



Conditional Probability and Bayes

Announcements

- Pset #1 is due on Friday
- Office hours, wahoo!
- First sections this week!
- Section assignments will be sent out tonight.
- Auditing? Cool, but just lectures and online resources.
- Don't forget concept checks



Review, Axioms of Probability

Recall: S = all possible outcomes. E = the event.

- Axiom 1: $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
- Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$
- Identity 3: $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$



Review, Axioms of Probability

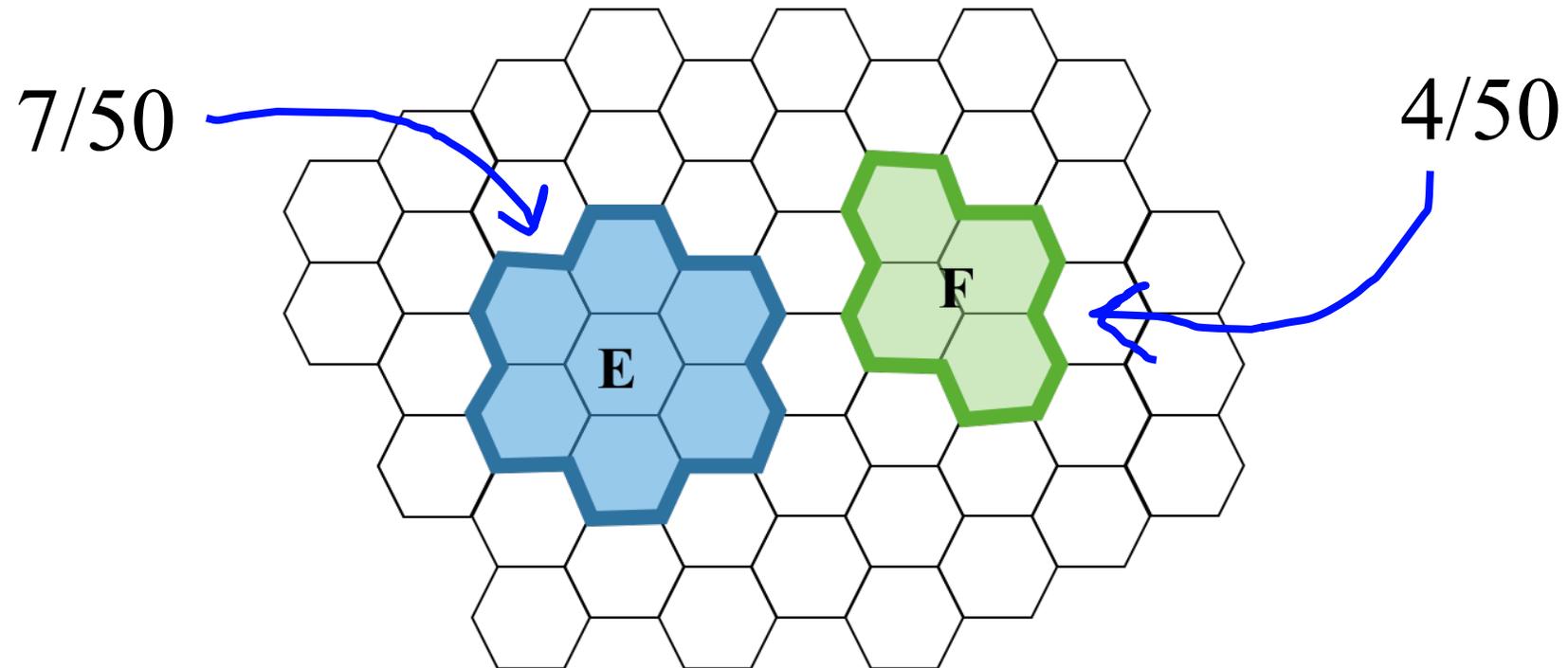
Recall: S = all possible outcomes. E = the event.

- Axiom 1: $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
- Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$
- Axiom 3: If events E and F are mutually exclusive:

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

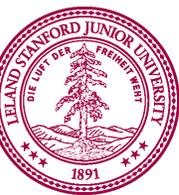


Review, Mutually Exclusive Events

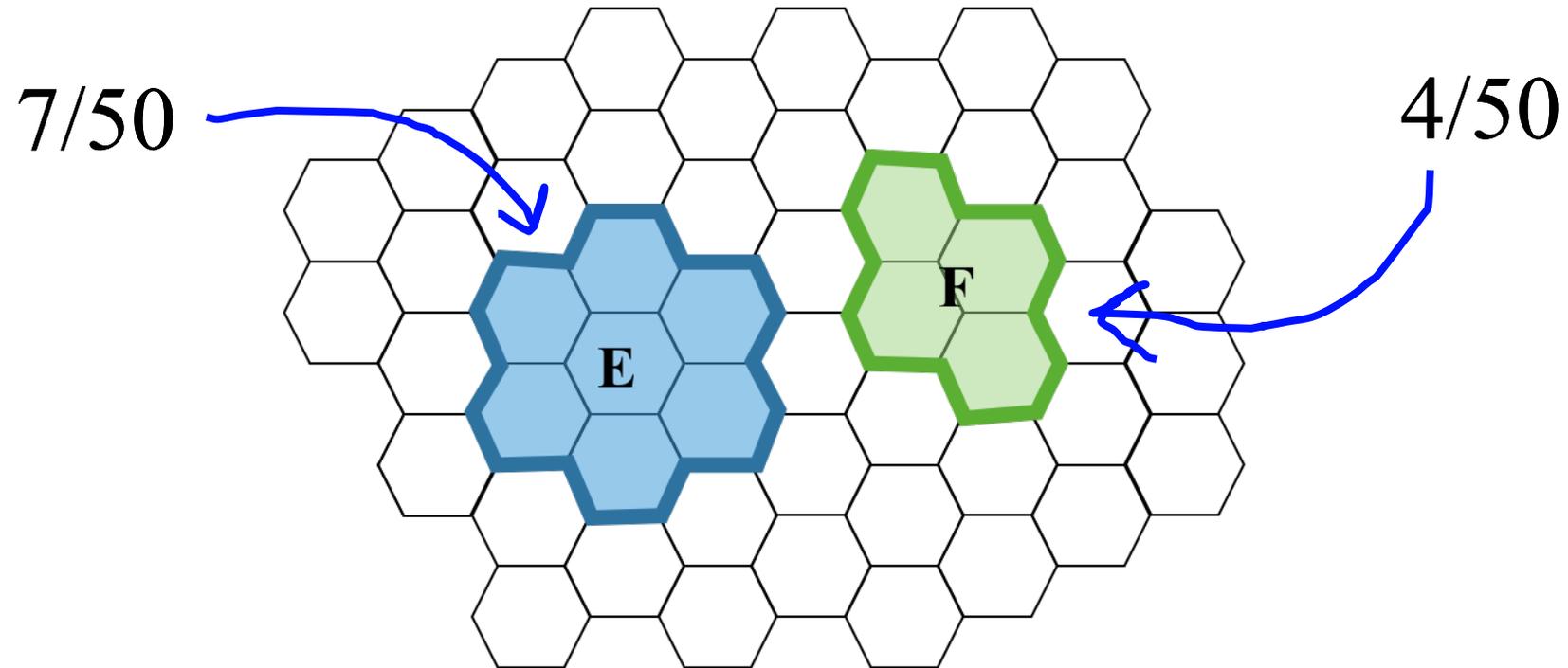


If events are mutually exclusive, probability of OR is simple:

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



Review, Mutually Exclusive Events

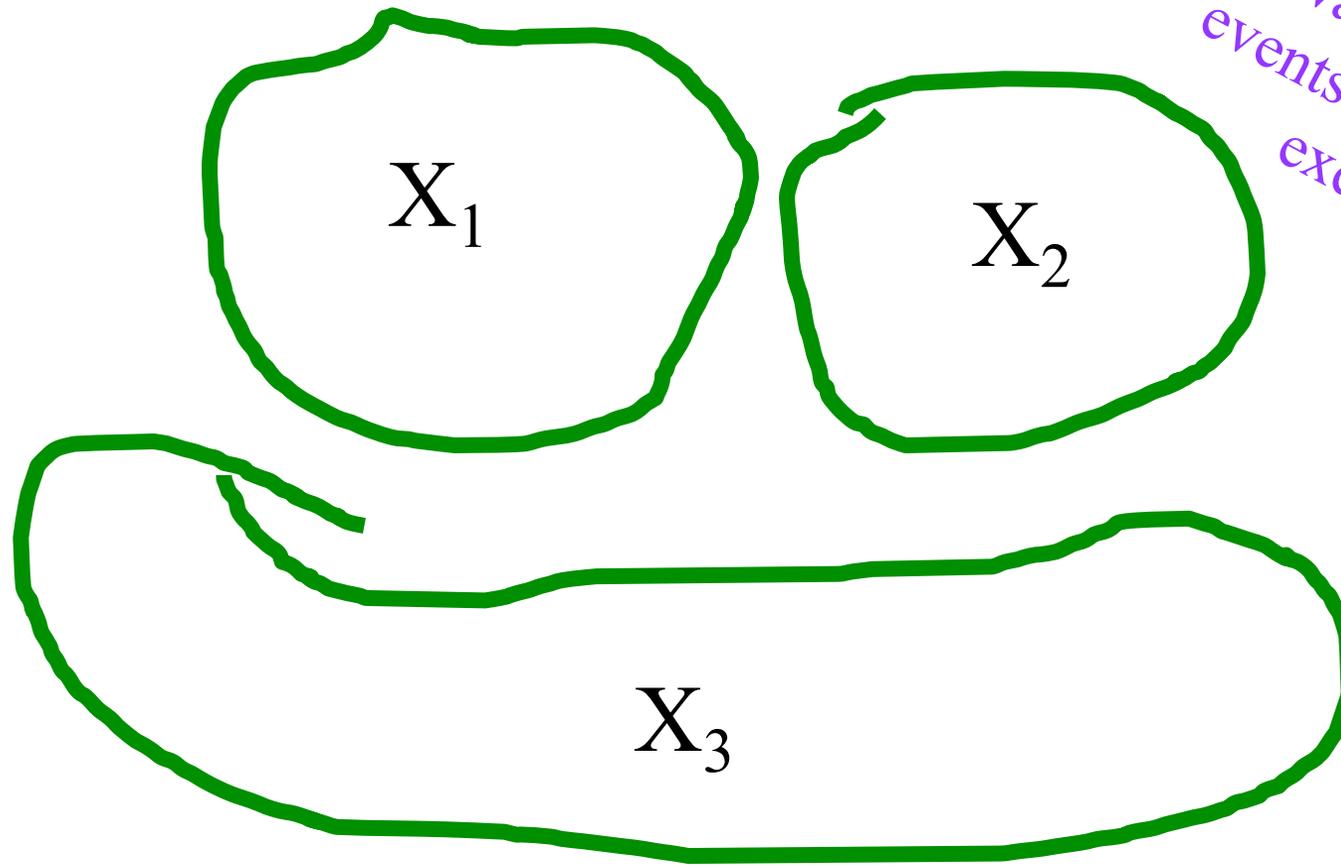


If events are mutually exclusive, probability of OR is simple:

$$P(E \cup F) = \frac{7}{50} + \frac{4}{50} = \frac{11}{50}$$



Review, Mutually Exclusive Events



Wahoo! All my
events are mutually
exclusive

$$P(X_1 \cup X_2 \cup \cdots \cup X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(X_i)$$



Review, Mutually Exclusive Events



If events are *mutually exclusive* probability of OR is easy!

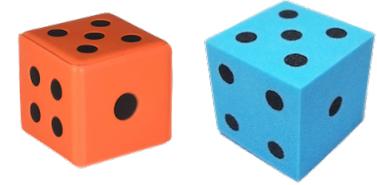


Conditional Probability

Roll two dice

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|} \text{ Equally likely outcomes}$$

Roll two 6-sided fair dice. What is $P(\text{sum} = 7)$?



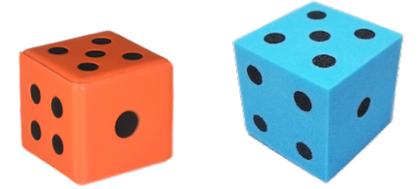
$S = \{(1,1) (1,2) (1,3) (1,4) (1,5) \mathbf{(1,6)}$
 $(2,1) (2,2) (2,3) (2,4) \mathbf{(2,5)} (2,6)$
 $(3,1) (3,2) (3,3) \mathbf{(3,4)} (3,5) (3,6)$
 $(4,1) (4,2) \mathbf{(4,3)} (4,4) (4,5) (4,6)$
 $(5,1) \mathbf{(5,2)} (5,3) (5,4) (5,5) (5,6)$
 $\mathbf{(6,1)} (6,2) (6,3) (6,4) (6,5) (6,6) \}$

$E =$ *In blue*



Dice, our misunderstood friends

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values D_1 and D_2 .
You want them to sum to 4.



What is the best outcome for $P(D_1)$?

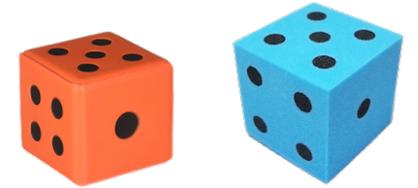
Your Choices:

- A. 1 and 3 tie for best
- B. 1, 2 and 3 tie for best
- C. 2 is the best
- D. Other/none/more than one



Dice, our misunderstood friends

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values D_1 and D_2 .



Let E be event: $D_1 + D_2 = 4$.

Let F be event: $D_1 = 2$.

What is $P(E)$?

What is $P(E, \text{ given } F \text{ already observed})$?

$$|S| = 36$$

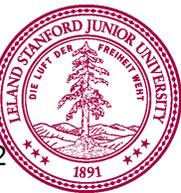
$$E = \{(1,3), (2,2), (3,1)\}$$

$$P(E) = 3/36 = 1/12$$

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

$$E = \{(2,2)\}$$

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



Conditional Probability

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs given that F has already occurred. This is known as conditioning on F .

Written as:

$$P(E|F)$$

Means:

“ $P(E, \text{ given } F \text{ already observed})$ ”

Sample space \rightarrow

all possible outcomes consistent with F (i.e. $S \cap F$)

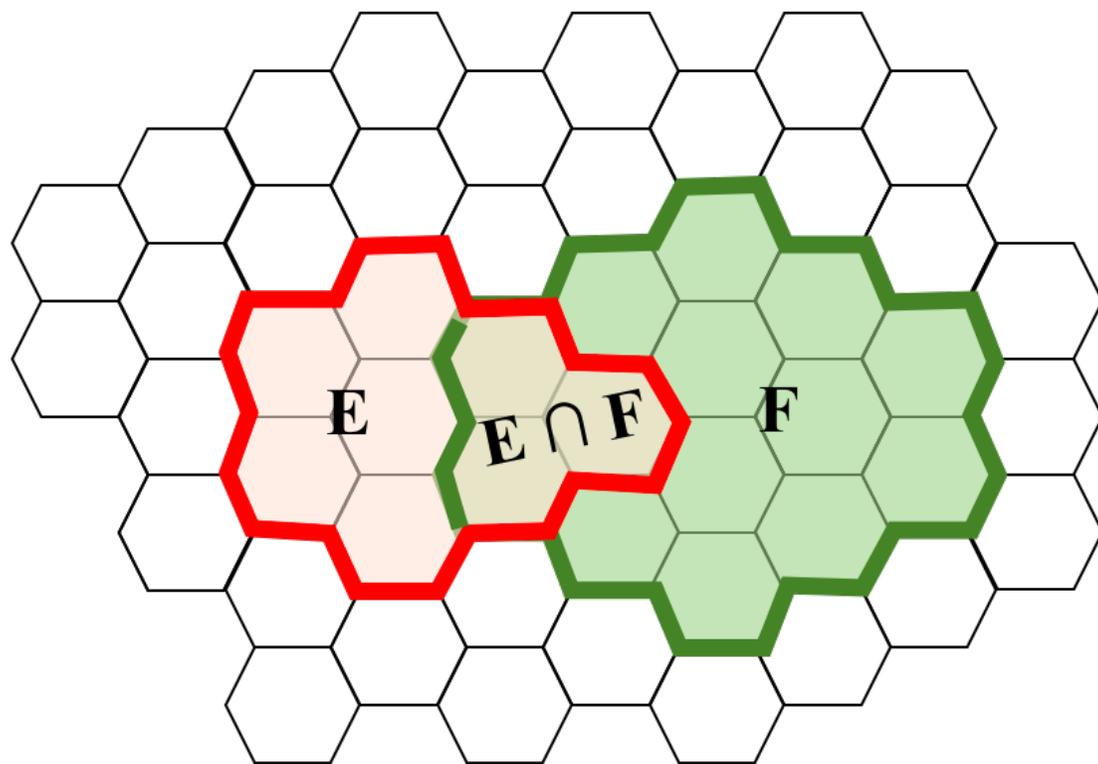
Event \rightarrow

all outcomes in E consistent with F (i.e. $E \cap F$)



Conditional Probability, visual intuition

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs given that F has already occurred. This is known as conditioning on F .



$$P(E) = \frac{8}{50} \approx 0.16$$

$$P(E|F) = \frac{3}{14} \approx 0.21$$



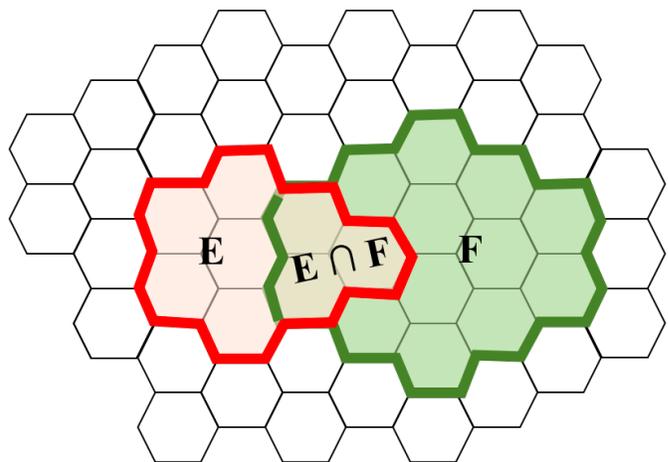
Conditional Probability, equally likely outcomes

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs given that F has already occurred. This is known as conditioning on F .

With **equally likely outcomes**:

Shorthand notation for set intersection (aka set “and”)

$$\Pr(E|F) = \frac{\# \text{ of outcomes in } E \text{ consistent with } F}{\# \text{ of outcomes in } S \text{ consistent with } F} = \frac{|EF|}{|SF|} = \frac{|EF|}{|F|}$$



$$P(E) = \frac{8}{50} \approx 0.16$$

$$P(E|F) = \frac{3}{14} \approx 0.21$$



Conditional probability in general

These properties hold even when outcomes are not equally likely.

General **definition** of conditional probability:

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

The **Chain Rule** (aka Product rule):

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

What if $P(F) = 0$?

- $P(E|F)$ undefined
- *Congratulations! Observed impossible*



Generalized Chain Rule

$$\Pr(E_1 \text{ and } E_2 \text{ and } E_3 \text{ and } \dots E_n)$$

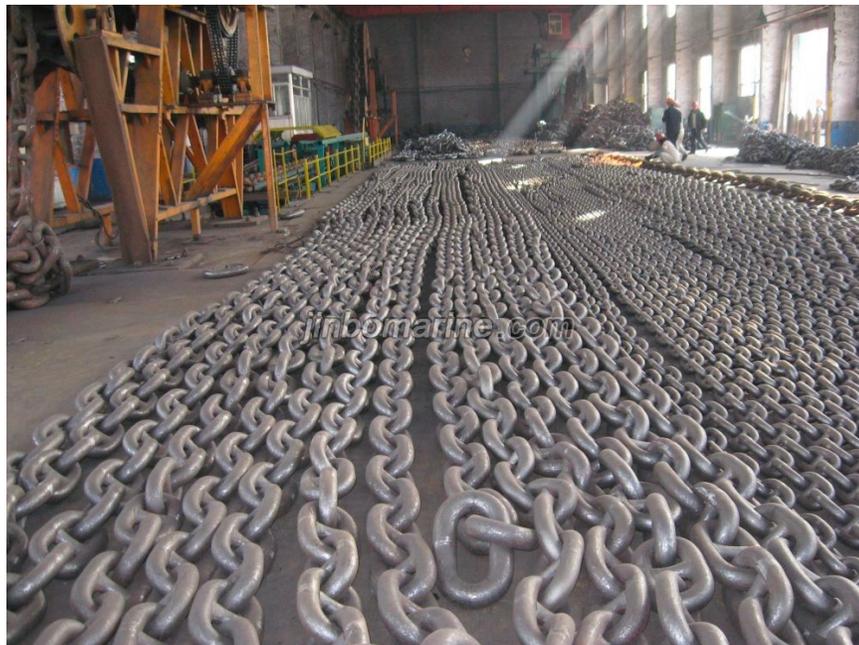
$$= \Pr(E_1) \cdot \Pr(E_2|E_1) \cdot \Pr(E_3|E_1, E_2) \cdots \Pr(E_n|E_1, E_2 \dots E_{n-1})$$



Typo, should say E2 | E1

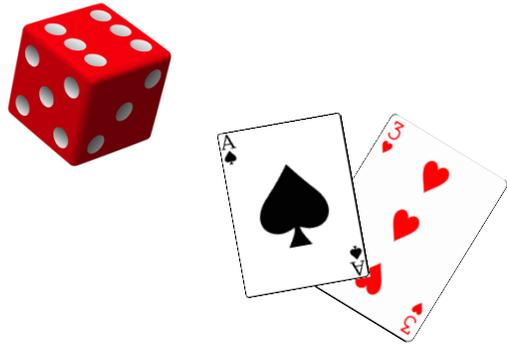


Typo, should say n - 1



This class going forward

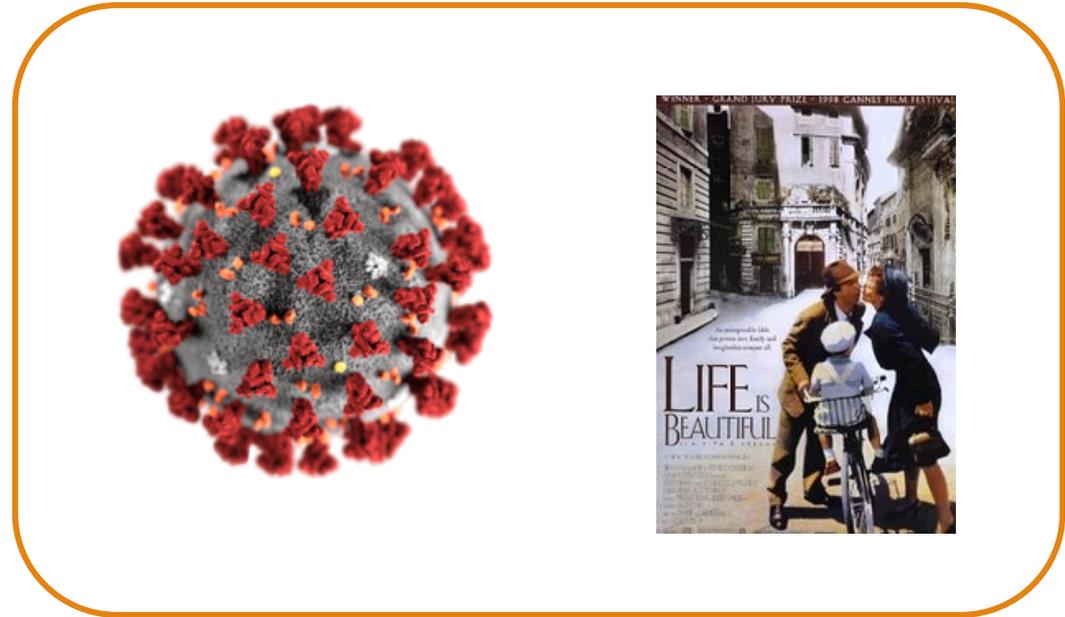
Last week
Equally likely
events



$$P(E \cap F) \quad P(E \cup F)$$

(counting, combinatorics)

Today and for most of this course
Not equally likely events



NETFLIX

and Learn

Netflix and Learn

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)}$$
 Definition of
Cond. Probability

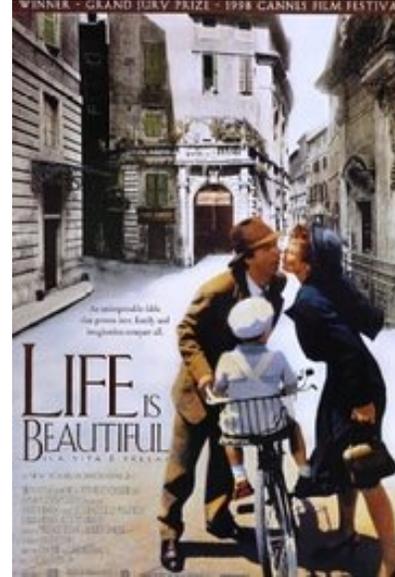
What is the probability
that a user will watch
Life is Beautiful?

$$P(E)$$

$$S = \{\text{Watch, Not Watch}\}$$

$$E = \{\text{Watch}\}$$

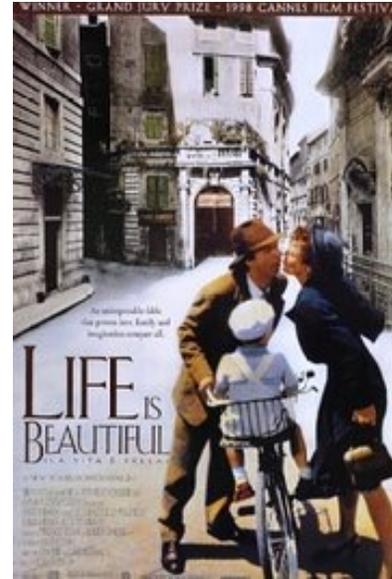
$$P(E) = 1/2 ?$$



Netflix and Learn

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

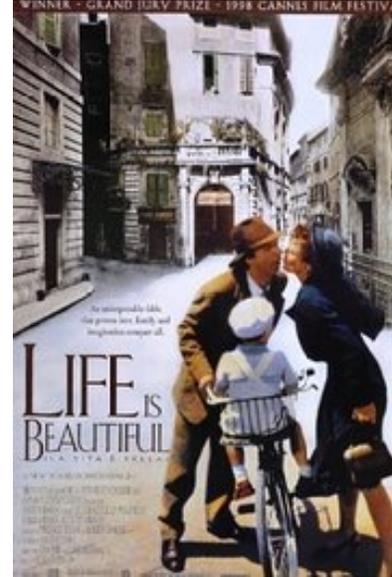
$$P(E)$$



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

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)}$$
 Definition of
Cond. Probability

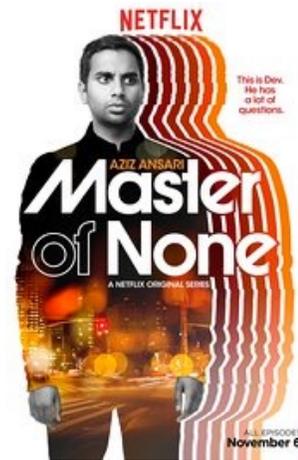
Let E be the event that a user watches the given movie.



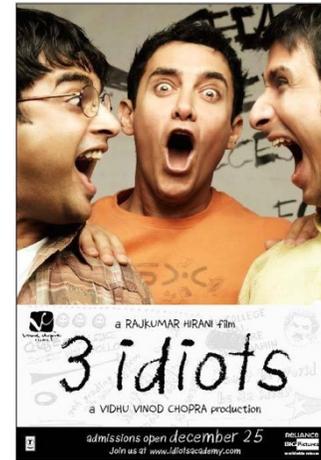
$$P(E) = 0.19$$



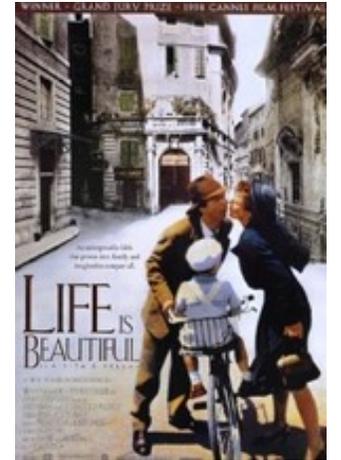
$$P(E) = 0.32$$



$$P(E) = 0.20$$



$$P(E) = 0.09$$



$$P(E) = 0.20$$

Netflix and Learn

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)} \quad \text{Definition of Cond. Probability}$$

Let E = a user watches Life is Beautiful.

Let F = a user watches CODA.

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

$$P(E|F)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(E|F) &= \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)} = \frac{\frac{\# \text{ people who have watched both}}{\# \text{ people on Netflix}}}{\frac{\# \text{ people who have watched Amelie}}{\# \text{ people on Netflix}}} \\ &= \frac{\# \text{ people who have watched both}}{\# \text{ people who have watched Amelie}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\approx 0.42$$



Netflix and Learn

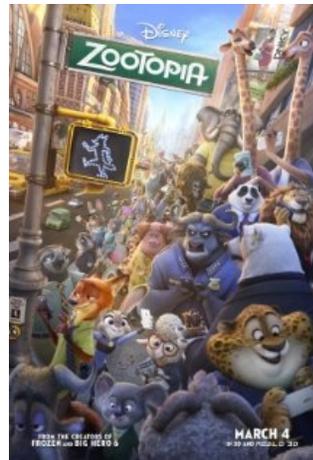
$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)}$$
 Definition of Cond. Probability

Let E be the event that a user watches the given movie.
Let F be the event that the same user watches CODA (2021).



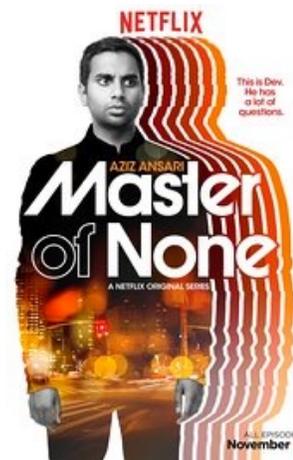
$$P(E) = 0.19$$

$$P(E|F) = 0.14$$



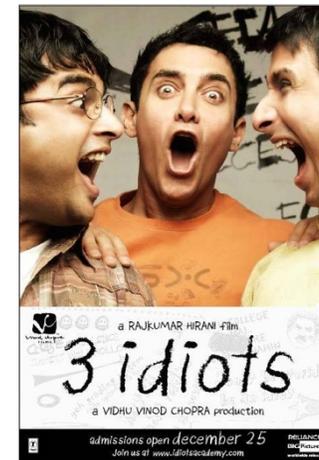
$$P(E) = 0.32$$

$$P(E|F) = 0.35$$



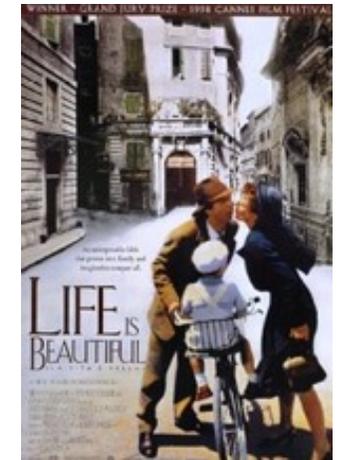
$$P(E) = 0.20$$

$$P(E|F) = 0.20$$



$$P(E) = 0.09$$

$$P(E|F) = 0.72$$



$$P(E) = 0.20$$

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

Machine Learning

Machine Learning is:
Probability + Data + Computers

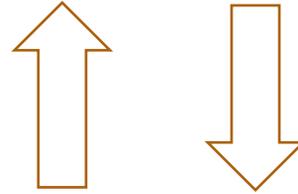


Law of Total Probability

Relationship Between Probabilities

$$P(E \text{ and } F)$$

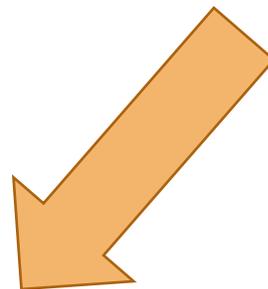
Chain rule
(Product rule)



Definition of
conditional probability

$$P(E|F)$$

Law of Total
Probability

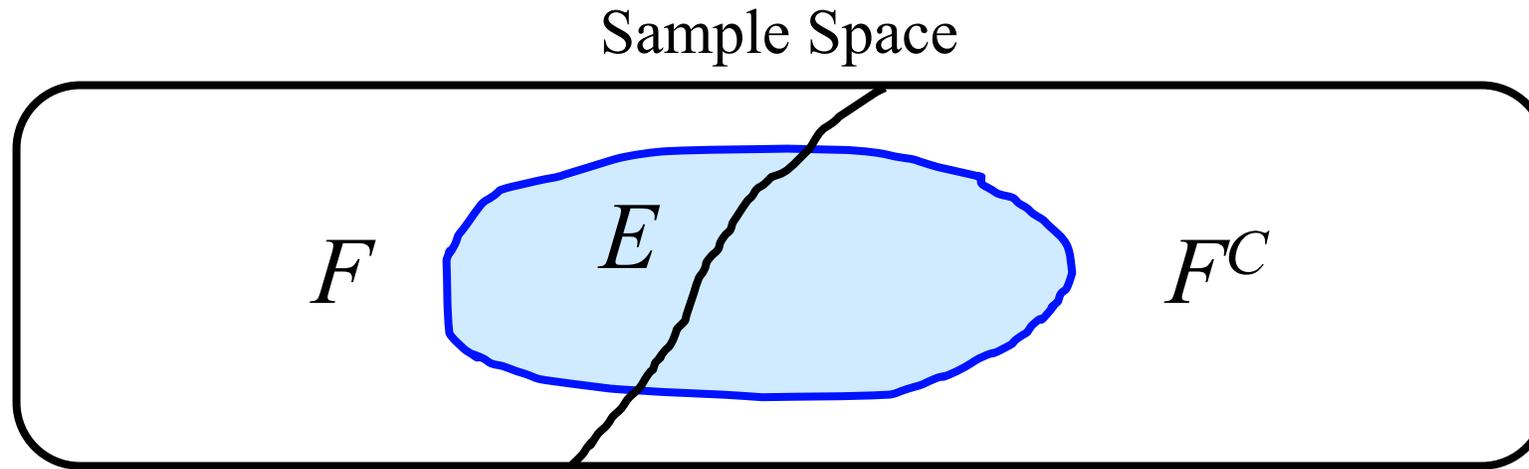


$$P(E)$$



Law of Total Probability

Say E and F are events in S



$$E = EF \cup EF^c$$

$$P(E) = P(EF) + P(EF^c)?$$



Law of Total Probability

Thm Let F be an event where $P(F) > 0$. For any event E ,

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

Proof

1. $E = (EF) \text{ or } (EF^C)$

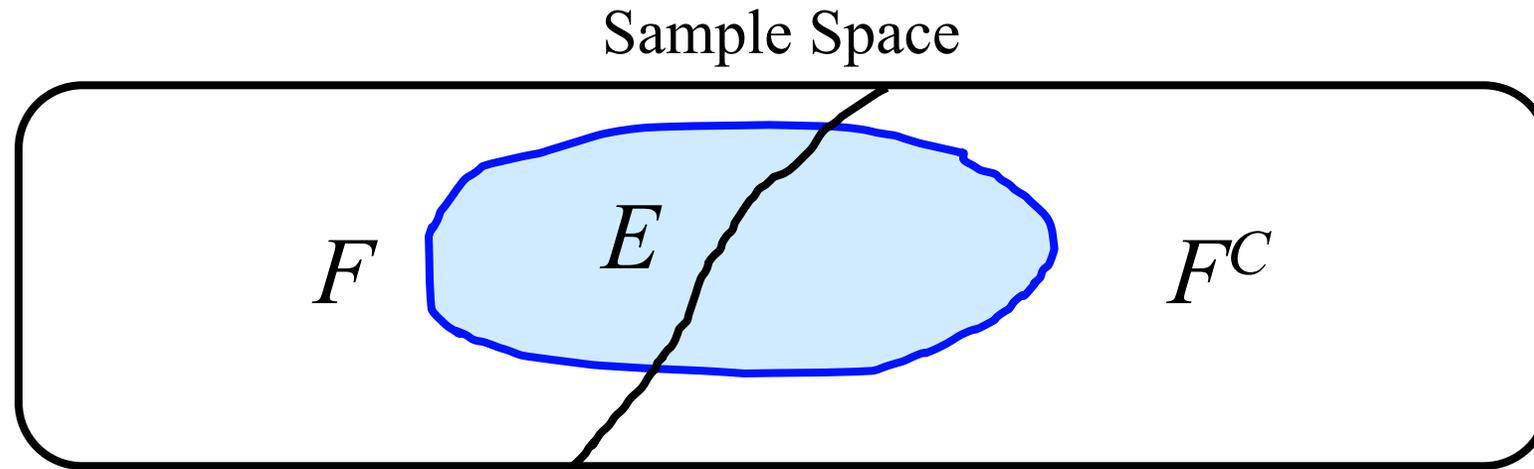
2. $P(E) = P(EF) + P(EF^C)$

3. $P(E) = P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C)$

Since F and F^C are disjoint
Probability of **or** for disjoint
Chain rule (product rule)



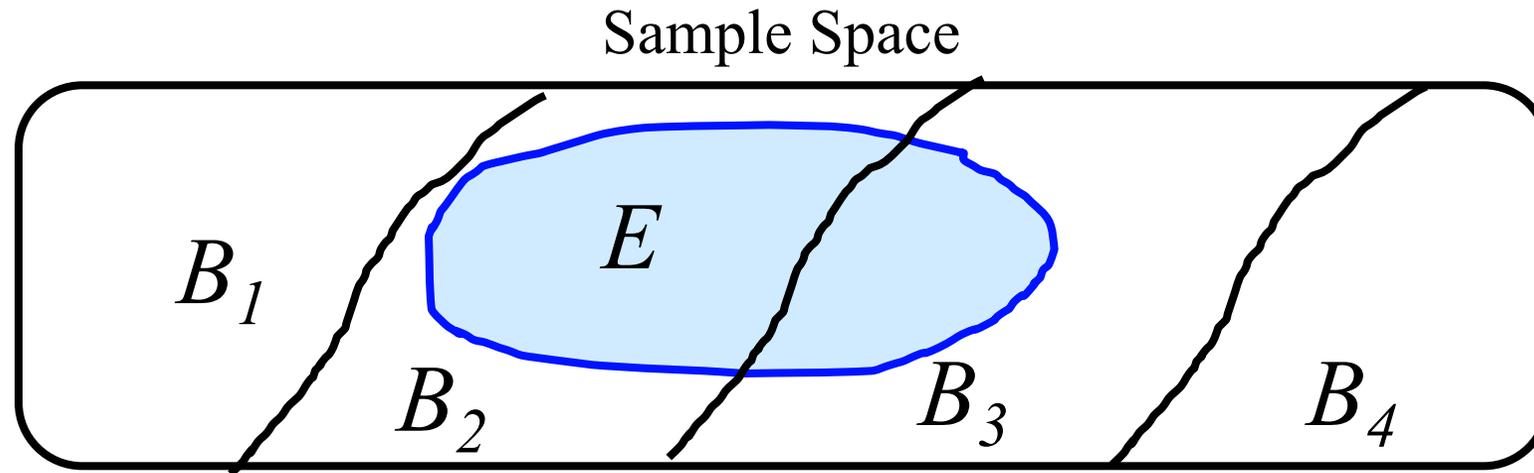
Law of Total Probability



$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= P(EF) + P(EF^C) \\ &= P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C) \end{aligned}$$



Law of Total Probability



Thm For **mutually exclusive events** B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n
s.t. $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_n = S$,

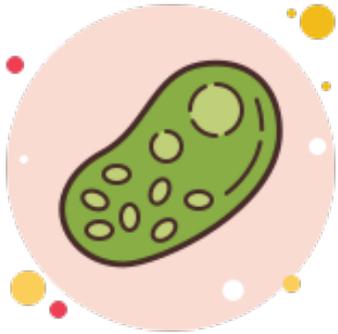
$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= \sum_i P(B_i \cap E) \\ &= \sum_i P(E|B_i)P(B_i) \end{aligned}$$



Evolution of Bacteria

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

Law of Total Probability



You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.
10% have a mutation which makes them resistant to anti-biotics
You take half a course of anti-biotics...

Probability a bacteria survives given it has the mutation: 20%
Probability a bacteria survives given it doesn't have the mutation: 1%
What is the probability that a randomly chosen bacteria survives?

Let E be the event that our bacterium survives. Let M be the event that a bacteria has the mutation. By the [Law of Total Probability](#) (LOTP):

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(E) &= \Pr(E \text{ and } M) + \Pr(E \text{ and } M^C) && \text{LOTP} \\ &= \Pr(E|M)\Pr(M) + \Pr(E|M^C)\Pr(M^C) && \text{Chain Rule} \\ &= 0.20 \cdot 0.10 + 0.01 \cdot 0.90 && \text{Substituting} \\ &= 0.029\end{aligned}$$

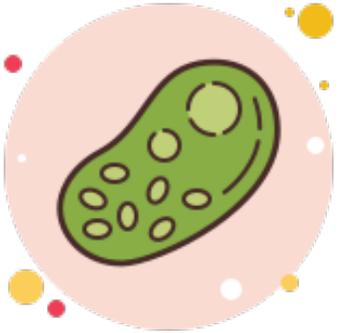


Real question. What is the probability that a surviving bacteria has the mutation?

$\Pr (\text{Mutation} \mid \text{Survives})$

$\Pr (M \mid E)$

Real Question: $\Pr(M | E)$?



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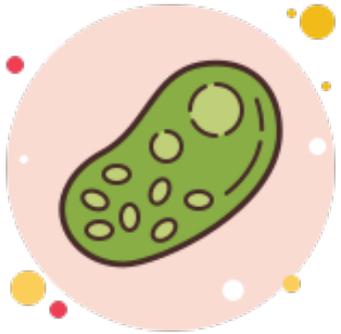
LOTP

Chain Rule

Substituting



Real Question: $\Pr(M | E)$?



You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.
10% have a mutation which makes them resistant to anti-biotics
You take half a course of anti-biotics...

$$\Pr(E | M) = 0.20$$

$$\Pr(E | M^C) = 0.01$$

What is the probability that a randomly chosen bacteria survives?

Let E be the event that our bacterium survives. Let M be the event that a bacteria has the mutation. By the [Law of Total Probability](#) (LOTP):

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(E) &= \Pr(E \text{ and } M) + \Pr(E \text{ and } M^C) \\ &= \Pr(E|M)\Pr(M) + \Pr(E|M^C)\Pr(M^C) \\ &= 0.20 \cdot 0.10 + 0.01 \cdot 0.90 \\ &= 0.029\end{aligned}$$

LOTP

Chain Rule

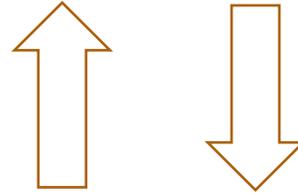
Substituting



Relationship Between Probabilities

$$P(E \text{ and } F)$$

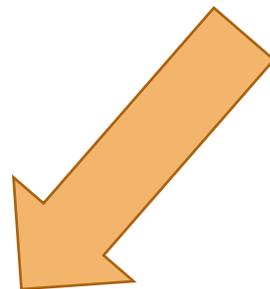
Chain rule
(Product rule)



Definition of
conditional probability

$$P(E|F)$$

Law of Total
Probability



$$P(E)$$

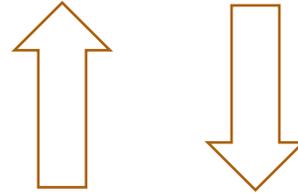


Relationship Between Probabilities



$$P(E \text{ and } F)$$

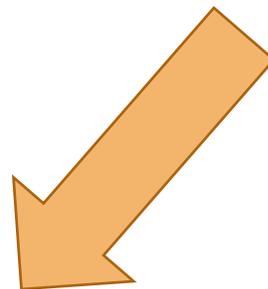
Chain rule
(Product rule)



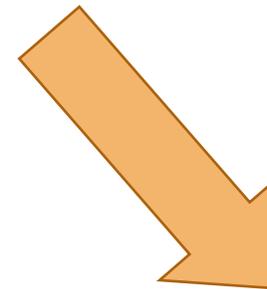
Definition of
conditional probability

$$P(E|F)$$

Law of Total
Probability

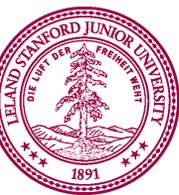


Bayes'
Theorem



$$P(E)$$

$$P(F|E)$$



Bayes' Theorem

Thomas Bayes

Rev. Thomas Bayes (~1701-1761):
British mathematician and Presbyterian minister



He looked remarkably similar to Charlie Sheen
(but that's not important right now)

Thomas Bayes

$$P(F | E)$$



I want to calculate

$P(\text{State of the world } F | \text{Observation } E)$

It seems so tricky!...

The other way around is easy

$P(\text{Observation } E | \text{State of the world } F)$

What options to I have, chief?

$$P(E | F)$$



Thomas Bayes

Want $P(F | E)$. Know $P(E | F)$



$$P(F|E) = \frac{P(EF)}{P(E)} \quad \text{Def. of Conditional Prob.}$$

A little while later...

$$= \frac{P(E|F)P(F)}{P(E)} \quad \text{Chain Rule}$$



Bayes' Theorem

$$P(E|F) \Rightarrow P(F|E)$$

Thm For any events E and F where $P(E) > 0$ and $P(F) > 0$,

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

Proof

2 steps! See board

Expanded form:

$$P(F|E) = \frac{P(E|F)P(F)}{P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C)}$$

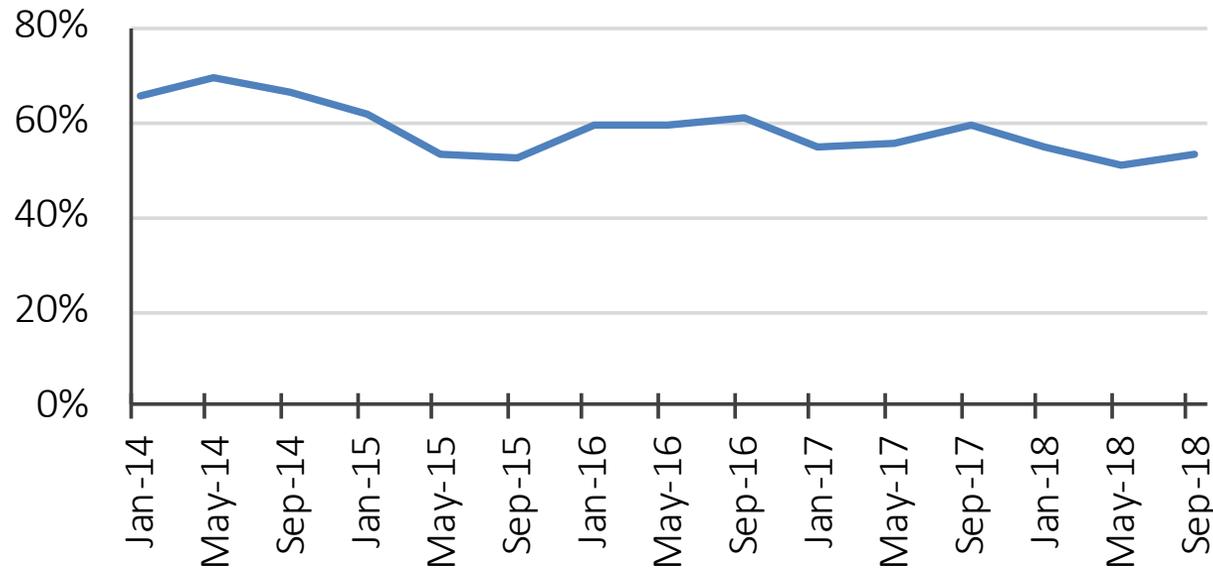
Proof

1 more step! See board



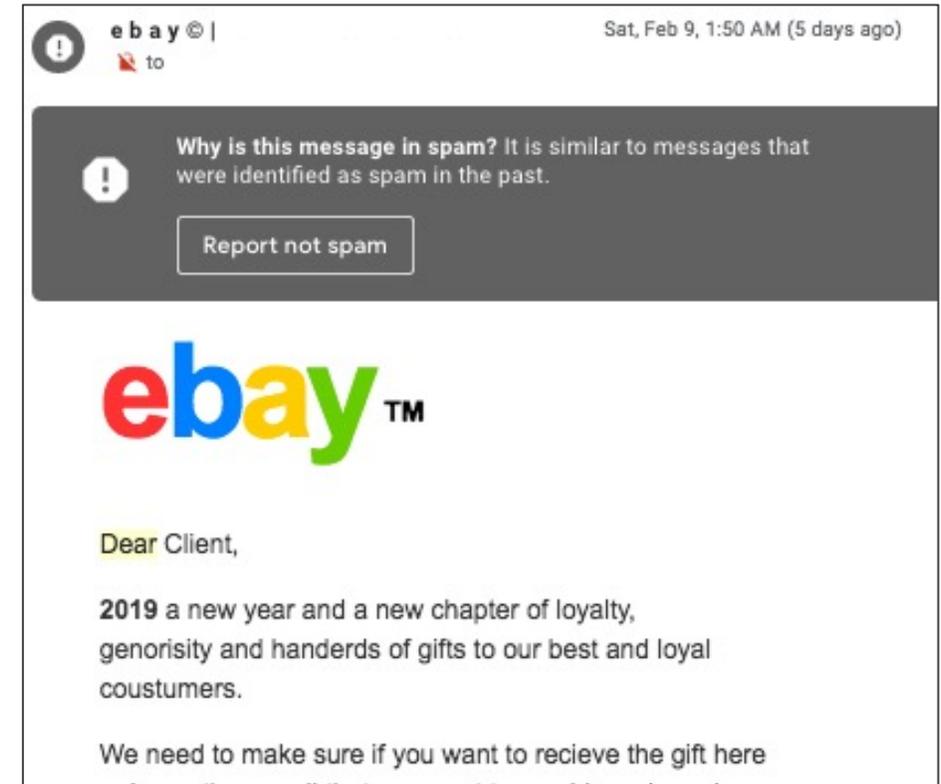
Detecting spam email

Spam volume as percentage of total email traffic worldwide



We can easily calculate how many spam emails contain “Dear”:

$$P(E|F) = P(\text{“Dear”} \mid \text{Spam email})$$



But what is the probability that an email containing “Dear” is spam?

$$P(F|E) = P(\text{Spam email} \mid \text{“Dear”})$$



(silent drumroll)



Detecting spam email

$$P(F|E) = \frac{P(E|F)P(F)}{P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C)} \quad \text{Bayes' Theorem}$$

- 60% of all email in 2016 is spam.
- 20% of spam has the word “Dear”
- 1% of non-spam (aka ham) has the word “Dear”

You get an email with the word “Dear” in it.

What is the probability that the email is spam?

1. Define events
& state goal

2. Identify known
probabilities

3. Solve

Let: E : “Dear”, F : spam

Want: $P(\text{spam} | \text{“Dear”})$
 $= P(F|E)$



Bayes' Theorem terminology

- 60% of all email in 2016 is spam. $P(F)$
- 20% of spam has the word “Dear” $P(E|F)$
- 1% of non-spam (aka ham) has the word “Dear” $P(E|F^C)$

You get an email with the word “Dear” in it.

What is the probability that the email is spam? Want: $P(F|E)$

$$\text{posterior } P(F|E) = \frac{\text{likelihood } P(E|F) \text{ prior } P(F)}{P(E)}$$

normalization constant



SARS Virus Testing

A test is 98% effective at detecting SARS

- However, test has a “false positive” rate of 1%
- 0.5% of US population has SARS
- Let E = you test positive for SARS with this test
- Let F = you actually have SARS
- What is $P(F | E)$?

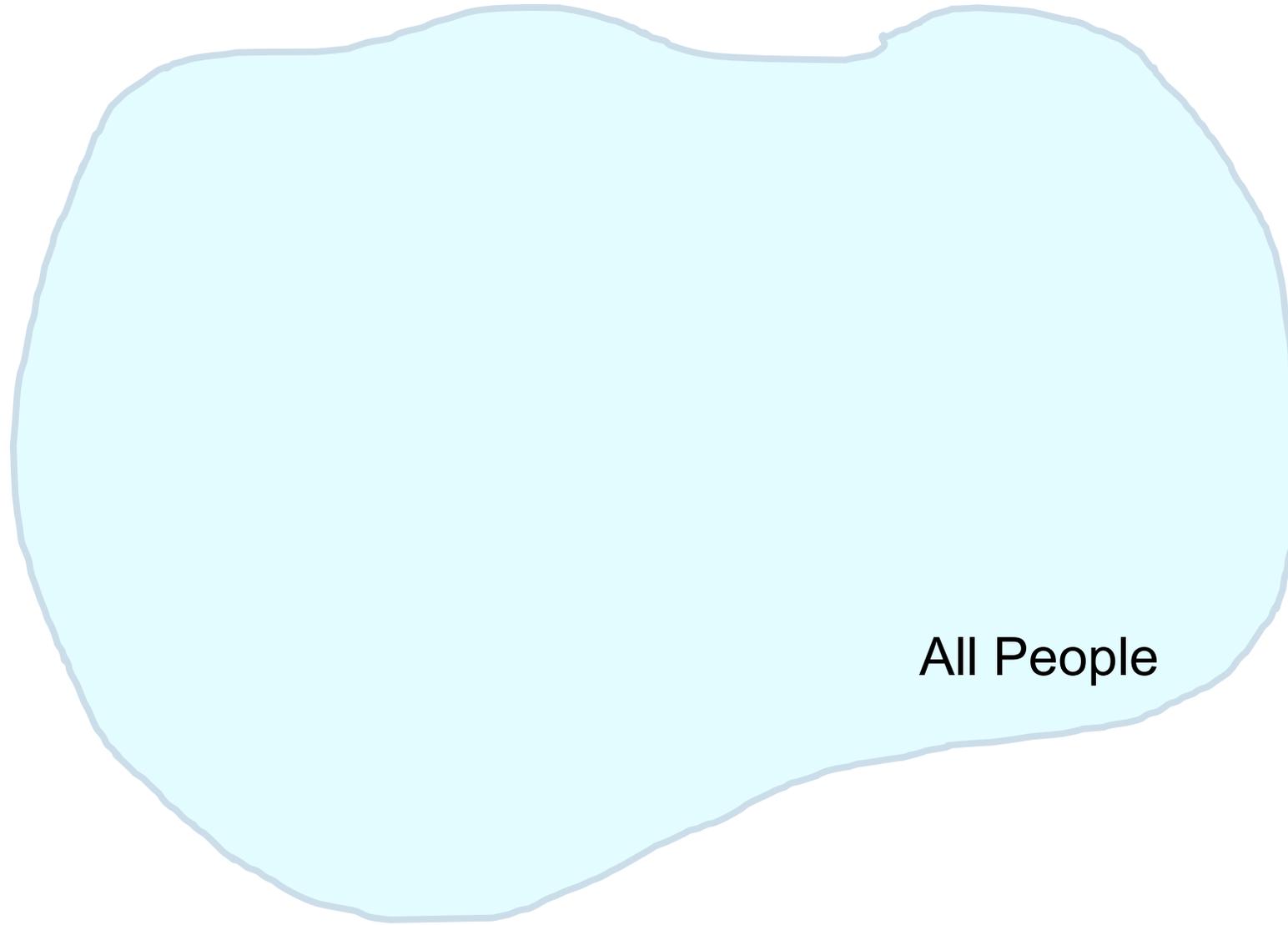
Solution:

$$P(F | E) = \frac{P(E | F) P(F)}{P(E | F) P(F) + P(E | F^c) P(F^c)}$$
$$P(F | E) = \frac{(0.98)(0.005)}{(0.98)(0.005) + (0.01)(1 - 0.005)} \approx 0.330$$

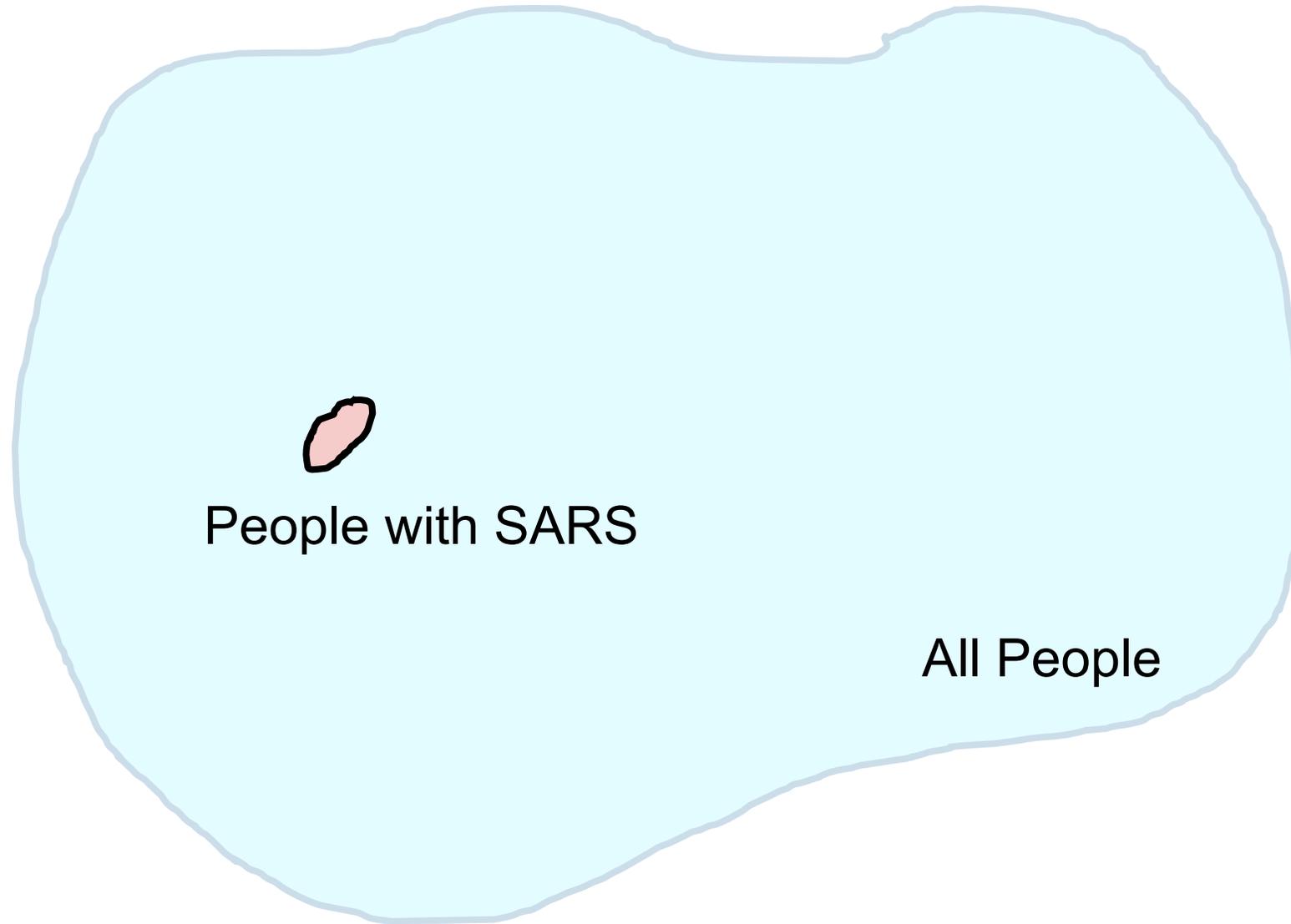


Intuition Time

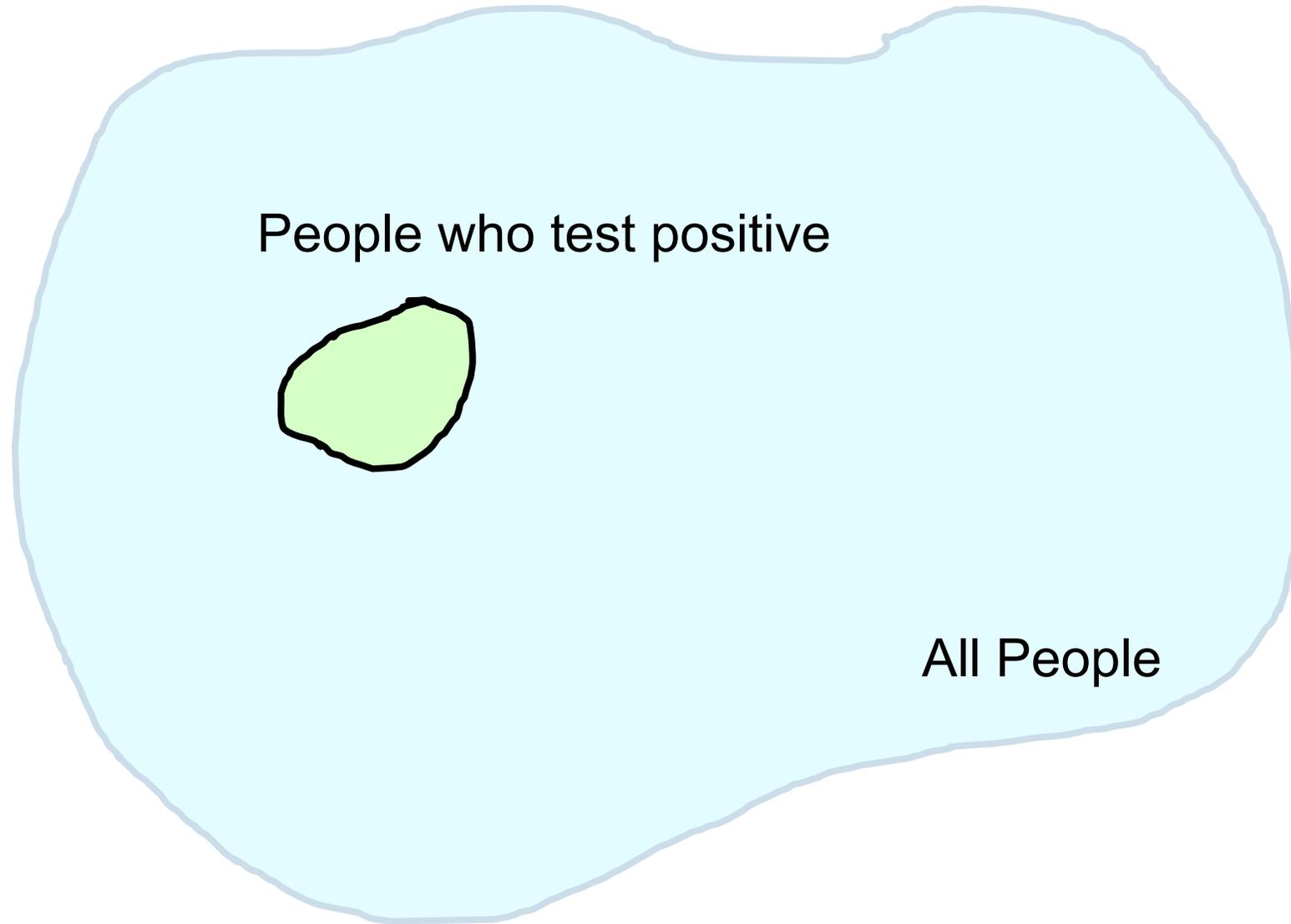
Bayes Theorem Intuition



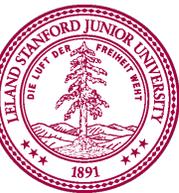
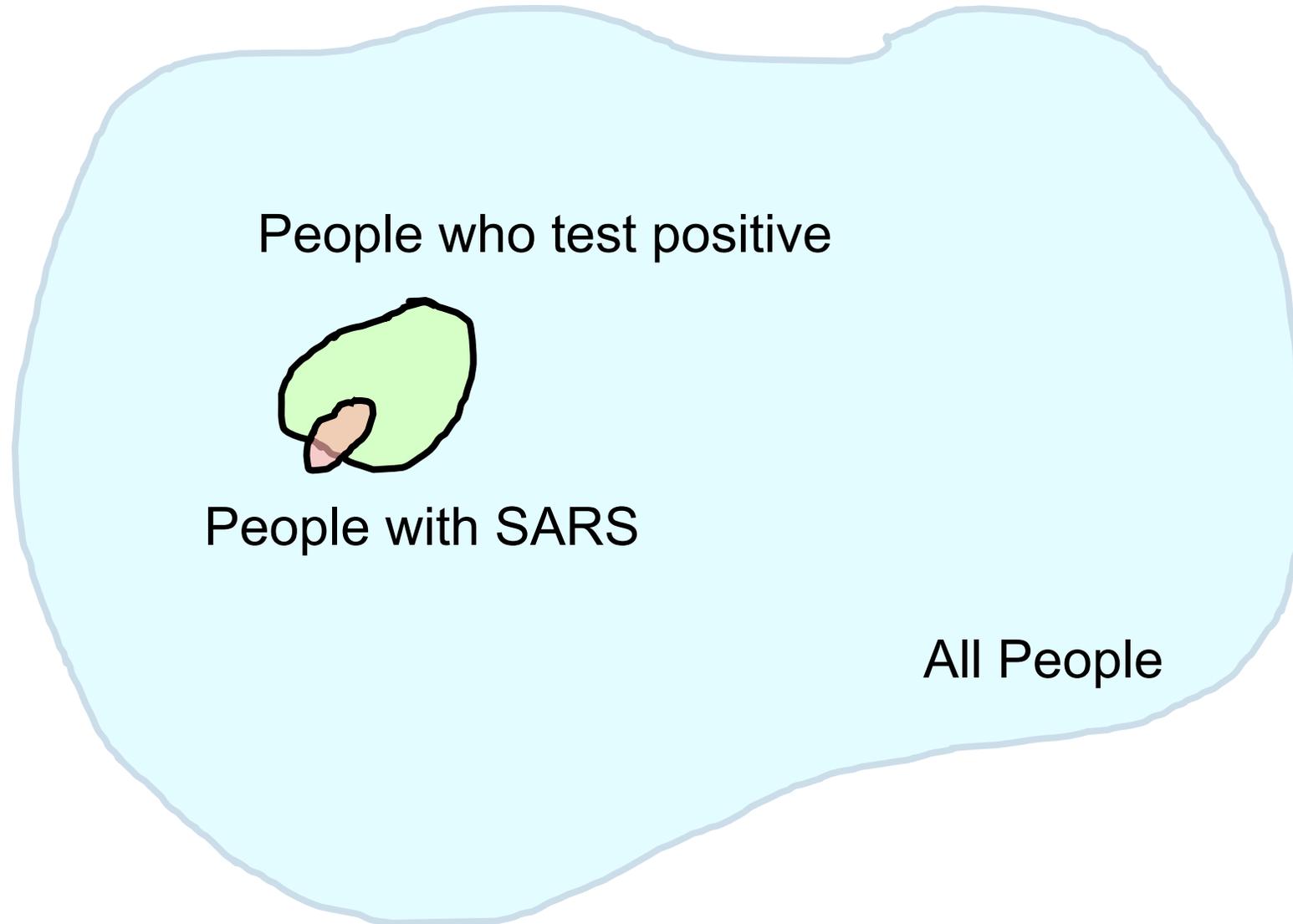
Bayes Theorem Intuition



Bayes Theorem Intuition

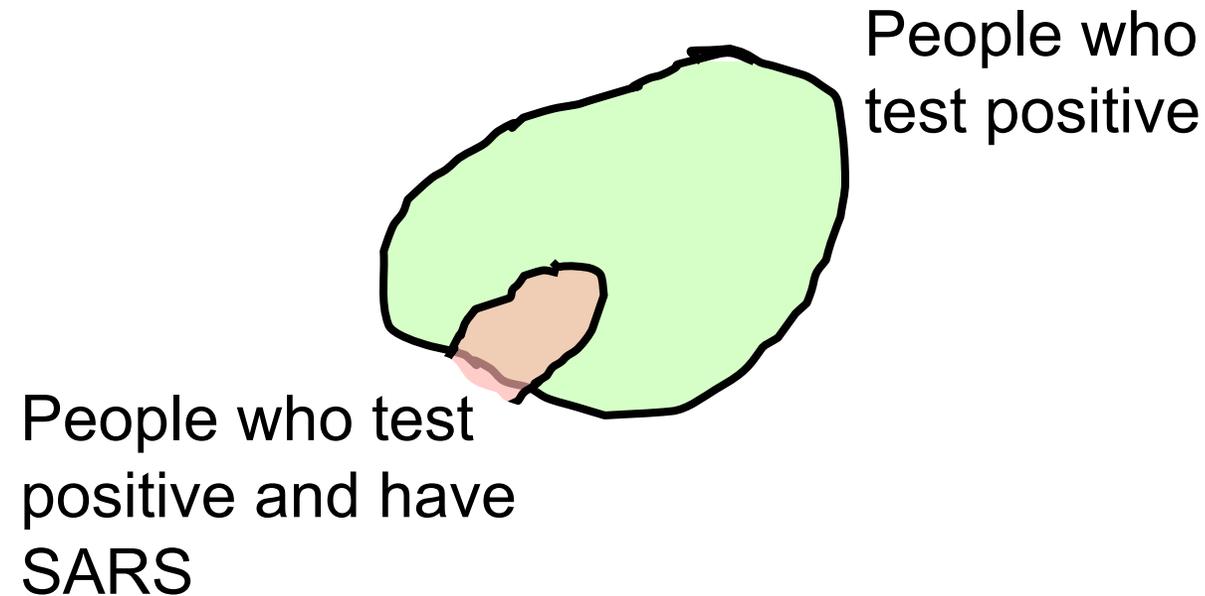


Bayes Theorem Intuition



Bayes Theorem Intuition

Conditioning on a positive result changes the sample space to this:

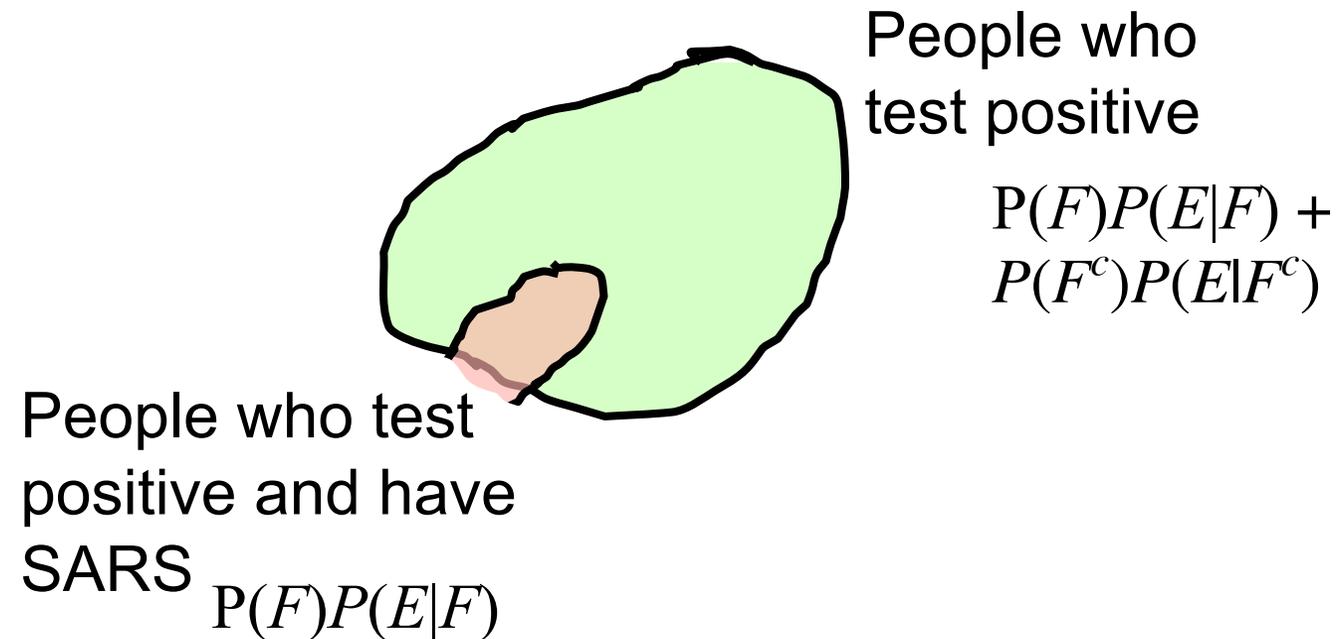


≈ 0.330



Bayes Theorem Intuition

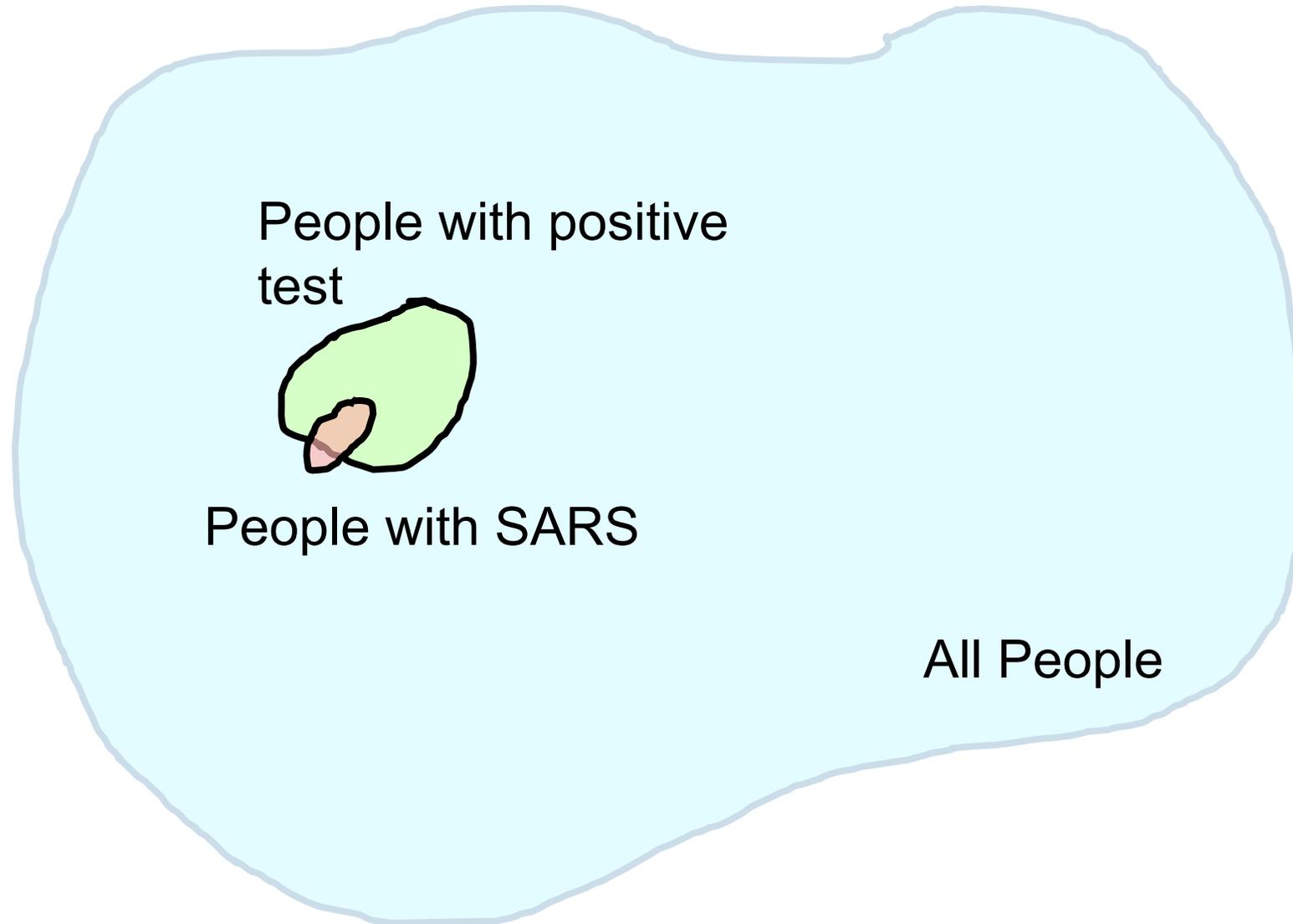
Conditioning on a positive result changes the sample space to this:



≈ 0.330

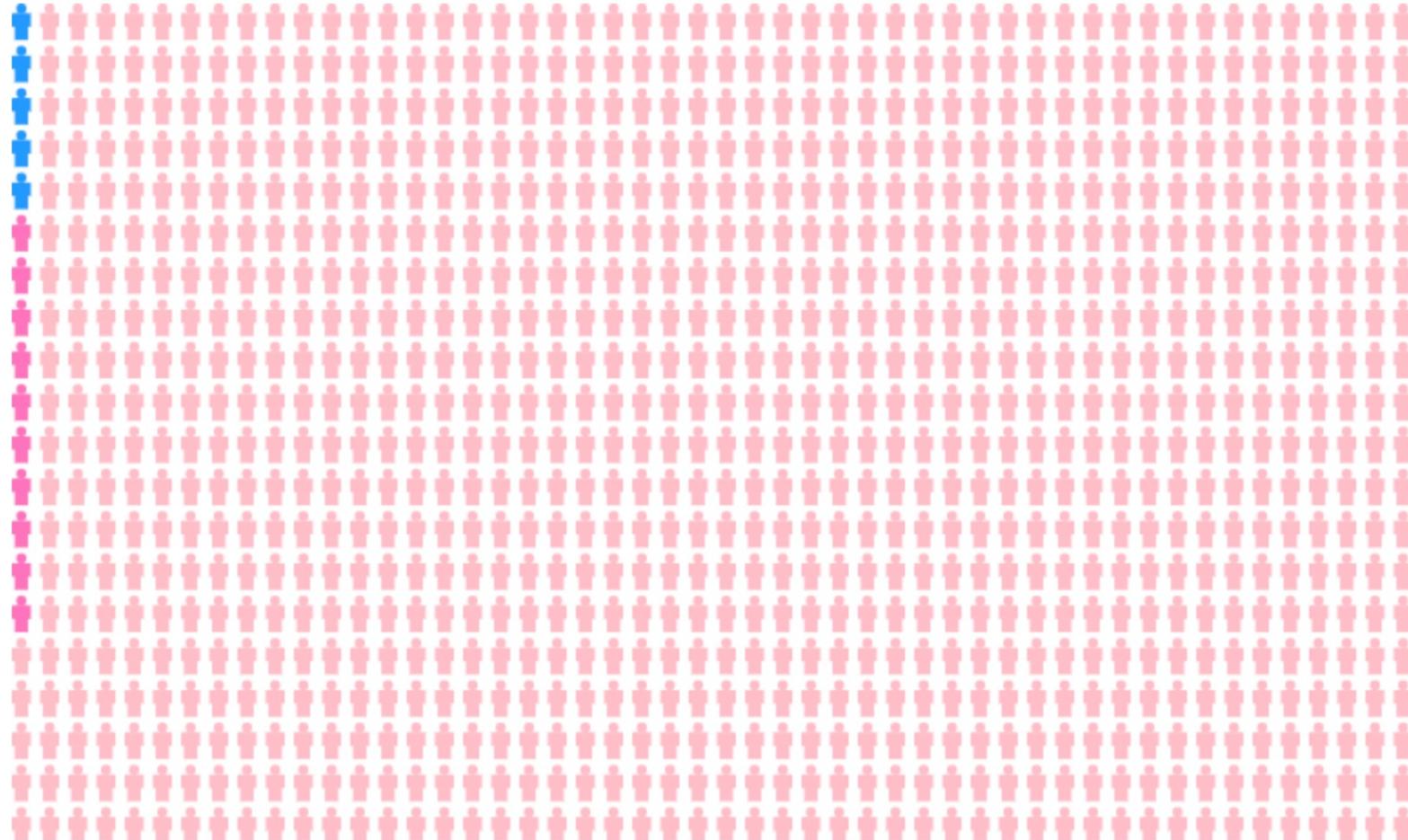


Bayes Theorem Intuition



Bayes Theorem Intuition

Say we have 1000 people:



5 have SARS and test positive, 985 **do not** have SARS and test negative.
10 **do not** have SARS and test positive. ≈ 0.333



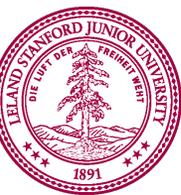
Bayes Theorem Intuition

Conditioned on just those that test positive:



Notice that all the people with SARS are here,
but the group is still mainly folks without SARS

5 have SARS and test positive, 985 **do not** have SARS and test negative.
10 **do not** have SARS and test positive. ≈ 0.333



Why it is still good to get tested

	SARS +	SARS -
Test +	0.98 = $P(E F)$	0.01 = $P(E F^c)$
Test -	0.02 = $P(E^c F)$	0.99 = $P(E^c F^c)$

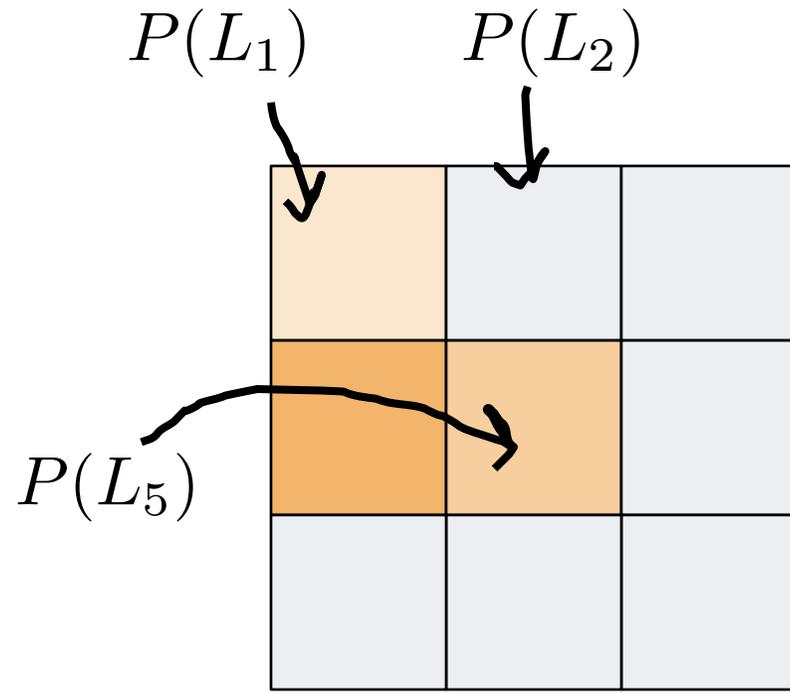
- Let E^c = you test negative for SARS with this test
- Let F = you actually have SARS
- What is $P(F | E^c)$?

$$P(F | E^c) = \frac{P(E^c | F) P(F)}{P(E^c | F) P(F) + P(E^c | F^c) P(F^c)}$$

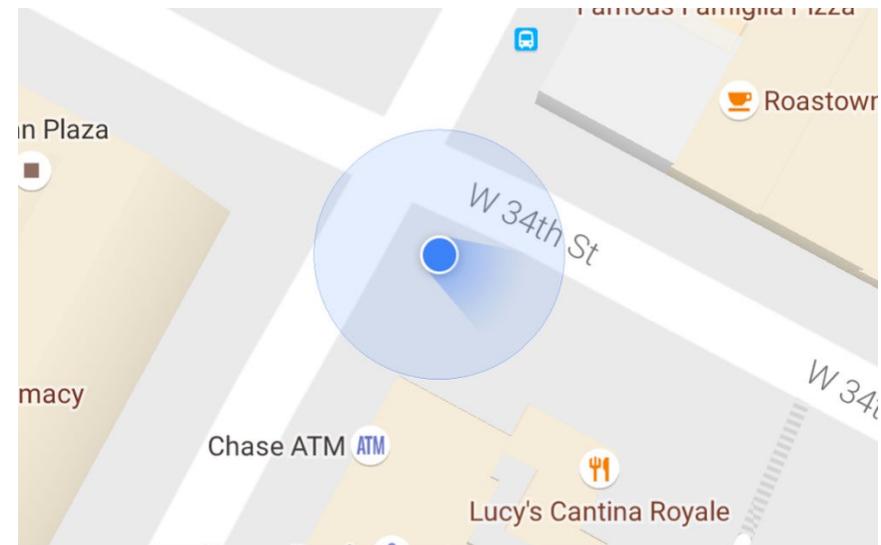
$$P(F | E^c) = \frac{(0.02)(0.005)}{(0.02)(0.005) + (0.99)(1 - 0.005)} \approx 0.0001$$



Bayes' Theorem and Location

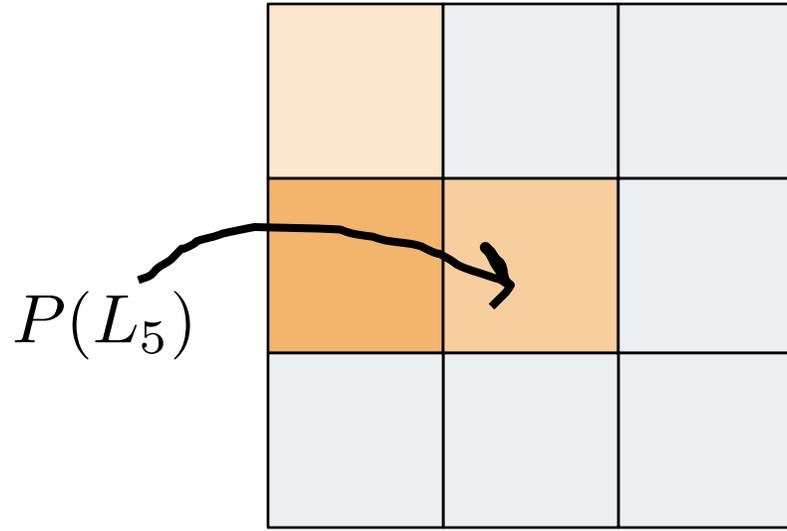
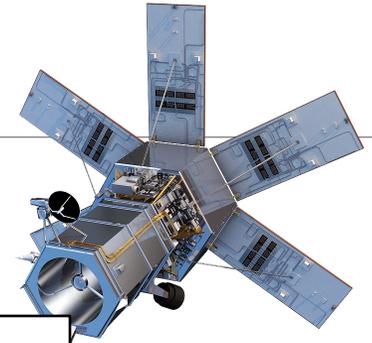


Before Observation

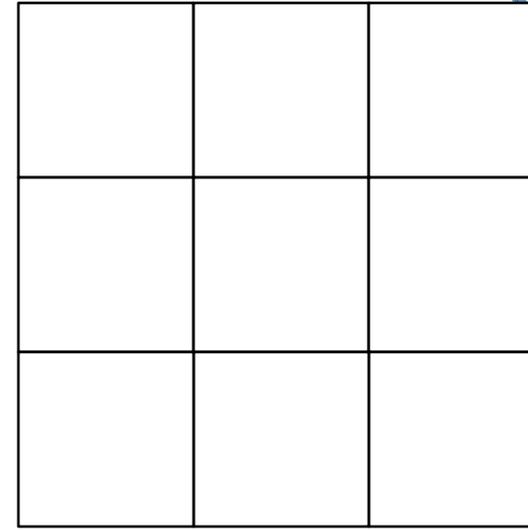


Bayes' Theorem and Location

Know: $P(O|L_i)$



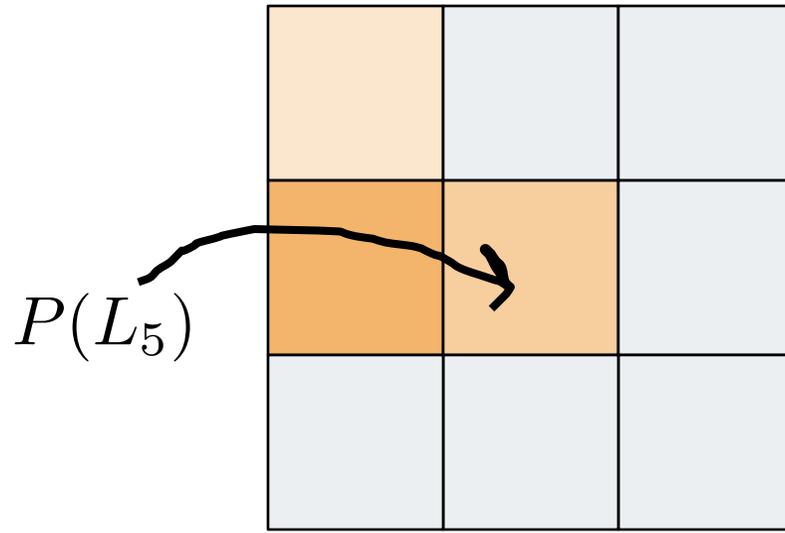
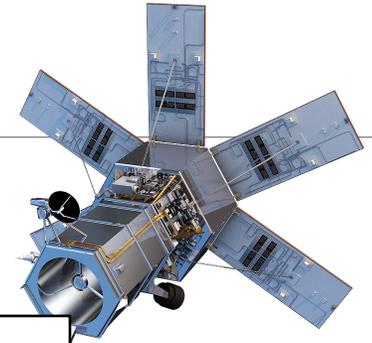
Before Observation



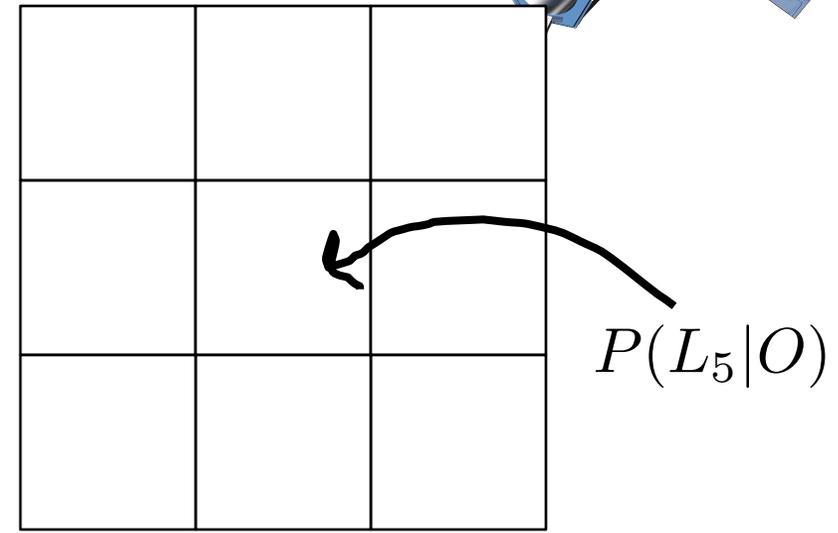
After Observation

Bayes' Theorem and Location

Know: $P(O|L_i)$



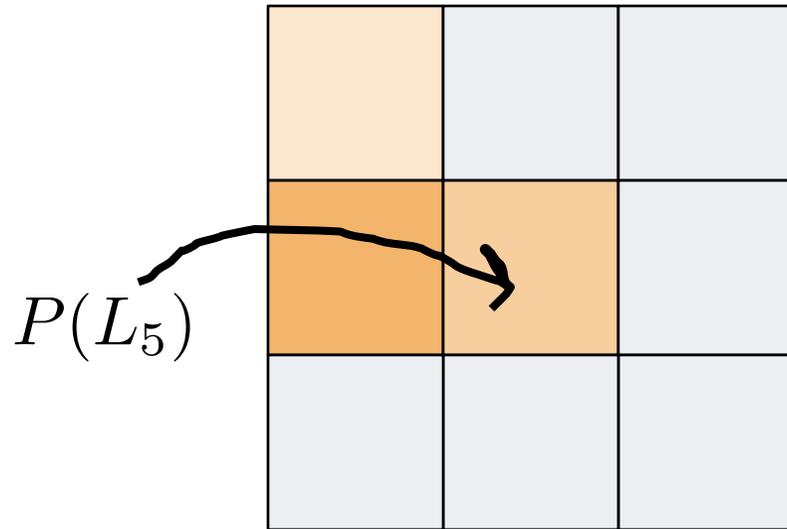
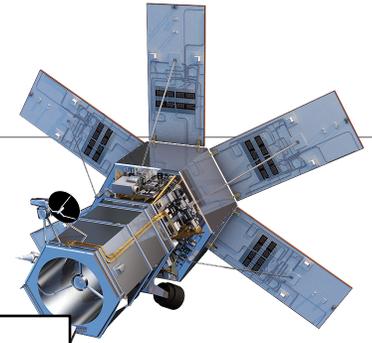
Before Observation



After Observation

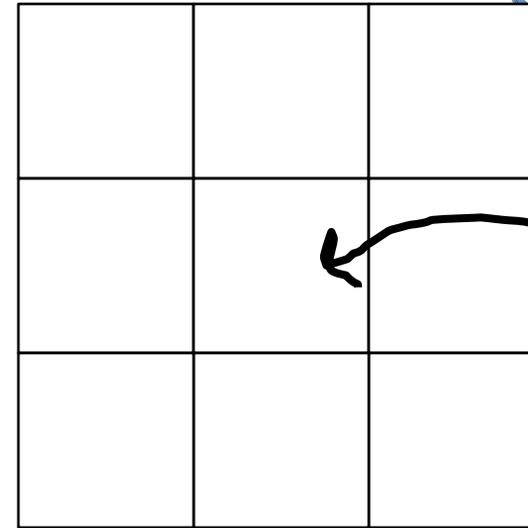
$$P(L_5|O) = \frac{P(O|L_5)P(L_5)}{P(O)}$$

Bayes' Theorem and Location



$P(L_5)$

Before Observation

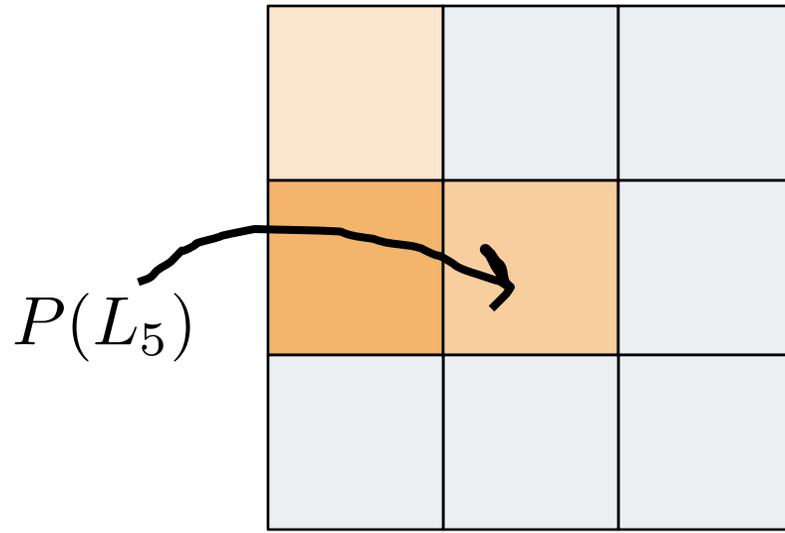
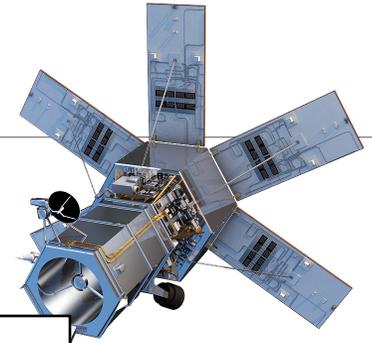


$P(L_5|O)$

After Observation

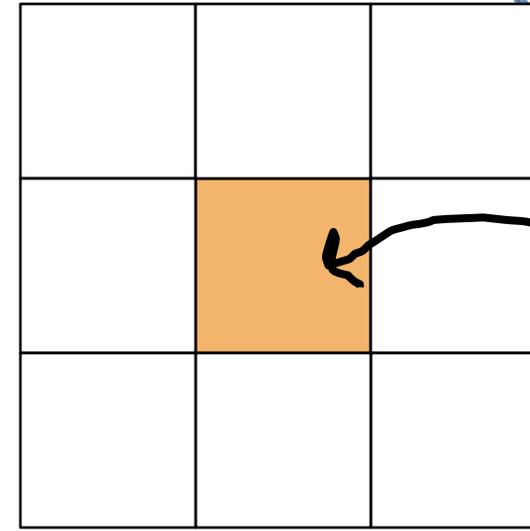
$$P(L_5|O) = \frac{P(O|L_5)P(L_5)}{\sum_i P(O|L_i)P(L_i)}$$

Bayes' Theorem and Location



$P(L_5)$

Before Observation

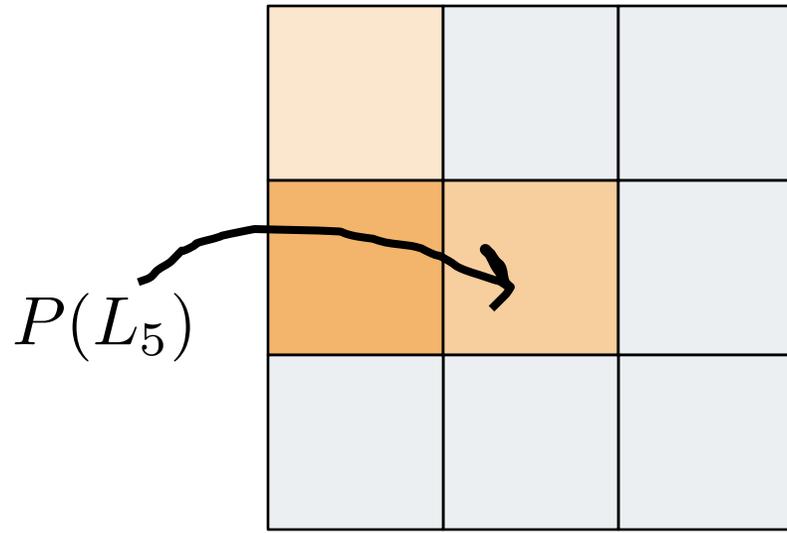
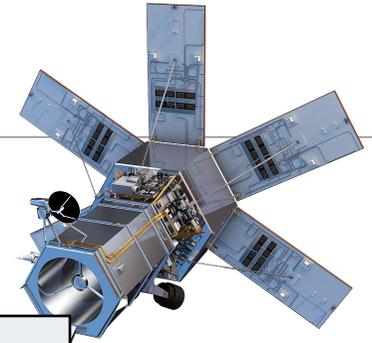


$P(L_5|O)$

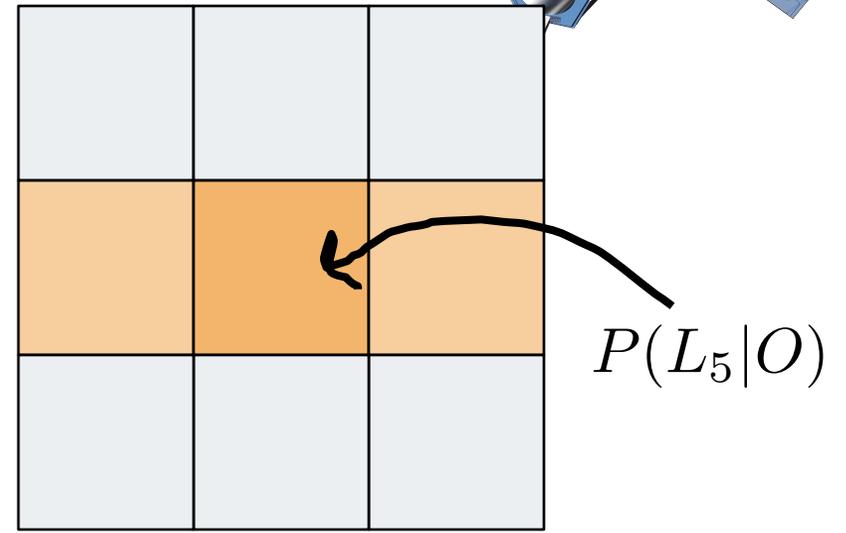
After Observation

$$P(L_5|O) = \frac{P(O|L_5)P(L_5)}{\sum_i P(O|L_i)P(L_i)}$$

Bayes' Theorem and Location



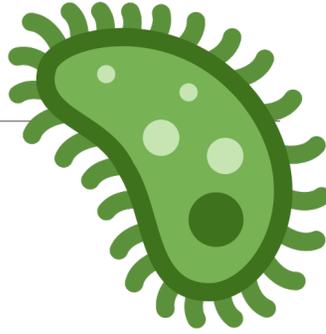
Before Observation



After Observation

$$P(L_5|O) = \frac{P(O|L_5)P(L_5)}{\sum_i P(O|L_i)P(L_i)}$$

Smell Test for Coronavirus?



What is the probability of having corona virus given that you **can** still smell? Leave your answer in terms of the probability of covid.

The probability of **Anosmia given covid** is 0.7,

The probability of **Anosmia before covid** was 0.01 (assumed to be the probability of Anosmia given no Covid).

Let A be the event of Anosmia,

Let S be the event that you can smell, aka A^C

C be the event of Covid



Monty Hall Problem

Monty Hall Problem and Wayne Brady



Monty Hall Problem aka Let's Make a Deal

Behind one door is a prize (equally likely to be any door).

Behind the other two doors is nothing

1. We choose a door
2. Host opens 1 of other 2 doors, revealing nothing
3. We are given an option to change to the other door.

Should we switch?

Note: If we don't switch, $P(\text{win}) = 1/3$ (random)

We are comparing $P(\text{win})$ and $P(\text{win|switch})$.



Doors A,B,C



If we switch

Without loss of generality, say we pick A (out of Doors A,B,C).

1/3

1/3

1/3

A = prize

- Host opens B or C
- We switch
- We always lose

$P(\text{win} \mid \text{A prize, picked A, switched}) = 0$

B = prize

- Host must open C
- We switch to B
- We always win

$P(\text{win} \mid \text{B prize, picked A, switched}) = 1$

C = prize

- Host must open B
- We switch to C
- We always win

$P(\text{win} \mid \text{C prize, picked A, switched}) = 1$

$$P(\text{win} \mid \text{picked A, switched}) = 1/3 * 0 + 1/3 * 1 + 1/3 * 1 = 2/3$$

You should switch.



Monty Hall, 1000 envelope version

Start with 1000 envelopes (of which 1 is the prize).

1. You choose 1 envelope.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{1000} = P(\text{envelope is prize}) \\ \frac{999}{1000} = P(\text{other 999 envelopes have prize}) \end{array} \right.$$

2. I open 998 of remaining 999 (showing they are empty).

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{999}{1000} &= P(998 \text{ empty envelopes had prize}) \\ &\quad + P(\text{last other envelope has prize}) \\ &= P(\text{last other envelope has prize}) \end{aligned}$$

3. Should you switch?

$$\text{No: } P(\text{win without switching}) = \frac{1}{\text{original \# envelopes}}$$

$$\text{Yes: } P(\text{win with new knowledge}) = \frac{\text{original \# envelopes} - 1}{\text{original \# envelopes}}$$

Marilyn Vos Savant



Ask Marilyn™

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

