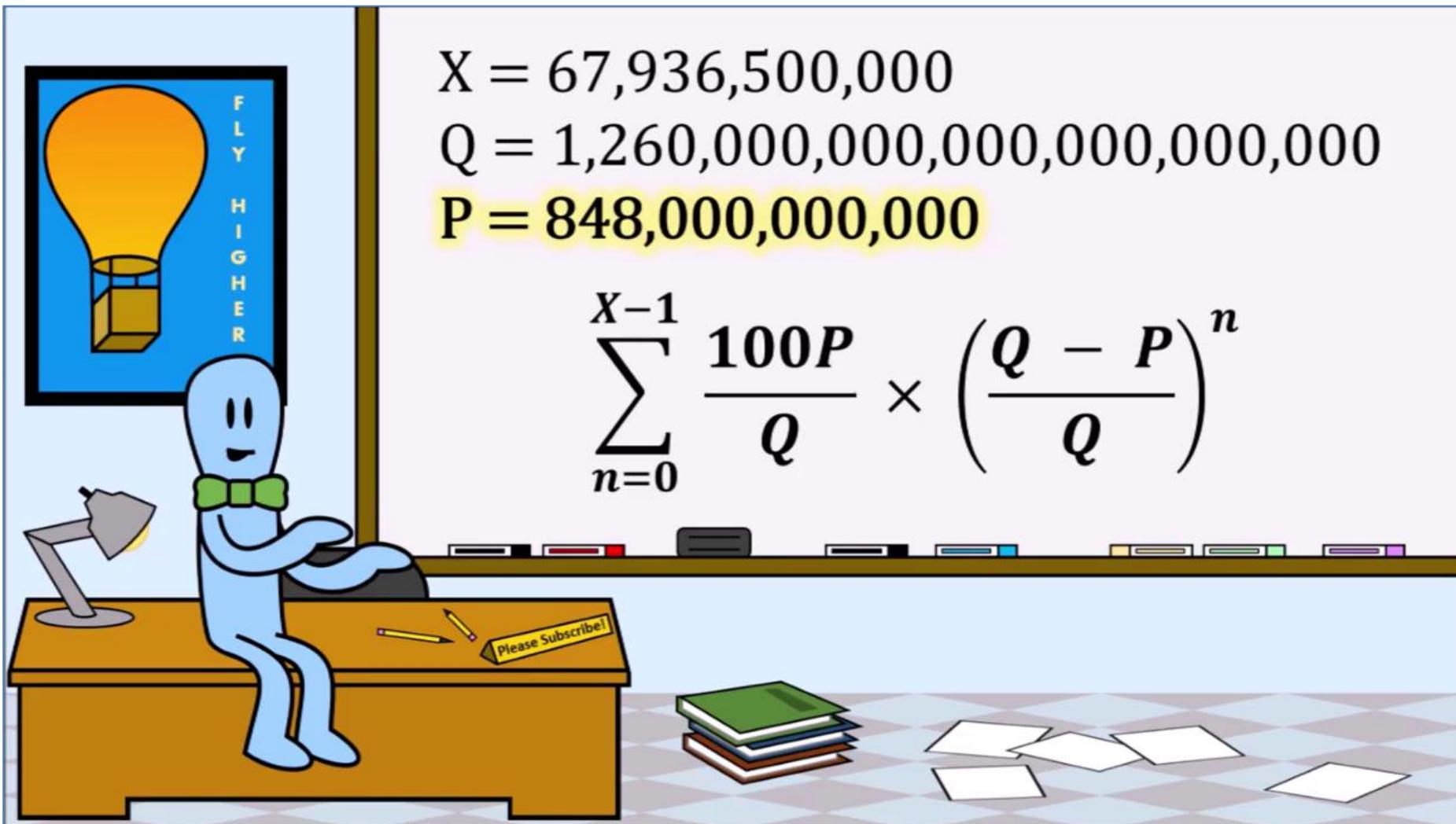
$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 165\text{M years}$  (ours)  
 $R = 6.73016\text{e-}10/\text{day}$  (theirs)

## Inquerity's Approach



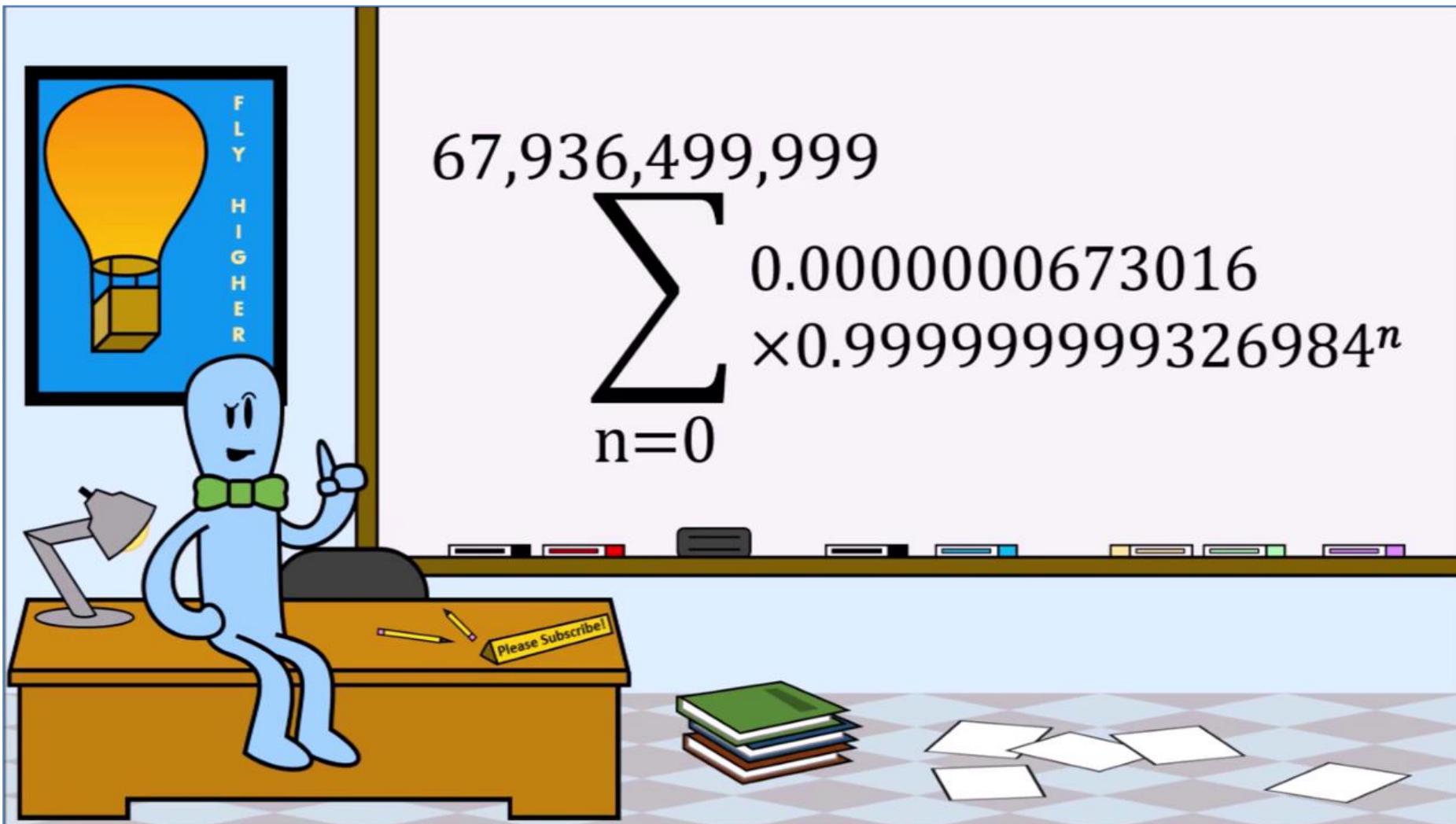
## Inquerity's Approach

A cartoon illustration of a person with a blue body, white face, and green bow tie, sitting at a brown wooden desk. The person is looking at a computer monitor. On the desk, there is a grey lamp, a small stack of papers, and a yellow box labeled "Please Subscribe!". Above the person, on the wall, is a large blue lightbulb with a yellow glow. To the right of the lightbulb, the words "FLY HIGHER" are written vertically. To the right of the illustration, there is mathematical text and a summation formula.

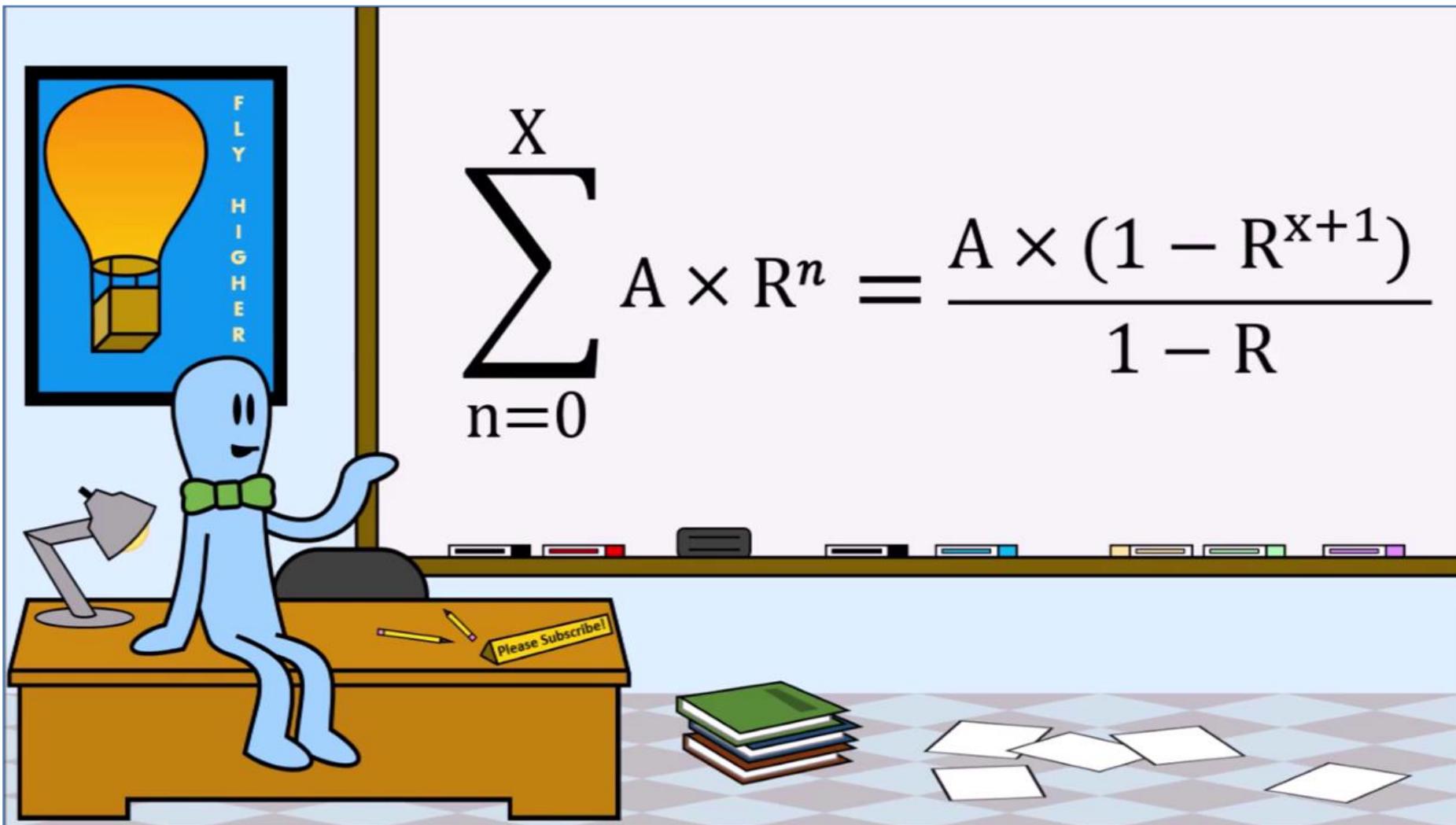
$X = 67,936,500,000$   
 $Q = 1,260,000,000,000,000,000,000$   
 $P = 848,000,000,000$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{X-1} \frac{100P}{Q} \times \left( \frac{Q - P}{Q} \right)^n$$

## Inquerity's Approach



## Inquerity's Approach



*Inquerity could have canceled out  $(1 - R)$*

## Inquerity's Approach

So, what did they type into Google?

$$R = 1 - P/Q = 0.999999999326984$$

$$A = 100 * P/Q = 0.0000000673016$$

$$X+1 = 67936500000$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^X AR^n = \frac{A(1 - R^{X+1})}{1 - R}$$

$$\frac{0.0000000673016 \times (1 - 0.999999999326984^{67936500000})}{1 - 0.999999999326984}$$

$$(0.0000000673016 * (1 - (0.999999999326984^{67936500000}))) / (1 - 0.999999999326984)$$

# Inquerity's Approach

Google

(0.0000000673016 \* (1 - (0.999999999326984^67936500000))) / (1 - 0.99%



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About 0 results (0.30 seconds)



(0.0000000673016 \* (1 - (0.999999999326984^67 936 500 000))) / (1 - 0.999999999326984

100.000003524

Rad		Deg	x!	(	)	%	AC
Inv		sin	ln	7	8	9	÷
π		cos	log	4	5	6	×
e		tan	√	1	2	3	-
Ans		EXP	x <sup>y</sup>	0	.	=	+

More info

## Inquerity's Approach

Google (0.0000000673016 \* (1 - (0.999999999326984^67936500000))) / (1 - 0.999999999326984)

About 0 results (0.30 seconds)

(0.0000000673016 \* (1 - (0.999999999326984^67 936 500 000))) / (1 - 0.999999999326984)

100.000003524

What?

What happened here?

More info

A calculator interface is visible below the search results, showing the input and output of the mathematical expression.

## Inquerity's Approach

# What went wrong?

$$\sum_{n=0}^X AR^n = \frac{A(1 - R^{X+1})}{1 - R}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R &= 1 - P/Q &= 0.999999999326984 \\ A &= 100 * P/Q &= 0.0000000673016 \\ X+1 &&= 67936500000 \end{aligned}$$

- General rounding error?
- Problem with  $\frac{A}{1-R}$  ?
- Problem with  $\frac{A/100}{1-R}$  ?
- Problem with  $1 - R^{X+1}$  ?
- Problem with  $R^{X+1}$  ?

# Inquiry's Approach



(0.0000000673016\*(1-(0.999999999326984^67936500000)))/(1-0.99999999932) X |

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About 0 results (0.23 seconds)



(0.0000000673016 \* (1 - (0.999999999326984^67 936 500 000))) / (1 - 0.999999999326984) =

100.000003524

Rad	Deg	x!	(	)	%	AC
Inv	sin	ln	7	8	9	÷
π	cos	log	4	5	6	×
e	tan	√	1	2	3	-
Ans	EXP	x <sup>y</sup>	0	.	=	+

More info

$$\frac{A(1-R^{X+1})}{1-R} = \frac{0.0000000673016 \times (1 - 0.999999999326984^{67936500000})}{1 - 0.999999999326984}$$

# Inquiry's Approach

Google

0.000000673016/(1-0.999999999326984)

X | 

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About 0 results (0.17 seconds)



0.000000673016 / (1 - 0.999999999326984) =

100.000003524

Rad		Deg	x!	(	)	%	AC
Inv		sin	ln	7	8	9	÷
π		cos	log	4	5	6	×
e		tan	√	1	2	3	-
Ans		EXP	x <sup>y</sup>	0	.	=	+

More info

$$\frac{A}{1-R} = \frac{0.000000673016}{1 - 0.999999999326984}$$

# Inquerity's Approach



0.000000000673016/(1-0.999999999326984)



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About 0 results (0.24 seconds)



0.000000000673016 / (1 - 0.999999999326984) =

**1.00000003524**

Rad		Deg	x!	(	)	%	AC
Inv		sin	ln	7	8	9	÷
π		cos	log	4	5	6	×
e		tan	√	1	2	3	-
Ans		EXP	x <sup>y</sup>	0	.	=	+

More info

$$\frac{A/100}{1-R} = \frac{0.000000000673016}{1 - 0.999999999326984}$$

# Inquiry's Approach



1-(0.999999999326984^67936500000)



All

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About 0 results (0.25 seconds)



1 - (0.999999999326984^67 936 500 000) =

1

Rad	Deg	x!	(	)	%	AC
Inv	sin	ln	7	8	9	÷
π	cos	log	4	5	6	×
e	tan	√	1	2	3	-
Ans	EXP	x <sup>y</sup>	0	.	=	+

More info

$R^{X+1}$

$1 - 0.999999999326984^{67936500000}$

# Inquiry's Approach



0.999999999326984^67936500000



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About 0 results (0.19 seconds)



0.999999999326984^67 936 500 000 =

1.3900667e-20

Rad		Deg	x!	(	)	%	AC
Inv		sin	ln	7	8	9	÷
π		cos	log	4	5	6	×
e		tan	√	1	2	3	-
Ans		EXP	x <sup>y</sup>	0	.	=	+

More info

$R^{X+1}$

0.999999999326984<sup>67936500000</sup>

# Inquiry's Approach



(0.0000000673016\*(1-(0.999999999326984^67936500000)))/(1-0.999999999326984)

NATURAL LANGUAGE

MATH INPUT

EXTENDED KEYBOARD

EXAMPLES

UPLOAD

RANDOM

Input interpretation

$$\frac{6.73016 \times 10^{-8} (1 - 0.999999999326984^{6793650000})}{1 - 0.999999999326984}$$

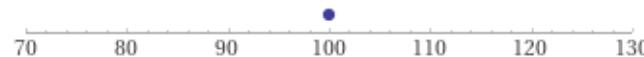
Result

More digits

99.9999999999999860993520593007436413938402937490595623601785...



Number line



Number name

one hundred

99.999999999999986099352059...

19 9s

# Inquiry's Approach

## What went wrong?

Google Calculator employs a double.

Google 0.00000000673016 / (1 - 0.999999999326984) X |

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About 0 results (0.28 seconds)

0.00000000673016 / (1 - 0.999999999326984) =  
1.00000003524

double x = 0.00000000673016; // 6.730159999999984E-10  
double y = 1 - x; // 9.9999999326984024E-1  
double z = 1 - y; // 6.73015976282442807E-10  
double w = x / z; // **100.00000352407045 > 1**

# Inquerity's Approach

## What went wrong?

Google Calculator employs a double.

Google 0.00000000673016 / (1 - 0.999999999326984) X |

All Maps Videos Shopping Images More Tools

About 0 results (0.28 seconds)

0.00000000673016 / (1 - 0.999999999326984) =  
1.00000003524

float:  $\text{nan}$  
$$\frac{A}{1-R} = \frac{0.0000000673016}{1 - 0.999999999326984}$$

double:  $100.00000352407045$  – same as Google

$\underline{\text{float80}}$ :  $99.99999996066898857$

$\underline{\text{float128}}$ :  $99.9999999999999860993296613380$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

$$\text{Is } v \approx 1 - (1 - v) ?$$

$$v = 10^{-1}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-1}$	0.100000015	001111011 <b>10011001100110011001101</b>
$1 - v$	0.8999999762	001111101 <b>10011001100110011001101</b>
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.1000000238	001111011 <b>10011001100110011010000</b>
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.8999999762	001111101 <b>10011001100110011001101</b>

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

$$\text{Is } v \approx 1 - (1 - v) ?$$

$$v = 10^{-2}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-2}$	0.009999998	0011110000 <b>1000111101011100001010</b>
$1 - v$	0.9900000095	00111110 <b>11111010111000010100100</b>
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0099999905	0011110000 <b>1000111101011100000000</b>
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.9900000095	00111110 <b>11111010111000010100100</b>

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

$$\text{Is } v \approx 1 - (1 - v) ?$$

$$v = 10^{-3}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-3}$	0.0010000000	001110101 <b>00000110001001001001101111</b>
$1 - v$	0.9990000129	001111101 <b>1111111011111001110110111</b>
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0009999871	001110101 <b>0000011000100100000000</b>
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.9990000129	001111101 <b>1111111011111001110110111</b>

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Is  $v \approx 1 - (1 - v)$  ?

$$v = 10^{-4}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-4}$	0.0001000000	001110001 <b>10100011011011100010111</b>
$1 - v$	0.9998999834	00111110 <b>1111111111100101110010</b>
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0001000166	001110001 <b>1010001110000000000000</b>
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.9998999834	00111110 <b>1111111111100101110010</b>

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Is  $v \approx 1 - (1 - v)$  ?

$$v = 10^{-5}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-5}$	0.0000100000	00110111001001111100010110101100
$1 - v$	0.9999899864	00111111011111111111111101011000
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0000100136	00110111001010000000000000000000
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.9999899864	00111111011111111111111101011000

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Is  $v \approx 1 - (1 - v)$  ?

$$v = 10^{-6}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-6}$	0.0000010000	001101011 <b>00001100011011110111101</b>
$1 - v$	0.9999989867	001111101 <b>1111111111111111101111</b>
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0000010133	001101011 <b>000100000000000000000000</b>
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.9999989867	001111101 <b>1111111111111111101111</b>

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Is  $v \approx 1 - (1 - v)$  ?

$$v = 10^{-7}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-7}$	0.0000001000	0011001110101010101111110010101
$1 - v$	0.9999998808	00111110111111111111111111111110
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0000001192	00110100000000000000000000000000
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	0.9999998808	00111110111111111111111111111110

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

$$\text{Is } v \approx 1 - (1 - v) ?$$

$$v = 10^{-8}$$

Equation	Decimal	Binary
$v = 10^{-8}$	0.0000000100	0011001000101011100110001110111
$1 - v$	1.0000000000	00111111000000000000000000000000
$1 - (1 - v)$	0.0000000000	00000000000000000000000000000000
$1 - (1 - (1 - v))$	1.0000000000	00111111000000000000000000000000

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Floating-Point Subtraction Algorithm

---

Subtracting floating point numbers

---

**\*\*\* Express the two numbers in IEEE 754 format (float):**

**\*\*\* Increase the smaller exponent so it matches the larger, shifting the mantissa to the right.**

The FPU keeps track of excess bits.

**\*\*\* Now do the subtraction:**

**\*\*\* Now we need to normalize (make the “hidden bit” equal to 1):**

**\*\*\* Round rule:**

```
if LSB+1=0, do nothing.  
if LSB+1=1 {  
    round;  
    if LSB+2=1 and no bits afterwards, apply nearest (even) rule (select even one from 2 nearest ones;)  
    otherwise, just do rounding (select closest one).  
}
```

*Note that if there is overflow during round-up (i.e., if all mantissa bits are 1, and the LSB+ bits lead to a round up, an extra left shift is performed and the mantissa bits all become 0). See Intel Architecture Software Developer’s Manual - Floating-Point Unit – Page 17.*

**\*\*\* Normalize again if necessary**

(due to rounding carry)

---

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-1}$

=====

Subtracting 0.1 from 1.0

=====

\*\*\* Express the two numbers in IEEE 754 format (float):

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
1.000000149e-01: : [ 0 01111011 (1) 10011001100110011001 ]
```

\*\*\* Increase the smaller exponent so it matches the larger,

shifting the mantissa to the right. In this case, we do it four times:

```
1.000000149e-01: : [ 0 01111011 (1) 1001100110011001101 ]  
[ 0 01111100 (0) 110011001100110011001101 ]  
[ 0 01111101 (0) 0110011001100110011001101 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (0) 00110011001100110011001101 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 000110011001100110011001101 ]
```

\*\*\* Now do the subtraction:

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
-  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 000110011001100110011001101 ]  
=  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 1110011001100110011001101 ]
```

\*\*\* Now we need to normalize (make the "hidden bit" equal to 1):

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 1110011001100110011001101 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (1) 110011001100110011001100110 ]
```

\*\*\* Round

```
[ 0 01111110 (1) 110011001100110011001100110 ]  
8.9999997616e-01: : [ 0 01111110 (1) 11001100110011001100110 ]
```

\*\*\* Now need to re-normalize (if required):

```
8.9999997616e-01: : [ 0 01111110 (1) 11001100110011001100110 ]
```

\*\*\* Compare with FPU result:

```
8.9999997616e-01: : [ 0 01111110 11001100110011001100110 ]
```

=====

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-2}$

=====

Subtracting 0.01 from 1.0

=====

\*\*\* Express the two numbers in IEEE 754 format (float):

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
9.999997765e-03: : [ 0 01111000 (1) 0100011101011100001010 ]
```

\*\*\* Increase the smaller exponent so it matches the larger,

shifting the mantissa to the right. In this case, we do it seven times:

```
9.999997765e-03: : [ 0 01111000 (1) 0100011101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111001 (0) 101000111101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111010 (0) 0101000111101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111011 (0) 00101000111101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111100 (0) 000101000111101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111101 (0) 0000101000111101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (0) 00000101000111101011100001010 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 000000101000111101011100001010 ]
```

\*\*\* Now do the subtraction:

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
-  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 000000101000111101011100001010 ]  
=
```

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 11111101011100001010001110110 ]
```

\*\*\* Now we need to normalize (left-shift and decrease exponent):

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 11111101011100001010001110110 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (1) 1111101011100001010001110110 ]
```

\*\*\* Round: nearest (even)

```
[ 0 01111110 (1) 1111101011100001010001110110 ]  
9.9000000954e-01: : [ 0 01111110 (1) 11111010111000010100100 ]
```

\*\*\* Now need to re-normalize (if required):

```
9.9000000954e-01: : [ 0 01111110 (1) 11111010111000010100100 ]
```

\*\*\* Compare with FPU result:

```
9.9000000954e-01: : [ 0 01111110 11111010111000010100100 ]
```

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-3}$

=====

Subtracting 0.001 from 1.0

=====

\*\*\* Express the two numbers in IEEE 754 format (float):

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
1.000000475e-03: : [ 0 01110101 (1) 000001000100100110111 ]
```

\*\*\* Increase the smaller exponent so it matches the larger,  
shifting the mantissa to the right. In this case, we do it ten times:

```
1.000000475e-03: : [ 0 01110101 (1) 000001000100100110111 ]  
[ 0 01110110 (0) 100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01110111 (0) 0100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111000 (0) 00100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111001 (0) 000100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111010 (0) 0000100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111011 (0) 00000100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111100 (0) 000000100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111101 (0) 0000000100000110001001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (0) 00000000100000110001001101111 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 000000000100000110001001101111 ]
```

\*\*\* Now do the subtraction:

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
-  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 00000000010000011000100100110111 ]  
=
```

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 111111110111100111011011011001001 ]
```

\*\*\* Now we need to normalize:

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 111111110111100111011011001001 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (1) 111111110111100111011011001001 ]
```

\*\*\* Round:

```
[ 0 01111110 (1) 111111110111100111011011001001 ]  
9.9900001287e-01: : [ 0 01111110 (1) 1111111101111001110111 ]
```

\*\*\* Now need to re-normalize (if required):

```
9.9900001287e-01: : [ 0 01111110 (1) 1111111101111001110111 ]
```

\*\*\* Compare with FPU result:

```
9.9900001287e-01: : [ 0 01111110 1111111101111001110111 ]
```

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-7}$

=====

Subtracting 0.0000001 from 1.0

=====

\*\*\* Express the two numbers in IEEE 754 format (float):

```
1.000000000e+00: : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
1.0000000117e-07: : [ 0 01100111 (1) 1010110101111110010101 ]
```

\*\*\* Increase the smaller exponent so it matches the larger,

shifting the mantissa to the right. In this case, we do it 24 times:

```
1.0000000117e-07: : [ 0 01100111 (1) 1010110101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01101000 (0) 11010110101111110010101 1 ]  
[ 0 01101001 (0) 0110101101011111100101 01 ]  
[ 0 01101010 (0) 0011010110101111110010 101 ]  
[ 0 01101011 (0) 0001101011010111111001 0101 ]  
[ 0 01101100 (0) 0000110101101011111100 10101 ]  
[ 0 01101101 (0) 0000011010110101111110 010101 ]  
[ 0 01101110 (0) 0000001101011010111111 0010101 ]  
[ 0 01101111 (0) 0000000110101101011111 10010101 ]  
[ 0 01110000 (0) 0000000011010110101111 110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110001 (0) 0000000001101011010111 1110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110010 (0) 000000000011010110101111 11110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110011 (0) 000000000001101011010111 111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110100 (0) 00000000000011010110101 1111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110101 (0) 00000000000001101011010 11111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110110 (0) 000000000000001101011010 01111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01110111 (0) 0000000000000001101011010 101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111000 (0) 00000000000000001101011 0101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111001 (0) 000000000000000001101011 10101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111010 (0) 0000000000000000001101011 110101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111011 (0) 0000000000000000000110101 0110101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111100 (0) 0000000000000000000011010 10110101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111101 (0) 0000000000000000000001101 010110101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (0) 000000000000000000000011010 1010110101111110010101 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 00000000000000000000000110101 1101011010111110010101 ]
```

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-7}$

```
=====
```

Subtracting 0.0000001 from 1.0 continued

```
=====
```

**\*\*\* Now do the subtraction:**

```
1.000000000e+00 : [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]  
-  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]  
=  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 1111111111111111111111111001010010100000001101011 ]
```

**\*\*\* Now we need to normalize (left-shift and decrease exponent):**

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 11111111111111111111111001010010100000001101011 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (1) 111111111111111111111001010010100000001101011 ]
```

**\*\*\* Round: no rounding according to the rule**

```
[ 0 01111110 (1) 1111111111111111111111101010010100000001101011 ]  
9.9999988079e-01 : [ 0 01111110 (1) 111111111111111111111110 ]
```

**\*\*\* Now need to re-normalize (if required):**

```
9.9999988079e-01 : [ 0 01111110 (1) 11111111111111111111110 ]
```

**\*\*\* Compare with FPU result:**

```
9.9999988079e-01 : [ 0 01111110 11111111111111111111110 ]
```

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-8}$

=====

Subtracting 0.00000001 from 1.0

=====

\*\*\* Express the two numbers in IEEE 754 format (float):

```
1.000000000000000e+00: [ 0 01111111 (1) 00000000000000000000 ]  
9.9999993922529029078e-09: [ 0 01100100 (1) 0101011100110001110111 ]
```

\*\*\* Increase the smaller exponent so it matches the larger,  
shifting the mantissa to the right. In this case, we do it 27 times:

```
9.9999993922529029078e-09: [ 0 01100100 (1) 0101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01100101 (0) 10101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01100110 (0) 010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01100111 (0) 0010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101000 (0) 00010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101001 (0) 000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101010 (0) 0000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101011 (0) 00000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101100 (0) 000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101101 (0) 0000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101110 (0) 00000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01101111 (0) 000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110000 (0) 0000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110001 (0) 00000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110010 (0) 000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110011 (0) 0000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110100 (0) 00000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110101 (0) 000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110110 (0) 0000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01110111 (0) 00000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111000 (0) 000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111001 (0) 0000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111010 (0) 00000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111011 (0) 000000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111100 (0) 0000000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111101 (0) 00000000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (0) 000000000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 0000000000000000000000000010101011100110001110111 ]
```

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Example: $1 - 10^{-8}$

=====

Subtracting 0.00000001 from 1.0 continued

=====

\*\*\* Now do the subtraction:

```
1.000000000000000e+00: [ 0 01111111 (1) 0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]  
-  
= [ 0 01111111 (0) 0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (0) 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111 ]
```

\*\*\* Now we need to normalize (left-shift and decrease exponent):

```
[ 0 01111111 (0) 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (1) 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111 ]
```

\*\*\* Round

```
[ 0 01111110 (1) 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111 ]  
[ 0 01111110 (10) 0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]
```

\*\*\* Now need to re-normalize:

```
[ 0 01111110 (10) 0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]  
[ 0 01111111 (1) 0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]
```

1.000000000000000e+00: [ 0 01111111 (1) 00 ]

\*\*\* Compare with FPU result:

```
1.000000000000000e+00: [ 0 01111111 (1) 0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 ]
```

=====

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Floating-Point Type Accuracy

	Mantissa bits	# of decimal digits around 1 precision	Smallest normal > 0	# of decimal digits around 0
float	23	7.2	$2^{-126}$	38.2
double	52	15.9	$2^{-1022}$	307.9
long double	64	19.6	$2^{-16382}$	4931.8
__float128	112	34.0	$2^{-16382}$	4931.8

## Inquiry's Approach

Pure water remaining after 165M years

Using `float128` with *our* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	0.03107702434070	0.00000000000003
per day	365.25	0.03107702436966	0.0000009318755
per year	1	0.03107702320596	0.00000365136619
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	0.03107701299304	0.00003651462674
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	0.03107691086412	0.00036514620902
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	0.03107588957926	0.00365144817291
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	0.03106567715860	0.03651309073774
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	0.03096359581703	0.36499158486500
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	0.02994713891235	3.63575809563764

$$* \text{ error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 165\text{M years}$  (ours)  
 $R = 2.10381\text{e-8}/\text{year}$  (ours)

## Inquiry's Approach

# Pure water remaining after 165M years

Using `_float80` with *our* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	0.03107702434070	0.00000000000003
per day	365.25	0.03107702436966	0.0000009318755
per year	1	0.03107702320596	0.00000365136619
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	0.03107701299304	0.00003651462674
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	0.03107691086412	0.00036514620902
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	0.03107588957926	0.00365144817291
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	0.03106567715860	0.03651309073774
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	0.03096359581703	0.36499158486500
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	0.02994713891235	3.63575809563764

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 165\text{M years}$  (ours)  
 $R = 2.10381\text{e-8}/\text{year}$  (ours)

## Inquiry's Approach

# Pure water remaining after 165M years

Using double with *our* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	0.03107702434070	0.00000000000002
per day	365.25	0.03107708234327	0.00018664134340
per year	1	0.03107702300165	0.00000430879926
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	0.03107701301647	0.00003643922319
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	0.03107691086479	0.00036514407125
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	0.03107588957936	0.00365144786791
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	0.03106567715858	0.03651309079918
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	0.03096359581703	0.36499158487144
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	0.02994713891235	3.63575809563677

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 t = 165M years (ours)  
 R = 2.10381e-8/year (ours)

## Inquerity's Approach

# Pure water remaining after 165M years

## Using float with *our* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	0.03107703104615	0.00002157688344
per day	365.25	1.0	3117.81129697925906
per year	1	1.0	3117.81129697925906
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	0.01956707425416	37.03684741614751
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	0.03199512138963	2.95426305576596
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	0.03107588957936	0.00365144786791
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	0.03105368465185	0.07510271444032
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	0.03096382319927	0.36425991171359
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	0.02994706295431	3.63600251428315

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 t = 165M years (ours)  
 R = 2.10381e-8/year (ours)

## Inquerity's Approach

Pure water remaining after 186M years

Using `__float128` with *Inquerity's* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	$1.3900648155 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0000000000002
per day	365.25	$1.3900647916 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0000017184243
per year	1	$1.3900570037 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0005619697115
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	$1.3899866999 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0056195648640
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	$1.3892838455 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0561822679079
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	$1.3822736850 \times 10^{-20}$	0.5604868419449
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	$1.3139803625 \times 10^{-20}$	5.4734464241542
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	$7.8505325107 \times 10^{-21}$	43.5239823105510
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	$1.6234881670 \times 10^{-23}$	99.8832077361464

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 186\text{M years}$  (theirs)  
 $R = 6.73016\text{e-}10/\text{day}$  (theirs)

## Inquerity's Approach

Pure water remaining after 186M years

Using float80 with *Inquerity's* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	$1.3900648155 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0000000000002
per day	365.25	$1.3900647916 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0000017184243
per year	1	$1.3900570037 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0005619697115
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	$1.3899866999 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0056195648640
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	$1.3892838455 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0561822679079
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	$1.3822736850 \times 10^{-20}$	0.5604868419449
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	$1.3139803625 \times 10^{-20}$	5.4734464241542
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	$7.8505325107 \times 10^{-21}$	43.5239823105510
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	$1.6234881670 \times 10^{-23}$	99.8832077361464

$$* \text{error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 186\text{M years}$  (theirs)  
 $R = 6.73016\text{e-}10/\text{day}$  (theirs)

## Inquerity's Approach

# Pure water remaining after 186M years

Using double with *Inquerity's* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (%)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	$1.3900648155 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0000000000001
per day	365.25	$1.3900670339 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0001595903162
per year	1	$1.3900570117 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0005613959873
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	$1.3899866992 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0056196104371
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	$1.3892838455 \times 10^{-20}$	0.0561822722312
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	$1.3822736851 \times 10^{-20}$	0.5604868421384
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	$1.3139803625 \times 10^{-20}$	5.4734464241426
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	$7.8505325107 \times 10^{-21}$	43.5239823105558
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	$1.6234881670 \times 10^{-23}$	99.8832077361464

$$* \text{ error} = 100 \times \frac{|\text{discrete} - \text{continuous}|}{\text{continuous}}$$

Data:  
 $t = 186\text{M years}$  (theirs)  
 $R = 6.73016\text{e-}10/\text{day}$  (theirs)

## Inquerity's Approach

# Pure water remaining after 186M years

## Using float with *Inquerity's* data

compounding cycle	$k$	$y(t)/y_0$	error* (factor)
continuous	$k \rightarrow \infty$	$1.3900707186 \times 10^{-20}$	0.000004246636
per day	365.25	1.0	$7.19390915 \times 10^{19}$
per year	1	$5.5060133639 \times 10^{-20}$	2.960975993712
per 10 years	$10^{-1}$	$1.8169225719 \times 10^{-20}$	0.307077592095
per 100 years	$10^{-2}$	$1.4548599632 \times 10^{-20}$	0.046613040613
per 1,000 years	$10^{-3}$	$1.3847289410 \times 10^{-20}$	0.003853371112
per 10,000 years	$10^{-4}$	$1.3133968919 \times 10^{-20}$	0.058373766584
per 100,000 years	$10^{-5}$	$7.8505361258 \times 10^{-21}$	0.770662274811
per 1,000,000 years	$10^{-6}$	$1.6234889958 \times 10^{-23}$	855.220657544416

$$* \text{error} = \frac{\max(\text{discrete}, \text{continuous})}{\min(\text{discrete}, \text{continuous})} - 1$$

Data:  
 t = 186M years (theirs)  
 R = 6.73016e-10/day (theirs)

## Inquerity's Approach

# Inquerity's *geometric sum formula*

Recall Inquerity's formula:

$$\%Pee = 100 \times \frac{P}{Q} \times \frac{(1 - (1 - \frac{P}{Q})^X)}{1 - (1 - \frac{P}{Q})}$$

$1 - (1 - x) = x$  (usually ③):

$$\%Pee = 100 \times \frac{P}{Q} \times \frac{(1 - (1 - \frac{P}{Q})^X)}{\frac{P}{Q}}$$

Cancel out the  $\frac{P}{Q}$ :

$$\%Pee = 100 \times (1 - (1 - \frac{P}{Q})^X)$$

Or, alternatively:

$$\%Pure = 100 \times (1 - \frac{P}{Q})^X$$

## Inquerity's Approach

### Q1. How much water is pee?

They employed discrete probability

And arrived at a “correct” formula:

Let  $t$  be the number of time units

Let  $R$  be the decay rate per unit time

Let  $z$  be the *expected* fraction of tainted water

$$z(t) = 1 - (1 - R)^t$$

How small is this?  
How small is this?

## Inquiry's Approach

# Q1. How much water is pee?

**Houston, *they had a problem !***

- Recall `sameBirthday(n)` cannot be represented with a `double` when `n` is greater than 183.
- They could not represent  $1 - \cdot(1 - R)^t$  as a `double` or even a `long double`.
- They could, however, represent  $1 - R$  as a `double`, as we have demonstrated.

1 – very small  
= BAD IDEA

## Inquerity's Approach

# Q1. How much water is pee?

They employed discrete probability

And arrived at a “correct” formula:

Let  $t$  be the number of time units

Let  $R$  be the decay rate per unit time

Let  $z$  be the *expected* fraction of tainted water

Let  $w$  be the *expected* fraction of pure water,  $1-z$

$$w(t) = (1 - R)^t$$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q1. How much water is pee?

Rate of Decay (per year)	Time (years)	
	165,000,000	186,000,000
R = 2.10381e – 08 (My Rate)	3.11%	2.00%
	3.94e19 Liters	2.54e19 Liters
R = 2.45794e – 07 (~10X My Rate)	2.44e-16%	1.40e-18%
	~3070 Liters	~17.6 Liters

Final Answer: (d) Almost 100%

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Range of Numbers

	<i>largest &lt; 1</i>	
float	0.9999 9994	7.2
double	0.9999 9999 9999 9999	15.9
long double (80 bits)	0.999 999 999 999 999 999 999 94	19.6
_float128	0.999 999 999 999 999 999 999 999 999 999 9	34.0





## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Q2. What's the chance it's all pee?

What is Expected Value?

Expected Value (E) vs. Probability (P)

$$E[X] = \sum_i x_i P(X = x_i)$$

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Flipping Coins

1 Coin

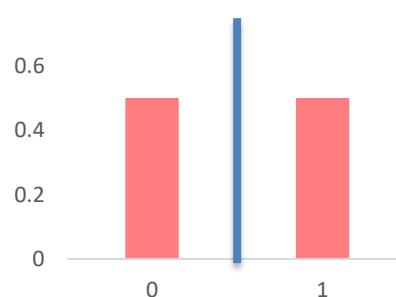


Expected number of heads?

0.5

Probability of exactly 1 head?

$$\frac{1}{2}$$



# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Flipping Coins

2 Coins

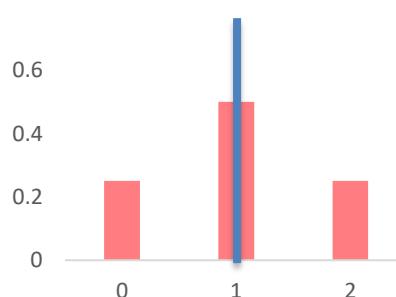


Expected number of heads?

1.0

Probability of exactly 1 head?

$$\frac{2}{4}$$



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Flipping Coins

3 Coins

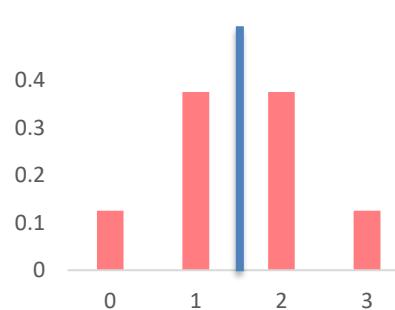


Expected number of heads?

1.5

Probability of exactly 1 head?

$$\frac{3}{8}$$



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Flipping Coins

4 Coins

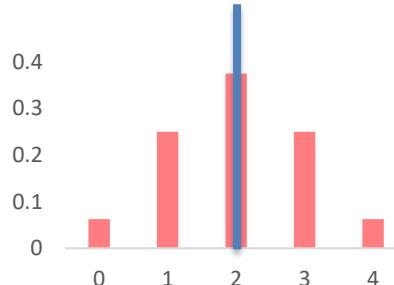


Expected number of heads?

2

Probability of exactly 1 head?

$$\frac{4}{16}$$



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Flipping Coins

5 Coins

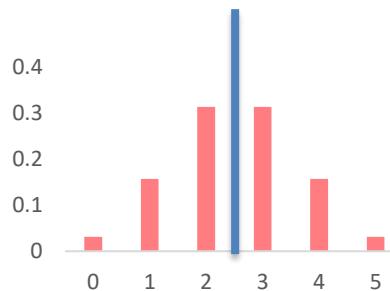


Expected number of heads?

2.5

Probability of exactly 1 head?

$$\frac{5}{32}$$



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Flipping Coins

6 Coins

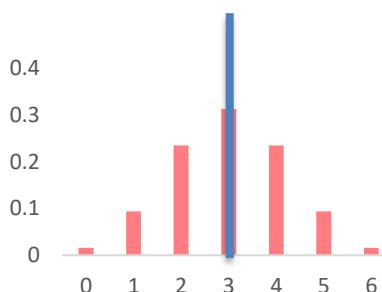


Expected number of heads?

3

Probability of exactly 1 head?

$$\frac{6}{64}$$



Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Flipping Coins

0 Coins

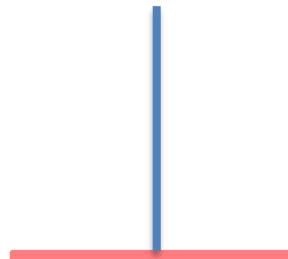


Expected number of heads?

0

Probability of exactly 1 head?

0



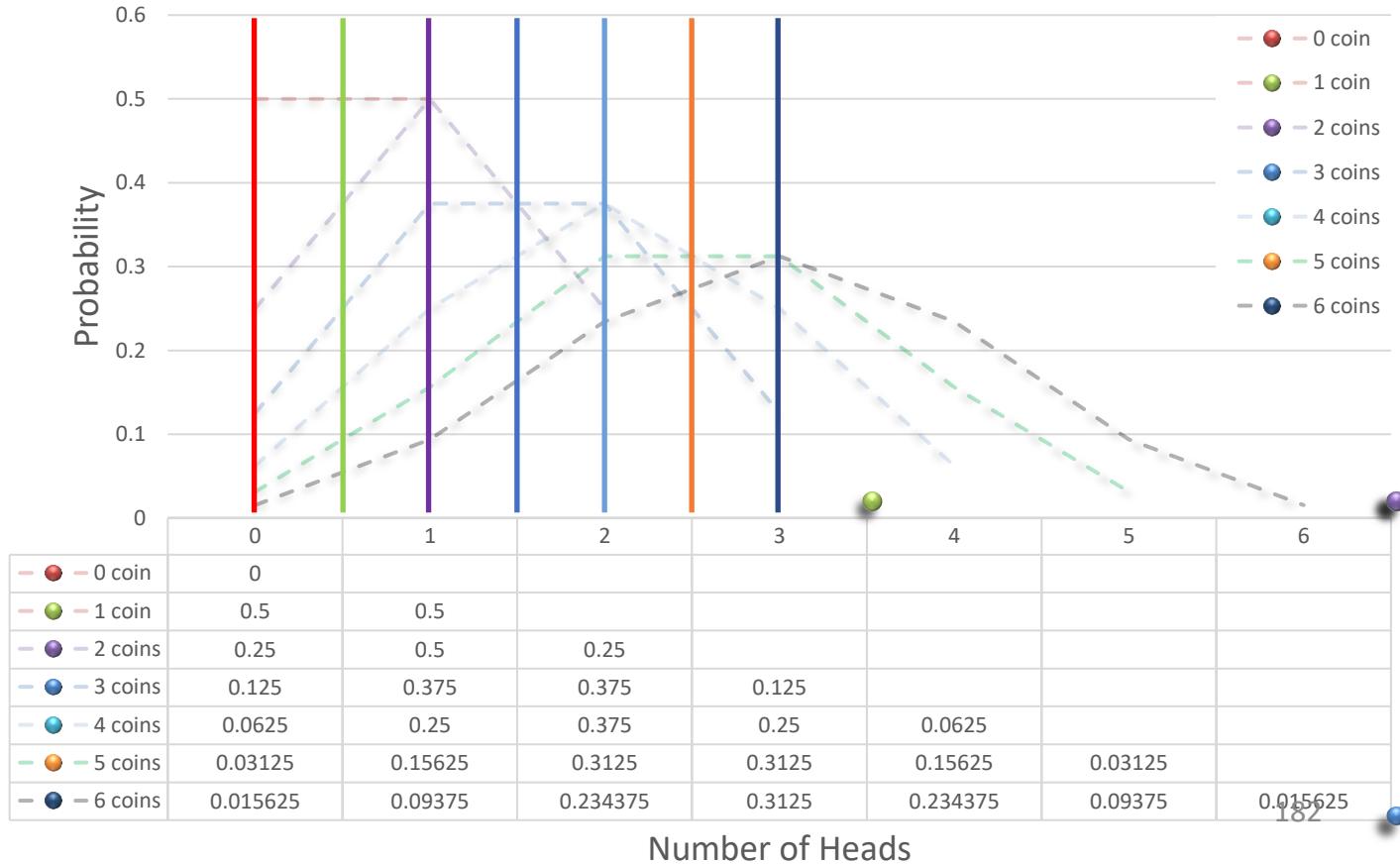
## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Summary: Expected Value vs. Probability

$$E[X] = \sum_i x_i P(X = x_i)$$

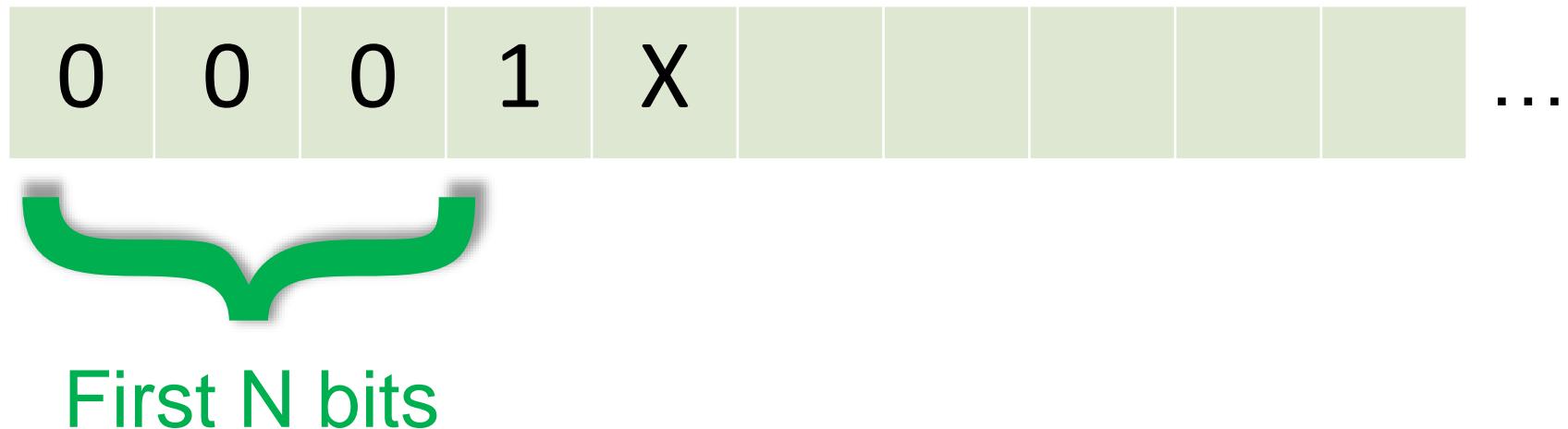
Probability distributions for coin tossing

Coin Tosses	Expected Heads
0	0
1	0.5
2	1.0
3	1.5
4	2.0
5	2.5
6	3.0



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

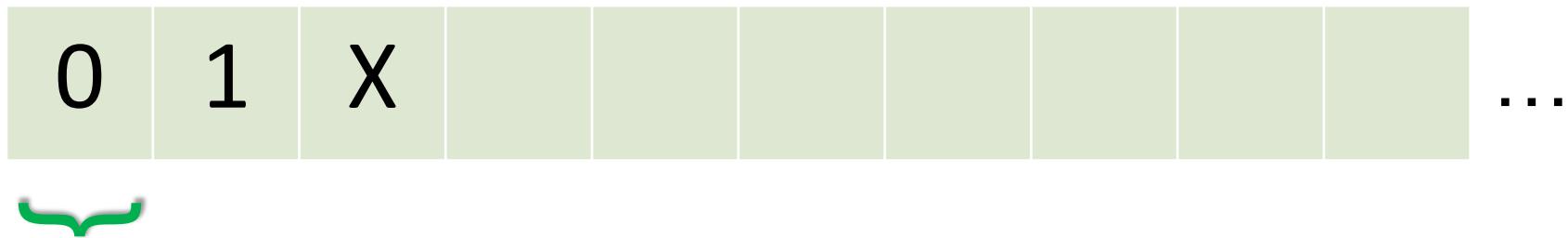
# Expected number of zero bits Random Large Unsigned Integer



Probability first N are all 0 bits

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Expected number of zero bits Random Large Unsigned Integer

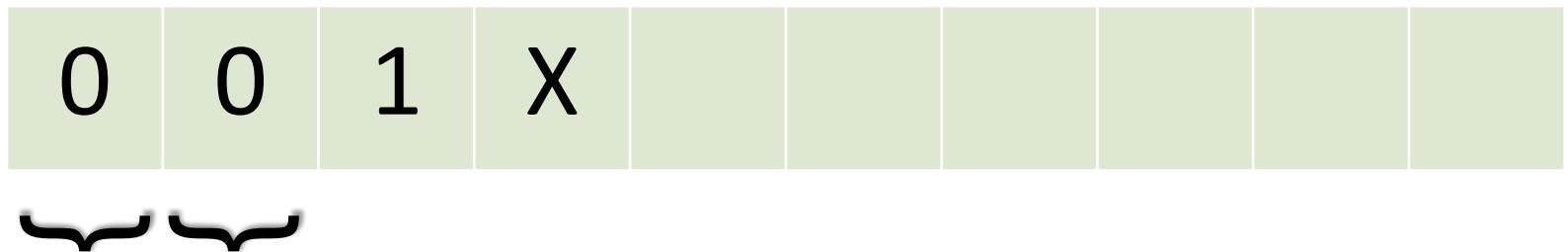


$$N = 1$$

$$P(\text{exactly } N \text{ leading 0 bits}) = 0.25$$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Expected number of zero bits Random Large Unsigned Integer

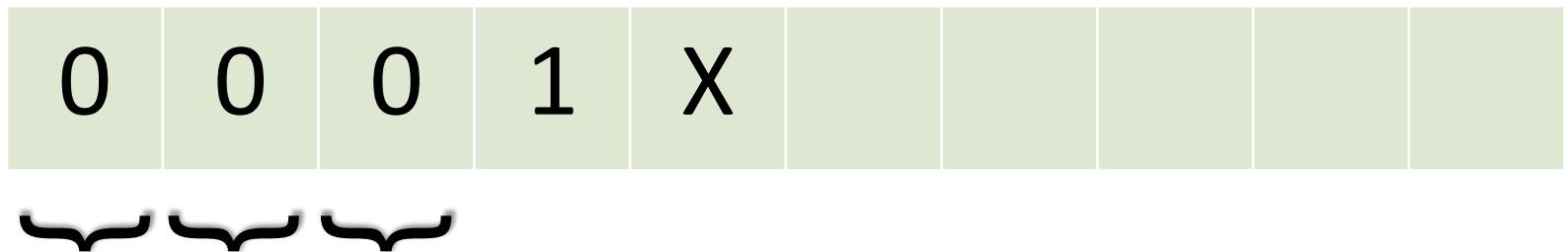


$$N = 2$$

$$P(\text{exactly } N \text{ leading 0 bits}) = 0.125$$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Expected number of zero bits Random Large Unsigned Integer



$$N = 3$$

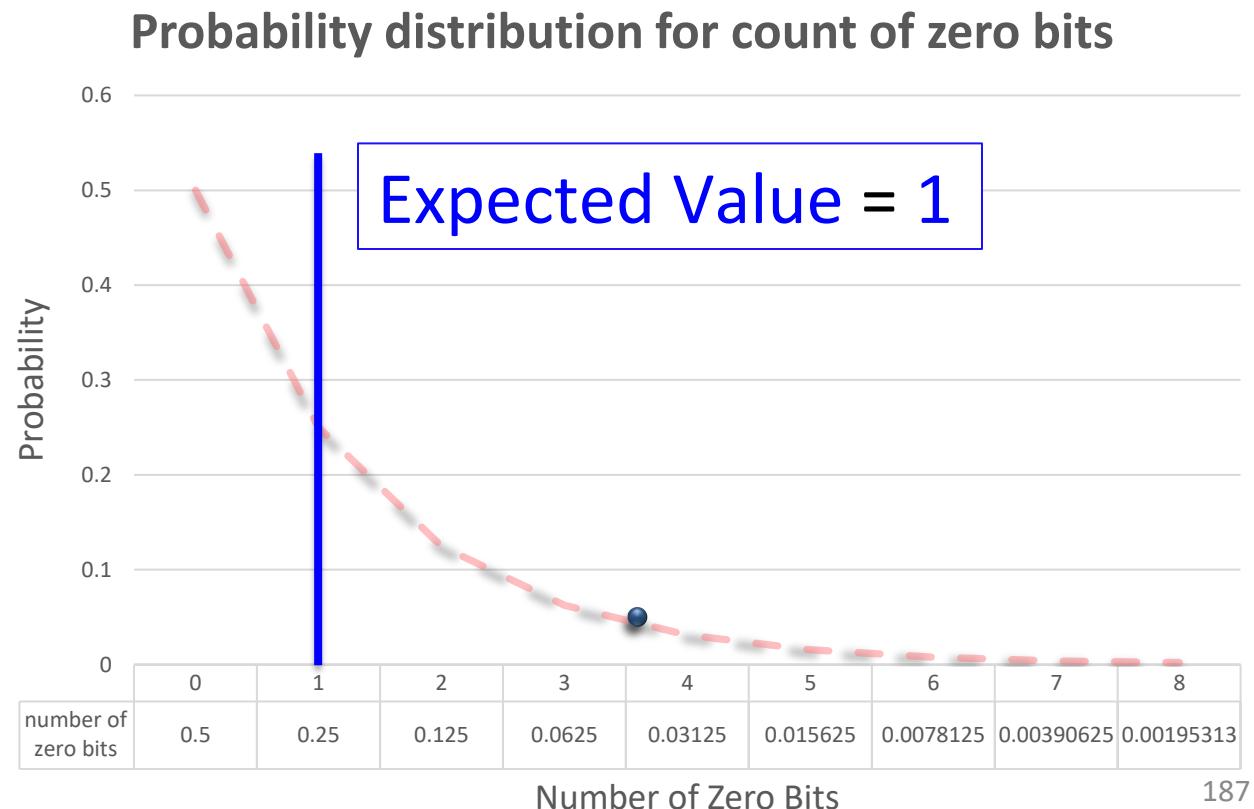
$$P(\text{exactly } N \text{ leading 0 bits}) = 0.0625$$

# Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

## Expected number of zero bits

$$E[\# \text{ zero bits}] = \sum_i i * P(\text{zeros} = i) = \sum_i i * 2^{-(i+1)} = 1$$

Number of zero bits	Probability
0	0.5
1	0.25
2	0.125
3	0.0625
...	...



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Q2. What's the chance it's all pee?

### Fact

Molecules per liter (kg) of water = 3.334e25

M = Expected # tainted water molecules:  
0.97 \* 3.334e25 molecules/kg \* 1.26e21 kg =  
**4.07e46 molecules**

N = total # water molecules:  
3.334e25 molecules/kg \* 1.26e21 kg =  
**4.2e46 molecules**

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Q2. Expected Value vs. Probability

Recall:  $E[X] = \sum_i x_i P(X = x_i)$

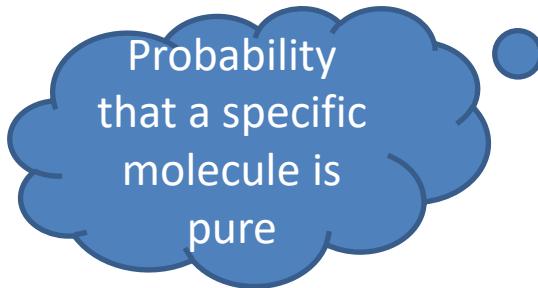
$$P = e^{-Rt}$$

$$E = P * N = P * (1 + 1 + 1 + \dots + 1 + 1 + 1)$$



$$E = P * N = P * 1 + P * 1 + \dots + P * 1 + P * 1$$





## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q2. What's the chance it's all pee?

Probability any specific molecule is:

$$\frac{M}{N} = 0.97$$

Probability all  $N$  molecules are tainted:

$$\left(\frac{M}{N}\right)^N = 10^{-5.76e44}$$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Q2. What's the probability all is tainted?

The world contains  $4.2 \times 10^{46}$  molecules

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{all clean}) &= P(\text{molecule tainted})^{4.2 \times 10^{46}} \\ &= 0.97^{4.2 \times 10^{46}} \\ &= e^{\ln(0.97^{4.2 \times 10^{46}})} \\ &= 10^{4.2 \times 10^{46} * \ln(0.97) * \log_{10}(e)} \\ &= 10^{4.2 \times 10^{46} * (-0.031593) * 0.43429} \\ &= 10^{4.2 \times 10^{46} * (-0.031593) * 0.43429} \\ &= 10^{-5.7628 \times 10^{44}} \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0.000000000\dots001$$

$5.76 \times 10^{44}$  zeros

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Q2. Chance every molecule is **pee?**

Probability <u>All</u> <b>Pee</b>	Time (years)	
	165,000,000	186,000,000
Rate of Decay (per year)	$10^{-5e44}$ (5 * $10^{44}$ zeros)	$10^{-4e44}$ (4 * $10^{44}$ zeros)
	$10^{-4e28}$ (4 * $10^{28}$ zeros)	$10^{-2e26}$ (2 * $10^{26}$ zeros)

**Final Answer: (b) Almost 0**

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

**Q3. What is Q2 if Q1 is ‘all but 1’?**

A single untainted molecule is *expected*:

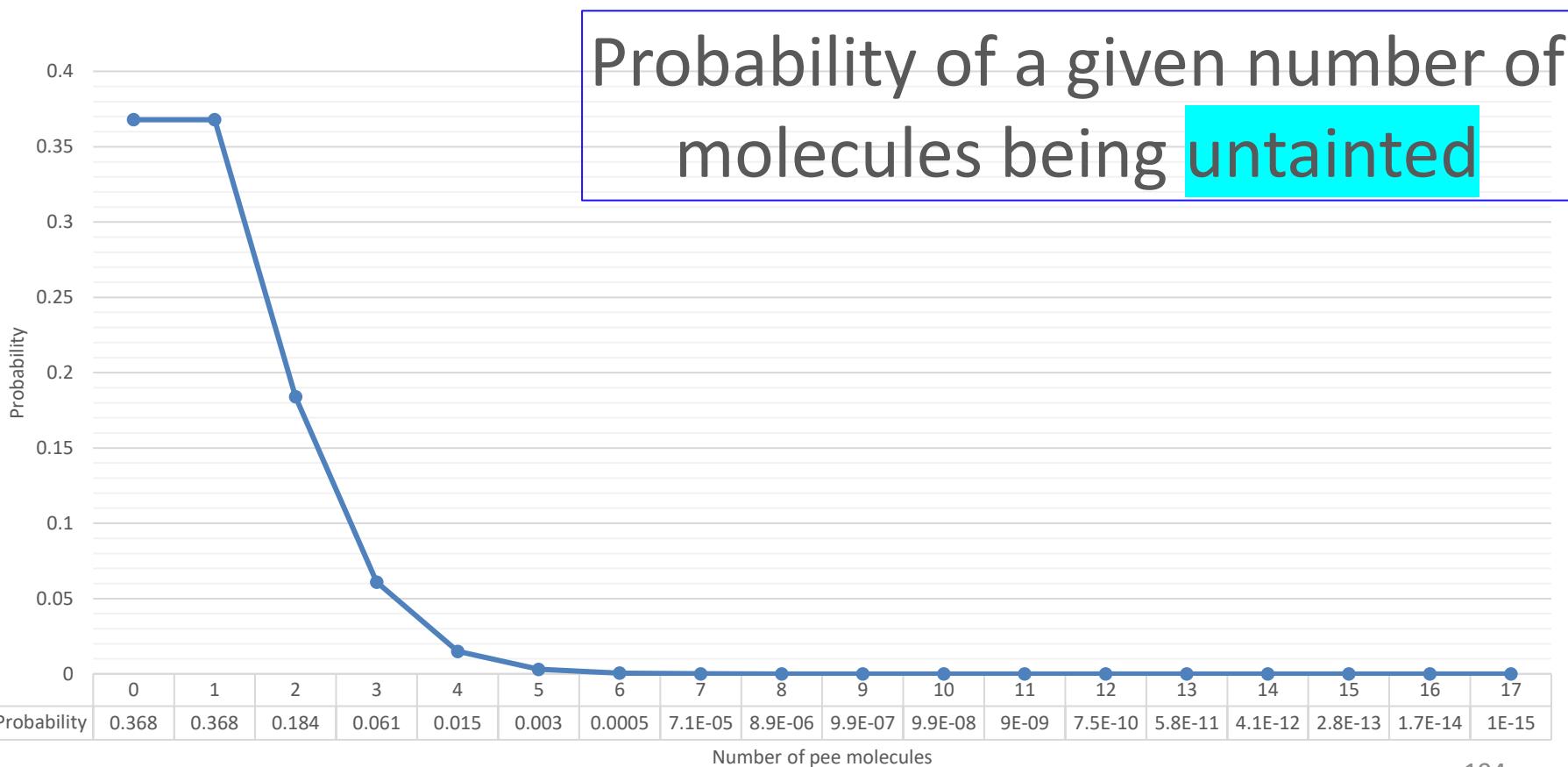
*We rely on the well-known result that*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = \frac{1}{e}$$

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q3. What is Q2 if Q1 is ‘all but 1’?

#### Probability Density Function and Expected Value



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

Q3. Q2 if Q1 answer were 'all but 1'

Probability	Time (years)	
All Pee if $E = 1/N$	165,000,000	186,000,000
Rate of Decay (per year)	$R = 2.10381e - 08$ (My Rate)	
	$R = 2.45794e - 07$ (~10X My Rate)	
	$\frac{1}{e} = 36.7879\%$	

Final Answer: (c) near middle

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q4. Chance my cup is pure?

1 cup = 250 ml water =  $8.3e24$  molecules

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{all clean}) &= P(\text{molecule clean})^{8.3E24} \\ &= 0.03^{8.3E24} \\ &= e^{\ln(0.03^{8.3E24})} \\ &= 10^{8.3E24 * \ln(0.03) * \log_{10}(e)} \\ &= 10^{8.3E24 * (-3.47054) * 0.43429} \\ &= 10^{8.3E24 * (-3.47054) * 0.43429} \\ &= 10^{-1.2501E25} \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0.000000000\dots001$$



$1.25 * 10^{25}$  zeros

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

### Q4. Chance my cup is pure water?

Probability <u>All</u> Pure	Time (years)	
	165,000,000	186,000,000
Rate of Decay (per year)	$R = 2.10381e - 08$ (My Rate)	$10^{-1.2e25}$ ( $10^{25}$ zeros!)
	$R = 2.45794e - 07$ (~10X My Rate)	$10^{-1e26}$ ( $10^{26}$ zeros!)

Final Answer: (b) Almost 0

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Question Recap

## How did you do?

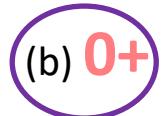
1. What fraction of all water is pee?

- (a) ~~0~~   (b) ~~0+~~   (c) ~~~0.5~~   (d) ~~1-~~   (e) ~~1~~



2. What's the chance every molecule is pee?

- (a) ~~0~~   (b) ~~0+~~   (c) ~~~0.5~~   (d) ~~1-~~   (e) ~~1~~



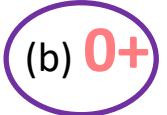
3. What would ans. 2. be if ans. 1. were “*all but 1 molecule*”?

- (a) ~~0~~   (b) ~~0+~~   (c) ~~~0.5~~   (d) ~~1-~~   (e) ~~1~~



4. What's the chance my cup of water is pure?

- (a) ~~0~~   (b) ~~0+~~   (c) ~~~0.5~~   (d) ~~1-~~   (e) ~~1~~



## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Takeaways

1. Dinosaurs created a lot of **pee**.
2. Molecules are *very* small.
3. Even if there's almost no *expected* water left, the **probability** that *all* the remaining water is **pee** is *very* small indeed.
4. Just like the ***birthday problem***, we need to think about how we can avoid representing values *very, very* close to 1 — as even a long double might not get the job done.

## Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# The Takeaway

To  $X$ ,

or  $1 - X$ ,

that is the  
question.

Quantifying Dinosaur Pee

# Dino-steak



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