

# Probability and Language

# Quick Recap

# Quick Recap

## CLASSIC SOUPS

|           |     |   | Sm.  | Lg.  |
|-----------|-----|---|------|------|
| 清 燉 雞 湯   | 57. | House Chicken Soup (Chicken, Celery, Potato, Onion, Carrot) ..... | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| 雞 飯 湯     | 58. | Chicken Rice Soup .....   | 1.85 | 3.25 |
| 雞 麵 湯     | 59. | Chicken Noodle Soup .....   | 1.85 | 3.25 |
| 廣 東 雲 吞   | 60. | Cantonese Wonton Soup.....  | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| 蕃 茄 湯     | 61. | Tomato Clear Egg Drop Soup .....                                  | 1.65 | 2.95 |
| 雲 吞 湯     | 62. | Regular Wonton Soup .....   | 1.10 | 2.10 |
| 酸 辣 湯     | 63. | Hot & Sour Soup .....   | 1.10 | 2.10 |
| 蛋 花 湯     | 64. | Egg Drop Soup.....  | 1.10 | 2.10 |
| 雲 蛋 湯     | 65. | Egg Drop Wonton Mix.....  | 1.10 | 2.10 |
| 豆 腐 菜 湯   | 66. | Tofu Vegetable Soup .....   | NA   | 3.50 |
| 雞 玉 米 湯   | 67. | Chicken Corn Cream Soup .....                                     | NA   | 3.50 |
| 蟹 肉 玉 米 湯 | 68. | Crab Meat Corn Cream Soup.....                                    | NA   | 3.50 |
| 海 鮮 湯     | 69. | Seafood Soup.....   | NA   | 3.50 |

# Quick Recap

Develop a statistical *model* of translation that can be *learned* from *data* and used to *predict* the correct English translation of new Chinese sentences.

# Quick Recap

- *Minimally*, our model must account for:
  - Lexical ambiguity.
  - One-to-many translation.
  - Many-to-many translation.
  - Untranslated words.
  - Word reordering.

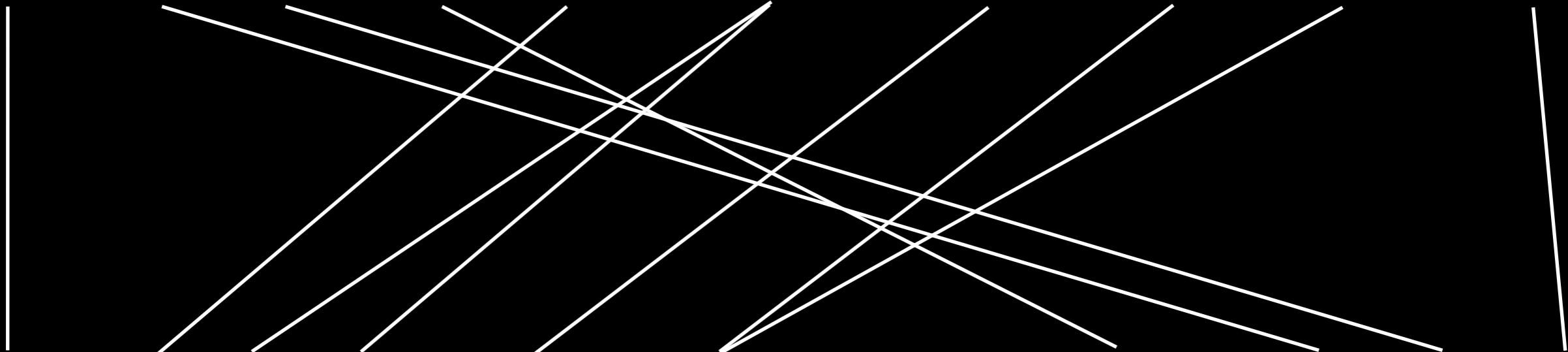
# Quick Recap

- Oh, and it would probably be good to include:
  - Fluent output.
  - Adequate transfer of source language meaning.

# Quick Recap

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

虽然 北风 呼啸，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈。

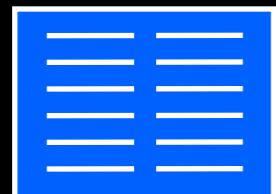


However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

# Quick Recap

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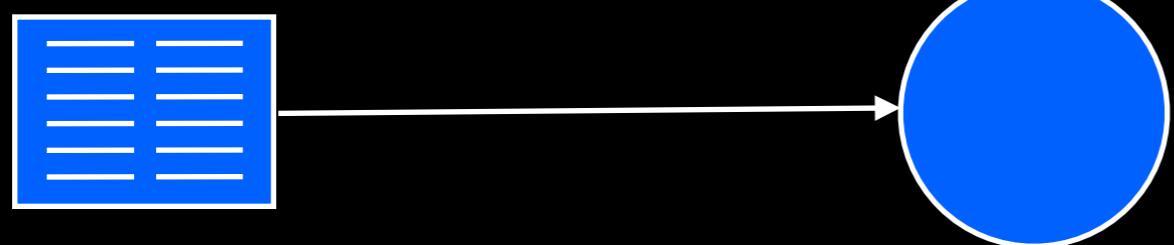
training data  
(parallel text)



# Quick Recap

training data  
(parallel text)

learner

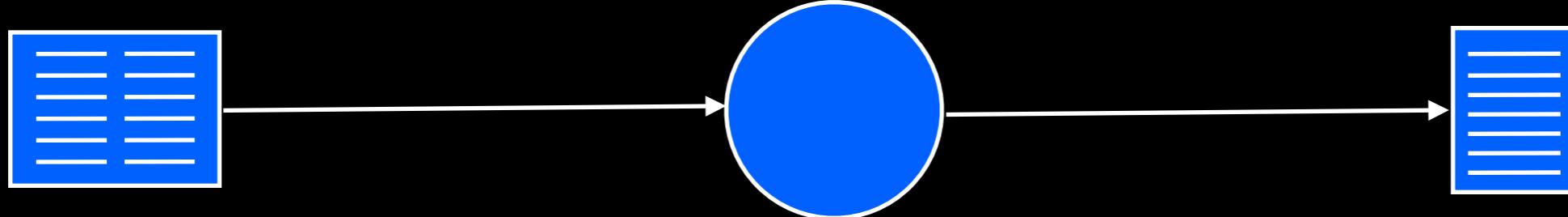


# Quick Recap

training data  
(parallel text)

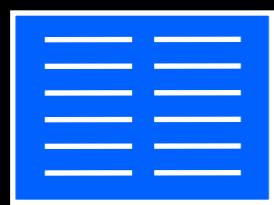
learner

model



# Quick Recap

training data  
(parallel text)

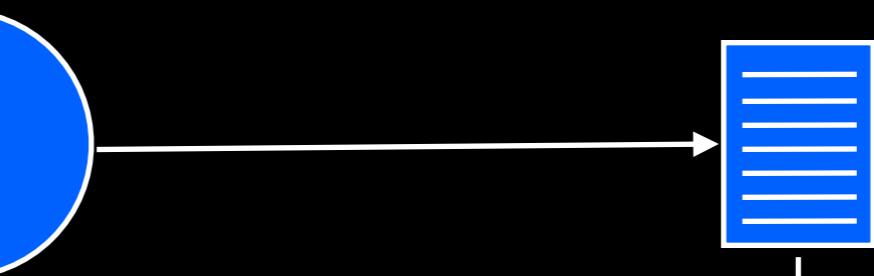


learner

model

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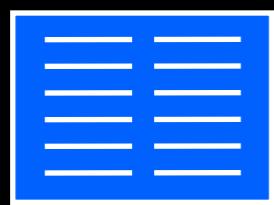
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decoder

# Quick Recap

training data  
(parallel text)



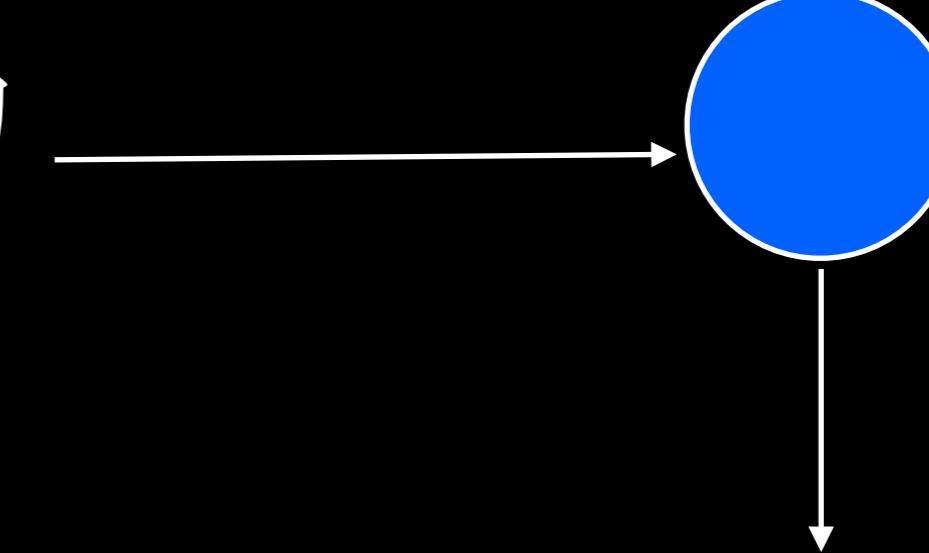
learner

model

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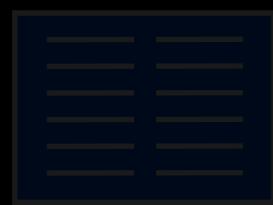
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However , the sky remained clear  
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# Quick Recap

training data  
(parallel text)



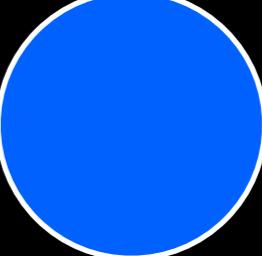
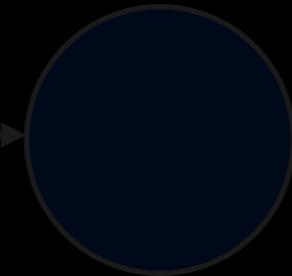
learner

model

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However , the sky remained clear  
under the strong north wind .



# What's a model?

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For our purposes, a model will be  
**a probability distribution over sentence pairs.**

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**NOTE ASSUMPTION**

# Why Probability?

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# Why Probability?

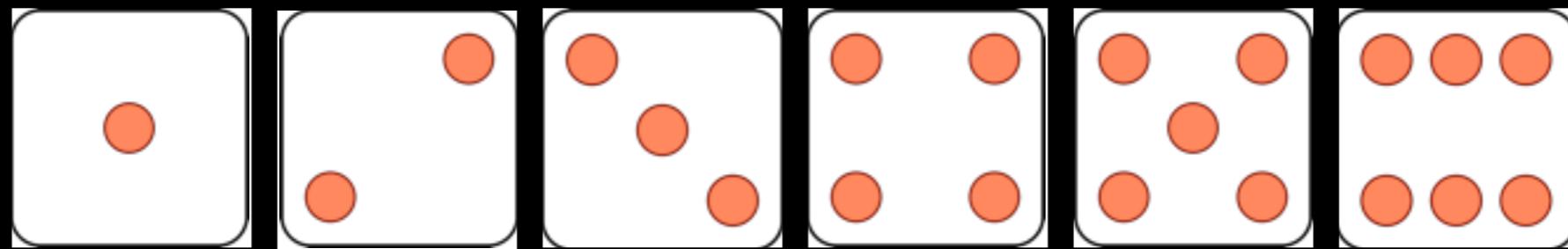
- Access to techniques developed and proven over hundreds of years that work on many problems.
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  - Given some partially observed data (e.g. an input sentence), what is the most likely complete data (e.g. a sentence pair)?

# Why Probability?

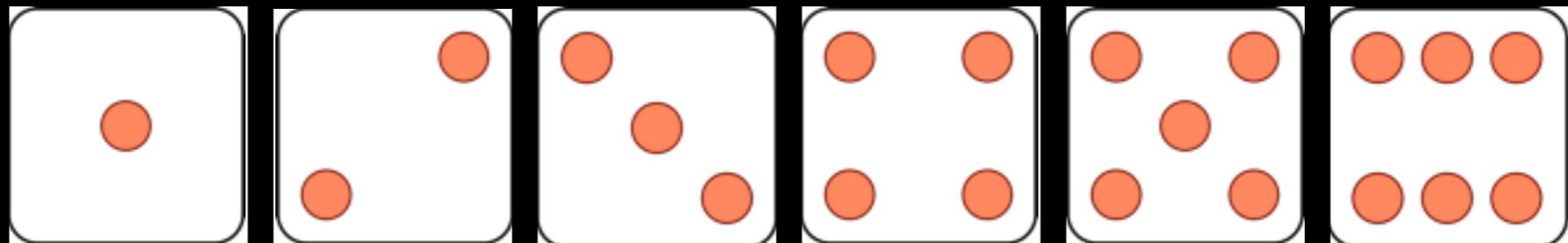
- Access to techniques developed and proven over hundreds of years that work on many problems.
- In particular, techniques for *learning* and *prediction*.
- Allows us to answer questions:
  - What is the best explanation of observed data?
  - Given some partially observed data (e.g. an input sentence), what is the most likely complete data (e.g. a sentence pair)?
- Common sense in mathematical form!

# Probabilistic Primer

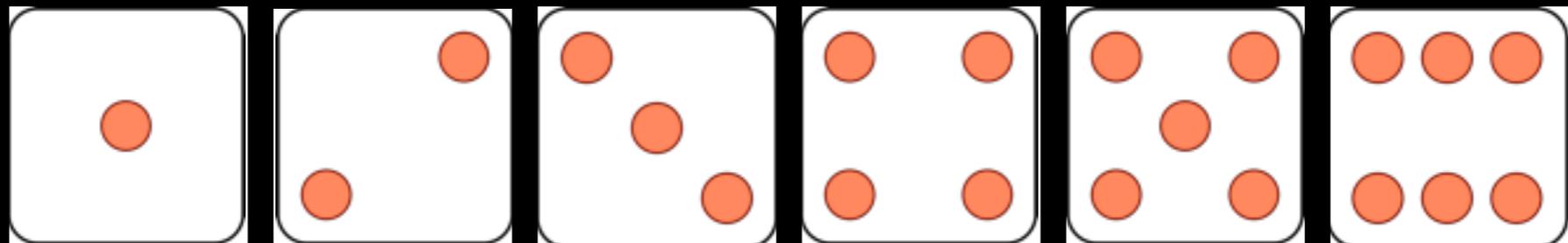
# Probabilistic Primer



# Probabilistic Primer

 $\frac{1}{6}$  $\frac{1}{6}$  $\frac{1}{6}$  $\frac{1}{6}$  $\frac{1}{6}$  $\frac{1}{6}$

# Probabilistic Primer



$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

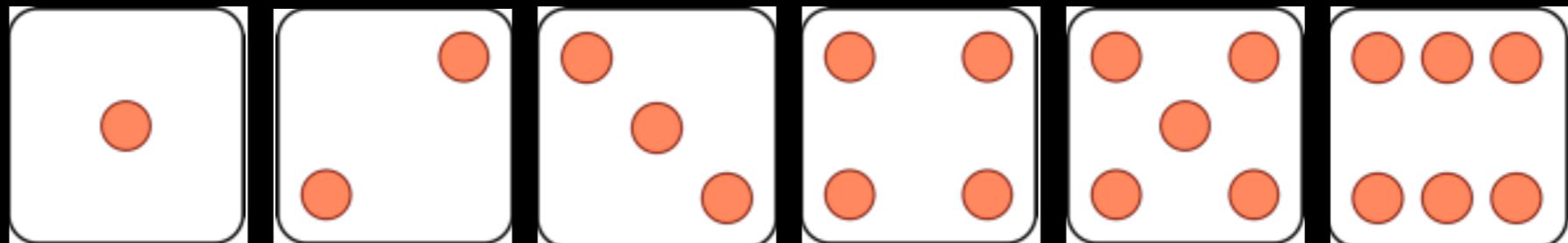
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

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The probabilities of all possible events must sum to 1.

# Probabilistic Primer



$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

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$$\frac{1}{6}$$

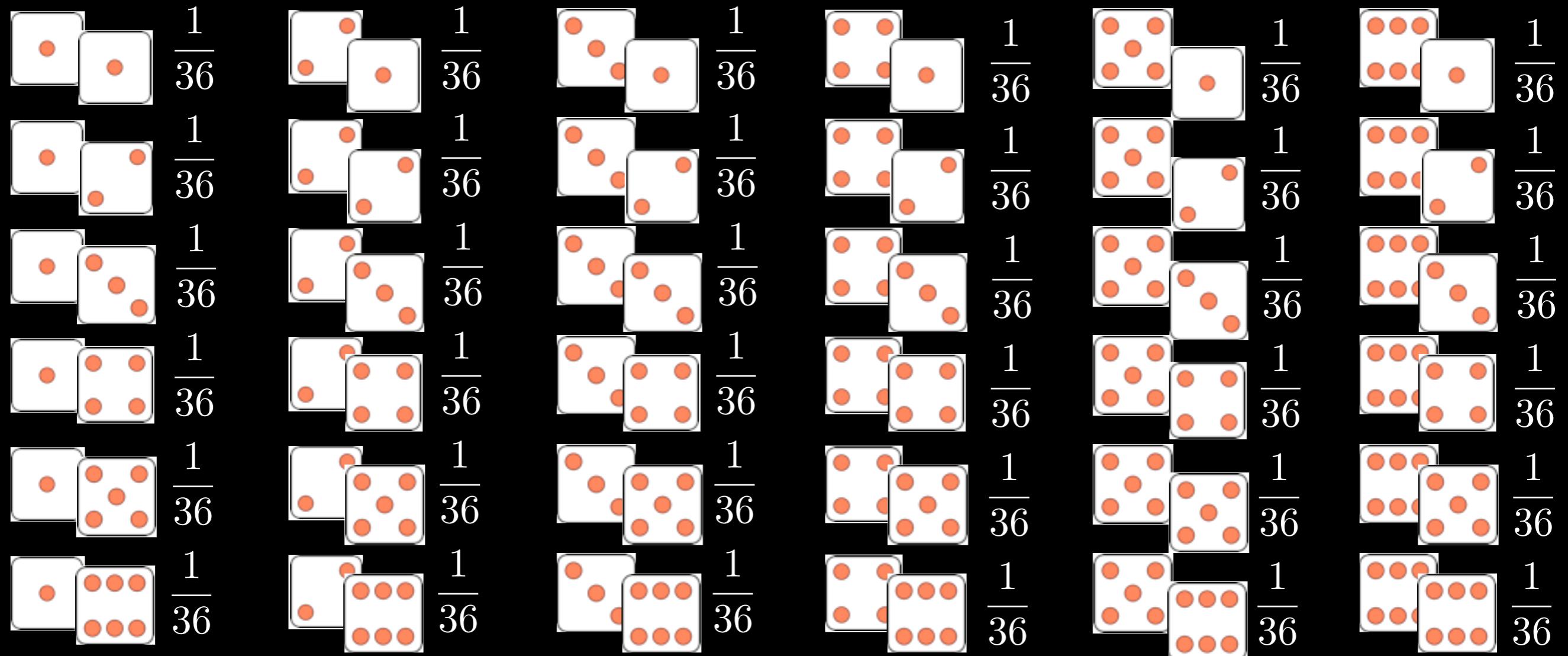
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

The probabilities of all possible events must sum to 1.

$$\sum_{e \in E} p(e) = 1$$

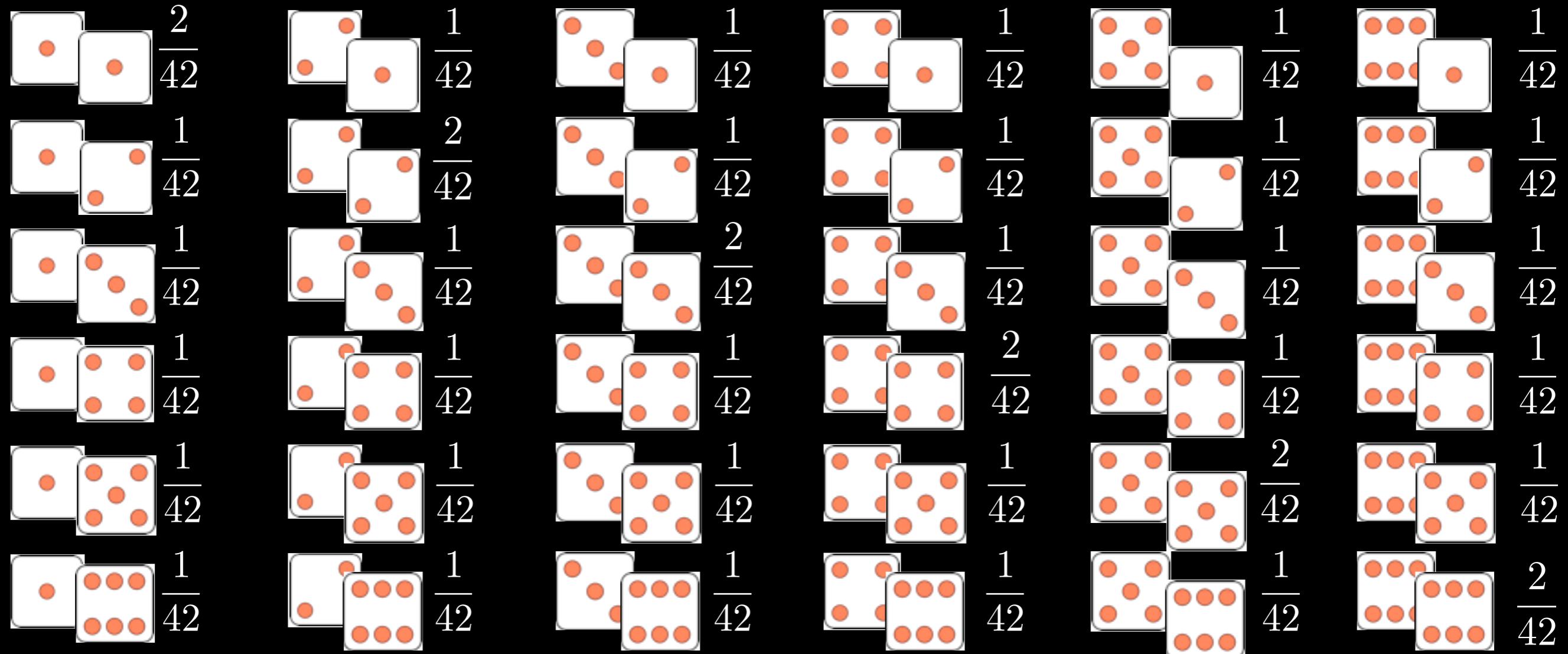
# Probabilistic Primer



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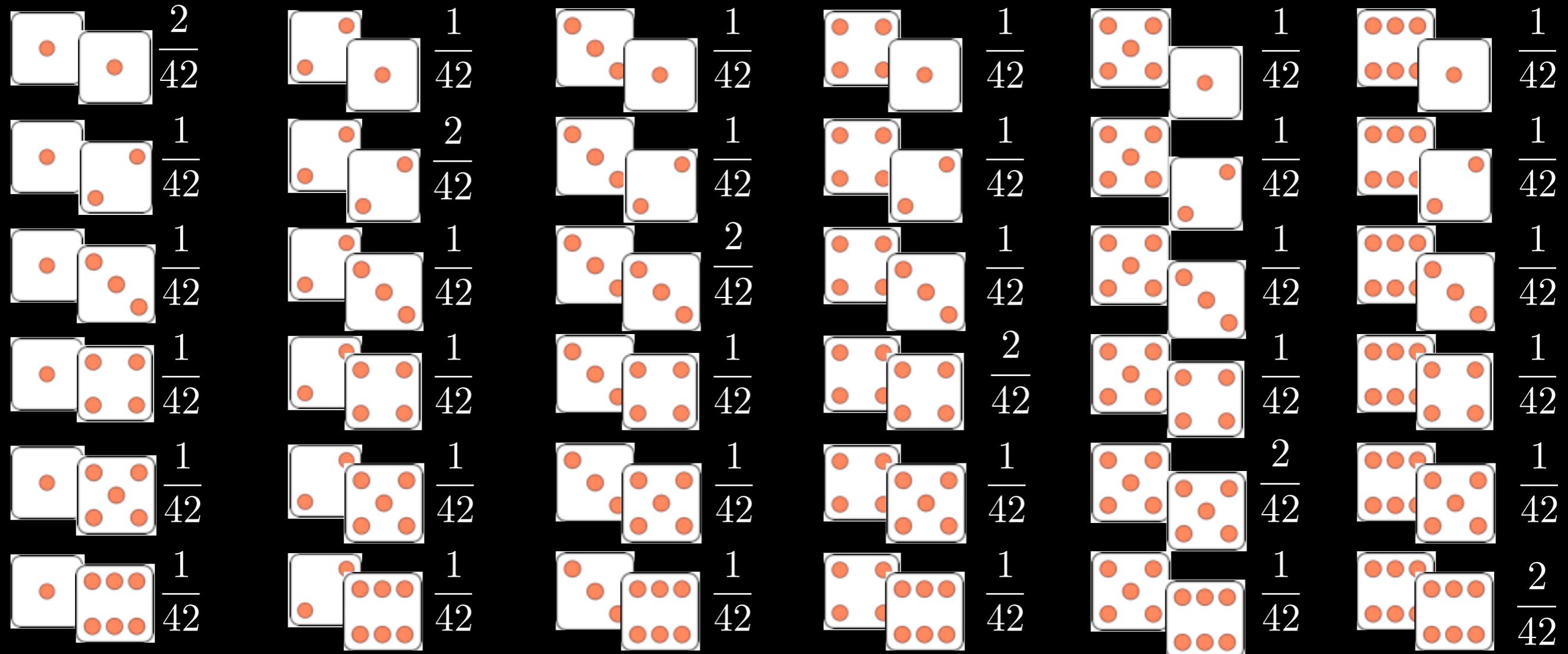
# Probabilistic Primer



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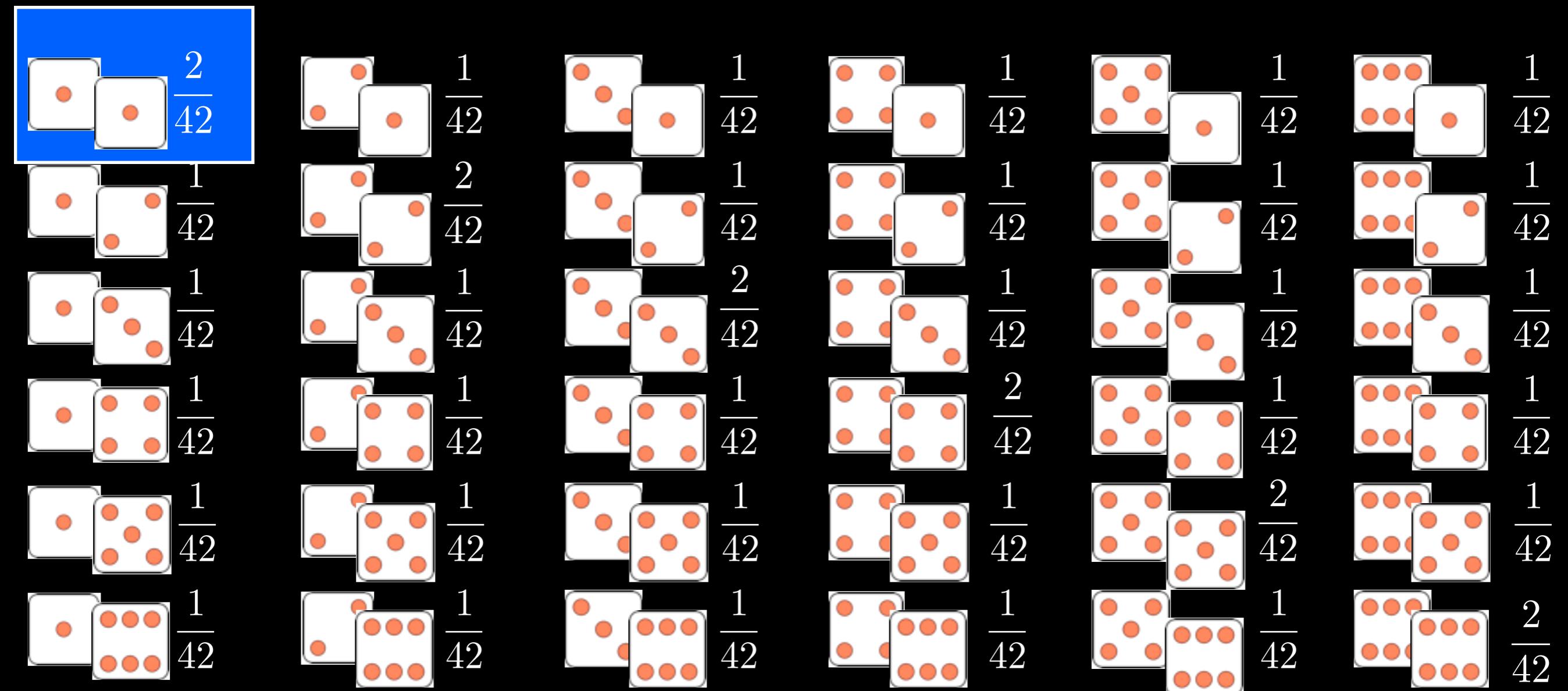
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# Probabilistic Primer



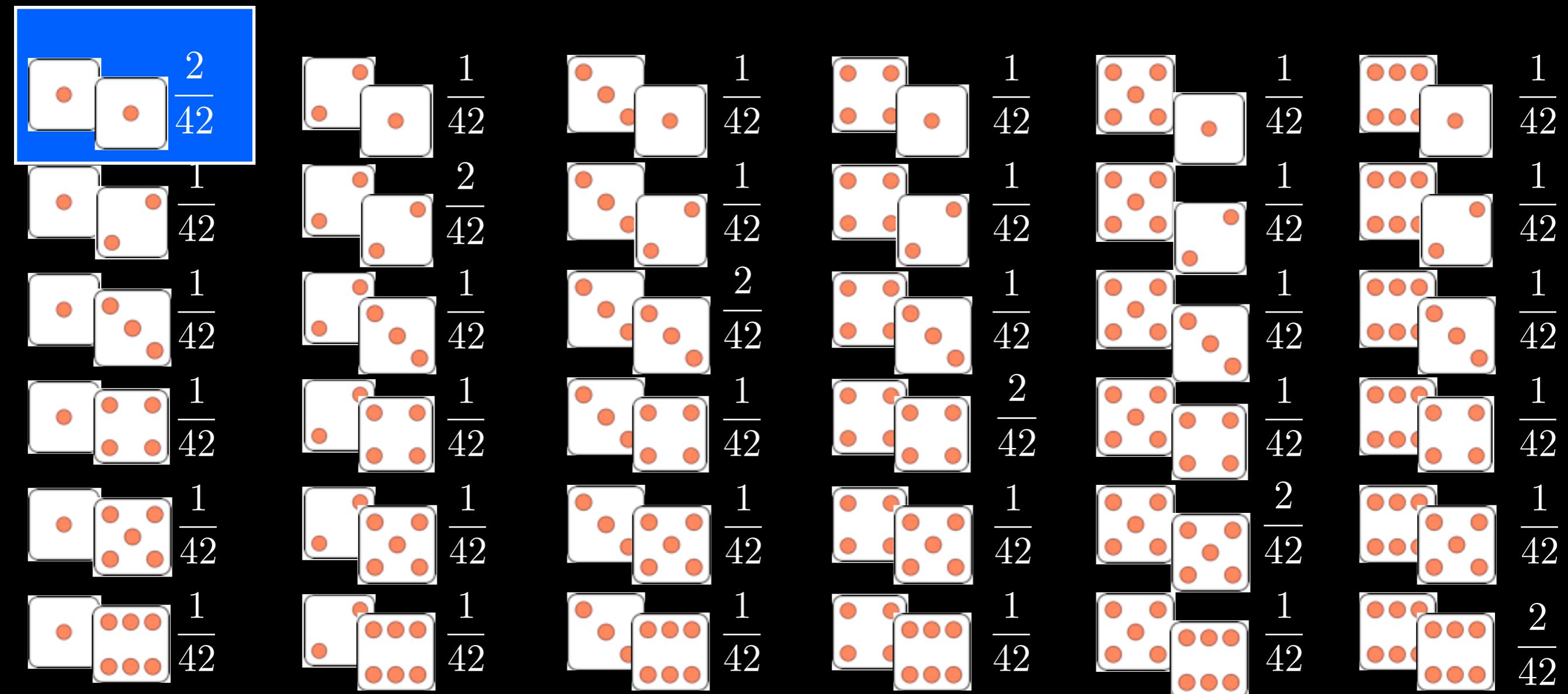
When an event consists of observations about more than one variable, it is a *joint probability*.

# Probabilistic Primer



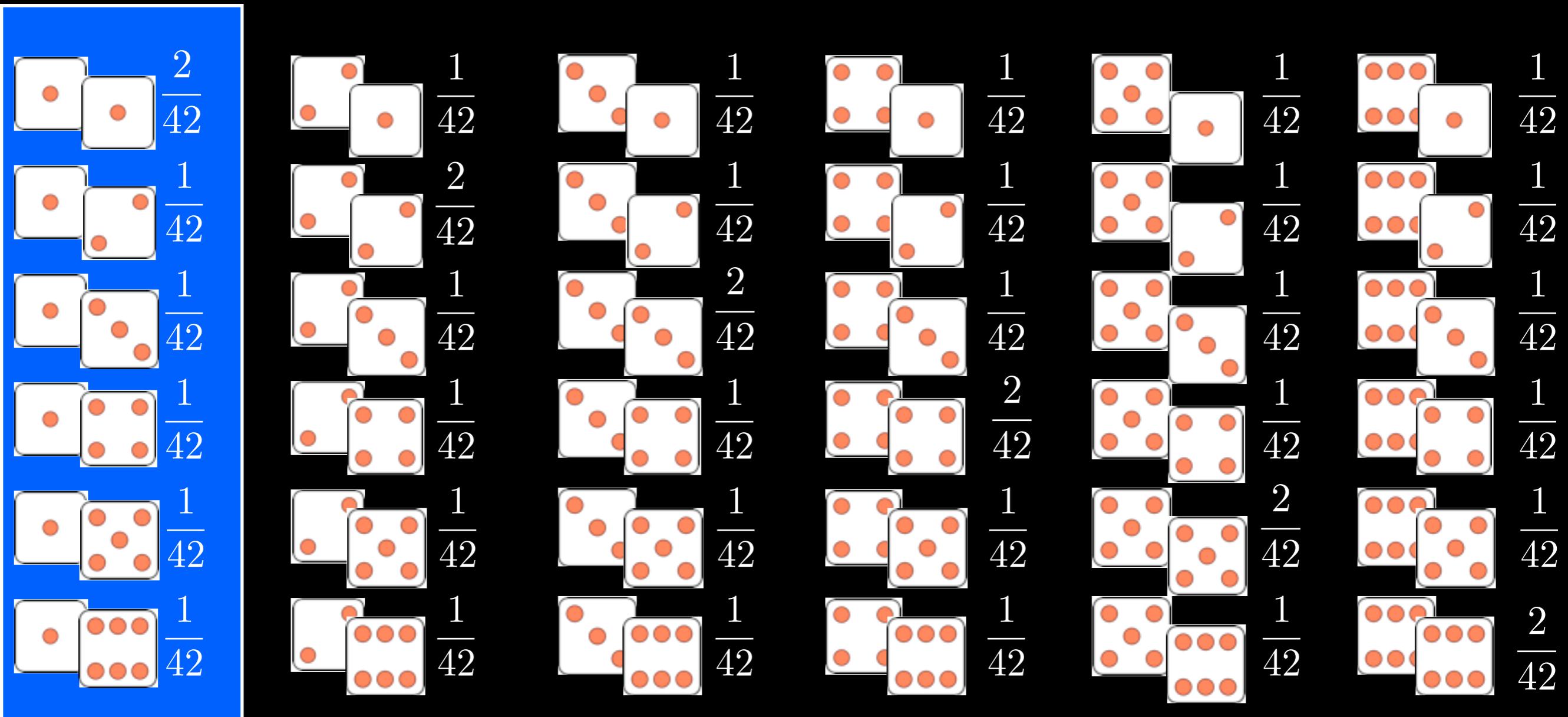
$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = \frac{2}{42}$$

# Probabilistic Primer



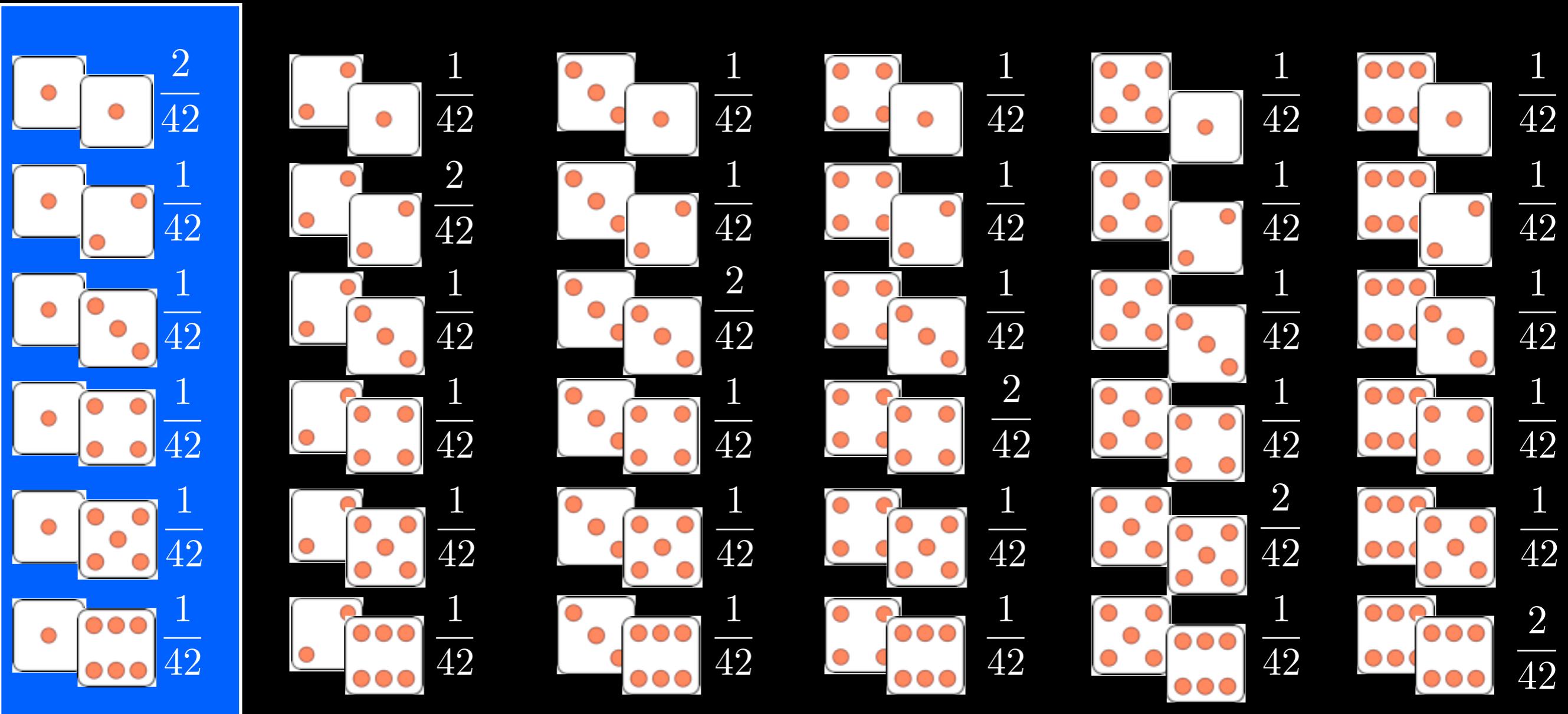
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# Probabilistic Primer



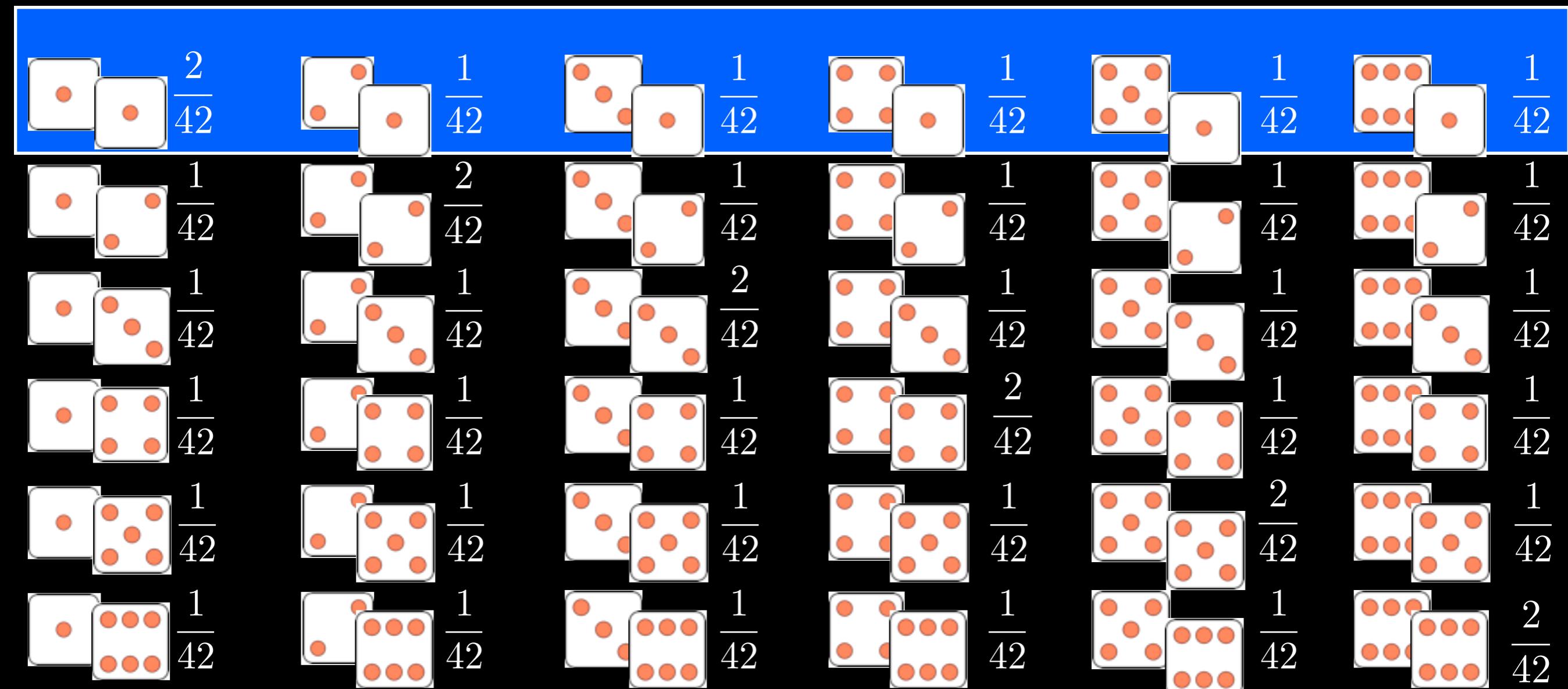
A probability distribution over a subset of variables is a *marginal probability*.

# Probabilistic Primer



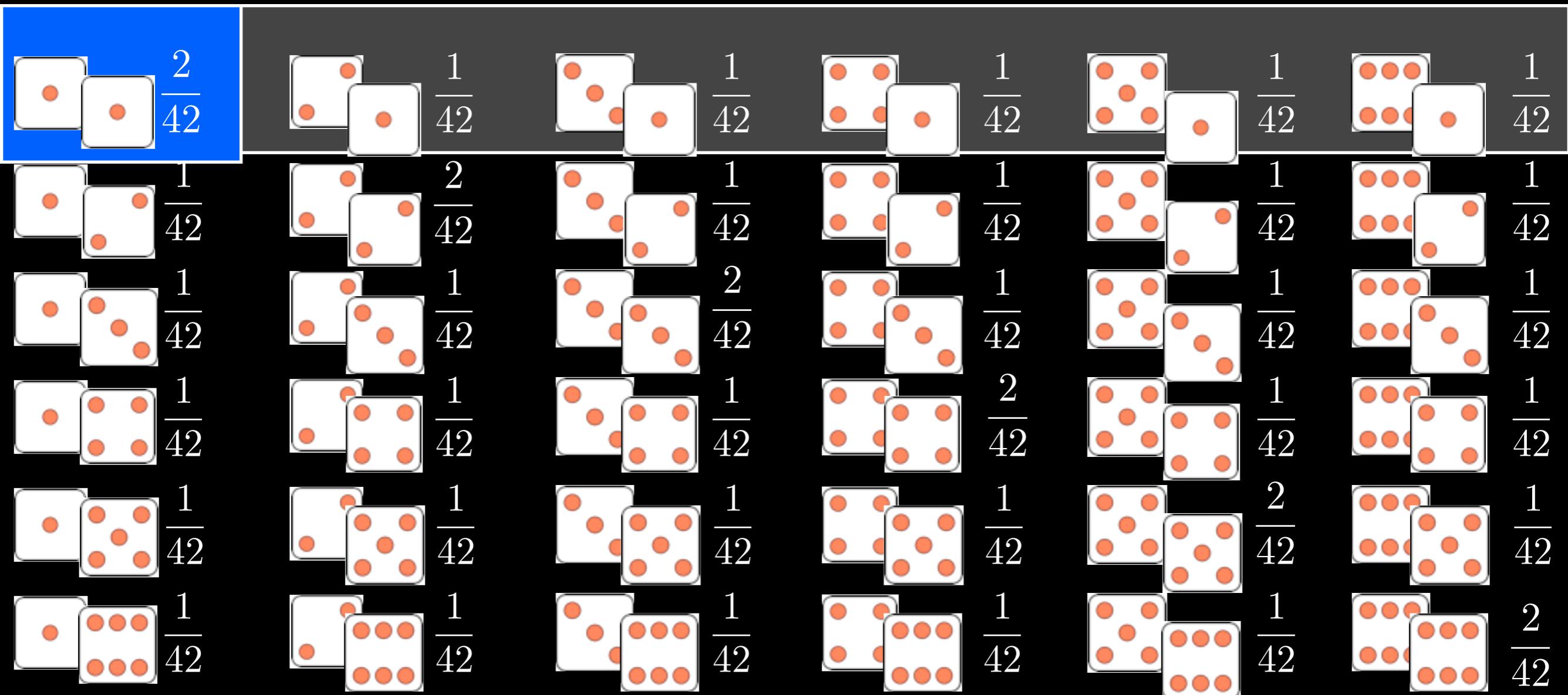
$$p(B = 1) = p(\cdot, 1) = \sum_{a \in A} p(A = a, B = 1) = \frac{1}{6}$$

# Probabilistic Primer



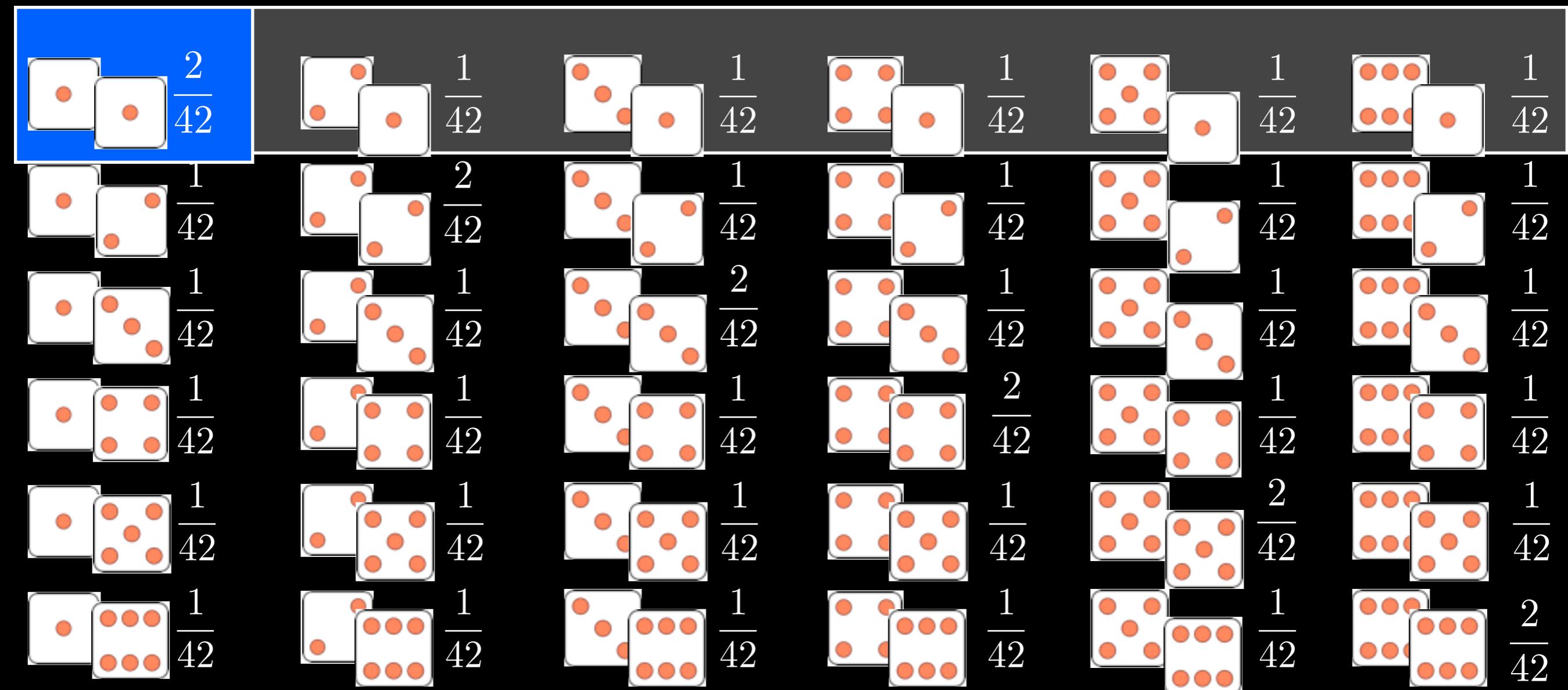
$$p(A = 1) = p(1, \cdot) = \sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b) = \frac{1}{6}$$

# Probabilistic Primer



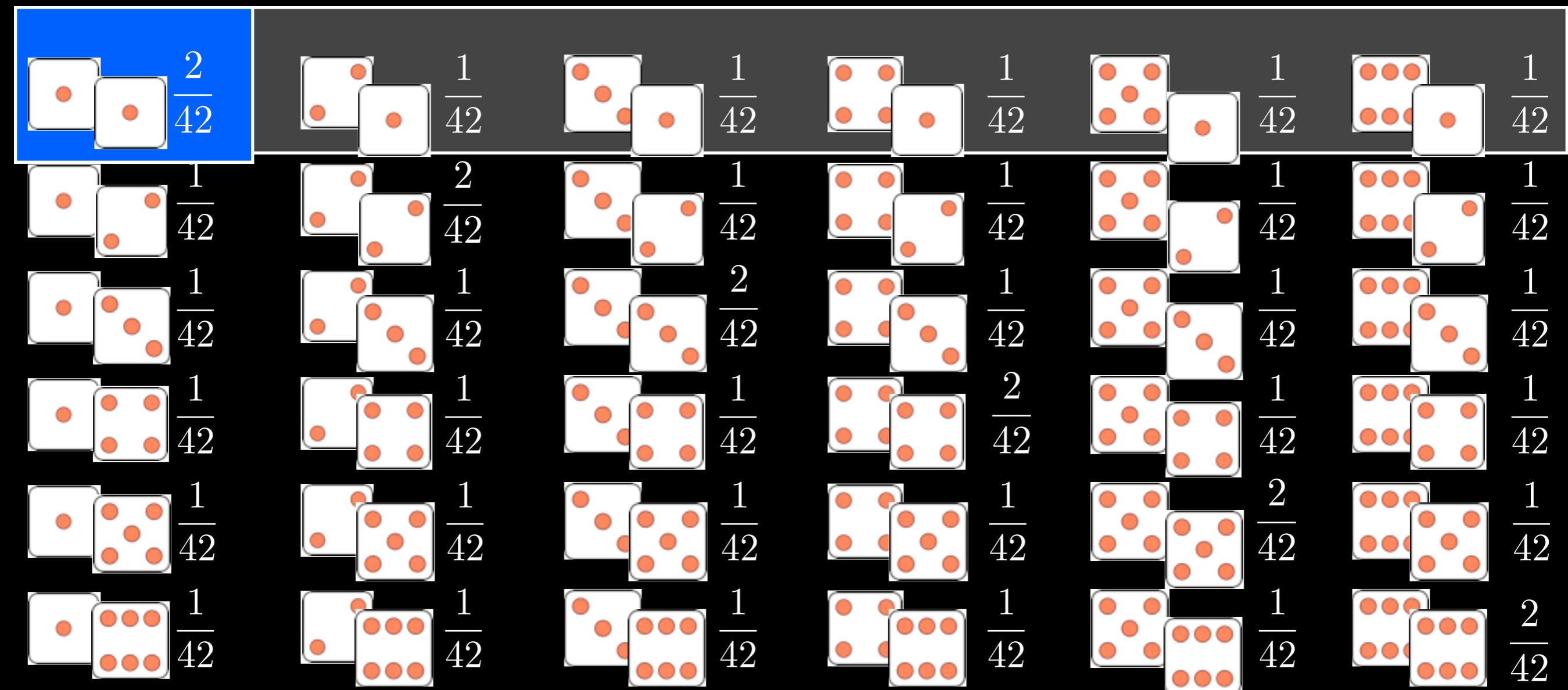
The probability of a variable under the condition that the other variables are fixed is the *conditional probability*.

# Probabilistic Primer



$$p(B = 1|A = 1) = \frac{p(A = 1, B = 1)}{\sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b)} = \frac{2}{7}$$

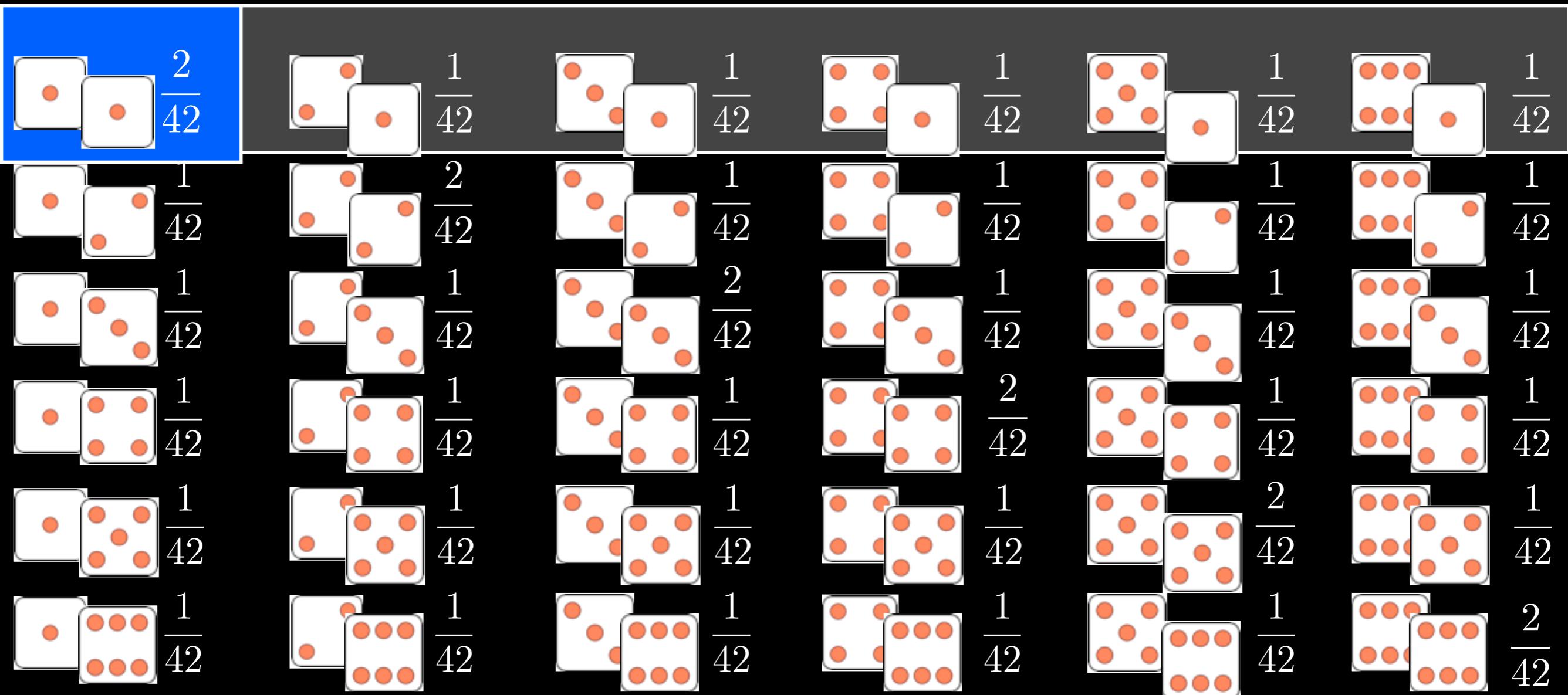
# Probabilistic Primer



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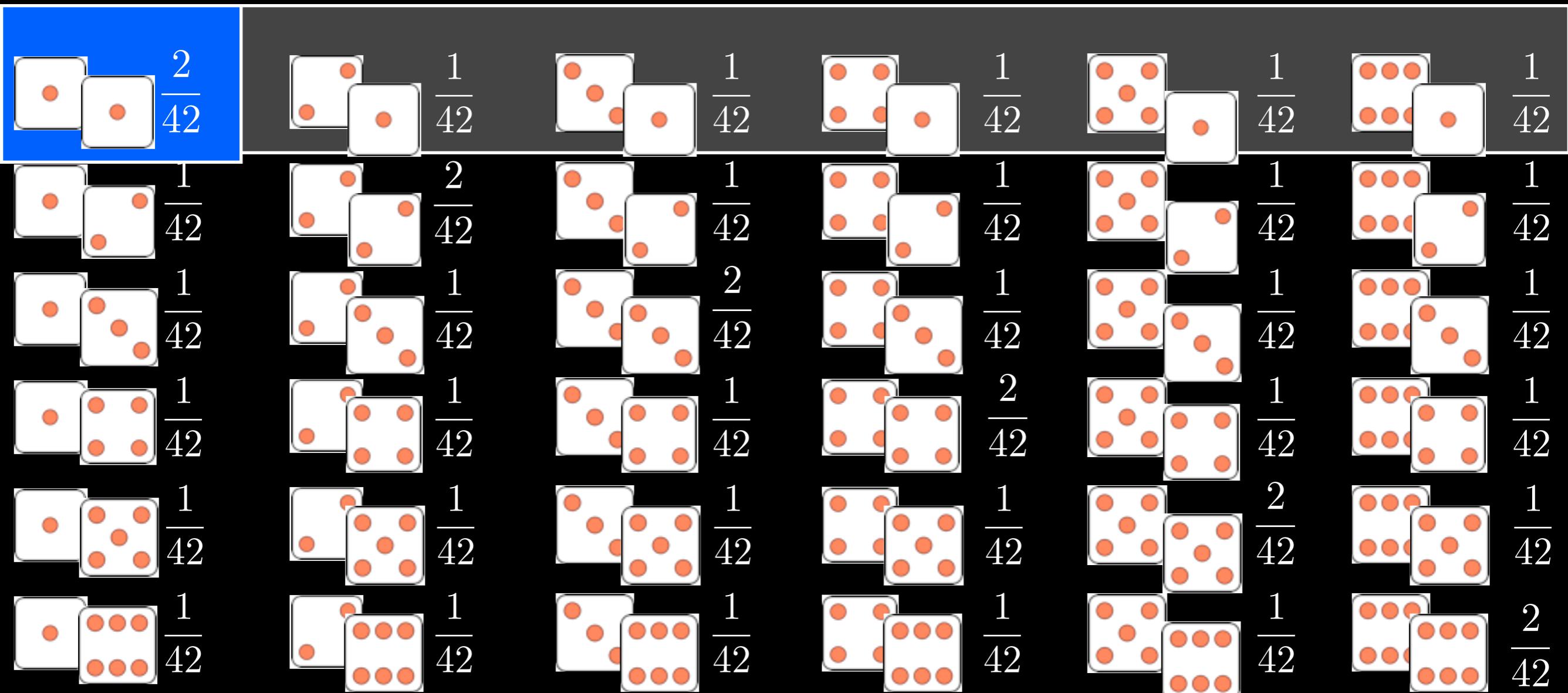
joint  
marginal

# Probabilistic Primer



A variable is *conditionally independent* of another iff its marginal probability = its conditional probability

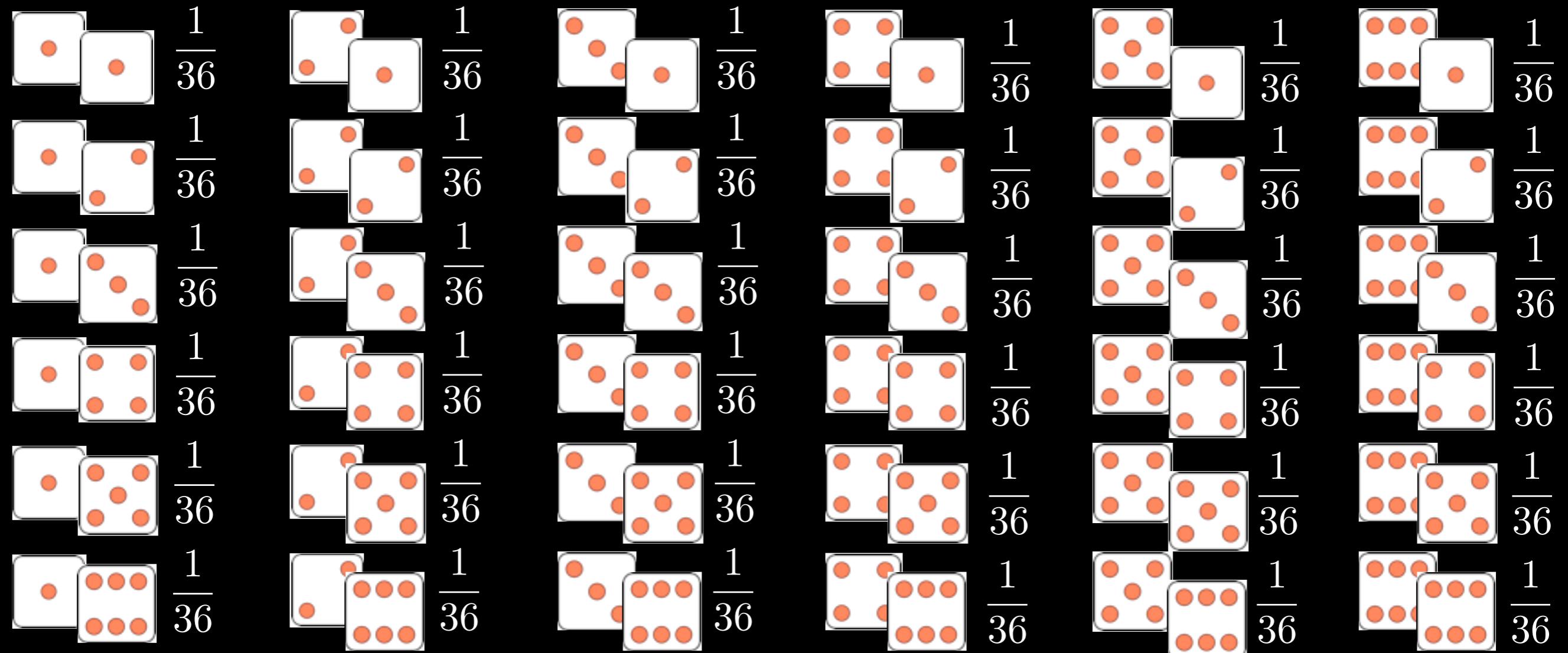
# Probabilistic Primer



Under this distribution, B is ***not*** conditionally independent of A!

$$p(B = 1 | A = 1) = \frac{2}{7} \neq \frac{1}{6} = p(B = 1)$$

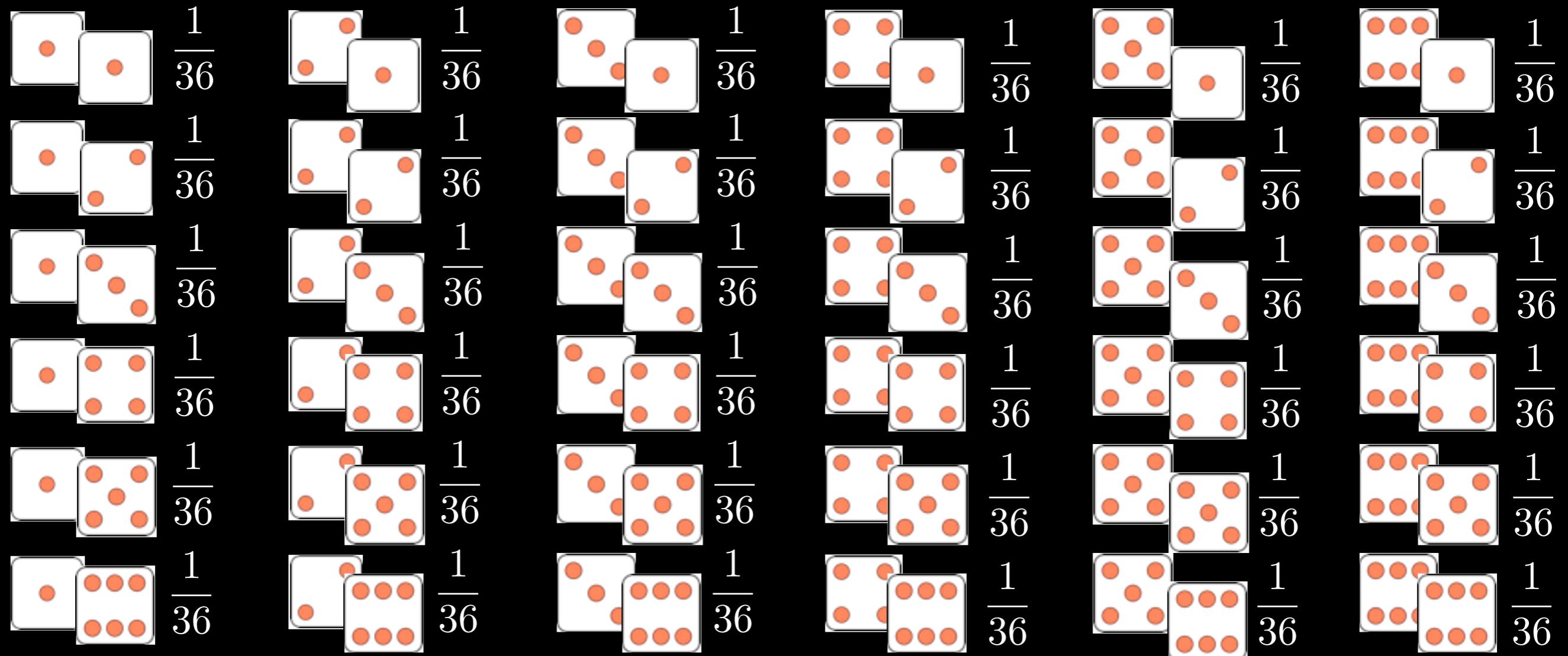
# Probabilistic Primer



Knowing value of A does not change distribution over B.

$$p(B = 1|A = 1) = \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{6} = p(B = 1)$$

# Probabilistic Primer

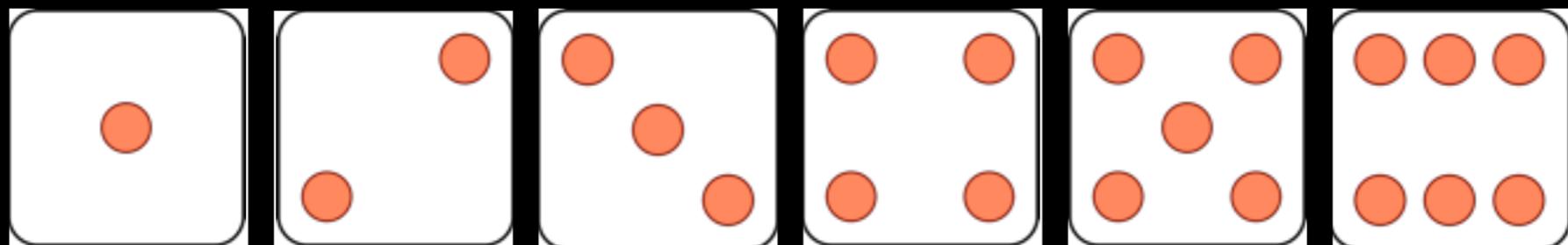


Under this distribution, B is independent of A.

$$p(B = 1 | A = 1) = \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{6} = p(B = 1)$$

# Probabilistic Primer

$p(A)$



$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

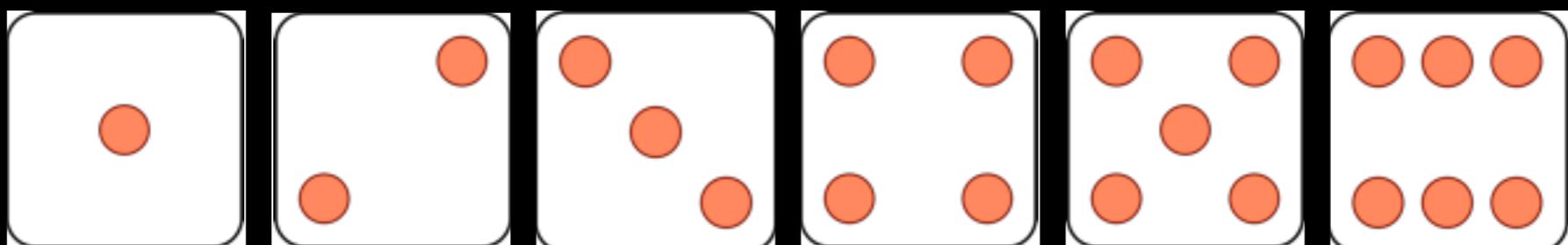
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$p(B)$



$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

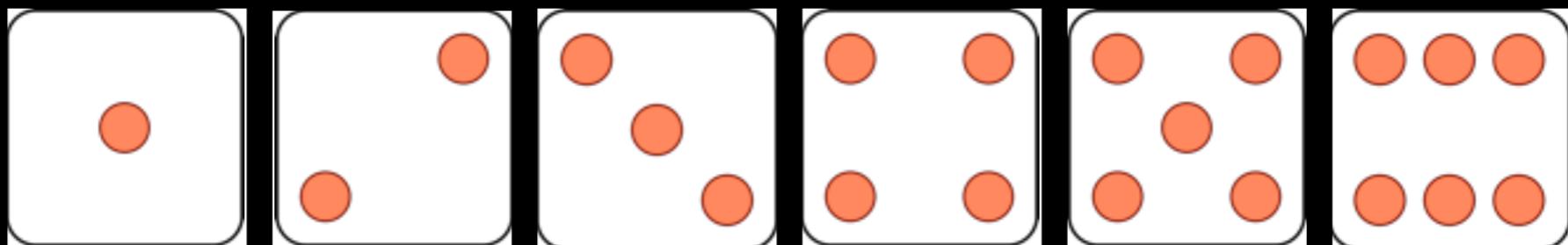
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

Conditional independence means that the distributions that characterize your model are simpler.

# Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A)$$



$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

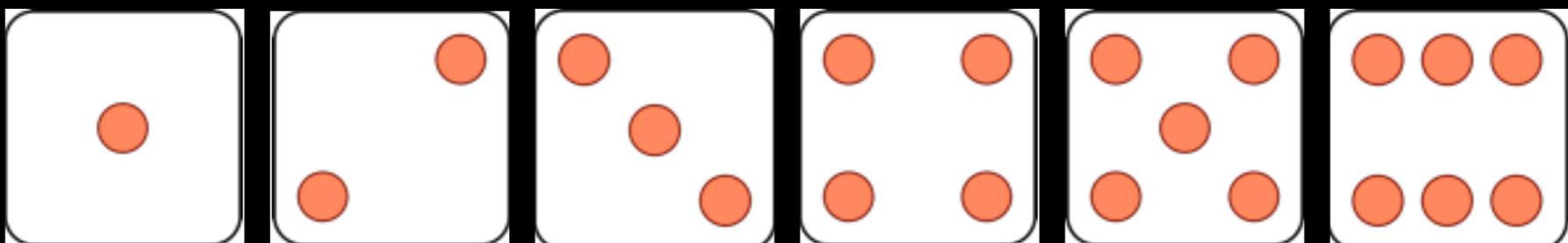
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$p(B)$$



$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

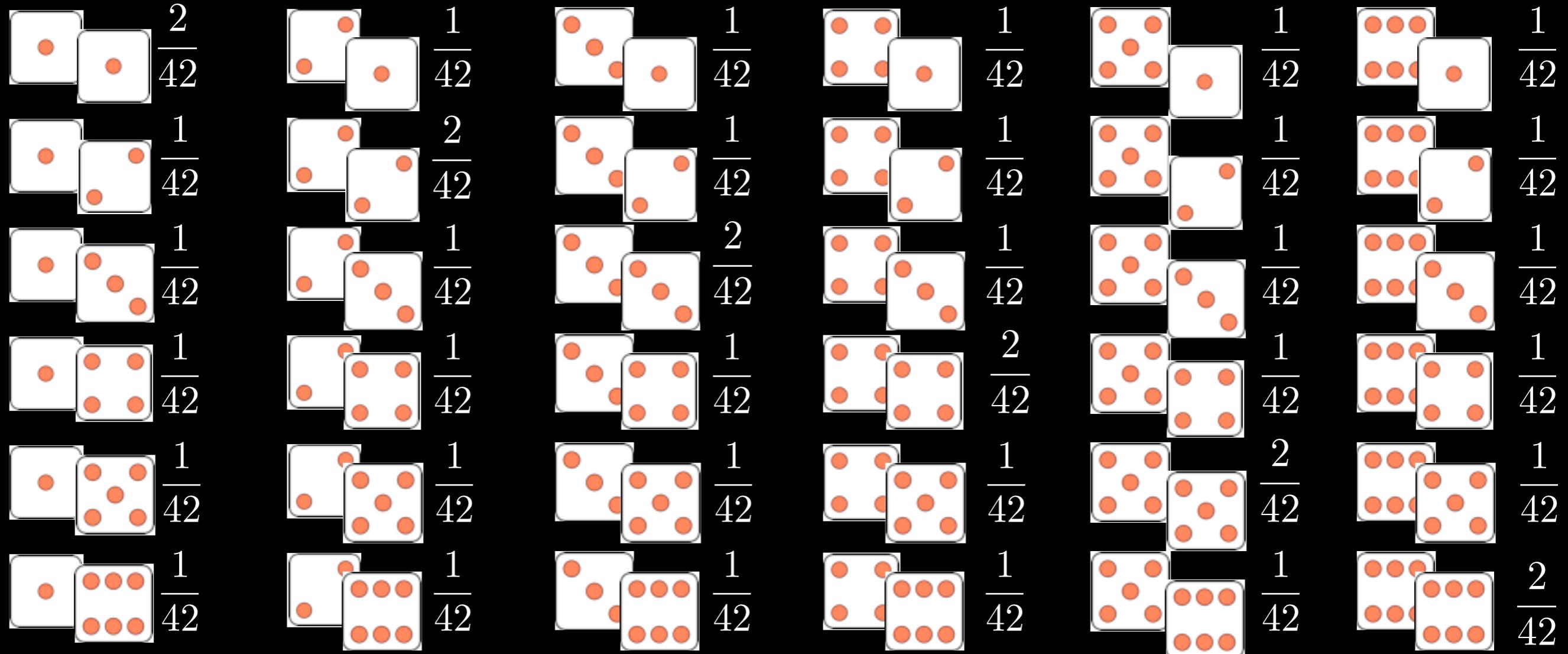
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

It is easy to obtain the joint probability.

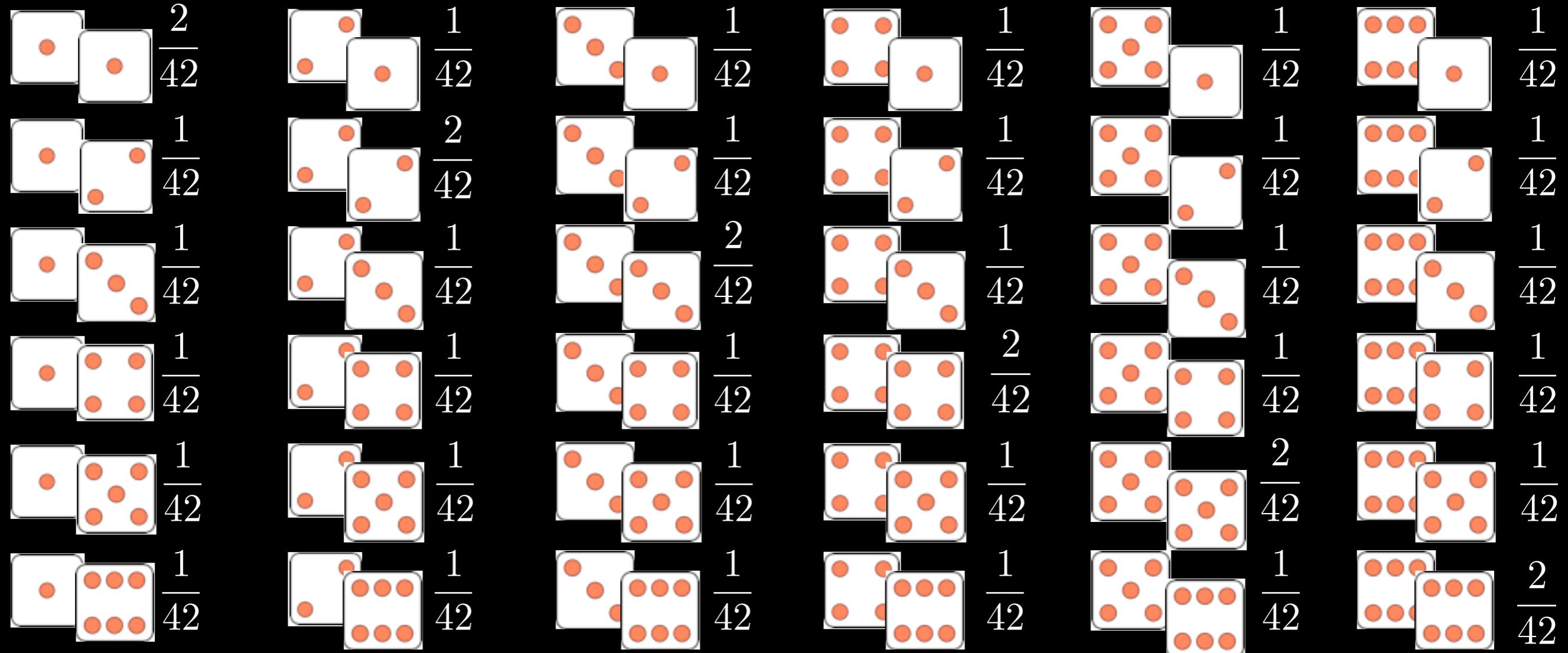
$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = p(A = 1) \cdot p(B = 1) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36}$$

# Probabilistic Primer



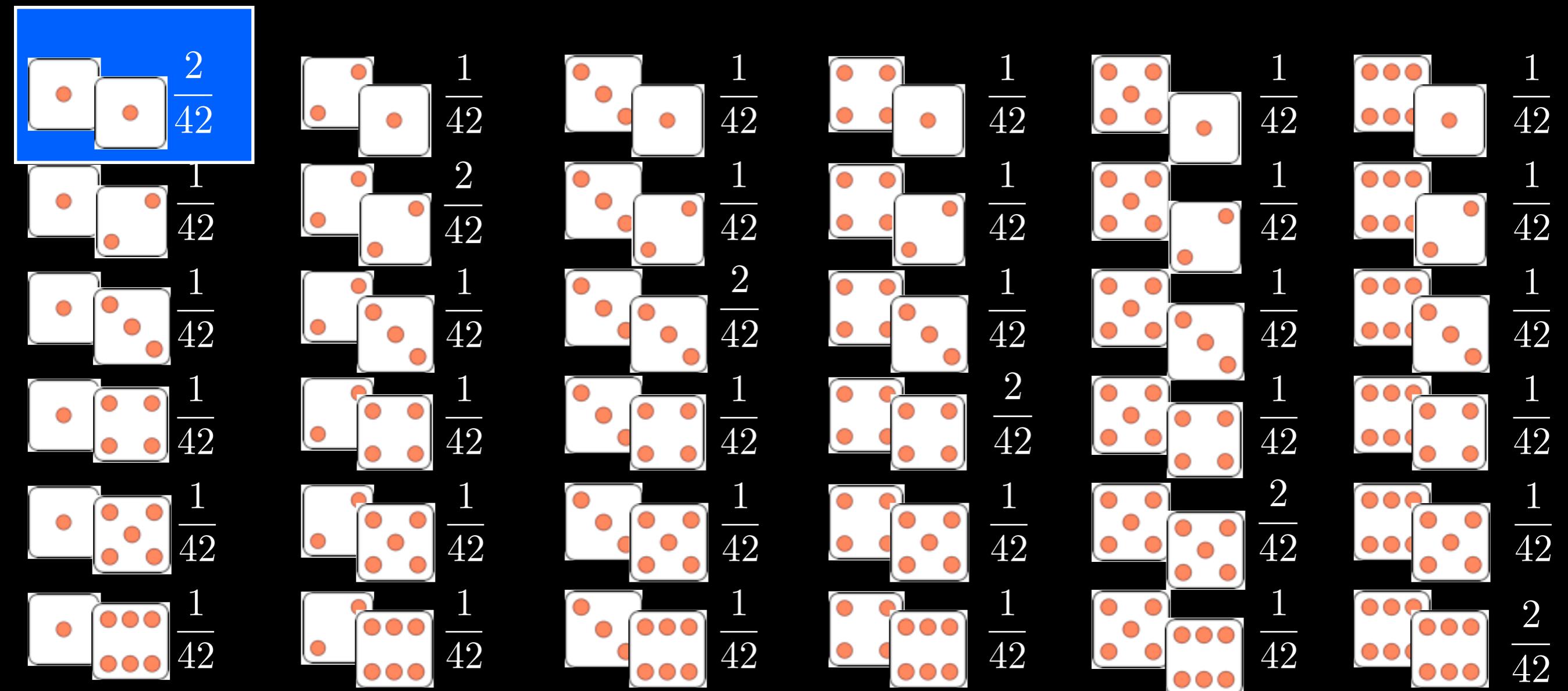
Caveat: if your data are not conditionally independent,  
the model will be a poor fit!

# Probabilistic Primer



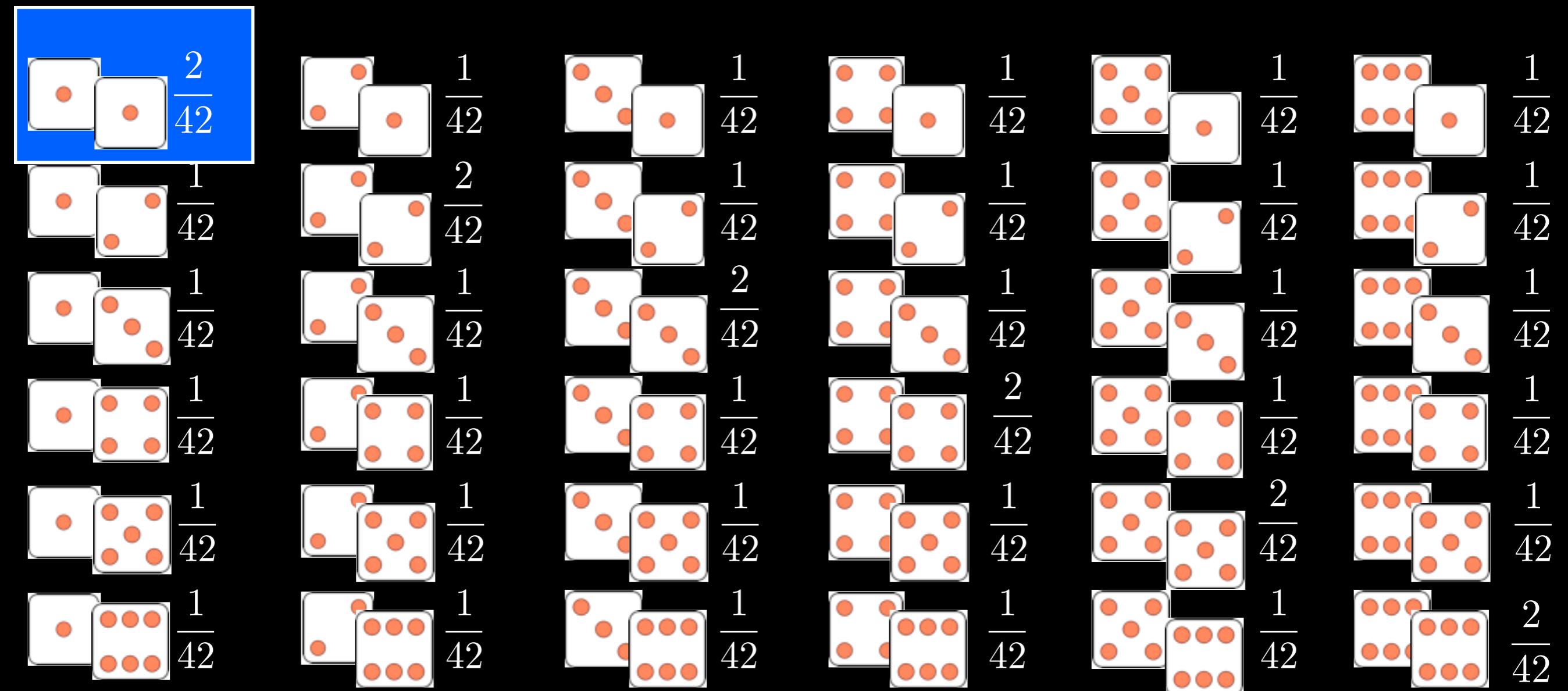
We can still represent the joint distribution as a product of other distributions.

# Probabilistic Primer



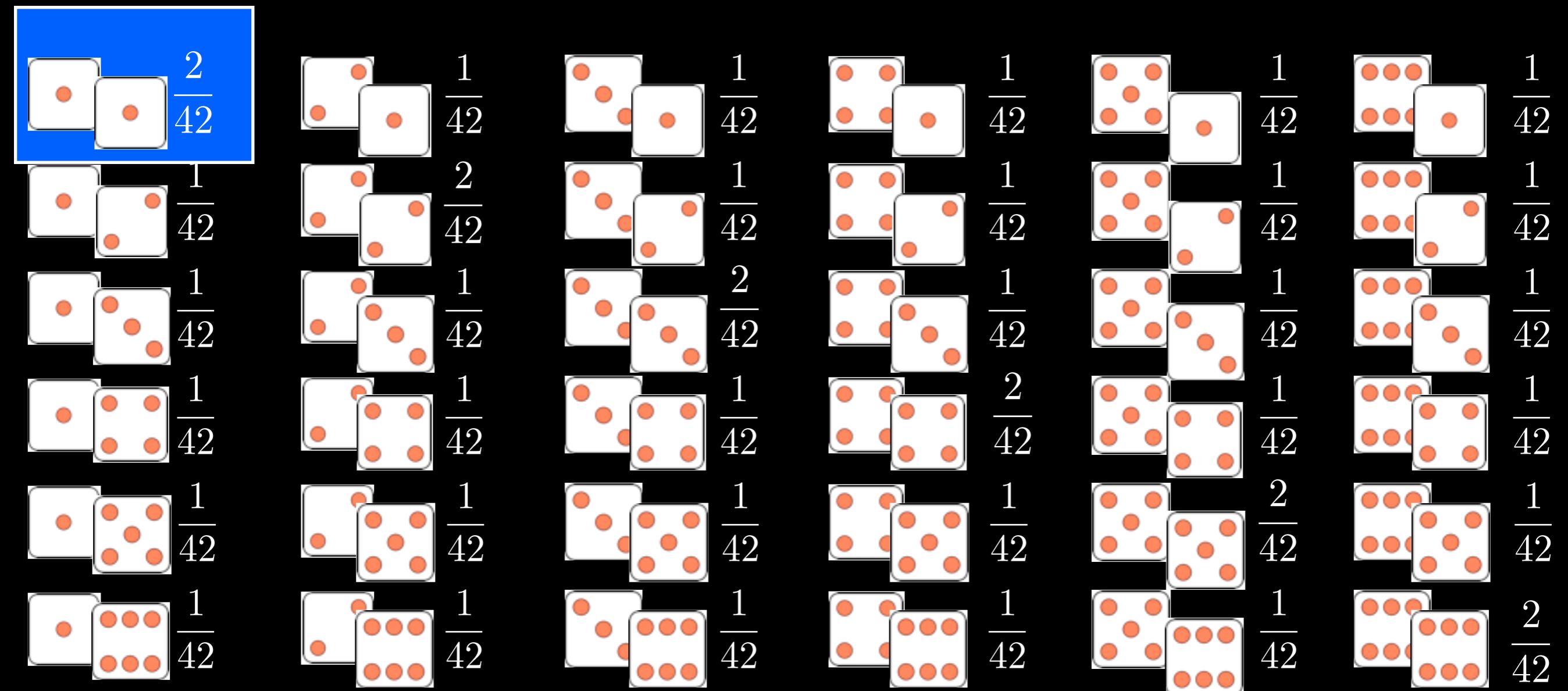
$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = p(A = 1, B = 1)$$

# Probabilistic Primer



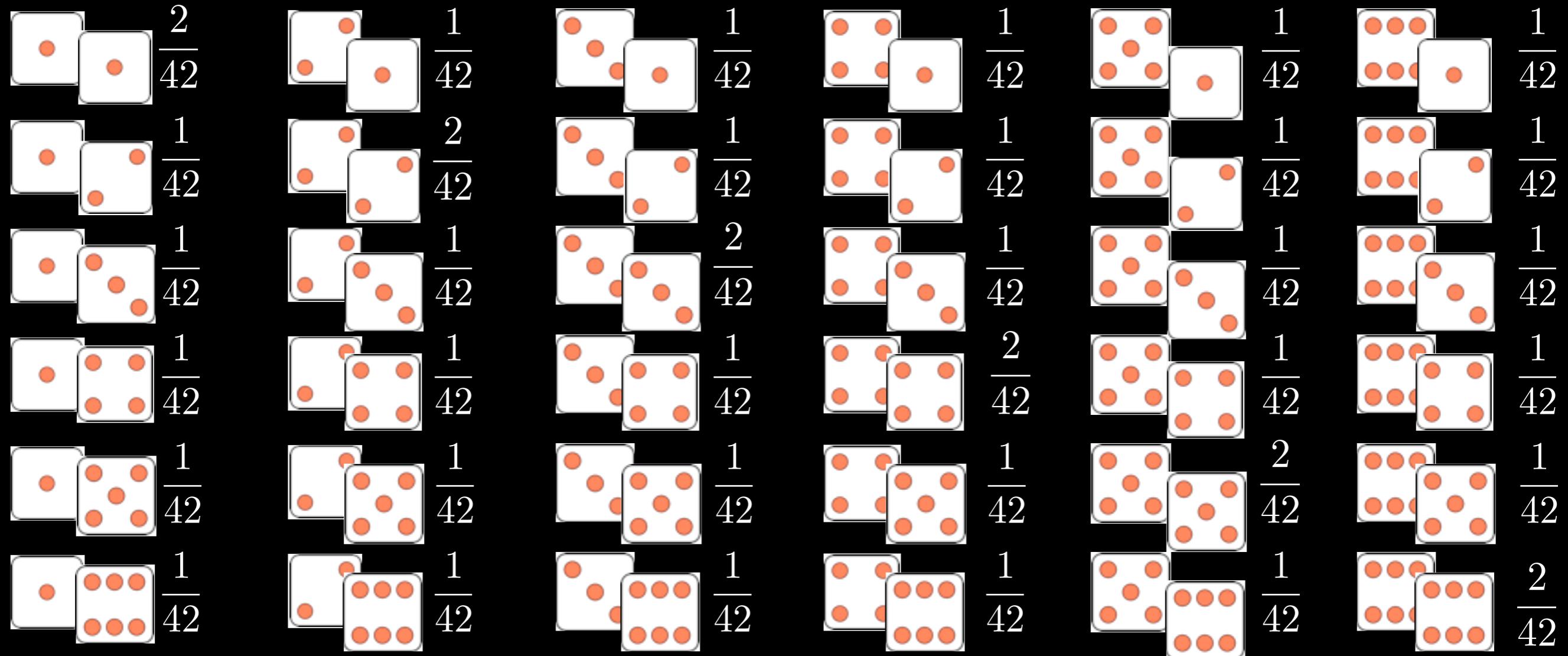
$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = \sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b) \frac{p(A = 1, B = 1)}{\sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b)}$$

# Probabilistic Primer



$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = p(A = 1) \cdot p(B = 1|A = 1)$$

# Probabilistic Primer



$$p(A, B) = p(A) \cdot p(B|A)$$

# Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A, B) = p(A) \cdot p(B|A)$$

# Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A, B) = p(A) \cdot p(B|A) = p(B) \cdot p(A|B)$$

# Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A) \cdot p(B|A) = p(B) \cdot p(A|B)$$

# Probabilistic Primer

$$p(B|A) = \frac{p(B) \cdot p(A|B)}{p(A)}$$

# Probabilistic Primer

Bayes' Rule

$$p(B|A) = \frac{p(B) \cdot p(A|B)}{p(A)}$$

# Probabilistic Primer

posterior      prior      likelihood

Bayes' Rule

$$p(B|A) = \frac{p(B) \cdot p(A|B)}{p(A)}$$

*...But the probability that an event has happened is the same as the probability I have to guess right if I guess it has happened. Wherefore the following proposition is evident: If there be two subsequent events, the probability of the 2d  $b/N$  and the probability both together  $P/N$ , and it being 1st discovered that the 2d event has also happened, the probability I am right is  $P/b$ .*



Thomas Bayes

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(image by  
Chris Dyer)

Thomas Bayes

# Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

# Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$



configuration

# Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$



configuration

$$p(image|English)$$

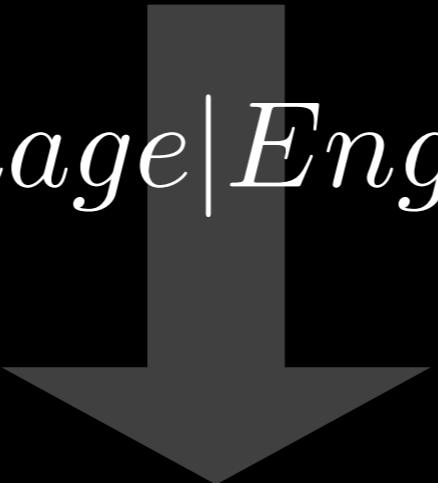
# Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$



configuration

$$p(image|English)$$



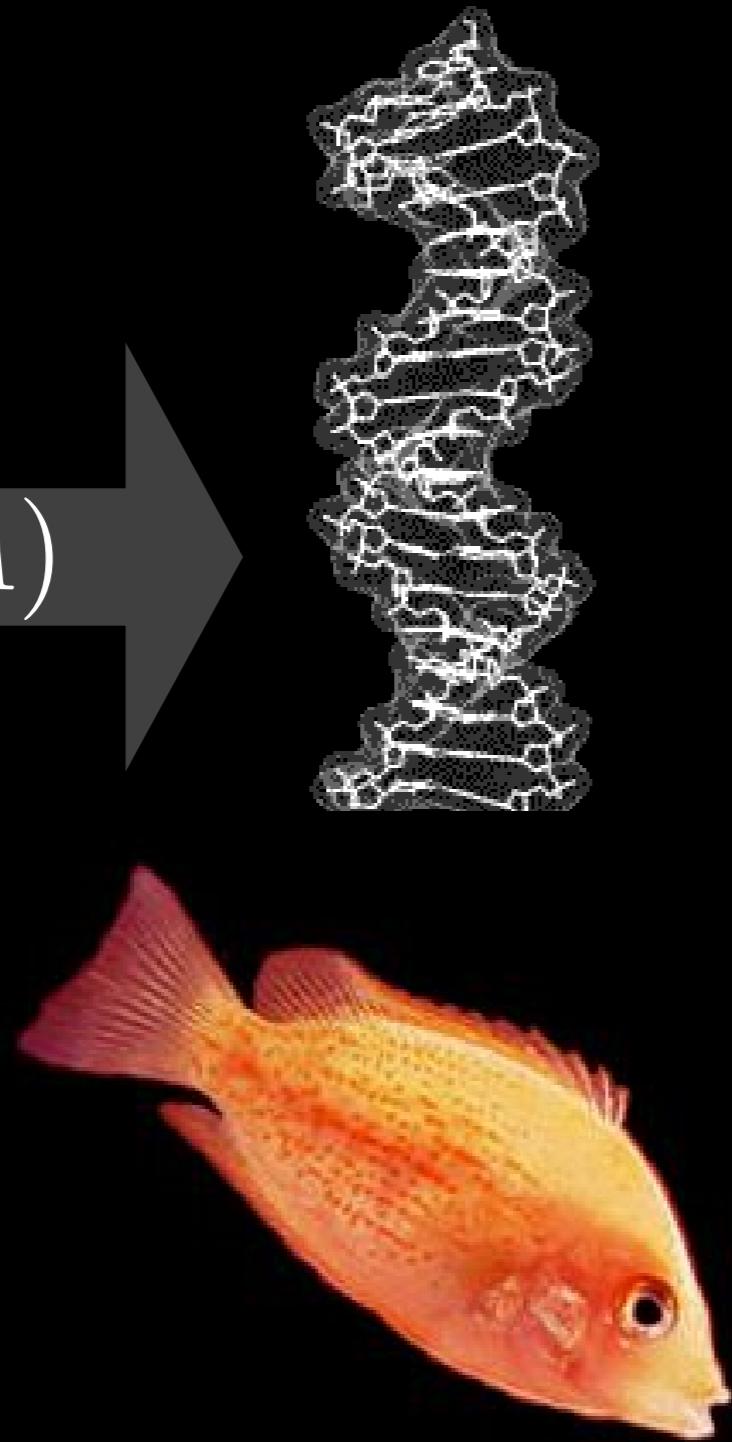
configuration

# Bayes' Rule

$$p(DNA)$$

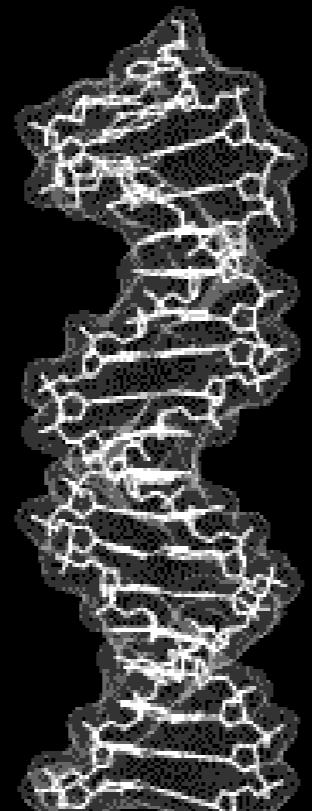
# Bayes' Rule

$p(DNA)$



# Bayes' Rule

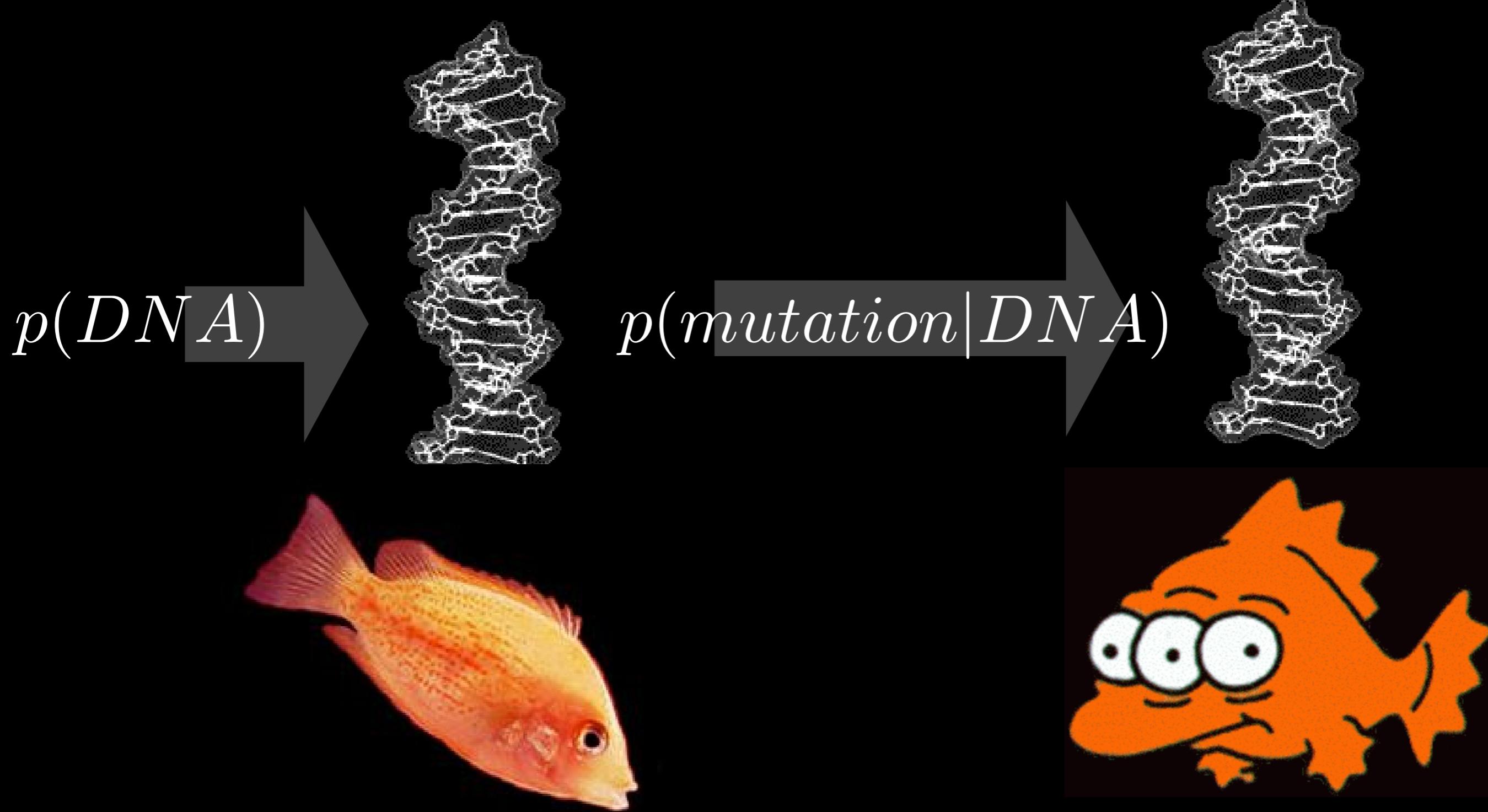
$p(DNA)$



$p(\text{mutation} | DNA)$



# Bayes' Rule



# Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

# Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$



However, the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

# Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$



However, the sky remained clear under the  
strong north wind .

$$p(Chinese|English)$$

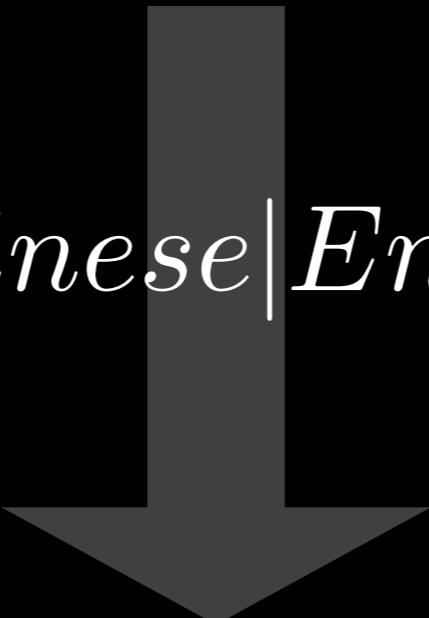
# Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$



However, the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

$$p(Chinese|English)$$



虽然 北 风 呼 啸 , 但 天 空 依 然 十 分 清 澈 。



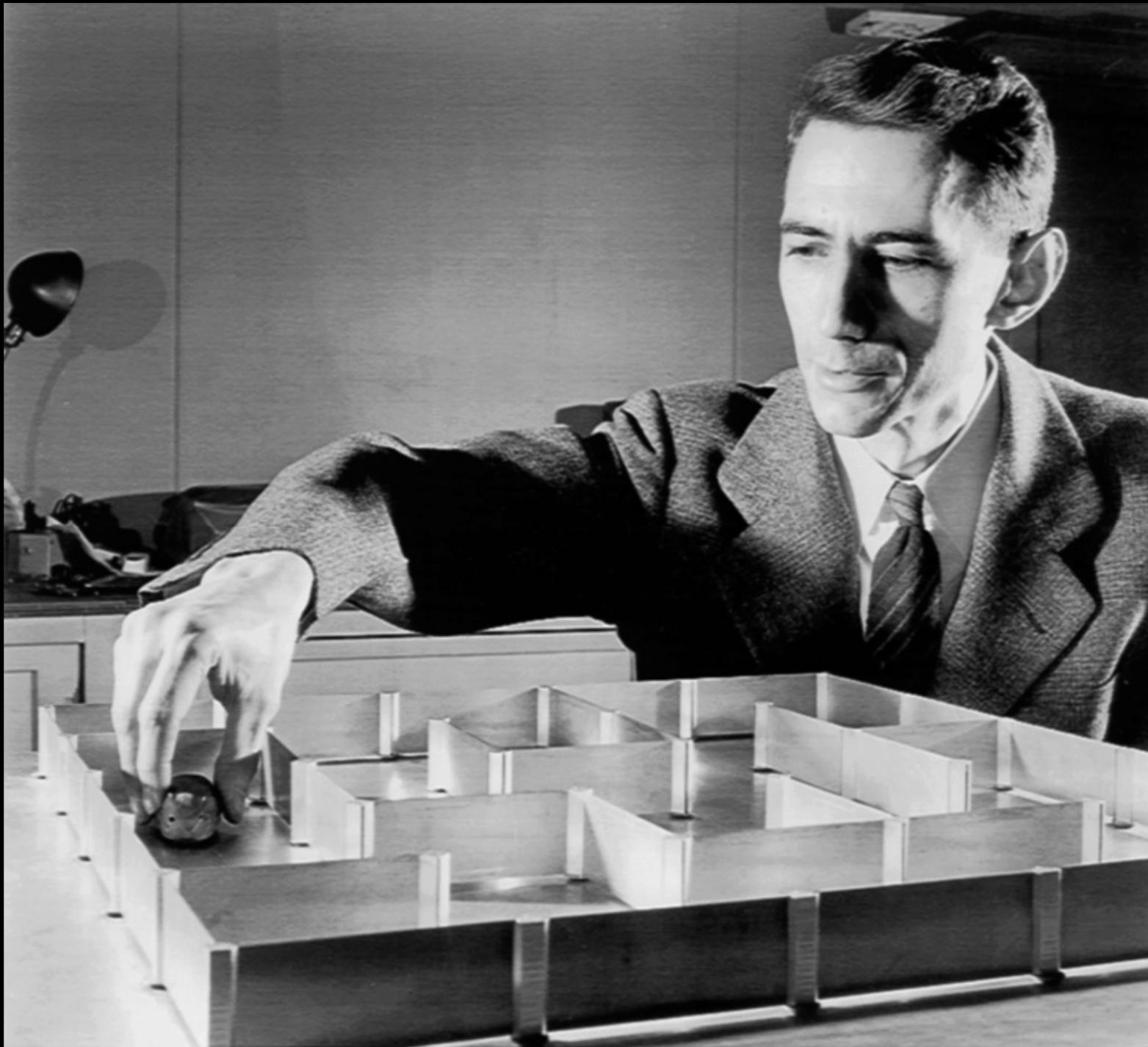
*When I look at an article  
in Russian, I say: “This  
is really written in  
English, but it has been  
coded in some strange  
symbols. I will now  
proceed to decode.”*

Warren Weaver (1949)



# THE MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF COMMUNICATION

by Claude E. Shannon and Warren Weaver



Claude Shannon

# Bayes' Rule

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) =$$

$$\frac{p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})}{p(\text{Chinese})}$$

prior

likelihood

normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

# Noisy Channel

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) =$$

$$\frac{p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})}{p(\text{Chinese})}$$

signal model    channel model

normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

# Machine Translation

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) =$$

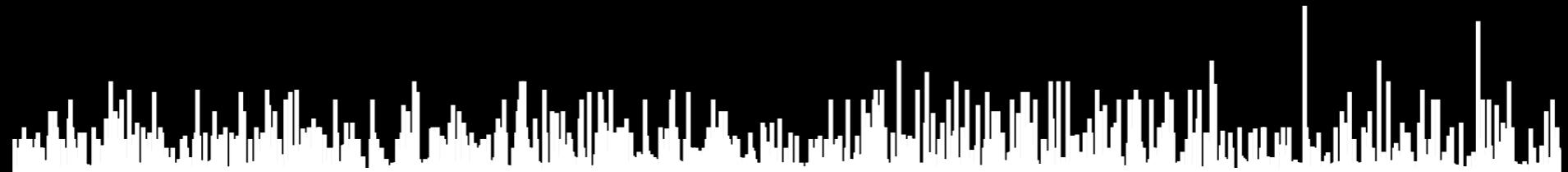
$$\frac{p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})}{p(\text{Chinese})}$$

language model

translation model

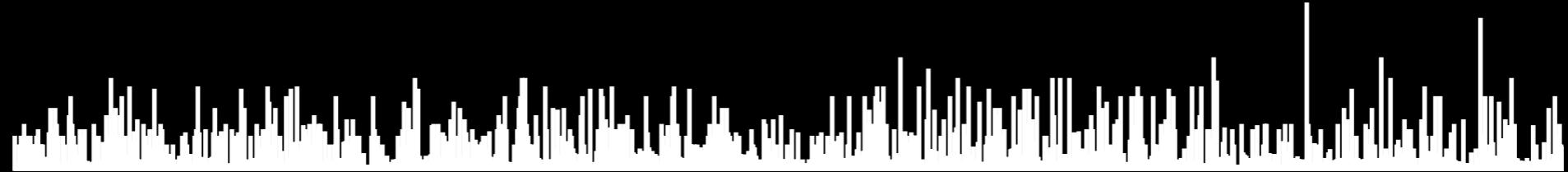
normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

$p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})$

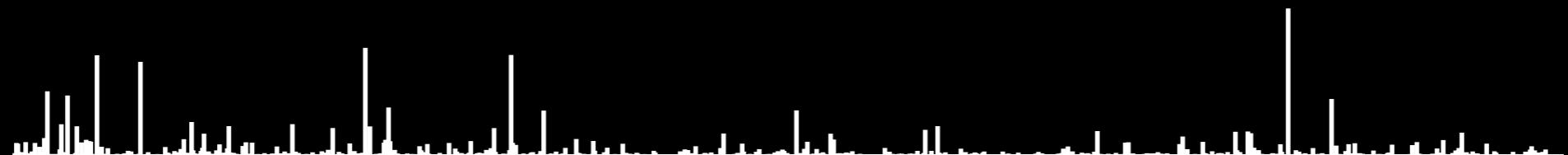


*English*

$p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})$

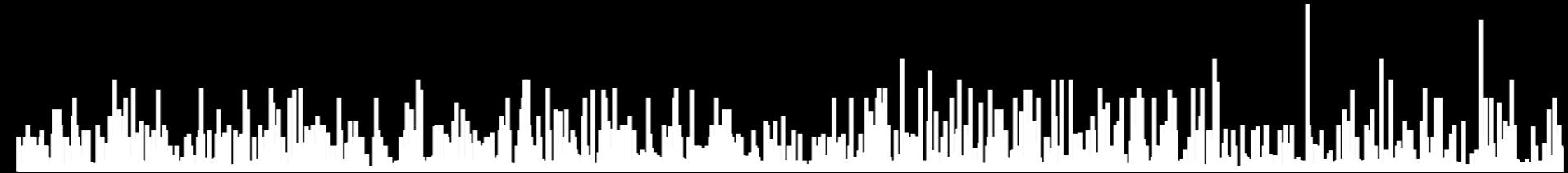


$\times p(\text{English})$

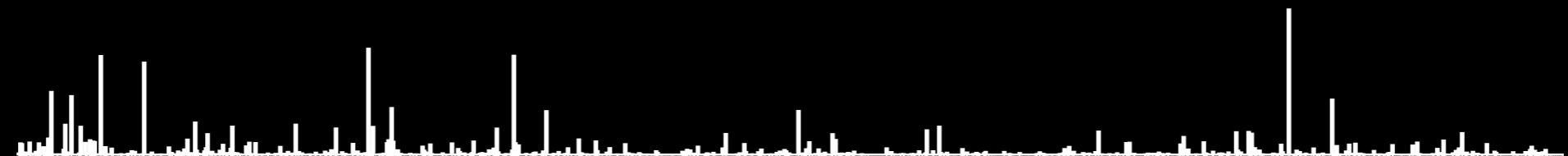


*English*

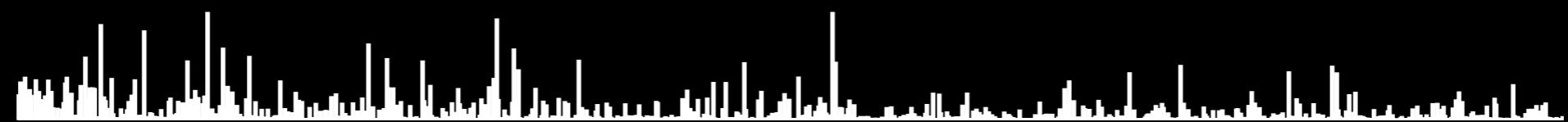
$p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})$



$\times p(\text{English})$



$\sim p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese})$



*English*

# Machine Translation

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) =$$

$$\frac{p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})}{p(\text{Chinese})}$$

language model

translation model

normalization term

(remember: probabilities must sum to 1).

# Machine Translation

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) \sim$$

$$p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})$$

# Machine Translation

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) \sim$$

$$p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})$$

What is the probability of an English sentence?

# Machine Translation

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese}) \sim$$

$$p(\text{English}) \times p(\text{Chinese}|\text{English})$$

What is the probability of an English sentence?

What is the probability of a Chinese sentence, given a particular English sentence?

# Language Models

Our language model must assign a probability  
to *every possible English sentence.*

# Language Models

Our language model must assign a probability  
to *every possible English sentence.*

Q: What should this model look like?

# Language Models

Our language model must assign a probability  
to *every possible English sentence.*

Q: What should this model look like?

A: What is the dumbest thing you can think of?

# Language Models

Every sequence of English words receives a non-zero probability.

# Language Models

Every sequence of English words receives a non-zero probability.

Problem 1: there are an infinite number of such sequences.

# Language Models

Every sequence of English words receives a non-zero probability.

Problem 1: there are an infinite number of such sequences.

Problem 2: it would be hard to estimate.

# Language Models

Every sequence of English words receives a non-negative probability.

Problem 1: there are infinitely many such sequences.

Problem 2: how could we learn them to estimate.

# Language Models

*Idea:* since the language model is a joint model over all words in a sentence, make words depend on words earlier in the sentence.

# Language Models

$p(However | START)$

# Language Models

$$p(However|START)$$

A number between 0 and 1.

# Language Models

$$p(However|START)$$

A number between 0 and 1.

$$\sum_x p(x|START) = 1$$

# Language Models

However

$$p(\text{However} | \text{START})$$

# Language Models

However ,

$$p(, | \text{However})$$

# Language Models

However , the

$$p(\text{the} |, )$$

# Language Models

However , the sky

$$p(sky|the)$$

# Language Models

However , the sky remained

$$p(\text{remained}|\text{sky})$$

# Language Models

However , the sky remained clear

$$p(\text{clear}|\text{remained})$$

# Language Models

However , the sky remained clear ... wind .

...  $p(STOP|.)$

# Language Models

$$p(English) = \prod_{i=1}^{\text{length}(English)} p(word_i | word_{i-1})$$

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This model explains every word in the English sentence.

# Language Models

$$p(English) = \prod_{i=1}^{\text{length}(English)} p(word_i | word_{i-1})$$

Note: the prior probability that  $\text{word}_0 = \text{START}$  is 1.

This model explains every word in the English sentence.

But it makes very strong conditional independence assumptions!

# Language Models

Question: where do these numbers come from?

$$p(\text{sky}|\text{the})$$

$$p(\text{clear}|\text{remained})$$

$$p(\text{remained}|\text{sky})$$

# Language Models

This is just a model that we can train on data.

... in the night sky as it orbits earth ...

... said that the sky would fall if ...

... falling dollar , sky high interest rates ...

However , the sky remained clear ...

$$p(\text{remained}|\text{sky}) = ???$$





$p(\text{heads})$



$p(\text{heads})$



$1 - p(\text{heads})$





$p(\text{heads})$  ?





$$p(\text{data}) = p(\text{heads})^7 \times p(\text{tails})^3$$



$$p(\text{data}) = p(\text{heads})^7 \times [1 - p(\text{heads})]^3$$

$p(data)$

0

$p(heads)$

1

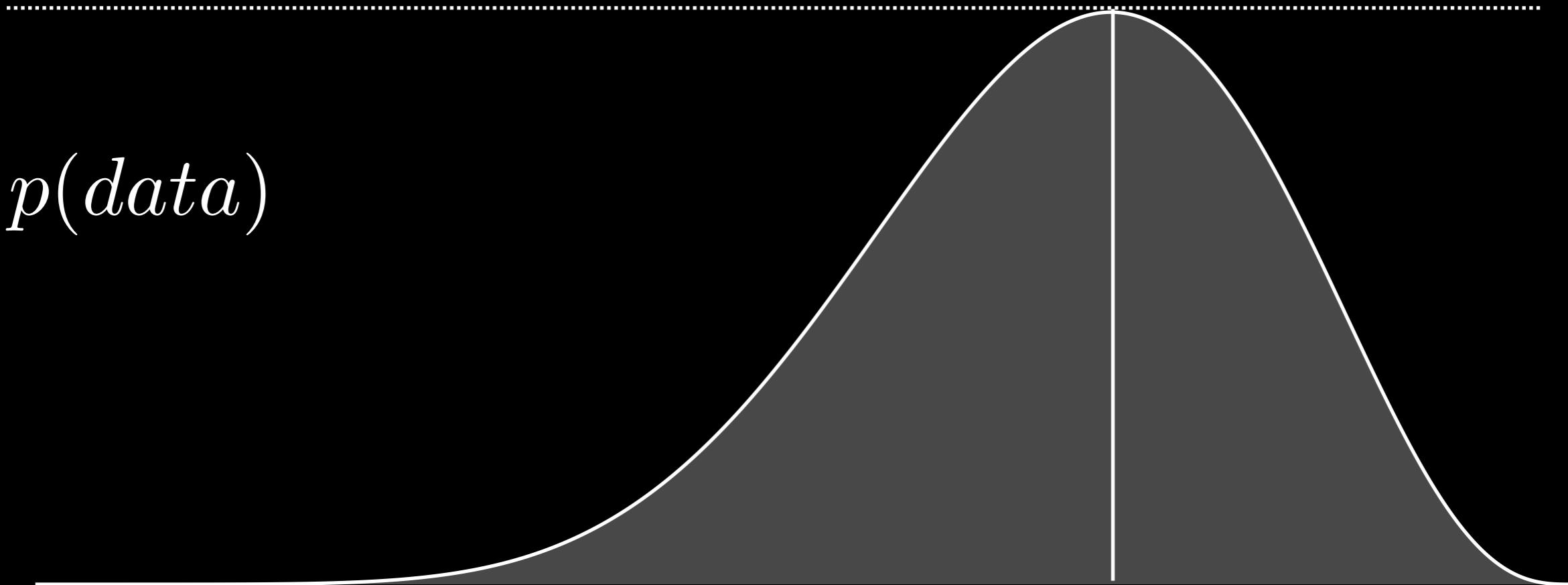
$p(data)$

0

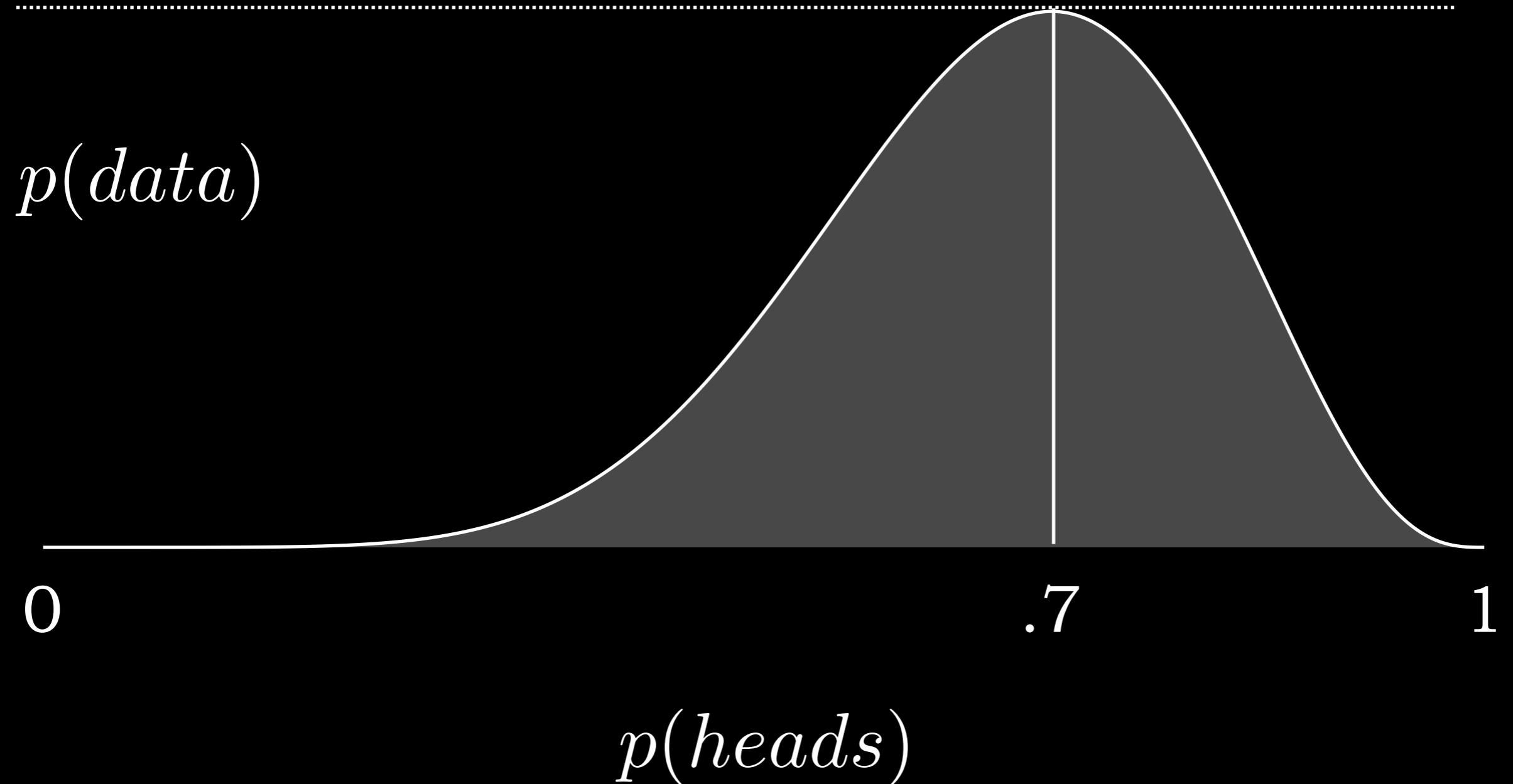
.7

1

$p(heads)$



can be derived analytically using Lagrange multipliers



# THE WORD



RE

COMEDY CHANNEL

A photograph of Stephen Colbert from the TV show 'The Colbert Report'. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie, and is pointing his right index finger towards the text 'THE WORD' which is displayed in large, white, stylized letters against a blue background. The background also features a world map and a row of stars at the bottom.

THE WORD

- Optimization

# Language Models

$$p(\text{remained}|\text{sky}) =$$

$$\frac{\text{\# of times I saw “sky remained”}}{\text{\# of times I saw “sky”}}$$

# Language Models

This is a pretty old trick.

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[http://twitter.com/markov\\_bible](http://twitter.com/markov_bible)

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*Jesus shall raise up children unto the way of the spices.  
And some of them that do evil.*

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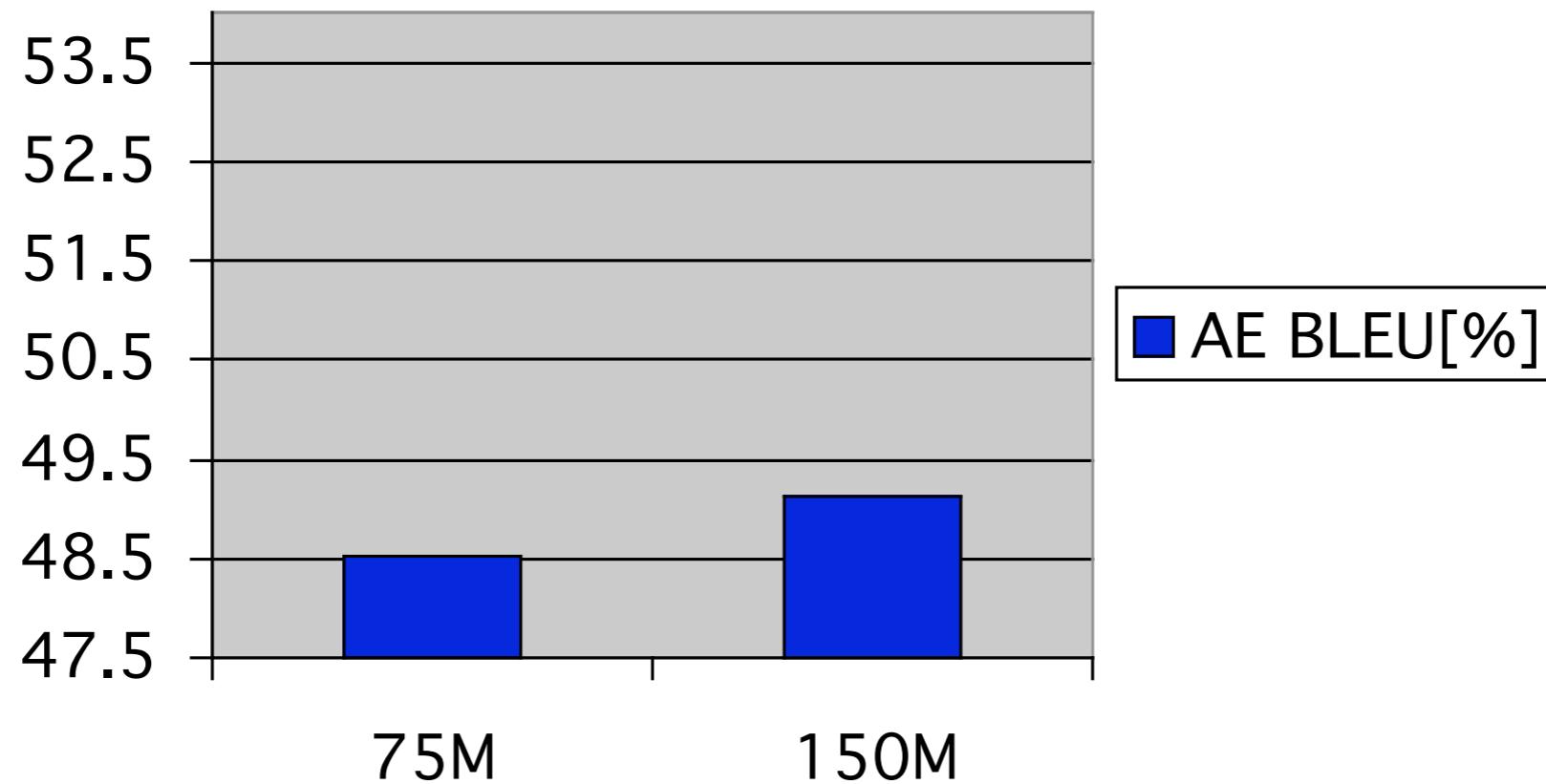
Won't cover this too much, but keyword is *smoothing*.

# Language Models

- The language model does not depend in any way on parallel data.
- How much English data should we train it on?

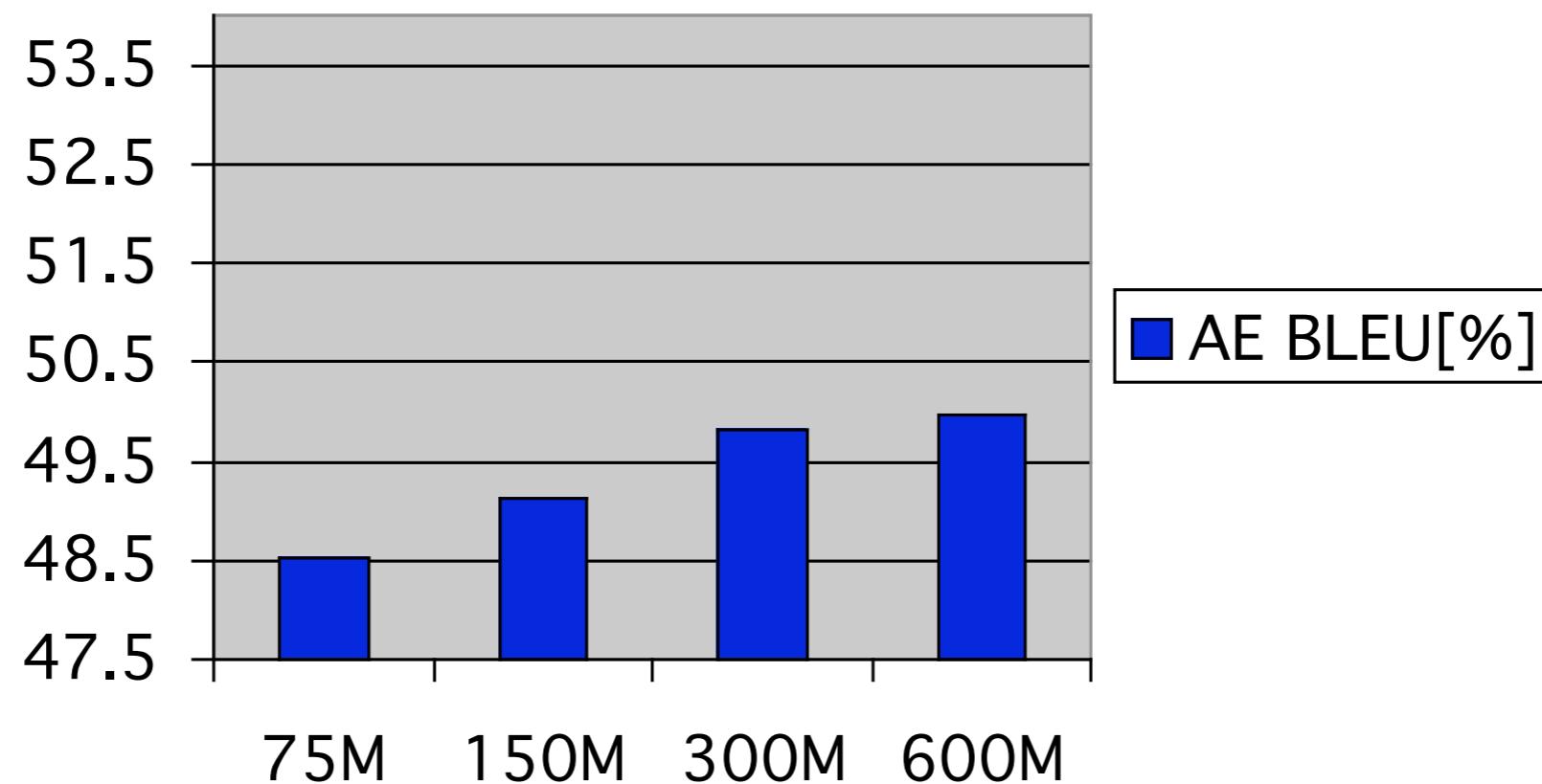
# Language Models

Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system (NIST test data)



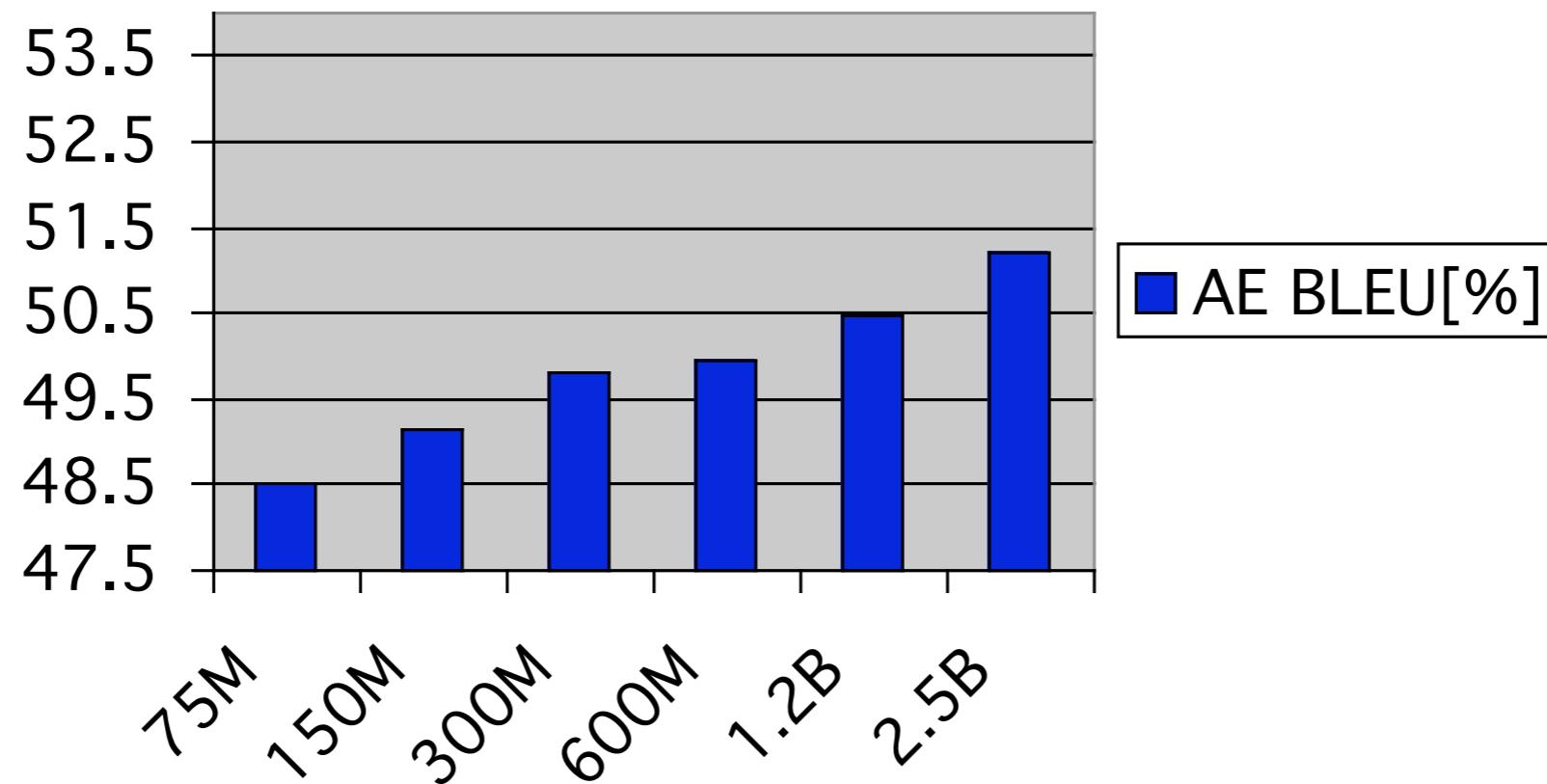
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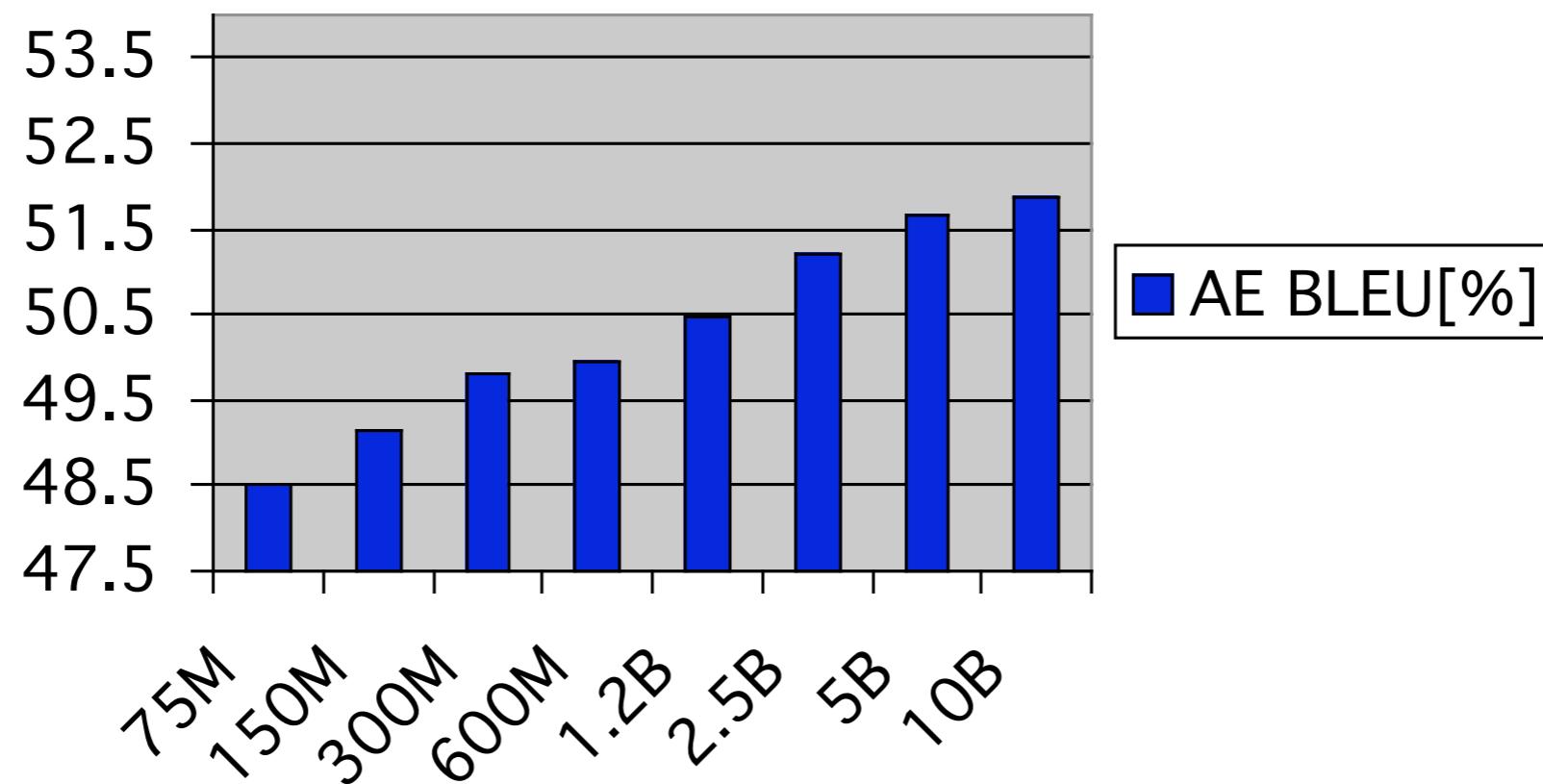
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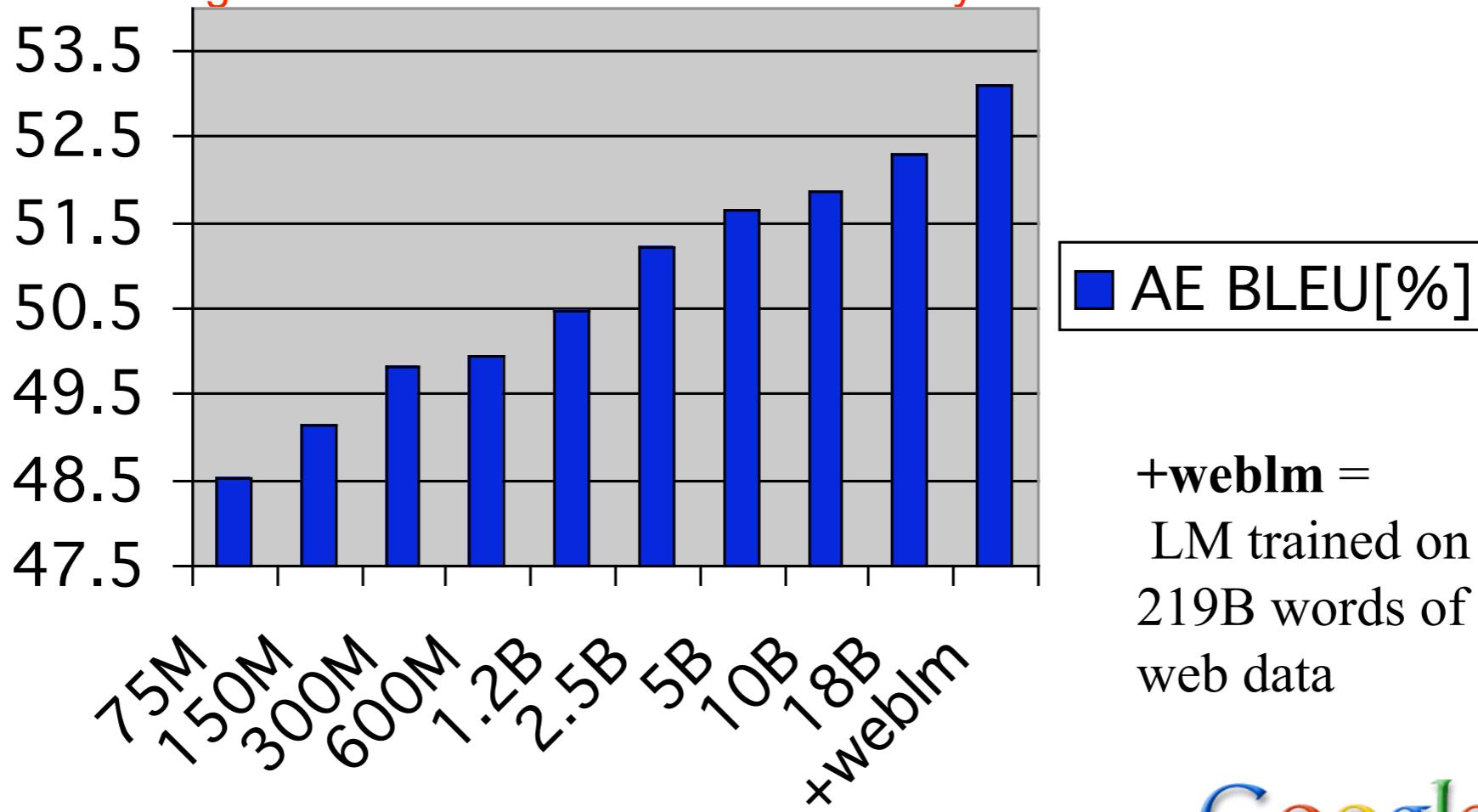
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Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system



# Language Models

Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system



# Popular Implementations

- SRI-LM -- [www.speech.sri.com/projects/srilm](http://www.speech.sri.com/projects/srilm)
- KenLM -- <http://kheafield.com/code/kenlm/>
- BerkeleyLM -- <http://code.google.com/p/berkeleylm/>

# Language Models

- There's no data like more data.
- Language models serve a similar function in speech recognition, optical character recognition, and other probabilistic models of text data.

# Translation Models

What is a good story about how a Chinese sentence came into being, given that we already have an English sentence?

# Translation Models

What is a good story about how a Chinese sentence came into being, given that we already have an English sentence?

Note: in this example I'll show you an English sentence, conditioned on a Chinese sentence. Note that we can apply the same technique in either direction.

# Translation Models

虽然 北 风 呼 啸 , 但 天 空 依 然 十 分 清 澈 。

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese})$$

# Translation Models

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

虽然 北 风 呼 啸 , 但 天 空 依 然 十 分 清 澈 。

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese})$$

# Translation Models

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

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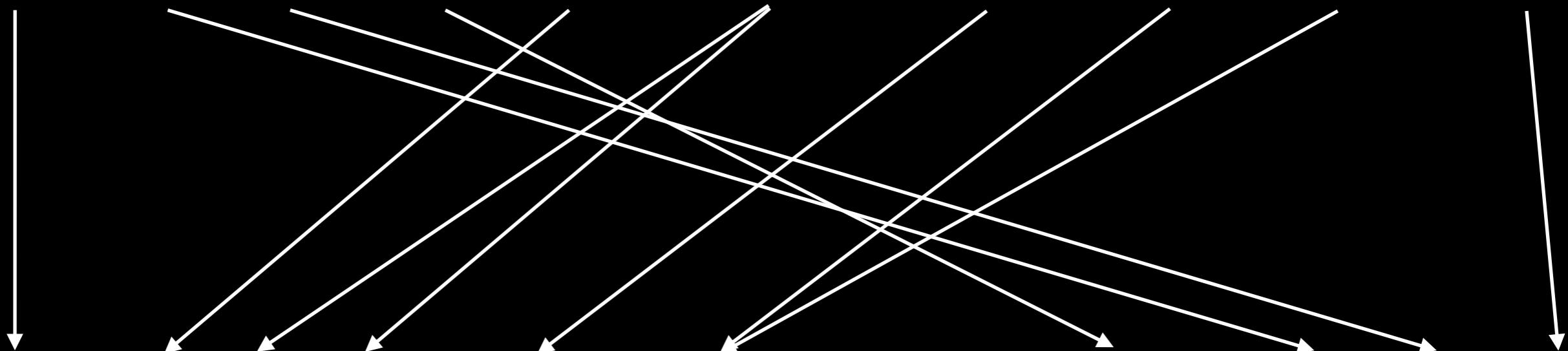
However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

$$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese})$$

# Translation Models

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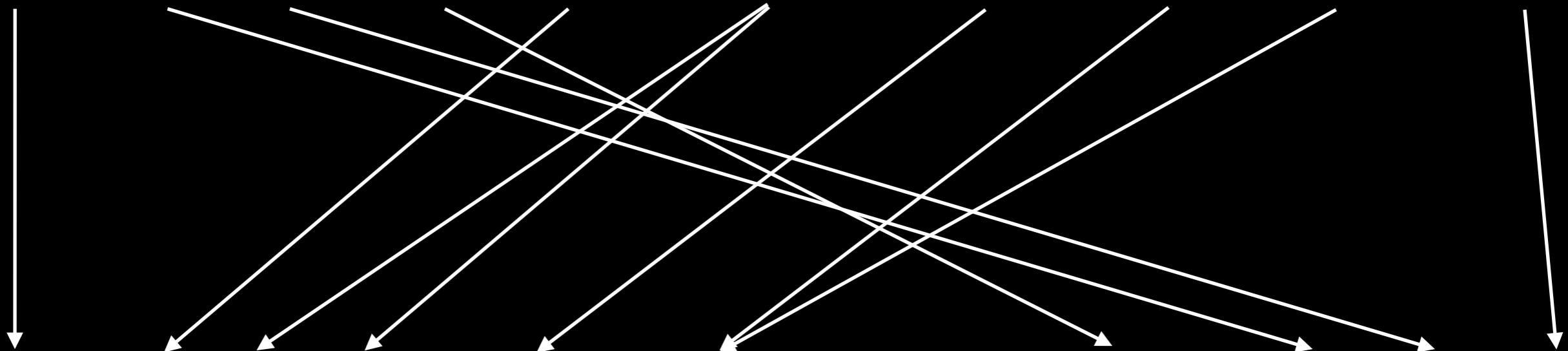


However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

# Translation Models

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*However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .*

$p(\text{English}|\text{Chinese})?$

# IBM Model 1

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

虽然 北 风 呼 啸 , 但 天 空 依 然 十 分 清 澈 。

# IBM Model 1

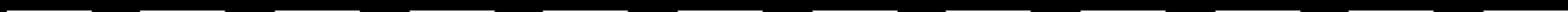
*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

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---

$p(\text{English length} | \text{Chinese length})$

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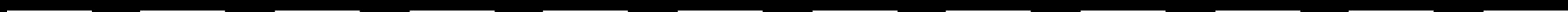
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$p(\text{English length} | \text{Chinese length})$

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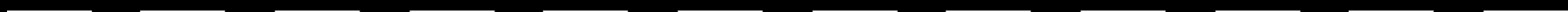


*p(Chinese word position)*

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However

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However

$$p(\text{English word}|\text{Chinese word})$$

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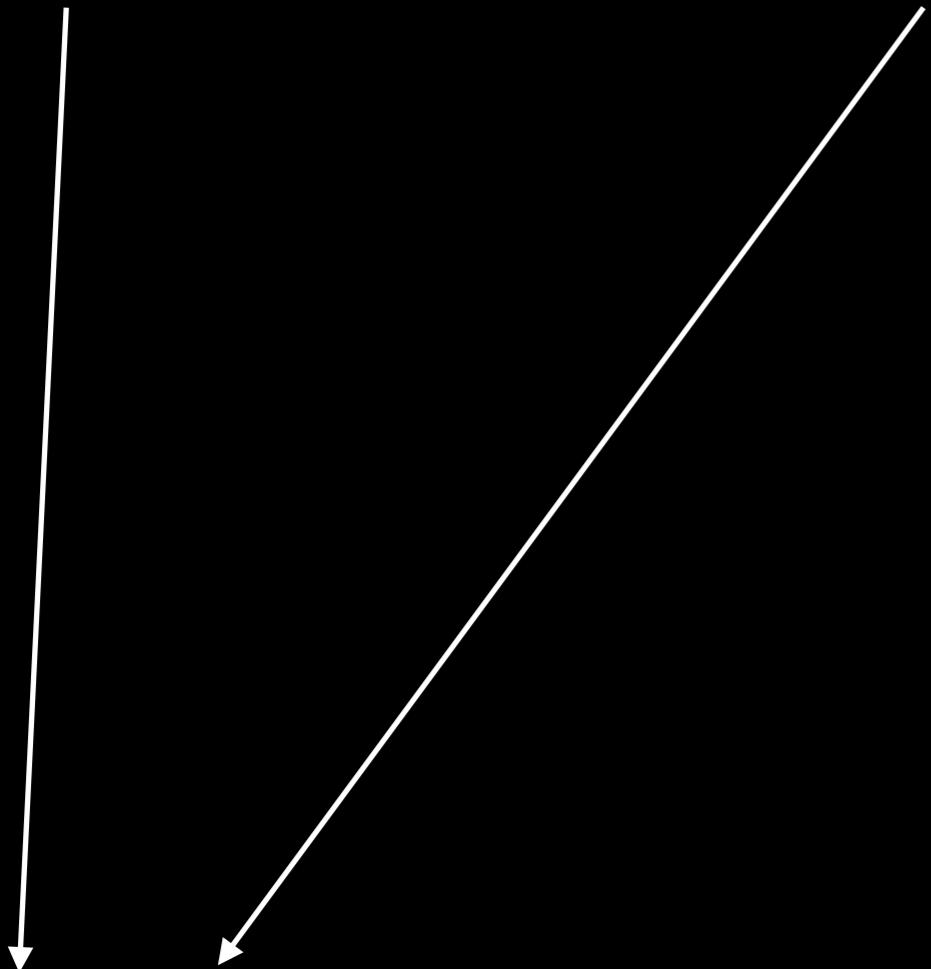


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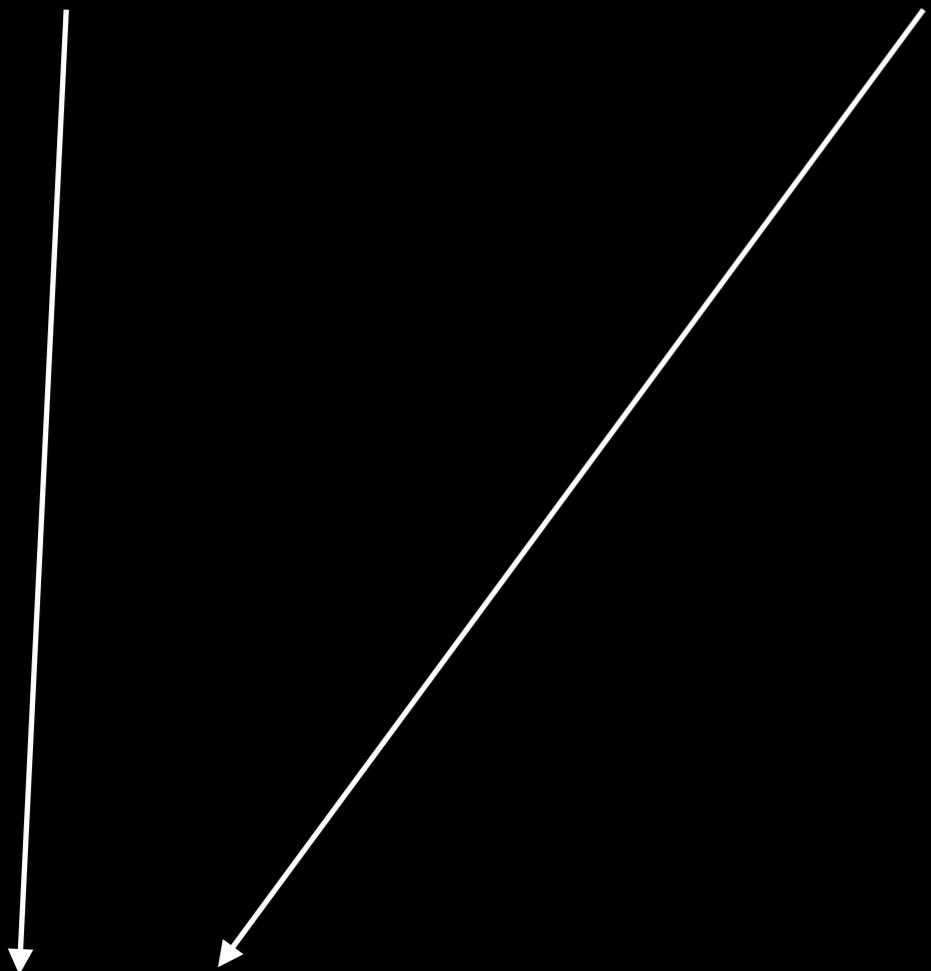


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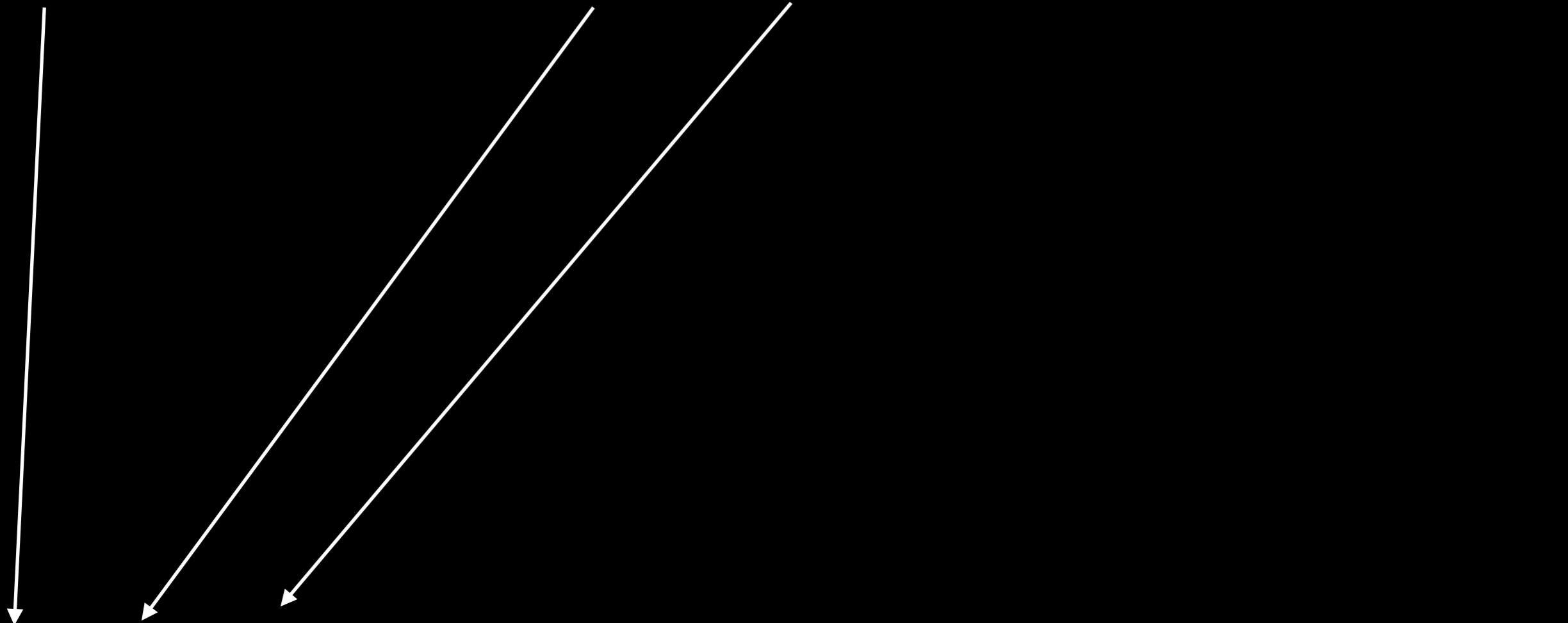


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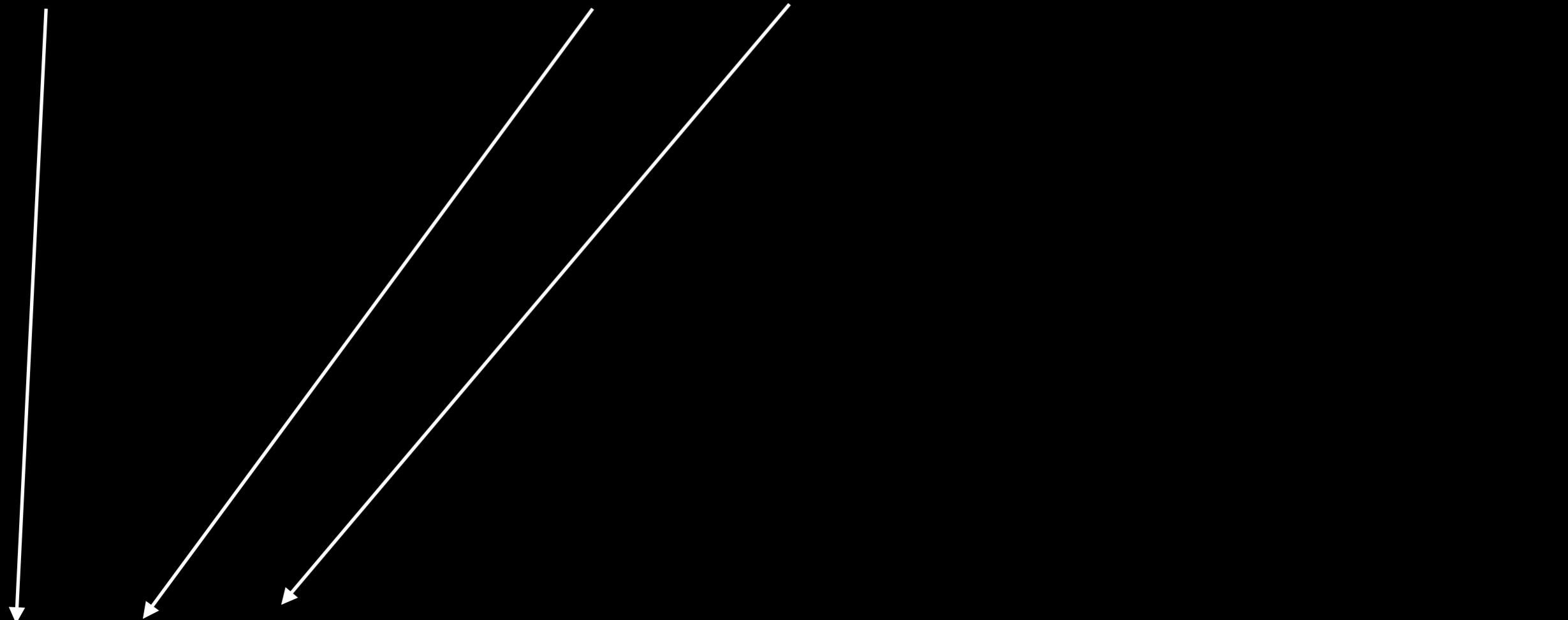


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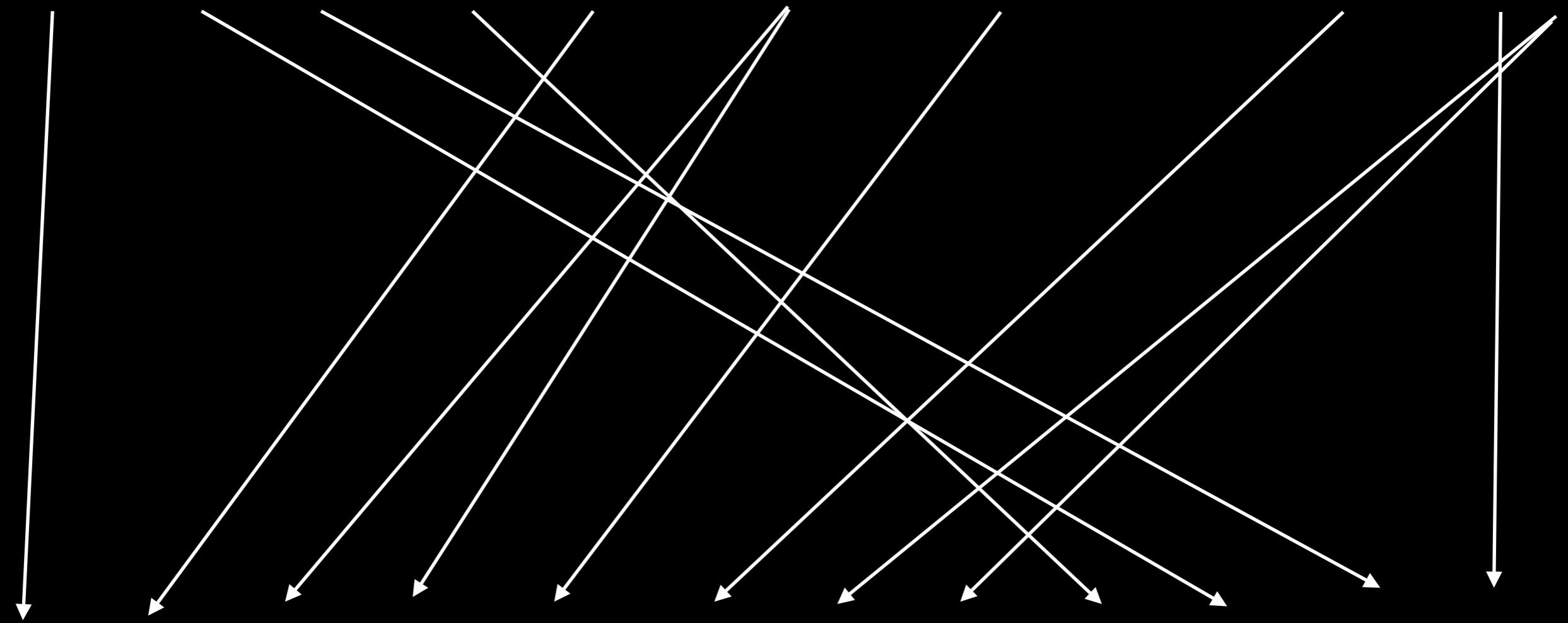


However , the

# IBM Model 1

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

虽然 北风 呼啸 , 但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。 ε



---

However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

# IBM Model 1

# IBM Model 1

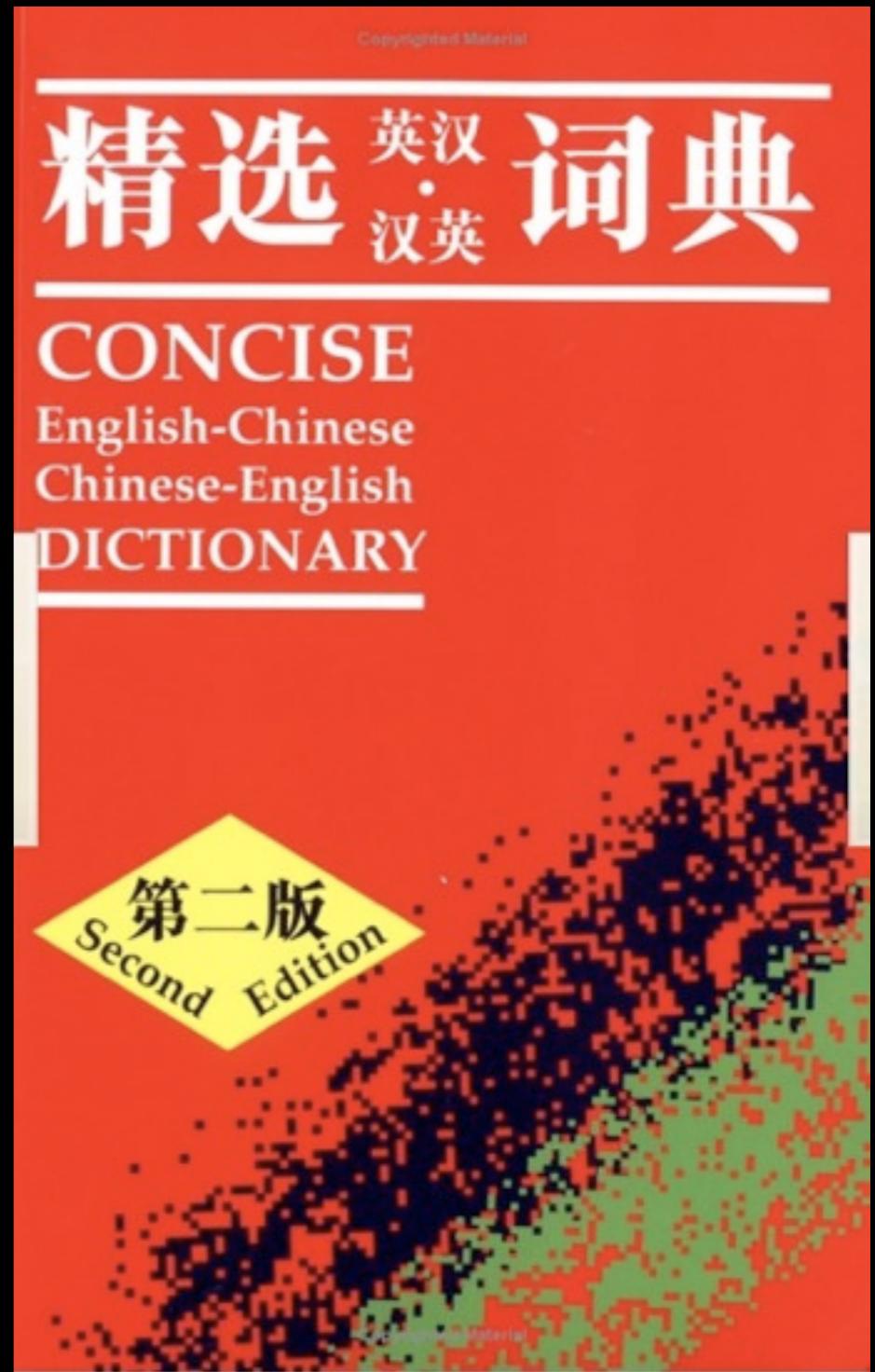
- Word translation probabilities.

# IBM Model 1

- Word translation probabilities.
- No real ordering model.
- This is left to the LM.

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# IBM Model 1

$p(despite | \text{虽然})$

$p(however | \text{虽然})$

$p(although | \text{虽然})$

$p(northern | \text{北})$

$p(north | \text{北})$

# IBM Model 1

$p(despite | \text{虽然})$  ???

$p(however | \text{虽然})$  ???

$p(although | \text{虽然})$  ???

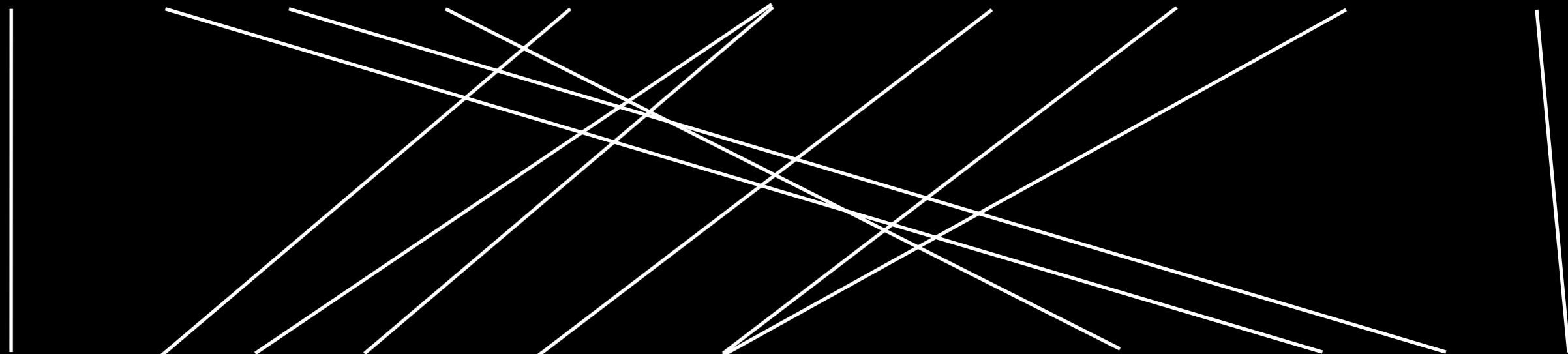
$p(northern | \text{北})$  ???

$p(north | \text{北})$  ???

# Translation Models

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

虽然 北 风 呼啸 , 但 天 空 依 然 十 分 清 澈 。



*However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .*

$$p(\text{however} | \text{虽然}) = \frac{\# \text{ of times } \text{虽然 aligns to However}}{\# \text{ of times } \text{虽然 occurs}}$$

# Translation Models

*Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .*

虽然 北风呼啸，但天空依然十分清澈。

However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

$$p(\text{however} | \text{虽然}) = \frac{\# \text{ of times } \text{虽然 aligns to However}}{\# \text{ of times } \text{虽然 occurs}}$$

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- Word alignment.
- Assignment 0: by tomorrow!
- Assignment 1 (word alignment) posted soon.
- Research lectures on machine translation!
- Chris Dyer (CMU), Monday 10am, Stieff
- Shankar Kumar (Google), Tuesday noon, B17

## Leaderboard

This page contains the leaderboards for all assignments. The date is downloaded according to the base URL.

| Handle      | Assignments |    |    |    |    |       | All |
|-------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|-------|-----|
|             | #0          | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | All   |     |
| obzk        | 63          | -  | -  | -  | -  | 63.00 |     |
| rlk         | 47          | -  | -  | -  | -  | 47.00 |     |
| NathanStark | 42          | -  | -  | -  | -  | 42.00 |     |
| thrax       | 14          | -  | -  | -  | -  | 14.00 |     |
| SI          | 7           | -  | -  | -  | -  | 7.00  |     |
| Lakie       | 7           | -  | -  | -  | -  | 7.00  |     |
| TangDou     | 5           | -  | -  | -  | -  | 5.00  |     |
| Shibboleth  | 4           | -  | -  | -  | -  | 4.00  |     |
| PandaPirate | 1           | -  | -  | -  | -  | 1.00  |     |

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| PandaPirate | 1           | -  | -  | -  | -  | 1.00  |

