

## Lucky Candy

**Question:** How do you place 50 good candies and 50 rotten candies in two boxes such that if you choose a box at random and take out a candy at random, it better be good! That means probability of choosing a good candy should be highest.

**Solution:** Let  $x$  ( $y$ ) be number of good (rotten) candies in Box  $A$ . Then there are  $50 - x$  ( $50 - y$ ) good (rotten) candies in Box  $B$ .

$$P(x, y) := P(\text{choose good}) = \frac{x}{x+y} \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{50-x}{100-x-y} \times \frac{1}{2} = \left( \frac{1}{1+\frac{y}{x}} + \frac{1}{1+\frac{50-y}{50-x}} \right) \times \frac{1}{2}$$

Note  $1 \leq x \leq 25$ . Want  $\frac{y}{x}$  and  $\frac{50-y}{50-x}$  to be small. Try  $x = 1$ ,  $y = 0$  and  $P_{max} = 3/4$ .