

MATH 20: PROBABILITY

Lecture 1: Course Overview & Basic Concepts of
Discrete Probability

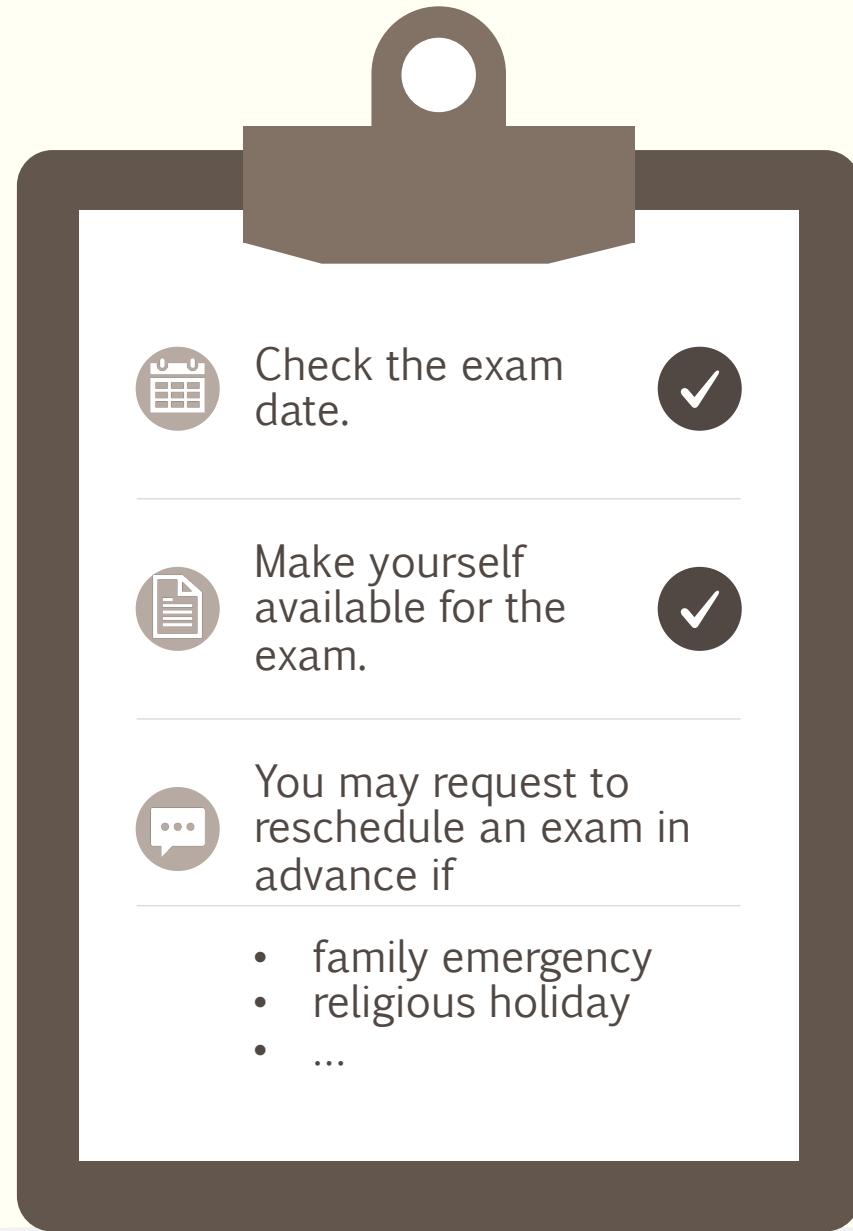


Course Description

- Instructor
 - Xingru Chen
 - Email: xingru.chen.gr@dartmouth.edu
 - Lab webpage: <https://fudab.github.io/>
- TA
 - Maria Roodnitsky
 - Email: maria.roodnitsky.22@dartmouth.edu
- Canvas
 - <https://canvas.dartmouth.edu/courses/40894>
- Course time
 - **live sessions**
 - MWF 11:30 am - 12:35 pm
- X-hour
 - **live sessions**
 - Tu 12:15 pm - 1:05 pm
- Office hour
 - **by appointment**

Important Dates

01	July 20	Midterm 1
02	August 10	Midterm 2
03	August 29	Final
04



Course Components

Class & X-hour

Zoom

frequency: three times a week

frequency: at most once a week (use if needed)

recordings: assessible

Live Session

65 or 50 minutes

Office Hour

Zoom

frequency: depending on individual needs

duration per appointment:
15/30 minutes

By Appointment

15/30 minutes

Tutorial

Zoom

frequency: once a week

Quiz

Canvas

frequency: twice a week

post: Monday & Wednesday

due: 24 hours later

workload: 10 minutes

24 hours

10 minutes

Homework

Canvas

frequency: once a week

post: Friday

due: a week later

workload: 3 hours

1 week

3 hours

Exam

Canvas

frequency: three times

post: July 20, August 10,

August 29

due: 24 hours later

workload: 3 hours

24 hours

3 hours

Weekly Blueprint

Monday

Zoom, Canvas

class 11:30 am – 12:35 pm

homework return & quiz post 11:00 pm

Class

Homework

Quiz

Tuesday

Zoom, Canvas

office hour 9:00 am – 11:00 am

X-hour 12:15 pm – 1:05 pm

quiz due 11:00 pm

X-hour

Quiz

Office Hour

Wednesday

Zoom

class 11:30 am – 12:35 pm

office hour 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

quiz post 11:00 pm

Class

Office Hour

Thursday

Canvas

office hour 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

tutorial 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

quiz due 11:00 pm

Quiz

Office Hour

Tutorial

Friday

Zoom

class 11:30 am – 12:35 pm

homework post 11:00 pm

Class

Homework

Next Friday

Zoom, Canvas

homework due 11:00 am

class 11:30 am – 12:35 pm

homework post 11:00 pm

Class

Homework

Tools

Canvas

General

- syllabus
- other information

Class & X-hour

- slides
- recordings

Quiz

- taking
- solutions

Homework & Exam

- downloading
- submitting
- returning
- solutions

Zoom

Class & X-hour

- room number 749 767 7524
- password sm20m20

Office Hour

- room number 749 767 7524
- password sm20m20

Email

Instructor

- xingru.chen.gr@dartmouth.edu

TA

- maria.roodnitsky.22@dartmouth.edu

Zoom

Tutorial

- room number 252 500 5829
- password no password

Calendar Booking

Office Hour

- <https://go.oncehub.com/XingruChen>

Tools

Calendar

Office Hour

- <https://go.oncehub.com/XingruChen>

Pick a date and time

[Change selection ▾](#)

Duration: 30 minutes

This is a virtual meeting. The details will be sent to you.

Your time zone: United States; Eastern time (GMT-4:00) [DST] ([Change](#))

June 2020

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1	2	3	4	5	6	
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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28	29	30				
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< May

July >

Available starting times for **Wed, Jun 17, 2020**

AM

No AM times

1:00 PM

1:30 PM

2:00 PM

2:30 PM

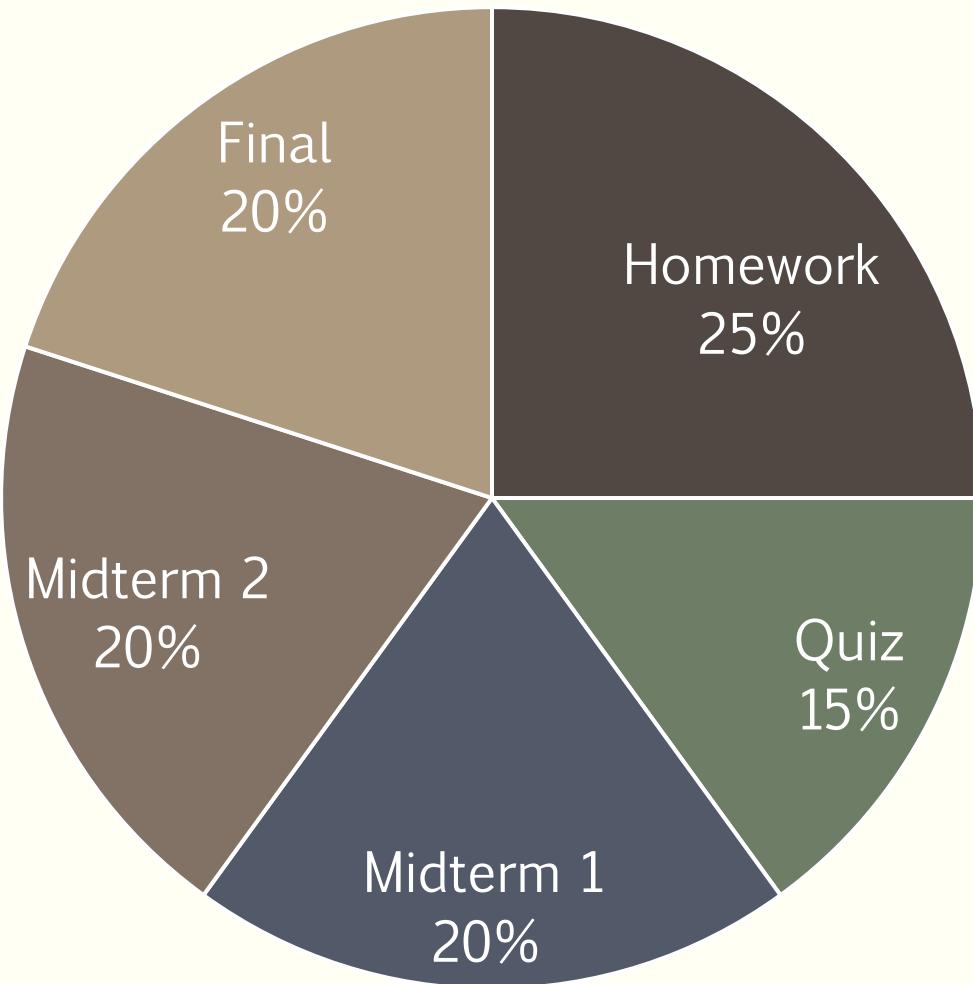
3:00 PM

3:30 PM

4:00 PM

4:30 PM

Grading Formula



Textbooks

Primary (free available on the internet)

Introduction to Probability (2nd Rev Ed), Charles M. Grinstead & J. Laurie Snell, American Mathematical Society (1997).

01

02

Secondary (Wiley classics)

The Elements of Stochastic Processes – with applications to the natural sciences, Norman T. J. Bailey, John Wiley & Sons (1964).

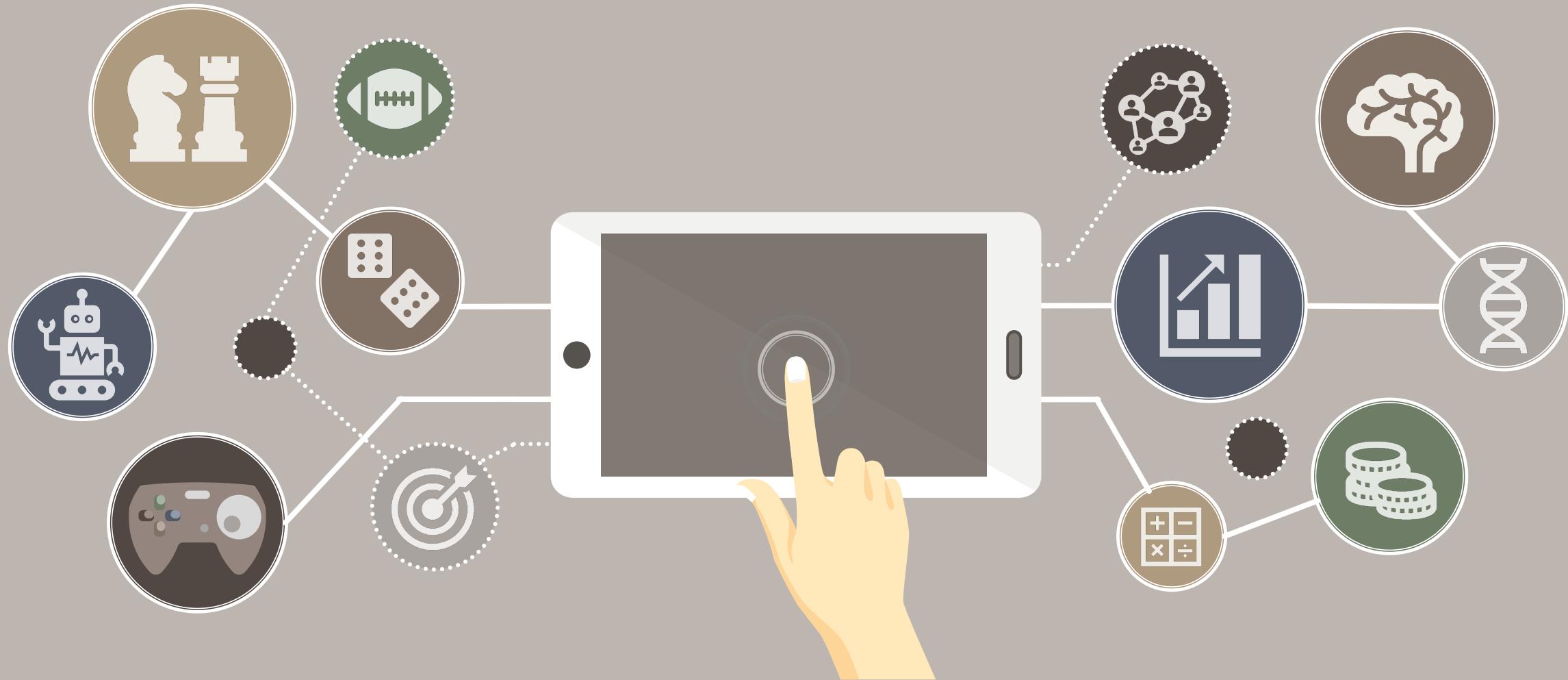
Graduate Level

A First Course in Stochastic Processes (2nd Ed), Samuel Karlin & Howard M. Taylor, Academic Press (1975).

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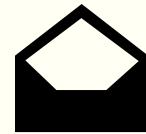
Syllabus

We aim to cover the book by Grinstead and Snell with emphasis on a number of important applications that would be helpful to your future career.

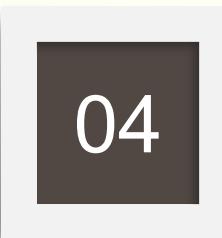
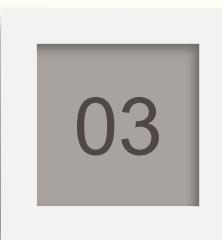


Concept

random variables (discrete and continuous)
independence and conditioning



Theorem
Bayes Formula
Law of large numbers
Central Limit Theorem



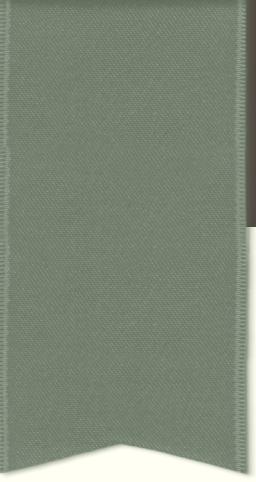
Calculation

(conditional) probability
expectation, variance, standard deviation, ...



Application

random walks, Markov chain, ...



BASIC CONCEPTS OF DISCRETE PROBABILITY

Chapter 1

The theory of probability had its origins in games of chance and gambling.



French Society in the 1650's

- Gambling was popular and fashionable.
- Not restricted by law.
- As the games became more complicated and the stakes became larger there was a need for mathematical methods for computing chances.



Gamblers in the 1717 France were used to bet on the event of getting at least one 1 (ace) in four rolls of a dice. As a more trying variation, two die were rolled 24 times with a bet on having at least one double ace. According to the reasoning of Chevalier de Méré, two aces in two rolls are $1/6$ as likely as 1 ace in one roll. To compensate, de Méré thought, the two die should be rolled 6 times. And to achieve the probability of 1 ace in four rolls, the number of the rolls should be increased four fold - to 24. Thus reasoned Chevalier de Méré who expected a couple of aces to turn up in 24 double rolls with the frequency of an ace in 4 single rolls. However, he lost consistently.



Enter the Mathematicians

Gambler

A well-known gambler, the chevalier De Mere

Mathematician

consulted Blaise Pascal in Paris about some questions about some games of chance.

Mathematician

Pascal began to correspond with his friend Pierre Fermat about these problems.

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Classical Probability

probability

The correspondence between Pascal and Fermat is the origin of the mathematical study of probability.

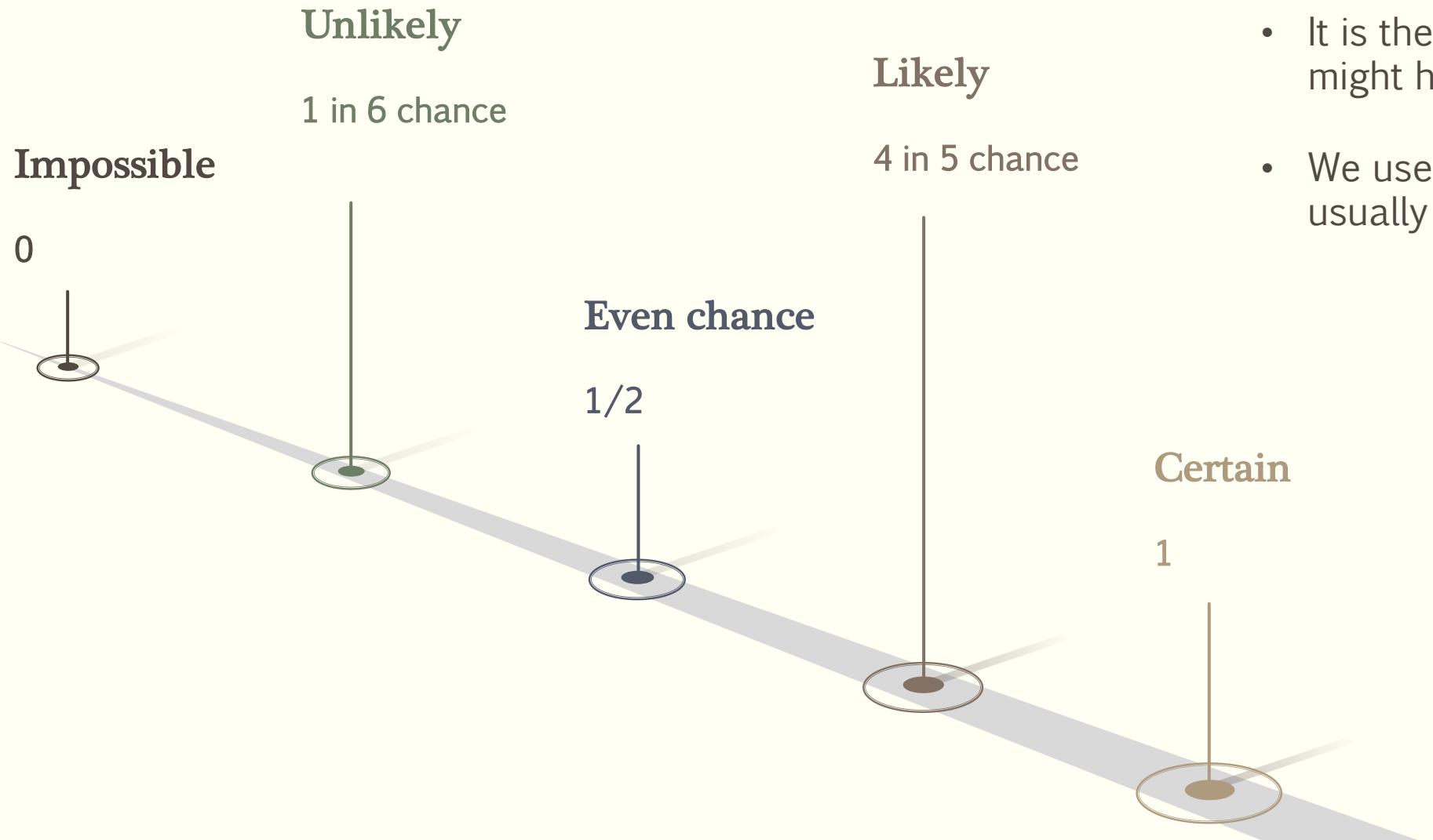
classical approach

The method they developed is now called the classical approach to computing probabilities.

equally likely outcomes

Suppose a game has n equally likely outcomes, of which m outcomes correspond to winning. Then the probability of winning is m/n .

Real Life Examples of Probability



- Probability has something to do with a chance.
- It is the study of things that might happen or might not.
- We use it most of the time, usually without thinking of it.

Questions for **chance of**

[Clear Filters](#)

Atheists: Suppose there is a zero chance of being caught—why wouldn't you cheat or steal if the Abrahamic God can't judge you?

Follow · 85



Is there any chances of re-examination of NEET 2017?

Follow · 304



What should Hillary Clinton be doing differently to maximize her chances of defeating Donald Trump?

Follow · 135



Press a button and there is a 99% chance of doubling your money and a 1% chance of losing it all. You are given \$1 to start. How many times will you press the button?

Follow · 33



Do atheists think that they are clever by equating a god that has a lesser chance of existing to a God that has a higher chance of existing?

Follow · 7



What are my chances of getting PR in Canada ?

Follow · 162



What are the chances of Neet 2017 getting cancelled?

Follow · 101



What are chances of AAP winning Punjab elections?

Questions for **probability of**

[Clear Filters](#)

What is the probability of getting 53 Sundays in a year?

Follow · 58



If three coins are tossed simultaneously, what is the probability of getting at least two heads?

Follow · 87



If $P(E) = 0.03$, what is the probability of 'not E'?

Follow · 21



If two normal dice are thrown together, what is the probability of getting a sum of 7?

Follow · 48



The probability of a yellow taxi is 0.2. The probability of a Fiat taxi is 0.4. The probability of a yellow or Fiat taxi is 0.3. What's the probability of hiring a taxi that is not a yellow Fiat?

Follow · 17



What is the probability of being born?

Follow · 20



What's the probability that a leap year has 53 Sundays?

Follow · 73



Weather Forecasting

Batting Average in Cricket

16 APR 2017 American College Cricket League, 2017 Season Northeastern Deadham Field -1, Massachusetts



NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Northeastern Huskies

206/5 (20.0 ov)

Northeastern University, Northeastern Huskies - Won by 6 runs



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Dartmouth Big Green Cricket

200/10 (19.4 ov)

18 SEP 2016 American College Cricket League, 2016/2017 League Season Wicked Blue Field -1, Massachusetts



UMASS LOWELL

UMass Lowell Riverhawks

221/6 (20.0 ov)

Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Big Green Cricket - Won by 10 wickets



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Dartmouth Big Green Cricket

0/0 (0.0 ov)

17 APR 2016 American College Cricket League, 2016 League Season Chase AstroTurf field (Dartmouth) -1, Massachusetts



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Dartmouth Big Green Cricket

174/1 (17.2 ov)

Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Big Green Cricket - Won by 9 wickets



UMASS LOWELL

UMass Lowell Riverhawks

170/6 (20.0 ov)

10 APR 2016 American College Cricket League, 2016 League Season Chase AstroTurf field (Dartmouth) -1, Massachusetts



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Dartmouth Big Green Cricket

110/10 (12.4 ov)

Northeastern University, Northeastern Huskies - Won by 134 runs



NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Northeastern Huskies

244/5 (20.0 ov)

Politics

- Many politics analysts use the tactics of probability to predict the outcome of the election's results.
- For example, they may predict a certain political party to come into power based on the results of exit polls.



Insurance

- Insurance companies rely on the **Law of Large Numbers** to help estimate the value and frequency of future claims they will pay to policyholders.
- When it works perfectly, insurance companies run a stable business, consumers pay a fair and accurate premium, and the entire financial system avoids serious disruption.
- However, the theoretical benefits from the law of large numbers do not always hold up in the real world.

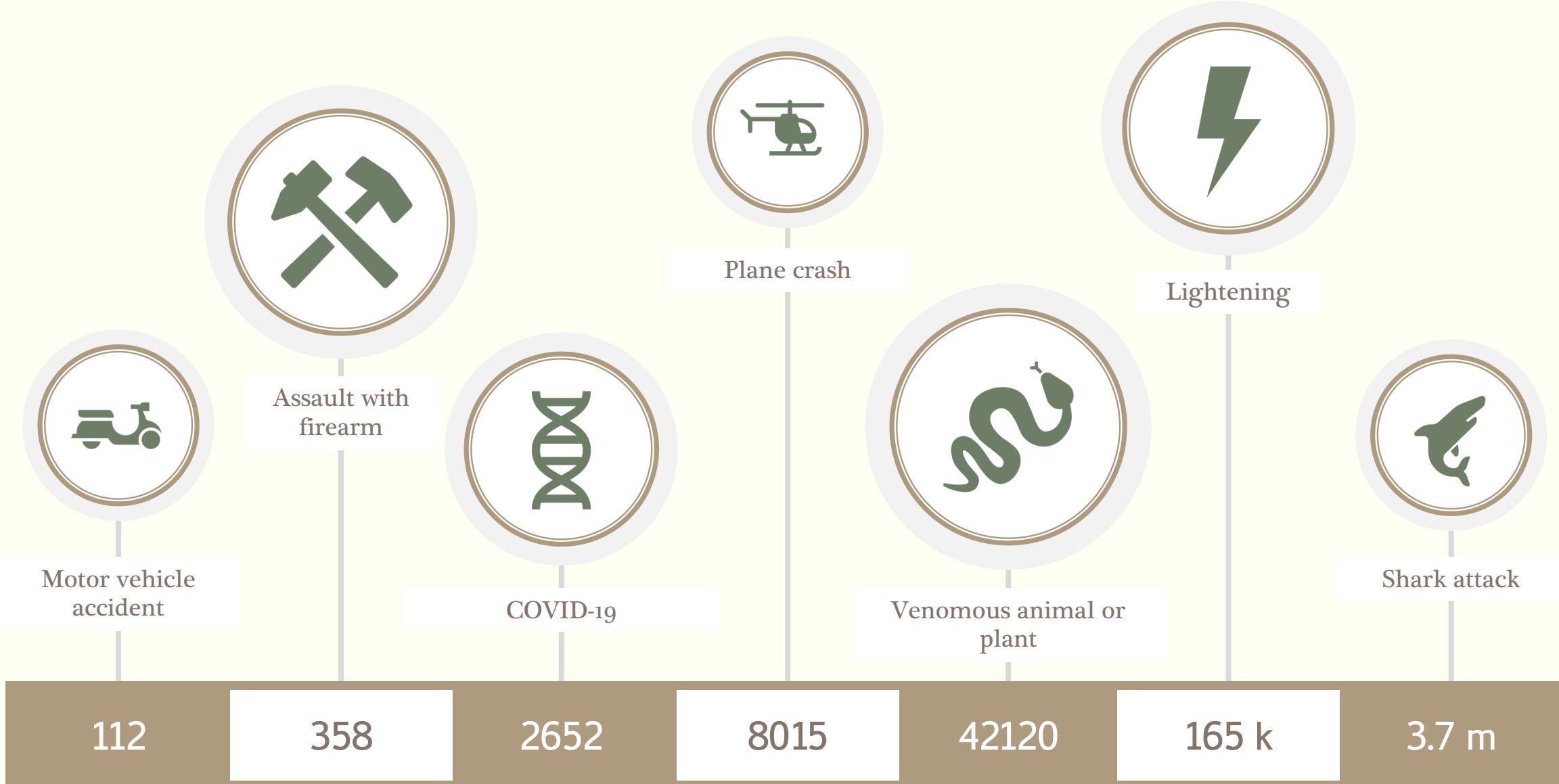


LOTTERY

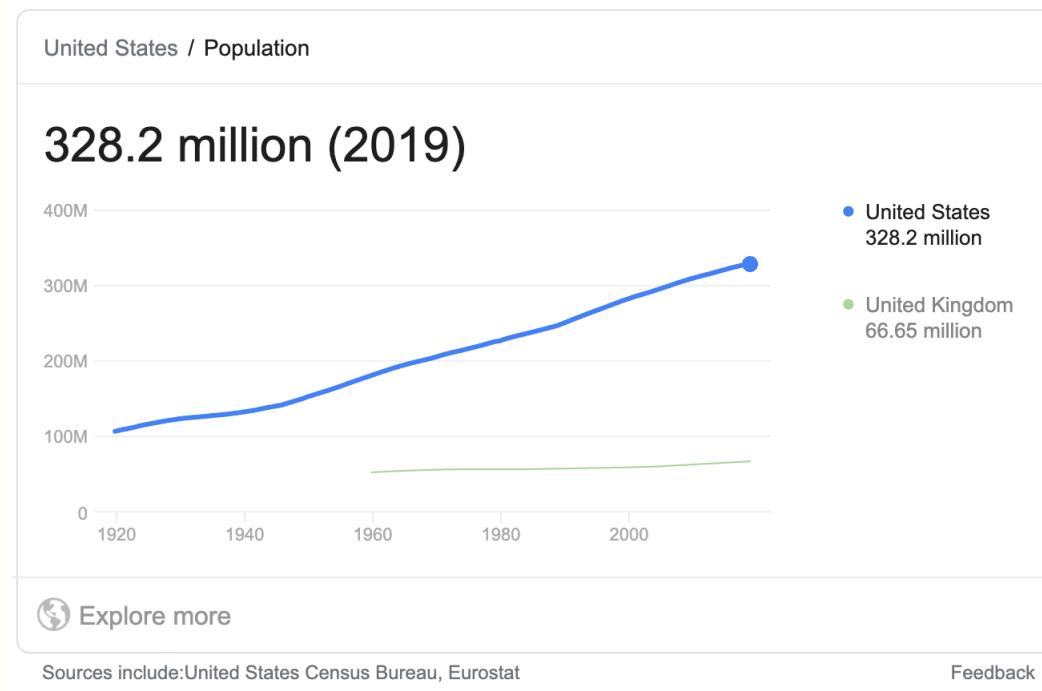
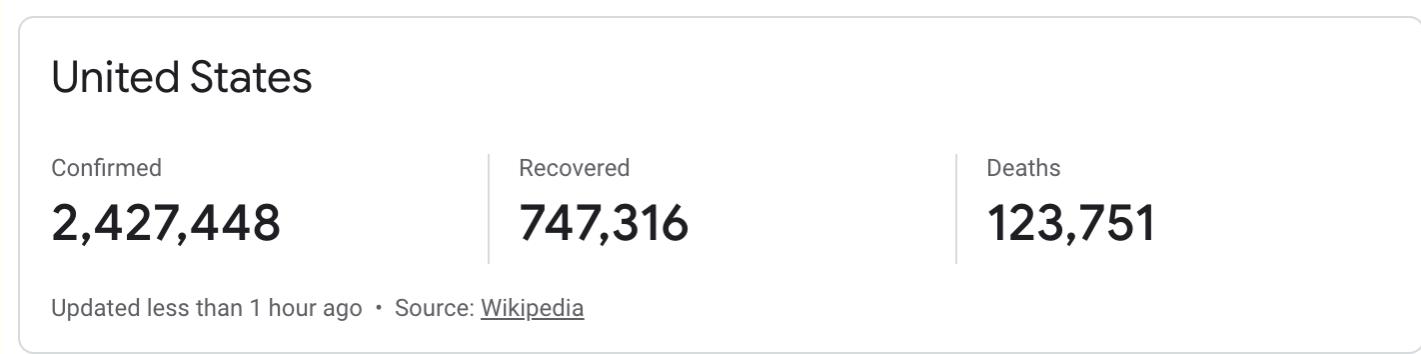
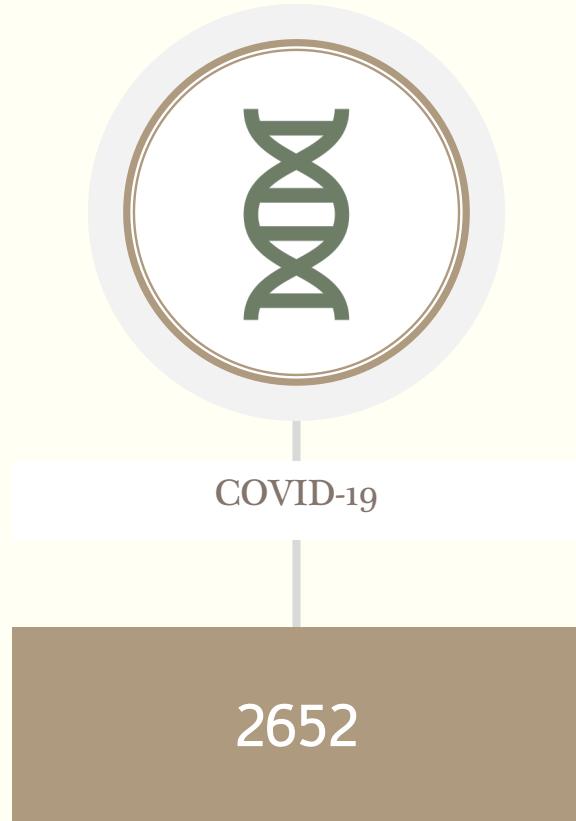
- In a typical Lottery game, each player chooses six distinct numbers from a particular range.
- If all the six numbers on a ticket match with that of the winning lottery ticket, the ticket holder is a Jackpot winner regardless of the order of the numbers.
- The probability of this happening is 1 out of 10 lakh (million).



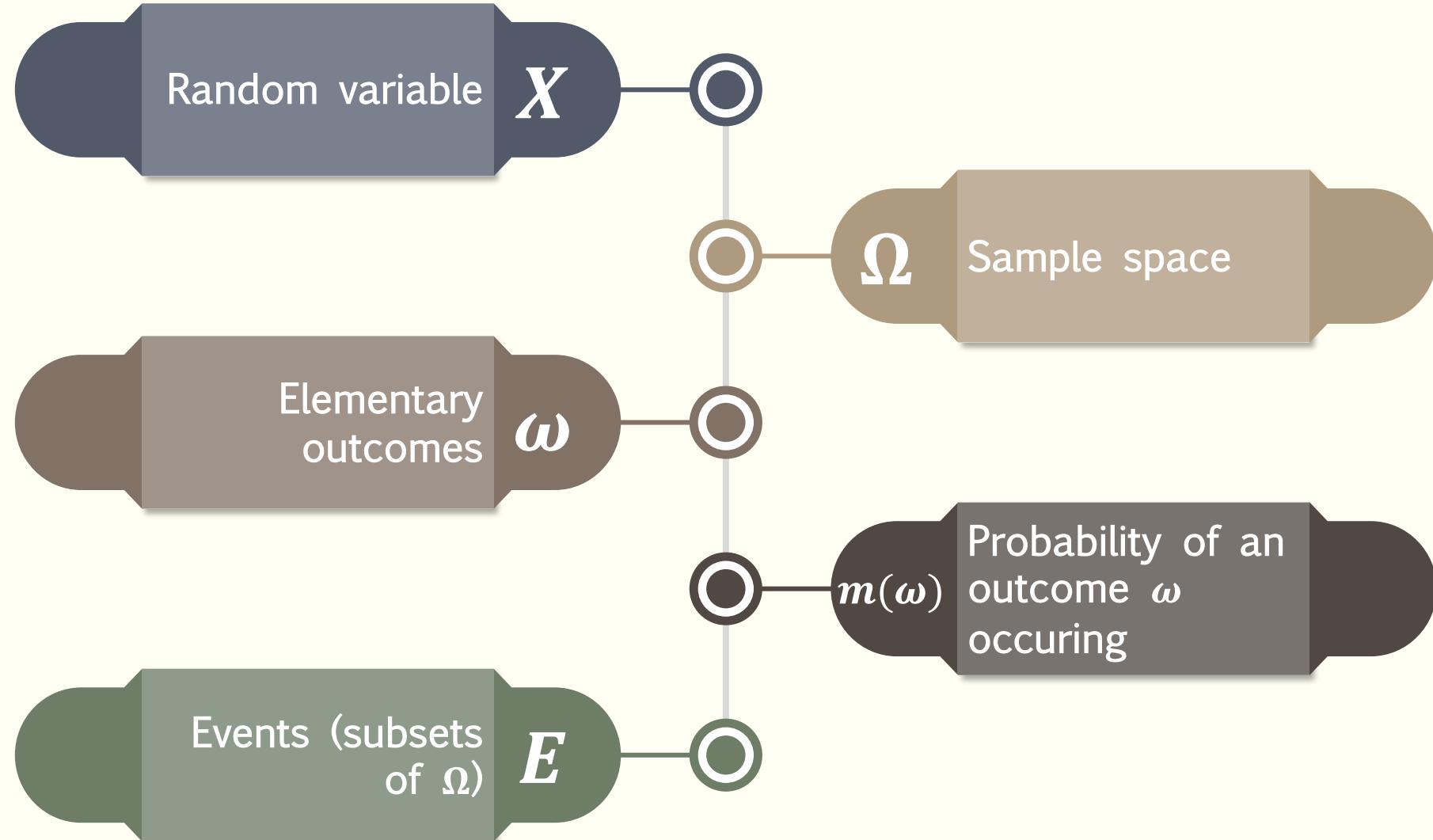
Odds of dying in selected events in the United States: 1 in ...



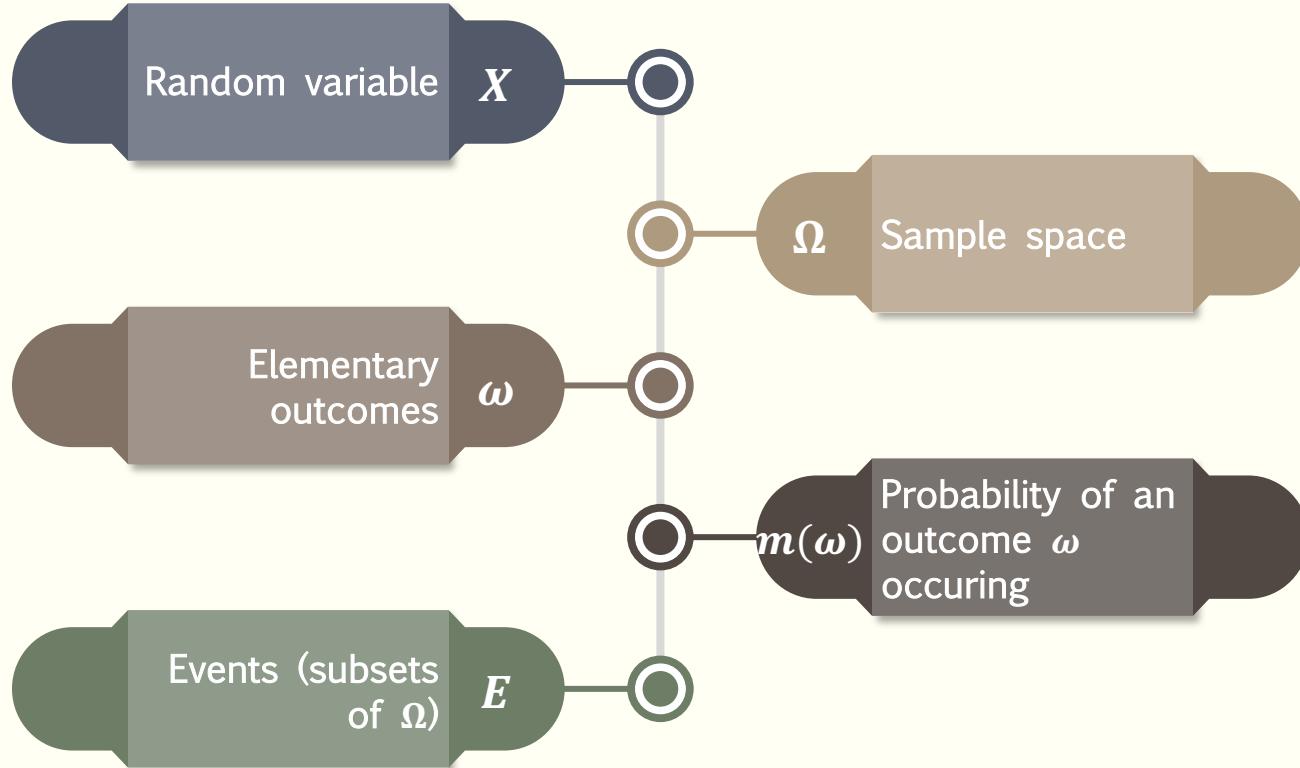
Odds of dying in selected events in the United States: 1 in ...



Discrete Probability Distribution



Distribution Function of Random Variable

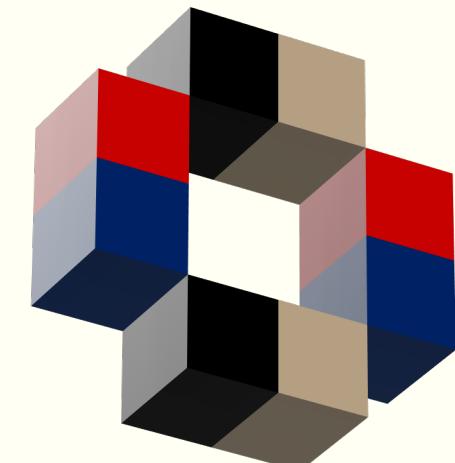
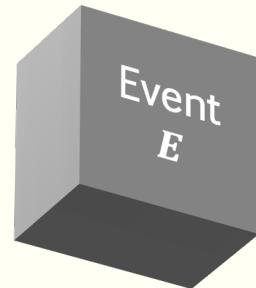
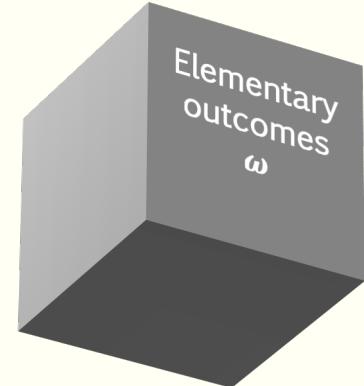
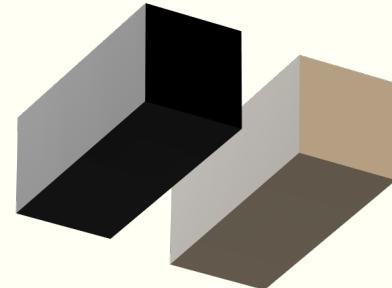
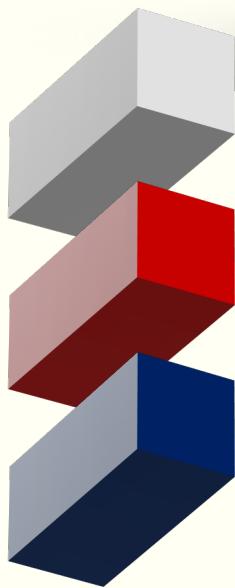
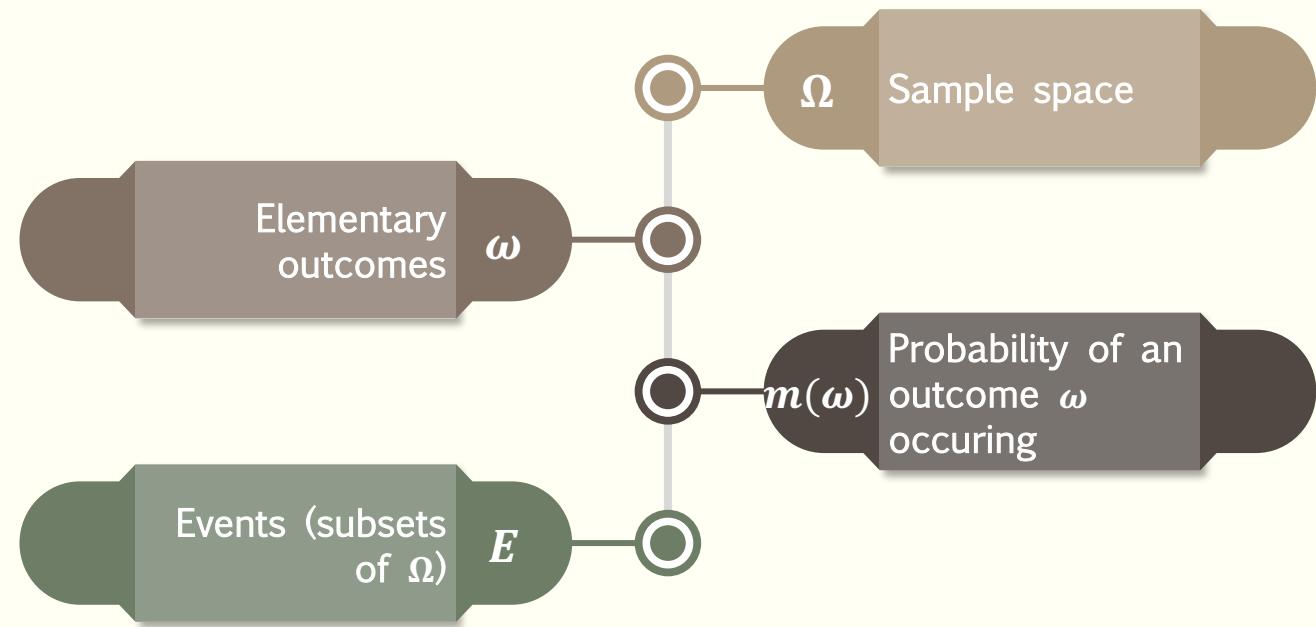
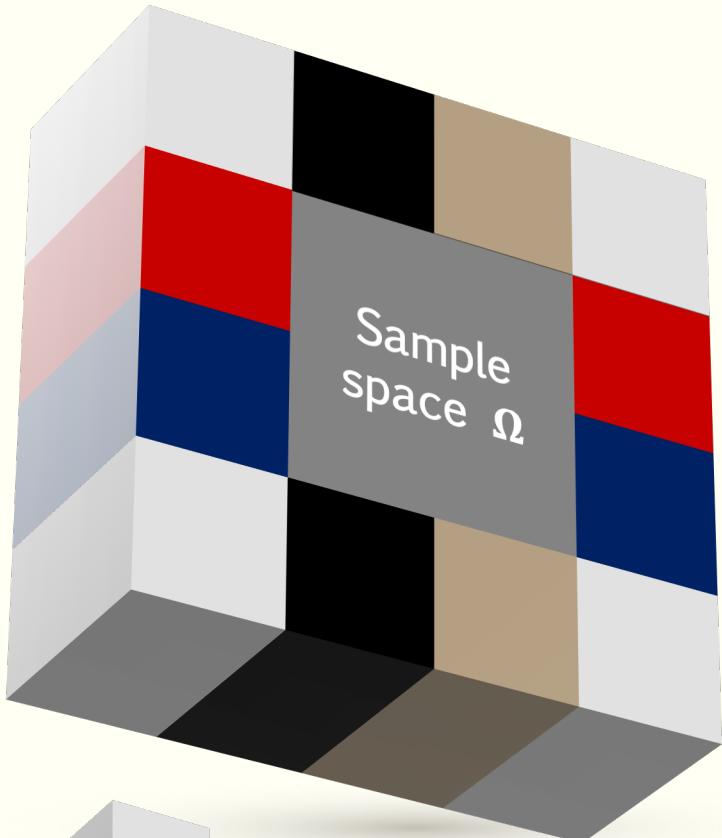


A distribution function for X is a real-valued function m whose domain is Ω and which satisfies:

- $m(\omega) \geq 0$, for all $\omega \in \Omega$, and
- $\sum_{\omega \in \Omega} m(\omega) = 1$.

For any subset E of Ω , we define the probability of E to be the number $P(E)$ given by

$$P(E) = \sum_{\omega \in E} m(\omega).$$



Finite Sample Space

Tossing a coin

$$\Omega = \{H, T\}$$

01

02

Rolling a die

$$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

Tossing two coins

indistinguishable coins: $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TT\}$

distinct coins: $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$

03

Toss a coin

sample space	$\Omega = \{H, T\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = H \text{ or } T$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{2}$

Roll a dice

sample space	$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \text{ or } 6$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{6}$

Toss two coins (distinct)

sample space	$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = HH, HT, TH \text{ or } TT$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{4}$

- A sample space is a collection of all possible outcomes of a random experiment.
- A random variable is a function defined on a sample space.
- The notation used for random variable is an uppercase letter. So if we have a random variable that maps sample space to real numbers, we have

$$X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

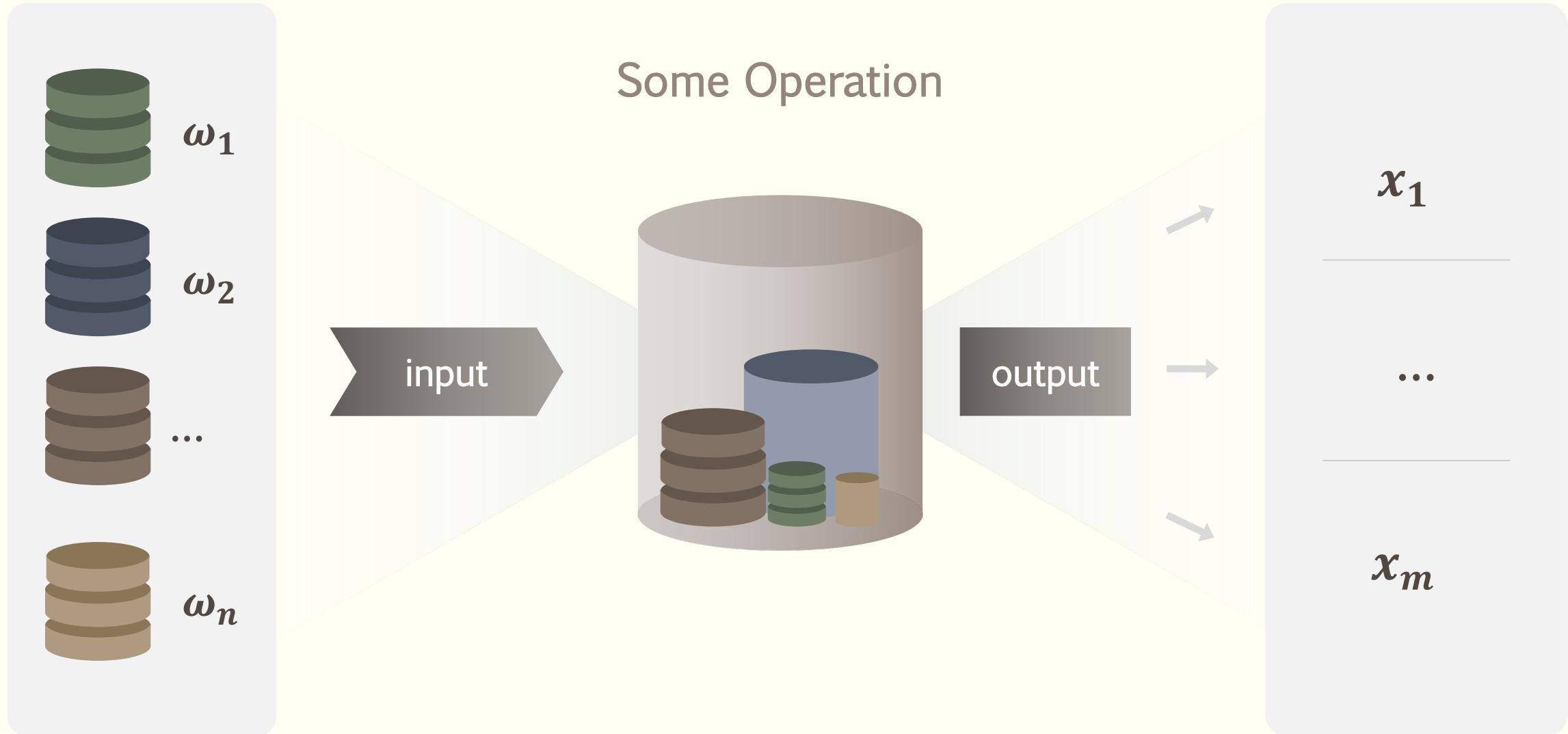
- If that random variable X is a set of possible values from a random experiment, then

$$X: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$$

What is a function?

?

What Is a Function?



Toss a coin

sample space	$\Omega = \{H, T\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = H \text{ or } T$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{2}$
	$X = \omega$
	$X = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega = H \\ 0, & \omega = T \end{cases}$
random variable	$X = \begin{cases} \text{True}, & \omega = H \\ \text{False}, & \omega = T \end{cases}$
	$X = \begin{cases} 2, & \omega = H \\ 1, & \omega = T \end{cases}$
	...



Roll a dice

sample space	$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \text{ or } 6$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{6}$
random variable	$X = \omega$
	$X = \omega^2$
	$X = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \text{ is even} \\ 0, & \omega \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$
	...



Toss two coins (distinguishable)

sample space	$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = HH, HT, TH \text{ or } TT$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{4}$
	$X = \omega$
	$X = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \text{ has at least a Head} \\ 0, & \omega \text{ has no Head} \end{cases}$
random variable	$X = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \text{ has two same faces} \\ 0, & \omega \text{ has different faces} \end{cases}$
	...



Game	Tossing a coin	Rolling a dice	Tossing two coins
Ω	$\{H, T\}$	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$	$\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
ω	H or T	$1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ or 6	HH, HT, TH or TT
$m(\omega)$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
E			
$P(E)$			

Game	Rolling a dice	Tossing two coins
Ω	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$	$\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
$m(\omega)$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
E	<p>The number is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • even. • odd. • no greater than 5. • a complete square. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one Head. • The first one being Tail. • Two tosses yielding the same result.
$P(E)$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $1/2$ • $1/2$ • $5/6$ • $1/3$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $3/4$ • $1/2$ • $1/2$

Complicated Events Described by Set Operations

Let A and B be two sets.

- The **union** of A and B is the set

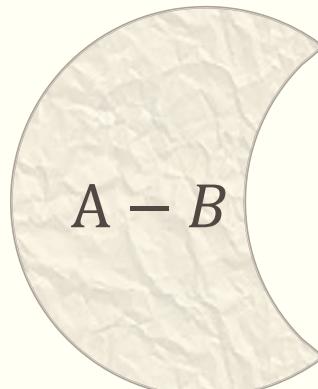
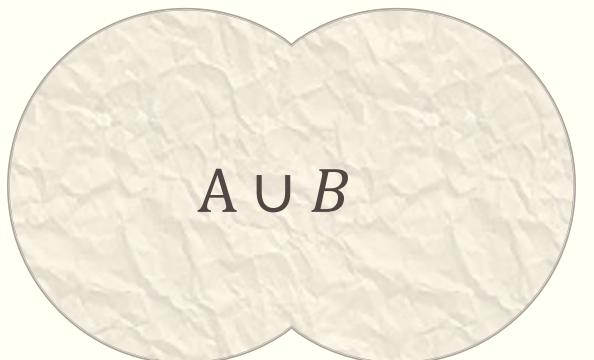
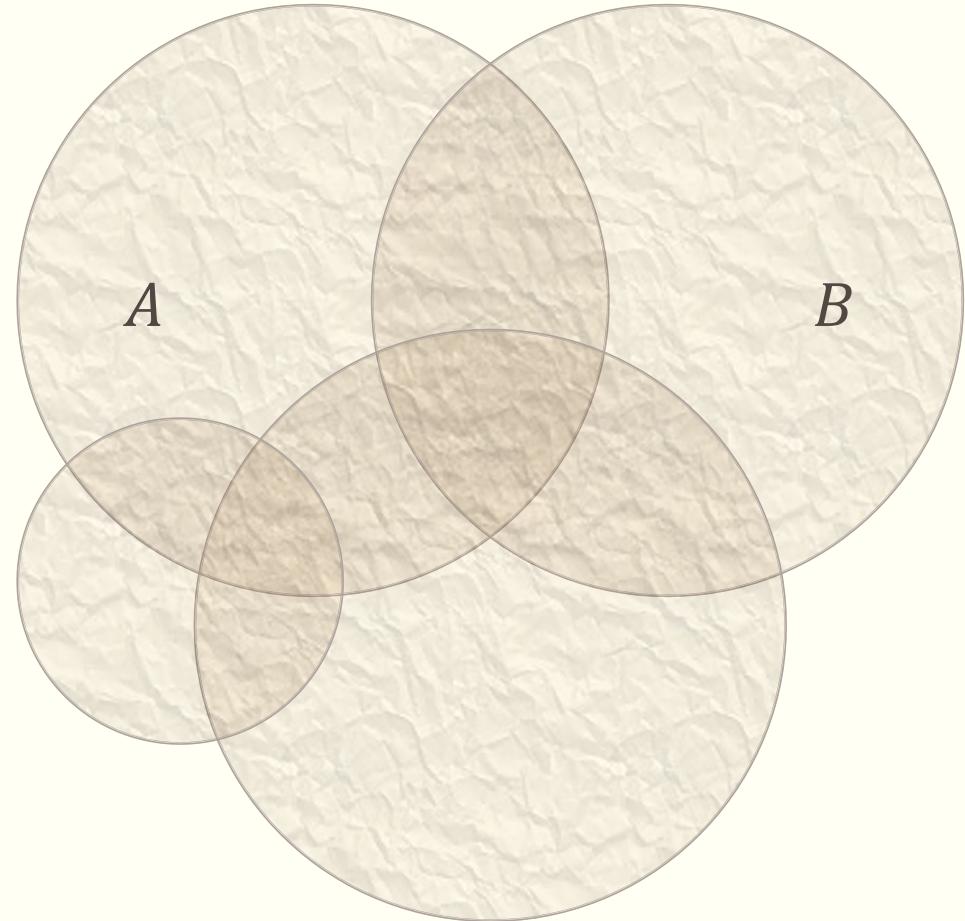
$$A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}.$$

- The **intersection** of A and B is the set

$$A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}.$$

- The **difference** of A and B is the set

$$A - B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B\}.$$



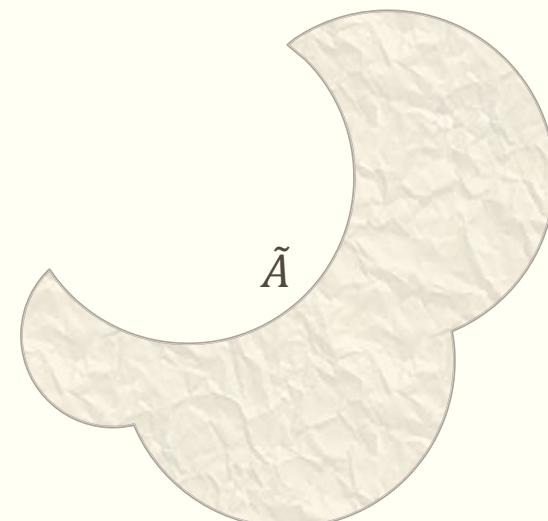
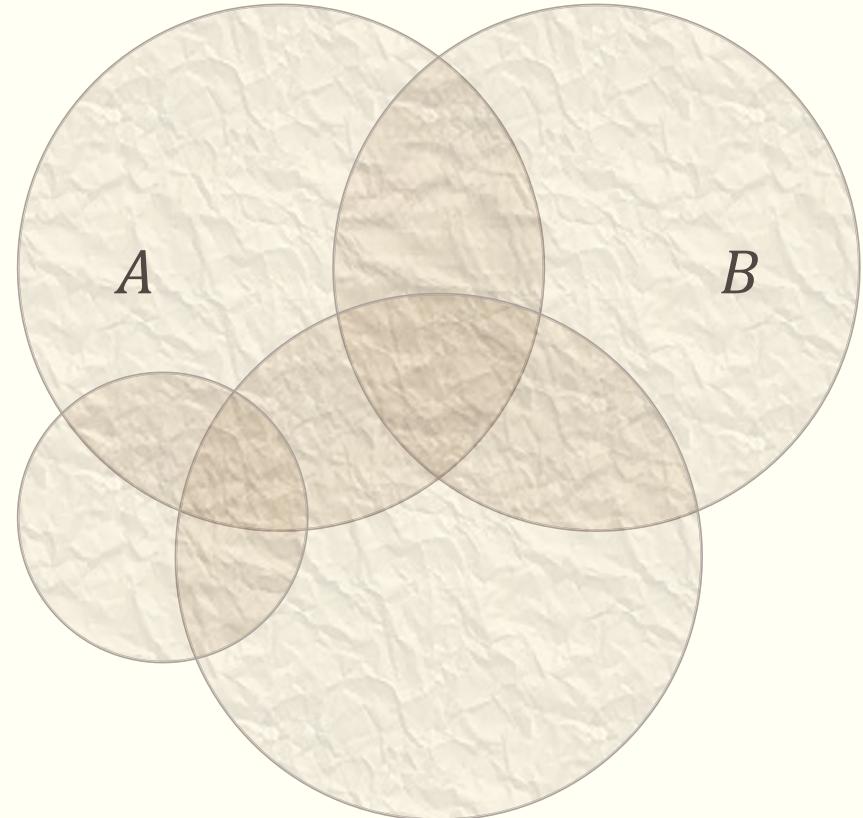
Complicated Events Described by Set Operations

Let A and B be two sets.

- The set A is a subset of B , written $A \subset B$, if every element of A is also an element of B .
- The complement of A is the set $\tilde{A} = \{x \mid x \in \Omega \text{ and } x \notin A\}$.

Is A a subset of B ?

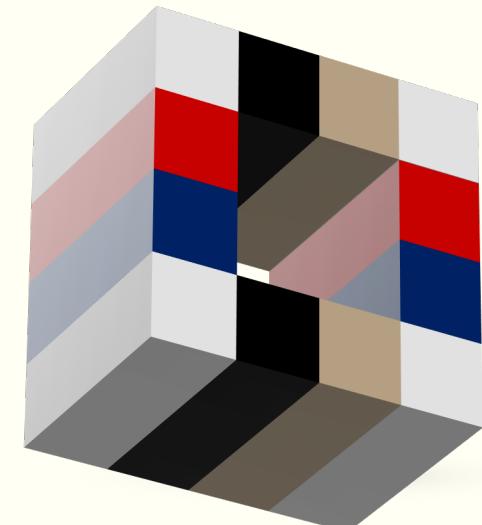
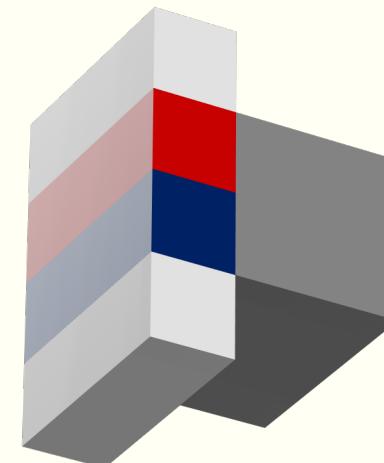
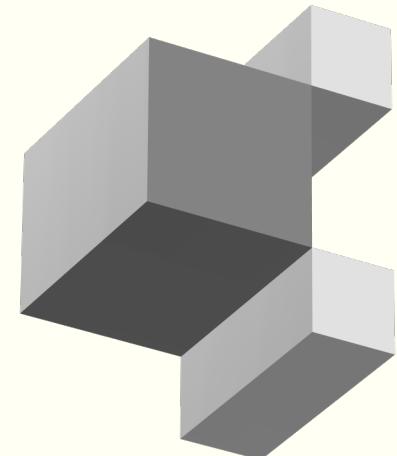
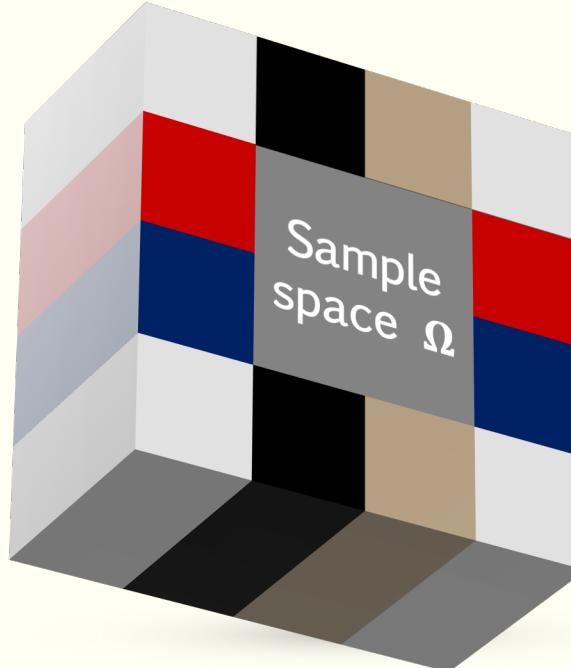
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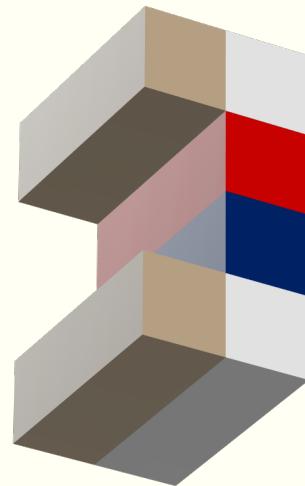
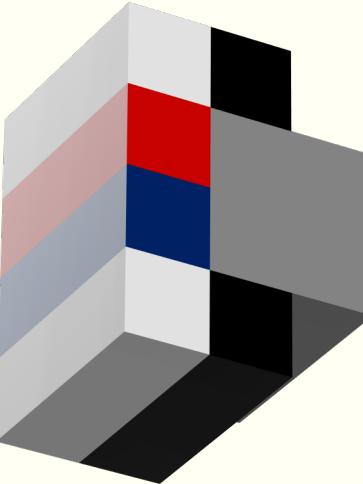
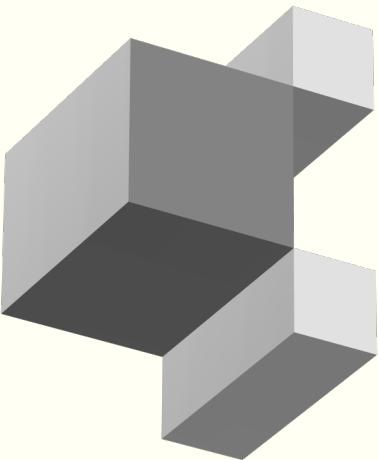
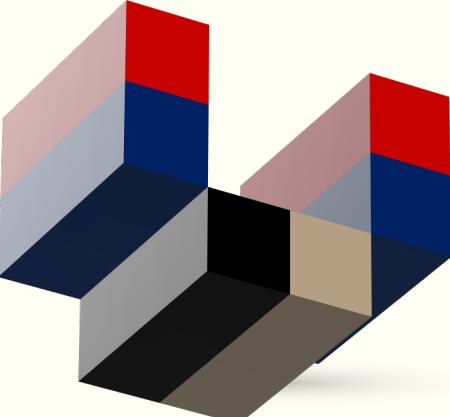
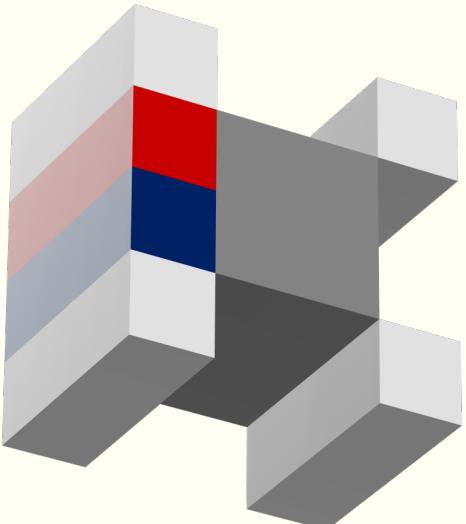
Important Properties

The probabilities assigned to events by a distribution on a sample space Ω satisfy the following properties:

- $P(E) \geq 0$ for every $E \in \Omega$.
- $P(\Omega) = 1$.
- If $E \subset F \subset \Omega$, then $P(E) \leq P(F)$.
- If A and B are disjoint subsets of Ω , then $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$.
- $P(\tilde{A}) = 1 - P(A)$ for every $A \in \Omega$.



- If $E \subset F \subset \Omega$, then $P(E) \leq P(F)$.
- If A and B are disjoint subsets of Ω , then $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$.
- $P(\tilde{A}) = 1 - P(A)$ for every $A \in \Omega$.



Game	Rolling a dice	Tossing two coins
Ω	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$	$\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
$m(\omega)$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number is even. $E = \{2, 4, 6\}$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two tosses yielding the same result. $E = \{HH, TT\}$
F	$E \subset F$	$F = \{1, 2, 4, 6\}$
	$E \cap F = \emptyset$	$F = \{1\}$
\tilde{E}	$\tilde{E} = \{1, 3, 5\}$	$\tilde{E} = \{HT, TH\}$

Important Properties

- If A_1, \dots, A_n are pairwise disjoint subsets of Ω (i.e., no two of the A_i have an element in common), then

$$P(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i).$$

- If A_1, \dots, A_n are pairwise disjoint subsets with $\Omega = A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n$, and let E be any event. Then

$$P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E \cap A_i).$$

- For any two events A and B ,

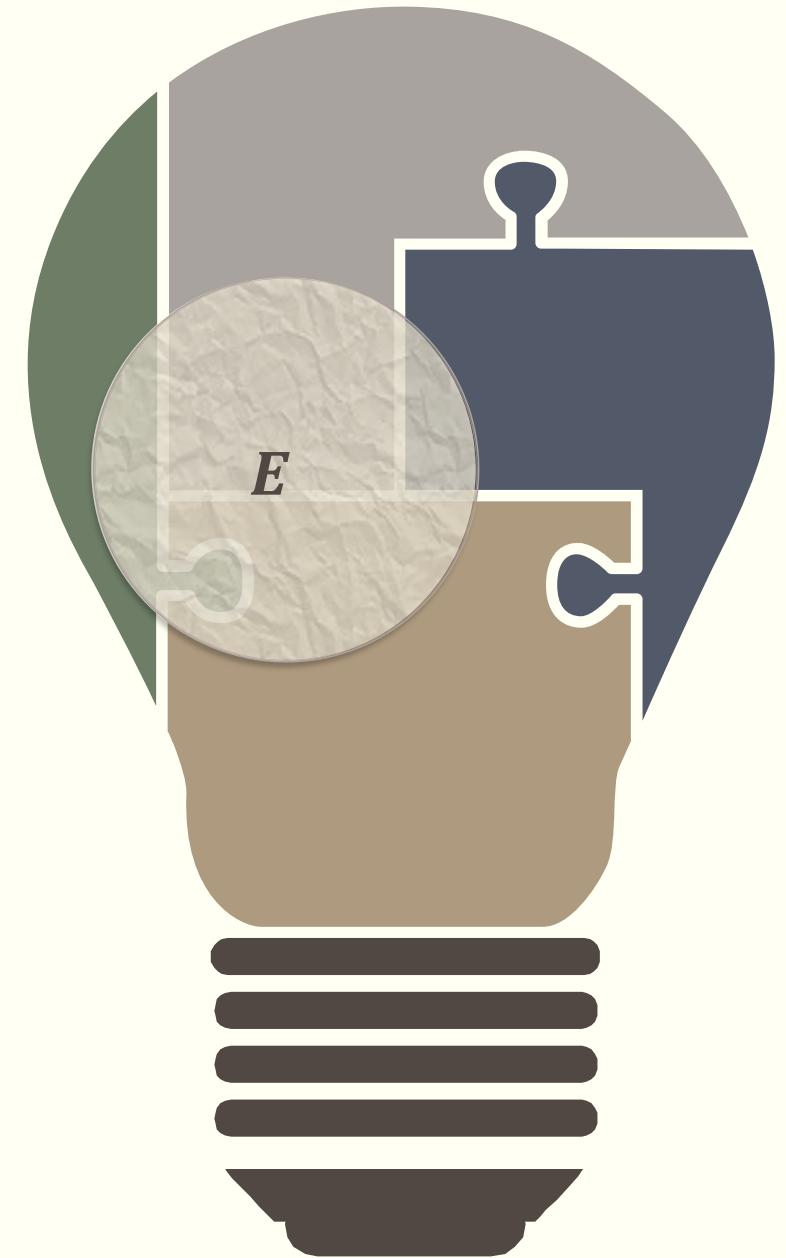
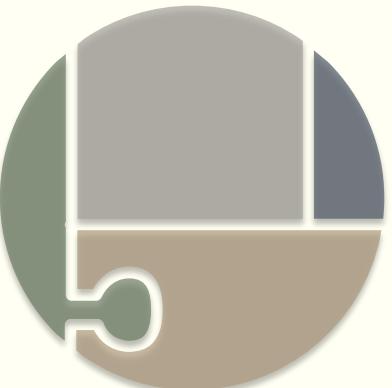
$$P(A) = P(A \cap B) + P(A \cap \tilde{B}).$$

- If A_1, \dots, A_n are pairwise disjoint subsets of Ω , then

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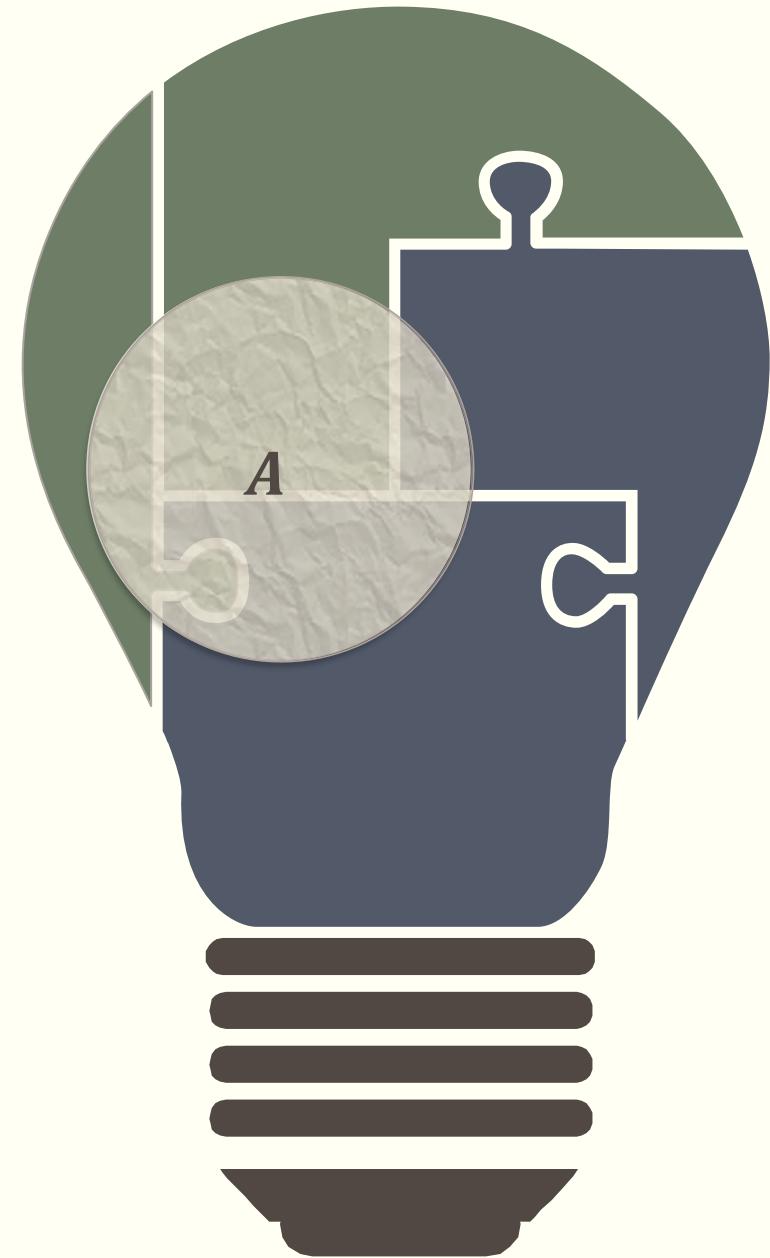
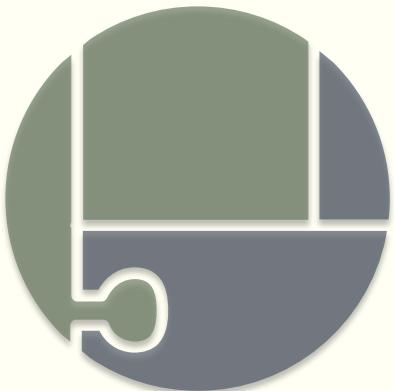
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- For any two events A and B ,

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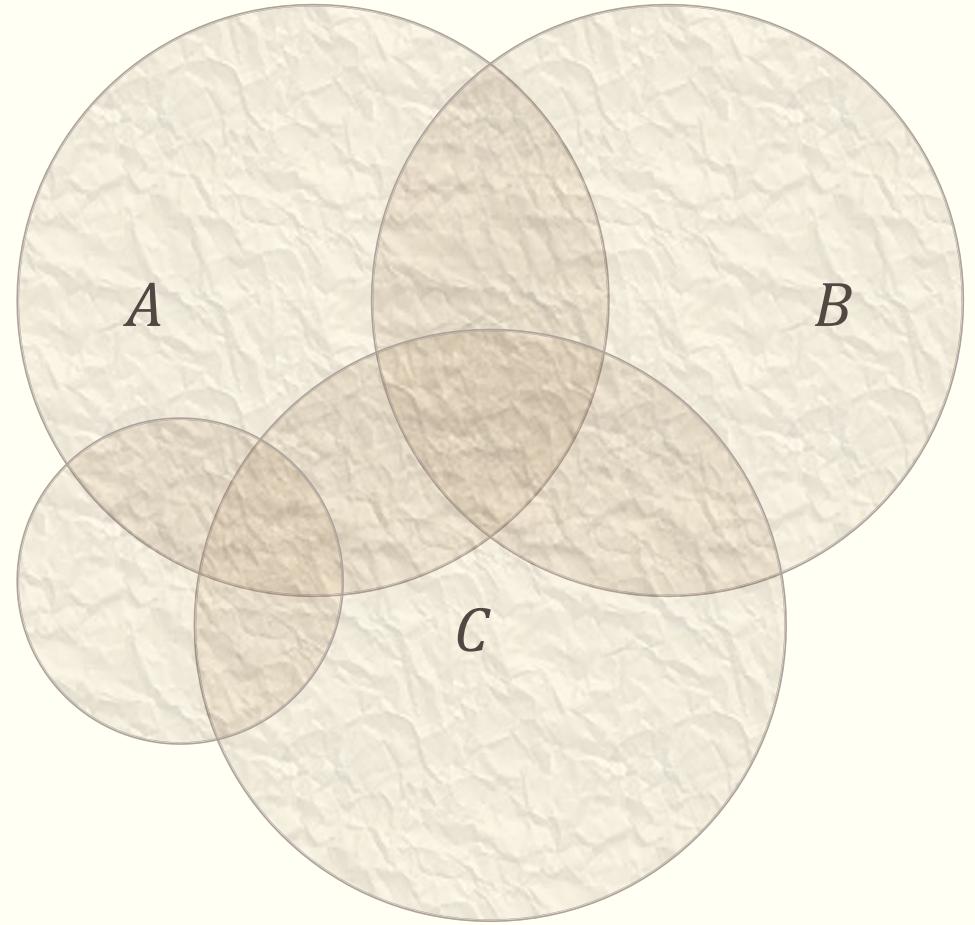
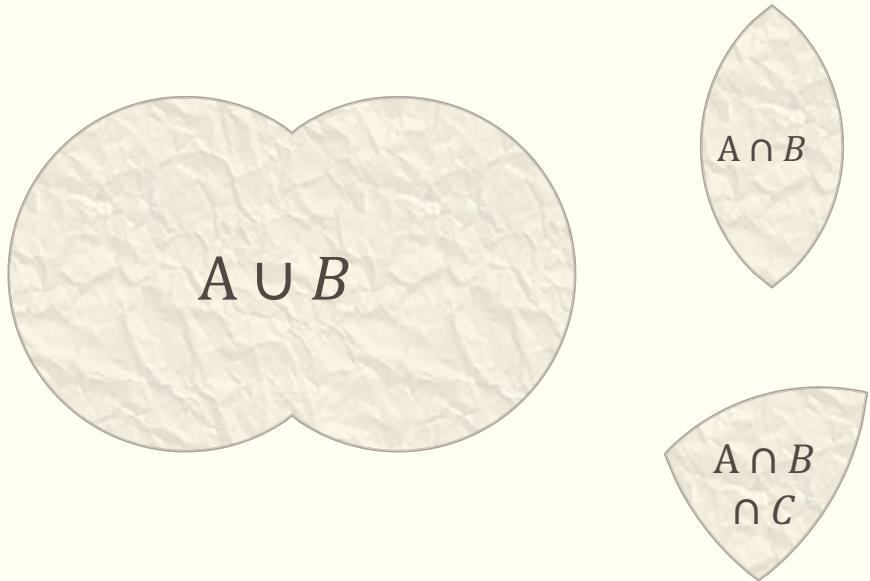
Important Properties

- If A and B are subsets of Ω , then

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B).$$

- If A, B and C are subsets of Ω , then

$$\begin{aligned}P(A \cup B \cup C) &= P(A) + P(B) + P(C) \\&\quad - P(A \cap B) - P(B \cap C) - P(A \cap C) \\&\quad + P(A \cap B \cap C).\end{aligned}$$



We can generalize the formula after we learn permutation and combination.

!

Uniform Distribution

The uniform distribution on a sample space Ω containing n elements is the function m defined by

$$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{n},$$

for every $\omega \in \Omega$.

Examples:

- ?
- ?
- ?



Draw a poker card

1, 2, 3, ..., 10, J, Q, K

He deals the cards as a meditation
And those he plays never suspect
He doesn't play for the money he wins
He don't play for respect
He deals the cards to find the answer
The sacred geometry of chance
The hidden law of a probable outcome
The numbers lead a dance



Draw a poker card

spade, club, diamond, heart

I know that the **spades** are the swords of a soldier
I know that the **clubs** are weapons of war
I know that **diamonds** mean money for this art
But that's not the shape of my **heart**
He may play the **jack** of diamonds
He may lay the **queen** of spades
He may conceal a **king** in his hand
While the memory of it fades



Draw a poker card

$$(10 + 3) \times 4$$

$$m(\omega) = \dots$$

Draw a poker card: French suits

spade, diamond, club, heart

$$m(\omega) = \dots$$

Draw a poker card: ranks

1, 2, 3, ..., 10, J, Q, K

$$m(\omega) = \dots$$



Draw a poker card

$$(10 + 3) \times 4$$

$$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{52}$$

Draw a poker card: French suits

spade, diamond, club, heart

$$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{4}$$

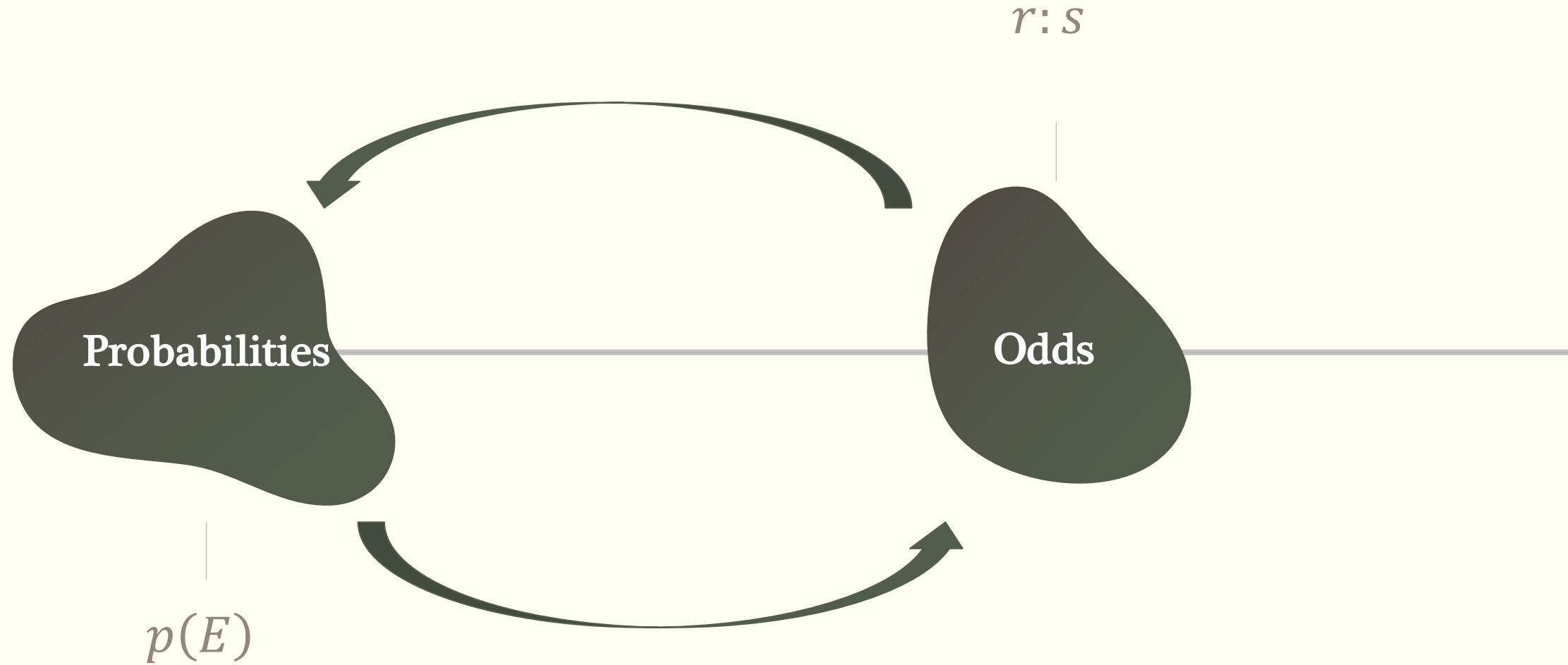
Draw a poker card: ranks

1, 2, 3, ..., 10, J, Q, K

$$m(\omega) = \frac{1}{13}$$

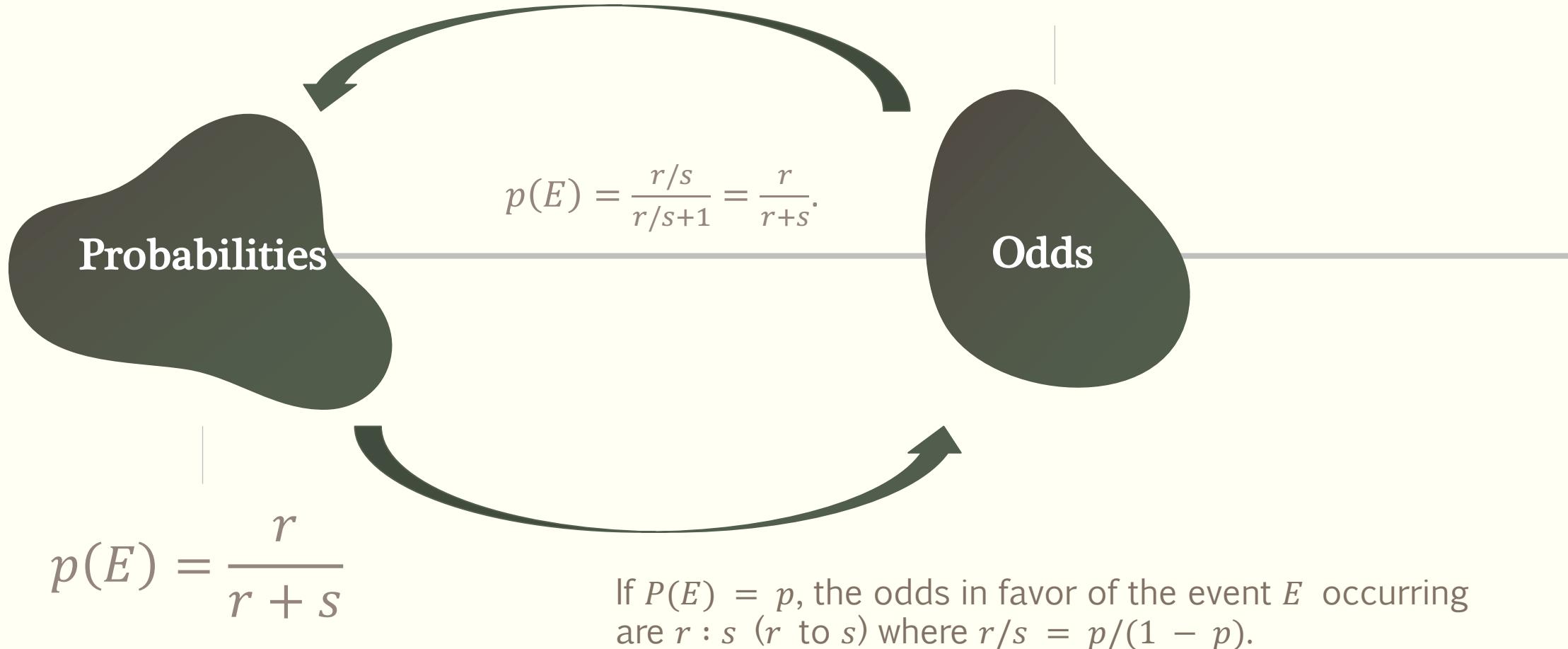


Determination of Probabilities



Determination of Probabilities

If r and s are given, then p can be found by using the equation $p = r/(r + s)$.

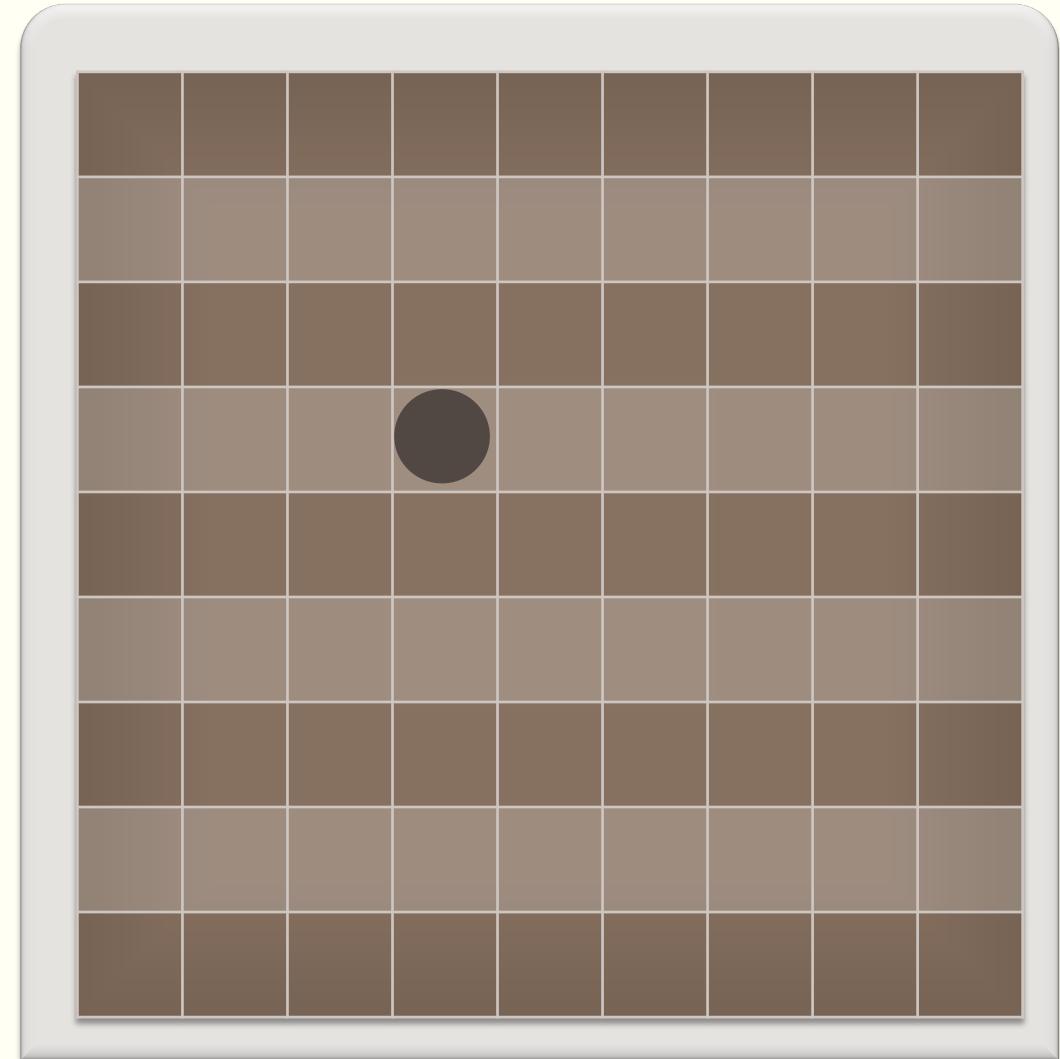


Infinite Sample Space

A sample space is **countably infinite** if the elements can be counted, i.e., can be put in one-to-one correspondence with the positive integers, and uncountably infinite otherwise (which requires the concepts of continuous probability densities).

Choose a square on an infinite chessboard

sample space	
elementary outcome	
probability distribution function	

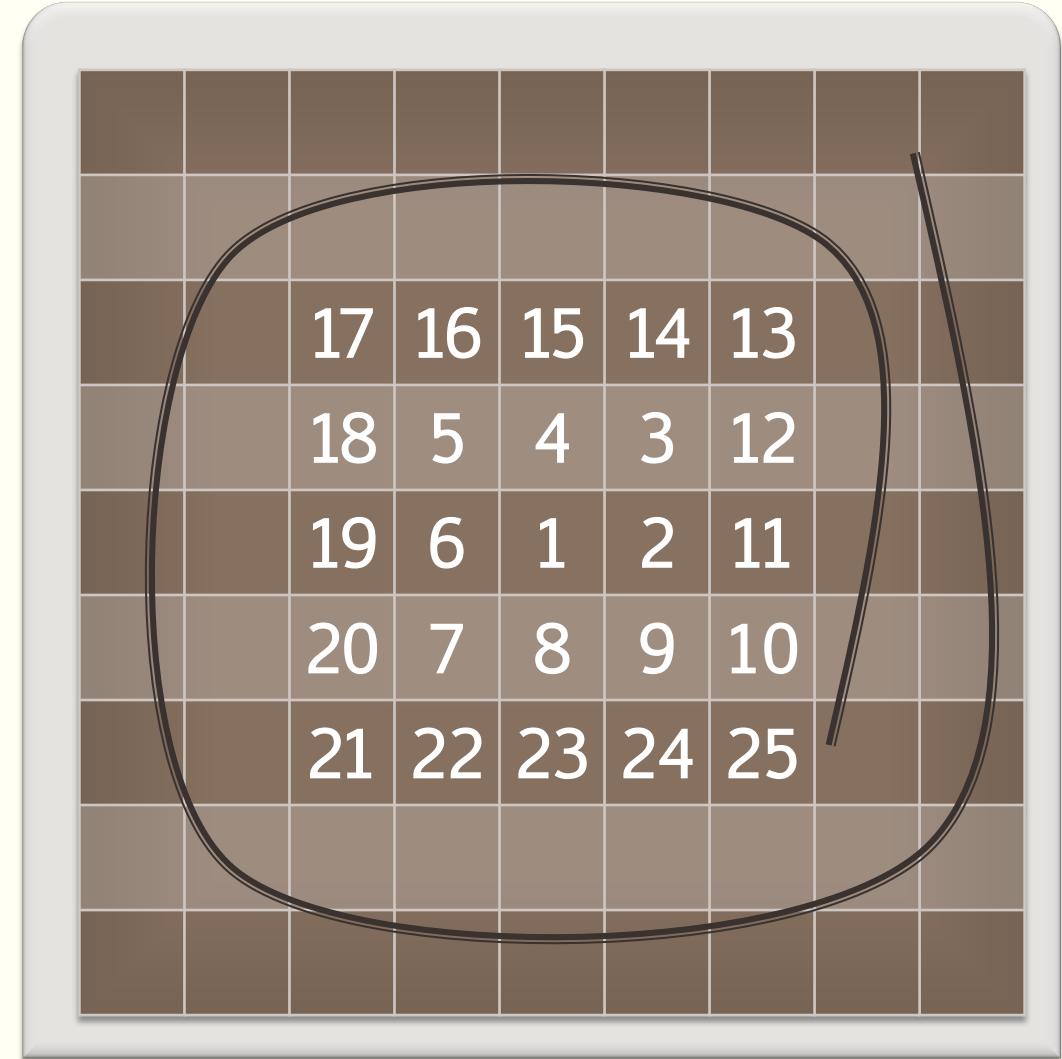


Infinite Sample Space

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Choose a square on an infinite chessboard

sample space	$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = \dots$



Infinite Sample Space

If $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \dots\}$ is a countably infinite sample space, then a distribution function can be defined as in the case of a finite sample space, but now the infinite sum must be convergent (and thus cannot be uniform).

A distribution function for X is a real-valued function m whose domain is Ω and which satisfies:

- $m(\omega) \geq 0$, for all $\omega \in \Omega$, and
- $\sum_{\omega \in \Omega} m(\omega) = 1$.

Choose a square on an infinite chessboard

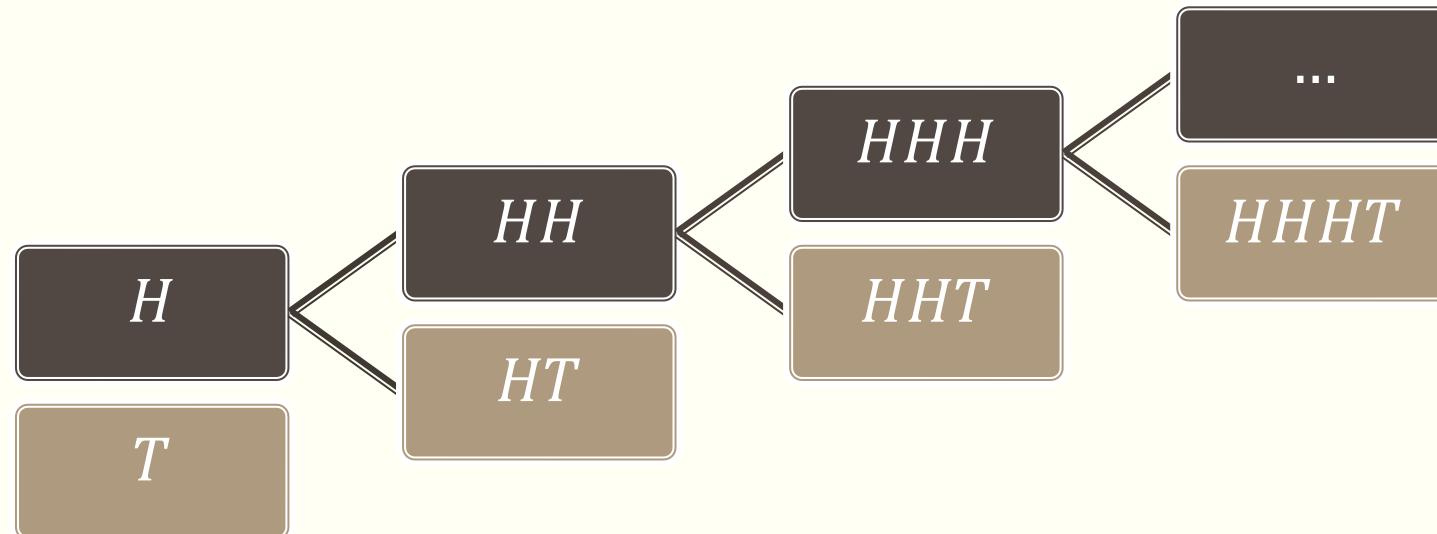
sample space	$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$
elementary outcome	$\omega = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots$
probability distribution function	$m(\omega) = 0$

Infinite Discrete Sample Space

First Tail

- The experiment is to repeatedly toss a coin until first tail shows up.
- Possible outcomes are sequences of H that, if finite, end with a single T , and an infinite sequence of H :

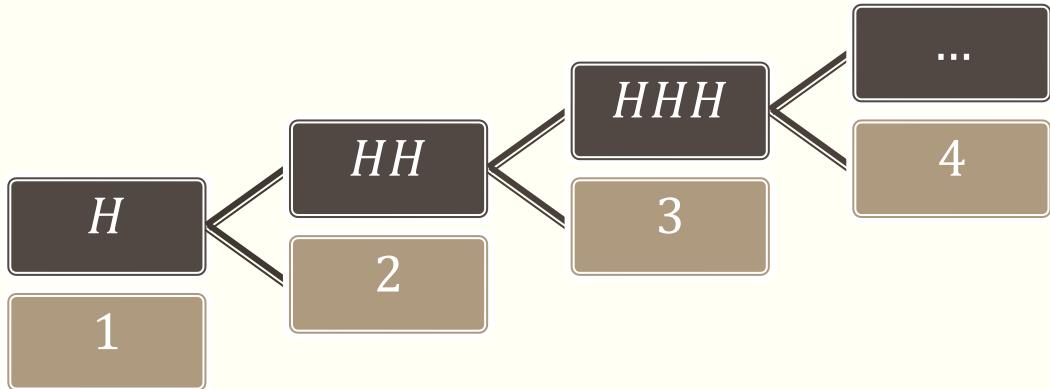
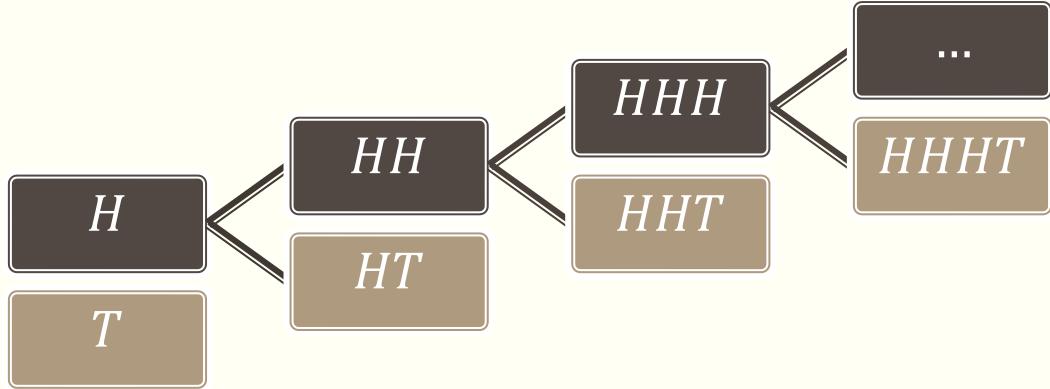
$$\Omega = \{T, HT, HHT, HHHT, HHHHT, \dots\}$$



Infinite Discrete Sample Space

First Tail

- The experiment is to repeatedly toss a coin until first tail shows up.
- Possible outcomes are sequences of H that, if finite, end with a single T , and an infinite sequence of H :
- $\Omega = \{T, HT, HHT, HHHT, HHHHT, \dots\}$
- One random variable is defined most naturally as the length of an outcome.
- It draws values from the set of whole numbers augmented by the symbol of infinity:
- $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots, \infty\}$



Continuous Sample Space

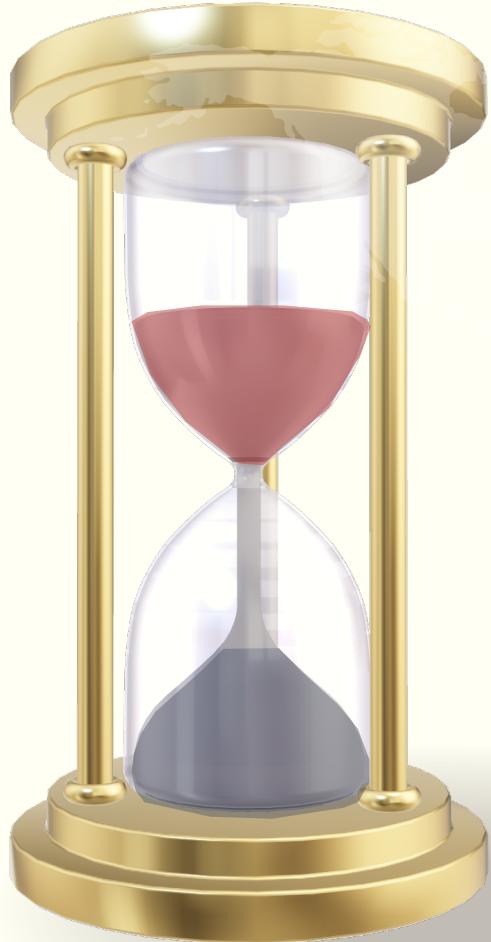


arrival time

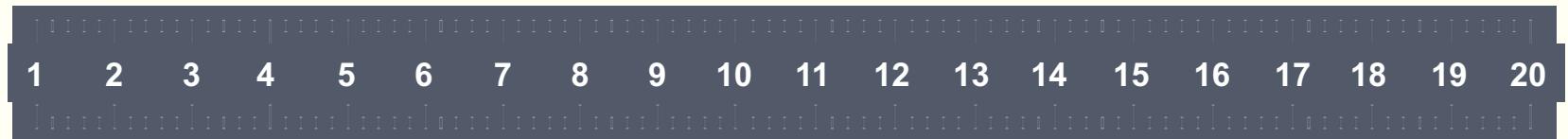
5:45 pm – 6:00 pm

speed

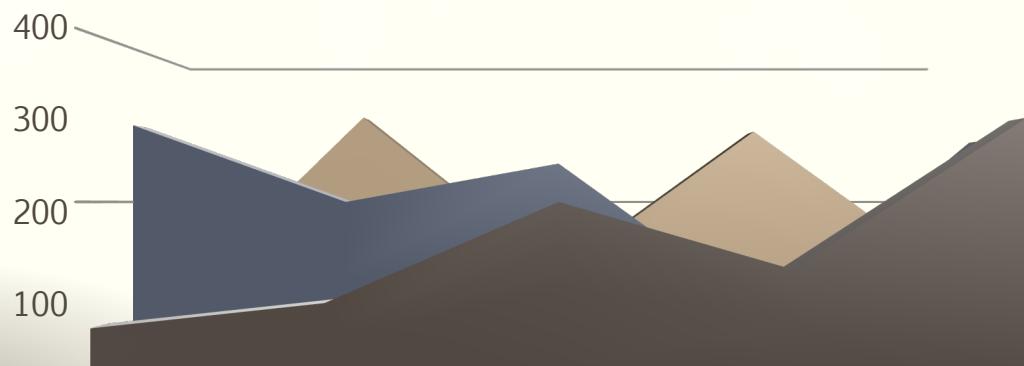
160 mph – 200 mph



time



length

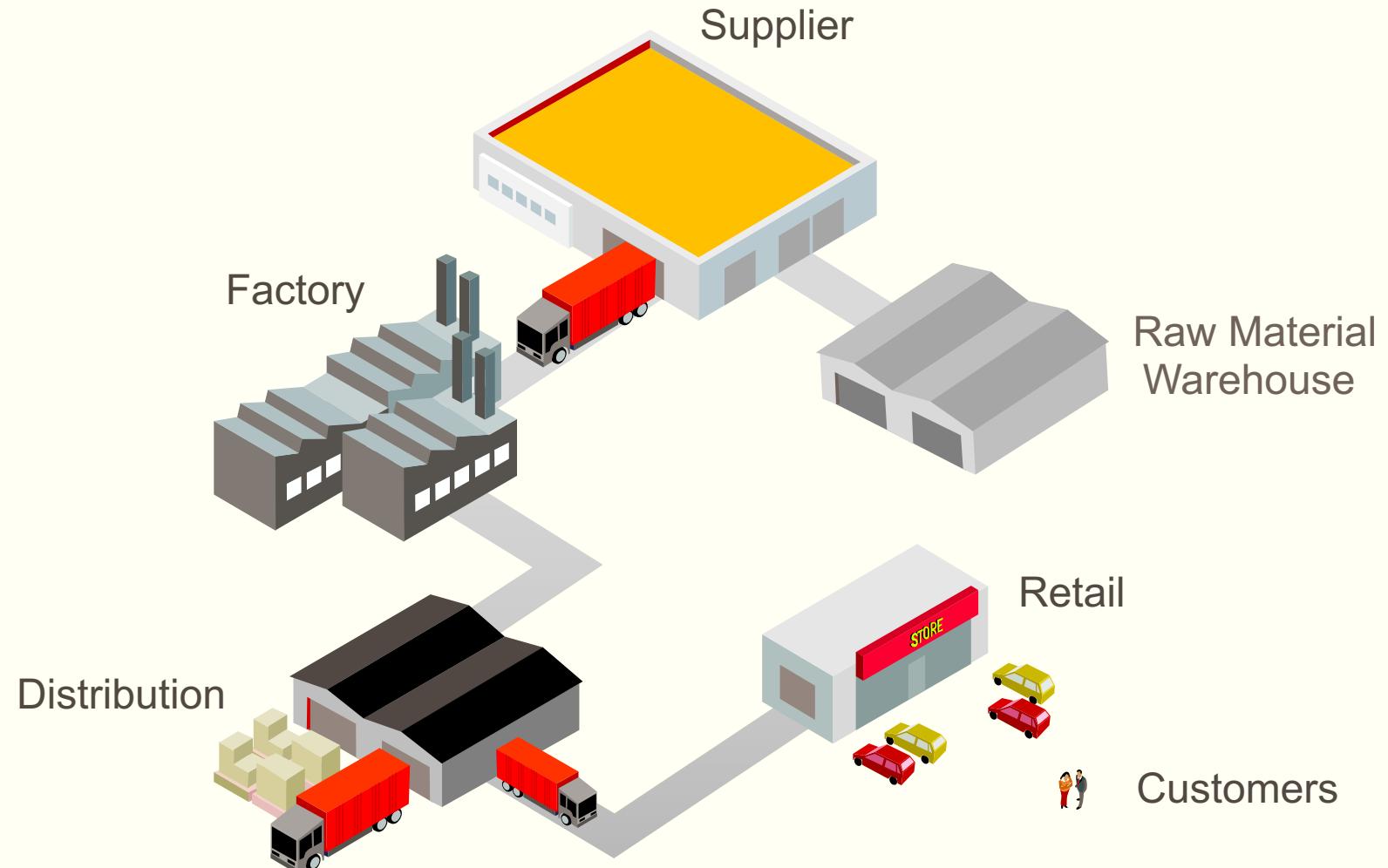


area



velocity (speed)

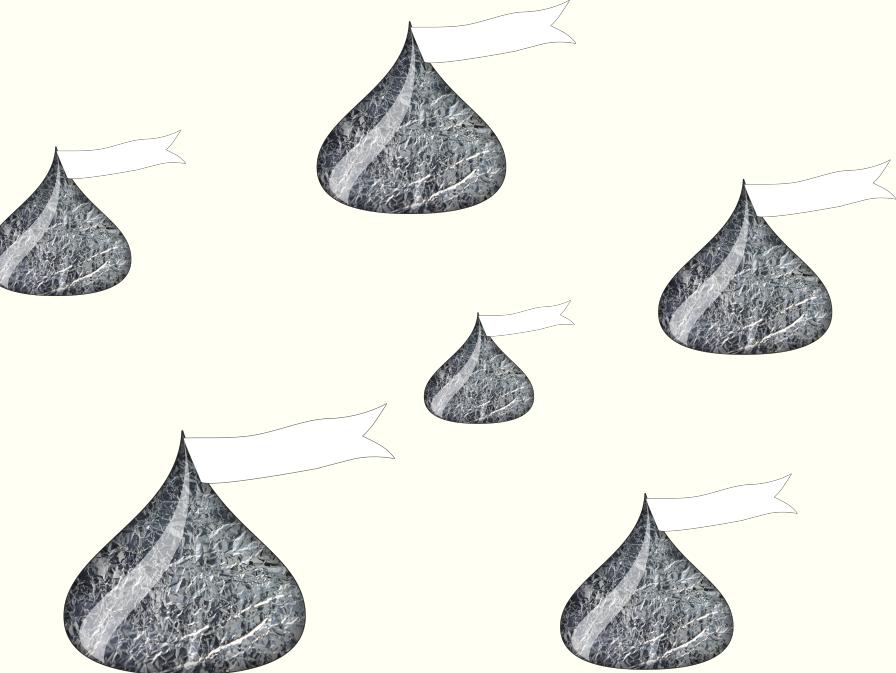
Processes that Operate Efficiently and Produce Items of the Highest Quality



How Much Does a Hershey Kiss Weight?



- A single standard Hershey's Kiss weighs 0.16 ounces.



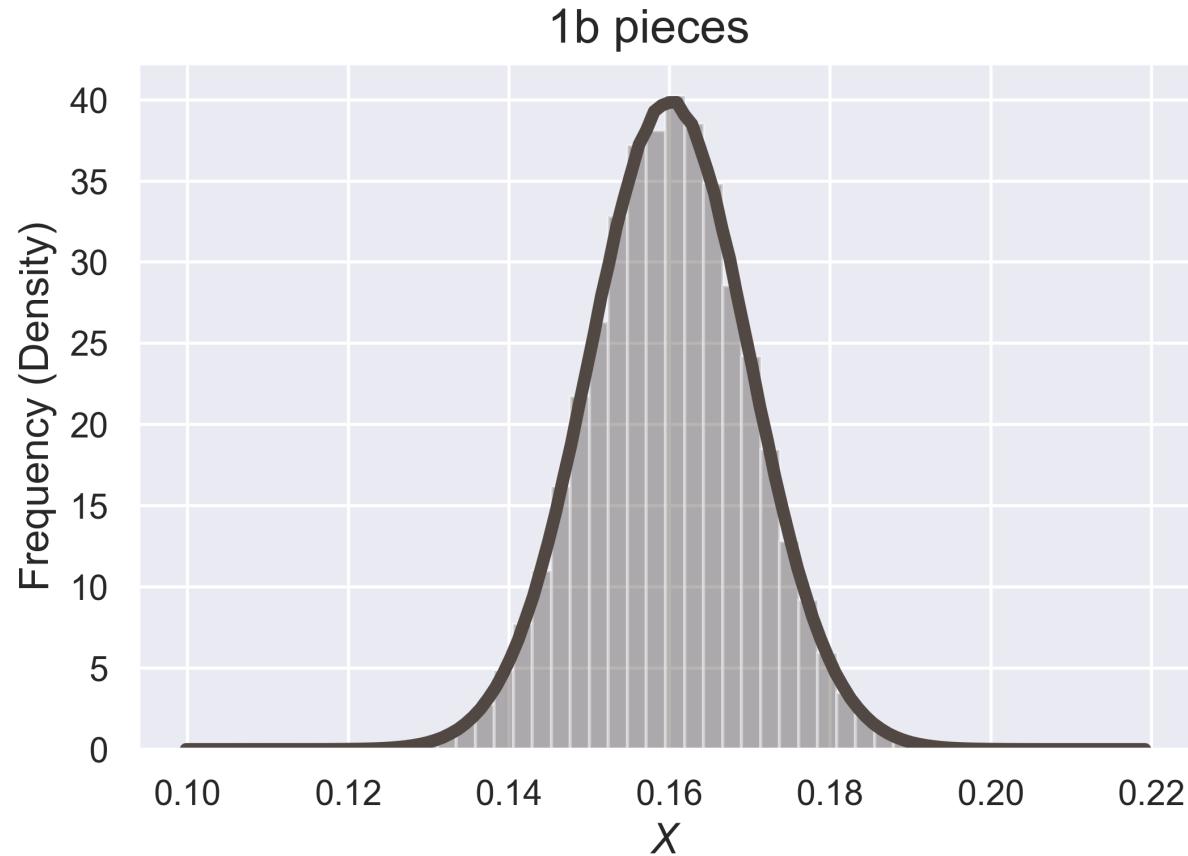
How Much Does a Hershey Kiss Weight?



- A single standard Hershey's Kiss weighs 0.16 ounces.

0.1584	0.1577	0.1819	0.1581	0.1438	0.1385	0.1673	0.1611
0.165	0.1452	0.1482	0.1568	0.1603	0.1478	0.1591	0.1519
0.1649	0.1672	0.153	0.1504	0.1587	0.1485	0.1538	0.1498
0.1656	0.1692	0.1477	0.157	0.1574	0.1699	0.1589	0.1487

Normal Density Distribution (Gaussian Distribution)



- Three-sigma limits is a statistical calculation that refers to data within three standard deviations from a mean.
- In business applications, three-sigma refers to processes that operate efficiently and produce items of the highest quality.
- Three-sigma limits are used to set the upper and lower control limits in statistical quality control charts.
- Control charts are used to establish limits for a manufacturing or business process that is in a state of statistical control.

The normal density function with parameters μ and σ
expectation: μ , standard deviation: σ