

previously...

1 coin experiment

Probability

Ω = sample space

outcomes $\Omega = \{ \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \dots \}$

events $A := \{ \omega_1, \omega_2 \}$

$B := \{ \omega_3, \omega_4 \}$

e.g. coin flip $\Omega = \{ H, T \}$ 2 possible outcomes: heads, tails

$|\Omega| = 2$ cardinality of Ω = number of possible outcomes

In a coin flip only Heads or Tails could happen and nothing else. Heads and Tails are mutually exclusive - (the careful outcomes are NOT sets)

$\{ H \} \cap \{ T \} = \emptyset$

Sets in which all elements are outcomes are called 'events'. An event is defined by:

$A \subseteq \Omega \rightarrow A \in 2^\Omega$

set of outcomes = event

event space i.e. all possible events

here, $2^\Omega = \{ \emptyset, \{ H \}, \{ T \}, \{ H, T \} \}$

so must not select for these 4 things

$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|}$ if Ω is finite

working def for probability of A

$P(H) = \frac{|H|}{|\Omega|}$ this does NOT compute

$P(H) = \frac{1}{2}$ if Ω is infinite

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2 coin experiment

What does 2^2 mean? - the number of ALL possible events and does NOT equal the number of possible outcomes

$2^2 = 4$

Now our sample space Ω has 4 possible outcomes:

$\Omega = \{ HH, HT, TH, TT \}$

we are flipping 2 coins into the air simultaneously

what is the probability that 2 coins will produce an event '2 Heads'?

$P(HH) = \frac{1}{4}$

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4 coin experiment

Lets take this further and add two more coins to our experiment. A single toss now consist of four coins.

e.g. $\omega = \langle HHTH \rangle$

now our 'sample space' will have 16 possible outcomes

$|\Omega| = 2^4 = 16$

what is the probability that 4 coins will produce $\langle TTTT \rangle$?

$P(TTTT) = \frac{1}{16}$

which is the same for each of the remaining 15 outcomes

what is the probability that 4 coins will produce event: '2H and 2T'?

$P(2HT) = \frac{6}{16} = \frac{3}{8}$

note that: $P(2HT) > P(TTTT)$

what about the probability of having at least one H? Lets call this event A

$P(A) = \frac{15}{16}$

also notice that there is only one possible outcome that does NOT contain H and which can be expressed as $A^c = \{ \langle TTTT \rangle \}$

Remember the 'Complement Rule'?

$P(A) = 1 - P(A^c) = 1 - \frac{1}{16} = \frac{15}{16}$

what is the size of our 'event space' 2^4 ?

$2^4 = 16$

what is the probability of an event represented by the Intersection of A and B?

$P(A \cap B) = \frac{|A \cap B|}{|\Omega|}$

other ways of expressing this

$P(A \cap B) = \frac{|A \cap B|}{|\Omega|}$

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