

Overview

- Why Study Probability?
- Outcomes, Events, Sample Space, Trials
- Probabilities and Complements (not)
- Theoretical vs. Empirical Probability
- The Law of Large Numbers (LLN)
- Disjoint and Independent Events
- Sampling With and Without Replacement and the 10% Rule

Why Study Probability? Probability Forms the Foundation for Inferential Statistics**Three Examples:**

- a. A certain county has a population that is 50% women and 50% men. A jury is supposedly randomly selected. The jury ends up having a composition that is 40% women. Was there selection bias, or was this just due to random chance?
- b. In a randomized double-blind controlled experiment, a new surgery saved lives 60% of the time, while the old surgery saved lives only 55% of the time. Is this a big enough difference to replace the old surgery with the new one? In other words, is the difference statistically significant?
- c. A pack of potato chips is supposed to be manufactured to have an average weight of 10 ounces. Thirty random bags of chips are weighed, and have an average weight of 9.6 ounces. Is the manufacturer cheating? If the bags really have an average of 10 ounces, what is the probability we would get a sample average this low? We will learn to calculate this probability in chapter 4.

Small Group Lab

These are some activities to guide you through the language and concepts of probability. Have one person read each part out loud. Stay together and help each other.

Flipping a Coin

1. If you flip a coin, there are two possible **outcomes**.
 - Let event H = the outcome of heads. An **event** is a combination of outcomes.
 - Let event T = the outcome of tails.
2. The **sample space** is the set of all possible outcomes. List the sample space for flipping one coin.

$$S = \{ \underline{\hspace{2cm}}, \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \}$$

3. For each event we can state the probability or chance that it will occur. The **theoretical probability** is based on the idea of a **fair** coin where both outcomes are equally likely. A probability can be written as a fraction or as a decimal between 0 and 1.

$P(H)$ means the probability of getting heads. $P(H) =$

$P(T)$ means the probability of getting tails. $P(T) =$

4. Get a penny for each group member and each flip them 20 times. Record your results in the table below:

Trial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Outcome										

Trial	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Outcome										

5. "Heads" or event H, was the result what percentage of the time? This is an **empirical probability** because it is the result of observations or an experiment. Find 3 other people and write down their empirical probabilities.

Your percentage:

The percentages of 3 Classmates:

6. How do the empirical and theoretical probabilities compare?
7. Is each flip of the coin **independent**? If knowing the result of one flip does not change the probability of the next flip they are independent events.
8. What would happen to the percentage of "heads" if you flipped the coin 100 times? 1,000 times? 1,000,000 times?

If you said your percentage of "heads" would get closer and closer to 50% you are right!

The Law of Large Numbers (LLN) states that the long-run empirical probability of repeated independent events gets closer and closer to the *true* theoretical frequency as the number of trials increases.

Rolling a Fair Die

Actually rolling is optional here. We're going to find theoretical probabilities, not empirical. It can be helpful to look at the die to see the outcomes, though.

1. If you roll a fair die, what are the possible outcomes? List the sample space.

$S =$

2. To find the theoretical probabilities, take the number of ways the event can occur and divide it by the total number of possibilities. You can leave the probability as a fraction. For example,

$$P(1) = \frac{\text{The number of ways to roll a 1}}{\text{The total number of possible outcomes}} =$$

Theoretical Probabilities:

$$P(1) =$$

$$P(2) =$$

$$P(3) =$$

$$P(4) =$$

$$P(5) =$$

$$P(6) =$$

"OR" Events

If A and B are disjoint events, $P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B)$

3. Using your theoretical probabilities, what is the probability of rolling a 2 or a 5? These are **disjoint** or **mutually exclusive** events because they cannot happen at the same time.

To calculate an "OR" probability for disjoint events, add the probabilities together.

$$P(2 \text{ or } 5) = P(2) + P(5) =$$

4. What is the probability that you would roll a 3, 5, or 6?

5. What is the probability that you would roll an even number?
6. What is the probability of rolling at least a 5?
7. What is the probability of rolling a 4 at most?

Complements

8. What is the probability that you would **not** roll a 3? (This is the **complement** of rolling a 3, denoted by 3^c)

$$P(3^c) = P(\text{not } 3) =$$

9. A probability and its complement add up to what number?

$$P(3) + P(3^c) =$$

Another way to say this is $P(3^c) = 1 - P(3)$

Successive Trials and "AND" Events

Two events are called **independent** if knowing that one occurs does not change the probability that the other occurs. Are successive rolls of the dice independent? If they are then we can multiply the probabilities together.

For independent events, $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$

10. For successive rolls, what is the probability of rolling a 3 and then a 6?

$$P(3 \text{ and } 6) = P(3) \cdot P(6) =$$

11. What is the probability of rolling a 1 and then a 5?

12. What is the probability of rolling a 1, 5 times in a row? Would this be the same as the probability of rolling 5 dice and getting all 1's?

Drawing Chips

1. Imagine you have the following chips in a bag: 3 black, 4 red, 2 white, 1 green.

Let B be the event of drawing a black chip

Let R be the event of drawing a red chip

Let W be the event of drawing a white chip

Let G be the event of drawing a green chip

2. Write the theoretical probability of each event.

$$P(B) =$$

$$P(R) =$$

$$P(W) =$$

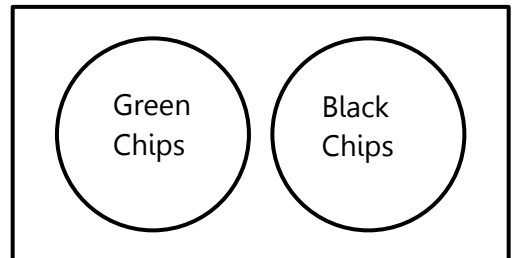
$$P(G) =$$

“OR” Probabilities

Disjoint Events cannot occur at the same time or share no common outcomes (a chip cannot be green and black at the same time). They are **mutually exclusive**.

If A and B are disjoint events, we add the probabilities.

$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B)$$



3. What is the probability of drawing a black or green chip?

$$P(B \text{ or } G) = P(B) + P(G) =$$

4. What is the probability of drawing a black or red chip?
5. What is the probability of not drawing a white chip?
6. What is the probability of not drawing a green or black chip?
7. What is the probability of not drawing a red, white, or green chip?

Successive Trials: Drawing with and without replacement

Drawing with replacement.

Drawing **with replacement** means you would put the chip back each time before you draw another. Each draw is an independent event because you will be starting with the same chips each time.

Two events are called **independent** if knowing that one occurs does not change the probability that the other occurs. When you put the chips back each time the draws are independent.

For independent events, $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$

8. For a series of 3 draws with replacement, what is the probability of getting
- Three red chips?

$$P(3 \text{ red chips}) = P(\text{red}) \cdot P(\text{red}) \cdot P(\text{red}) =$$

- Three black chips?

Drawing Without Replacement

A probability is **conditional** if it depends on knowing what has already happened. If you draw the chips without putting them back you are drawing **without replacement**. Now successive draws are not independent because the chips in the bag are different each time. In this case the probabilities we multiply are conditional.

9. For a series of 3 draws without replacement, what is the probability of getting
- Three red chips?
 - Three black chips?

Survey Example. According to Gallup.com in 2017, the percentage of smokers in the U.S. who smoked a pack or more of cigarettes a day was at an all-time low of 26%. If we took a survey of people in the U.S. and ask them whether they smoke a pack or more a day, would we be sampling with or without replacement? How would this change our calculation of probabilities?

The 10% Condition

The probabilities you calculated in problems 8 and 9 are quite different from each other, but we sampled 30% of the population (we drew 3 out of 10 chips). When we sample less than 10% of the population, the probabilities with and without replacement are very close. So, if we sample less than 10% of the population, we say they are close enough to be equal.

Concept Summary

- The **complement** of any event A is the event that A does not occur. It's denoted by A^C .
- Two events are called **disjoint** if they have no outcomes in common and can never happen together.
- Two events are called **independent** if knowing that one occurs does not change the probability that the other occurs.
- A **conditional probability** is used when events are not independent. $P(A|B)$ means the probability of A given B .
- When sampling without replacement, make sure to sample **less than 10%** of the population to be able to multiply probabilities as if they are independent.

Probability Rules

1. A probability is between 0 and 1, where $P(\text{sample space}) = 1$
2. $P(\text{not } A) = P(A^C) = 1 - P(A)$
3. $P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B)$ if A and B are disjoint
4. $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$ if A and B are independent

Practice Problems

1. In your sock drawer you have 9 pairs of black socks, 4 brown, 2 red, 1 white and 2 blue.
 - a. If you draw at random, what is the probability of drawing a red pair of socks?
 - b. If you draw at random while getting dressed three days in a row, what is the probability of wearing brown socks every time?
 - c. In four days of getting dressed with random draws, what is the probability of drawing three black pairs and then a blue pair?

2. Roughly 20% of undergraduates at a university are vegetarian or vegan. What is the probability that, among a random sample of 3 undergraduates, all three are vegetarian or vegan?
 - a. All three are vegetarian or vegan?
 - b. None of the students sampled are vegetarian or vegan?
 - c. What condition allows us to calculate these probabilities?

3. Suppose that 40% of cars in your area are manufactured in the United States, 30% in Japan, 10% in Germany, and 20% in other countries. If cars are selected at random, find the probability that:
 - a. A car is not U.S.-made.
 - b. A car is made in Japan or Germany.
 - c. You select two cars in a row from Japan.
 - d. None of three cars came from Germany.

Answers to practice problems:

1.
 - a. $2/18$ or $1/9$
 - b. 0.0049
 - c. 0.0137

2.
 - a. 0.008
 - b. 0.512
 - c. 10% Condition

3.
 - a. 0.6
 - b. 0.4
 - c. 0.09
 - d. 0.729