

# *Intro to Probability*

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Fall 2014

# Plan for today:

- Axioms of probability.
- Reliability, continued.
- Probability tree diagram.
- More examples.

# Logistics

- Let me know if you cannot access website
- Last reminders:
  - **Doodle** under Contact tab.
  - Clickers (see links in Syllabus tab)
  - Piazza under Contact tab.
  - Pre-readings posted in Schedule tab
- Slides under Files tab
- Additional practice problems: Syllabus tab

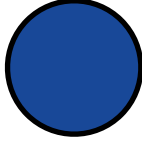
# Logistics

- I will start using clickers today,
  - but I am not taking grade into account (yet)
- First problems will be released by Wednesday (more about that on Wed)
- We cannot have a larger room unfortunately, but keep monitoring the enrollment!

# Disclaimer

- Workload and difficulty increases in the second half of semester (continuous probability)
- Make sure you have the time to stay on top of the material
- Good things to review from pre-requisite courses:
  - set theory notation
  - bivariate integration

# Review

- Outcome: a scenario,  $s =$  
- Sample space  $S$ : all the possible scenarios
- Event: a set of outcomes, e.g.  $E = \{s \in S : s \text{ is red}\}$
- Probability: in the discrete, equally weighted case,  
 $P(E) = |E| / |S|$
- Properties:
  - $P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F)$  when  $E$  &  $F$  are disjoint (non-overlapping)
  - $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$

# Going beyond the equally weighted case

# Def. 3

## Discrete, equally weighted

**Definition (1):**

$$P(E) = |E| / |S|$$

**Properties (2):**

a)  $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

b)  $P(S) = 1$

c)  $P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F)$   
if  $E$  and  $F$  are disjoint



# Def. 3

Discrete, equally weighted

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Not equally weighted  
(or not discrete)

Example: redundancy  
problem (ex. 11)

## Def. 3

## General rules of probability

### **Assume:**

- a)  $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
- b)  $P(S) = 1$
- c)  $P(E \cup F \cup \dots) = P(E) + P(F) + \dots$   
if  $E, F, \dots$  are all disjoint

### Discrete, equally weighted

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### Not equally weighted (or not discrete)

Example: redundancy  
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Def. 3

## General rules of probability

These are  
called the  
**axioms of  
probability**  
\*\*\*

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Not equally weighted  
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Example: redundancy  
problem (ex. 11)

# Redundancy is not always stupid

- Redundant systems:
  - create one or more duplicates of an important part of a machine
  - as long as one of the copies works, the machine works as a whole
  - the machine only fails when both copies break
- Many examples in biology (kidneys), engineering

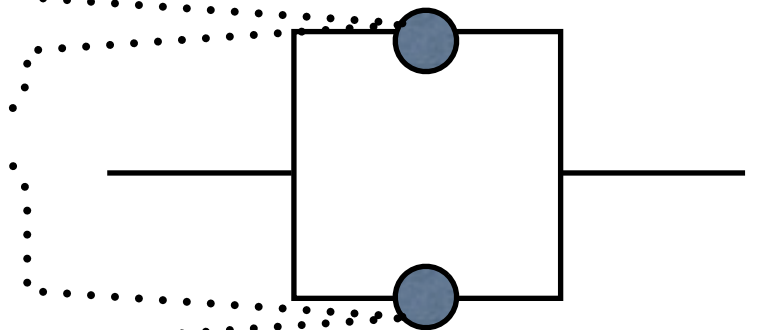


Redundant  
server power  
supply

# Example of a typical reliability problem

- Known:

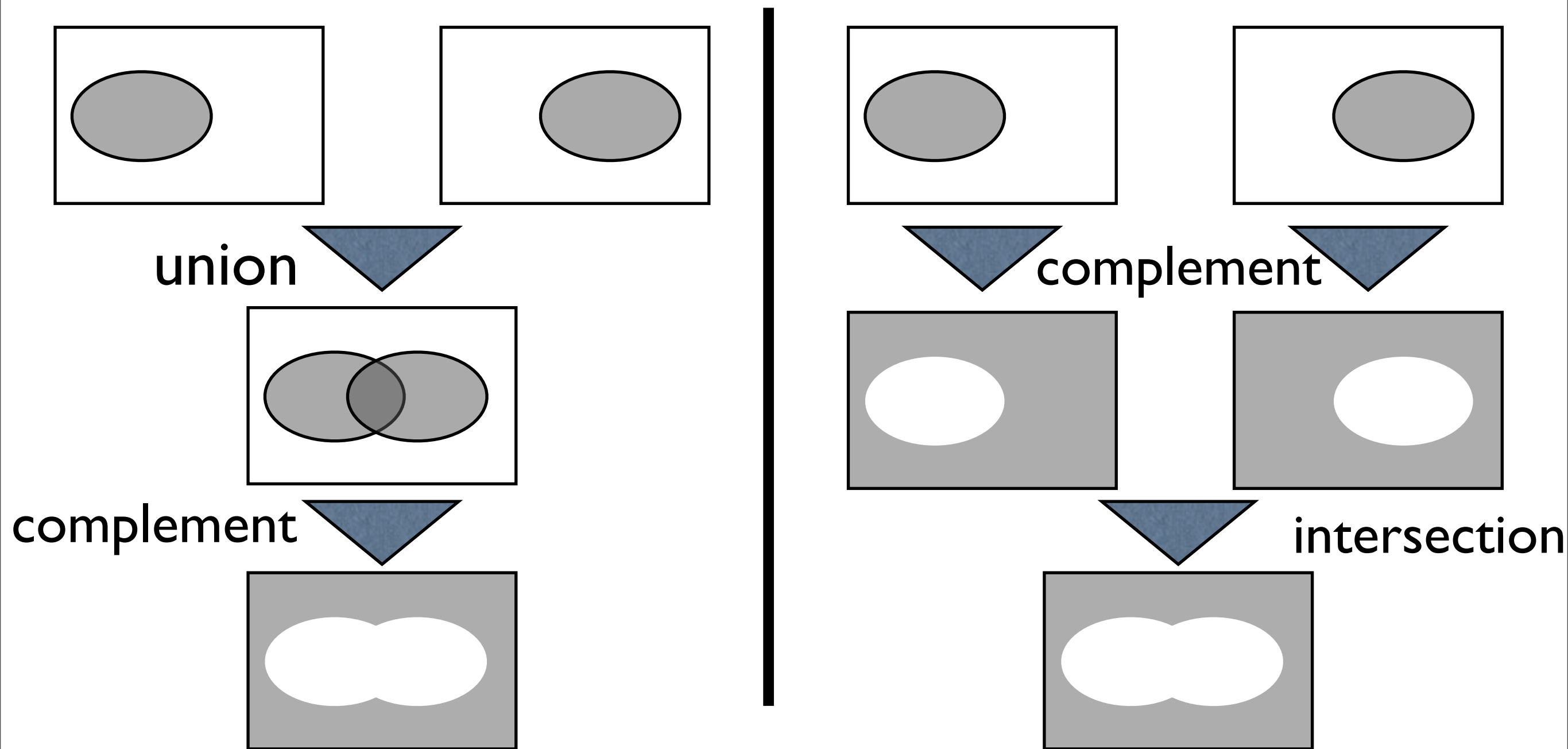
- Power supply #1 works 60% of the time at delivery
- Power supply #2 works 70% of the time at delivery
- You also observed that both power supplies work at delivery 40% of the time
- Question: what is the probability that both power supply are broken at delivery?



# Strategy

1. Define a probability space  $S$
2. Define the known information as events,  
ex.:  $W_1 = \text{power supplies \#1 works}$
3. Define the goal in terms of the probability  
of an event
4. Use properties 1 and 2 to find that  
probability (see next 2 slides as well to  
make your life easier)

# De Morgan's law: Distributing complements



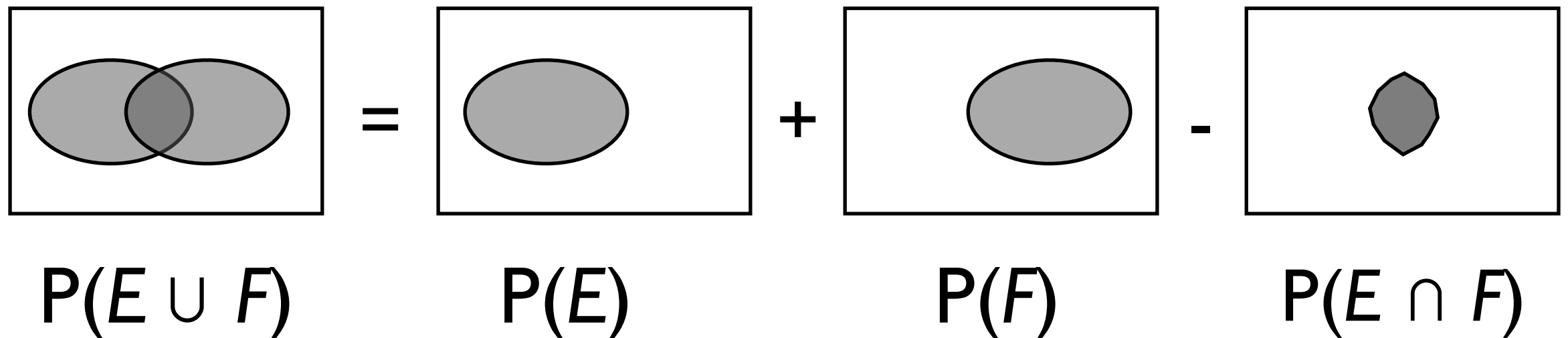
$$\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i\right)^c = \bigcap_{i=1}^n E_i^c$$

## Inclusion-exclusion:

## Going between unions and intersections

**From earlier:**

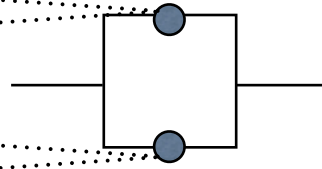
$$P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F) \quad \text{if } E \text{ and } F \text{ are disjoint,} \\ \text{i.e. } E \cap F = \emptyset$$

**What if:** we want the prob. of non-disjoint unions?



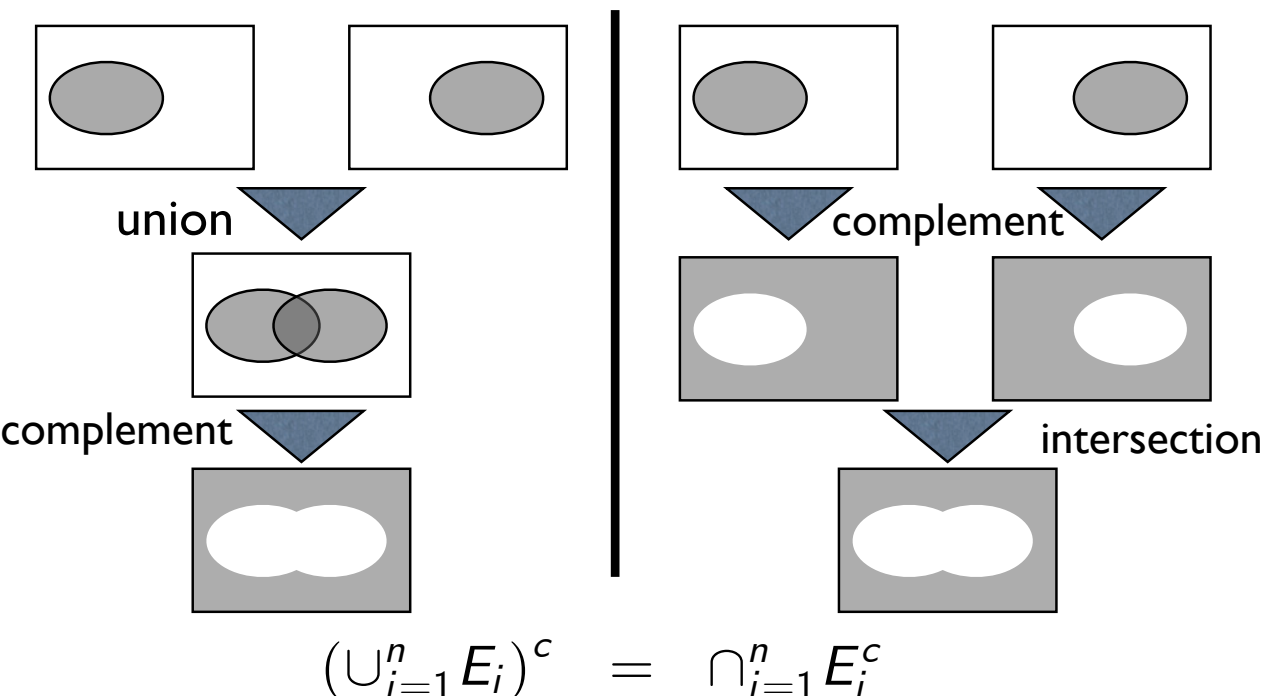
# Ex. 11

- Known:
  - Power supply #1 works 60% of the time at delivery
  - Power supply #2 works 70% of the time at delivery
- You also observed that both power supplies work at delivery 40% of the time
- Question: what is the probability that both power supply are broken at delivery?



- A) 6%
- B) 10%**
- C) 12%
- D) 20%

## De Morgan's law: Distributing complements



Prop. 4

## Inclusion-exclusion:

Going between unions and intersections

**From earlier:**

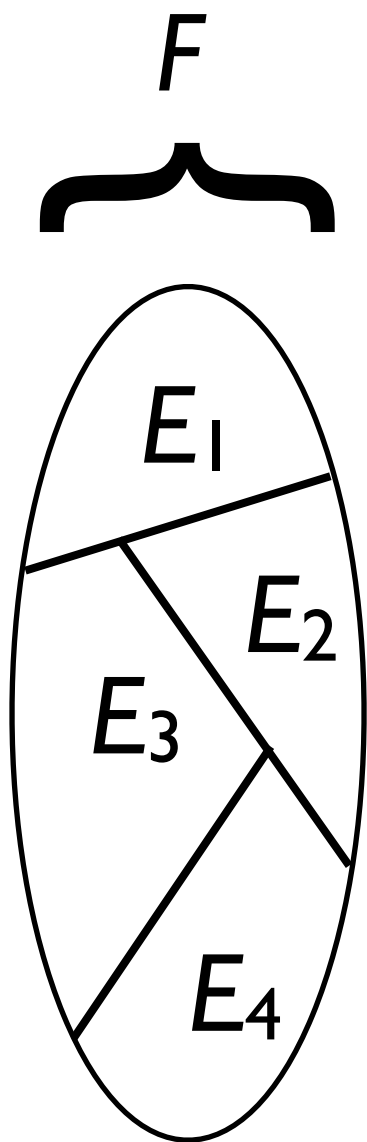
$$P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F) \quad \text{if } E \text{ and } F \text{ are disjoint, i.e. } E \cap F = \emptyset$$

**What if:** we want the prob. of non-disjoint unions?

$$P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F) - P(E \cap F)$$

# *Partitions* and *probability tree diagrams*

# Partition of an event



The events  $E_i$  form a partition of the event  $F$  if:

1. The union of the  $E_i$ 's is equal to  $F$ :

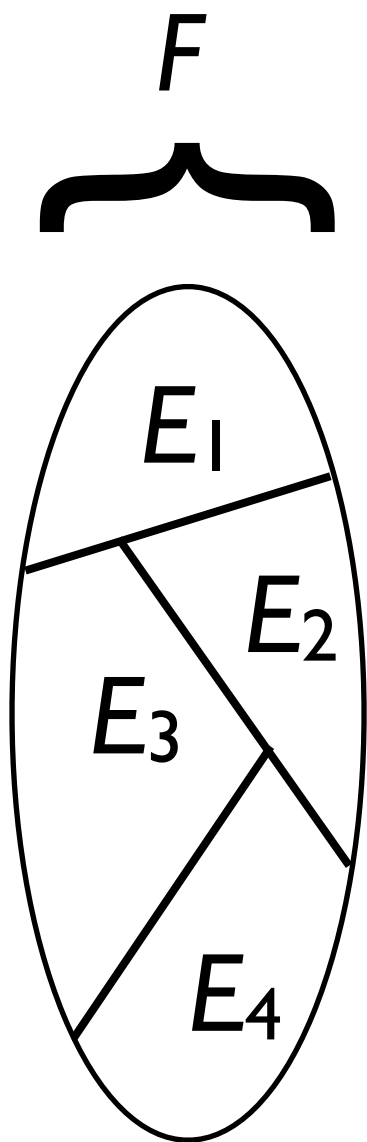
$$\bigcup_i E_i = F$$

2. The  $E_i$ 's are disjoint:

$$\text{if } i \neq j, \text{ then } E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$$

Why is this useful?

# Partition of an event



The events  $E_i$  form a partition of the event  $F$  if:

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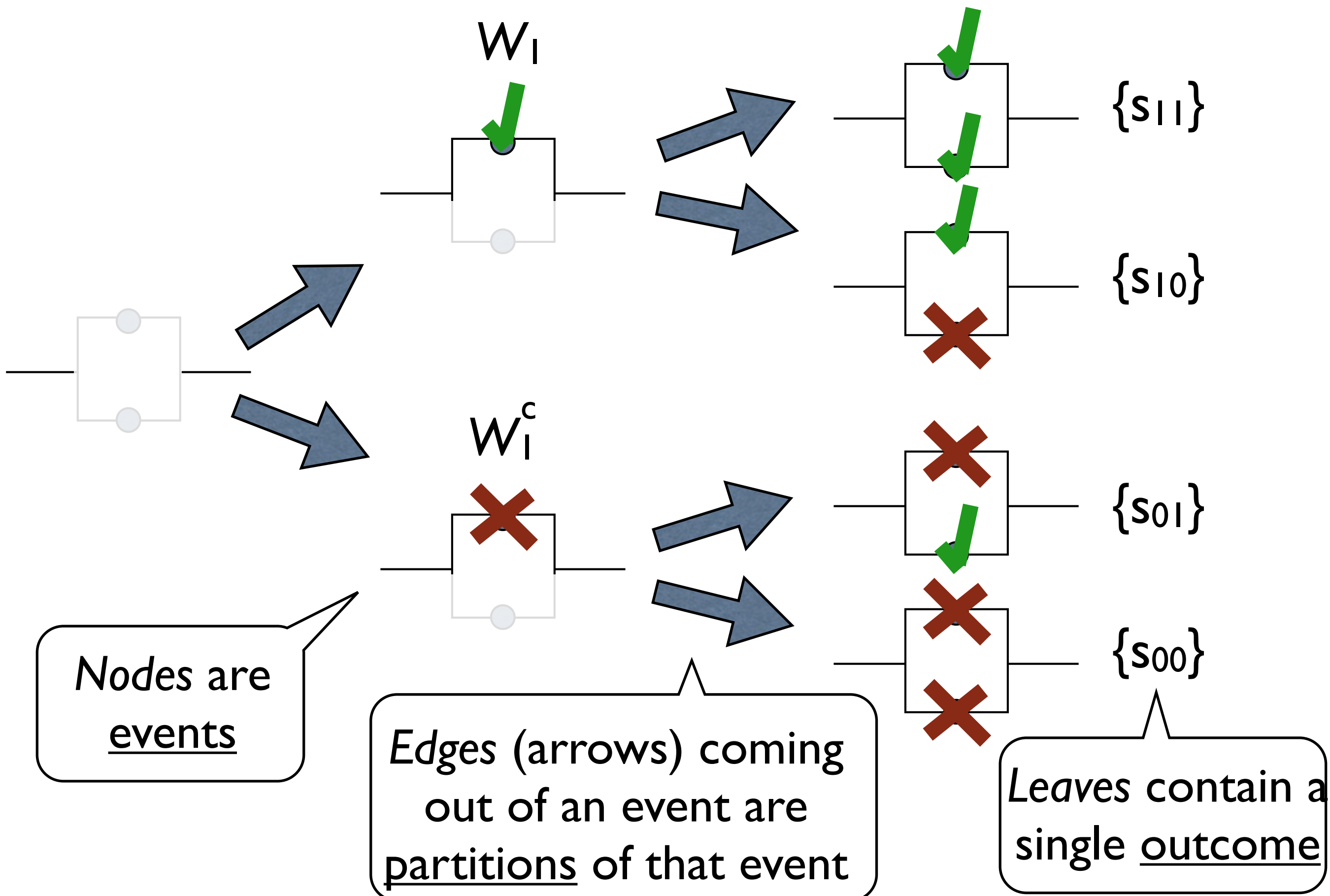
$$\text{if } i \neq j, \text{ then } E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$$

Why is this useful?

**Note:** as consequence of 1, 2 and the axioms of probability,  $P(F) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) + P(E_3) + P(E_4)$

Def. 5

# Probability tree diagram



# Examples of solving discrete probability problems with tree diagrams

Ex. 12

# Probability that $n$ coins are all tails

**Recall:**

$$P(E) = |E| / |S|$$

**Probability when  
outcomes are  
equally likely:**

$$\frac{\text{\# of outcomes of interest}}{\text{\# of outcomes}}$$

**Here:**  $|E| = ?$   
 $|S| = ?$

Ex. 12

# Probability that $n$ coins are all tails

**Recall:**

$$P(E) = |E| / |S|$$

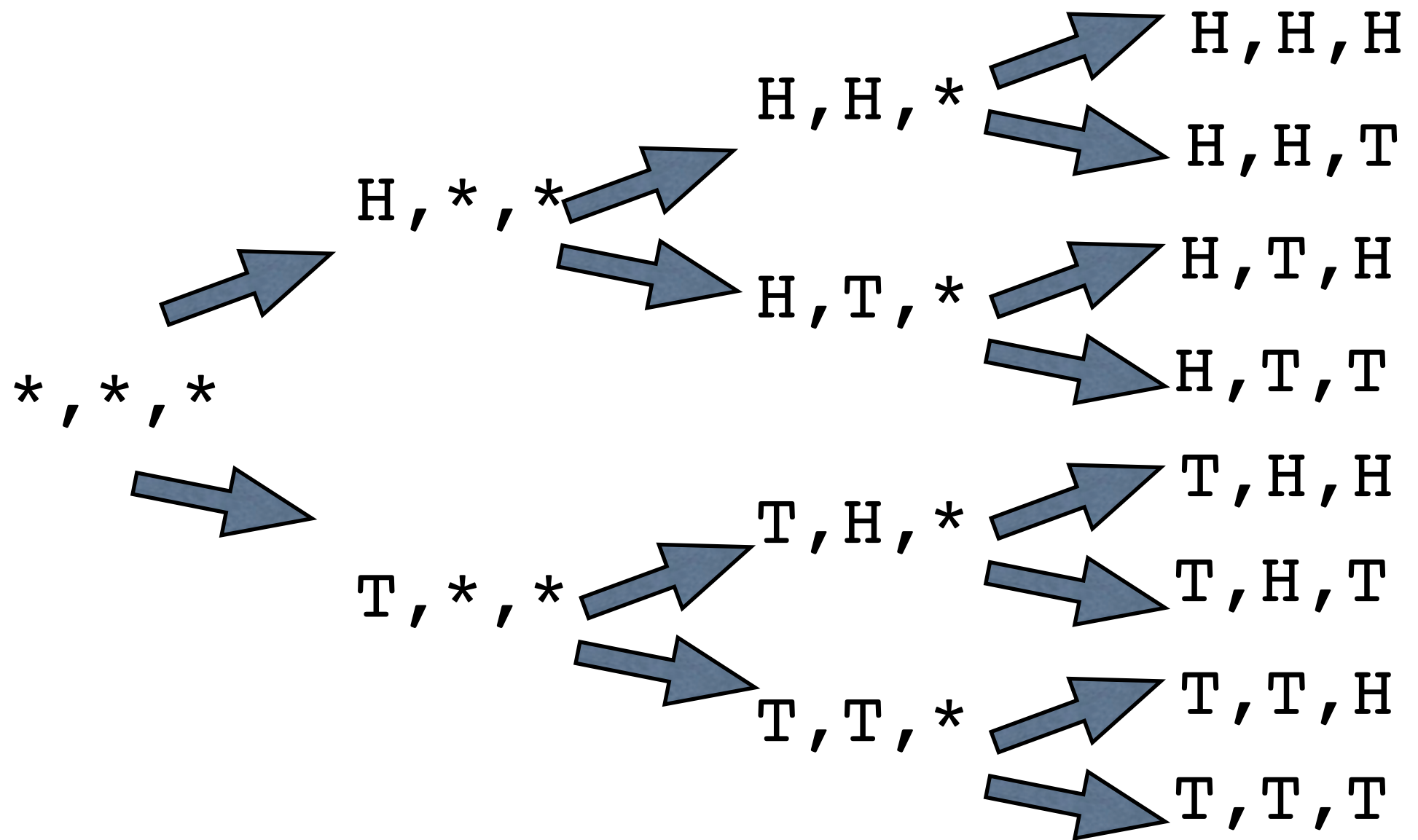
**Probability when  
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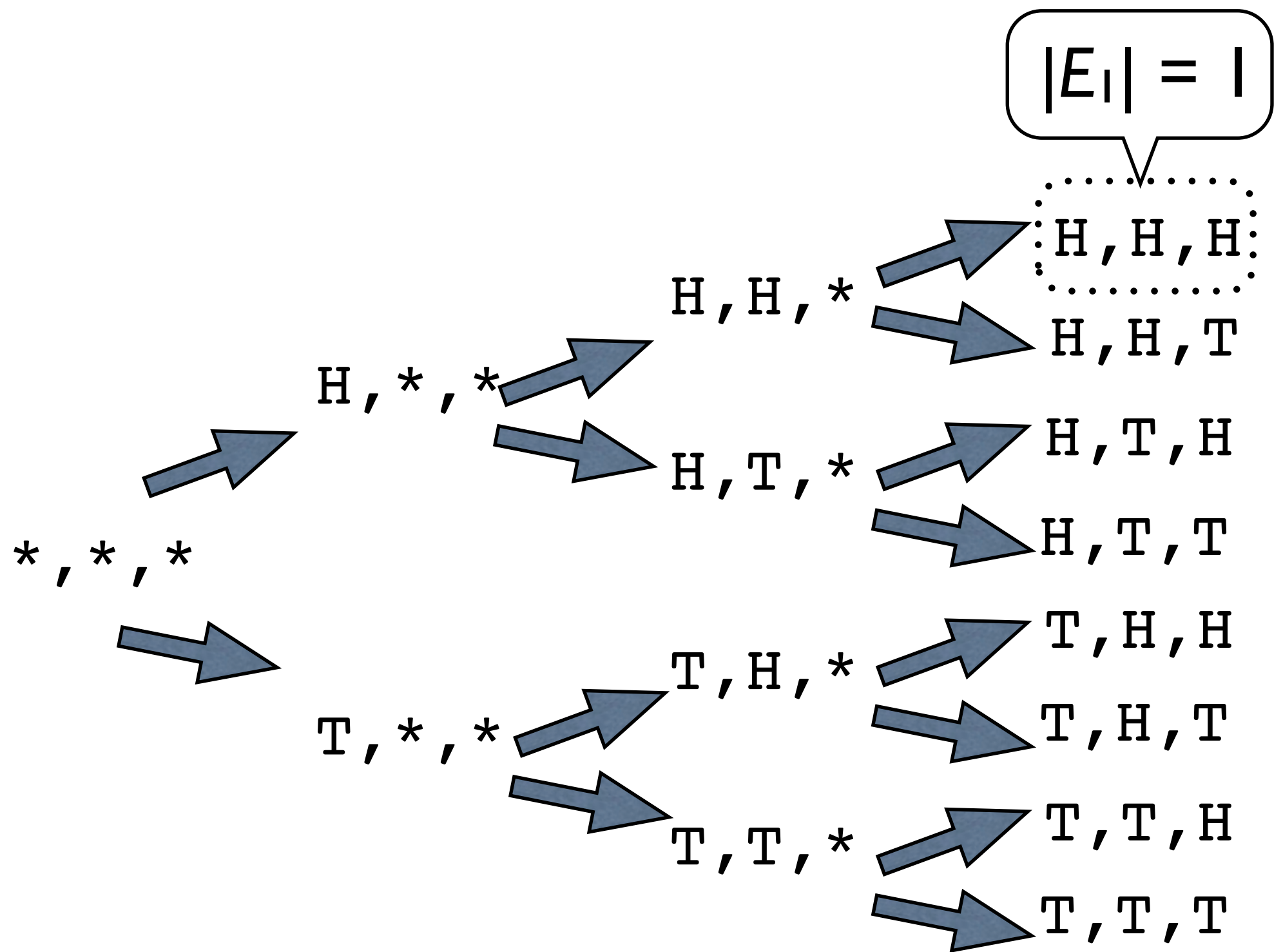
**Here:**  $|E| = 1$   
 $|S| = ?$



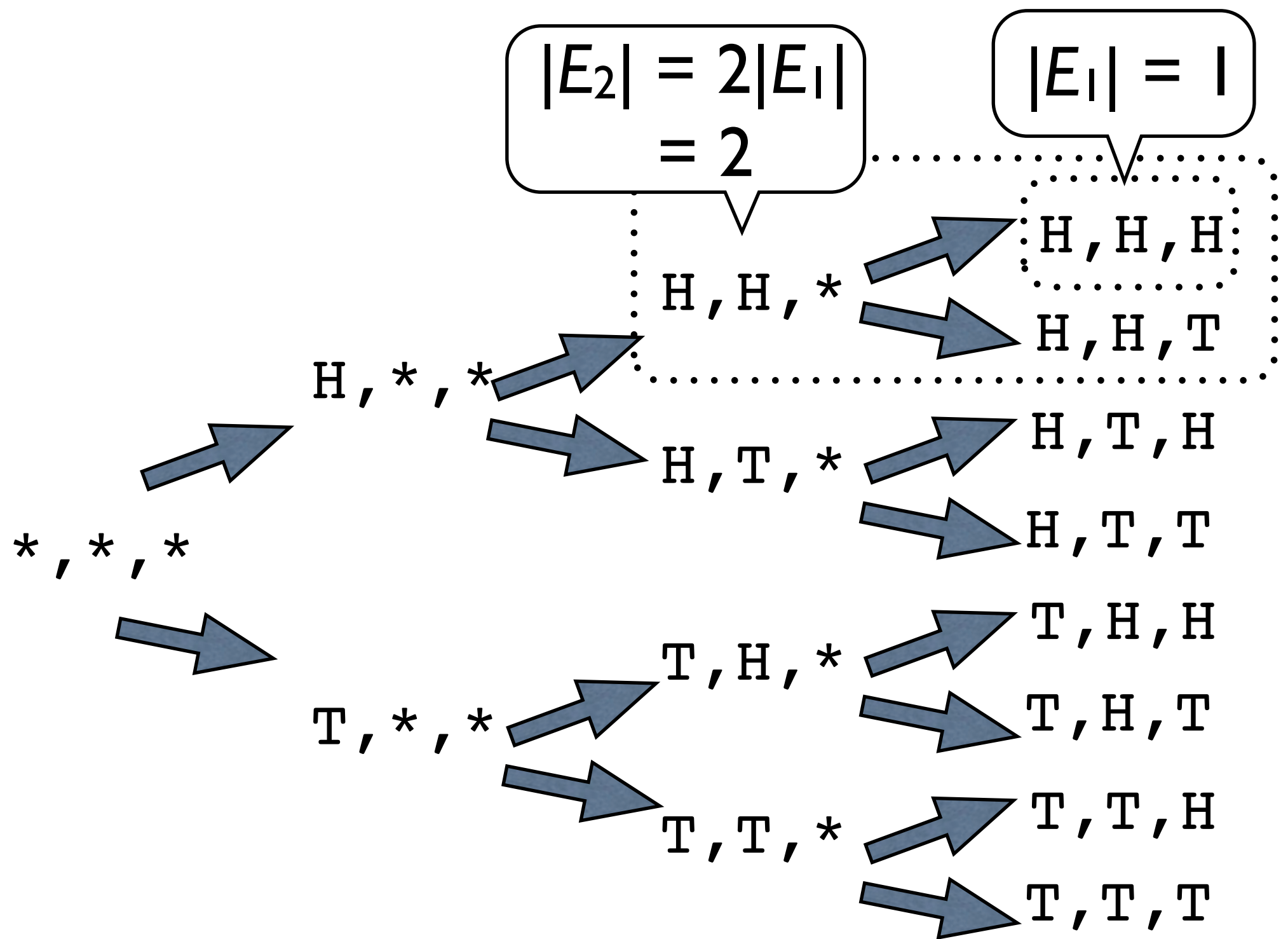
# Ex. 12 Probability that $n$ coins are all tails: finding $|S|$



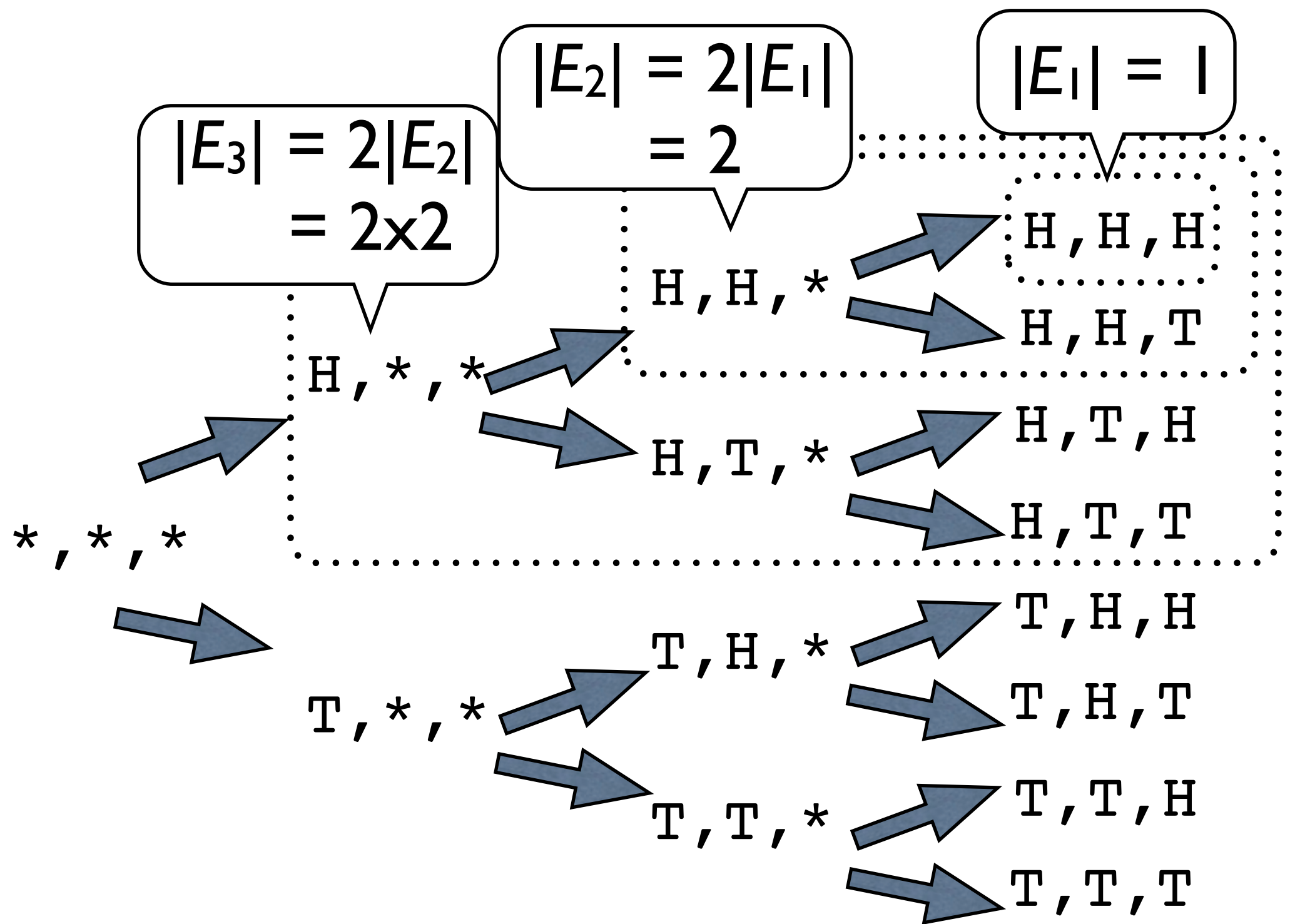
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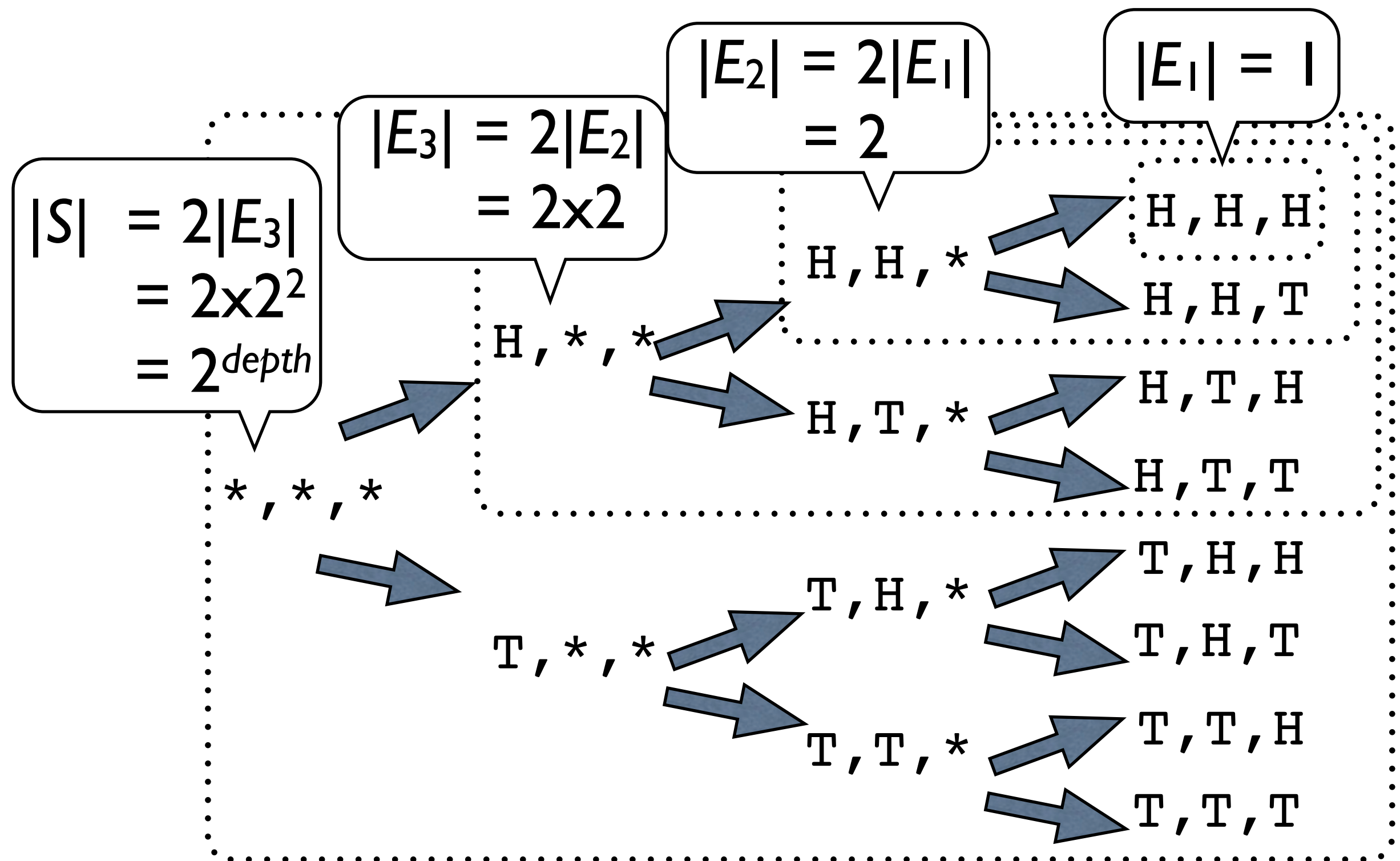
# Ex. 12 Probability that $n$ coins are all tails: finding $|S|$



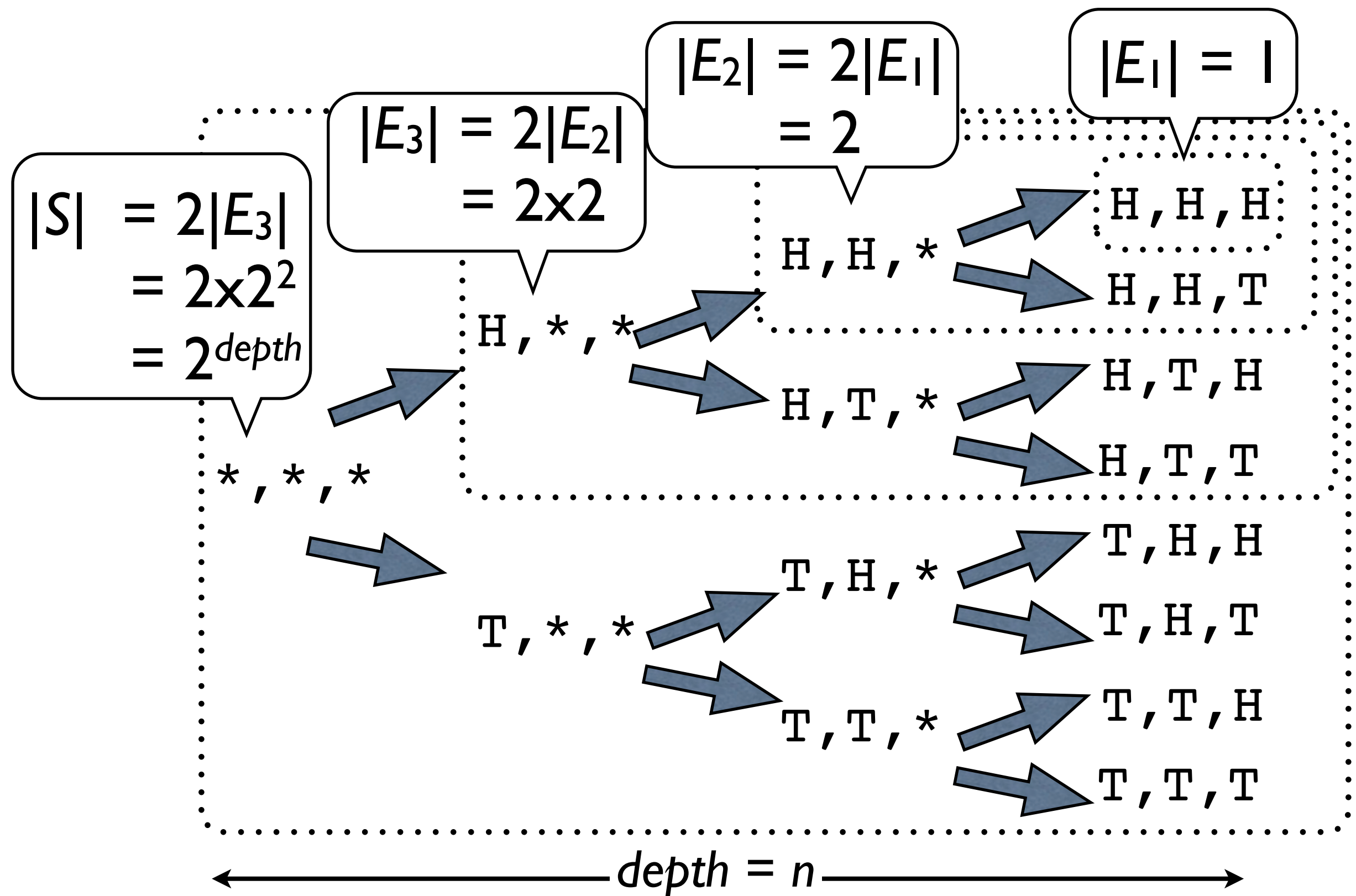
# Ex. 12 Probability that $n$ coins are all tails: finding $|S|$



# Ex. 12 Probability that $n$ coins are all tails: finding $|S|$



# Ex. 12 Probability that $n$ coins are all tails: finding $|S|$



# Probability of winning the lottery

- You pick your number when you buy a ticket
- The lottery company draws at random from an urn containing  $n$  numbered balls  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  [example:  $n=5$ ]
- $k$  times [example:  $k=3$ ]
- without replacement (each number is either picked 0 or 1 time, not more)



Ex. 13

# Probability of winning the lottery (without replacement)

- You win if the numbers you picked *match* those from the draw.
- See example on the right, do you win in this case?

**Draw result:**



**Your picks:**

12, 31, 10, 23, 8, 45



Ex. 13

# Probability of winning the lottery (without replacement)

- You win if the numbers you picked *match* those from the draw.
- See example on the right, do you win in this case?
  - a) if order matters, NO
  - b) if order does not matter, YES

**Draw result:**



**Your picks:**

12, 31, 10, 23, 8, 45

**Note:** most lottery use (b), but let's do (a) first---it is simpler

Ex. 13a

# Probability of winning the lottery (order matters, without replacement)

**Recall:**

$$P(E) = |E| / |S|$$

**Probability when  
outcomes are  
equally likely:**

$$\frac{\text{\# of outcomes of interest}}{\text{\# of outcomes}}$$

**Here:**  $|E| = 1$   
 $|S| = ?$

Ex. 13a

Find  $|S|$ :

- A) 243
- B) 125
- C) 60
- D) 15

Hint: the probability tree looks like:

$k = \text{number of draws} = 3$   
 $n = \text{number of balls in urn} = 5$

