



**Independence**

# Review

Chain Rule:  $P(EF) = P(E|F)P(F)$

- Goes from an “and” to a conditional and vice versa
- Think about which event you want to condition on

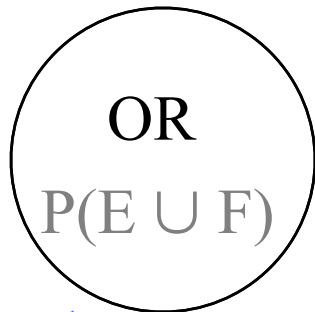
LotP:  $P(E) = P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C)$

- We don't know about E but we do know about E|F
- Don't forget about the “and” version and “summation” version

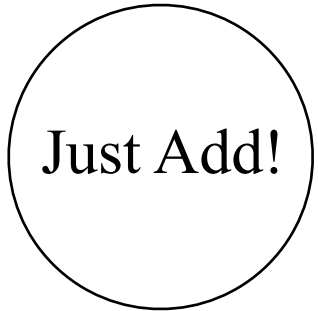
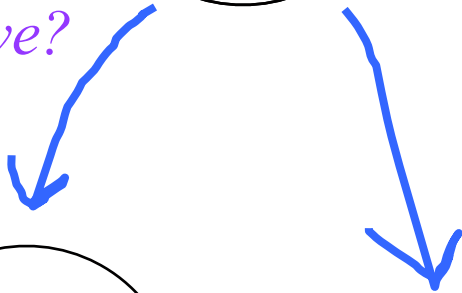
Bayes:  $P(E|F) = \frac{P(F|E)P(E)}{P(F)}$

- Good for when E|F is hard but F|E is not so hard
- Common mistake: not trying chain rule first

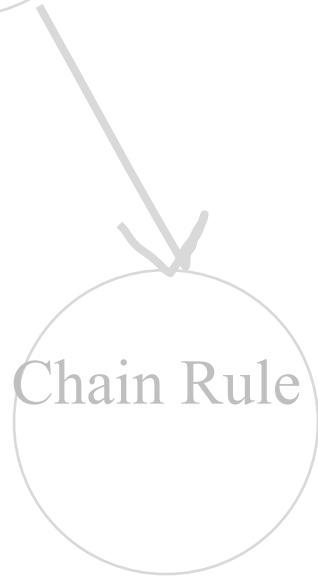
# Today



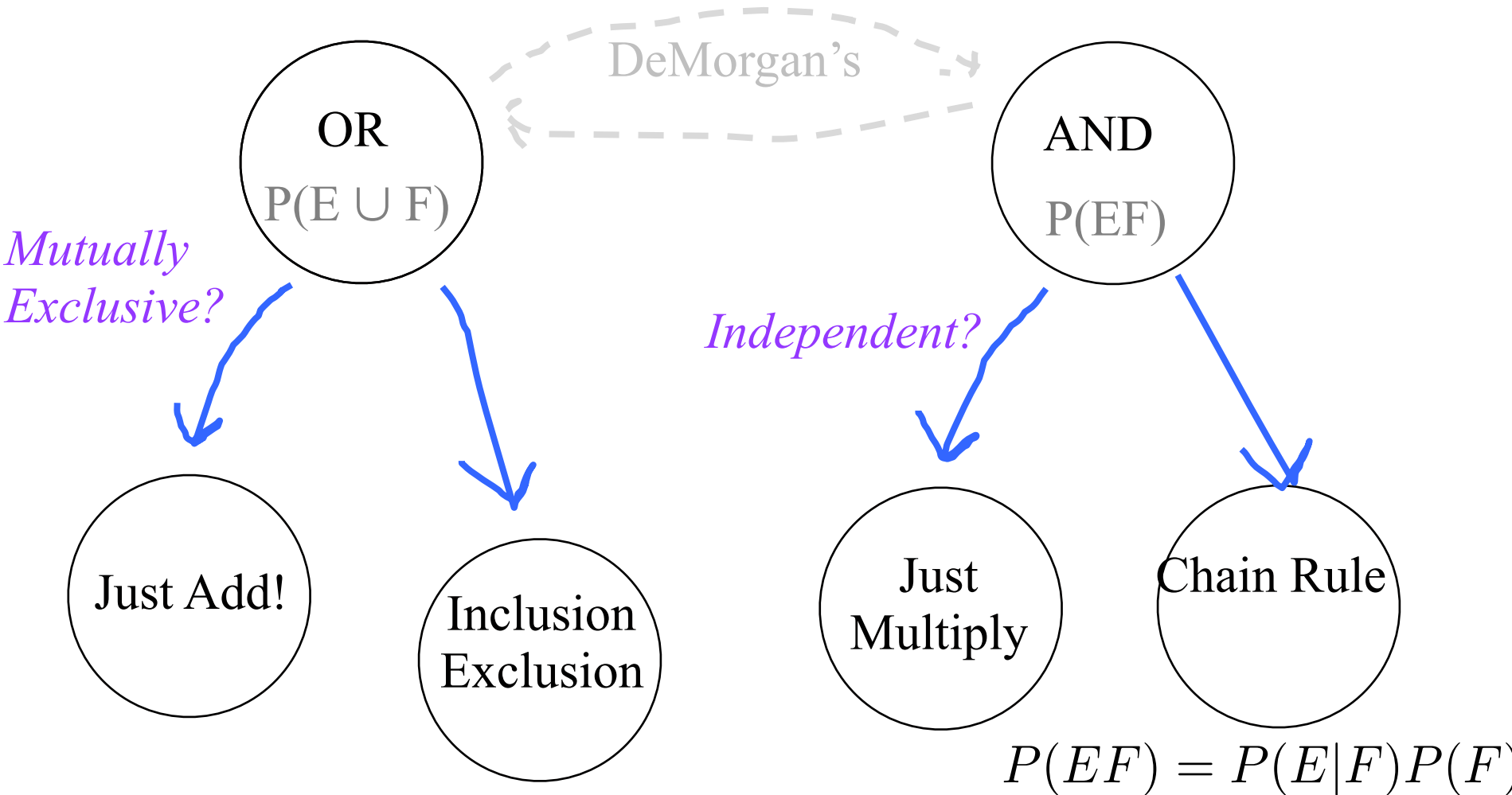
*Mutually Exclusive?*



Independent?



# Today



$$P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F) - P(EF)$$

$$P(EF) = P(E|F)P(F)$$



Probability of “AND”



**We the People**  
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence  
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution  
in full Faith and Credit, all Debts Contracted before the Union  
under the former Confederation shall be valid as against the  
United States, notwithstanding the Declaration of Independence.

# Independence

Two events  $A$  and  $B$  are called **independent** if:

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B)$$

Otherwise, they are called **dependent** events





If events are *independent*  
probability of AND is easy!

\*You will need to use this “trick” with high probability



# Intuition through proofs

Let A and B be independent

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(AB)}{P(B)}$$

$$= \frac{P(A)P(B)}{P(B)}$$

$$= P(A)$$

Definition of conditional probability

Since A and B are independent

Taking the bus to cancel city

Knowing that event B happened, doesn't change our belief that A will happen.



# Dice, Our Misunderstood Friends

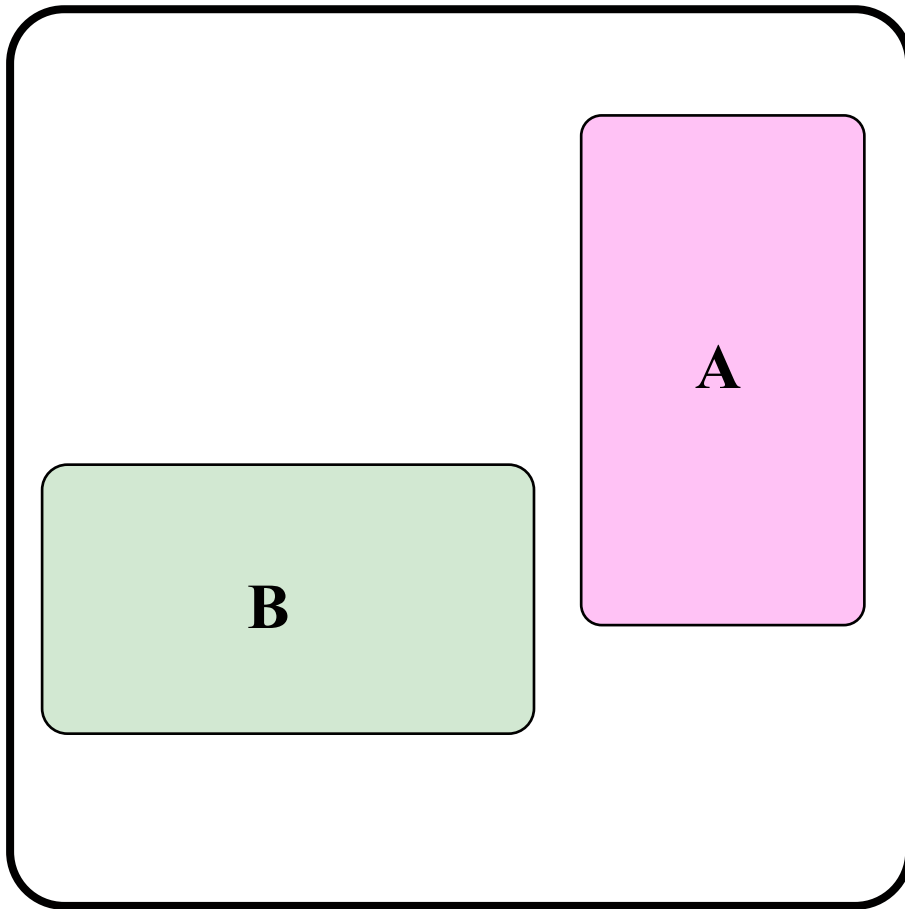
- Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ 
  - Let E be event:  $D_1 = 1$
  - Let F be event:  $D_2 = 1$
- What is  $P(E)$ ,  $P(F)$ , and  $P(EF)$ ?
  - $P(E) = 1/6$ ,  $P(F) = 1/6$ ,  $P(EF) = 1/36$
  - $P(EF) = P(E) P(F) \rightarrow$  E and F independent
- Let G be event:  $D_1 + D_2 = 5 \quad \{(1, 4), (2, 3), (3, 2), (4, 1)\}$
- What is  $P(E)$ ,  $P(G)$ , and  $P(EG)$ ?
  - $P(E) = 1/6$ ,  $P(G) = 4/36 = 1/9$ ,  $P(EG) = 1/36$
  - $P(EG) \neq P(E) P(G) \rightarrow$  E and G dependent



What does independence look like?

# Independence?

$S$



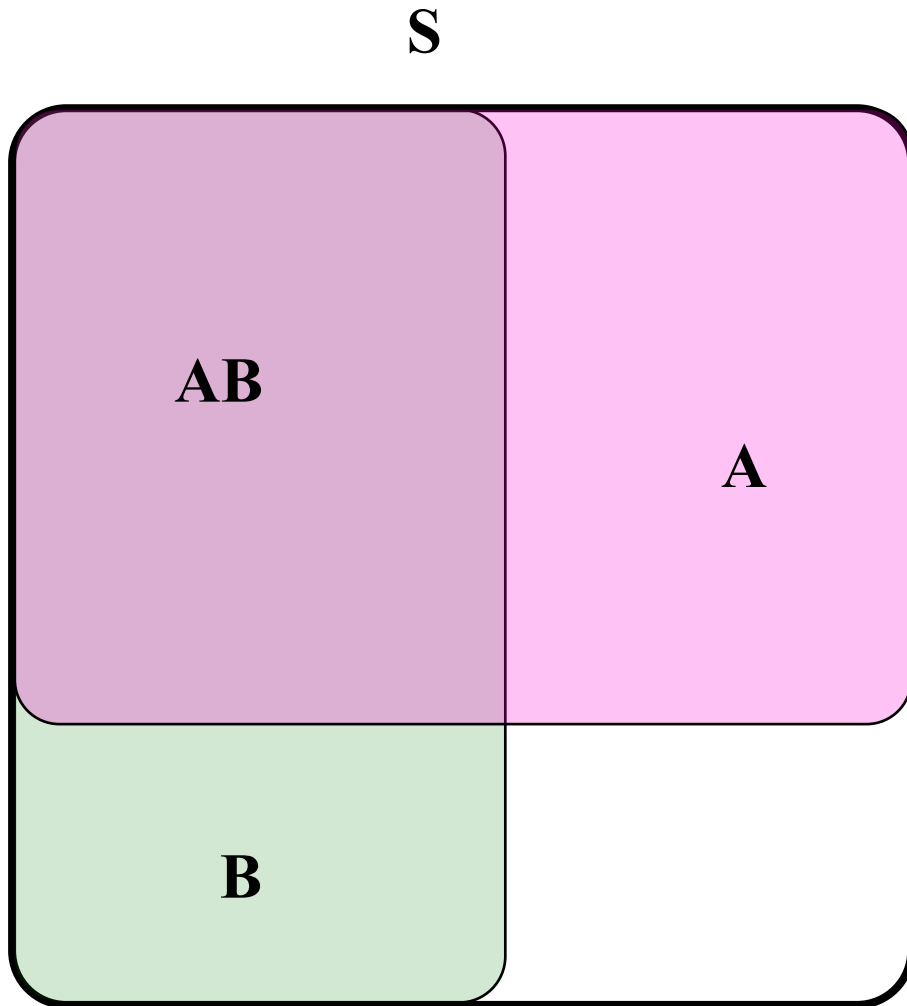
Independence Definition 1:

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B)$$

$$\frac{|A \cap B|}{|S|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|} \times \frac{|B|}{|S|}$$



# Independence



Independence Definition 1:

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B)$$

$$\frac{|AB|}{|S|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|} \times \frac{|B|}{|S|}$$

Independence Definition 2:

$$P(A|B) = P(A)$$

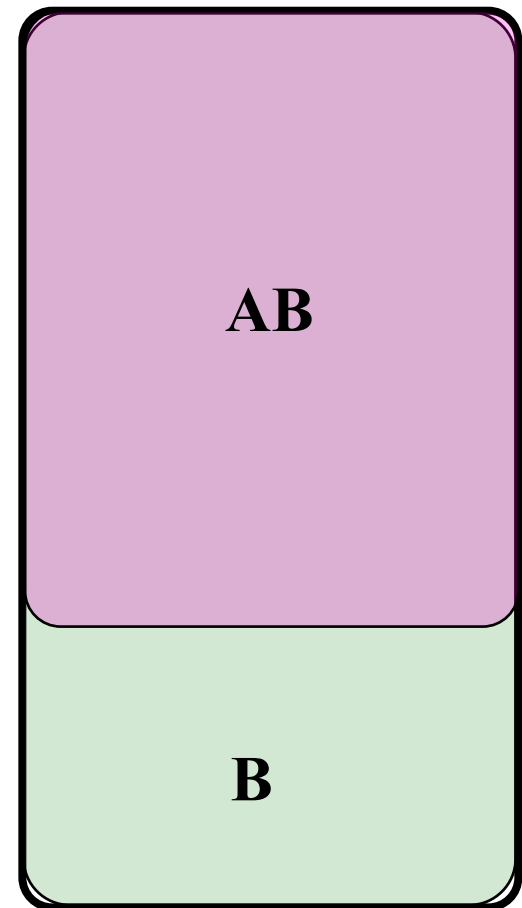
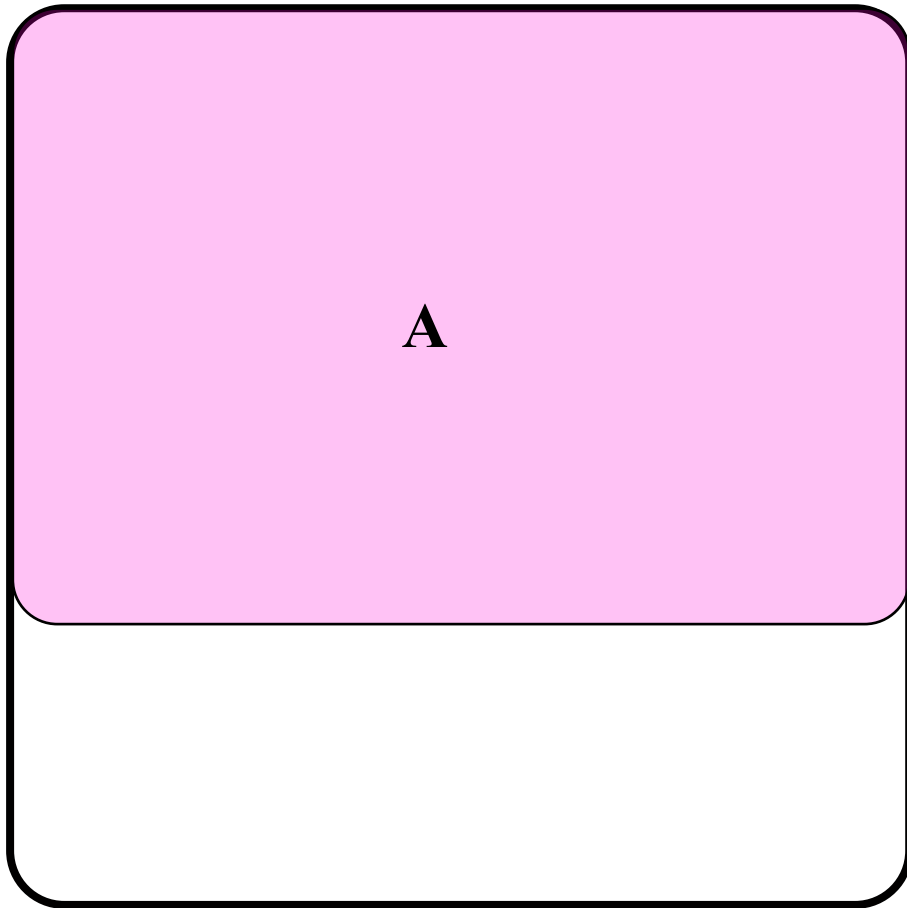
$$\frac{|AB|}{|B|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|}$$



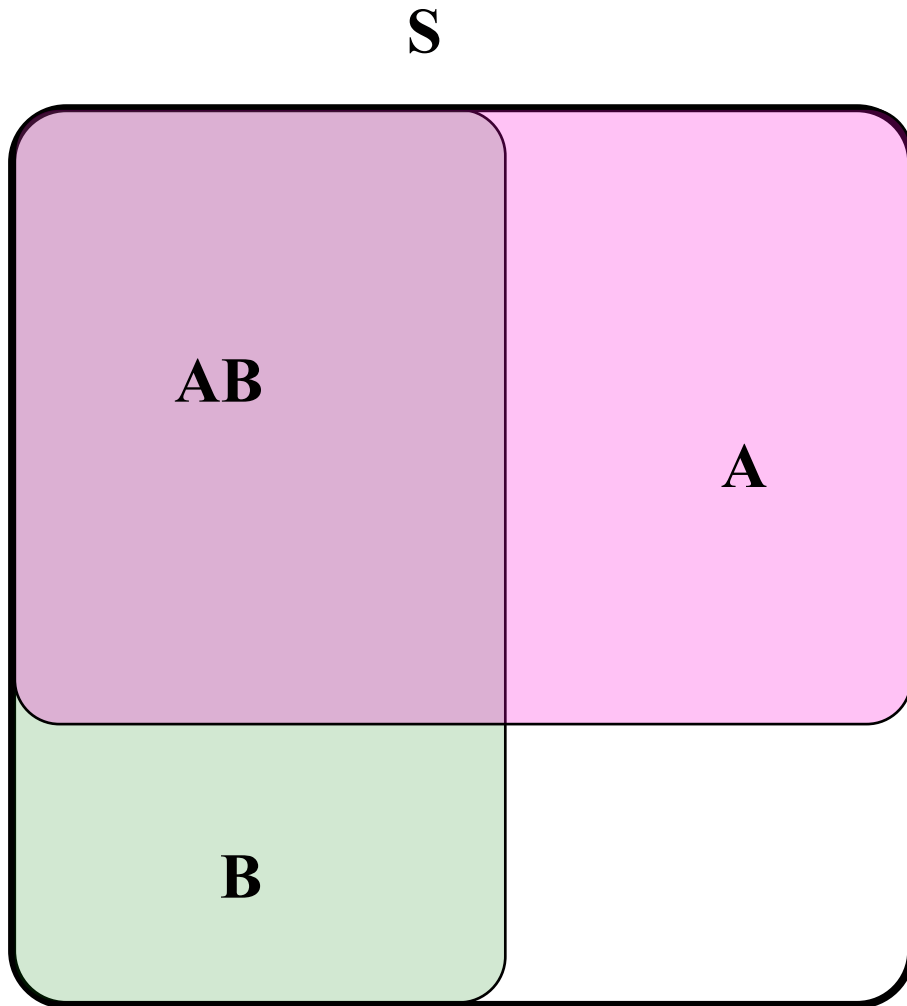
# Independence

This ratio,  $P(A)$ ...

... is the same as this one,  $P(A|B)$



# Independence



Independence Definition 1:

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B)$$

$$\frac{|AB|}{|S|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|} \times \frac{|B|}{|S|}$$

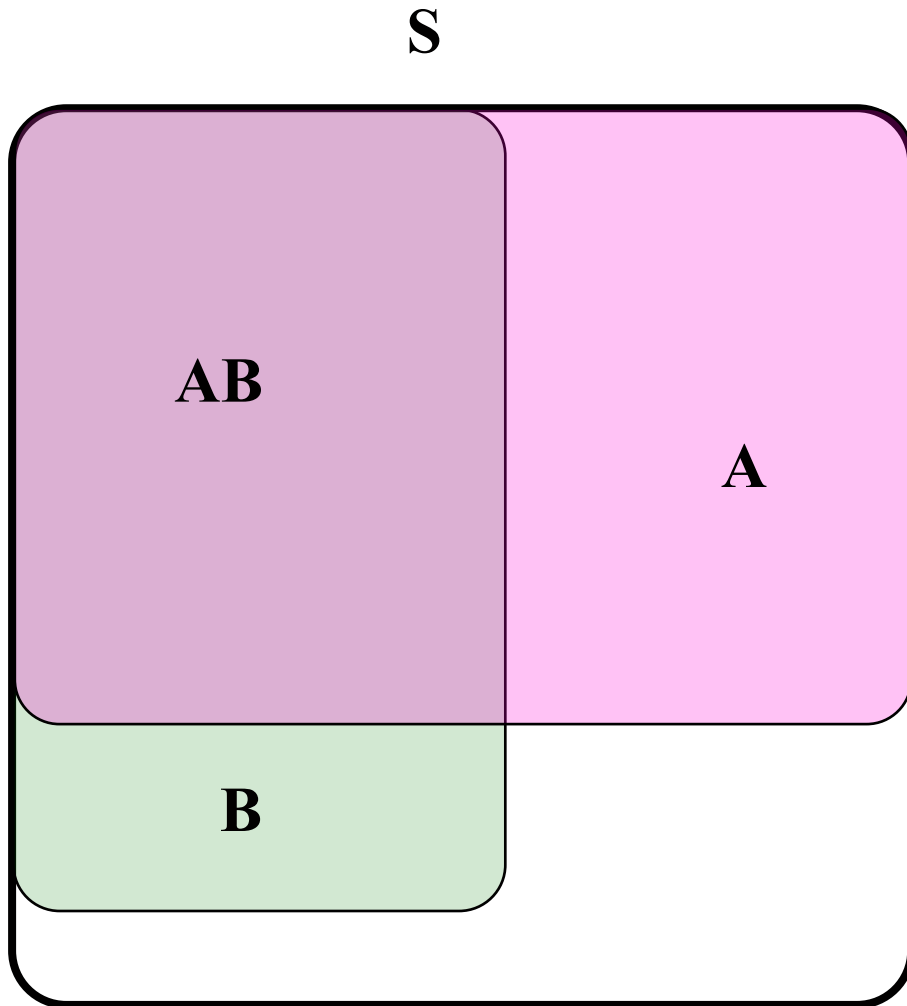
Independence Definition 2:

$$P(A|B) = P(A)$$

$$\frac{|AB|}{|B|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|}$$



# Dependence



Independence Definition 1:

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B)$$

$$\frac{|AB|}{|S|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|} \times \frac{|B|}{|S|}$$

Independence Definition 2:

$$P(A|B) = P(A)$$

$$\frac{|AB|}{|B|} = \frac{|A|}{|S|}$$



More Intuition through proofs:

# Independence

Given independent events  $A$  and  $B$ , prove that  $A$  and  $B^C$  are independent

We want to show that  $P(AB^C) = P(A)P(B^C)$

$$\begin{aligned}P(AB^C) &= P(A) - P(AB) && \text{By Total Law of Prob.} \\ &= P(A) - P(A)P(B) && \text{By independence} \\ &= P(A)[1 - P(B)] && \text{Factoring} \\ &= P(A)P(B^C) && \text{Since } P(B) + P(B^C) = 1\end{aligned}$$

So if  $A$  and  $B$  are independent  $A$  and  $B^C$  are also independent



# Generalization



# Generalized Independence

- General definition of Independence:  
Events  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$  are independent if **for every subset** with  $r$  elements (where  $r \leq n$ ) it holds that:

$$P(E_1, E_2, E_3, \dots, E_r) = P(E_1)P(E_2)P(E_3) \dots P(E_r)$$

- Example: outcomes of  $n$  separate flips of a coin are all independent of one another
  - Each flip in this case is called a “trial” of the experiment



Math > Intuition



# Two Dice

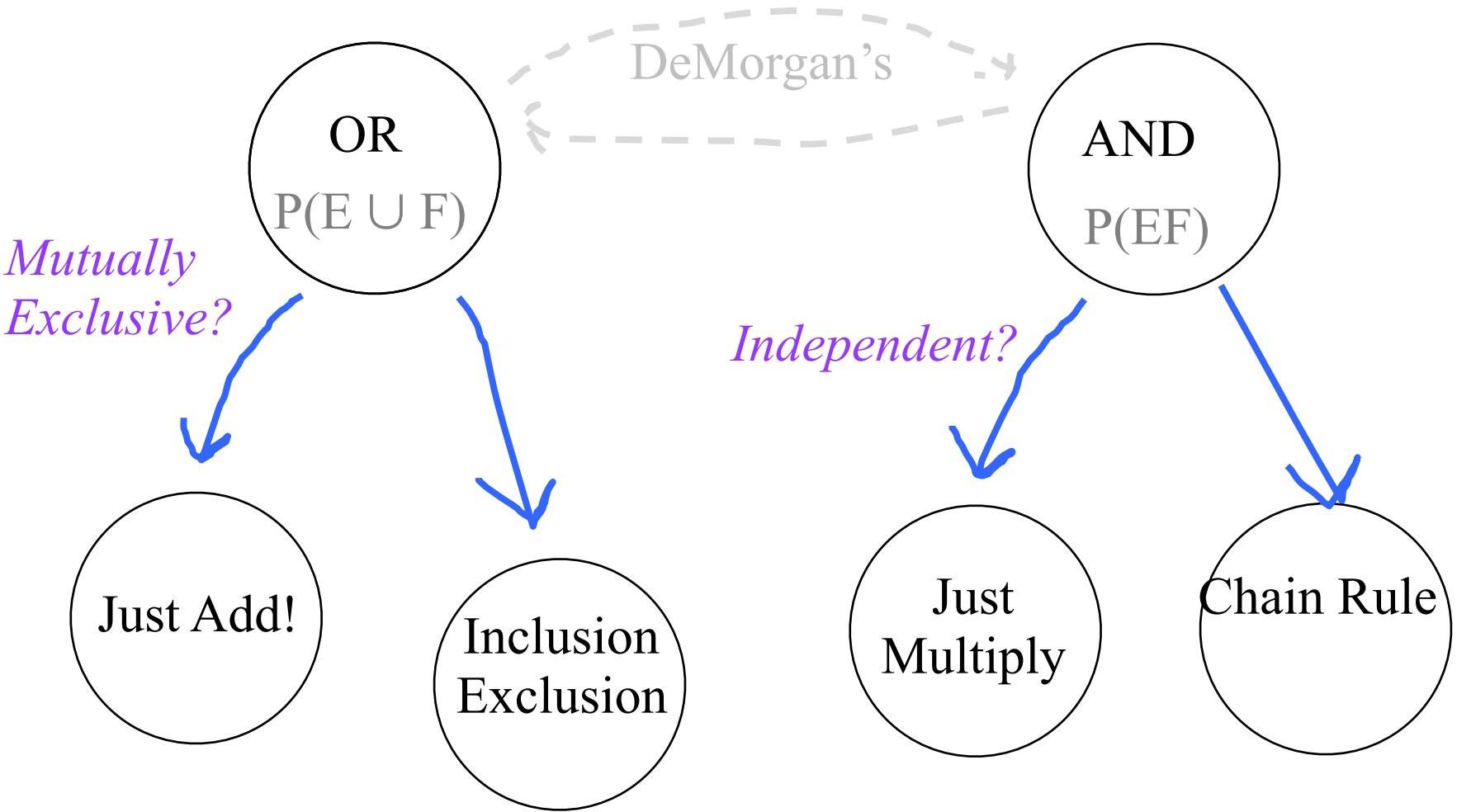
- Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ 
  - Let E be event:  $D_1 = 1$
  - Let F be event:  $D_2 = 6$
  - Are E and F independent? **Yes!**
- Let G be event:  $D_1 + D_2 = 7$ 
  - Are E and G independent? **Yes!**
  - $P(E) = 1/6$ ,  $P(G) = 1/6$ ,  $P(E \cap G) = 1/36$  [roll (1, 6)]
  - Are F and G independent? **Yes!**
  - $P(F) = 1/6$ ,  $P(G) = 1/6$ ,  $P(F \cap G) = 1/36$  [roll (1, 6)]
  - Are E, F and G independent? **No!**
  - $P(EFG) = 1/36 \neq 1/216 = (1/6)(1/6)(1/6)$



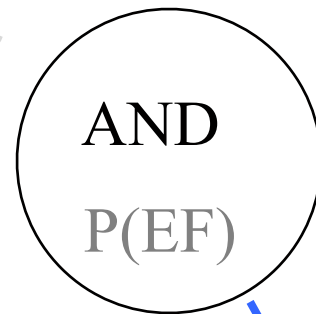
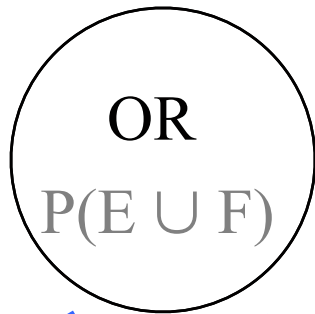
# New Ability



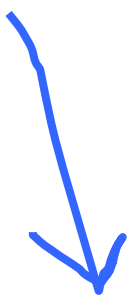
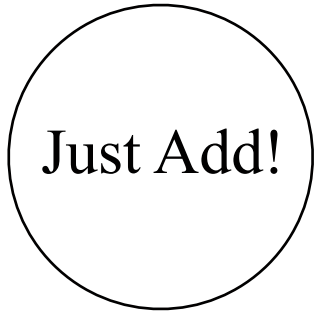
# Today



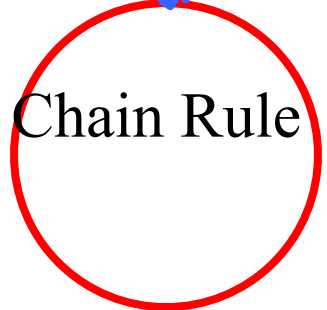
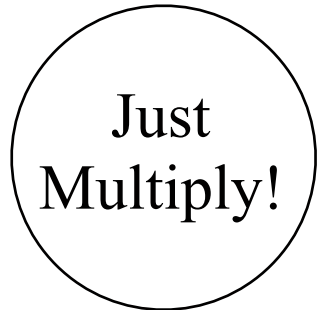
# Today



*Mutually Exclusive?*



*Independent?*



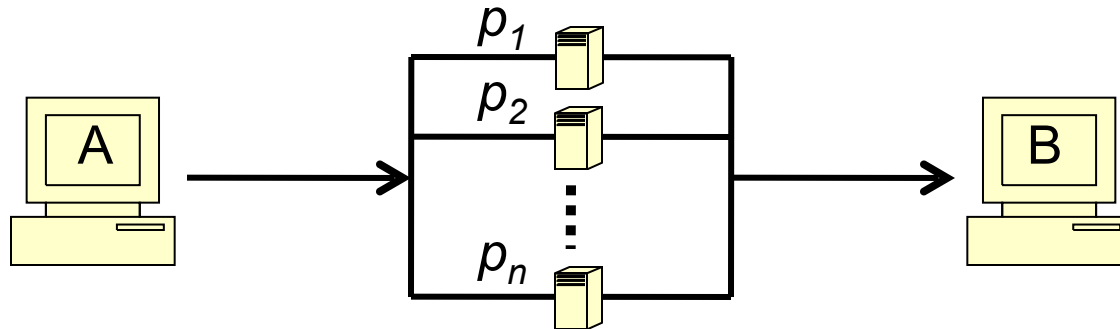


Use the two properties  
(mutual exclusion and  
independence)



# Sending a Message Through Network

- Consider the following parallel network:

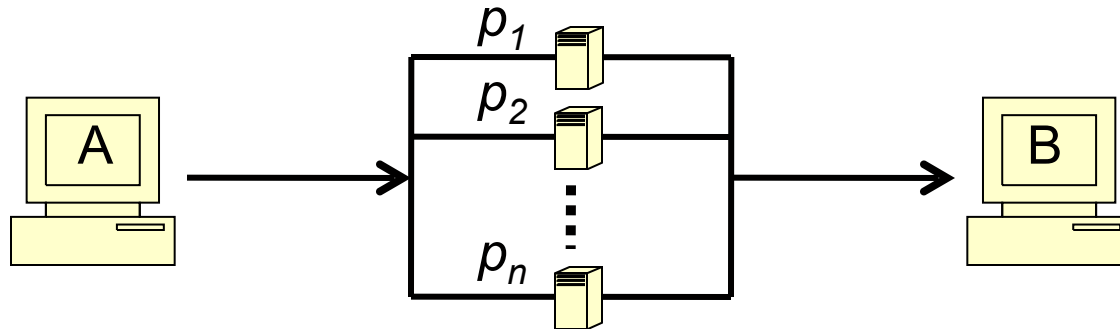


- $n$  independent routers, each with probability  $p_i$  of functioning (where  $1 \leq i \leq n$ )
- $E$  = functional path from A to B exists. What is  $P(E)$ ?



# Sending a Message Through Network

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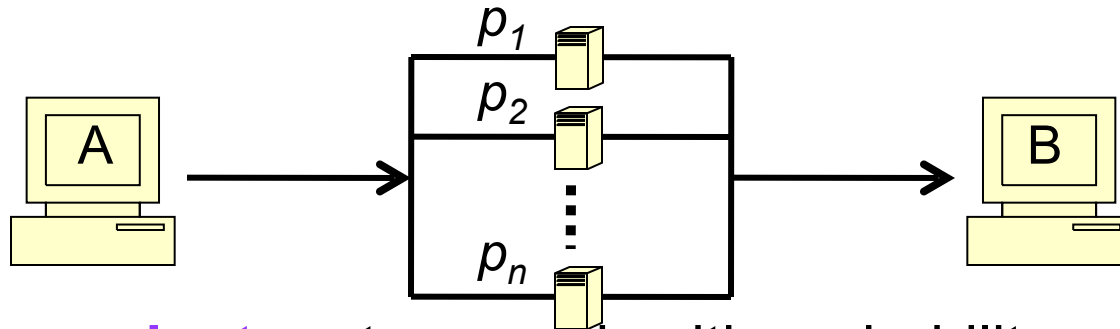


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# Sending a Message Through Network

- Consider the following parallel network:



- $n$  **independent** routers, each with probability  $p_i$  of functioning (where  $1 \leq i \leq n$ )
  - $E$  = functional path from A to B exists. What is  $P(E)$ ?
- Solution:

- $$P(E) = 1 - P(\text{all routers fail})$$
$$= 1 - (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2)\dots(1 - p_n)$$

$$1 - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - p_i)$$



# Coin Flips

- Say a coin comes up heads with probability  $p$ 
  - Each coin flip is an **independent** trial
- $P(n \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips}) = p^n$
- $P(n \text{ tails on } n \text{ coin flips}) = (1 - p)^n$
- $P(\text{first } k \text{ heads, then } n - k \text{ tails}) = p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$
- Consider a particular ordering (HTH $\overline{TH}$ ). What is the probability of that *exact* ordering?

$$= p^3 \cdot (1 - p)^2$$



# Explain...

$$P(\text{exactly } k \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips})? \quad \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

---

Think of the flips as ordered:

Ordering 1: T, H, H, T, T, T.... The coin flips are independent!

Ordering 2: H, T, H, T, T, T....

And so on...  $P(F_i) = p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$

Let's make each ordering with  $k$  heads an event...  $F_i$

---

$P(\text{exactly } k \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips}) = P(\text{any one of the events})$

$P(\text{exactly } k \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips}) = P(F_1 \text{ or } F_2 \text{ or } F_3 \dots )$

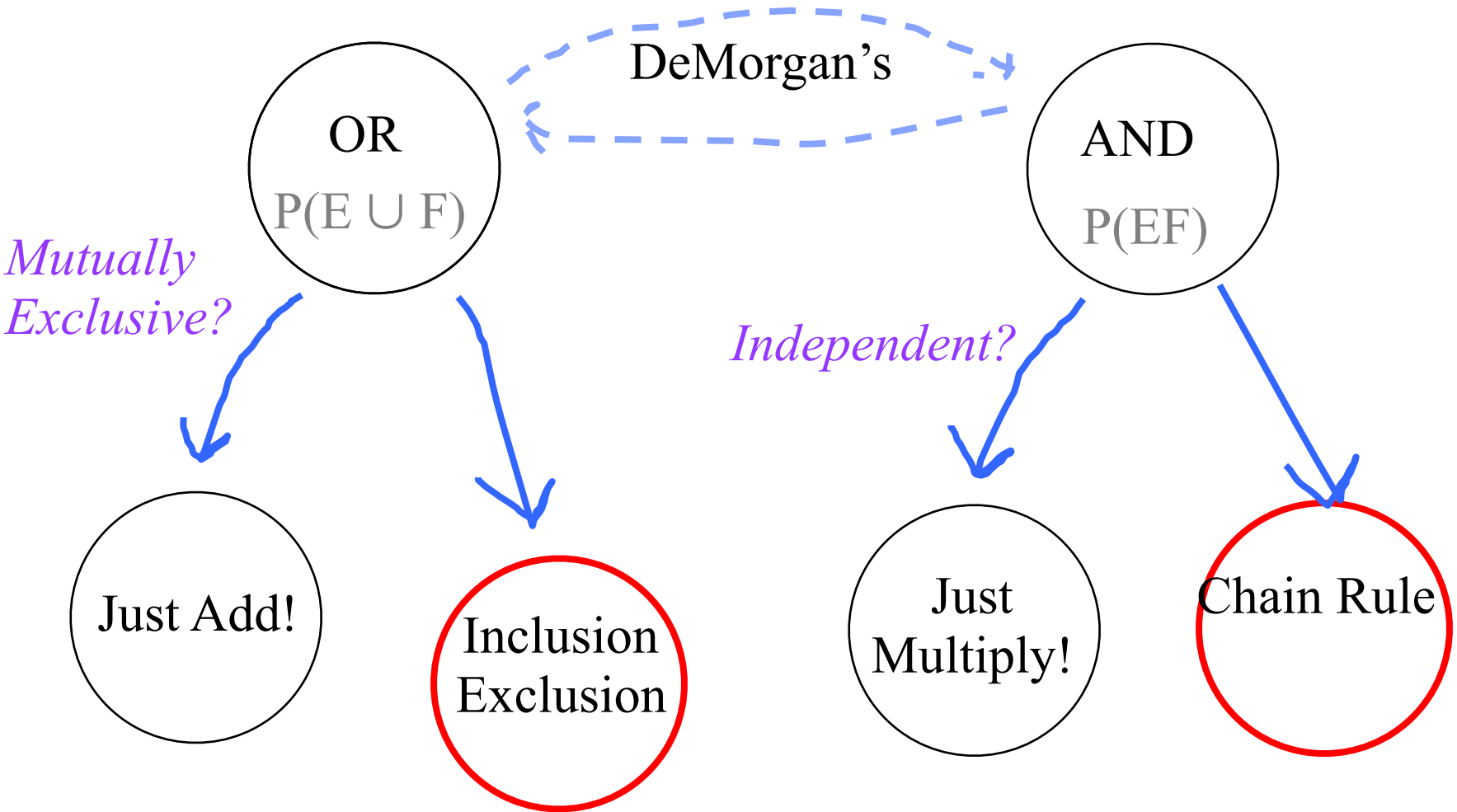
Those events are mutually exclusive!



# Stretch Break!



# Today

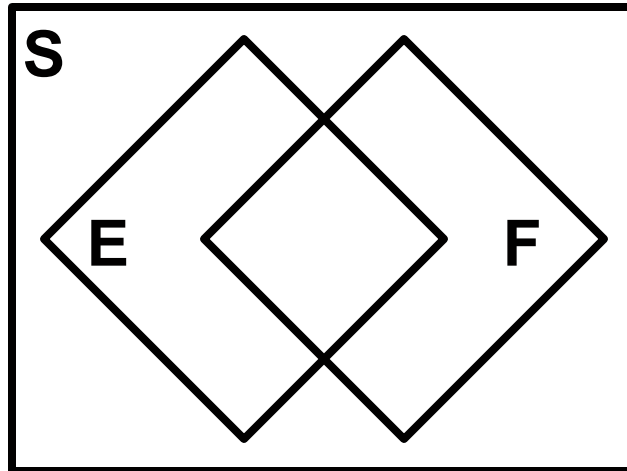


# Sets Review



# Set Operations Review

- Say  $E$  and  $F$  are subsets of  $S$

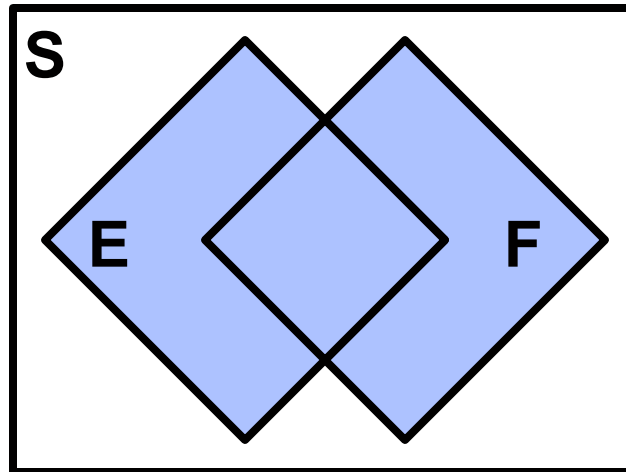


# Set Operations Review

- Say  $E$  and  $F$  are events in  $S$

Event that is in  $E$  or  $F$

$$E \cup F$$



- $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  die roll outcome
- $E = \{1, 2\}$        $F = \{2, 3\}$        $E \cup F = \{1, 2, 3\}$

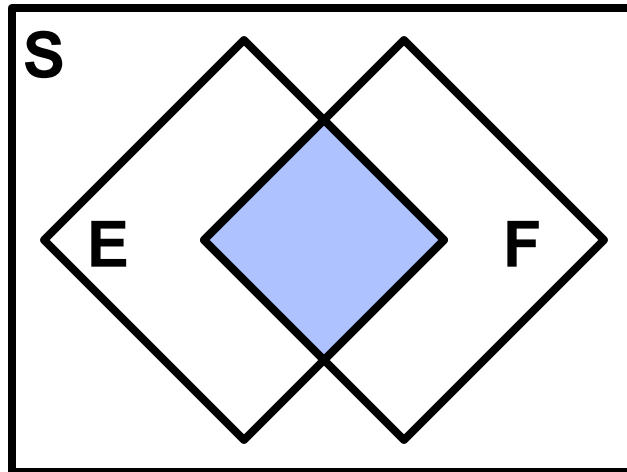


# Set Operations Review

- Say  $E$  and  $F$  are events in  $S$

Event that is in  $E$  and  $F$

$$E \cap F \text{ or } EF$$

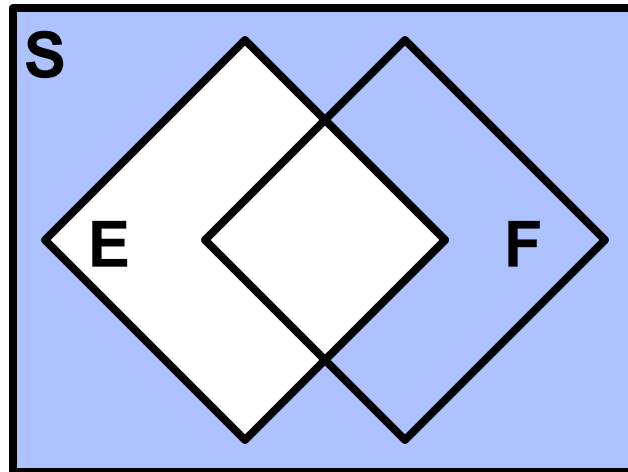


# Set Operations Review

- Say  $E$  and  $F$  are events in  $S$

Event that is not in  $E$  (called complement of  $E$ )

$$E^c \text{ or } \sim E$$

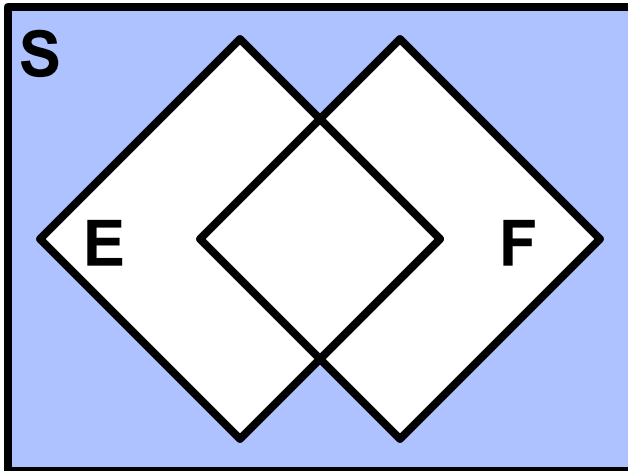


# Set Operations Review

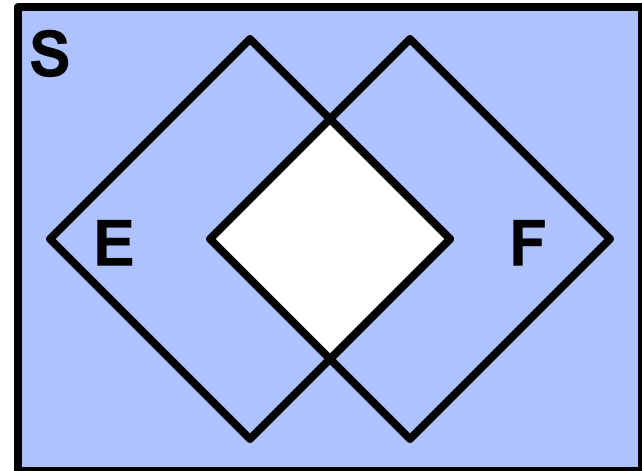
- Say E and F are events in S

DeMorgan's Laws

$$(E \cup F)^c = E^c \cap F^c$$



$$(E \cap F)^c = E^c \cup F^c$$



# Augustus Demorgan



Jason Alexander

- British Mathematician who wrote the book “Formal Logic” in 1847
- Celebrity lookalike is Jason Alexander from Seinfeld.



# Hash Tables

- $m$  strings are hashed (unequally) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets
  - Each string hashed is an **independent** trial, with probability  $p_i$  of getting hashed to bucket  $i$
  - $E$  = at least one string hashed to first bucket
  - What is  $P(E)$ ?
- Solution

*To the white board*



# Hash Tables

- $m$  strings are hashed (unequally) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets
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  - $E =$  **at least one** string hashed to first bucket
  - What is  $P(E)$ ?
- Solution
  - P that string 1 **or** 2 **or** ..  $n$  goes to bucket 1?
  - P that string 1 **and** 2 **and** ...  $n$  goes to bucket not 1?
  - $P(E) = 1 - (1 - p_1)^m$



# Yet More Hash Tables

- $m$  strings are hashed (unequally) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets
  - Each string hashed is an **independent** trial, with probability  $p_i$  of getting hashed to bucket  $i$
  - $E =$  At least 1 of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed to it
- Solution
  - $F_i =$  at least one string hashed into  $i$ -th bucket
  - $P(E) = P(F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_k) = 1 - P((F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_k)^c)$   
 $= 1 - P(F_1^c F_2^c \dots F_k^c)$  (DeMorgan's Law)
  - $P(F_1^c F_2^c \dots F_k^c) = P(\text{no strings hashed to buckets 1 to } k)$   
 $= (1 - p_1 - p_2 - \dots - p_k)^m$
  - $P(E) = 1 - (1 - p_1 - p_2 - \dots - p_k)^m$



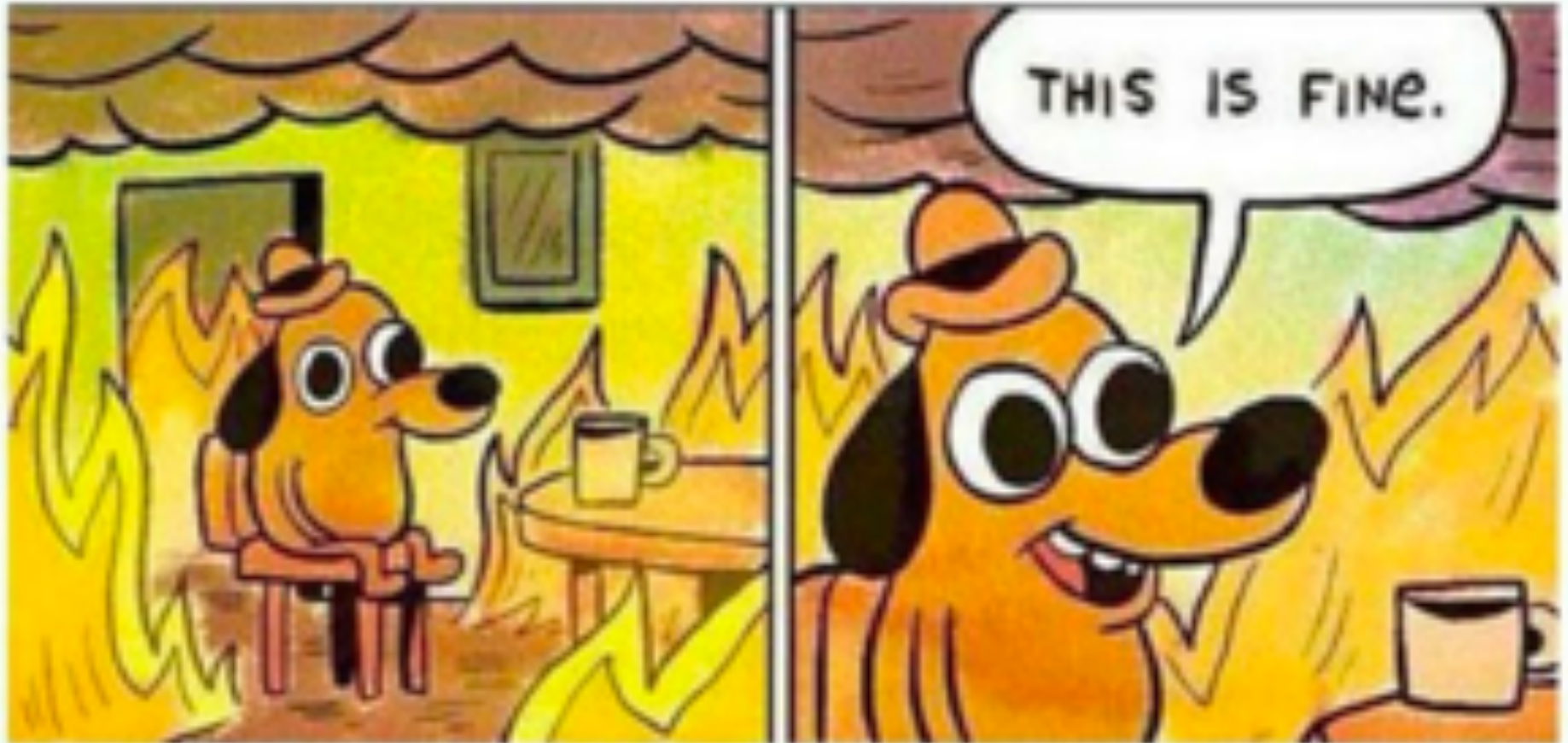
# No, Really, More Hash Tables

=

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# No, Really, More Hash Tables



It is expected that this last example  
will take some review!

# No, Really, More Hash Tables

- $m$  strings are hashed (unequally) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets
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## • Solution

- $F_i =$  at least one string hashed into  $i$ -th bucket

- $$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= P(F_1 F_2 \dots F_k) = 1 - P((F_1 F_2 \dots F_k)^c) \\ &= 1 - P(F_1^c \cup F_2^c \cup \dots \cup F_k^c) \quad (\text{DeMorgan's Law}) \\ &= 1 - \sum_{r=1}^k (-1)^{(r+1)} \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_r} P(F_{i_1}^c F_{i_2}^c \dots F_{i_r}^c) \end{aligned}$$

where  $P(F_{i_1}^c F_{i_2}^c \dots F_{i_r}^c) = (1 - p_{i_1} - p_{i_2} - \dots - p_{i_r})^m$



**Here we are**



Source: The Ho

$G_1$

$G_2$

$G_3$

$G_4$

$G_5$

**T**



G<sub>1</sub>

G<sub>2</sub>

G<sub>3</sub>

G<sub>4</sub>

G<sub>5</sub>

T

```
1 False, True, False, False, True, False
2 True, True, False, True, True, False
3 True, True, False, True, True, True
4 False, True, False, True, True, False
5 False, True, False, False, True, False
6 True, True, False, True, True, True
7 False, False, True, False, False, False
8 False, False, True, False, True, False
9 True, False, False, True, False, False
10 False, True, False, True, True, False
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13 False, True, False, False, True, False
14 False, False, True, True, False, False
15 True, True, False, False, True, True
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17 True, True, True, True, True, True
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32 True, False, False, True, False, False
33 True, True, False, True, True, True
34 True, True, False, False, True, True
35 True, True, False, True, True, True
36 False, False, False, True, False, False
```



100,000 samples

6 observations per sample



# Discovered Pattern

```
|Piech-2:dna piech$ python findStructure.py
size data = 100000
p(G1) = 0.500
p(G2) = 0.545
p(G3) = 0.299
p(G4) = 0.701
p(G5) = 0.600
p(T) = 0.390
p(T and G1) = 0.291 , P(T)p(G1) = 0.195
p(T and G2) = 0.300 , P(T)p(G2) = 0.213
p(T and G3) = 0.116 , P(T)p(G3) = 0.117
p(T and G4) = 0.273 , P(T)p(G4) = 0.273
p(T and G5) = 0.389 , P(T)p(G5) = 0.234
```

• • •

$$p(T \text{ and } G5 \mid G2) = 0.450$$
$$p(T \mid G2)p(G5 \mid G2) = 0.450$$



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p(G2) = 0.545
p(G3) = 0.299
p(G4) = 0.701
p(G5) = 0.600
p(T) = 0.390
p(T and G1) = 0.291 , P(T)p(G1) = 0.195
p(T and G2) = 0.300 , P(T)p(G2) = 0.213
p(T and G3) = 0.116 , P(T)p(G3) = 0.117
p(T and G4) = 0.273 , P(T)p(G4) = 0.273
p(T and G5) = 0.309 , P(T)p(G5) = 0.234
```

• • •

$$p(T \text{ and } G5 \mid G2) = 0.450$$
$$p(T \mid G2)p(G5 \mid G2) = 0.450$$



# Discovered Pattern

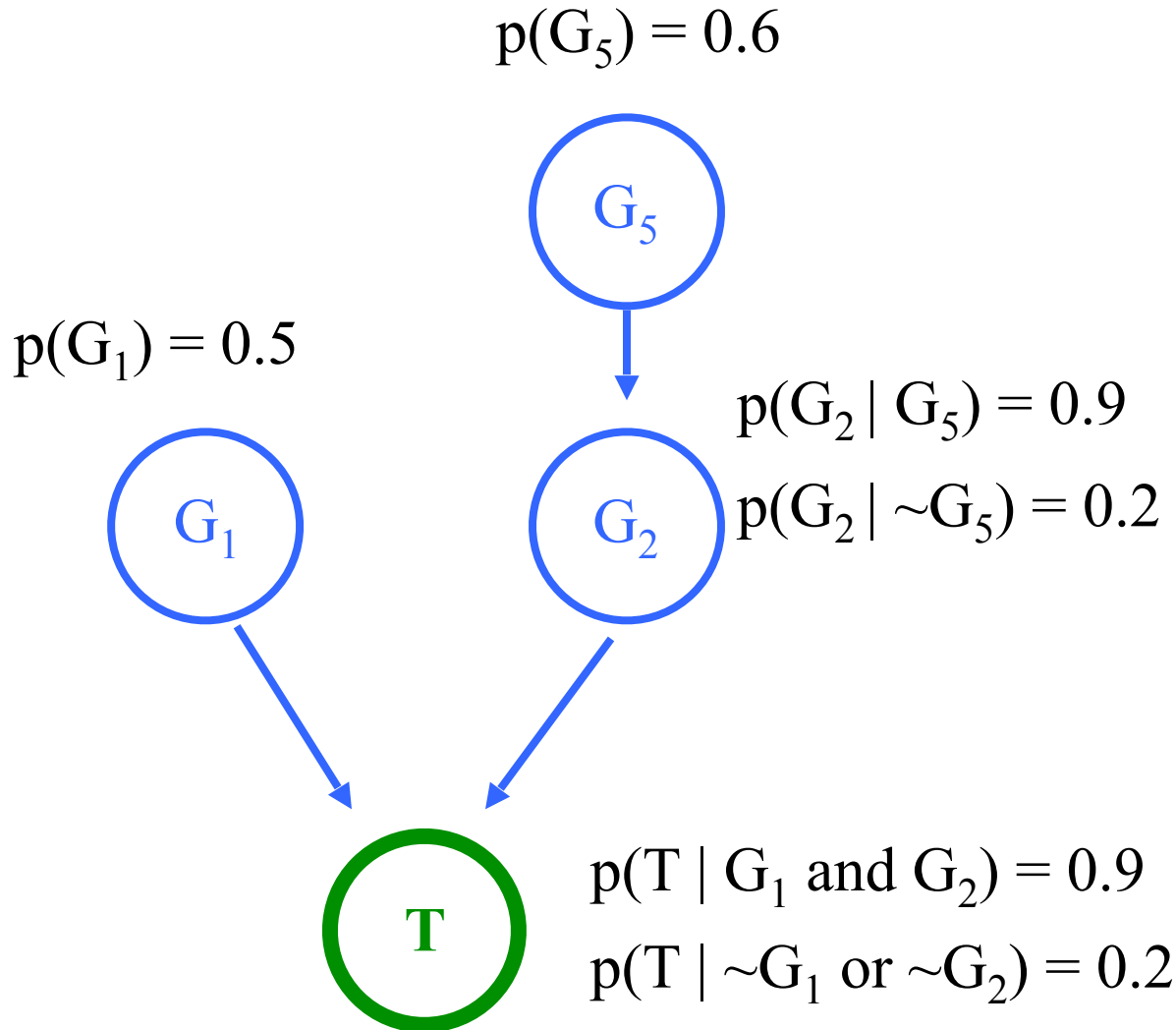
```
|Piech-2:dna piech$ python findStructure.py
size data = 100000
p(G1) = 0.500
p(G2) = 0.545
p(G3) = 0.299
p(G4) = 0.701
p(G5) = 0.600
p(T) = 0.390
p(T and G1) = 0.291 , P(T)p(G1) = 0.195
p(T and G2) = 0.300 , P(T)p(G2) = 0.213
p(T and G3) = 0.116 , P(T)p(G3) = 0.117
p(T and G4) = 0.273 , P(T)p(G4) = 0.273
p(T and G5) = 0.389 , P(T)p(G5) = 0.234
```

• • •

$$p(T \text{ and } G5 \mid G2) = 0.450$$
$$p(T \mid G2)p(G5 \mid G2) = 0.450$$



# Only Causal Structure that Fits



These genes don't impact T





*Mutual exclusion*  
And  
*Independence*

Are two properties of events that make it easy to calculate probabilities.





In the conditional paradigm, the formulas of probability are preserved.





Independence relationships can change with conditioning.

If  $E$  and  $F$  are independent, that does not mean they will still be independent given another event  $G$ .

*There is additional reading about this in the course reader. You will explore this more in depth in CS228*



# Two Great Tastes

Conditional Probability

Independence



# Conditional Independence

- Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are called **conditionally independent given  $G$** , if

$$P(EF|G) = P(E|G)P(F|G)$$

- Or, equivalently if:

$$P(E|FG) = P(E|G)$$



**NETFLIX**

**And Learn**

# Netflix and Learn

What is the probability  
that a user will watch  
Life is Beautiful?

$$P(E)$$



---

$$P(E) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(E)}{n} \approx \frac{\text{\#people who watched movie}}{\text{\#people on Netflix}}$$

$$P(E) = 10,234,231 / 50,923,123 = 0.20$$



# Netflix and Learn

What is the probability that  
a user will watch  
Life is Beautiful, given they  
watched Amelie?

$$P(E|F)$$



$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)} = \frac{\text{\#people who watched both}}{\text{\#people who watched } F}$$

$$P(E|F) = 0.42$$



Conditioned on liking a set of movies?

# Netflix and Learn

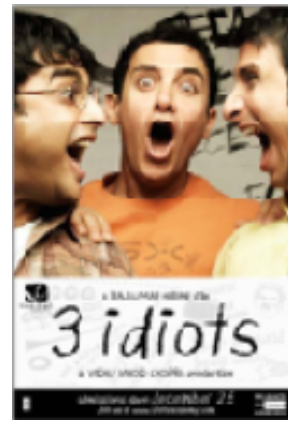
Each event corresponds to liking a particular movie



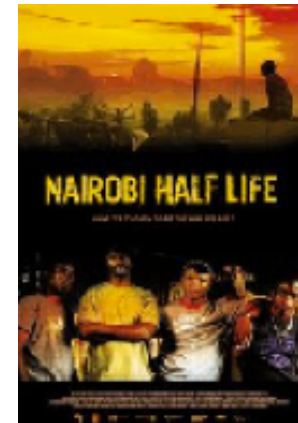
$E_1$



$E_2$



$E_3$



$E_4$

$$P(E_4 | E_1, E_2, E_3)?$$



# Netflix and Learn

Is  $E_4$  independent of  $E_1, E_2, E_3$ ?



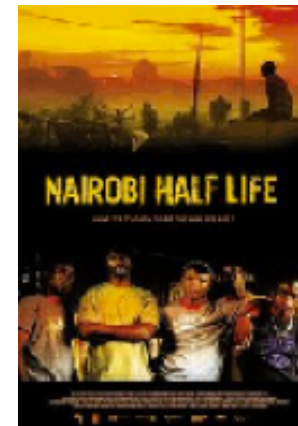
$E_1$



$E_2$



$E_3$



$E_4$

$$P(E_4|E_1, E_2, E_3) \stackrel{?}{=} P(E_4)$$



# Netflix and Learn

Is  $E_4$  independent of  $E_1, E_2, E_3$ ?



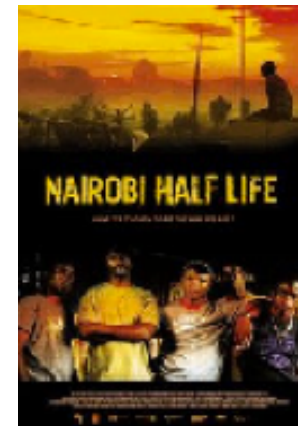
$E_1$



$E_2$



$E_3$



$E_4$

$$P(E_4|E_1, E_2, E_3) = \frac{P(E_1 E_2 E_3 E_4)}{P(E_1 E_2 E_3)}$$



# Netflix and Learn

- What is the probability that a user watched four particular movies?
  - There are 13,000 titles on Netflix
  - The user watches 30 random titles
  - $E$  = movies watched include the given four.

- Solution: Watch those four Choose 26 movies not in the set

$$P(E) = \frac{\binom{4}{4} \binom{12996}{24}}{\binom{13000}{30}} = 10^{-11}$$

Choose 30 movies from netflix



# Netflix and Learn



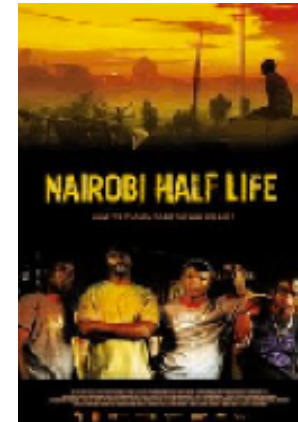
$E_1$



$E_2$



$E_3$



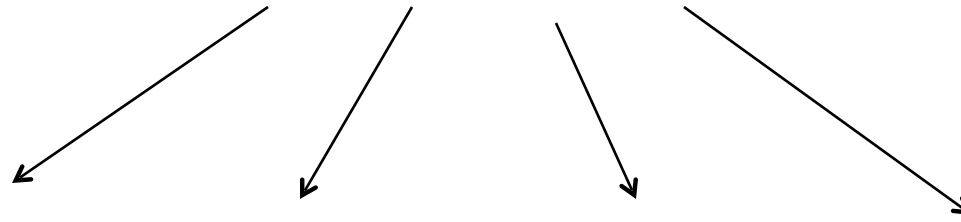
$E_4$



# Netflix and Learn

$K_1$

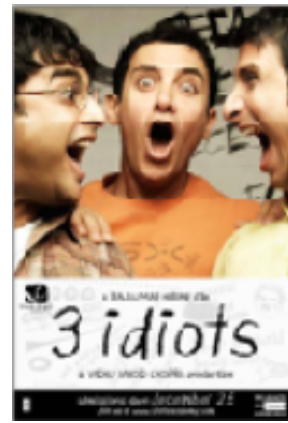
*Like foreign emotional comedies*



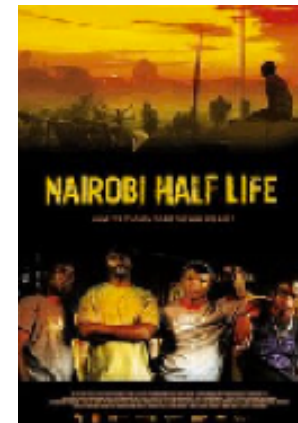
$E_1$



$E_2$



$E_3$



$E_4$

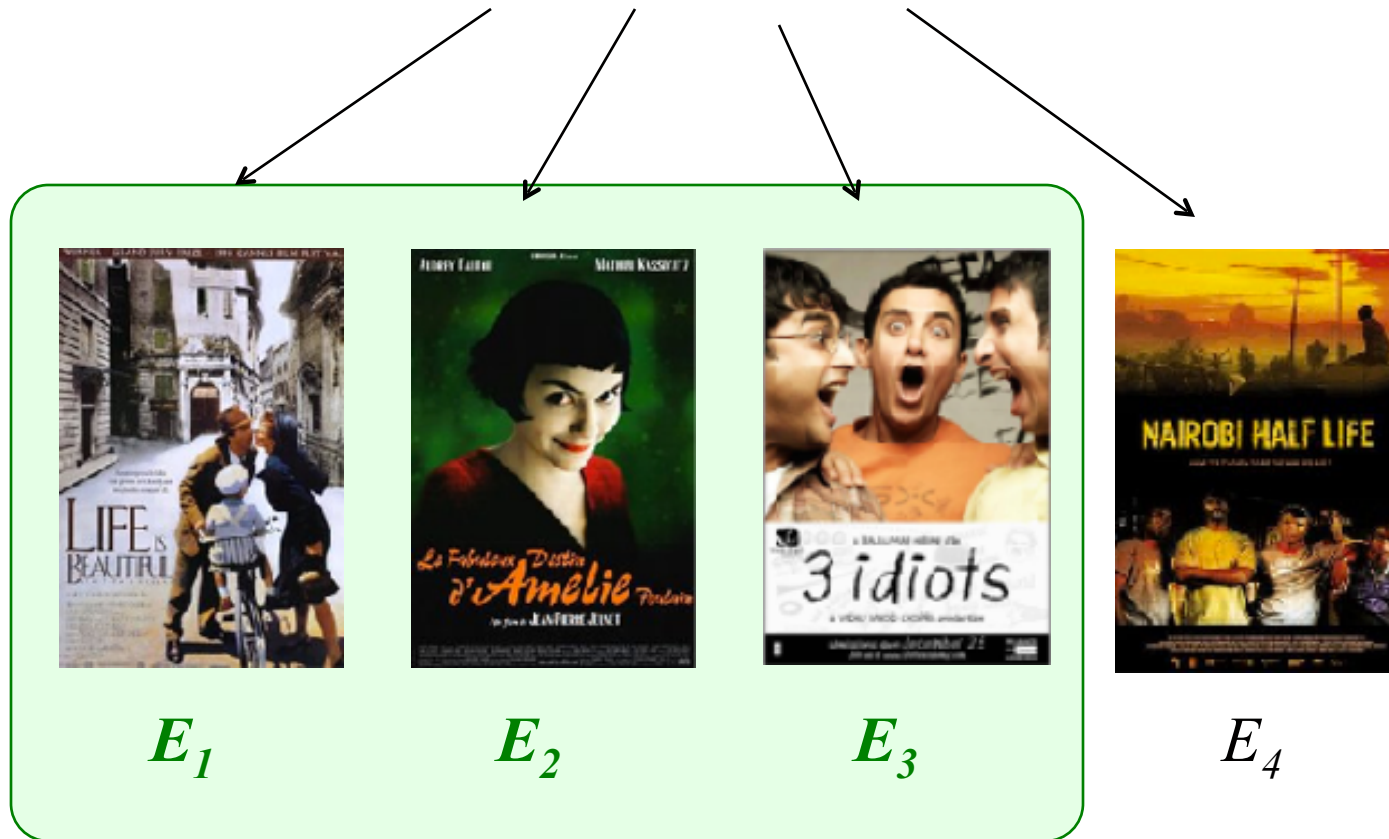
Assume  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ ,  $E_3$  and  $E_4$  are conditionally independent given  $K_1$



# Netflix and Learn

$K_1$

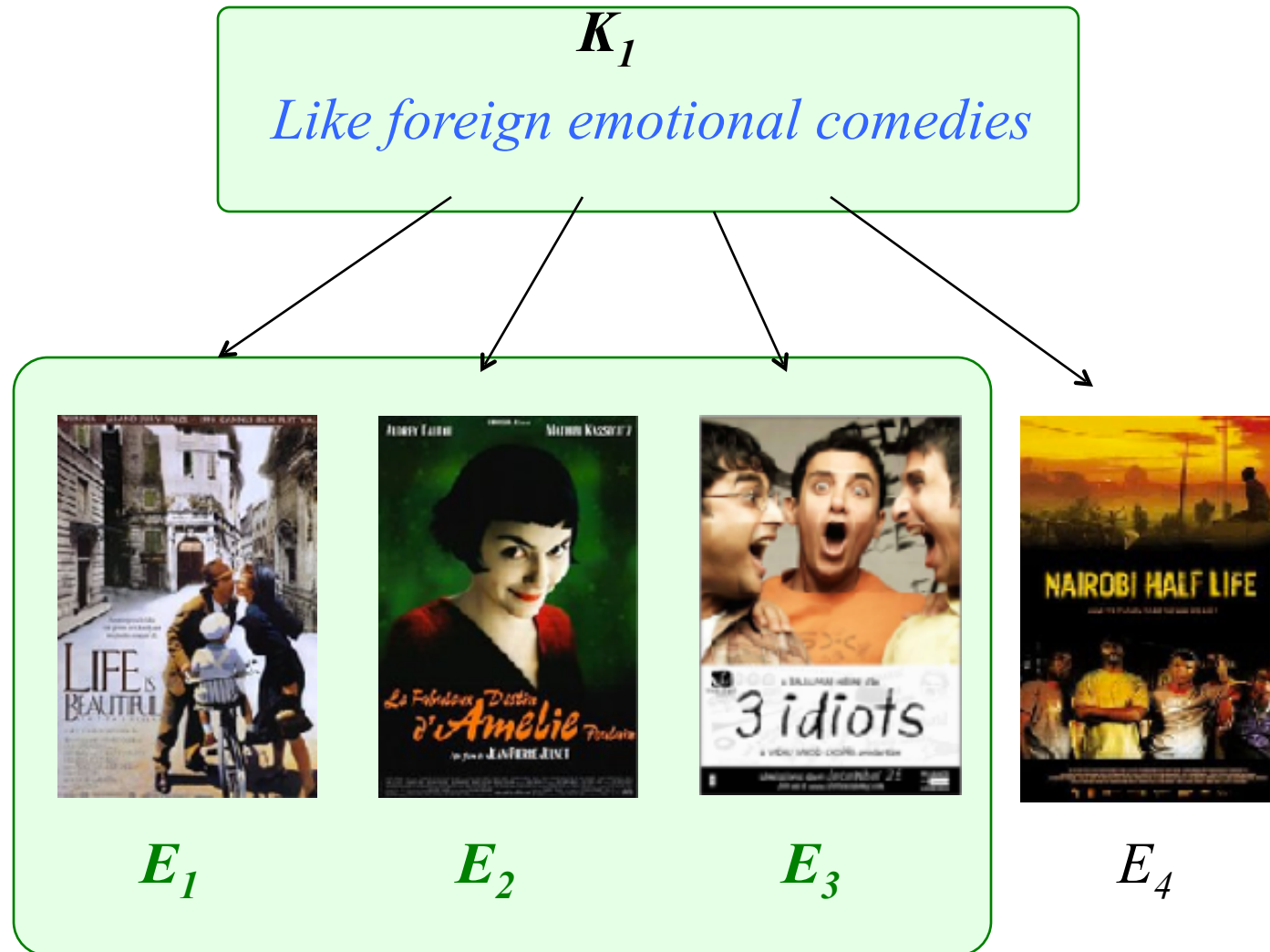
*Like foreign emotional comedies*



Assume  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ ,  $E_3$  and  $E_4$  are conditionally independent given  $K_1$



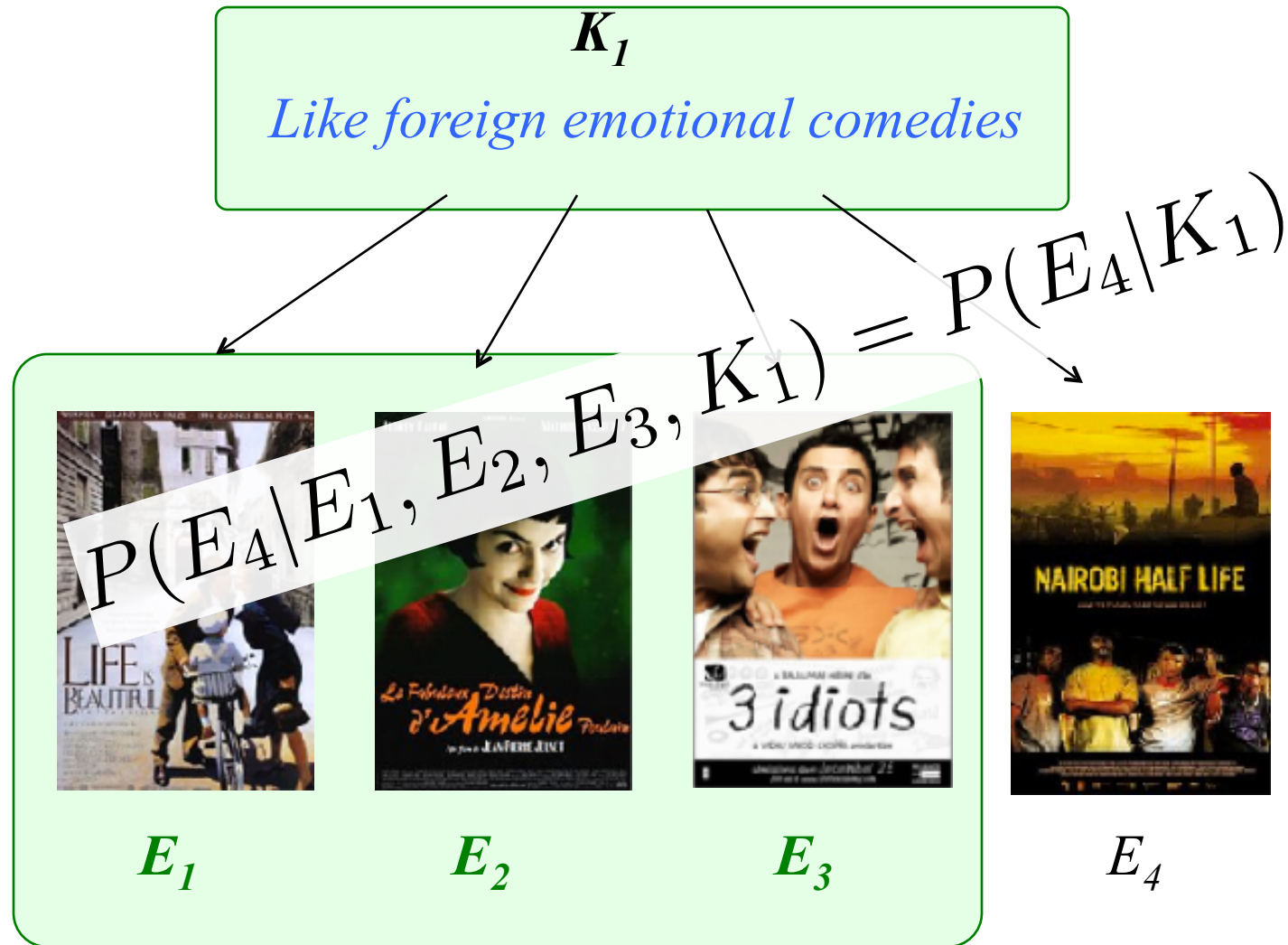
# Netflix and Learn



Assume  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ ,  $E_3$  and  $E_4$  are conditionally independent given  $K_1$



# Netflix and Learn



Assume  $E_1, E_2, E_3$  and  $E_4$  are conditionally independent given  $K_1$



Conditional independence is a practical, real world way of decomposing hard probability questions.

# Conditional Independence



If  $E$  and  $F$  are  
dependent,

that does not mean  $E$  and  
 $F$  will be dependent  
when another event  
happens.



# Conditional Dependence



If  $E$  and  $F$  are independent,

that does not mean  $E$  and  $F$  will be independent when another event happens.



# Big Deal

“Exploiting conditional independence to generate fast probabilistic computations is one of the main contributions CS has made to probability theory”

-Judea Pearl wins 2011 Turing Award, *“For fundamental contributions to artificial intelligence through the development of a calculus for probabilistic and causal reasoning”*

