

# The Monty Hall problem

May 12, 2022

Suppose you're on a game show, and you're given the choice of three doors: Behind one door is a car; behind the others, goats. You pick a door, say No. 1, and the host, who knows what's behind the doors, opens another door, say No. 3, which has a goat. He then says to you, "Do you want to pick door No. 2?" Is it to your advantage to switch your choice?

We use a simulation to find the answer. First, we define a function to simulate a game:

```
1 using Random; Random.seed!(1)
2 function whichDoor(👉; nds=3)
3     🚪 = fill("🐐", nds)
4     🚗 = rand(1:nds)
5     🚪[🚗] = "🚗"
6     if 🚪[👉] == "🚗"
7         host = rand(setdiff(1:nds, 👉))
8     else
9         host = rand(setdiff(1:nds, [👉, 🚗]))
10    end
11    🐐 = rand(setdiff(1:nds, [👉, host]))
12    return (👉=👉, 🚗=🚗, 🐐=🐐, host=host)
13 end
14
15 # look at ten games
16 for i in 1:10
17     println(whichDoor(rand(1:3)))
18 end
```

Here are the results for the ten games:

```
(👉 = 1, 🚗 = 2, 🐐 = 2, host = 3)
(👉 = 3, 🚗 = 1, 🐐 = 1, host = 2)
(👉 = 3, 🚗 = 1, 🐐 = 1, host = 2)
(👉 = 1, 🚗 = 1, 🐐 = 2, host = 3)
(👉 = 1, 🚗 = 1, 🐐 = 3, host = 2)
(👉 = 2, 🚗 = 2, 🐐 = 3, host = 1)
(👉 = 2, 🚗 = 3, 🐐 = 3, host = 1)
(👉 = 3, 🚗 = 3, 🐐 = 2, host = 1)
```

```
(👉 = 3, 🚗 = 2, 🚪 = 2, host = 1)
(👉 = 1, 🚗 = 2, 🚪 = 2, host = 3)
```

Now let's define a function to count the frequency from a larger number of the simulated games.

```
1 function countMTH(n; nds=3)
2   n_keep, n_switch = 0, 0
3   for i in 1:n
4     game = whichDoor(rand(1:3), nds=nds)
5     if game.👉 == game.🚗
6       n_keep += 1
7     elseif game.🚪 == game.🚗
8       n_switch += 1
9     end
10  end
11  return (n_keep, n_switch) ./ n
12 end
13
14 # simulate 100 games to approximate the probabilities
15 probabilities = countMTH(100)
```

The approximate probabilities of keeping the original choice and switching are (0.32, 0.68).