

# Essentials of AI for Life and Society

## Probabilistic Modeling

Dr. Roberto Martin-Martin

# Defining Artificial Intelligence

*A science and a set of computational technologies that are inspired by, but typically operate quite differently from, the ways people use their nervous systems and bodies to sense, learn, reason, and take action*

*More than just Deep Learning → Probabilistic Modeling!*

# Defining Artificial Intelligence

*A science and a set of computational technologies that are inspired by, but typically operate quite differently from, the ways people use their nervous systems and bodies to sense, learn, reason, and take action*

*More than just Deep Learning → Probabilistic Modeling!*

Statistical approach that uses the effect of random occurrences or actions to forecast the possibility of future results

# Defining Artificial Intelligence

*A science and a set of computational technologies that are inspired by, but typically **operate quite differently from**, the ways **people** use their nervous systems and bodies to sense, learn, reason, and take action*

*More than just Deep Learning → Probabilistic Modeling!*

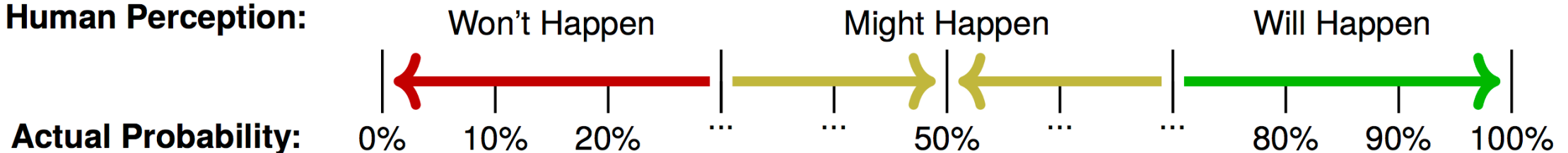
Statistical approach that uses the effect of random occurrences or actions to forecast the possibility of future results

# We “round” probabilities very coarsely...

- Humans are bad at estimating accurate chances of events to happen
- We tend to simplify in three cases:
  - Won't happen ~ 0% probability
  - Might happen ~ 50/50 probability
  - Will happen ~ 100% probability

## Why Humans are Bad at Thinking About Chance

**Human Perception:**



# We are bad with large numbers...



- 1 every 10.000 clovers have four leaves
- 8.000.000.000 people in the world
  - 0.0001 % of them see a clover every day
  - 800.000 people see a clover every day
- ~80 people find a 4-leaf clover every day!



# Instapoll



# Why Probabilistic Modeling?

- We (humans) are really bad at computing probabilities in our heads
  - Probabilistic modeling gives us tools to do it in a rigorous way
- The world is not deterministic
  - Same actions can lead to different outcomes
  - Some effects cannot be predicted
  - Some data is noisy
- Classic logic does not account for "possibilities"
  - if A then (always) B
  - what if sometimes B and sometimes C?





# Probabilistic Modeling



- The tools to correctly reason based on the chances of different events to happen
- Critical to make informed decisions!

# Example

- John has two children
- We know that one of them is a girl
  - It could be the youngest or the oldest
- What is the probability that the other is a boy?
- Intuition:  $\frac{1}{2}$



# Example

- John has two children
- We know that one of them is a girl
  - It could be the youngest or the oldest
- What is the probability that the other is a boy?
- Intuition:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
WRONG!



# Example

- John has two children
  - We know that one of them is a girl
    - It could be the youngest or the oldest
  - What is the probability that the other is a boy?
- 
- Intuition:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
WRONG!



+ one is G

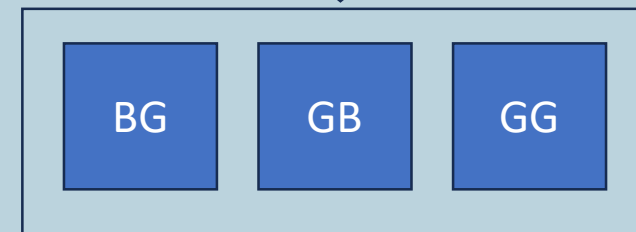


# Example

- John has two children
  - We know that one of them is a girl
    - It could be the youngest or the oldest
  - What is the probability that the other is a boy?
- Intuition:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
WRONG!



+ one is G



# Example

- John has two children
- We know that one of them is a girl
  - It could be the youngest or the oldest
- What is the probability that the other is a boy?
- Intuition:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
WRONG!
- Right value:  $\frac{2}{3}$ !



+ one is G

