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Indicator for the occurrence of the “bad” event

$$\text{For } j = 1, \dots, n: \quad X_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A_j \text{ occurs,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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$$M_n = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$$

Accumulated sum of “bad” events

definition

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Accumulated sum of “bad” events

A recasting of the inclusion–exclusion theorem

$$\mathbf{P}\{M_n = 0\} = \mathbf{P}(A_1^c \cap A_2^c \cap \dots \cap A_n^c) = 1 - \mathbf{P}(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = S_0 - S_1 + S_2 - S_3 + \dots + (-1)^n S_n$$

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The inclusion–exclusion theorem (industrial strength)

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