

# 05: Conditional Probability

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June 29, 2022

# Announcements

- Switched over to using QueueMeIn for OH starting today – more info on “Office Hours” tab of website
  - My OH are now in my office: Durand 319
- PSet 2 timeline pushed back by 24 hours!
  - Out: 6/30
  - Due: 7/9

# Review!

# Serendipity

Let it find you.

## SERENDIPITY

the effect by which one accidentally stumbles upon something truly wonderful, especially while looking for something entirely unrelated.



**WHEN YOU MEET YOUR BEST FRIEND**

Somewhere you didn't expect to.

# Serendipity

- The population of Stanford is  $n = 17,000$  people.
- You are friends with  $r = 54$  people.
- Walk into a room, see  $k = 250$  random people.
- Assume each group of  $k$  Stanford people is equally likely to be in the room.

What is the probability that you see someone you know in the room?

<http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs109/demos/serendipity.html>

# Serendipity

- The population of Stanford is  $n = 17,000$  people.
- You are friends with  $r = 54$  people.
- Walk into a room, see  $k = 250$  random people.
- Assume each group of  $k$  Stanford people is equally likely to be in the room.

What is the probability that you see at least one friend in the room?

## Define

- $S$  (unordered)
- $E: \geq 1$  friend in the room

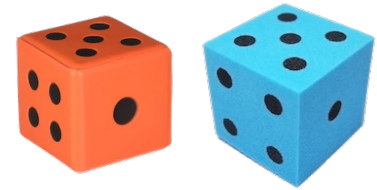
What strategy would you use?

- A.  $P(\text{exactly } 1) + P(\text{exactly } 2) + P(\text{exactly } 3) + \dots$
- B.  $1 - P(\text{see no friends})$

Many times, it is easier to  
compute  $P(E^C)$ .

# Conditional Probability

# Roll two dice



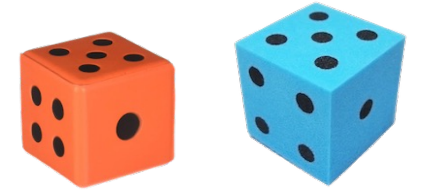
Roll two 6-sided fair dice. What is  $P(\text{sum} = 7)$ ?

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

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|} = \frac{6}{36} = 0.1\overline{6}$$

$E = \text{in red}$

# Dice, our misunderstood friends



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

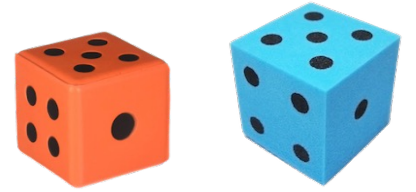
What is the best outcome for  $D_1$ ?

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/trick question

# Dice, our misunderstood friends

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



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

What is  $P(E)$ ?

$$|S| = 36$$

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

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

Let  $F$  be event:  $D_1 = 2$ .

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

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

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

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

# Slicing up the spam

24 emails are sent, 6 each to 4 users.

- 10 of the 24 emails are spam.
- All possible outcomes are equally likely.

Let  $E$  = user 1 receives  
3 spam emails.

What is  $P(E)$ ?

Let  $F$  = user 2 receives 6  
spam emails.

What is  $P(E|F)$ ?

Let  $G$  = user 3 receives 5  
spam emails.

What is  $P(G|F)$ ?

# Arts and Crafts

On any given day, there is a 50% chance that our artist-in-residence will decide to paint.

The chance that our artist crochets given that she has also painted on that same day is 50%.

What is the probability that, in one day, she decides to paint and crochet?



# NETFLIX

and Learn

# Netflix and Learn

Let  $E$  = a user watches Whiplash

What is  $P(E)$ ?

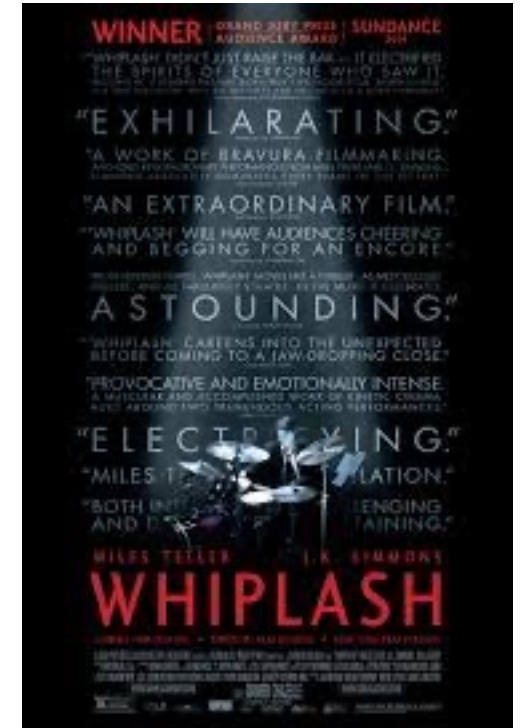
✗ Equally likely outcomes?

$S = \{\text{watch, not watch}\}$

$E = \{\text{watch}\}$

$P(E) = 1/2$  ?

✓ 
$$P(E) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(E)}{n} \approx \frac{\# \text{ people who have watched movie}}{\# \text{ people on Netflix}}$$
$$= 13,384,625 / 66,923,123 \approx 0.20$$



# Netflix and Learn

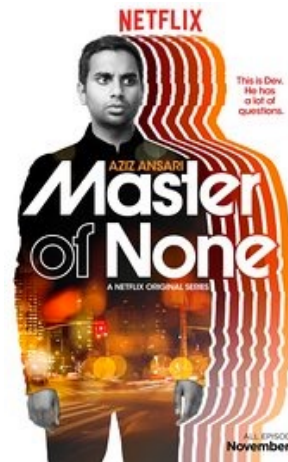
Let  $E$  be the event that a user watches the given movie.



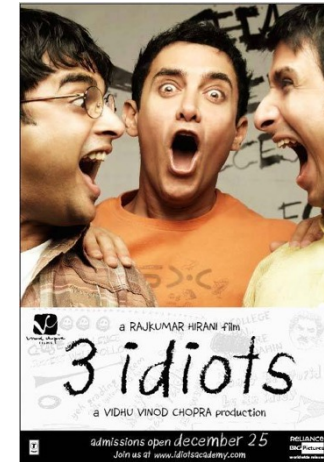
$$P(E) = 0.19$$



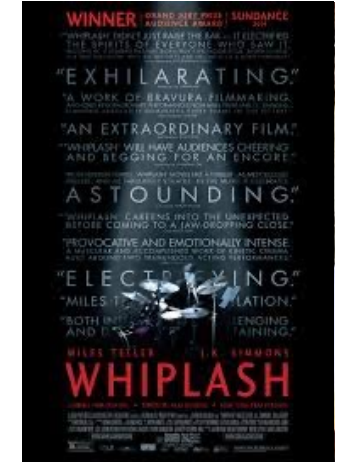
$$P(E) = 0.32$$



$$P(E) = 0.20$$



$$P(E) = 0.09$$



$$P(E) = 0.20$$

# Netflix and Learn

Let  $E$  = a user watches Whiplash.

Let  $F$  = a user watches CODA.

What is the probability that a user watches Whiplash, given they watched CODA?



$$\begin{aligned} P(E|F) &= \frac{P(EF)}{P(F)} = \frac{\frac{\text{\# people who have watched both}}{\text{\# people on Netflix}}}{\frac{\text{\# people who have watched CODA}}{\text{\# people on Netflix}}} \\ &= \frac{\text{\# people who have watched both}}{\text{\# people who have watched CODA}} \\ &\approx 0.42 \end{aligned}$$

# Netflix and Learn

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

Let  $F$  be the event that the same user watches CODA.



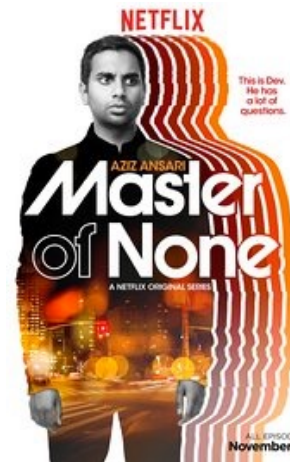
$$P(E) = 0.19$$

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



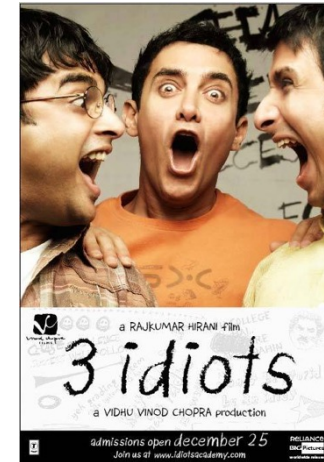
$$P(E) = 0.32$$

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



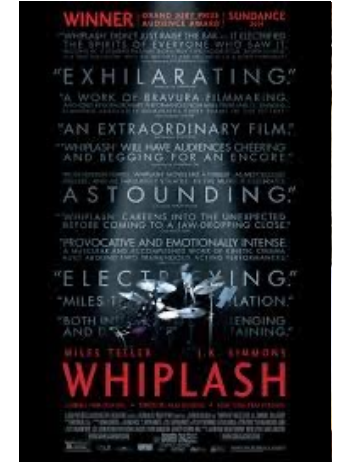
$$P(E) = 0.20$$

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



$$P(E) = 0.09$$

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

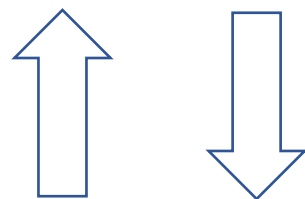


$$P(E) = 0.20$$

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

$$P(EF)$$

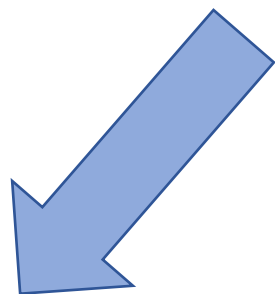
Chain rule  
(Product rule)



Definition of  
conditional probability

$$P(E|F)$$

Law of Total  
Probability



$$P(E)$$

# Practice Problems!

# Evolution of Bacteria

You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.

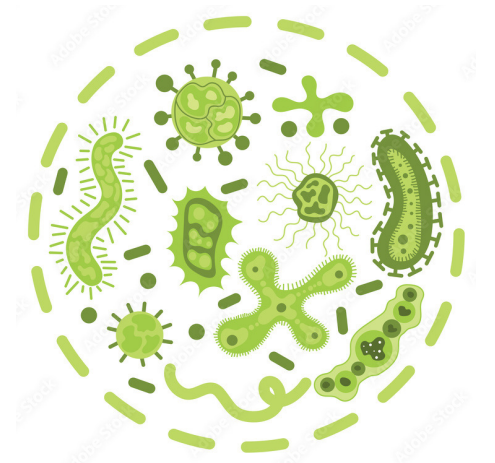
10% have a mutation which makes them resistant to anti-biotics

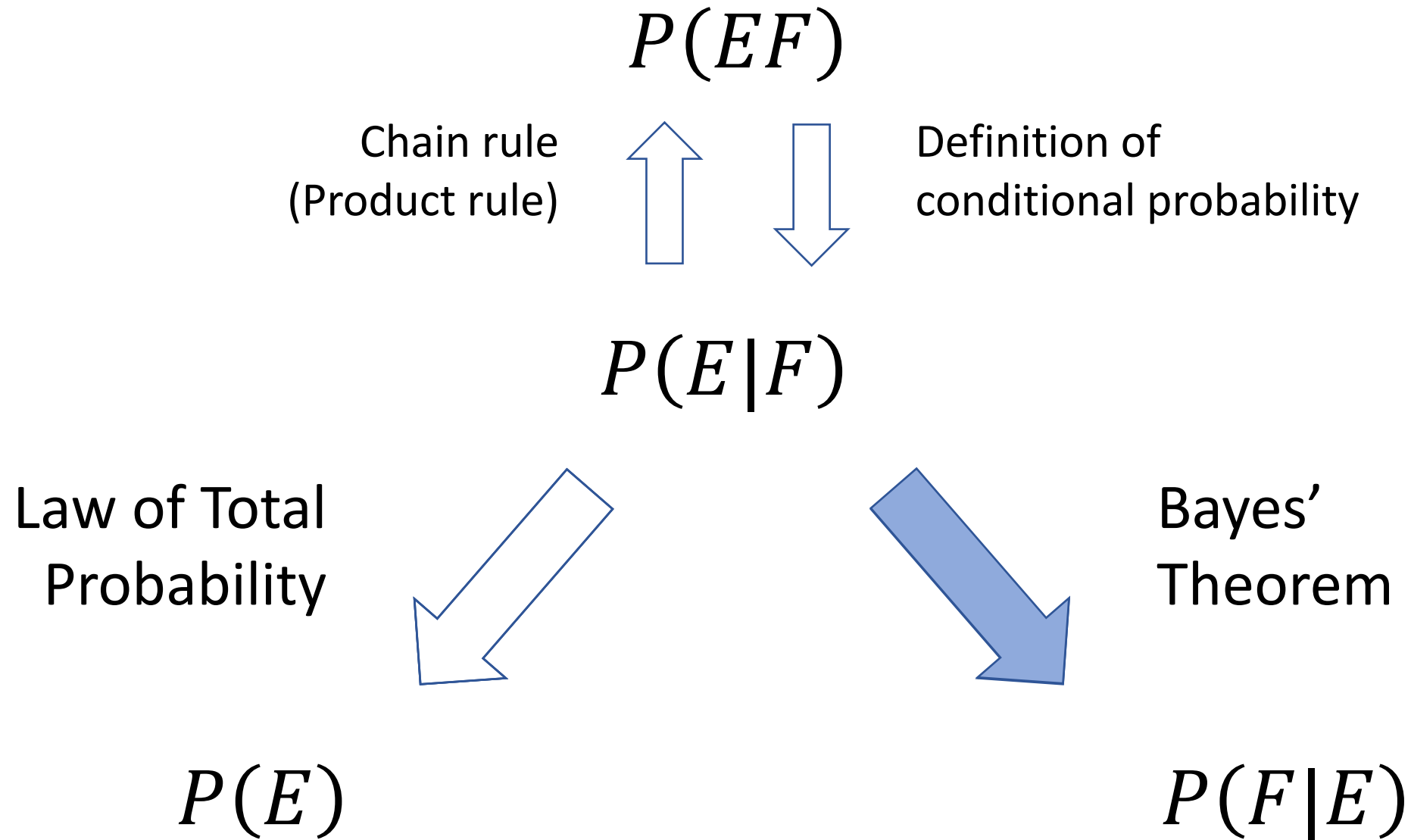
You take half a course of anti-biotics...(oh no)

Probability a bacteria survives given it has the mutation: 20%

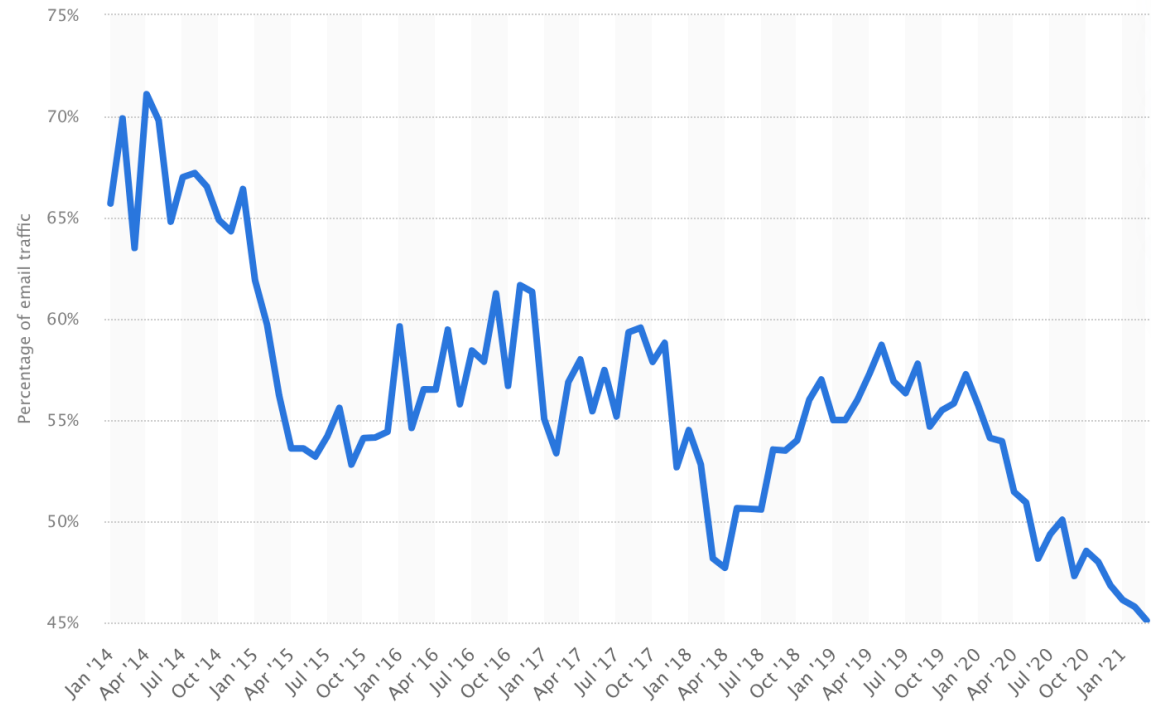
Probability a bacteria survives given it doesn't have the mutation: 1%

What is the probability that a randomly chosen bacteria survives?





# Detecting spam email



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

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

From: brian.hodgson<brian.hodgson@gmail.com>  
Date: January 24, 2022 at 7:46:18 AM EST  
To: dearcustomer@geeksquad.com  
Subject: Subscription Renewal Successful #8757676425424240000

## INVOICE

**Geek SQUAD**

Customer Support: +1 818 921 4805

Date:- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

Invoice ID:- #GS535741

Dear Geek Squad Customer,

Thank you for using Geek Squad Antivirus for the last one year. Your **Geek Squad Antivirus plan** will expire today. We wanted to remind you that your plan will be auto-renewed Today for next one year. You will be billed from your saved account details for the annual amount of your Antivirus Plan.

### Payment Information

**PURCHASE DATE :** 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022

**INVOICE NO.:** #GS733710

**PRODUCT NAME:** Geek SQUAD Antivirus

**BILLING CYCLE:** 2 Year

**PURCHASE TYPE:** Subscription Renewal

**Total Price:** \$440.80

### Note:-

Having any queries with this invoice? Feel free to contact our support team at **+1 818 921 4805**. If you want to continue taking our service and products and retain all your data and preferences, you can easily renew or cancel the services/products by calling on **+1 818 921 4805**.

Regards,  
GEEK SQUAD.

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

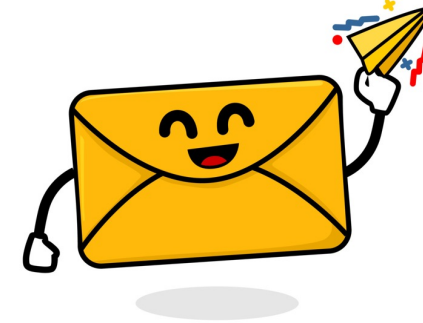
$$P(F|E) = P(\text{Spam email} \mid \text{“Dear”})$$

# Detecting spam email

- 45% of all email in 2022 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?



# SARS Testing

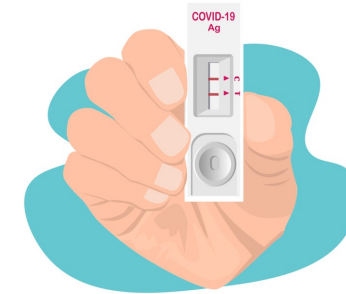
- A test is 98% effective at detecting SARS (“true positive”).
  - True positive – probability of positive result given that you have the disease.
- However, the test has a “false positive” rate of 1%.
  - False positive – probability of a positive result given that you don’t have the disease
- 0.5% of the US population has SARS.

# Taking tests: Confusion matrix



Fact,  $F$  or  $F^C$   
Has disease  
No disease

Take  
test



Evidence,  $E$  or  $E^C$   
Test positive  
Test negative

|          |                | Fact                                |                                     |
|----------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|          |                | $F$ , disease +                     | $F^C$ , disease –                   |
| Evidence | $E$ , Test +   | True positive<br>$P(E F)$           | <b>False positive</b><br>$P(E F^C)$ |
|          | $E^C$ , Test – | <b>False negative</b><br>$P(E^C F)$ | True negative<br>$P(E^C F^C)$       |

If a test returns positive, what is the likelihood you have the disease?

# SARS Testing

- A test is 98% effective at detecting SARS (“true positive”).
  - True positive – probability of positive result given that you have the disease.
- However, the test has a “false positive” rate of 1%.
  - False positive – probability of a positive result given that you don’t have the disease
- 0.5% of the US population has SARS.

## Definitions

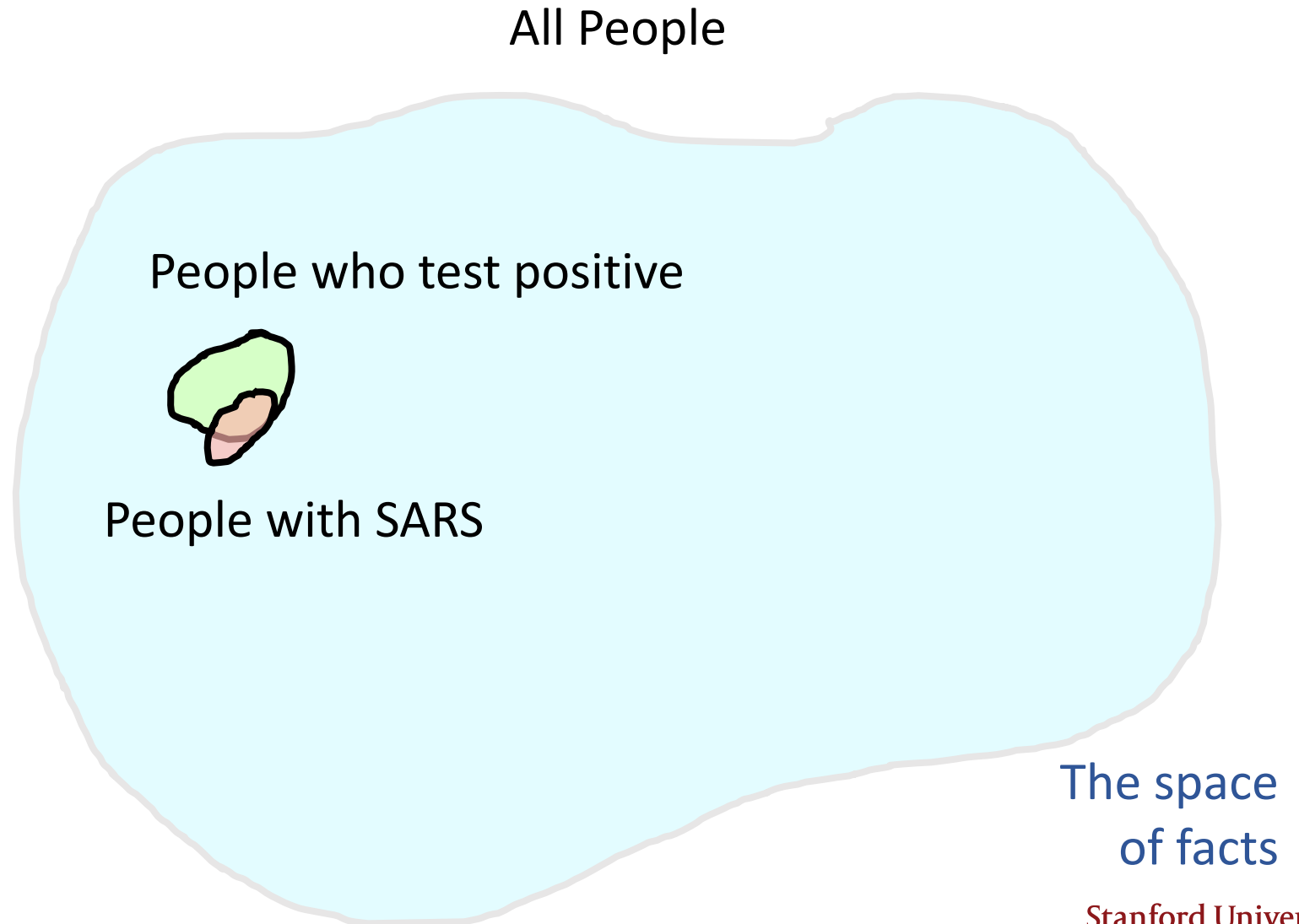
- Let E (evidence) be the event that the test comes back positive
- Let F (fact) be the event that you actually have SARS

What is the chance you have SARS if you test positive?

# Bayes' Theorem intuition

Original question:

What is the likelihood  
you have SARS if you  
test positive for the  
disease?



The space  
of facts

# Bayes' Theorem intuition

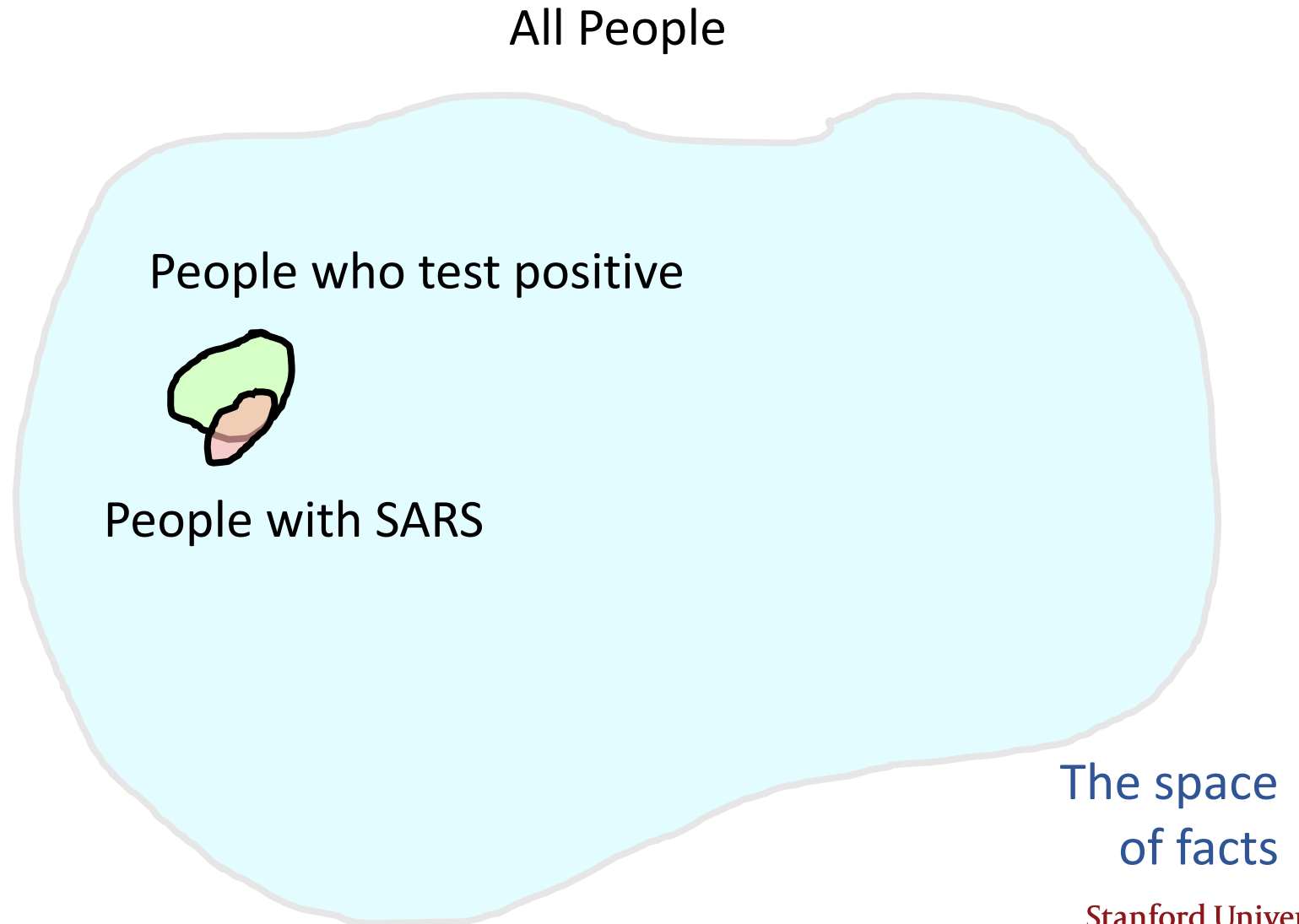
Original question:

What is the likelihood  
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Interpret

Interpretation:

Of the people who test  
positive, how many actually  
have SARS?



# Bayes' Theorem intuition

Original question:

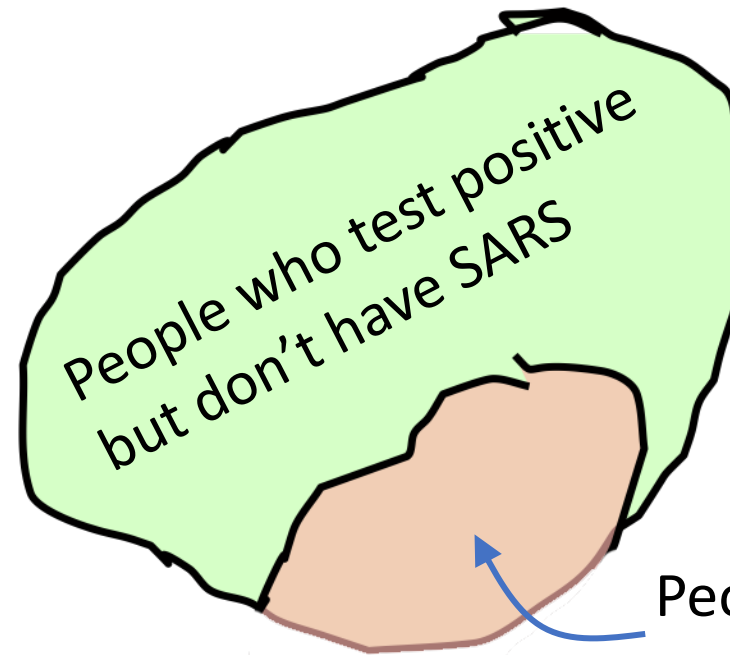
What is the likelihood  
you have SARS if you  
test positive for the  
disease?

Interpret

Interpretation:

Of the people who test  
positive, how many actually  
have SARS?

People who test positive



People who test  
positive and have SARS

The space of facts,  
conditioned on a positive test result

# SARS Testing

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.

$\approx 0.333$

# SARS Testing

Conditioning on having a positive result:



5 have SARS

and test positive

985 **do not** have SARS

and test negative.

10 **do not** have SARS

and test positive.

$\approx 0.333$

# Why it's still good to get tested

Let:  $E$  = you test positive  
 $F$  = you actually have the disease

Let:  $E^C$  = you test **negative** for SARS with this test.

|              | $F$ , disease +                  | $F^C$ , disease –                   |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| $E$ , Test + | True positive<br>$P(E F) = 0.98$ | False positive<br>$P(E F^C) = 0.01$ |

What is  $P(F|E^C)$ ?

# Why it's still good to get tested

Let:  $E$  = you test positive  
 $F$  = you actually have the disease

Let:  $E^C$  = you test **negative** for SARS with this test.

|                | $F$ , disease +                     | $F^C$ , disease –                    |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| $E$ , Test +   | True positive<br>$P(E F) = 0.98$    | False positive<br>$P(E F^C) = 0.01$  |
| $E^C$ , Test – | False negative<br>$P(E^C F) = 0.02$ | True negative<br>$P(E^C F^C) = 0.99$ |

What is  $P(F|E^C)$ ?

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

# Monty Hall Problem

# 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.



Doors A,B,C

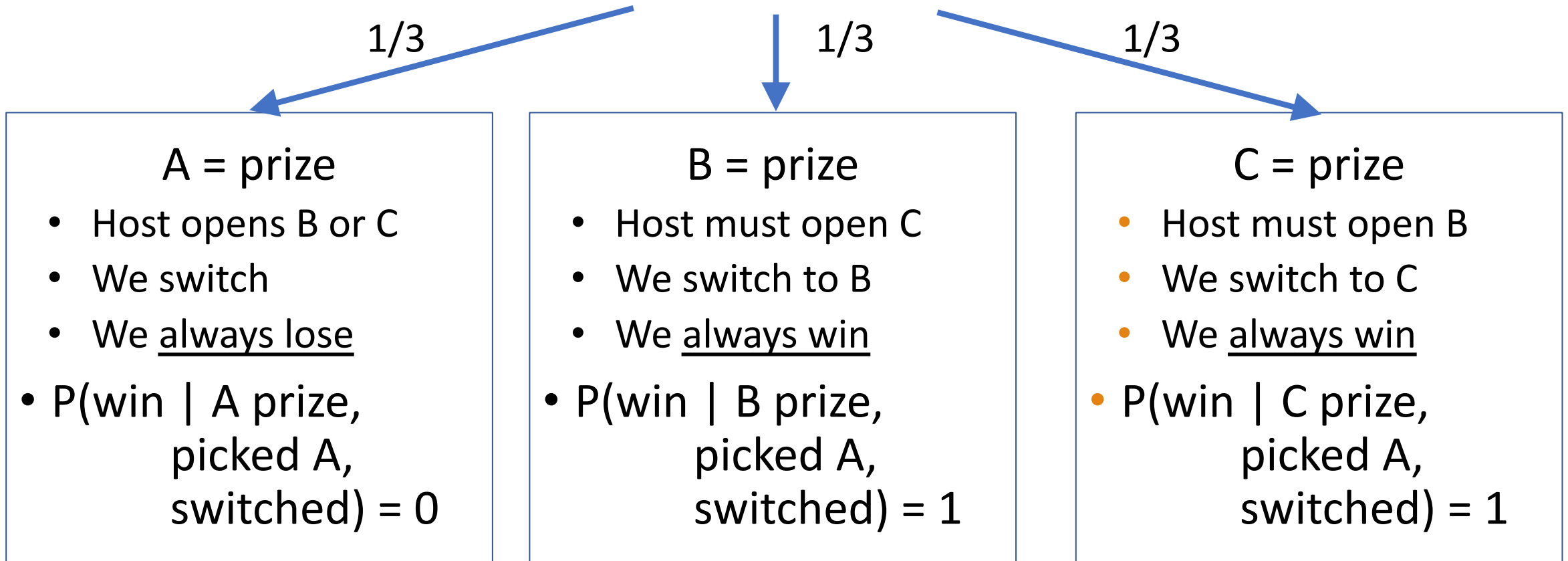
Should we switch?

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

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

# If we switch

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



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

***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).  
$$\frac{999}{1000} = P(998 \text{ empty envelopes had prize}) + P(\text{last other envelope has prize})$$
$$= P(\text{last other envelope has prize})$$
3. Should you switch?  
No:  $P(\text{win without switching}) = \frac{1}{\text{original \# envelopes}}$   
Yes:  $P(\text{win with new knowledge}) = \frac{\text{original \# envelopes} - 1}{\text{original \# envelopes}}$