

# A general setting

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# Independent families

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Independent possibilities multiply!

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## Definition

A finite or countably infinite collection of events  $\{A_j, j \geq 1\}$  in a probability space is **independent** if (and only if), for *every finite* subset  $\mathbb{J}$  of indices (positive integers), we have a rule of products

$$\mathbf{P}\left(\bigcap_{j \in \mathbb{J}} A_j\right) = \prod_{j \in \mathbb{J}} \mathbf{P}(A_j).$$



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This means:

for *every* integer  $k \geq 2$  and *every* selection of integer indices  $j_1, \dots, j_k$ , we have  $\mathbf{P}(A_{j_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{j_k}) = \mathbf{P}(A_{j_1}) \times \dots \times \mathbf{P}(A_{j_k})$ .



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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(A_i \cap A_j) &= \mathbf{P}(A_i) \mathbf{P}(A_j) && \text{(every } i, j) \\ \mathbf{P}(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) &= \mathbf{P}(A_i) \mathbf{P}(A_j) \mathbf{P}(A_k) && \text{(every } i, j, k) \\ \mathbf{P}(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k \cap A_l) &= \mathbf{P}(A_i) \mathbf{P}(A_j) \mathbf{P}(A_k) \mathbf{P}(A_l) && \text{(every } i, j, k, l) \\ &\dots\dots\dots \end{aligned}$$