

Coin tosses, redux

Toss a coin repeatedly without end

👉 *Sample space* Ω : each sample point ω is an infinite sequence of heads and tails.

- 👉 Represent heads by 1 and tails by 0.
- 👉 $\Omega = \{ x_1 x_2 x_3 \dots : x_n \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for each } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \}$

👉 Is there a simple characterisation of the *events*?

- 👉 Event A that the first head occurs on the fourth toss.
- 👉 $A = \{ x_1 x_2 x_3 \dots : x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = 0, x_4 = 1, x_n \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for each } n = 5, 6, 7, \dots \}$

👉 What is an appropriate choice of *probability measure* \mathbf{P} ?

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$$.0001\dot{0} = 2^{-4} = \frac{1}{16}$$

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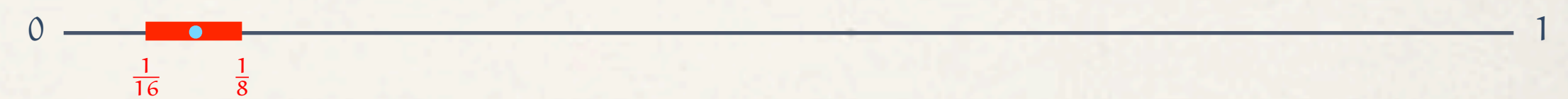
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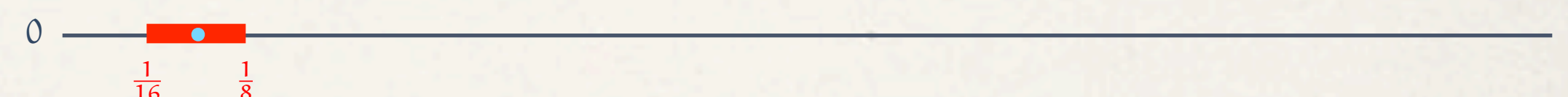
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- Appeal to **symmetry**: the first quartile is as likely as the last quartile.

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- Appeal to **symmetry**: the first quartile is as likely as the last quartile.
- The probability of an interval is proportional to its length:

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$$P(A) = \text{Length}[\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{8}] = \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{16} = \frac{1}{16}$$

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The sample space forms a continuum of points.

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Basic events may be identified with intervals.

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Intervals are the carriers of mass in the continuum.

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The uniform density
