

Basic Properties of Probability

1. Sample Space: the set of all possible outcomes. (S).

S can't be empty; but A can be empty.

e.g. flip a coin: $S = \{\text{Head}, \text{Tail}\}$.

1) Event A is 'any' subset $A \subseteq S$.

① $P(A)$: probability that A will occur.

2. Basic Properties of Probabilities

1) If A is an event, $0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$.

2) If $A = S$, $P(A) = P(S) = 1$.

3) If $A = \emptyset$, $P(A) = P(\emptyset) = 0$.

4) Additivity: if A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots are any sequence (finite/infinite) of disjoint events (i.e. $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$, whenever $i \neq j$), then

$$P(\bigcup_i A_i) = \sum_i P(A_i).$$

e.g. $A = \text{Heads}$, $B = \text{Tails}$. $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

$$= P(\text{Head}) + P(\text{Tails}).$$

$$= 0.5 + 0.5 = 1.$$