

# 05: Independence

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Lisa Yan and Jerry Cain  
September 23, 2020

# Quick slide reference

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05a\_chain

# Generalized Chain Rule

Definition of **conditional probability**:

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

The **Chain Rule**:

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

# Generalized Chain Rule

$$P(E_1 E_2 E_3 \dots E_n) \\ = P(E_1) P(E_2 | E_1) P(E_3 | E_1 E_2) \dots P(E_n | E_1 E_2 \dots E_{n-1})$$



Lisa Yan and Jerry Cain, CS109, 2020

## Quick check

$$P(E_1 E_2 E_3 \dots E_n) = P(E_1) P(E_2 | E_1) \dots P(E_n | E_1 E_2 \dots E_{n-1})$$

Chain Rule

You are going to a friend's Halloween party.

Let  $C$  = there is candy

$M$  = there is music

$W$  = you wear a costume

$E$  = no one wears your costume

An awesome party means that all of these events must occur.

What is  $P(\text{awesome party}) = P(CMWE)$ ?

- A.  $P(C)P(M|C)P(W|CM)P(E|CMW)$
- B.  $P(M)P(C|M)P(W|MC)P(E|MCW)$
- C.  $P(W)P(E|W)P(CM|EW)$
- D. A, B, and C
- E. None/other



## Quick check

$$P(E_1 E_2 E_3 \dots E_n) = P(E_1) P(E_2 | E_1) \dots P(E_n | E_1 E_2 \dots E_{n-1})$$

Chain Rule

You are going to a friend's Halloween party.

Let  $C$  = there is candy  
 $M$  = there is music

$E$  = no one wears your costume  
 $W$  = you wear a costume

An awesome party means that all of these events must occur.

What is  $P(\text{awesome party}) = P(CMEW)$ ?

- A.  $P(C)P(M|C)P(E|CM)P(W|CME)$
- B.  $P(M)P(C|M)P(E|MC)P(W|MCE)$
- C.  $P(W)P(E|W)P(CM|EW)$
- D. A, B, and C
- E. None/other

Chain Rule is a way of introducing “order” and “procedure” into probability.

# Think of the children

Two parents both have an (A, a) gene pair.

- Each parent will pass on one of their genes (each gene equally likely) to their child.
- The probability of a single child having curly hair (recessive trait) is 0.25.
- There are three children.



What is the probability that all three children have curly hair?

Let  $E_1, E_2, E_3$  be the events that child 1, 2, and 3 have curly hair, respectively.

$$P(E_1E_2E_3) = P(E_1)P(E_2|E_1)P(E_3|E_1E_2)$$





05b\_independence\_i

# Independence I

# Independence

---

Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are defined as independent if:

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

Otherwise  $E$  and  $F$  are called dependent events.

If  $E$  and  $F$  are independent, then:

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

# Intuition through proof

Independent events  $E$  and  $F$   $\iff P(EF) = P(E)P(F)$

Statement:

If  $E$  and  $F$  are independent, then  $P(E|F) = P(E)$ .

Proof:

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

Definition of conditional probability

$$= \frac{P(E)P(F)}{P(F)}$$

Independence of  $E$  and  $F$

$$= P(E)$$

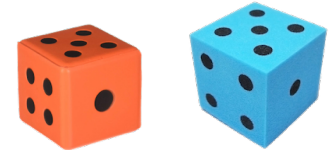
Taking the bus to cancellation city

Knowing that  $F$  happened does not change our belief that  $E$  happened.

# Dice, our misunderstood friends

Independent events  $E$  and  $F$   $\iff$   $P(EF) = P(E)P(F)$   
 $P(E|F) = P(E)$

- Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ .
- Let event  $E$ :  $D_1 = 1$   
event  $F$ :  $D_2 = 6$   
event  $G$ :  $D_1 + D_2 = 5$



$$G = \{(1,4), (2,3), (3,2), (4,1)\}$$

1. Are  $E$  and  $F$  independent?

$$P(E) = 1/6$$

$$P(F) = 1/6$$

$$P(EF) = 1/36$$

✓ independent

2. Are  $E$  and  $G$  independent?

$$P(E) = 1/6$$

$$P(G) = 4/36 = 1/9$$

$$P(EG) = 1/36 \neq P(E)P(G)$$

✗ dependent

# Generalizing independence

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Three events  $E$ ,  $F$ , and  $G$  are independent if:

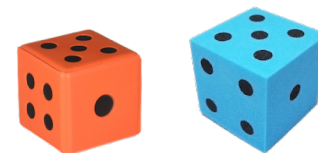
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P(EFG) = P(E)P(F)P(G), \text{ and} \\ P(EF) = P(E)P(F), \text{ and} \\ P(EG) = P(E)P(G), \text{ and} \\ P(FG) = P(F)P(G) \end{array} \right.$$

$n$  events  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$  are independent if:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{for } r = 1, \dots, n: \\ \text{for every subset } E_1, E_2, \dots, E_r: \\ P(E_1, E_2, \dots, E_r) = P(E_1)P(E_2) \cdots P(E_r) \end{array} \right.$$

# Dice, increasingly misunderstood (still our friends)

- Each roll of a 6-sided die is an **independent trial**.
- Two rolls:  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ .
- Let event  $E$ :  $D_1 = 1$   
event  $F$ :  $D_2 = 6$   
event  $G$ :  $D_1 + D_2 = 7$



$$G = \{(1,6), (2,5), (3,4), (4,3), (5,2), (6,1)\}$$

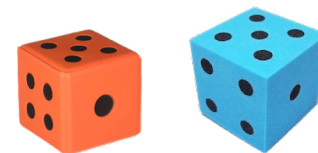
1. Are  $E$  and  $F$  independent?
2. Are  $E$  and  $G$  independent?
3. Are  $F$  and  $G$  independent?
4. Are  $E, F, G$  independent?

$$P(EF) = 1/36$$



# Dice, increasingly misunderstood (still our friends)

- Each roll of a 6-sided die is an **independent trial**.
- Two rolls:  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ .
- Let event  $E$ :  $D_1 = 1$   
event  $F$ :  $D_2 = 6$   
event  $G$ :  $D_1 + D_2 = 7$



$$G = \{(1,6), (2,5), (3,4), (4,3), (5,2), (6,1)\}$$

1. Are  $E$  and  $F$   independent?
2. Are  $E$  and  $G$  independent?
3. Are  $F$  and  $G$  independent?
4. Are  $E, F, G$   independent?

$$P(EF) = 1/36$$

Pairwise independence is not sufficient to prove independence of  $>2$  events!

05b\_independence\_ii

# Independence II



# Independent trials

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We often are interested in experiments consisting of  $n$  **independent trials**.

- $n$  trials, each with the same set of possible outcomes
- $n$ -way independence: an event in one subset of trials is independent of events in other subsets of trials

Examples:

- Flip a coin  $n$  times
- Roll a die  $n$  times
- Send a multiple choice survey to  $n$  people
- Send  $n$  web requests to  $k$  different servers

# Think of the children as independent trials

Two parents both have an (A, a) gene pair.

- Each parent will pass on one of their genes (each gene equally likely) to their child.
- The probability of a single child having curly hair (recessive trait) is 0.25.
- There are three children. **Each child is an independent trial.**



What is the probability that all three children have curly hair?

Let  $E_1, E_2, E_3$  be the events that child 1, 2, and 3 have curly hair, respectively.

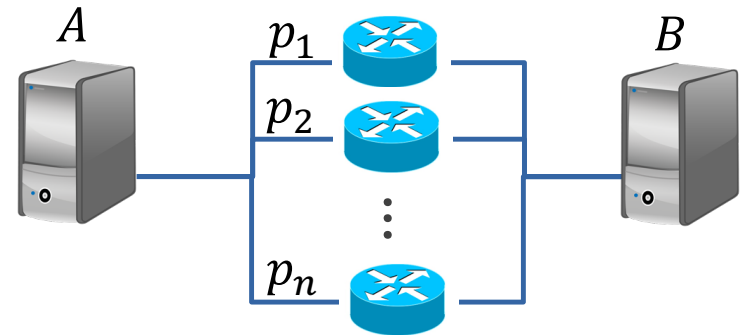
$$P(E_1E_2E_3) = P(E_1)P(E_2|E_1)P(E_3|E_1E_2)$$

# Network reliability

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.

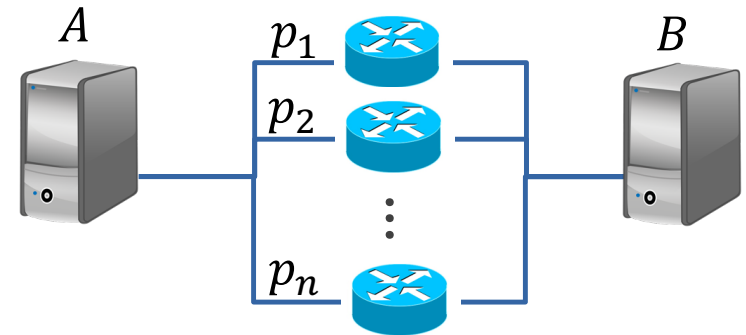
What is  $P(E)$ ?



# Network reliability

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  $P(E)$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= P(\geq 1 \text{ one router works}) \\ &= 1 - P(\text{all routers fail}) \\ &= 1 - (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2) \cdots (1 - p_n) \\ &= 1 - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - p_i) \end{aligned}$$

$\geq 1$  with independent trials:  
take complement

# 05: Independence (live)

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Lisa Yan and Jerry Cain  
September 23, 2020

# Independence

Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are defined as independent if:

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

For independent events  $E$  and  $F$ ,

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

# Think

Slide 24 has two questions to think over by yourself. We'll go over it together afterwards.

Post any clarifications here!

<https://us.edstem.org/courses/2678/discussion/128396>

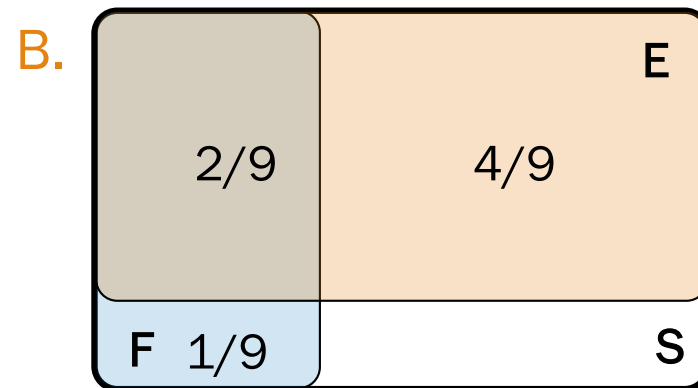
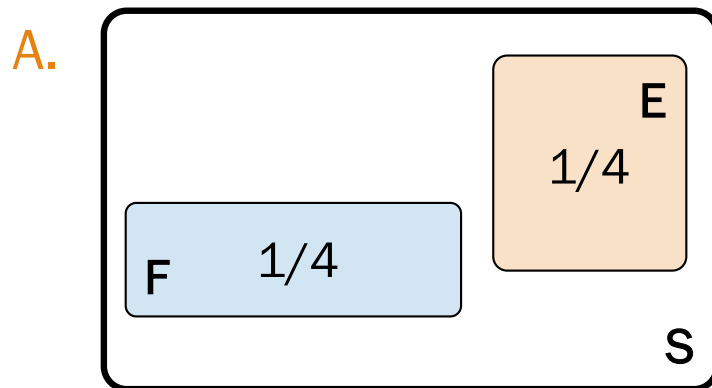
Think by yourself: 2 min



# Independence?

Independent events  $E$  and  $F$   $\iff$   $P(EF) = P(E)P(F)$   
 $P(E|F) = P(E)$

1. True or False? Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are independent if:
  - A. Knowing that  $F$  happens means that  $E$  can't happen.
  - B. Knowing that  $F$  happens doesn't change probability that  $E$  happened.
2. Are  $E$  and  $F$  independent in the following pictures?

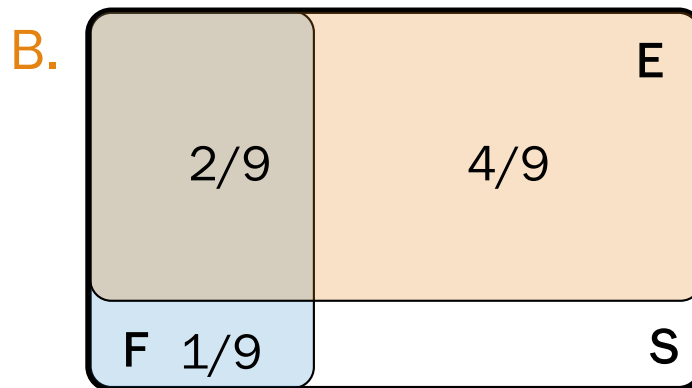
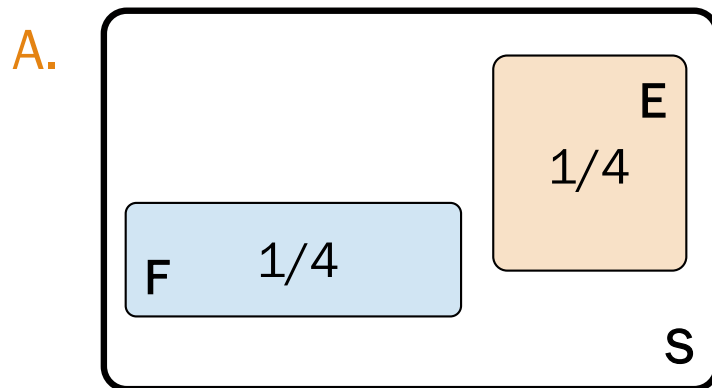




# Independence?

Independent events  $E$  and  $F$   $\iff$   $P(EF) = P(E)P(F)$   
 $P(E|F) = P(E)$

1. True or False? Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are independent if:
  - A. Knowing that  $F$  happens means that  $E$  can't happen.
  - B. Knowing that  $F$  happens doesn't change probability that  $E$  happened.
2. Are  $E$  and  $F$  independent in the following pictures?



Be careful:

- Independence is NOT mutual exclusion.
- Independence is difficult to visualize graphically.

# Independence

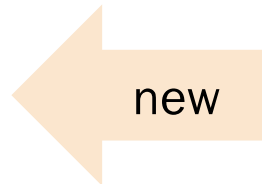
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Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are defined as independent if:

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

For independent events  $E$  and  $F$ ,

- $P(E|F) = P(E)$
- $E$  and  $F^C$  are independent.



# Independence of complements

Statement:

If  $E$  and  $F$  are independent, then  $E$  and  $F^C$  are independent.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}P(EF^C) &= P(E) - P(EF) \\ &= P(E) - P(E)P(F) \\ &= P(E)[1 - P(F)] \\ &= P(E)P(F^C)\end{aligned}$$

$E$  and  $F^C$  are independent

Intersection

Independence of  $E$  and  $F$

Factoring

Complement

Definition of independence

Knowing that  $F$  did or didn't happen does not change our belief that  $E$  happened.

# Independence

Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are defined as independent if:

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

For independent events  $E$  and  $F$ ,

- $P(E|F) = P(E)$
- $E$  and  $F^C$  are independent

**Independent trials** are when we observe independent sub-experiments, each of which has the same set of possible outcomes.

# Breakout Rooms

Check out the questions on the next slide (Slide 30). Post any clarifications here!

<https://us.edstem.org/courses/2678/discussion/128396>

Breakout rooms: 5 min. Introduce yourself!



## (biased) Coin Flips

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Suppose we flip a coin  $n$  times. Each coin flip is an **independent trial** with probability  $p$  of coming up heads. Write an expression for the following:

1.  $P(n \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips})$
2.  $P(n \text{ tails on } n \text{ coin flips})$
3.  $P(\text{first } k \text{ heads, then } n - k \text{ tails})$
4.  $P(\text{exactly } k \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips})$



## (biased) Coin Flips

Suppose we flip a coin  $n$  times. Each coin flip is an **independent trial** with probability  $p$  of coming up heads. Write an expression for the following:

1.  $P(n$  heads on  $n$  coin flips)
2.  $P(n$  tails on  $n$  coin flips)
3.  $P(\text{first } k \text{ heads, then } n - k \text{ tails})$
4.  $P(\text{exactly } k \text{ heads on } n \text{ coin flips})$

$$\binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

# of mutually  
exclusive  
outcomes

$P(\text{a particular outcome's}$   
 $k$  heads on  $n$  coin flips)

Make sure you understand #4! It will come up again.

# Interlude for announcements



# Announcements

## Free Online CTL Tutoring

CTL offers appointment tutoring for CS 109 (and many other courses as well). For more information and/or to schedule an appointment, visit the CTL's [tutoring appointments and drop-in schedule page](#). They also offer a variety of [remote learning resources](#) and [academic coaching](#) available to assist with all your learning needs!

## Sections started yesterday!

Need to join or change sections? Click [here](#).

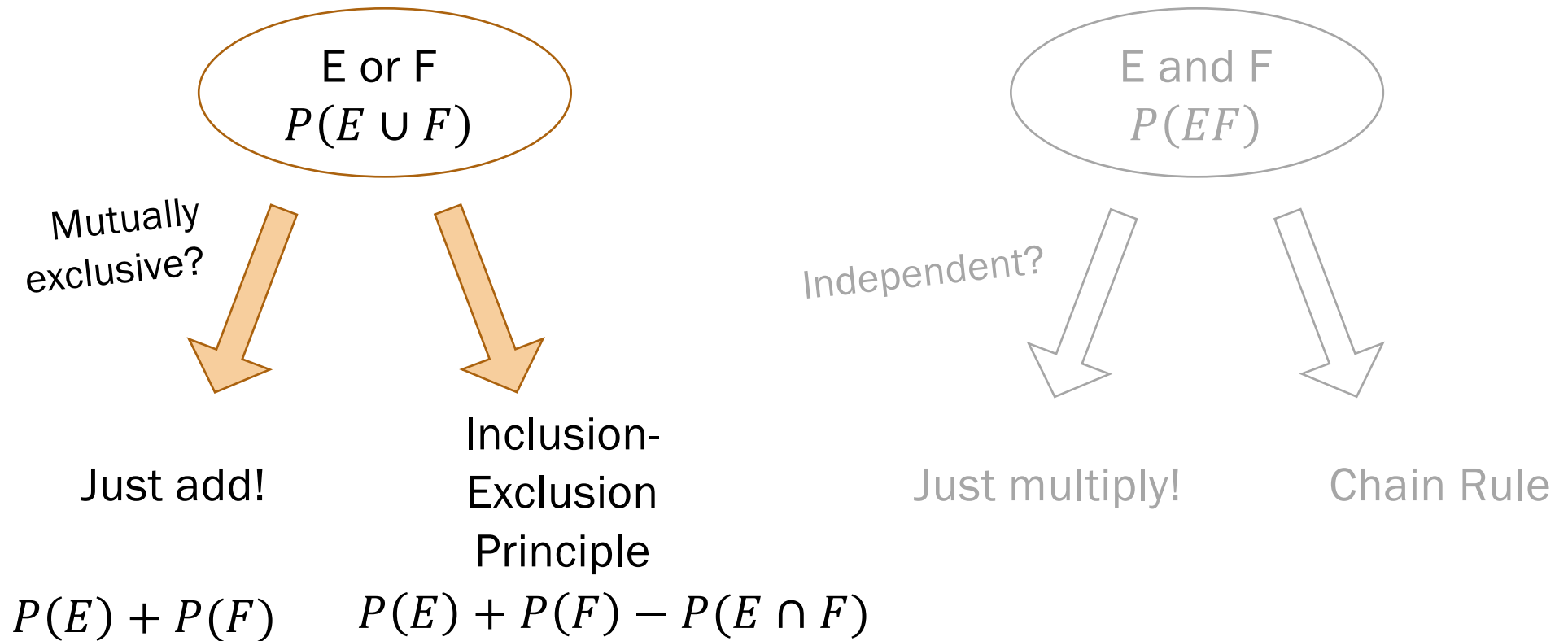
## Problem Set 1

Due: **1:00pm Friday**

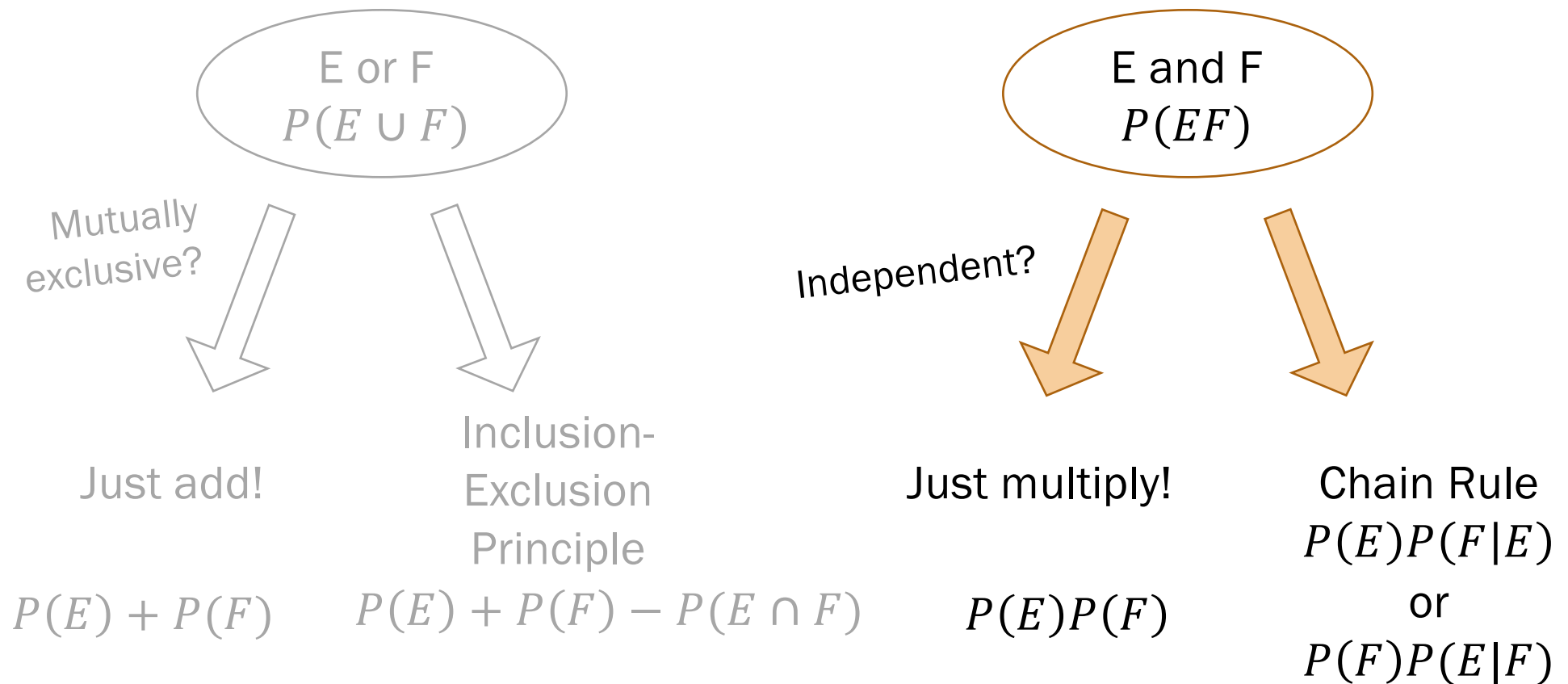


Still confused about Monty Hall? We'll post a simulation today's lecture thread on Ed later this afternoon: <https://us.edstem.org/courses/2678/discussion/128396>

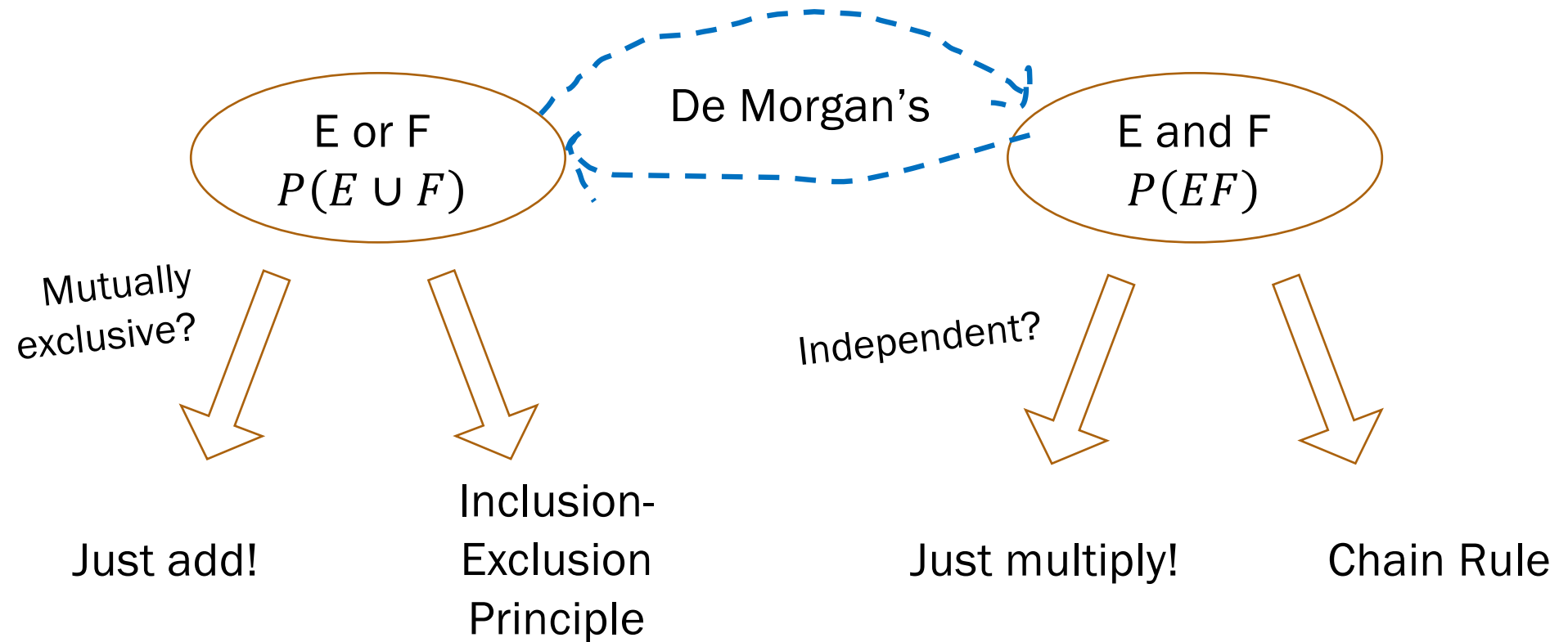
# Probability of events



# Probability of events

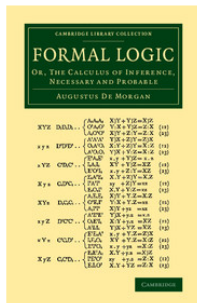


# Probability of events



# Augustus De Morgan

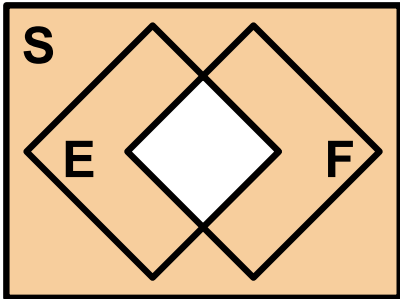
Augustus De Morgan (1806–1871):  
British mathematician who wrote the book *Formal Logic* (1847).



He looked remarkably similar to Jason Alexander (George from Seinfeld)  
(but that's not important right now)

# De Morgan's Laws

DeMorgan's lets you switch between AND and OR.



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

$$\left( \bigcap_{i=1}^n E_i \right)^C = \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i^C$$

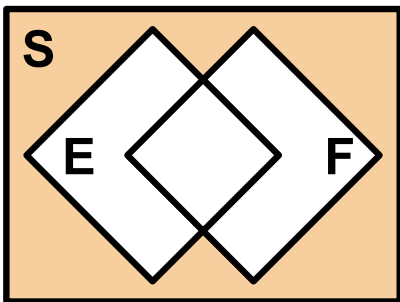
In probability:

$$P(E_1 E_2 \cdots E_n)$$

$$= 1 - P\left( (E_1 E_2 \cdots E_n)^C \right)$$

$$= 1 - P(E_1^C \cup E_2^C \cup \cdots \cup E_n^C)$$

Great if  $E_i^C$  mutually exclusive!



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

$$\left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i \right)^C = \bigcap_{i=1}^n E_i^C$$

In probability:

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \cdots \cup E_n)$$

$$= 1 - P\left( (E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \cdots \cup E_n)^C \right)$$

$$= 1 - P(E_1^C E_2^C \cdots E_n^C)$$

Great if  $E_i$  independent!

# Think, then Breakout Rooms

Check out the questions on the next slide (Slide 40). **These are challenging problems.** Post any clarifications here!

<https://us.edstem.org/courses/2678/discussion/128396>

Think by yourself: 2 min

Breakout rooms: 5 min



# Hash table fun

---

- $m$  strings are hashed (not uniformly) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an independent trial w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?

2.  $E =$  at least 1 of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?





# Hash table fun

- $m$  strings are hashed (not uniformly) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an independent trial w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?

Define  $S_i =$  string  $i$  is hashed into bucket 1  
 $S_i^C =$  string  $i$  is not hashed into bucket 1

$$P(S_i) = p_1$$
$$P(S_i^C) = 1 - p_1$$

# Hash table fun

- $m$  strings are hashed (not uniformly) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an **independent trial** w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?

WTF (not-real acronym for Want To Find):

$$P(E) = P(S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \dots \cup S_m)$$

$$= 1 - P\left((S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \dots \cup S_m)^C\right)$$

$$= 1 - P(S_1^C S_2^C \dots S_m^C)$$

$$= 1 - P(S_1^C)P(S_2^C) \dots P(S_m^C) = 1 - \left(P(S_1^C)\right)^m$$

$$= 1 - (1 - p_1)^m$$

Define

$S_i$  = string  $i$  is  
hashed into bucket 1  
 $S_i^C$  = string  $i$  is not  
hashed into bucket 1

Complement

De Morgan's Law

$S_i$  independent trials

$$P(S_i) = p_1$$
$$P(S_i^C) = 1 - p_1$$

## More hash table fun: Possible approach?

- $m$  strings are hashed (not uniformly) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an **independent trial** w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?
2.  $E =$  **at least 1** of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?

$$\begin{aligned}P(E) &= P(F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_k) \\&= 1 - P\left((F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_k)^c\right) \\&= 1 - P(F_1^c F_2^c \dots F_k^c) \\&? = 1 - P(F_1^c)P(F_2^c) \dots P(F_k^c)\end{aligned}$$

Define  $F_i =$  bucket  $i$  has at least one string in it

  $F_i$  bucket events are *dependent*!

So we cannot approach with complement.

# More hash table fun

- $m$  strings are hashed (not uniformly) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an **independent trial** w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?
2.  $E =$  **at least 1** of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?

$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= P(F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_k) \\ &= 1 - P\left((F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \dots \cup F_k)^C\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= 1 - P(F_1^C F_2^C \dots F_k^C)$$



Define  $F_i =$  bucket  $i$  has at least one string in it

$$\begin{aligned} &= P(\text{buckets 1 to } k \text{ all denied strings}) \\ &= (P(\text{each string hashes to } k + 1 \text{ or higher}))^m \\ &= (1 - p_1 - p_2 \dots - p_k)^m \end{aligned}$$


$$= 1 - (1 - p_1 - p_2 \dots - p_k)^m$$

# The fun never stops with hash tables

---

- $m$  strings are hashed (not uniformly) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an independent trial w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it? 
2.  $E =$  at least 1 of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?

Looking for a challenge? 😊

# The fun never stops with hash tables

- $m$  strings are hashed (unequally) into a hash table with  $n$  buckets.
- Each string hashed is an independent trial w.p.  $p_i$  of getting hashed into bucket  $i$ .

What is  $P(E)$  if

1.  $E =$  bucket 1 has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?
2.  $E =$  at least 1 of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?
3.  $E =$  each of buckets 1 to  $k$  has  $\geq 1$  string hashed into it?



Hint: Use Part 2's event definition:

Define  $F_i =$  bucket  $i$  has at least one string in it

Check out the Lecture Notes for a solution!