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# Usage of Monte Carlo simulations for solving veridical type paradoxes

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**Abstract** We used both Monte Carlo simulation and analytical method to solve veridical type paradoxes. Following analytical methods were used: conditional probability, Bayes' rule, and Bayes' rule with multiple conditions. We successfully solved all the veridical type paradoxes and discovered why such a big discussion of Monty Hall problem appeared in 90's. We varied Monty Hall problem, using different doors count and prizes count.

**Keywords** Monte Carlo simulation, Bertrand's box paradox, Three prisoners dilemma, Monty Hall problem, Bayes' rule, Bayes' rule with multiple conditions, conditional probability, veridical type paradox

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000) 60-04, 65C05

#### 1 Introduction

A paradox is a statement that contradicts itself and yet might be true (or wrong at the same time). A veridical paradox produces a result that appears absurd, but is demonstrated to be true nevertheless. We will focus on veridical type paradoxes using Monte Carlo simulations, but we also will provide analytical solutions for most of the cases. The key part of our research was Monty Hall problem, and we provide Monte Carlo simulations for all the calculations in Monty Hall problem case, but analytical solution would be mentioned for most of the cases, too. We will describe and solve following veridical type paradoxes: Bertrand's box paradox, Three prisoners dilemma, Monty Hall problem. The key part of our research was Monty Hall problem, and we will explain, why so many PhD researchers insisted on probability equal 0.5 back in 90's [7].

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#### 2 Monte Carlo simulation

Monte Carlo simulation belongs to advanced statistical tools. A simulation is an experiment, usually conducted on a computer, involving the use of random numbers. A random number stream is a sequence of statistically independent random variables uniformly distributed usually in the interval [0,1).

Simulations are used where it is difficult to use purely analytical methods to either model the real-life situation or to solve the underlying mathematical problems. They rely on repeated random sampling to obtain numerical results. We used random sampling to obtain approximation of probabilities.

# 3 Veridical type paradoxes

We solved following veridical type paradoxes: Bertrand's box, Three prisoners dilemma and Monty Hall problem. We used both analytical and numerical approach. Some calculations were conducted just numerically.

#### 3.1 Bertrand's box

Bertrand's box paradox is a paradox of elementary probability theory. There are three boxes:

- 1. A box containing two gold coins
- 2. A box containing two silver coins
- 3. A box containing one gold coin and a silver coin

The question is: What is the probability of choosing gold coin, having known the first coin is also gold? Player is choosing box at random and does not swap boxes after first toss. It is an elementary example of conditional probability:

$$P(A \mid B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \tag{1}$$

- P(A) probability of choosing gold coin in second toss
- P(B) probability of choosing gold coin in first toss

$$P(B) = P(gold \mid GG) + P(gold \mid SS) + P(gold \mid SG)$$
 (2)

$$P(B) = \frac{1+0+\frac{1}{2}}{3} = \frac{1}{2} \tag{3}$$

$$P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{3} \tag{4}$$

$$P(A \mid B) = \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{2}{3} \tag{5}$$

Result appears to be  $\frac{1}{2}$  using common sense, but it is  $\frac{2}{3}$  in fact. The correct solution of the problem is well known for a long time. The aim of our research was to build a Monte Carlo simulation of the problem. We coded following code in R:

```
\label{eq:basic_section} \begin{split} &\# Bertrand\ 's\ paradox\\ & \text{set.seed}\ (100)\\ & \text{samplesize} < -1000000\\ & \text{a} < -\text{sample}\ (0:2\ , \text{samplesize}\ , \text{replace=T})\\ &\#\ 3\ \ \text{boxes:}\ 0-\ \ \text{gold}\ ,\ \ \text{gold}\ ;\ 1-\ \ \text{silver}\ ;\ 2-\ \ \text{gold}\ ,\ \ \text{silver}\\ & \text{b} < -\text{sample}\ (0:1\ , \text{samplesize}\ , \text{replace=T})\ \#\ 2\ \ \text{balls}\ \ \text{in}\ \ \text{each}\ \ \text{box}\\ & \text{data} < -\text{data.frame}\ (a\ ,b)\\ & \text{data} < -\text{subset}\ (\text{data}\ , (a==0)\ |\ \  (a==2\ \&\ b==0), \text{select=a})\\ & \text{round}\ (\text{sum}\ (a==0)/\text{nrow}\ (\text{data}2\ )\ ,4)\ \ \#\ \ \text{final}\ \ \ \text{probability} \end{split}
```

Monte Carlo simulation confirms the probability equal 0.6667, which is  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

# 3.2 Three prisoners dilemma

Three prisoners problem is another veridical type paradox. Three prisoners A,B and C, are in separate cells and sentenced to death. The governor has selected one of them at random to be pardoned. The warden knows which one is pardoned, but is not allowed to tell. Prisoner A begs the warden to let him know the identity of the lucky one. Prisoner A knows that warden can't tell the identity of the one to be pardoned, so he proposed the warden following code: 'If B is pardoned, give me C's name. If C is pardoned give me B's name. If I am pardoned, flip a coin to decide whether to name B or C.' The warden tells A that it will be B. Prisoner A is pleased because he believes that his probability of surviving has gone up from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , as it is now between him and C. This is what common sense says. The question is, what the true probabilities are. Analytical solution:

- A,B,C are corresponding prisoners
- P(A), P(B),P(C) are probabilities that governor pardoned corresponding prisoners
- a,b,c are events which warden mentions that corresponding prisoners were pardoned

$$P(A) = P(B) = P(C) = \frac{1}{3}, P(b \mid A) = \frac{1}{2}, P(c \mid A) = \frac{1}{2}$$
 (6)

$$P(b \mid C) = 1, P(c \mid B) = 1, P(c \mid C) = 0, P(b \mid B) = 0$$
(7)

It is more complicated problem. It can be solved using Bayes' rule.

$$P(A \mid b) = \frac{P(b \mid A)P(A)}{P(b \mid A)P(A) + P(b \mid B)P(B) + P(b \mid C)P(C)}$$
(8)

$$P(A \mid b) = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 0 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{3}$$
 (9)

$$P(A \mid c) = \frac{P(c \mid A)P(A)}{P(c \mid A)P(A) + P(c \mid B)P(B) + P(c \mid C)P(C)}$$
(10)

$$P(A \mid c) = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 0 \cdot \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{3}$$
 (11)

$$P(C \mid b) = \frac{P(b \mid C)P(C)}{P(b \mid A)P(A) + P(b \mid B)P(B) + P(b \mid C)P(C)}$$
(12)

$$P(C \mid b) = \frac{1 \cdot \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 0 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{2}{3}$$
 (13)

Conclusion of three prisoners problem is, that warden's information is not telling anything about prisoner A future. Probability of being pardoned stays at  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Probability of being pardoned for prisoner C is now  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Monte Carlo simulation has been coded in R:

```
# Three prisoners problem
set.seed (100)
\mathtt{sample size} < -1000000
governor <-- sample (0:2, sample size, replace=T)
fm < -function(a,j) {
if (a[j]==0) {thisone <-sample (1:2,1,replace=T)} if (a[j]==1) {thisone <-2} if (a[j]==2) {thisone <-1}
thisone
warden <- sapply (1: samplesize, function (j) fm (governor, j))
r < - data.frame(governor, warden)
# Warden told B, given governor choose A.
sum(r$warden==1 & r$governor==0)/sum(r$warden==1)
# Warden told C, given governor choose A.
sum(r$warden==2 & r$governor==0)/sum(r$warden==2)
# Warden told B, given governor choose C.
sum(r$warden==1 & r$governor==2)/sum(r$warden==1)
# Warden told C, given governor choose B.
sum(r$warden==2 & r$governor==1)/sum(r$warden==2)
```

Monte Carlo simulations provide the same results as analytical solution provides: 0.3335 and 0.6665.

# 3.3 Monty Hall problem

Monty Hall problem was the key part of our research. We will try to explain the discussion of the problem back in 90's [7]. Suppose you are on a game show, and you are 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 is 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? Common sense tells that whether you switch your choice or not, you still have 50 per cent chance to win. Analytical solution of Monty Hall problem for three doors is:

- Events  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  are indicating the car is behind door 1,2 or 3.
- $-P(C_1) = P(C_2) = P(C_3) = \frac{1}{3}$
- Event  $X_1$  is indicating player initially choosing door 1.
- As the position of the car is independent of the players first choice  $P(C_i|X_1) = \frac{1}{3}$ .

 $-H_3$  is host opening door 3.

Following probabilities are obvious:

$$P(H_3 \mid C_1, X_1) = \frac{1}{2}, P(H_3 \mid C_2, X_1) = 1, P(H_3 \mid C_3, X_1) = 0$$
 (14)

Probability that car is behind door No. 2, given player initially choosing door 1 and host opening door No. 3 is :

$$P(C_2 \mid H_3, X_1) = \frac{P(H_3 \mid C_2, X_1) P(C_2 \mid X_1)}{P(H_3 \mid X_1)}$$
(15)

$$P(C_2 \mid H_3, X_1) = \frac{P(H_3 \mid C_2, X_1) P(C_2 \mid X_1)}{P(H_3 \mid C_1, X_1) P(C_1 \mid X_1) + P(H_3 \mid C_2, X_1) P(C_2 \mid X_1) + P(H_3 \mid C_3, X_1) P(C_3 \mid X_1)}$$
(16)

$$P(C_2|H_3, X_1) = \frac{1 \cdot \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 0 \cdot \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{2}{3}$$
(17)

Probability that car is behind door No.1, given player initially choosing door No. 1 and host opening door No. 3 is :

$$P(C_1|H_3, X_1) = \frac{(H_3|C_1, X_1)P(C_1|X_1)}{P(H_3|X_1)}$$
(18)

$$P(C_1 \mid H_3, X_1) = \frac{P(H_3 \mid C_1, X_1)P(C_1 \mid X_1)}{P(H_3 \mid C_1, X_1)P(C_1 \mid X_1) + P(H_3 \mid C_2, X_1)P(C_2 \mid X_1) + P(H_3 \mid C_3, X_1)P(C_3 \mid X_1)}$$
(19)

$$P(C_1|H_3, X_1) = \frac{\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{3} + 1.\frac{1}{3} + 0.\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{3}$$
 (20)

'Flip a coin' decision has following probability:

$$P(flip\ a\ coin) = \frac{1}{2}P(C_1|H_3, X_1) + \frac{1}{2}P(C_2|H_3, X_1)$$
 (21)

$$P(flip\ a\ coin) = \frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$$
 (22)

Analytical solution shows that player should switch her choice, since chance to win is  $\frac{2}{3}$ . In case player does not switch her choice, chance to win is just  $\frac{1}{3}$ . We used Bayes' rule with multiple conditions. 'Flip a coin' decision probability is equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Since Monty Hall problem is key part of our research, we have focused on many different decisions, which were simulated in Monte Carlo simulations. We explored following cases:

- 1. Not switching decision
- 2. Switching decision
- 3. Flip a coin decision
- 4. Tic-toc decision
- 5. Opposite tic-toc decision

We coded simulations which vary doors count and also prizes count. If contestant decides to switch door, and there is more than one door available, she will choose another door randomly. If contestant flips a coin, she does it just once. If there is more just one door available, she will choose another door randomly, too. Following code simulates different doors count and also cars count options. Code has been written in R:

```
#Monty Hall problem
samplesize < -100000 \# sample size
doors < -9 \# doors count -1
door<-vector ("numeric", length=doors*(doors-1)/2)
prize<-vector ("numeric", length=doors*(doors-1)/2)
\begin{array}{l} changedp < -vector\,("numeric", length = doors*(doors-1)/2) \\ nochangep < -vector\,("numeric", length = doors*(doors-1)/2) \end{array}
ttp \leftarrow vector("numeric", length = doors * (doors - 1)/2)
ottp<-vector("numeric", length=doors*(doors-1)/2)
flipp<-vector("numeric", length=doors*(doors-1)/2)
results <- data.frame(door, prize, changedp, ttp,flipp,
ottp, nochangep)
#tic-toc oppposite tic-toc function
ttott <-function (ttott1, win1, win2, trigger) {
if (ttott1==0) {if (win2==0) {thisone<-0
} else {thisone <-1 }} if (ttott1==1) {if (win1==0) {thisone <-1
} else {thisone <-0 }} if (trigger=="ott") {if (thisone==0) {thisone <-1}}
} else \{thisone < -0 \}\}
thisone }
for (i in 2:doors)
for (j in 1:(i-1))
set.seed(100)
\verb|initial| < -\texttt{replicate} ( \texttt{samplesize} \ , \ \texttt{list} ( \texttt{sample} ( 0 \colon \texttt{i} \ , \texttt{1} \ , \\ \texttt{replace} = \texttt{F}))) \\
priz <-replicate (samplesize, list (sample (0:i,j,replace=F)))
# initial guess & prizes behind doors
\label{eq:flip} \textit{--} sample \, (\,0\!:\!1\,, sample size\,, \ replace =\!\! T) \ \# \ flip \ a \ coin
tt <- sample (0, samplesize, replace=T) # tic toc
\texttt{ott} \! < \!\! -\texttt{sample} \left( \texttt{0} \,, \texttt{samplesize} \,, \texttt{replace} \! = \! \texttt{T} \right) \, \, \# \, \, \texttt{opposite} \, \, \, \texttt{tic} \, \, \, \texttt{toc}
choices <- replicate (samplesize, list (c(0:i)))
# WHICH GOAT WILL BE SHOWN
goats<-mapply(setdiff, choices, priz)</pre>
goats2 <- lapply(1:ncol(goats), function(p) goats[,p])</pre>
# goats are opposite prizes
notinitial <-mapply (setdiff, choices, initial)
notinitial2 <-lapply (1:ncol(notinitial),
function(p) notinitial[,p])
# group of not initial decisions
goats3 <-mapply(intersect , goats2 , notinitial2)</pre>
goats4 \leftarrow lapply(goats3, function(p) c(p,p))
goat <-lapply (goats4, function (p) sample (p,1))
# to show just one goat from intersect not initial & goats
remove(goats, goats2, choices, notinitial, goats3, goats4)
chmind <- mapply (setdiff, notinitial2, goat) #to change mind
#to exclude goat which was shown from not initial group
if (is.null(ncol(chmind))==FALSE) {
chmind2 <- lapply (1: ncol(chmind), function(p) chmind[,p])
} else {chmind2<-chmind }
chmind3 <- lapply (chmind2, function(p) c(p,p))
```

```
newmind \!\! < \!\! -lapply\left( chmind3 \,, \ function\left( p \right) \ sample\left( p \,, 1 \right) \right)
# to choose 1 new decision from all the available
remove(notinitial2, goat,chmind,chmind2,chmind3)
\verb|win1| < -mapply(intersect, newmind, priz)| \# win1 \ changed \ mind|
\label{eq:win2} $$ win2<-mapply(intersect,initial,priz)$ #win2 not changed mind win13<-as.numeric(lapply(win1,function(p) length(p)==0))
win 23 < -as.numeric(lapply(win 2, function(p) length(p) == 0))
\# intersection - 1 no intersection ,0 intersection for (1 in 1:(samplesize-1)) { \# TIC-TOC, OPPOSITE TIC TOC
tt[l+1]<-ttott(tt[l], win13[l], win23[l], 'tt')
ott[l+1]<-ttott(ott[l],win13[l],win23[l],'ott')}
#PROBABILITIES
win1p<-sum(win13==0)/samplesize #win1p changed mind
win2p<-sum(win23==0)/samplesize #win2p not changed mind
remove (newmind, priz, initial, win1, win2)
flipfr <-data.frame(win13, win23, flip, tt, ott)
\begin{array}{l} {\rm flip\,1\,<\!-nrow\,(\,flip\,fr\,\big[\,flip\,fr\,\$flip\,=\!=\!1\,\,\&\,\,flip\,fr\,\$\,win\,1\,3\,=\!=\!0,])} \\ {\rm flip\,2\,<\!-nrow\,(\,flip\,fr\,\big[\,flip\,fr\,\$\,flip\,=\!=\!0\,\,\&\,\,flip\,fr\,\$\,win\,2\,3\,=\!=\!0,])} \end{array}
# flip1 - changed mind, flip2 - initial decision
\label{eq:tt1} \begin{array}{l} tt1 < -nrow( \ flip \ fr \ [ \ flip \ fr \ $tt = = 1 \ \& \ flip \ fr \ $win \ 13 = = 0,]) \\ tt2 < -nrow( \ flip \ fr \ [ \ flip \ fr \ $tt = = 0 \ \& \ flip \ fr \ $win \ 23 = = 0,]) \\ \end{array}
ott1 < -nrow(flipfr[flipfr\$ott == 1 \& flipfr\$win13 == 0,])
ott2 < -nrow (flipfr[flipfrsott == 0 & flipfrswin 23 == 0,])
\texttt{flipp} < -(\,\texttt{flip1} + \texttt{flip2}\,) \,/\, \texttt{samplesize}
tictocp <-(tt1+tt2)/samplesize
opptictocp < -(ott1+ott2)/samplesize
results\$door\ [\ i*(\ i-1)/2-i+1+j]<-i+1\#RESULTS\ -\ WRITTING
results \$prize[i*(i-1)/2-i+1+j]<-j
results $changedp[i*(i-1)/2-i+1+j] < -round(win1p*100,3)
results\$ttp\;[\;i*(\;i-1)/2-i+1+j]{<}-round\,(\;tictocp*100\;,3\;)
results flipp[i*(i-1)/2-i+1+j]<-round(flipp*100,3)
results $ottp[i*(i-1)/2-i+1+j]<-round(opptictocp*100,3)
results \$noch angep \ [\ i*(i-1)/2-i+1+j] < -round \ (win 2p*100\ , 3)
remove(win13, win23, flipfr, flip, tt, ott) } }
nname <- paste (toString (samplesize), "r.txt", sep="")
\label{eq:write.table} \textit{write.table} \ ( \ \textit{results} \ , \\ \textit{nname} \ , \\ \textit{append=FALSE})
```

Table 1 and table 2 show output of the code. Probabilities were calculated with sample size equal 1,5 million. Probability theory allows a simple derivation of Monte Carlo simulations error. If contestant does not change her mind, probability of winning is a very simple formula.

$$P(not \ switching \ decision) = \frac{prizes \ count}{doors \ count}$$
 (23)

We can measure Mean Absolute Error of Monte Carlo simulations probabilities for 'not switching' decision and Bias.

$$MAE = \frac{1}{36} \sum_{i=1}^{36} |p_{MC_i} - p_{true_i}| = \frac{0.933}{36} = 0.026$$
 (24)

$$Bias = \frac{1}{36} \sum_{i=1}^{36} (p_{MC_i} - p_{true_i}) = \frac{-0.191}{36} = -0.005$$
 (25)

Table 1 Simulations results

| No | Door | Prize | Changep | Ttp    | Flipp  | Ottp   | No changep |
|----|------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| 1  | 3    | 1     | 66.645  | 55.585 | 50.061 | 44.415 | 33.355     |
| 2  | 4    | 1     | 37.545  | 31.857 | 31.278 | 30.005 | 24.992     |
| 3  | 4    | 2     | 75      | 66.686 | 62.54  | 60.013 | 49.993     |
| 4  | 5    | 1     | 26.704  | 23.5   | 23.35  | 22.854 | 19.979     |
| 5  | 5    | 2     | 53.287  | 47.463 | 46.657 | 45.705 | 40.047     |
| 6  | 5    | 3     | 80.014  | 73.354 | 69.997 | 68.534 | 59.99      |
| 7  | 6    | 1     | 20.86   | 18.802 | 18.791 | 18.505 | 16.649     |
| 8  | 6    | 2     | 41.67   | 37.76  | 37.493 | 37.015 | 33.303     |
| 9  | 6    | 3     | 62.565  | 57.244 | 56.253 | 55.6   | 50.053     |
| 10 | 6    | 4     | 83.273  | 77.724 | 75.042 | 74.074 | 66.719     |
| 11 | 7    | 1     | 17.155  | 15.756 | 15.767 | 15.591 | 14.286     |
| 12 | 7    | 2     | 34.268  | 31.582 | 31.477 | 31.138 | 28.581     |
| 13 | 7    | 3     | 51.457  | 47.512 | 47.114 | 46.796 | 42.892     |
| 14 | 7    | 4     | 68.592  | 63.727 | 62.917 | 62.387 | 57.163     |
| 15 | 7    | 5     | 85.661  | 80.856 | 78.553 | 77.89  | 71.399     |
| 16 | 8    | 1     | 14.564  | 13.591 | 13.562 | 13.408 | 12.49      |
| 17 | 8    | 2     | 29.171  | 27.15  | 27.097 | 26.916 | 25.009     |
| 18 | 8    | 3     | 43.77   | 40.764 | 40.609 | 40.408 | 37.492     |
| 19 | 8    | 4     | 58.368  | 54.537 | 54.252 | 53.886 | 49.989     |
| 20 | 8    | 5     | 72.953  | 68.614 | 67.716 | 67.327 | 62.504     |
| 21 | 8    | 6     | 87.511  | 83.353 | 81.251 | 80.743 | 74.955     |

Table 2 Simulations results

| No | Door | Prize | Changep | Ttp    | Flipp  | Ottp   | No changep |
|----|------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| 22 | 9    | 1     | 12.709  | 11.932 | 11.919 | 11.793 | 11.063     |
| 23 | 9    | 2     | 25.378  | 23.882 | 23.85  | 23.712 | 22.286     |
| 24 | 9    | 3     | 38.05   | 35.79  | 35.62  | 35.541 | 33.302     |
| 25 | 9    | 4     | 50.793  | 47.765 | 47.603 | 47.438 | 44.429     |
| 26 | 9    | 5     | 63.514  | 59.971 | 59.574 | 59.209 | 55.543     |
| 27 | 9    | 6     | 76.224  | 72.26  | 71.459 | 71.043 | 66.624     |
| 28 | 9    | 7     | 88.856  | 85.161 | 83.35  | 82.965 | 77.803     |
| 29 | 10   | 1     | 11.263  | 10.659 | 10.663 | 10.589 | 9.974      |
| 30 | 10   | 2     | 22.496  | 21.287 | 21.273 | 21.272 | 20.021     |
| 31 | 10   | 3     | 33.796  | 31.901 | 31.856 | 31.801 | 29.957     |
| 32 | 10   | 4     | 44.983  | 42.591 | 42.497 | 42.38  | 40.009     |
| 33 | 10   | 5     | 56.281  | 53.328 | 53.151 | 52.905 | 49.971     |
| 34 | 10   | 6     | 67.475  | 64.136 | 63.734 | 63.504 | 59.945     |
| 35 | 10   | 7     | 78.761  | 75.157 | 74.413 | 74.125 | 69.99      |
| 36 | 10   | 8     | 90.008  | 86.636 | 84.967 | 84.669 | 79.949     |

Mean Absolute Error is 0.026 per cent, and Bias is -0.005 per cent. These figures are also approximations of Monte Carlo simulations error and Bias for whole table 1 and table 2.

Taking the true probabilities for 'not switching' decision into account, we can also reestimate 'flip a coin' decision probabilities. They are in combined column for that decision.

$$P(flip\ a\ coin) = \frac{1}{2}P(switching_{Monte\ Carlo}) + \frac{1}{2}P(no\ switch_{true})$$
 (26)

Mean Absulute Error and Bias for this modification of 'flip a coin' decision are:

$$MAE_{modified} = \frac{1}{36} \sum_{i=1}^{36} |p_{MCi} - p_{true_i}|$$
 (27)

$$p_{MC_i} = \frac{1}{2} P(switching_{Monte\ Carlo_i}) + \frac{1}{2} P(no\ switch_{true_i})$$
 (28)

$$p_{true_i} = \frac{1}{2}P(switching_{true_i}) + \frac{1}{2}P(no\ switch_{true_i})$$
 (29)

$$MAE_{modified} = \frac{1}{36} \sum_{i=1}^{36} \left| \frac{1}{2} p_{switching_{MC_i}} - \frac{1}{2} p_{switching_{true_i}} \right|$$
 (30)

Since (24) and (25) are approximations of MAE and Bias for whole table 1 and table 2:

$$MAE_{modified} \doteq \frac{1}{2}MAE$$
 (31)

$$Bias_{modified} \doteq \frac{1}{2} Bias$$
 (32)

Modified probabilities show table 3 and table 4.

Changedp column describes probabilities in case player changed her mind. No changep column describes probabilities in case player did not change her mind. Flipp column describes probabilities in case player made 'flip a coin' decision. Ttp column describes probabilities in case player is applying 'tictoc' decision. Ottp column describes probabilities in case player is applying 'opposite tic-toc' decision.

'Tic-toc' decision is a kind of decision when player makes decision according to last known decision. If last decision was to change mind and was successful, she would also change mind. If last decision was to change mind and was not successful, she would not change mind. 'Opposite tic-toc' decision is a kind of decision when player also makes decision according to last known decision. If last decision is to change mind and was successful, she will not change mind. If the last decision was to change mind and was not successful, she would change mind. She will do the opposite, because she is expecting that situation will change in next turn. Another interesting fact is how probabilities are increasing with increasing prices count.

Tables 1 and 2 show that changing mind is the best decision. 'Flip a coin' decision probabilities always lie between 'change mind' probabilities and 'do not change mind' probabilities. 'Flip a coin' decision for 3 doors and 1 prize is those 50 per cent, which caused a lot of discussion about the Monty Hall problem. Those 50 per cent is those 50 per cent, what common sense tells that the probability should be. 'Tic-toc' decision is better than 'flip a coin' decision.

Table 3 Combined results

| No | Door | Prize | Changep | No changep<br>Monte Carlo | No changep<br>True | Flipp  | Flipp<br>combined |
|----|------|-------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1  | 3    | 1     | 66.645  | 33.355                    | 33.333             | 50.061 | 49.989            |
| 2  | 4    | 1     | 37.545  | 24.992                    | 25                 | 31.278 | 31.273            |
| 3  | 4    | 2     | 75      | 49.993                    | 50                 | 62.54  | 62.5              |
| 4  | 5    | 1     | 26.704  | 19.979                    | 20                 | 23.35  | 23.352            |
| 5  | 5    | 2     | 53.287  | 40.047                    | 40                 | 46.657 | 46.644            |
| 6  | 5    | 3     | 80.014  | 59.99                     | 60                 | 69.997 | 70.007            |
| 7  | 6    | 1     | 20.86   | 16.649                    | 16.667             | 18.791 | 18.764            |
| 8  | 6    | 2     | 41.67   | 33.303                    | 33.333             | 37.493 | 37.502            |
| 9  | 6    | 3     | 62.565  | 50.053                    | 50                 | 56.253 | 56.283            |
| 10 | 6    | 4     | 83.273  | 66.719                    | 66.667             | 75.042 | 74.97             |
| 11 | 7    | 1     | 17.155  | 14.286                    | 14.286             | 15.767 | 15.721            |
| 12 | 7    | 2     | 34.268  | 28.581                    | 28.571             | 31.477 | 31.42             |
| 13 | 7    | 3     | 51.457  | 42.892                    | 42.857             | 47.114 | 47.157            |
| 14 | 7    | 4     | 68.592  | 57.163                    | 57.143             | 62.917 | 62.868            |
| 15 | 7    | 5     | 85.661  | 71.399                    | 71.429             | 78.553 | 78.545            |
| 16 | 8    | 1     | 14.564  | 12.49                     | 12.5               | 13.562 | 13.532            |
| 17 | 8    | 2     | 29.171  | 25.009                    | 25                 | 27.097 | 27.086            |
| 18 | 8    | 3     | 43.77   | 37.492                    | 37.5               | 40.609 | 40.635            |
| 19 | 8    | 4     | 58.368  | 49.989                    | 50                 | 54.252 | 54.184            |
| 20 | 8    | 5     | 72.953  | 62.504                    | 62.5               | 67.716 | 67.727            |
| 21 | 8    | 6     | 87.511  | 74.955                    | 75                 | 81.251 | 81.256            |

Table 4 Combined results

| No | Door | Prize | Changep | No changep  | No changep | Flipp  | Flipp    |
|----|------|-------|---------|-------------|------------|--------|----------|
|    |      |       |         | Monte Carlo | True       |        | combined |
| 22 | 9    | 1     | 12.709  | 11.063      | 11.111     | 11.919 | 11.91    |
| 23 | 9    | 2     | 25.378  | 22.286      | 22.222     | 23.85  | 23.8     |
| 24 | 9    | 3     | 38.05   | 33.302      | 33.333     | 35.62  | 35.692   |
| 25 | 9    | 4     | 50.793  | 44.429      | 44.444     | 47.603 | 47.619   |
| 26 | 9    | 5     | 63.514  | 55.543      | 55.556     | 59.574 | 59.535   |
| 27 | 9    | 6     | 76.224  | 66.624      | 66.667     | 71.459 | 71.446   |
| 28 | 9    | 7     | 88.856  | 77.803      | 77.778     | 83.35  | 83.317   |
| 29 | 10   | 1     | 11.263  | 9.974       | 10         | 10.663 | 10.632   |
| 30 | 10   | 2     | 22.496  | 20.021      | 20         | 21.273 | 21.248   |
| 31 | 10   | 3     | 33.796  | 29.957      | 30         | 31.856 | 31.898   |
| 32 | 10   | 4     | 44.983  | 40.009      | 40         | 42.497 | 42.492   |
| 33 | 10   | 5     | 56.281  | 49.971      | 50         | 53.151 | 53.141   |
| 34 | 10   | 6     | 67.475  | 59.945      | 60         | 63.734 | 63.738   |
| 35 | 10   | 7     | 78.761  | 69.99       | 70         | 74.413 | 74.381   |
| 36 | 10   | 8     | 90.008  | 79.949      | 80         | 84.967 | 85.004   |

'Opposite tic-toc' decision is worse than 'flip a coin' decision, but better than 'do not change mind' decision. If player decides to not change her mind, it is the worst decision ever. 'Flip a coin' decision is the third best decision of five different options, and it confirms the old truth: 'If you do not know what you should do, make a 'flip a coin' decision and you will not decide bad'. Research

# Monte Carlo simulations - Mean Absolute Error

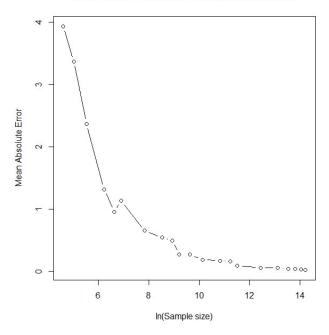


Fig. 1 Dependence between Mean Absolute Error and sample size in Monty Hall problem, calculated from probabilities obtained from Monte Carlo simulations and exact probabilities, in case contestant does not change her mind.

also showed that people should change their mind, because individuals who do not change their mind have the lowest probability for success. Second worst chance for success have individuals who are speculating too much - opposite tic-toc decision. The best chance for success have individuals who change their minds.

Finally, we can plot dependence between Monte Carlo simulations sample size and Mean Absolute Error as  $MAE = f(sample\ size)$ , and also dependence between Monte Carlo simulations sample size and Bias as  $Bias = f(sample\ size)$ . Dependence show Figure 1 and Figure 2.

# 4 Conclusion

We explored veridical type paradoxes using conditional probabilities, Bayes' rule and mainly with Monte Carlo simulations. We discovered why a lot of discussion of Monty Hall problem took place in 90's, and why so many researchers thought that the probability would be 50 per cent [7]. Those 50 per cents represent 'flip a coin' decision. We discovered that contestants should change their mind, and it is the best decision among all the explored decisions.

#### Monte Carlo simulations - Bias

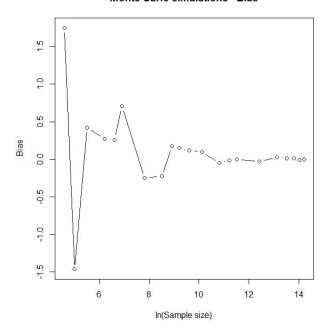


Fig. 2 Dependence between Bias and sample size in Monty Hall problem, calculated from probabilities obtained from Monte Carlo simulations and exact probabilities, in case contestant does not change her mind.

If contestants do not change their minds, it is the worst decision ever. Second worst decision is, if contestants are speculating too much - opposite tic-toc decision. On the other hand, appropriate speculating is possitive - tic-toc decision, being second best decision. Research showed a lot about Monty Hall problem and also about life. The aim of the research has been carried out.

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