

A photograph of a misty forest path. The path is made of gravel and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in green ferns and other low-lying plants. The atmosphere is hazy and serene.

Conditional Probability & Bayes

CS109

The Core Probability Toolkit



The Core Probability Toolkit

The Law of Total Probability

$$P(E) = P(E \text{ and } F) + P(E \text{ and } F^C)$$
$$P(E) = P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C)$$
$$P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E \text{ and } B_i)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^n P(E|B_i)P(B_i)$$

Bayes' Theorem

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

Definition of Conditional Probability

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

Axiom 1: $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$

Axiom 3: If E and F are mutually exclusive, then $P(E \text{ or } F) = P(E) + P(F)$

Otherwise, use Inclusion-Exclusion:

$$P(E \text{ or } F) = P(E) + P(F) - P(E \text{ and } F)$$

$$P(E^C) = 1 - P(E)$$

De Morgan's Laws

$$(A \text{ or } B)^C = A^C \text{ and } B^C$$

$$(A \text{ and } B)^C = A^C \text{ or } B^C$$

Chain Rule

$$P(E \text{ and } F) = P(E|F) \cdot P(F)$$
$$= P(F|E) \cdot P(E)$$

Independence

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

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

The Core Probability Toolkit

The Law of Total Probability

$$P(E) = P(E \text{ and } F) + P(E \text{ and } F^C)$$
$$P(E) = P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C)$$
$$P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E \text{ and } B_i)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^n P(E|B_i)P(B_i)$$

Bayes' Theorem

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

Definition of Conditional Probability

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

Axiom 1: $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$

Axiom 3: If E and F are mutually exclusive, then $P(E \text{ or } F) = P(E) + P(F)$

Otherwise, use Inclusion-Exclusion:

$$P(E \text{ or } F) = P(E) + P(F) - P(E \text{ and } F)$$

$$P(E^C) = 1 - P(E)$$

De Morgan's Laws

$$(A \text{ or } B)^C = A^C \text{ and } B^C$$

$$(A \text{ and } B)^C = A^C \text{ or } B^C$$

Chain Rule

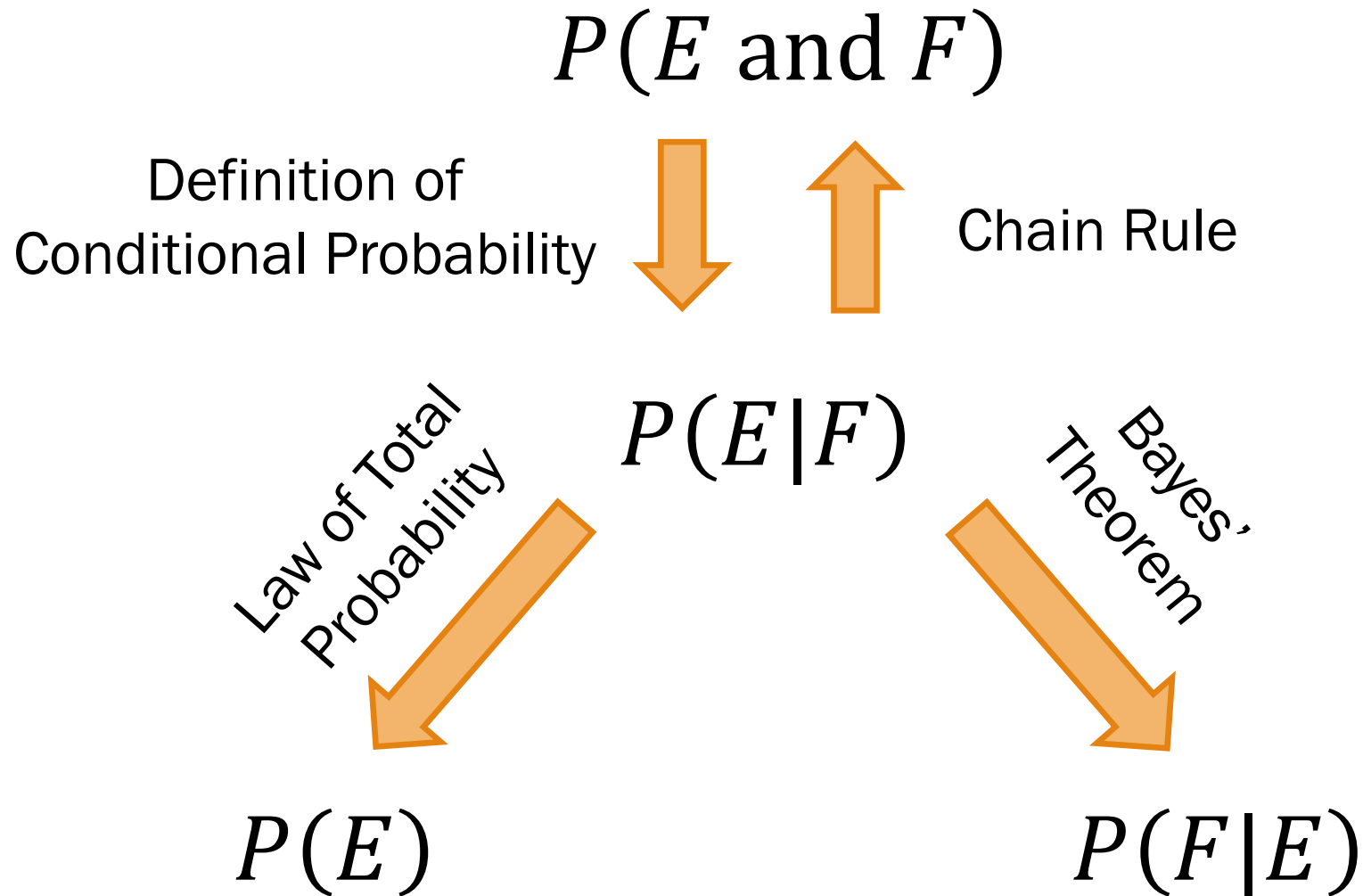
$$P(E \text{ and } F) = P(E|F) \cdot P(F)$$
$$= P(F|E) \cdot P(E)$$

Independence

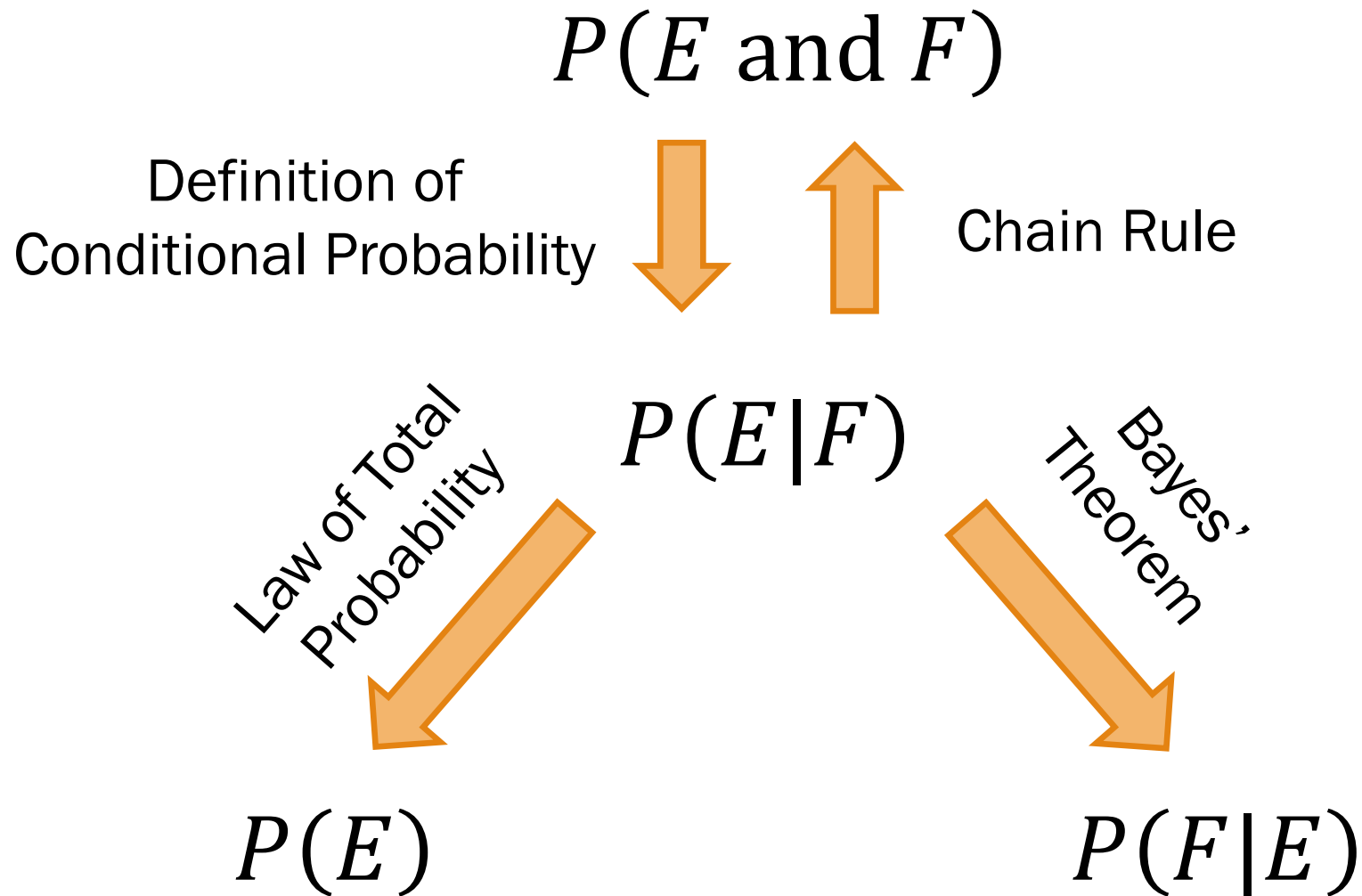
$$P(E|F) = P(E)$$

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

Learning Goal for Today: Conditional Probability



Learning Goal for Today: Conditional Probability



Review

The Axioms of Probability

- Axiom 1: $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

All probabilities are between 0 and 1

- Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$

The probability of the sample space is 1

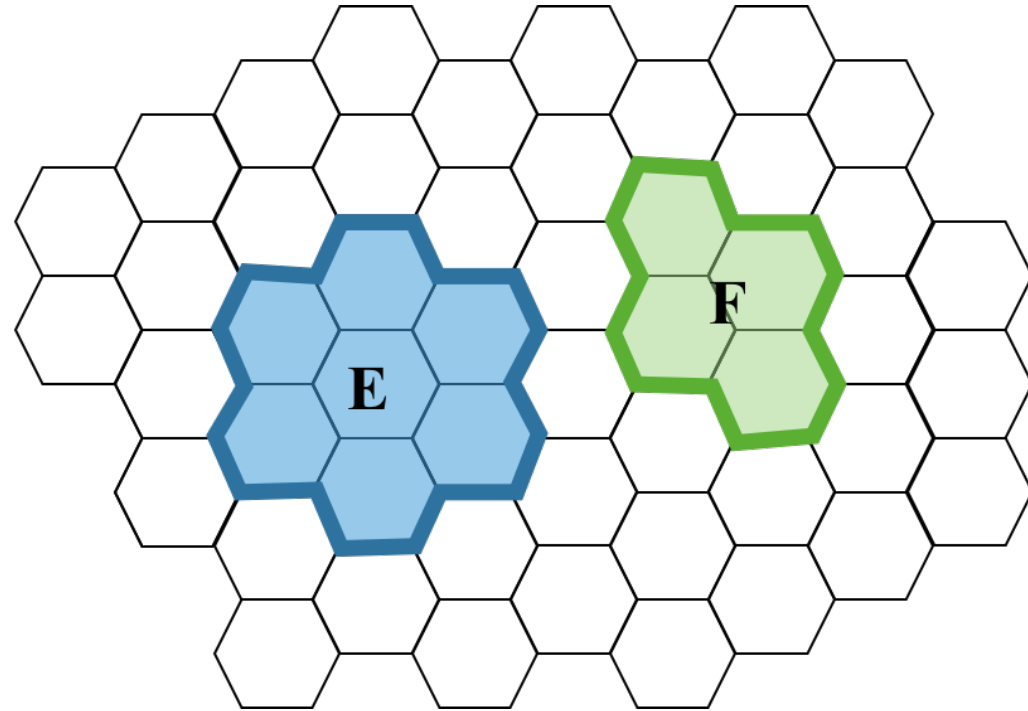
- Axiom 3: If events E and F are mutually exclusive,

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



Probability of event E *or* event F

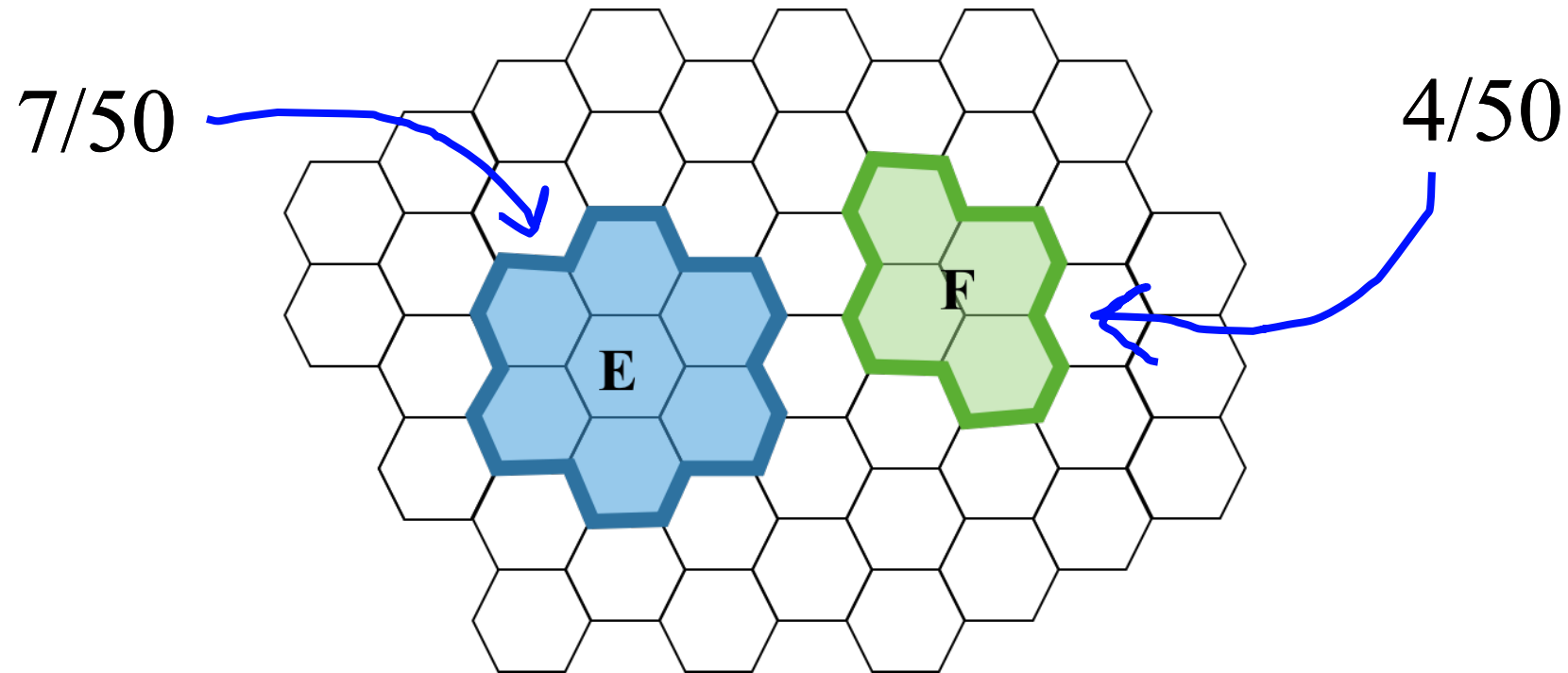
Axiom 3: Probability of Or, With Mutually Exclusive Events



If events have no outcomes in common, probability of OR is simple:

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

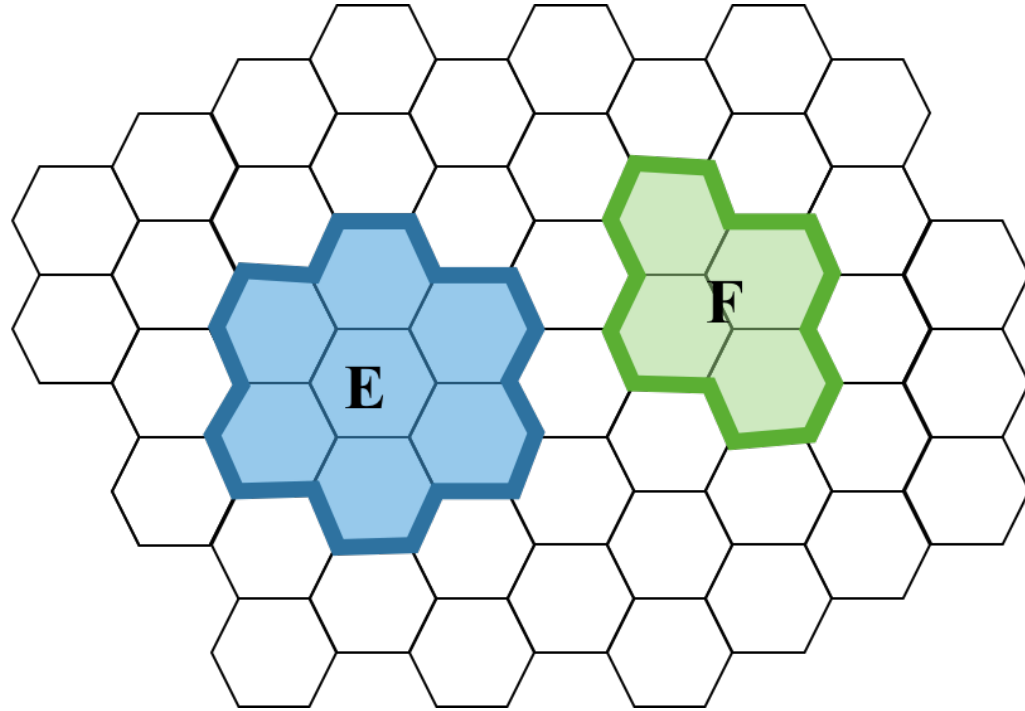
Axiom 3: Probability of Or, With Mutually Exclusive Events



If events have no outcomes in common, probability of OR is simple:

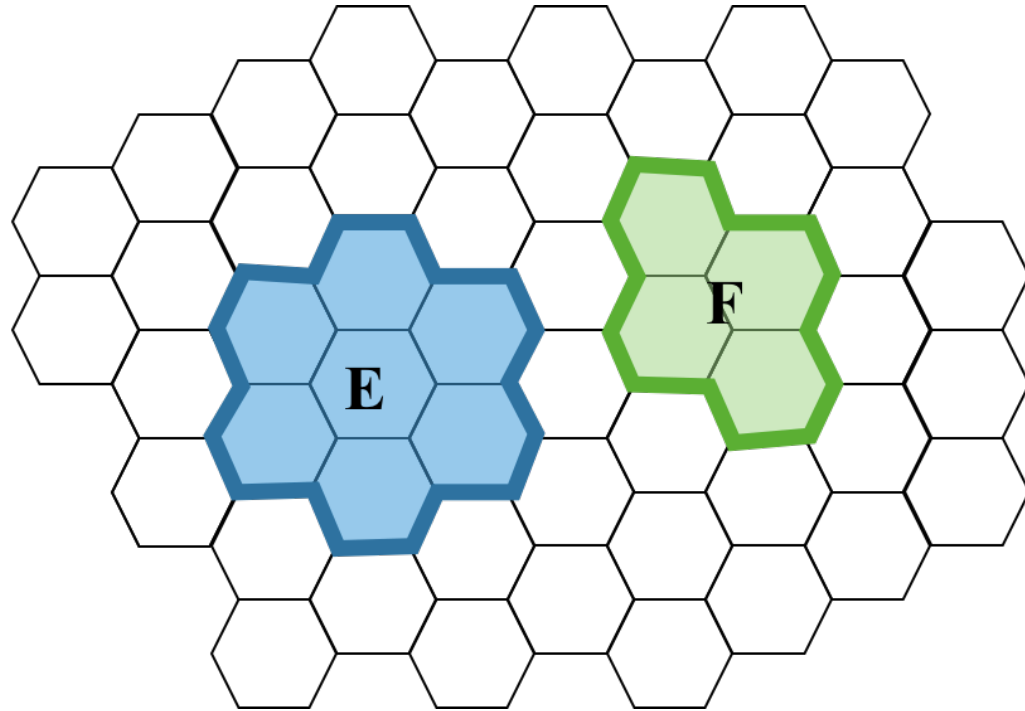
$$P(E \cup F) = \frac{7}{50} + \frac{4}{50} = \frac{11}{50}$$

Axiom 3: Probability of Or, With Mutually Exclusive Events



What is $P(E \cap F)$ in this example?

Axiom 3: Probability of Or, With Mutually Exclusive Events



What is $P(E \cap F)$ in this example?

0! Since E and F are mutually exclusive

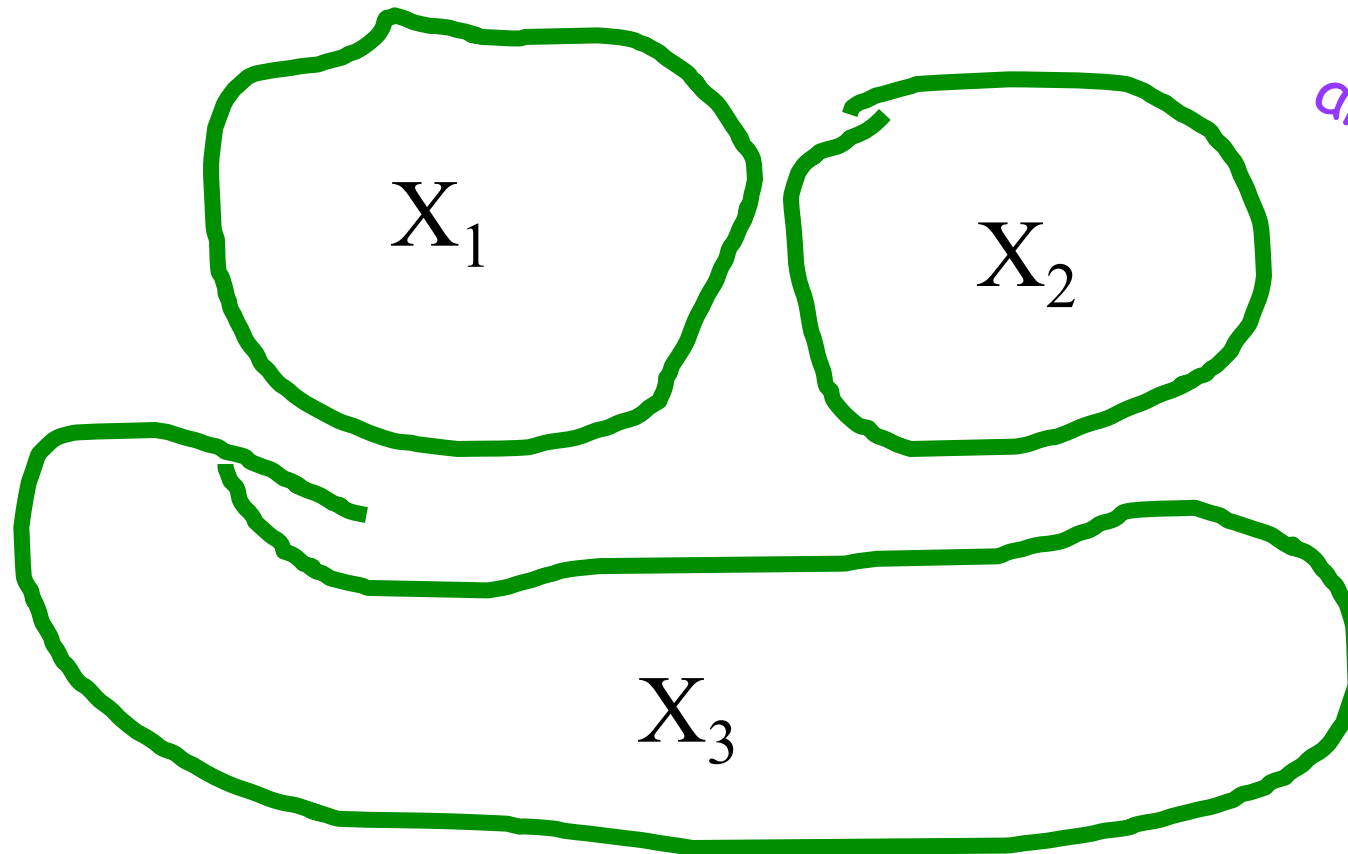
Probability of Or With 3 Or More Events

X_1

X_2

X_3

Probability of Or With 3 Or More Events



Wahoo! All my events
are mutually exclusive

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

The Axioms of Probability

- Axiom 1: $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

All probabilities are between 0 and 1

- Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$

The probability of the sample space is 1

- Axiom 3: If events E and F are mutually exclusive,

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



Probability of event E *or* event F

- Identity 3*: $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$

"not E "

Events either happen...or don't

Where does $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$ come from?

Where does $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$ come from?

$$P(E \cup E^c) = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

Axiom 3: E and E^c are mutually exclusive

Where does $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$ come from?

$$P(E \cup E^c) = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

Axiom 3: E and E^c are mutually exclusive

$$P(S) = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

Since all outcomes are either in E or E^c

Where does $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$ come from?

$$P(E \cup E^c) = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

Axiom 3: E and E^c are mutually exclusive

$$P(S) = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

Since all outcomes are either in E or E^c

$$1 = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

Axiom 2: $P(S) = 1$

$$P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$$

Subtract $P(E)$ from both sides

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, 1 of which is defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that the defective chip is in the k selected chips?

$$|S| =$$

$$|E| =$$

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, 1 of which is defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that the defective chip is in the k selected chips?

$$|S| = \binom{n}{k}$$

$$|E| =$$

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, 1 of which is defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that the defective chip is in the k selected chips?

$$|S| = \binom{n}{k}$$

$$|E| = \binom{1}{1} \binom{n-1}{k-1} \quad \text{Choose the defective chip, then choose } k-1 \text{ other chips}$$

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, 1 of which is defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that the defective chip is in the k selected chips?

$$|S| = \binom{n}{k}$$

$$|E| = \binom{1}{1} \binom{n-1}{k-1} \quad \text{Choose the defective chip, then choose } k-1 \text{ other chips}$$

$$\text{P(defective chip is in } k \text{ selected chips)} = \frac{\binom{1}{1} \binom{n-1}{k-1}}{\binom{n}{k}} = \frac{\frac{(n-1)!}{(k-1)!(n-k)!}}{\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}} = \frac{k}{n}$$

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, **five** of which are defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that **any** defective chips are in the k selected chips?

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, **five** of which are defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that **any** defective chips are in the k selected chips?

Tip: sometimes, it is easier to calculate $P(E^C)$ than $P(E)$.

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, **five** of which are defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that **any** defective chips are in the k selected chips?

Let's find $P(\text{no defective chips chosen})$ instead:

$$|S| =$$

$$|E| =$$

Chip Defect Detection

Your company has manufactured n chips, **five** of which are defective.

k chips are randomly selected from n for testing.

What is the probability that **any** defective chips are in the k selected chips?

Let's find $P(\text{no defective chips chosen})$ instead:

$$|S| = \binom{n}{k}$$

$$|E| = \binom{n-5}{k}$$

Then,

$$P(\text{any defective}) = 1 - P(\text{no defective}) = 1 - \frac{\binom{n-5}{k}}{\binom{n}{k}}$$

End Review

Conditional Probability



Conditional Probability: Why?

So far, we've only learned how to calculate probability in a global, static way.

Day	Outcome
1	Rainy
2	Sunny
3	Rainy
4	Cloudy
5	Rainy
6	Sunny
7	Sunny
8	Sunny
	...
10000	Cloudy

Let E be the event that it is **Sunny** tomorrow. What is $P(E)$?

Conditional Probability: Why?

So far, we've only learned how to calculate probability in a global, static way.

Day	Outcome
1	Rainy
2	Sunny
3	Rainy
4	Cloudy
5	Rainy
6	Sunny
7	Sunny
8	Sunny
	...
10000	Cloudy

Let E be the event that it is **Sunny** tomorrow. What is $P(E)$?

- Weather depends on seasons...shouldn't we only use data from summers to get a probability for tomorrow?

Conditional Probability: Why?

So far, we've only learned how to calculate probability in a global, static way.

Day	Outcome
1	Rainy
2	Sunny
3	Rainy
4	Cloudy
5	Rainy
6	Sunny
7	Sunny
8	Sunny
	...
10000	Cloudy

Let E be the event that it is **Sunny** tomorrow. What is $P(E)$?

- Weather depends on seasons...shouldn't we only use data from summers to get a probability for tomorrow?
- Weather tomorrow depends on weather today...how can we incorporate today's weather into our math?

Conditional Probability: Why?

So far, we've only learned how to calculate probability in a global, static way.

Day	Outcome
1	Rainy
2	Sunny
3	Rainy
4	Cloudy
5	Rainy
6	Sunny
7	Sunny
8	Sunny
	...
10000	Cloudy

Let E be the event that it is **Sunny** tomorrow. What is $P(E)$?

- Weather depends on seasons...shouldn't we only use data from summers to get a probability for tomorrow?
- Weather tomorrow depends on weather today...how can we incorporate today's weather into our math?
- Generally: how do we calculate probabilities of events *under specific conditions, or given specific information?*

Conditional Probability: In Words

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

Written as:

$$P(E|F)$$

Means:

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

Conditional Probability: In Words

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

Written as:

$$P(E|F)$$

Means:

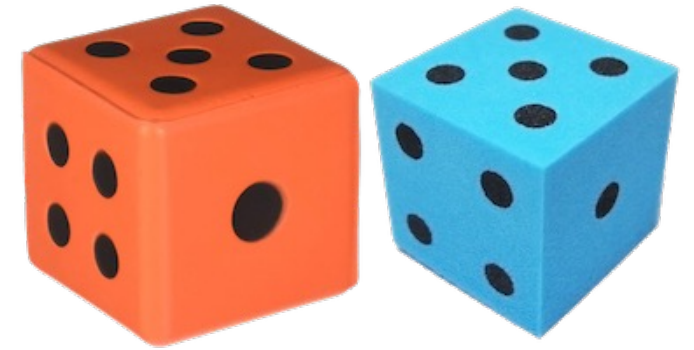
“ $P(E, \text{ given } F \text{ is observed})$ ”

Examples:

- $P(\text{sunny} \mid \text{summer}) =$ “Probability it’s sunny tomorrow, given that it’s summer”
- $P(\text{sunny} \mid \text{rain today}) =$ “Probability it’s sunny tomorrow, given that it rained today”

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.



D_1

D_2

Let E be the event that the dice sum to 7. What is $P(E)$?

$S = \{$

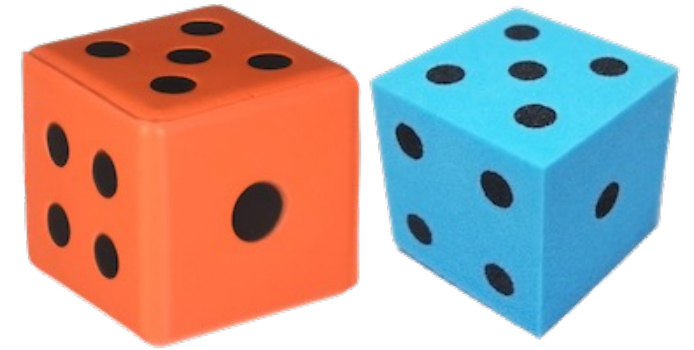
[1,1]	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
[2,1]	[2,2]	[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
[3,1]	[3,2]	[3,3]	[3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
[4,1]	[4,2]	[4,3]	[4,4]	[4,5]	[4,6]
[5,1]	[5,2]	[5,3]	[5,4]	[5,5]	[5,6]
[6,1]	[6,2]	[6,3]	[6,4]	[6,5]	[6,6]

$\}$

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

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.



D_1

D_2

Let E be the event that the dice sum to 4. What is $P(E)$?

$S = \{$

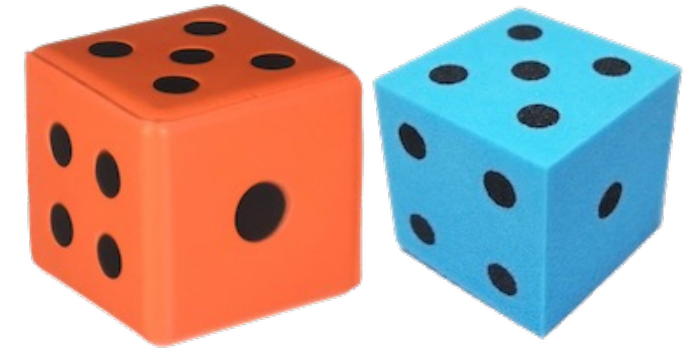
[1,1]	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
[2,1]	[2,2]	[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
[3,1]	[3,2]	[3,3]	[3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
[4,1]	[4,2]	[4,3]	[4,4]	[4,5]	[4,6]
[5,1]	[5,2]	[5,3]	[5,4]	[5,5]	[5,6]
[6,1]	[6,2]	[6,3]	[6,4]	[6,5]	[6,6]

$\}$

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|} = \frac{3}{36} = \frac{1}{12}$$

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.



D_1

D_2

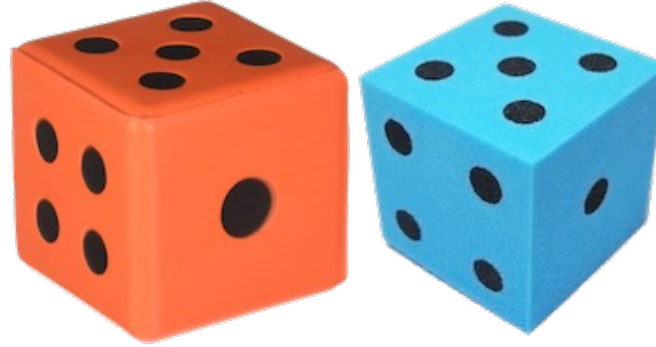
Let E be the event that the dice sum to **4**. What is $P(E)$?

$S = \{$	[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]	$\}$

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|} = \frac{3}{36} = \frac{1}{12}$$

Note: if we roll a 4, 5, or 6 on the first dice, getting a sum of 4 becomes impossible

Stacking The Odds In Our Favor



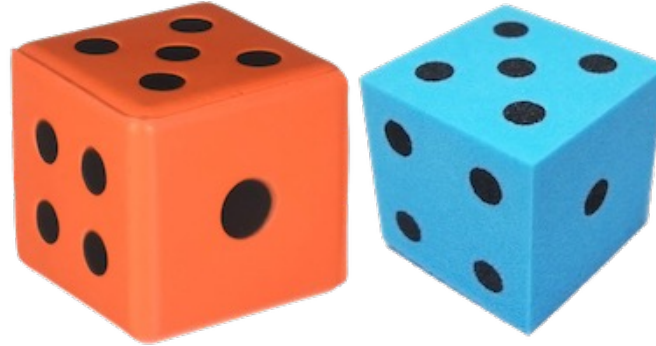
D_1

D_2

What outcome for D_1 is most likely to lead to a sum of 4?

- A. 1 and 3 tie for best
- B. 1, 2, and 3 tie for best
- C. 2 is the best
- D. None of the above

Stacking The Odds In Our Favor



D_1

D_2

What outcome for D_1 is most likely to lead to a sum of 4?

A. 1 and 3 tie for best

B. 1, 2, and 3 tie for best

C. 2 is the best

D. None of the above

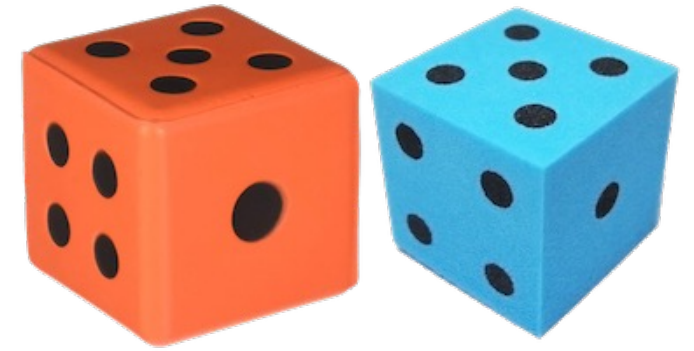
for each, there is one outcome where the sum is 4

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.

Let F be the event that $D_1 = 2$.

Let E be the event that the dice sum to 4. What is $P(E, \text{given } F)$?



D_1

D_2

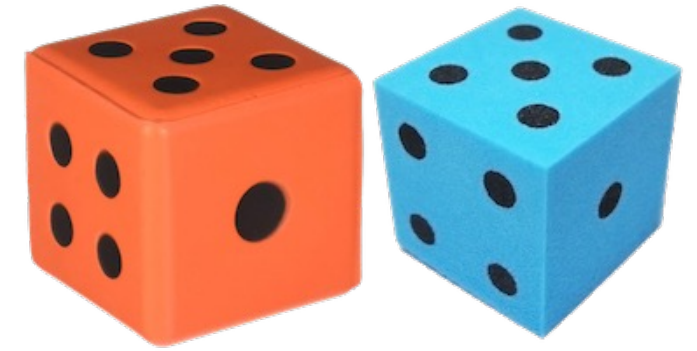
$S = \{$ [1,1] [1,2] **[1,3]** [1,4] [1,5] [1,6]
[2,1] **[2,2]** [2,3] [2,4] [2,5] [2,6]
[3,1] [3,2] [3,3] [3,4] [3,5] [3,6]
[4,1] [4,2] [4,3] [4,4] [4,5] [4,6]
[5,1] [5,2] [5,3] [5,4] [5,5] [5,6]
[6,1] [6,2] [6,3] [6,4] [6,5] [6,6] $\}$

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.

Let F be the event that $D_1 = 2$.

Let E be the event that the dice sum to 4. What is $P(E, \text{given } F)$?



D_1

D_2

$S = \{$ [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] $\}$

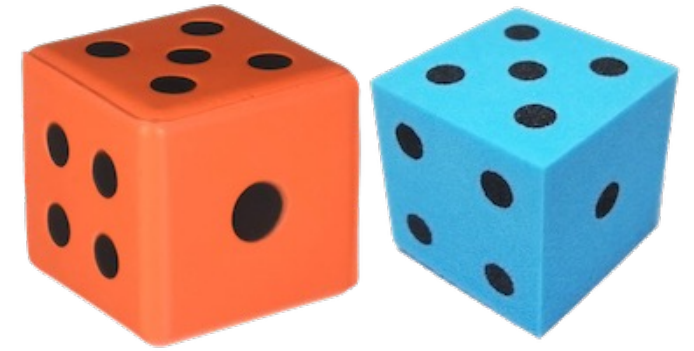
These are the only possible outcomes now...

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.

Let F be the event that $D_1 = 2$.

Let E be the event that the dice sum to 4. What is $P(E, \text{given } F)$?



D_1

D_2

$S = \{ [2,1] \quad [2,2] \quad [2,3] \quad [2,4] \quad [2,5] \quad [2,6] \}$ These are the only possible outcomes now....

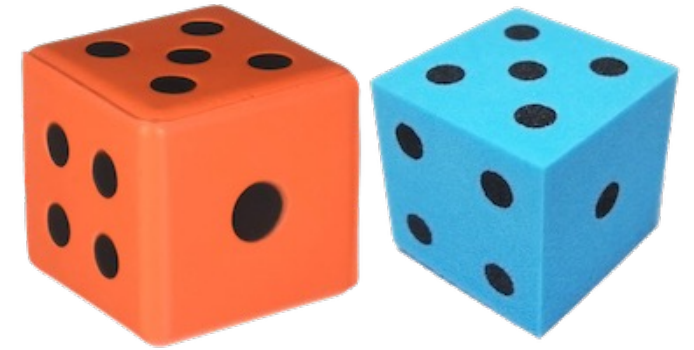
...so our sample space shrinks!

Returning to Rolling Two Dice

You roll two 6-sided dice.

Let F be the event that $D_1 = 2$.

Let E be the event that the dice sum to 4. What is $P(E, \text{given } F)$?



$S = \{ [2,1] \quad [2,2] \quad [2,3] \quad [2,4] \quad [2,5] \quad [2,6] \}$ These are the only possible outcomes now....

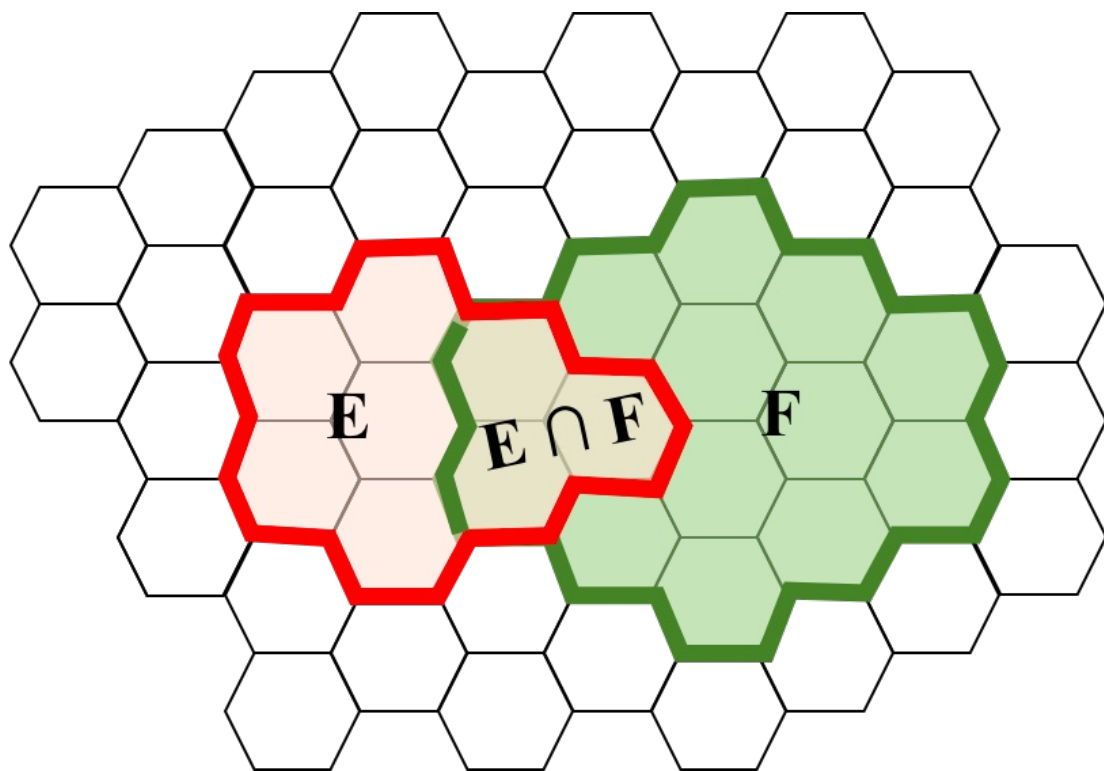
...so our sample space shrinks!

$$P(E|F) = \frac{|E| \text{ (given } F)}{|S| \text{ (given } F)} = \frac{|E \text{ and } F|}{|F|} = \frac{1}{6}$$

"E given F"

Conditional Probability: Visual Intuition

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

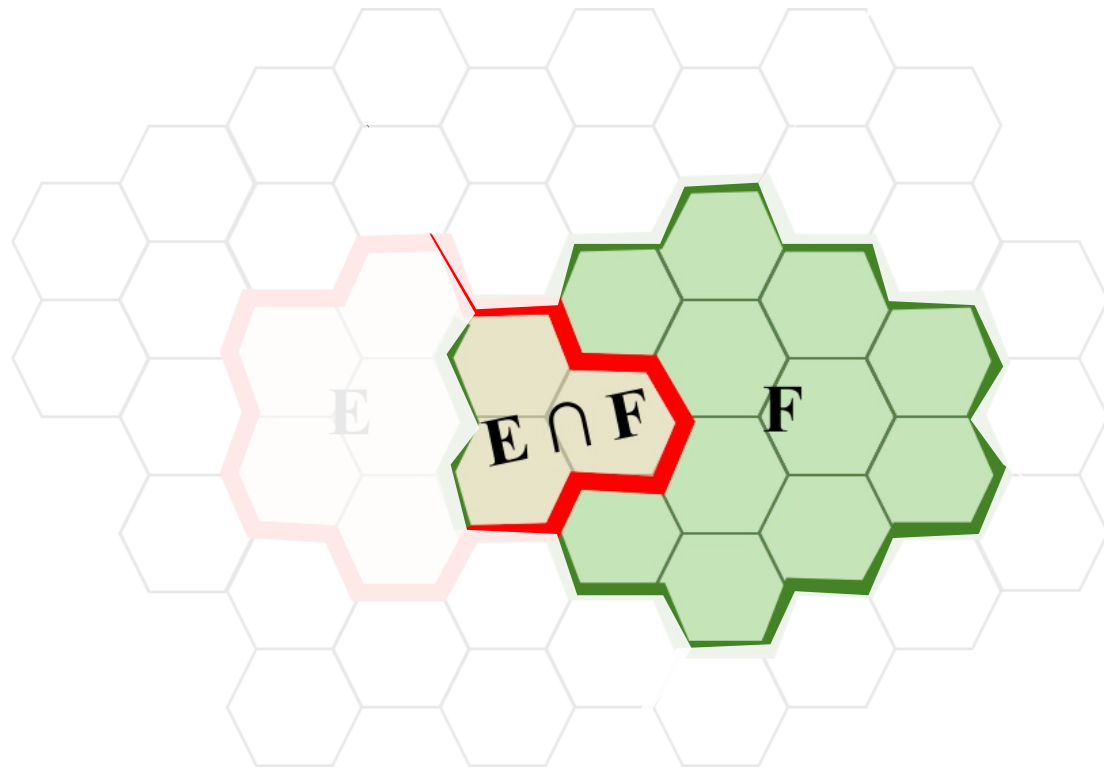


$$P(E) = \frac{8}{50} \approx 0.16$$

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

Conditional Probability: Visual Intuition

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

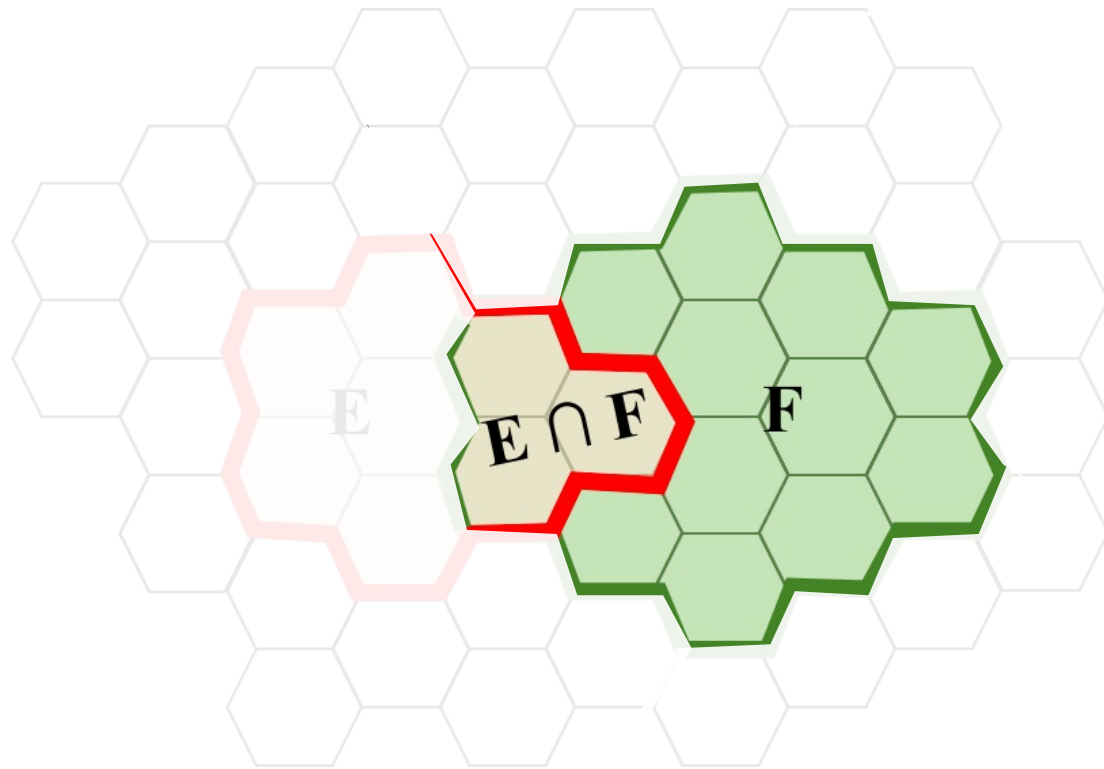


$$P(E) = \frac{8}{50} \approx 0.16$$

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

Conditional Probability: Visual Intuition

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.



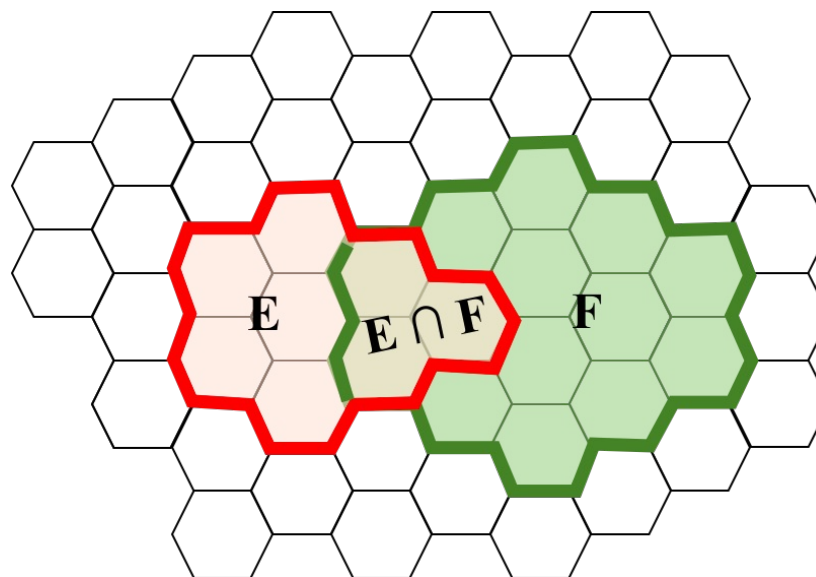
$$P(E) = \frac{8}{50} \approx 0.16$$

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

Conditional Probability: Visual Intuition

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

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



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

Definition of Conditional Probability

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

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

- This definition works even when outcomes are not equally likely

Definition of Conditional Probability

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

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

- This definition works even when outcomes are not equally likely
- What if $P(F) = 0$??

Definition of Conditional Probability

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

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

- This definition works even when outcomes are not equally likely
- What if $P(F) = 0$?? Undefined: *you observed the impossible!*

Definition of Conditional Probability

The **conditional probability** of E given F is the probability that E occurs, given that F occurs. This is called “conditioning on F ”.

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

- This definition works even when outcomes are not equally likely
- What if $P(F) = 0$?? Undefined: *you observed the impossible!*

We can multiply both sides by $P(F)$ to get the **chain rule**:

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



goodbye, land of equally likely outcomes

Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

- Students can get questions correct by knowing the answer, or just by guessing.
- How can you know if a student really knows their stuff, or if they're just guessing?

Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

- Students can get questions correct by knowing the answer, or just by guessing.
- How can you know if a student really knows their stuff, or if they're just guessing?

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

1. What is the probability that a student gets a question right, given that they guess?

Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

- Students can get questions correct by knowing the answer, or just by guessing.
- How can you know if a student really knows their stuff, or if they're just guessing?

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

$$P(R|G) = \frac{1}{4}$$

1. What is the probability that a student gets a question right, given that they guess?

Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

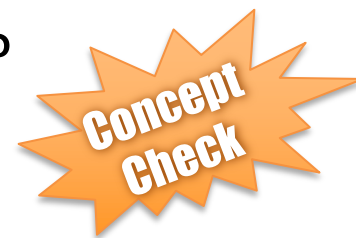
- Students can get questions correct by knowing the answer, or just by guessing.
- How can you know if a student really knows their stuff, or if they're just guessing?

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

$$P(R|G) = \frac{1}{4}$$

1. What is the probability that a student gets a question right, given that they guess?
2. What is the probability that a student guesses on a question and gets it right?



Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

- Students can get questions correct by knowing the answer, or just by guessing.
- How can you know if a student really knows their stuff, or if they're just guessing?

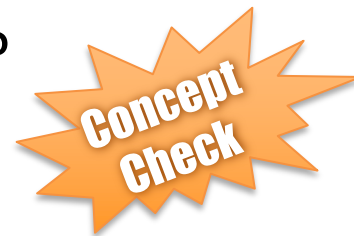
Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

$$P(R|G) = \frac{1}{4}$$

1. What is the probability that a student gets a question right, given that they guess?
2. What is the probability that a student guesses on a question and gets it right?

$$P(G \cap R) = P(R|G)P(G) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{20}$$



Common Confusion With Conditional Probability

$$P(E|F) \neq P(E \cap F)$$

What is the difference between “E, given F”, vs. “E and F”?

Common Confusion With Conditional Probability

$$P(E|F) \neq P(E \cap F)$$

What is the difference between “E, given F”, vs. “E and F”?

- Imagine: E is the event that it is hot outside.

Common Confusion With Conditional Probability

$$P(E|F) \neq P(E \cap F)$$

What is the difference between “E, given F”, vs. “E and F”?

- Imagine: E is the event that it is hot outside.
- F is the event that the sun explodes into a massive supernova that engulfs the Earth in flames!!!
- If the Earth is engulfed in flames, it's definitely hot, so $P(E|F)$ is near 1.
- But because F is so unlikely, $P(F)$ is almost zero, and $P(E \text{ and } F)$ is near zero too.



Common Confusion With Conditional Probability

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

What is the difference between “E, given F”, vs. “F, given E”?



Common Confusion With Conditional Probability

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

What is the difference between “E, given F”, vs. “F, given E”?

- If the Earth is engulfed in flames, it’s definitely hot, so $P(E|F)$ is near 1.
- If it’s hot outside, do we usually believe that a supernova must have happened? No! There are lots of other reasons it could be hot outside. So $P(F | E)$ is near zero too.

Tip: imagining extremes can help you build intuition!



NETFLIX

and Learn

Netflix: Watch Probabilities

What is the probability that a user will watch The Great British Bake-off?



Netflix: Watch Probabilities

What is the probability that a user will watch The Great British Bake-off?

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

$$P(E) \approx 50,234,231 / 269,613,547 \approx 0.18$$



Netflix & Conditional Probability

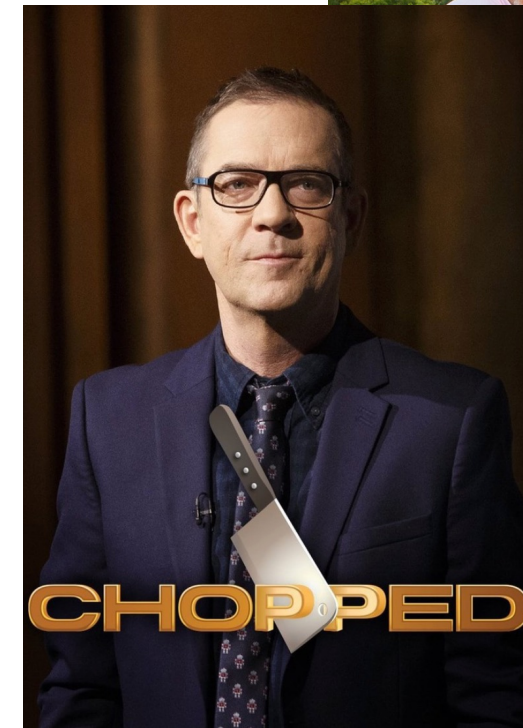
$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)}$$

Definition of
Cond. Probability

Let E be the event that a user watches The Great British Bake-off.

Let F be the event that a user watches Chopped.

What is the probability that a user watches
The Great British Bake-off, given they watched Chopped?



Netflix & Conditional Probability

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

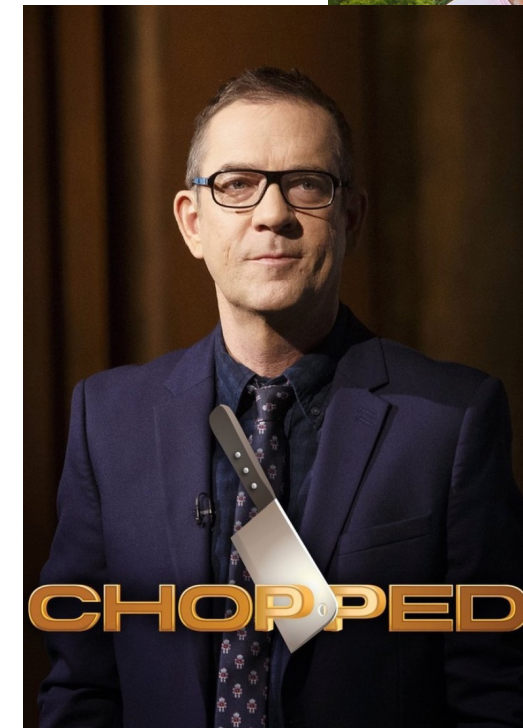
Definition of
Cond. Probability

Let E be the event that a user watches The Great British Bake-off.

Let F be the event that a user watches Chopped.

What is the probability that a user watches
The Great British Bake-off, given they watched Chopped?

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} \approx \frac{\frac{\text{\# people who have watched both}}{\text{\# people on Netflix}}}{\frac{\text{\# people who have watched Chopped}}{\text{\# people on Netflix}}}$$



Netflix & Conditional Probability

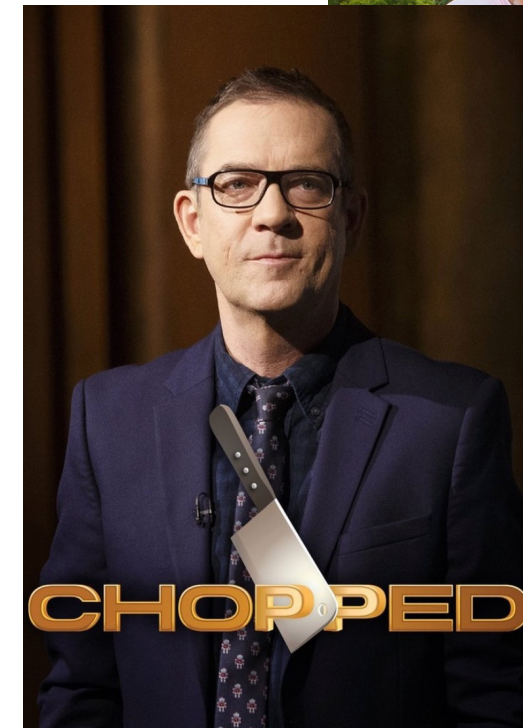
$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} \quad \text{Definition of Cond. Probability}$$

Let E be the event that a user watches The Great British Bake-off.

Let F be the event that a user watches Chopped.

What is the probability that a user watches The Great British Bake-off, given they watched Chopped?

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} \approx \frac{\frac{\text{\# people who have watched both}}{\text{\# people on Netflix}}}{\frac{\text{\# people who have watched Chopped}}{\text{\# people on Netflix}}} \approx \frac{\text{\# people who have watched both}}{\text{\# people who have watched Chopped}} \approx 0.42$$

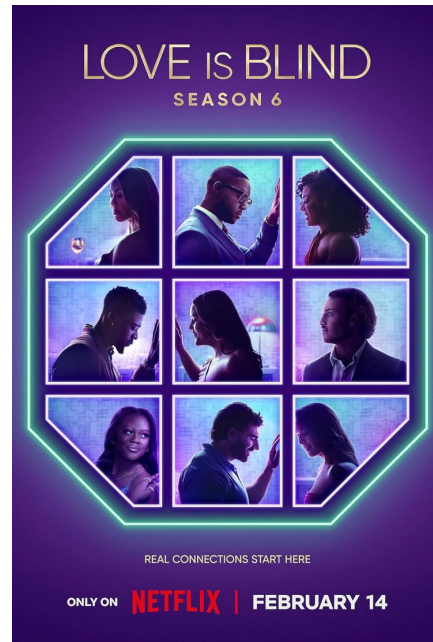


Netflix & Conditional Probability

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

Let E be the event that a user watches The Great British Bake-off.

Let F be the event that a user watches each of the shows/movies below.



Netflix & Conditional Probability

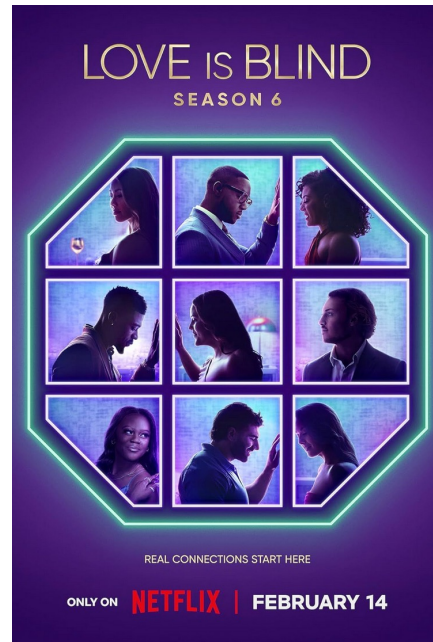
$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} \quad \text{Definition of Cond. Probability}$$

Let E be the event that a user watches The Great British Bake-off.

Let F be the event that a user watches each of the shows/movies below.



$$P(E|F) \approx 0.31$$



$$P(E|F) \approx 0.20$$




$$P(E|F) \approx 0.17$$



$$P(E|F) \approx 0.09$$

What does it mean if $P(E | F) > P(E)$? How could Netflix use this for recommendations?

A Guide To Notation

And	Or	Given
$P(E \text{ and } F)$	$P(E \text{ or } F)$	$P(E F)$
$P(E \cap F)$	$P(E \cup F)$	$P(E F, G)$
$P(E, F)$		
$P(EF)$		Probability of E given F and G

Generalized Chain Rule

For just two events, the **chain rule** looks like this:

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

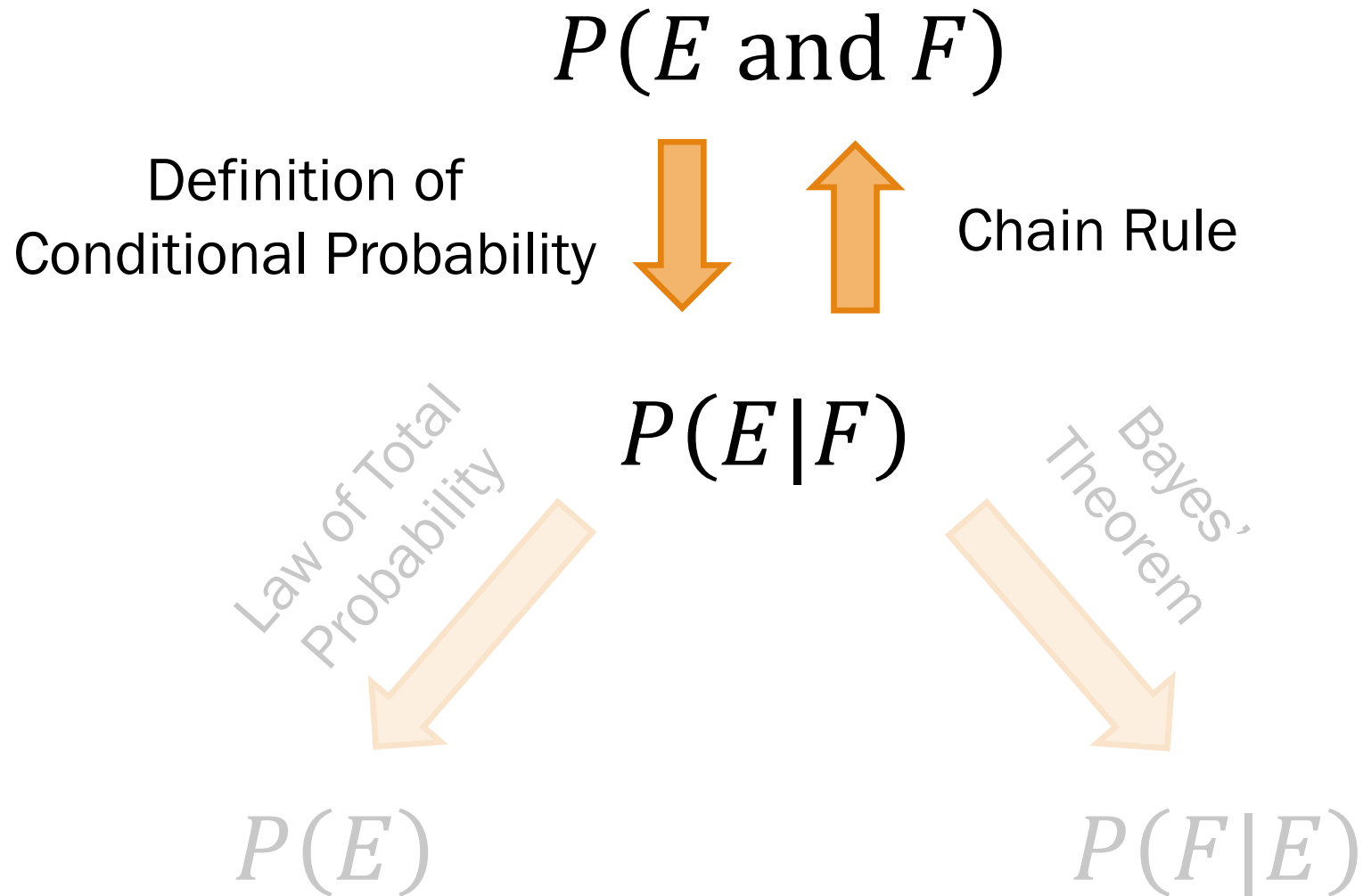
For more than two events:

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr(E_1 \text{ and } E_2 \text{ and } E_3 \text{ and } \dots E_n) \\ &= \Pr(E_1) \cdot \Pr(E_2|E_1) \cdot \Pr(E_3|E_1, E_2) \cdot \dots \Pr(E_n|E_1, E_2 \dots E_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

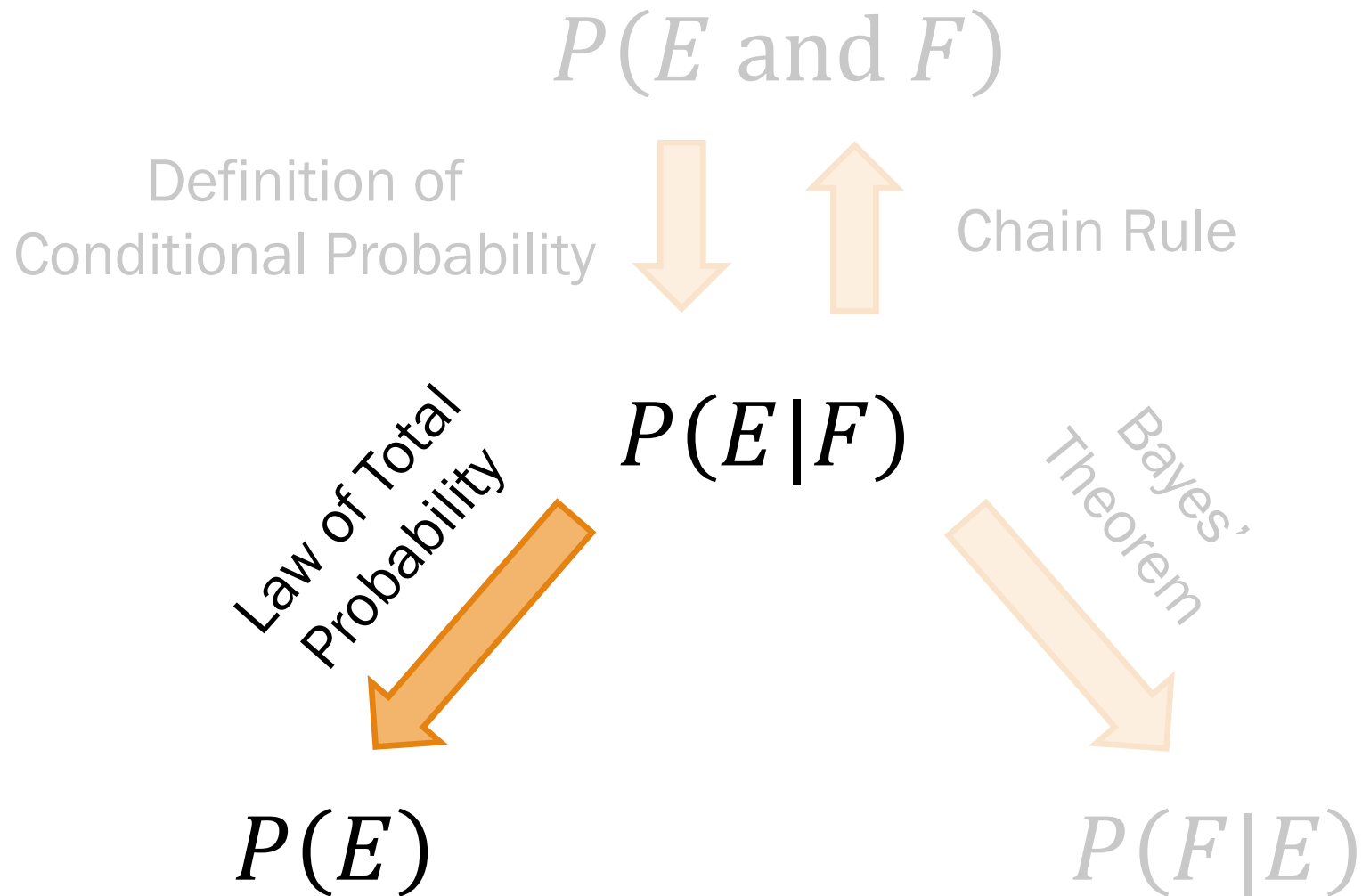
But often, we can simplify this equation a lot...we'll see how next lecture!

Law of Total Probability

Learning Goal for Today: Conditional Probability



Learning Goal for Today: Conditional Probability



Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

Let the probability a student gets the answer right without guessing be $P(R | G^c) = 9/10$.

What is the probability that a student gets an answer right?

Law of Total Probability

Let E and F be our two events. The **Law of Total Probability** is:

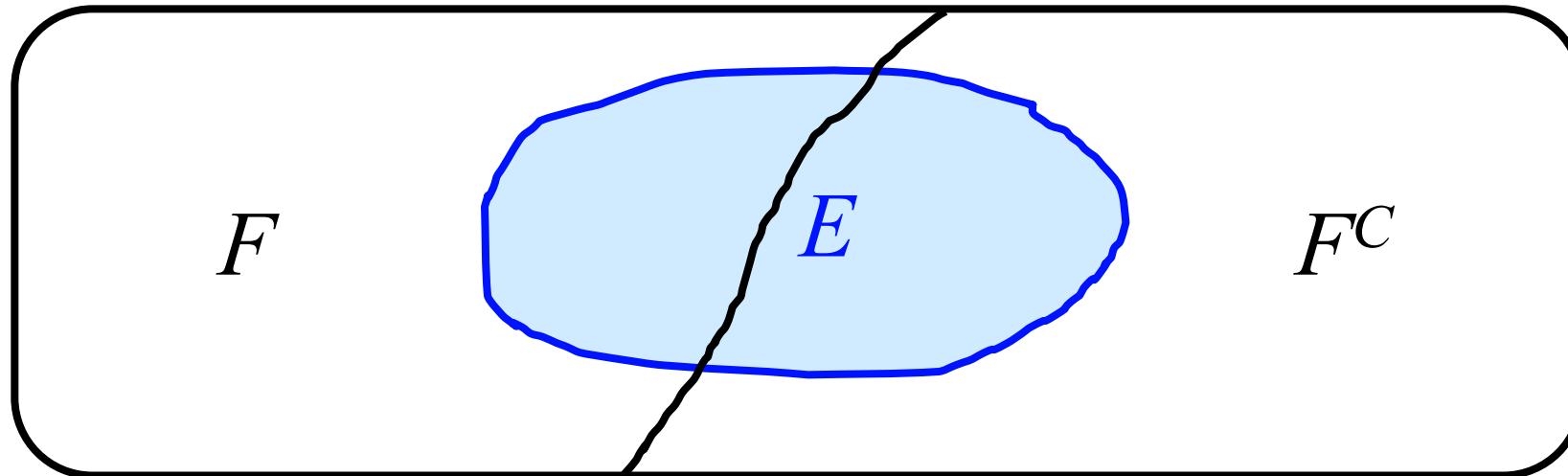
$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= P(EF) + P(EF^C) \\ &= P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C) \end{aligned}$$

Law of Total Probability

Let E and F be our two events. The **Law of Total Probability** is:

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

Sample Space

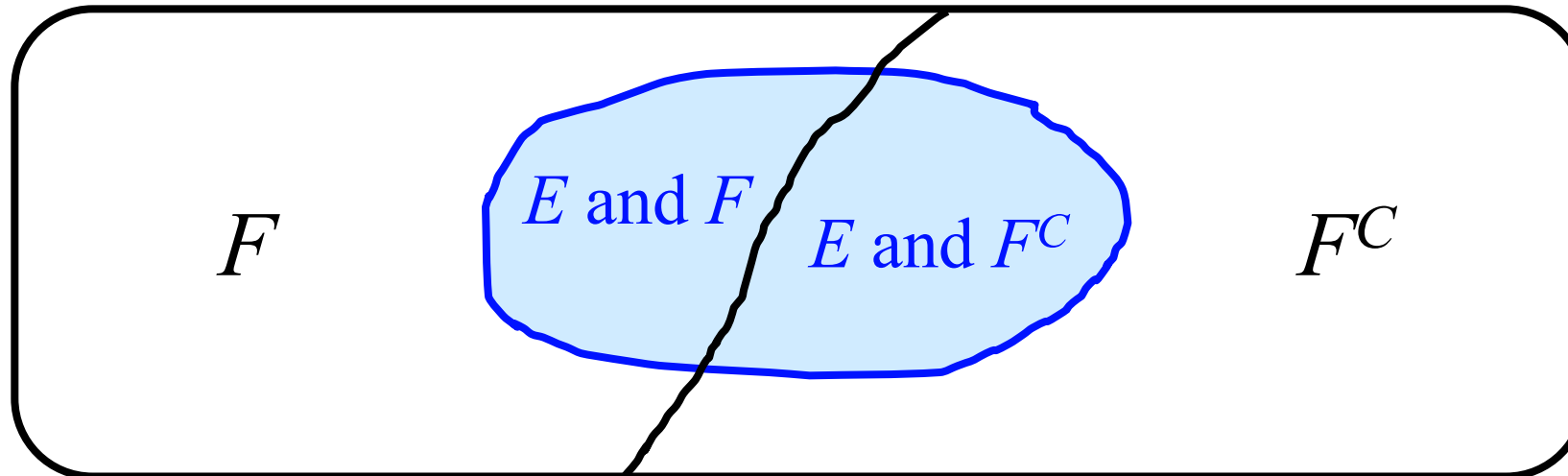


Law of Total Probability

Let E and F be our two events. The **Law of Total Probability** is:

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

Sample Space

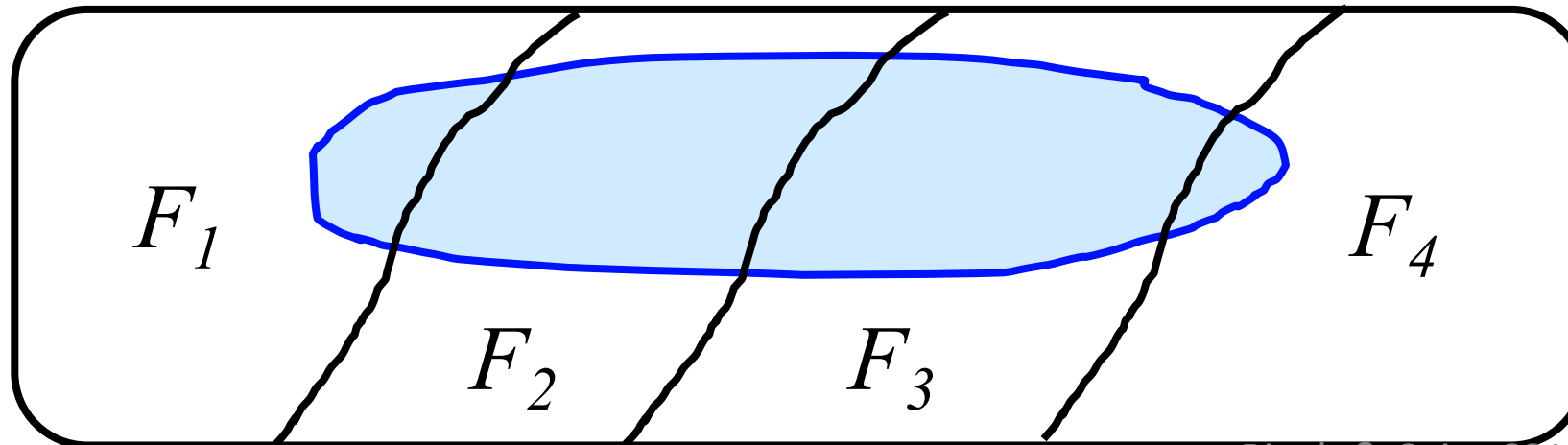


Generalized Law of Total Probability

Let F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n be mutually exclusive events that cover the sample space.

$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= \sum_{i=1}^n P(E \cap F_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n P(E|F_i)P(F_i) \end{aligned}$$

Sample Space



Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

Let the probability a student gets the answer right without guessing be $P(R | G^c) = 9/10$.

What is the probability that a student gets an answer right?

Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

Let the probability a student gets the answer right without guessing be $P(R | G^C) = 9/10$.

What is the probability that a student gets an answer right?

$$P(R) = P(R|G)P(G) + P(R|G^C)P(G^C)$$

Practice: Multiple Choice & Probability



Imagine a multiple choice test, where every question has 4 answer choices.

Let G be the event that a student guesses an answer to a question. $P(G) = 1/5$.

Let R be the event that the student gets the answer right.

Let the probability a student gets the answer right without guessing be $P(R | G^C) = 9/10$.

What is the probability that a student gets an answer right?

$$\begin{aligned} P(R) &= P(R|G)P(G) + P(R|G^C)P(G^C) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{5} + \frac{9}{10} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) = 0.77 \end{aligned}$$

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% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.

You take half a course of antibiotics...

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?

Tip: start problems like this by defining events.

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% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.

You take half a course of antibiotics...

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 a bacteria survives.

Let M be the event that a bacteria has the mutation.

Evolution of Bacteria

$$P(E) = P(E|F)P(F) + P(E|F^C)P(F^C) \quad \text{Law of Total Probability}$$



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

10% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.

You take half a course of antibiotics...

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 a bacteria survives.

Let M be the event that a bacteria has the mutation.

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

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

$$P (\text{Mutation} | \text{Survives})$$

$$P (M | E)$$

Real Question: $P(M | E)$?



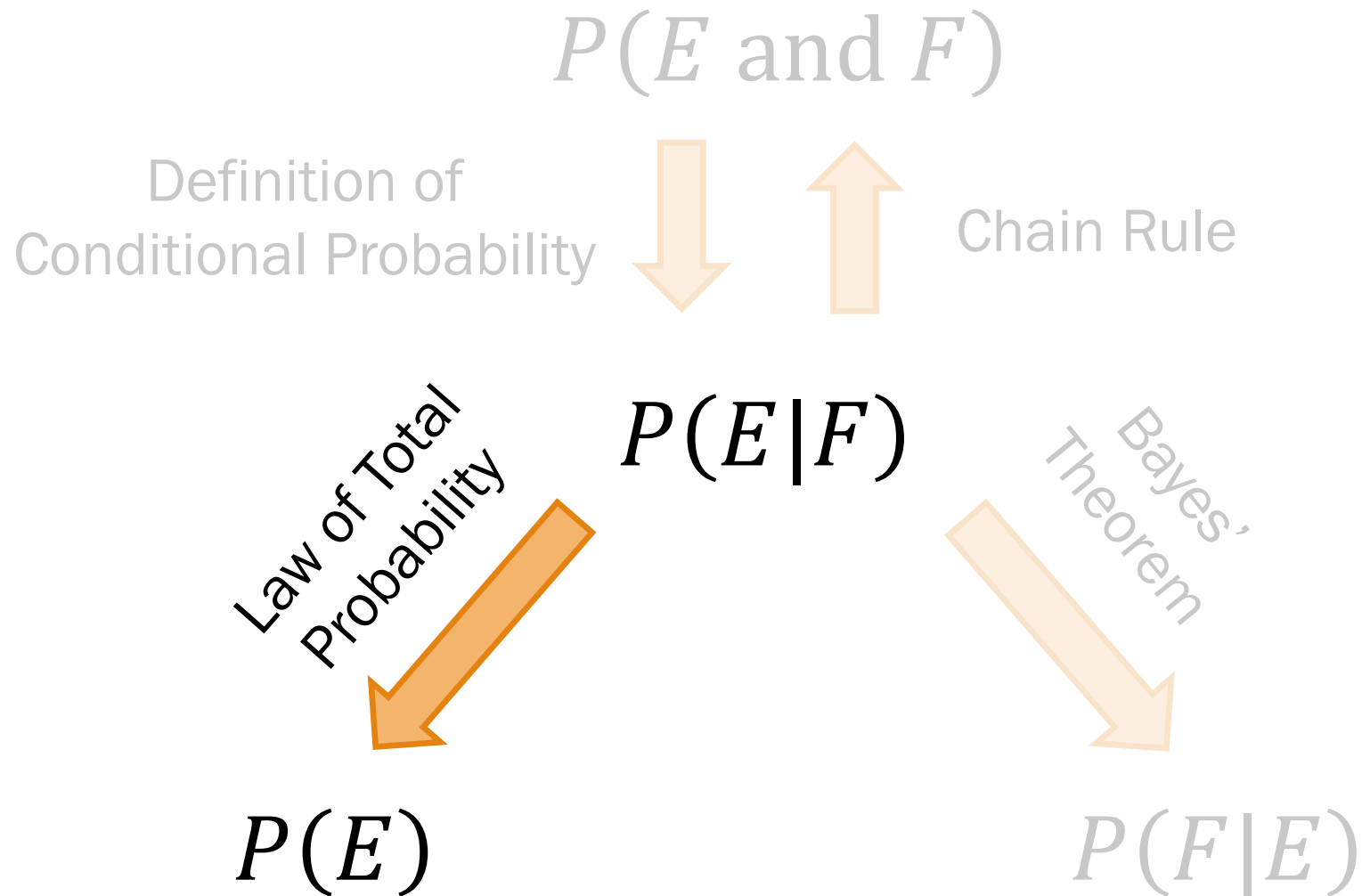
You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.
10% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.
You take half a course of antibiotics...

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

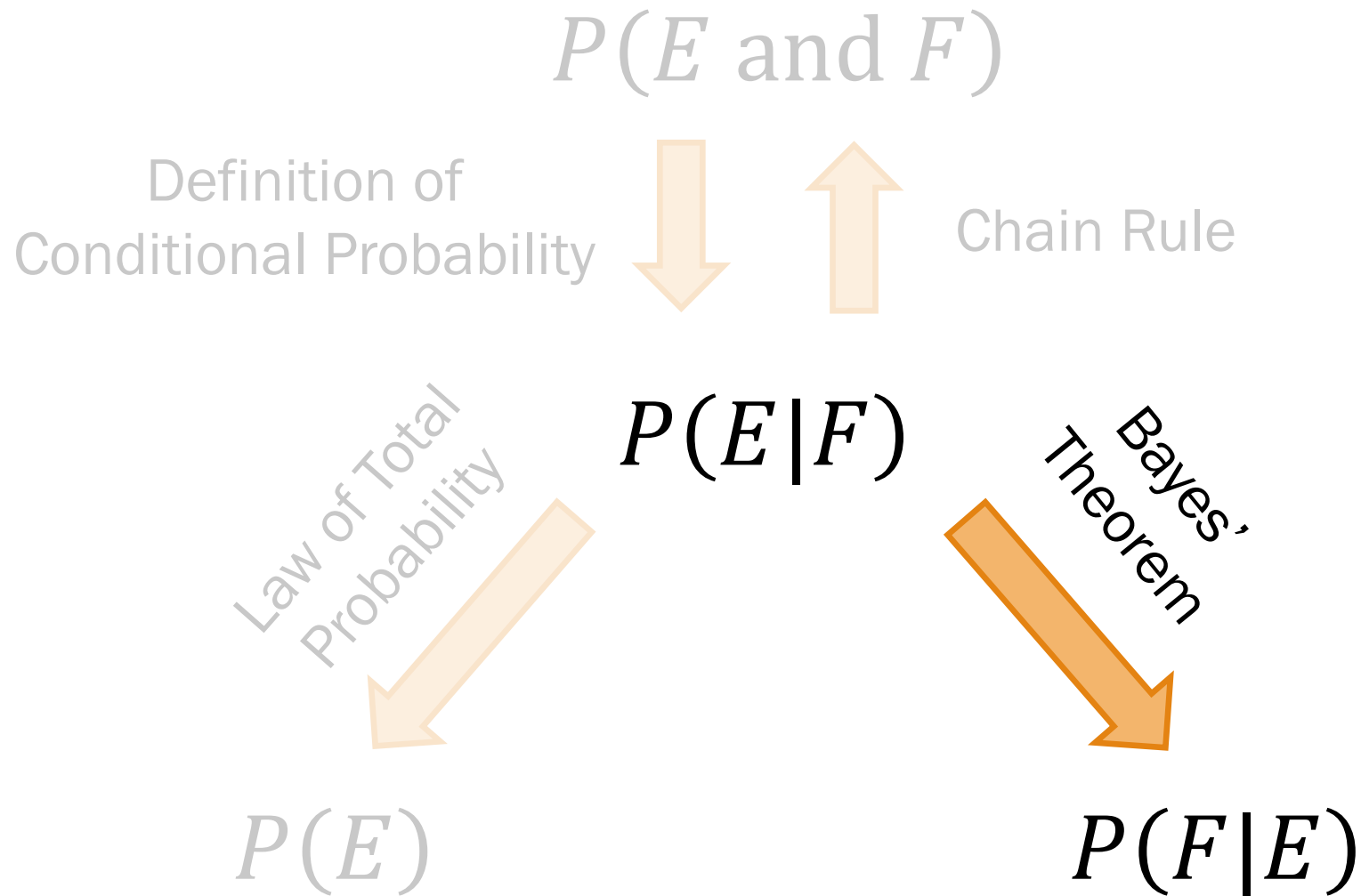
$$P(E | M^c) = 0.01$$

What is the probability that a surviving bacteria **has the mutation**?

Learning Goal for Today: Conditional Probability



Learning Goal for Today: Conditional Probability



It's Time For Bayes' Theorem

Thomas Bayes

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



Thomas Bayes

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



He looked remarkably similar to Sean Astin

Thomas Bayes

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

$$P(F|E)$$



I want to calculate
 $P(\text{State of the world } F \mid \text{Observation } E)$
It seems so tricky!...

The other way around is easy
 $P(\text{Observation } E \mid \text{State of the world } F)$
What options to I have, chief?

$$P(E|F)$$

Thomas Bayes

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

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

Definition of
Conditional Probability



Thomas Bayes

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

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

Definition of
Conditional Probability



A little while later...

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

The Chain Rule
is symmetric

Thomas Bayes

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

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

Definition of
Conditional Probability



A little while later...

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

The Chain Rule
is symmetric

A little while later...

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

Law of Total
Probability

Bayes' Theorem

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

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

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

Expanded form:

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



Bayes' Theorem

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

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

$$P(F|E) = \frac{\overset{\text{likelihood}}{P(E|F)} \overset{\text{prior}}{P(F)}}{\underset{\text{normalization constant}}{P(E)}}$$

normalization constant

Expanded form:

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



Real Question: $P(M | E)$?



You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.
10% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.
You take half a course of antibiotics...

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

$$P(E | M^c) = 0.01$$

What is the probability that a surviving bacteria **has the mutation**?

Real Question: $P(M | E)$?



You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.
10% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.
You take half a course of antibiotics...

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

$$P(E | M^c) = 0.01$$

What is the probability that a surviving bacteria **has the mutation**?

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

Real Question: $P(M | E)$?



You have bacteria in your gut which is causing a disease.
10% of bacteria have a mutation making them resistant to antibiotics.
You take half a course of antibiotics...

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

$$P(E | M^c) = 0.01$$

What is the probability that a surviving bacteria **has the mutation**?

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

$$P(M | E) = \frac{0.2 * 0.1}{0.2 * 0.1 + 0.01 * 0.9} \approx 0.69$$

Zika Virus Testing

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

A test is 98% effective at detecting Zika.

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

Zika Virus Testing

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

A test is 98% effective at detecting Zika.

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

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

Zika Virus Testing

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

A test is 98% effective at detecting Zika.

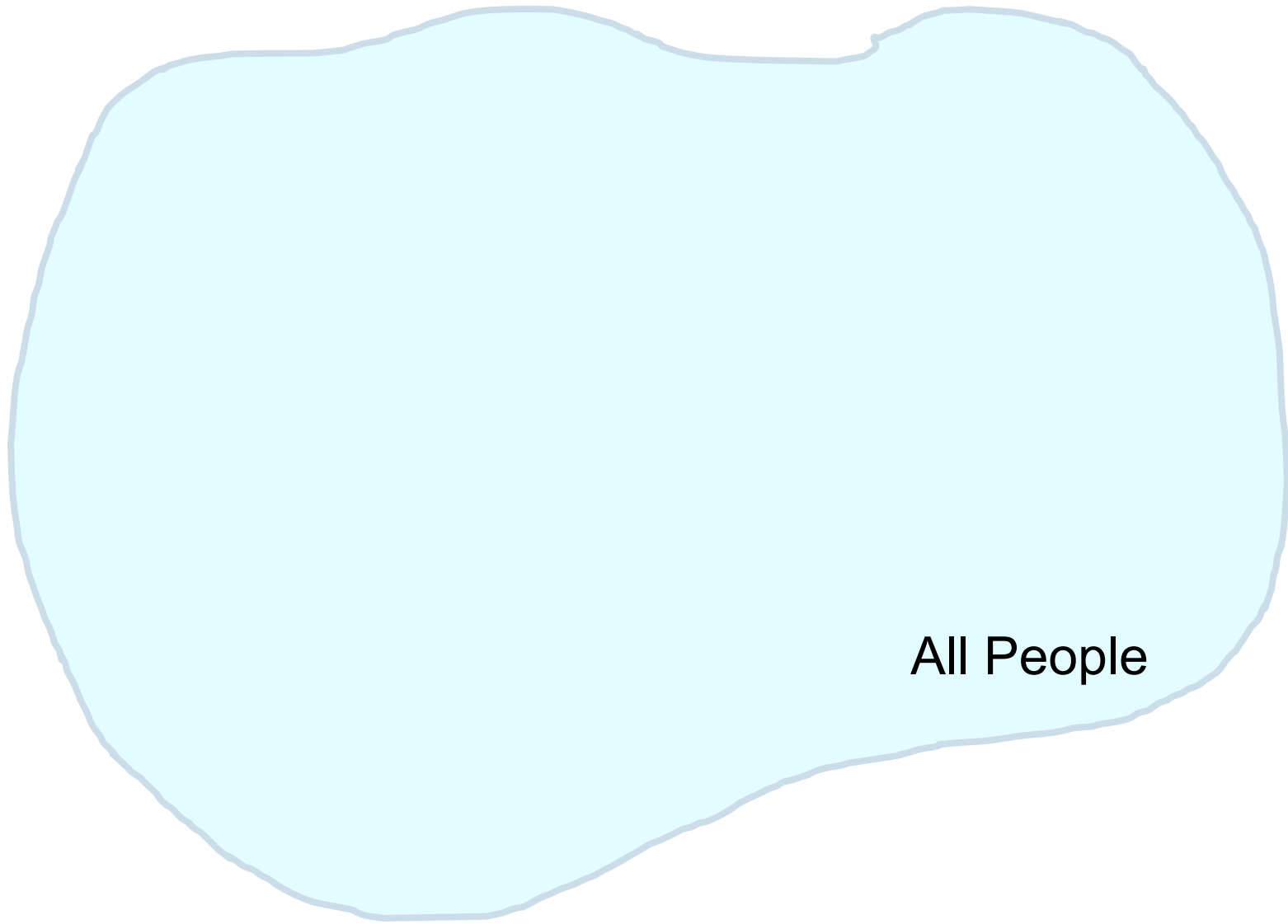
- However, the test has a “false positive” rate of 1%.
- 0.5% of US population has Zika.
- Let E = you test positive for Zika with this test.
- Let F = you actually have Zika.
- What is $P(F | E)$?

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

$$P(F | E) = \frac{(0.98)(0.005)}{(0.98)(0.005) + (0.01)(1 - 0.005)} \approx 0.33$$

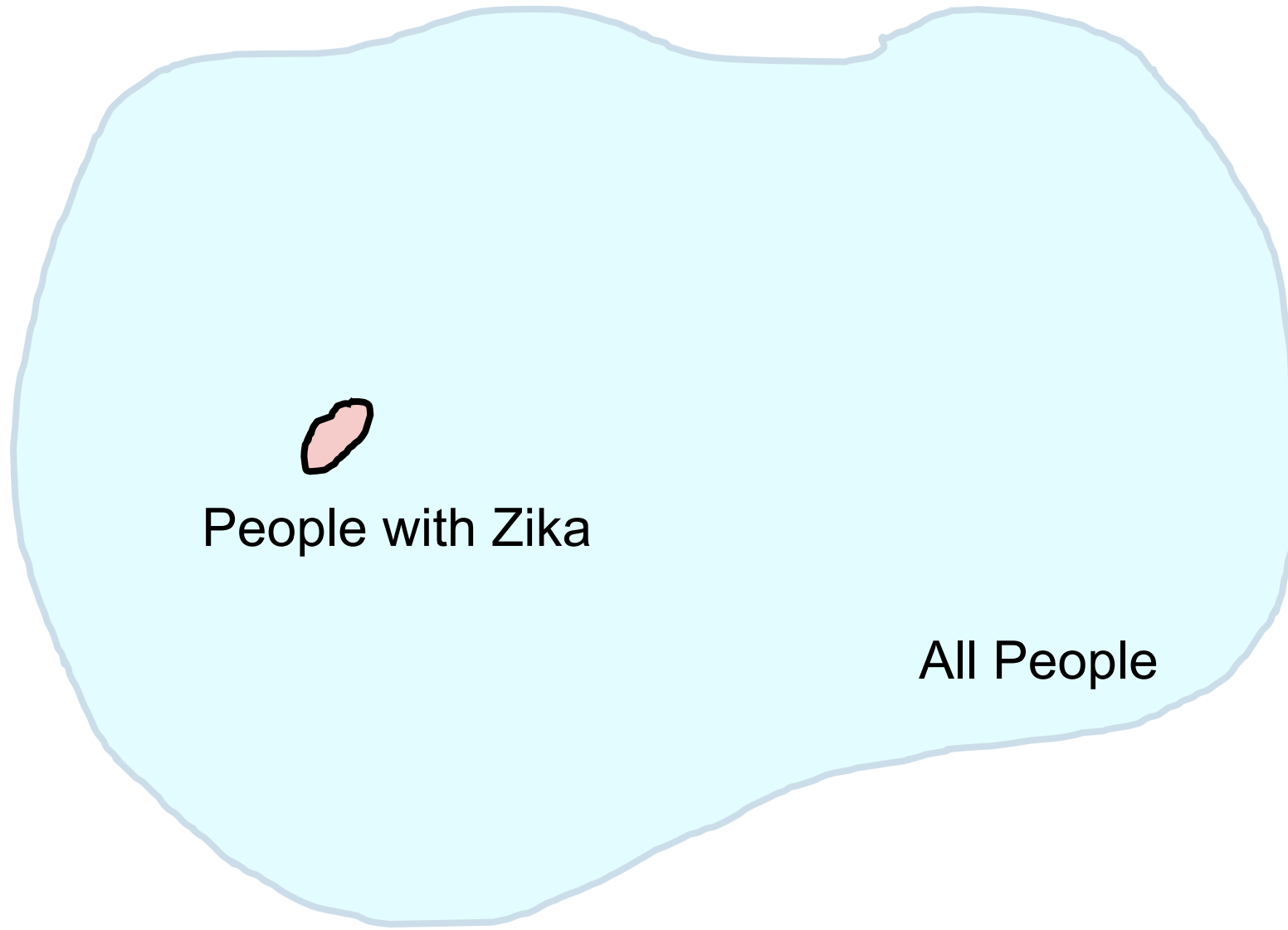
Intuition Time

Bayes Theorem Intuition

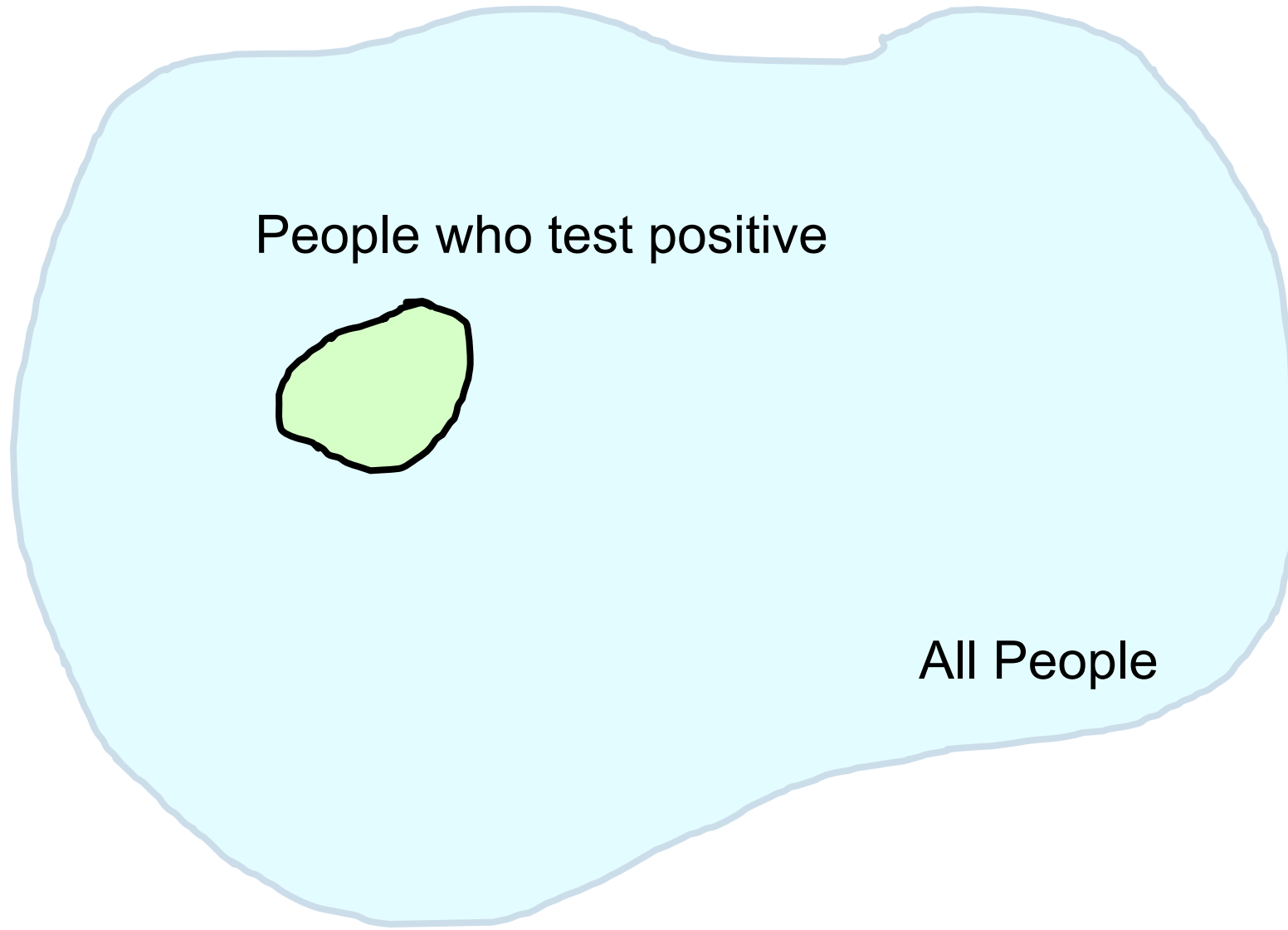


All People

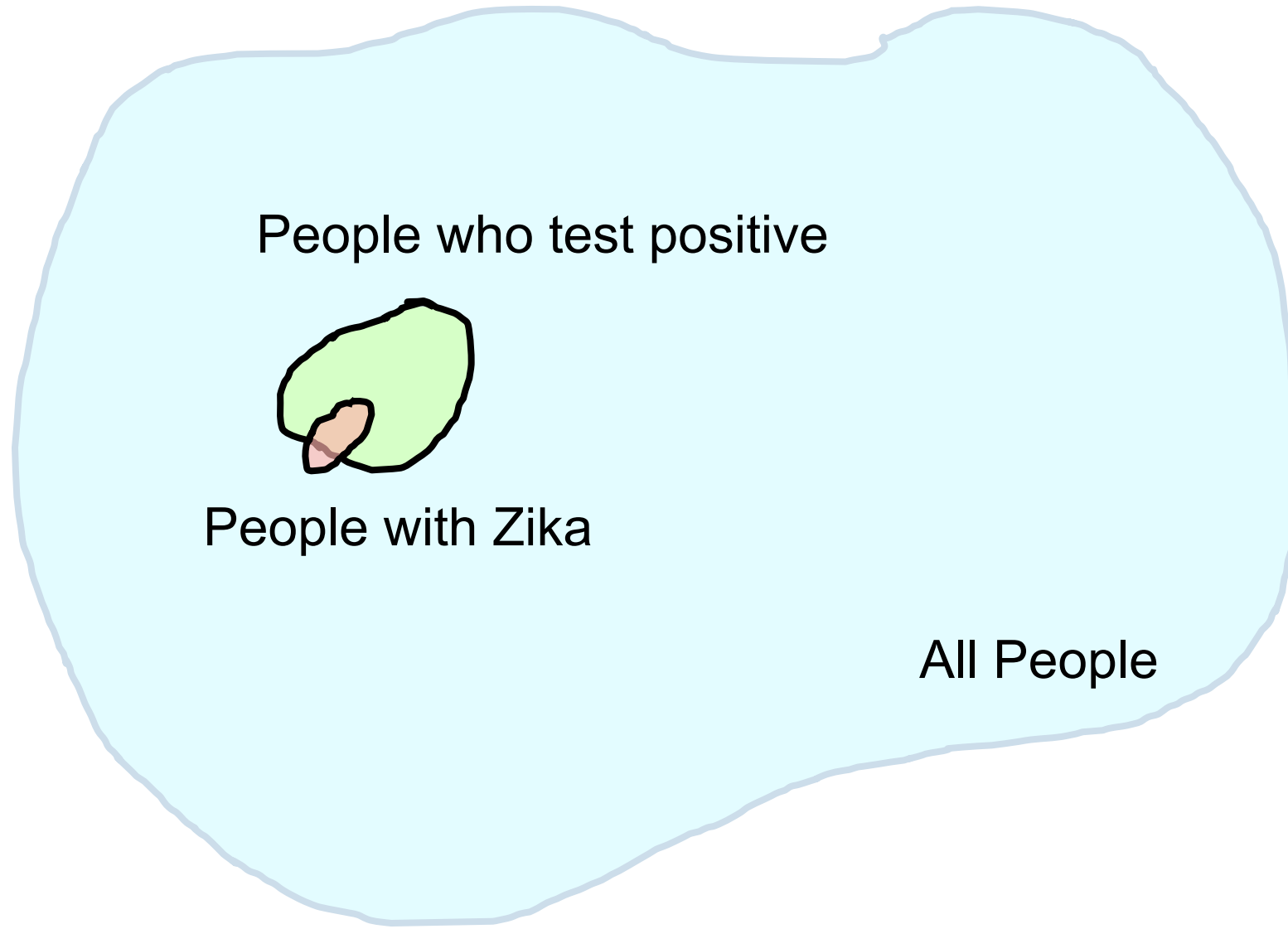
Bayes Theorem Intuition



Bayes Theorem Intuition

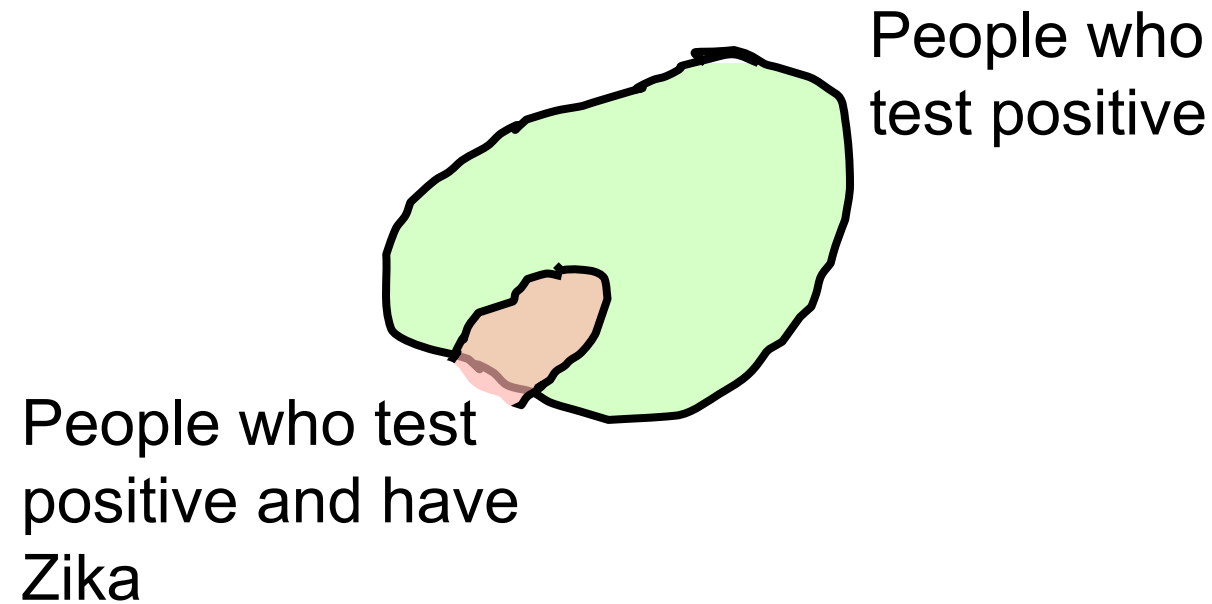


Bayes Theorem Intuition



Bayes Theorem Intuition

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



≈ 0.330

Bayes Theorem Intuition

Say we have 1000 people:



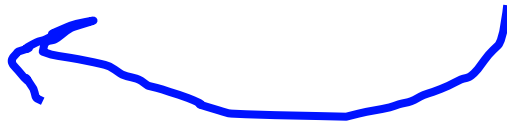
5 have Zika and test positive, 985 **do not** have Zika and test negative.
10 **do not** have Zika and test positive.

Bayes Theorem Intuition

Conditioned on just those that test positive:



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



5 have Zika and test positive, 985 **do not** have Zika and test negative.
10 **do not** have Zika and test positive.

Why it is still good to get tested

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

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

Why it is still good to get tested

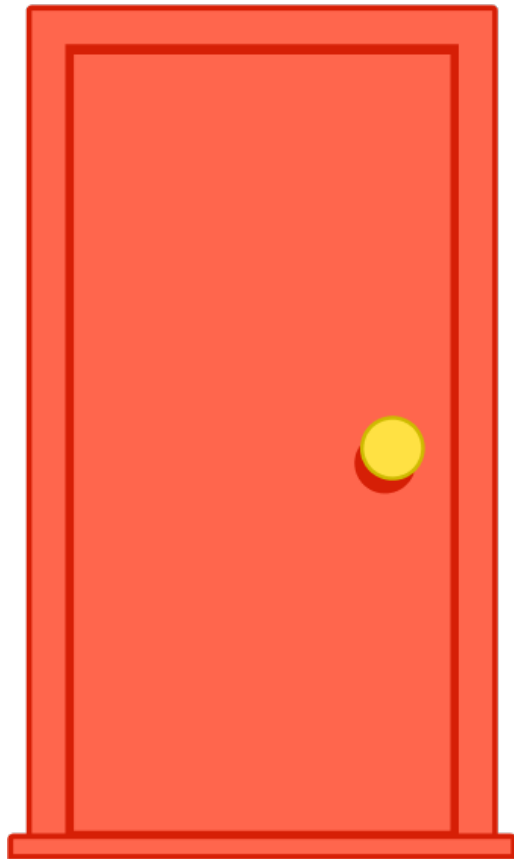
- Let E^c = you test negative for Zika with this test.
- Let F = you actually have Zika.
- What is $P(F | E^c)$?

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

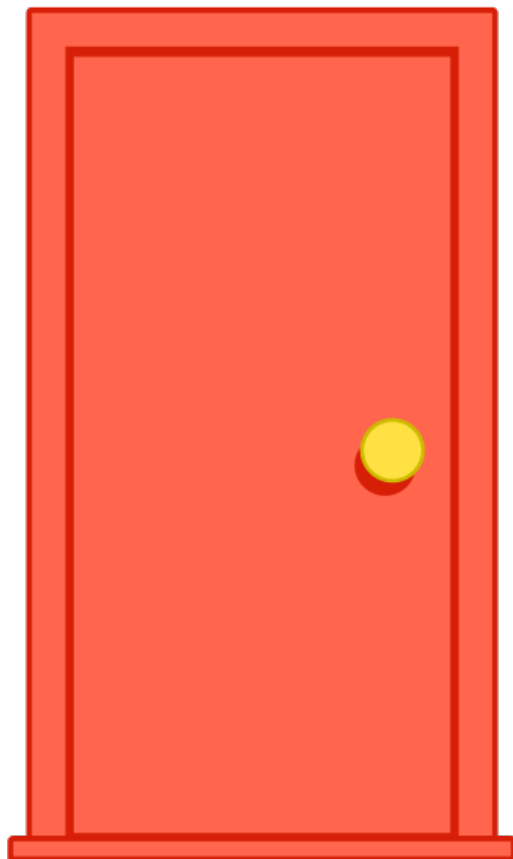
$$P(F | E^c) = \frac{P(E^c | F) P(F)}{P(E^c | F) P(F) + P(E^c | F^c) P(F^c)}$$

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

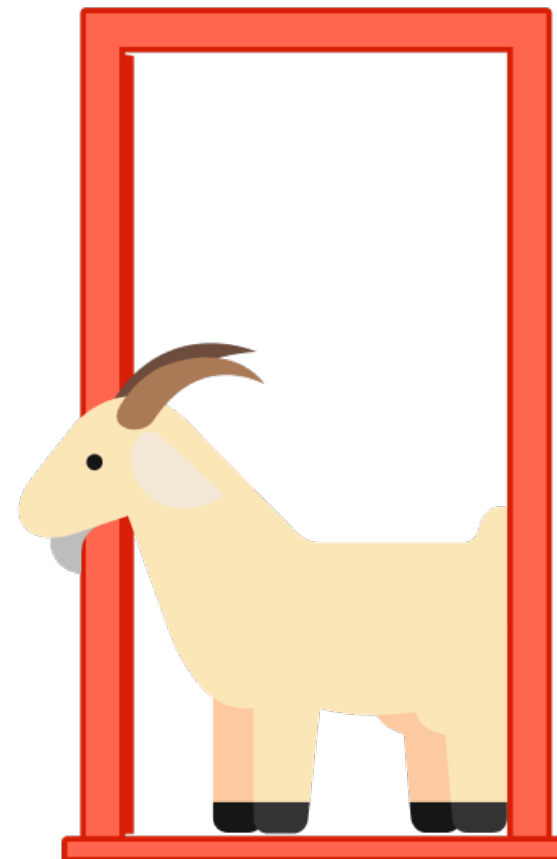
1



2



3



The 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.

Should we switch?

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

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



Doors A,B,C

Marilyn Vos Savant: “You Should Always Switch”



Ask Marilyn™

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

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 lose

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

B = prize

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

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

C = prize

- Host must open B
- We switch to C
- We 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?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{No: } P(\text{win without switching}) &= \frac{1}{\text{original \# envelopes}} \\ \text{Yes: } P(\text{win with new knowledge}) &= \frac{\text{original \# envelopes} - 1}{\text{original \# envelopes}} \end{aligned}$$

Next time: gambling!