# Introduction to statistical inference 1

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# Chapter 1

# Preliminaries

## 1.1 Introduction

- Field of statistics builds on probability theory

> *"You can, for example, never foretell what any one man will do, but you can say with precision what an average number will be up to. Individuals vary, but percentages remain constant. So says the statistician."* - Sherlock Holmes

- The paragraph includes the important ideas of the statistical model:
  - The percentage $p$ = the model of the process or underlying population
  - The behavior of individuals = data
- Assuming a constat probability $p$ may be a too simplistic or naive assuption, and may be replaced by more realistic one where p is a function of the propabilities of the individual and the context where s/he is.
- We also need to specify a model, for the variability of the individuals around the $p$ to complete the model formulation.
  - A crude summary if the variance-covariance matrix of the observations.
  - A complete definition is done by specifying the joint distribution of all individuals.
- We also may want to estimate how accurately we finally estimated $p$ writing the available data
- The theoretical process that generates the data is called
  - Statistical model or (tilastollinen malli)

  - Stochastic process or (statistinen prosessi)
  - Random process or (satunnaisprosessi)

- The process is random/stochastic because the "man" do not behave exactly according to model.[1]
  - Probability calculus and the theory of random variables provide tools to formulate and understand such models.
- Once model has been formulated or specified (muotoiltu), observed data can be used to[2]
  - estimate model parameters
  - evaluate the model fit (mallin sopivuus)
  - evaluate the inaccuracy related to the estimated model parameters
- When talking about models, we can talk about
  - True model (Tosi malli)
  - Estimated model (Estimoitu malli)
  - True model always stays the same, but as data used to formulate the estimated model gets larger, the estimated model gets closer to true model.
  - See example R-scipt `regsimu.R`

## 1.2 Set theory

- Consider a statistical experiment (e.g. rolling a dice, measuring the diameter of a tree, tossing a coin, measuring the photosynthetic activity in plant etc.)

**Definition 1.1.** All possible outcomes of a particular experiment (koe) form a set (joukko) called sample space (otosavaruus), denoted by S. For example:

A Toss of a coin; $S = \{H, T\}$

B Reaction time, Waiting time; $S = [0, \infty)$

C Exercise score of this course; $S = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, 210\}$

D Number of points (events) within fixed area; $S = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots$

E $CO_2$ uptake within 0.5 hours in fixed area plot; $S = (-\infty, \infty)$

[1] This is what is done on this part of the course (ISI1).
[2] This is what is done on second part of the course (ISI2)

F Waiting time up to one hour (in minutes); $S = [0, 60)$

Sample space can be countable (numeroituva) or uncountable (ylinumeroituva). If the elements of a sample space can be put into one-to-one correspondence with a finite subset of integers, the space is countable. Otherwise, it is uncountable.

- Note: Examples A and C before are countable, the others are uncountable
- Note: If the waiting time in G are rounded to the minute / second / millisecond / microsecond, the sample space becomes countable.

**Definition 1.2.** An event (tapaus) is any collection of possible outcomes of an experiment, meaning it is a subset of S. Event A is said to occur, if the outcome of the experiment is in set A.

**Example 1.1.** Draw a card from standard deck.

$$S = \{\heartsuit, \diamondsuit, \clubsuit, \spadesuit\}$$

One possible event is $A = \{\heartsuit, \diamondsuit\}$. Another possible event is $B = \{\diamondsuit, \clubsuit, \spadesuit\}$. The union (unioni) of the two events includes all elements of both

$$A \cup B = \{\heartsuit, \diamondsuit, \clubsuit, \spadesuit\}$$

The intersection (leikkaus) includes elements that are common to both events

$$A \cap B = \{\diamondsuit\}$$

The complement (komplementti) of a set includes al elements of $S$ that are not included in $A$

$$A^c = \{\clubsuit, \spadesuit\}$$

Events $A$ and $B$ are said to be disjoint (erillisiä), if

$$A \cap B = \emptyset$$

Number of events $A_1$, $A_2$, $A_3$, ... are said to be pairwise disjoint, if

$$A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$$

for all pairs of i, j. In addition, if $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = S$, then $A_1$, $A_2$, $A_3$, ... defines a partition of the sample space.