

JMTS-12: Probability and Random Processes

Fall 2020

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Textbook:

Henry Stark & John W. Woods

Probability and Random Processes with Applications to Signal Processing

Chapters 1-4 ... parts of 5+6 if time permits

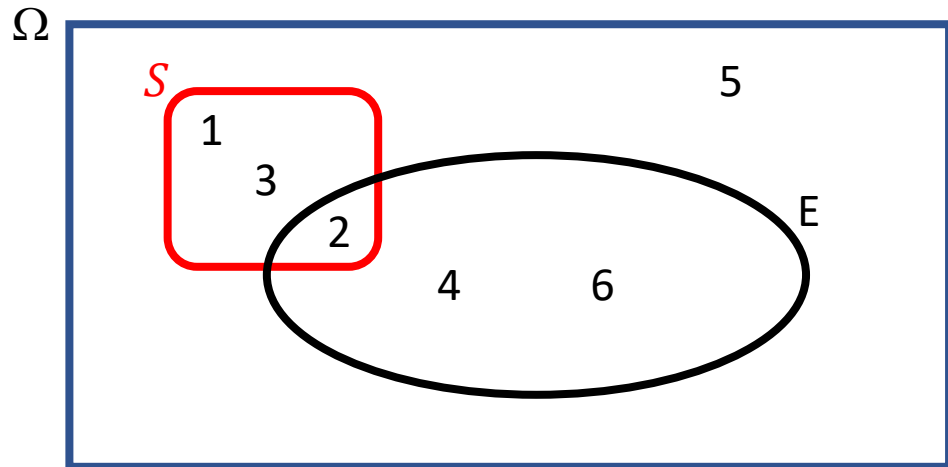
Main platform: campusnet ... course page !!!

For the online meetings, use headsets if possible...

Lecture 2

Chapter 1

1.6 Joint, conditional and total probability ... "Beauty Contest"



Roll a fair die...

Consider events ... and their favorable cases:

E = ``even``

S = ``small``

B = ``both`` = ES

$$P[E] = \frac{3}{6}, P[S] = \frac{3}{6}, P[B = ES] = \frac{1}{6} \text{ (joint)}$$

$$\frac{fav_{ES}}{fav_E} = \frac{fav_{ES}/all}{fav_E/all} \rightarrow \frac{P[ES]}{P[E]} =: P[S|E]$$

Probability of S given E : $1/3$

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Joint probability: $P[ES]$

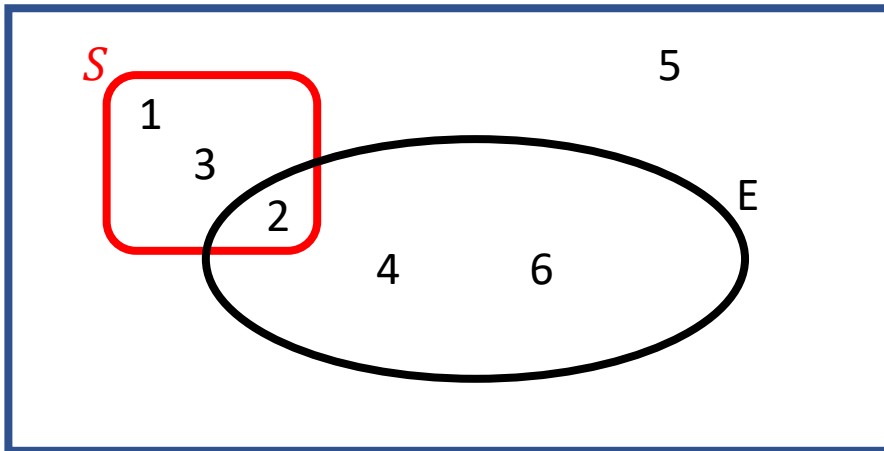
Probability of S given E :

$$P[S|E] = \frac{P[ES]}{P[E]}$$

Probability of E given S :

$$P[E|S] = \frac{P[ES]}{P[S]}$$

$$P[ES] = P[S|E]P[E] = P[E|S]P[S]$$



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What if ...

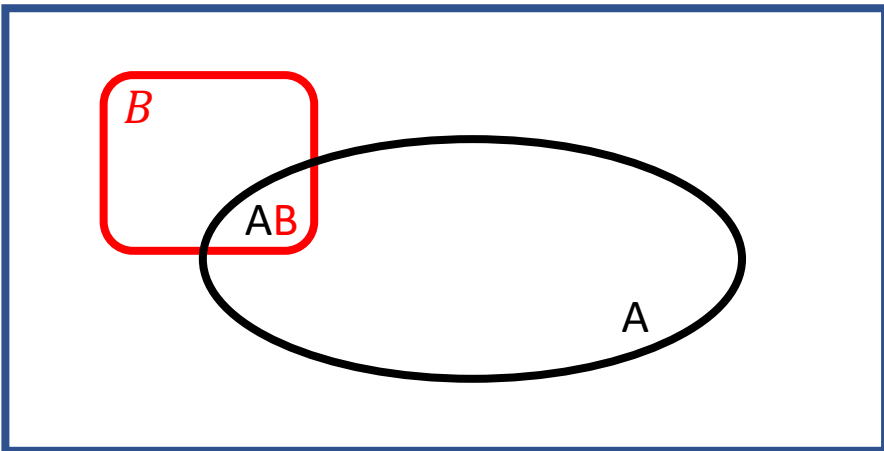
$$P[B|A] := \frac{P[AB]}{P[A]} = P[B] \quad ?$$

$$\Rightarrow P[AB] = P[A]P[B]$$

$$\Rightarrow P[A|B] := \frac{P[AB]}{P[B]} = P[A]$$

So, A does not matter for B .
Also, B does not matter for A .

→ Independence



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Beauty Contest

- 1) N candidates come in one by one.
- 2) Jury forms an opinion on the spot.
- 3) Stops when *they think* they found the best.
- 4) Cannot pick a former one.
- 5) Have to pick someone ... possibly the last.
- 6) ``Win'' = jury picked the best

$P[\text{win}] = ?$

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Beauty Contest: Strategy

- 1) Observe test set of size α ... don't pick any!
- 2) Store ``beauty value'' of *best of test*.
- 3) After test set, pick first candidate better than *best of test*.
- 4) *Can the jury win*
= pick the overall best?

$P[\text{win}] = ?$... **Guess!**

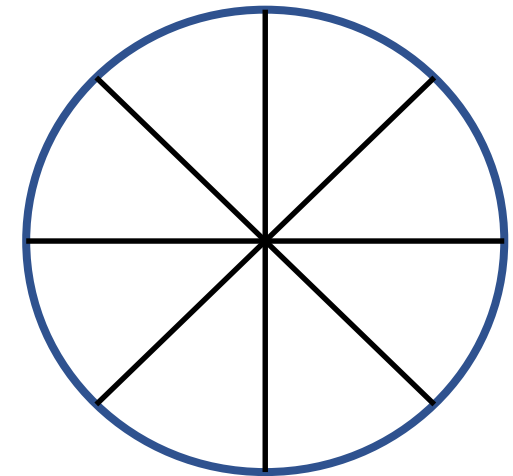
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Beauty Contest: Evaluate Strategy

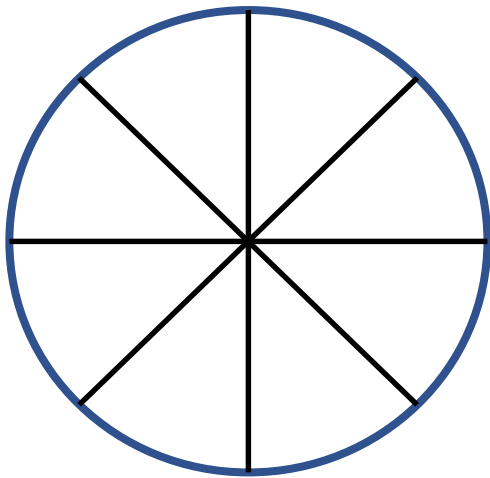
- 1) Looks difficult
- 2) Divide and conquer: Cut problem into simpler parts.
- 3) Solve per part.
- 4) Combine



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Beauty Contest: Evaluate Strategy

What is the chance experiment?

→ Queue in front of the door.

Understand: Based on that queue, the result is clear.

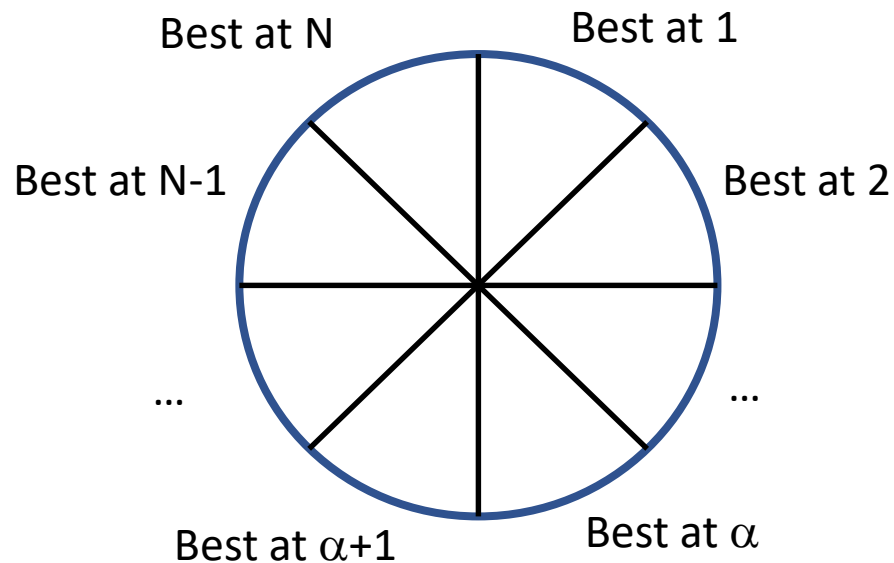
How many different queues exist?

$N!$

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Beauty Contest: Evaluate Strategy

Divide and conquer:

Cut problem into simpler parts... different sorts of queues.

... according to only one aspect:

What is the position of the best candidate in the queue?

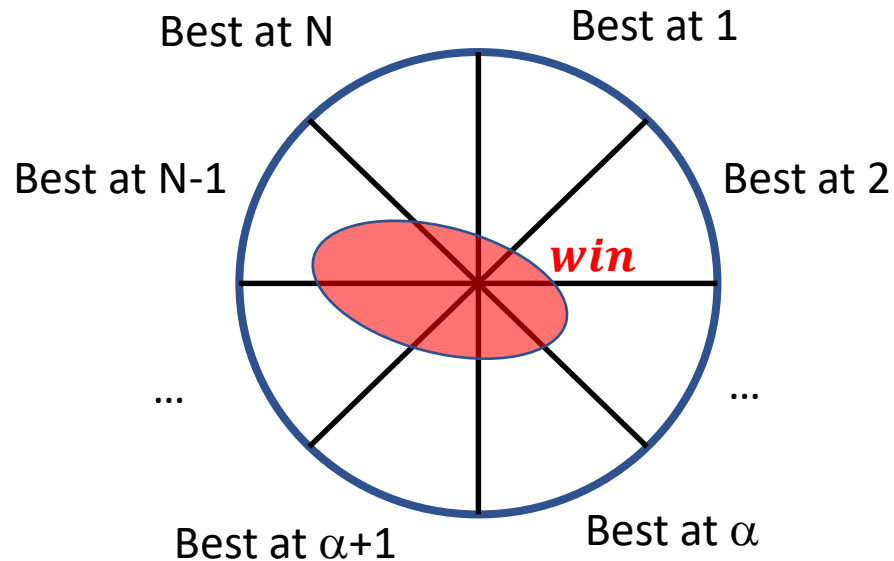
→ **Partition**

- 1) Union of the parts is Ω (exhaustive)
- 2) Parts do not overlap (mutually exclusive)

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1.6 Joint, conditional and total probability ... "Beauty Contest"



Beauty Contest: Evaluate Strategy

Solve ... use total probability:

$$\begin{aligned} P[\text{win}] &= \sum_{j=1}^N P[\text{win}, \text{best at } j] \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^N P[\text{win} | \text{best at } j] P[\text{best at } j] \end{aligned}$$

Easy cases:

$j \leq \alpha$ (best inside test set):

$$P[\text{win} | \text{best at } j] = 0$$

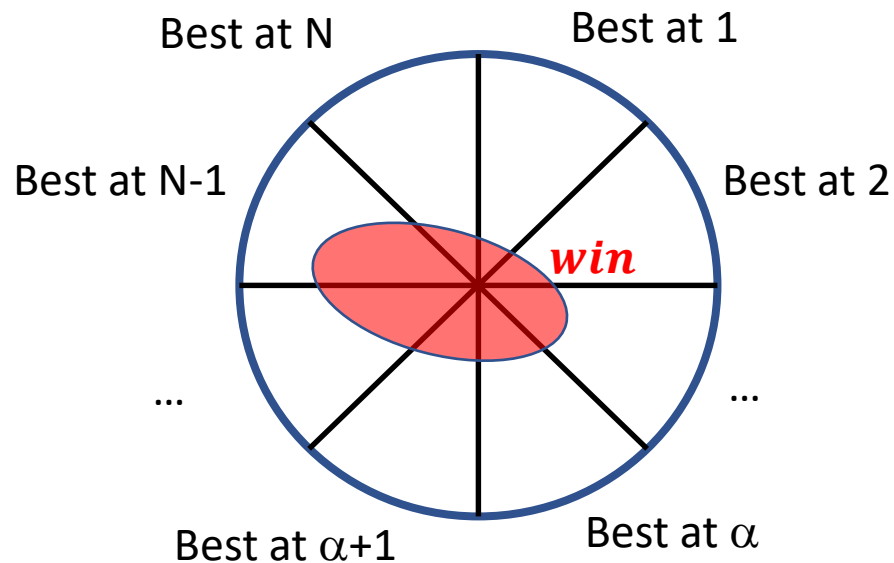
Also:

$$P[\text{best at } j] = \frac{1}{N}$$

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Beauty Contest: Evaluate Strategy

$$P[\text{win}] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=\alpha+1}^N P[\text{win} | \text{best at } j]$$

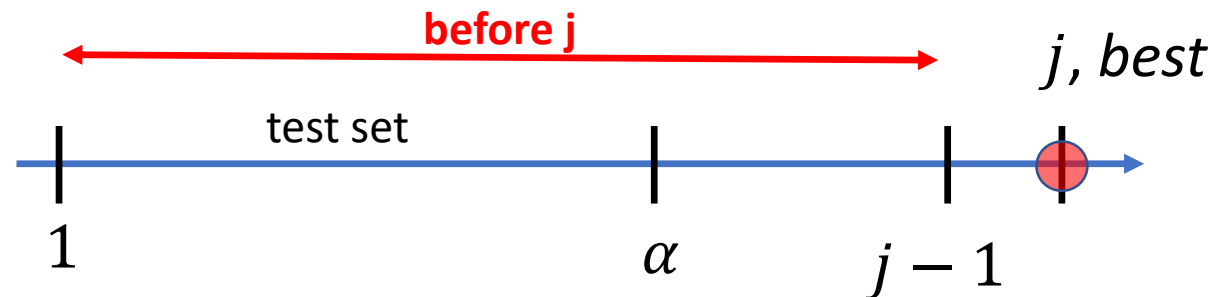
Not so easy cases:

$$j = \alpha + 1 : P[\text{win} | \text{best at } j] = 1$$

$$j = \alpha + 2 : P[\text{win} | \text{best at } j] = ?$$

...

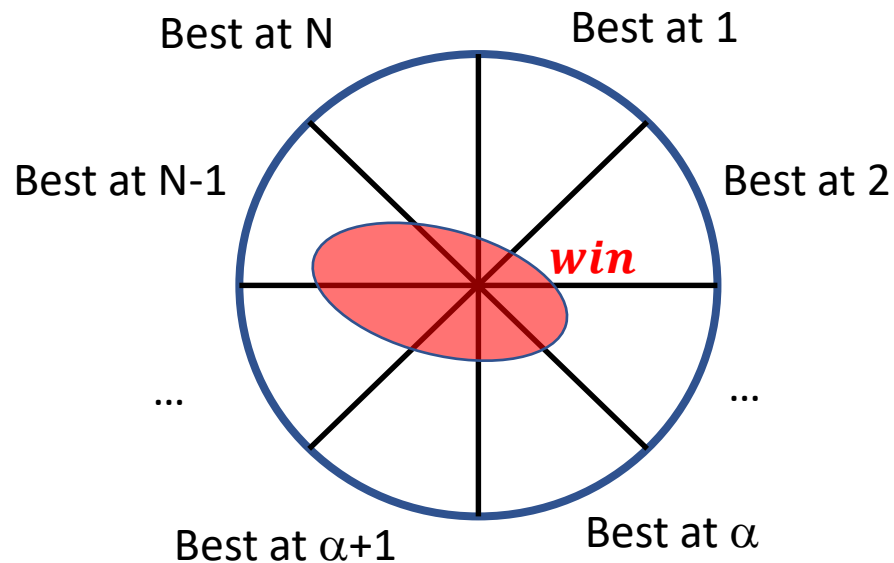
$$= P[\text{best before } j \text{ is in test set} | \text{best at } j] = \frac{\alpha}{j-1}$$



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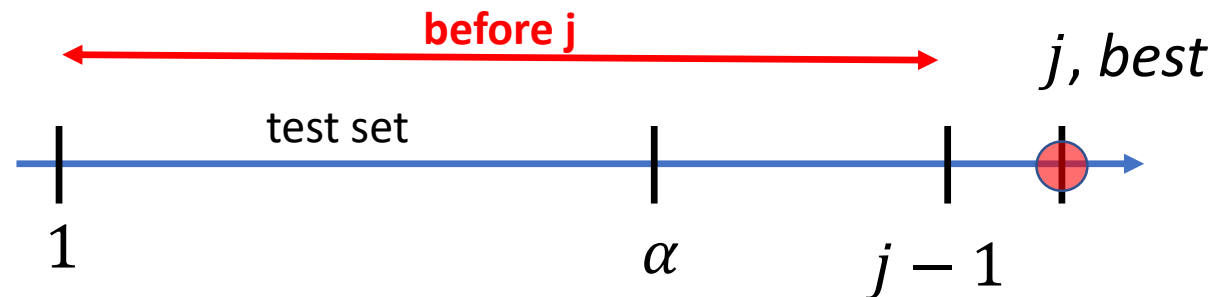
Beauty Contest: Evaluate Strategy

$$P[\text{win}] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=\alpha+1}^N \frac{\alpha}{j-1}$$

Approximate for large N and α :

$$P[\text{win}] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=\alpha+1}^N \frac{\alpha}{j-1} \approx \frac{\alpha}{N} \int_{\alpha}^N \frac{dx}{x} = -\frac{\alpha}{N} \ln \frac{\alpha}{N}$$

$$\dots \text{max at } \alpha_{opt} = \frac{N}{e}, \text{ with } P[\text{win with } \alpha_{opt}] = \frac{1}{e}$$



The End

Next time: cont. chp. 1