

**UCLA STAT 13**  
**Introduction to Statistical Methods for  
the Life and Health Sciences**

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[http://www.stat.ucla.edu/~dinov/courses\\_students.html](http://www.stat.ucla.edu/~dinov/courses_students.html)

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**Chapter 4: Probabilities and Proportions**

- Where do probabilities come from?
- Simple probability models
- probability rules
- Conditional probability
- Statistical independence

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**Let's Make a Deal Paradox –  
aka, Monty Hall 3-door problem**

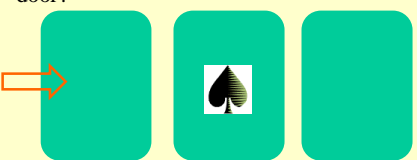
● This paradox is related to a popular television show in the 1970's. In the show, a contestant was given a choice of **three doors/cards** of which one contained a prize (**diamond**). The other two doors contained gag gifts like a chicken or a donkey (clubs).


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**Let's Make a Deal Paradox.**

● After the contestant chose an initial door, the host of the show then revealed an empty door among the two unchosen doors, and asks the contestant if he or she would like to switch to the other unchosen door. The question is should the contestant switch. Do the odds of winning increase by switching to the remaining door?



1. Pick One card
2. Show one Club Card
3. Change 1<sup>st</sup> pick?



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**Let's Make a Deal Paradox.**

● The *intuition* of most people tells them that each of the doors, the chosen door and the unchosen door, are equally likely to contain the prize so that there is a **50-50 chance** of winning with either selection? This, however, is **not the case**.

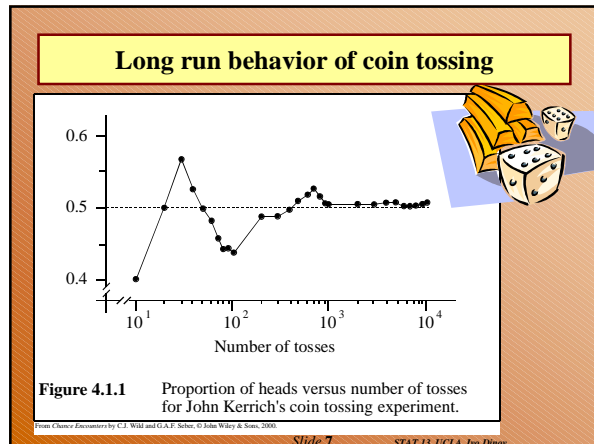
● The **probability of winning by using the switching technique is 2/3**, while the odds of winning by not switching is 1/3. The easiest way to explain this is as follows:

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**Let's Make a Deal Paradox.**

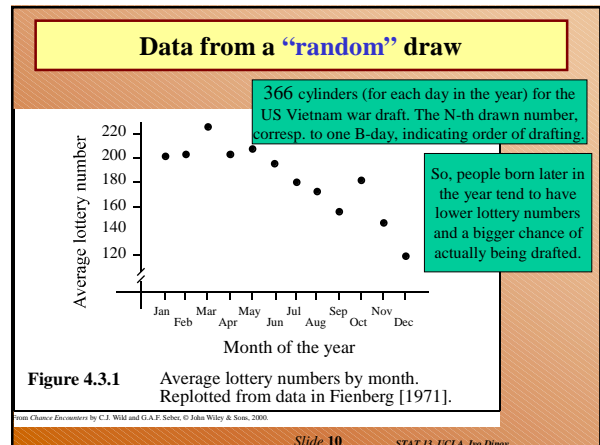
- The probability of picking the wrong door in the initial stage of the game is 2/3.
- If the contestant picks the wrong door initially, the host must reveal the remaining empty door in the second stage of the game. Thus, if the contestant switches after picking the wrong door initially, the contestant will win the prize.
- The probability of winning by switching then reduces to the probability of picking the wrong door in the initial stage which is clearly 2/3.

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- ### Definitions ...
- The **law of averages** about the behavior of coin tosses – the **relative proportion (relative frequency)** of heads-to-tails in a coin toss experiment becomes more and **more stable** as the **number of tosses increases**. The **law of averages** applies to **relative frequencies not absolute counts** of #H and #T.
  - Two widely held **misconceptions** about what the **law of averages** about coin tosses:
    - Differences between the actual numbers of heads & tails becomes more and more variable with increase of the number of tosses – a seq. of 10 heads doesn't increase the chance of a tail on the next trial.
    - Coin toss results are **fair**, but behavior is still **unpredictable**.
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- ### Coin Toss Models
- Is the **coin tossing model** adequate for describing the **sex order** of children in families?
    - This is a rough model which is not exact. In most countries rates of B/G is different; from 48% ... 52%, usually. Birth rates of boys in some places are higher than girls, however, female population seems to be about 51%.
    - **Independence**, if a second child is born the chance it has the same gender (as the first child) is slightly bigger.
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- ### Types of Probability
- Probability models have two essential components (**sample space**, the space of all possible outcomes from an experiment; and a list of **probabilities** for each event in the sample space). Where do the **outcomes** and the **probabilities** come from?
  - **Probabilities from models** – say mathematical/physical description of the sample space and the chance of each event. Construct a fair die tossing game.
  - **Probabilities from data** – data observations determine our probability distribution. Say we toss a coin 100 times and the observed Head/Tail counts are used as probabilities.
  - **Subjective Probabilities** – combining data and psychological factors to design a reasonable probability table (e.g., gambling, stock market).
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- ### Sample Spaces and Probabilities
- When the relative frequency of an event in the past is used to **estimate the probability that it will occur in the future**, what **assumption** is being made?
    - The underlying process is stable over time;
    - Our relative frequencies must be taken from **large numbers** for us to have **confidence in them as probabilities**.
  - All statisticians **agree** about how probabilities are to be **combined and manipulated** (in math terms), however, **not all agree** what **probabilities** should be **associated** with for a particular real-world **event**.
  - When a weather forecaster says that there is a 70% chance of rain tomorrow, what do you think this statement means? (Based on our past knowledge, according to the barometric pressure, temperature, etc. of the conditions we expect tomorrow, 70% of the time it did rain under such conditions.)
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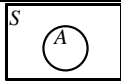
### Sample spaces and events

- A *sample space*,  $S$ , for a random experiment is the set of **all possible outcomes** of the experiment.
- An *event* is a **collection of outcomes**.
- An event *occurs* if **any outcome** making up that event occurs.

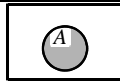
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### The complement of an event

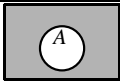
- The **complement** of an event  $A$ , denoted  $\bar{A}$ , occurs *if and only if*  $A$  does not occur.



(a) Sample space containing event  $A$



(b) Event  $A$  shaded




(c)  $\bar{A}$  shaded

**Figure 4.4.1** An event  $A$  in the sample space  $S$ .


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### Combining events – all statisticians agree on


- “**A or B**” contains all outcomes in  $A$  or  $B$  (or both).
- “**A and B**” contains all outcomes which are **in both**  $A$  and  $B$ .




(a) Events  $A$  and  $B$



(b) “ $A$  or  $B$ ” shaded



(c) “ $A$  and  $B$ ” shaded



(d) Mutually exclusive events

**Figure 4.4.2** Two events.

From *Chance Encounters* by C.J. Wild and G.A.F. Seber, © John Wiley & Sons, 2000.

**Mutually exclusive** events cannot occur at the same time.

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### Probability distributions

- Probabilities always lie **between 0 and 1** and they **sum up to 1** (across all simple events) .
- $pr(A)$  can be obtained by adding up the probabilities of all the outcomes in  $A$ .

$$pr(A) = \sum_{\substack{E \text{ outcome} \\ \text{in event } A}} pr(E)$$

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### Job losses in the US

**TABLE 4.4.1** Job Losses in the US (in thousands) for 1987 to 1991

	Reason for Job Loss			Total
	Workplace moved/closed	Slack work	Position abolished	
Male	1,703	1,196	548	3,447
Female	1,210	564	363	2,137
Total	2,913	1,760	911	5,584

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### Job losses cont.

	Workplace moved/closed	Slack work	Position abolished	Total
Male	1,703	1,196	548	3,447
Female	1,210	564	363	2,137
Total	2,913	1,760	911	5,584

**TABLE 4.4.2** Proportions of Job Losses from Table 4.4.1

	Reason for Job Loss			Row totals
	Workplace moved/closed	Slack work	Position abolished	
Male	.305	.214	.098	.617
Female	.217	.101	.065	.383
Column totals	.552	.315	.163	1.000

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### Review

- What is a **sample space**? What are the **two essential criteria** that must be satisfied by a possible sample space? (**completeness** – every outcome is represented; and **uniqueness** – no outcome is represented more than once.
- What is an **event**? (collection of outcomes)
- If  $A$  is an event, what do we mean by its complement,  $\bar{A}$ ? When does  $\bar{A}$  occur?
- If  $A$  and  $B$  are events, when does  **$A$  or  $B$**  occur? When does  **$A$  and  $B$**  occur?

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### Properties of probability distributions

- A sequence of number  $\{p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n\}$  is a **probability distribution** for a sample space  $S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n\}$ , if  $\text{pr}(s_k) = p_k$ , for each  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . The two essential **properties of a probability distribution**  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$ ?
 
$$p_k \geq 0; \sum_k p_k = 1$$
- How do we get the probability of an event from the probabilities of outcomes that make up that event?
- If all outcomes are **distinct & equally likely**, how do we calculate  $\text{pr}(A)$ ? If  $A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_9\}$  and  $\text{pr}(a_1) = \text{pr}(a_2) = \dots = \text{pr}(a_9) = p$ ; then
 
$$\text{pr}(A) = 9 \times \text{pr}(a_1) = 9p.$$

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### Example of probability distributions

- Tossing a coin twice. **Sample space**  $S = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$ , for a fair coin each outcome is equally likely, so the probabilities of the 4 possible outcomes should be identical,  $p$ . Since,  $\text{p}(HH) = \text{p}(HT) = \text{p}(TH) = \text{p}(TT) = p$  and
 
$$p_k \geq 0; \sum_k p_k = 1$$
- $p = 1/4 = 0.25$ .

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### Proportion vs. Probability

- How do the concepts of a **proportion** and a **probability differ**? A **proportion** is a **partial description** of a real population. The **probabilities** give us the **chance** of something happening in a random experiment. Sometimes, **proportions are identical to probabilities** (e.g., in a real population under the experiment *choose-a-unit-at-random*).
- See the **two-way table of counts (contingency table)** on Table 4.4.1, slide 19. E.g., *choose-a-person-at-random* from the ones laid off, and compute the chance that the person would be a **male**, laid off due to **position-closing**. We can apply the same rules for manipulating probabilities to proportions, in the case where these two are identical.

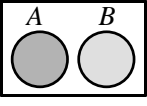
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### Rules for manipulating Probability Distributions

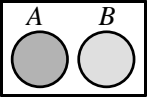
For mutually exclusive events,

$$\text{pr}(A \text{ or } B) = \text{pr}(A) + \text{pr}(B)$$

A



B



From Chance Encounters by C.J. Wild and G.A.F. Seber, © John Wiley & Sons, 2000.

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Descriptive Table

	Seber			B				
	In	Out	Total	A	$\bar{A}$	$\bar{B}$	Total	
Wild	In	0.5	?	0.7	pr(A and B)	pr(A and $\bar{B}$ )	pr(A)	
	Out	?	?	?	pr( $\bar{A}$ and B)	pr( $\bar{A}$ and $\bar{B}$ )	pr( $\bar{A}$ )	
	Total	0.6	?	1.00	Total	pr(B)	pr( $\bar{B}$ )	1.00

pr(Seber in)      pr(Wild in)

Algebraic Table

	Seber			B				
	In	Out	Total	A	$\bar{A}$	$\bar{B}$	Total	
Wild	In	0.5	?	0.7	pr(A and B)	pr(A and $\bar{B}$ )	pr(A)	
	Out	?	?	?	pr( $\bar{A}$ and B)	pr( $\bar{A}$ and $\bar{B}$ )	pr( $\bar{A}$ )	
	Total	0.6	?	1.00	Total	pr(B)	pr( $\bar{B}$ )	1.00

Availability of the Textbook authors to students

.5	?	.7	→	.5	?	.7	→	.5	.2	.7	→	.5	.2	.7
?	?	?		?	?	.3		?	?	.3		.1	.2	.3
.6	?	1.00		.6	.4	1.00		.6	.4	1.00		.6	.4	1.00

TABLE 4.5.1  
Completed Probability Table

	Seber		
Wild	In	Out	Total
In	.5	.2	.7
Out	.1	.2	.3
Total	.6	.4	1.0

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## Unmarried couples

Select an unmarried couple *at random* – the table proportions give us the probabilities of the events defined in the row/column titles.

**TABLE 4.5.2** Proportions of Unmarried Male-Female Couples Sharing Household in the US, 1991

Male	Female				Total
	Never Married	Divorced	Widowed	Married to other	
Never Married	0.401	.111	.017	.025	.554
Divorced	.117	.195	.024	.017	.353
Widowed	.006	.008	.016	.001	.031
Married to other	.021	.022	.003	.016	.062
Total	.545	.336	.060	.059	1.000

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## Review

- If  $A$  and  $B$  are **mutually exclusive**, what is the probability that **both occur**? (0) What is the probability that at least one occurs? (sum of probabilities)
- If we have two or more mutually exclusive events, how do we find the probability that at least one of them occurs? (sum of probabilities)
- Why is it sometimes easier to compute  $pr(A)$  from  $pr(A) = 1 - pr(\bar{A})$ ? (The **complement** of the even may be easier to find or may have a known probability. E.g., a random number between 1 and 10 is drawn. Let  $A = \{a \text{ number less than or equal to } 9 \text{ appears}\}$ . Find  $pr(A) = 1 - pr(\bar{A})$ . probability of  $\bar{A}$  is  $pr(\{10 \text{ appears}\}) = 1/10 = 0.1$ . Also Monty Hall 3 door example!

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## Melanoma – type of skin cancer – an example of laws of conditional probabilities

**TABLE 4.6.1:** 400 Melanoma Patients by Type and Site

Type	Site			Row Totals
	Head and Neck	Trunk	Extremities	
Hutchinson's melanomic freckle	22	2	10	34
Superficial	16	54	115	185
Nodular	19	33	73	125
Indeterminant	11	17	28	56
Column Totals	68	106	226	400

Contingency table based on Melanoma histological type and its location

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## Conditional Probability

The **conditional probability** of  $A$  occurring *given that*  $B$  occurs is given by

$$pr(A | B) = \frac{pr(A \text{ and } B)}{pr(B)}$$

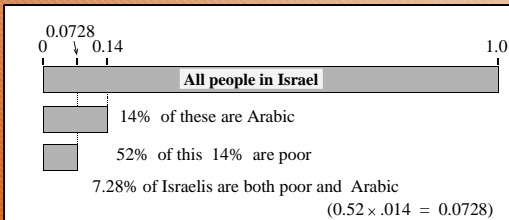
Suppose we select one out of the 400 patients in the study and we want to find the probability that the cancer is on the extremities *given that* it is of type nodular:  $P = 73/125 = P(\text{C. on Extremities} | \text{Nodular})$

$$\frac{\# \text{nodular patients with cancer on extremities}}{\# \text{nodular patients}}$$

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## Multiplication rule- what's the percentage of Israelis that are **poor and Arabic**?

$$pr(A \text{ and } B) = pr(A | B)pr(B) = pr(B | A)pr(A)$$



**Figure 4.6.1** Illustration of the multiplication rule.

From *Chance Encounters* by C.J. Wild and G.A.F. Seber, © John Wiley & Sons, 2000.

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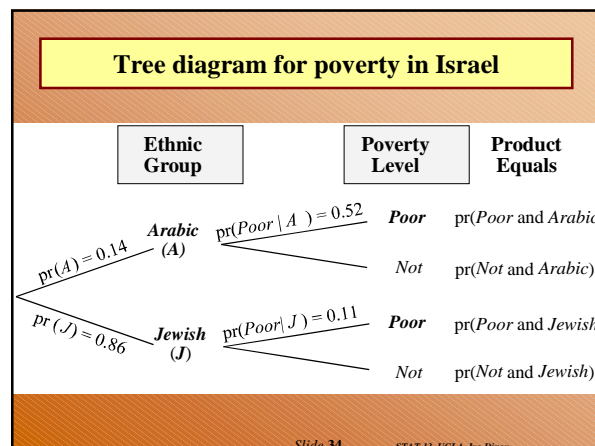
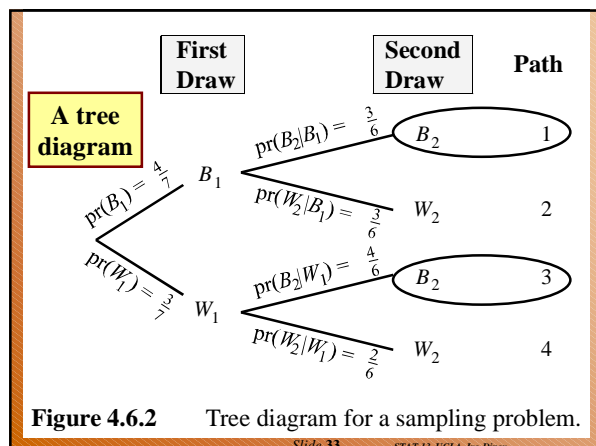
## A tree diagram for computing conditional probabilities

Suppose we draw 2 balls at random one at a time *without replacement* from an urn containing **4 black** and **3 white** balls, otherwise identical. What is the probability that the second ball is black? Sample Spce?

$$P(\{2\text{-nd ball is black}\}) = P(\{2\text{-nd is black}\} \& \{1\text{-st is black}\}) + P(\{2\text{-nd is black}\} \& \{1\text{-st is white}\}) = 4/7 \times 3/6 + 4/6 \times 3/7 = 4/7$$

Mutually exclusive

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**2-way table for poverty in Israel**

		Ethnicity		Total
		Arabic	Jewish	
Poverty	Poor	$.52 \times .14$	$.11 \times .86$	?
	Not poor	?	?	?
	Total	.14	.86	1.00

$\text{pr(Poor and Arabic)} = \text{pr(Poor|Arabic)} \times \text{pr(Arabic)} = 52\% \text{ of } 14\%$   
 $\text{pr(Poor and Jewish)} = \text{pr(Poor|Jewish)} \times \text{pr(Jewish)} = 11\% \text{ of } 86\%$   
 $\text{pr(Arabic)} = .14$        $\text{pr(Jewish)} = .86$

**Figure 4.6.4** Proportions by Ethnicity and Poverty.

$P(A \& B) = P(A | B) \times P(B)$   
 $P(A | B) = P(A \& B) / P(B)$   
 $P(A \& B) = P(B \& A) = P(B | A) \times P(A)$   
 $P(A | B) = [P(B | A) \times P(A)] / P(B)$

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**2-way table for poverty in Israel cont.**

		Ethnicity		Total
		Arabic	Jewish	
Poverty	Poor	$.52 \times .14$	$.11 \times .86$	?
	Not poor	?	?	?
	Total	.14	.86	1.00

$\text{pr(Poor and Arabic)} = \text{pr(Poor|Arabic)} \times \text{pr(Arabic)} = 52\% \text{ of } 14\%$   
 $\text{pr(Poor and Jewish)} = \text{pr(Poor|Jewish)} \times \text{pr(Jewish)} = 11\% \text{ of } 86\%$   
 $\text{pr(Arabic)} = .14$        $\text{pr(Jewish)} = .86$

**TABLE 4.6.3** Proportions by Ethnicity and Poverty

		Ethnicity		
		Arabic	Jewish	Total
Poverty	Poor	.0728	.0946	.1674
	Not Poor	.0672	.7654	.8326
Total		.14	.86	1.00

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**Conditional probabilities and 2-way tables**

- Many problems involving conditional probabilities can be solved by constructing two-way tables
- This includes *reversing the order of conditioning*

$P(A \& B) = P(A | B) \times P(B) = P(B | A) \times P(A)$

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**Proportional usage of oral contraceptives and their rates of failure**

We need to complete the two-way contingency table of proportions

$\text{pr(Failed and Oral)} = \text{pr(Failed | Oral)} \times \text{pr(Oral)} = 5\% \text{ of } 32\%$   
 $\text{pr(Failed and IUD)} = \text{pr(Failed | IUD)} \times \text{pr(IUD)} = 6\% \text{ of } 3\%$

Outcome		Method					
		Steril.	Oral	Barrier	IUD	Sperm.	Total
Failed	Didn't	$0 \times .38$	$.05 \times .32$	$.14 \times .24$	$.06 \times .03$	$.26 \times .03$	?
	Did't	?	?	?	?	?	?
Total		.38	.32	.24	.03	.03	1.00

$\text{pr(Steril.)} = .38$        $\text{pr(Barrier)} = .24$        $\text{pr(IUD)} = .03$

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### Oral contraceptives cont.

$pr(\text{Failed and Oral}) = pr(\text{Failed} | \text{Oral}) \times pr(\text{Oral})$   
 [= 5% of 32%]

$pr(\text{Failed and IUD}) = pr(\text{Failed} | \text{IUD}) \times pr(\text{IUD})$   
 [= 6% of 3%]

Outcome		Method					Total
		Steril.	Oral	Barrier	IUD	Sperm.	
Failed	0 × .38	.05 × .32	.14 × .24	.06 × .03	.26 × .03	?	
Didn't	?	?	?	?	?	?	
Total	.38	.32	.24	.03	.03	1.00	

$pr(\text{Steril.}) = .38$      $pr(\text{Barrier}) = .24$      $pr(\text{IUD}) = .03$

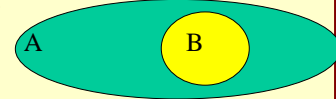
TABLE 4.6.4 Table Constructed from the Data in Example 4.6.1

Outcome		Method					Total
		Steril.	Oral	Barrier	IUD	Sperm.	
Failed	0	.0160	.0336	.0018	.0078	.0592	
Didn't	.3800	.3040	.2064	.0282	.0222	.9408	
Total	.3800	.3200	.2400	.0300	.0300	1.0000	

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### Remarks ...

- In  $pr(A | B)$ , how should the symbol “|” be read *given that*.
- How do we interpret the fact that: *The event A always occurs when B occurs?* What can you say about  $pr(A | B)$ ?



- When drawing a **probability tree** for a particular problem, how do you know *what events* to use for the first fan of branches and which events to use for the subsequent branching? (at each branching stage condition on all the info available up to here. E.g., at first branching use all simple events, no prior is available. At 3-rd branching condition of the previous 2 events, etc.).

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TABLE 4.6.5 Number of Individuals Having a Given Mean Absorbance Ratio (MAR) in the ELISA for HIV Antibodies

MAR	Healthy Donor	HIV patients
<2	202	0
2 - 2.99	73	2
3 - 3.99	15	7
4 - 4.99	3	7
5 - 5.99	2	15
6 - 11.99	2	36
12+	0	21
Total	297	88

Test cut-off 2  
 False-positives  
 Power of a test is:  $1 - P(\text{FNE}) \sim 0.976$

Adapted from Weiss et al. [1985]

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### HIV cont.

$pr(\text{HIV and Positive}) = pr(\text{Positive} | \text{HIV}) \times pr(\text{HIV})$   
 [= 98% of 1%]

$pr(\text{Not HIV and Negative}) = pr(\text{Negative} | \text{Not HIV}) \times pr(\text{Not HIV})$   
 [= 93% of 99%]

Disease status		Test result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
HIV	.98 × .01	?	.01	$pr(\text{HIV}) = .01$
Not HIV	?	.93 × .99	.99	$pr(\text{Not HIV}) = .99$
Total	?	?	1.00	

Figure 4.6.6 Putting HIV information into the table.

From *Chance Encounters* by C.J. Wild and G.A.F. Seber, © John Wiley & Sons, 2000.

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### HIV – reconstructing the contingency table

$pr(\text{HIV and Positive}) = pr(\text{Positive} | \text{HIV}) \times pr(\text{HIV})$   
 [= 98% of 1%]

$pr(\text{Not HIV and Negative}) = pr(\text{Negative} | \text{Not HIV}) \times pr(\text{Not HIV})$   
 [= 93% of 99%]

Disease status		Test result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
HIV	.98 × .01	?	.01	$pr(\text{HIV}) = .01$
Not HIV	?	.93 × .99	.99	$pr(\text{Not HIV}) = .99$
Total	?	?	1.00	

TABLE 4.6.6 Proportions by Disease Status and Test Result

Disease Status		Test Result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
HIV		.0098	.0002	.01
Not HIV		.0693	.9207	.99
Total		.0791	.9209	1.00

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### Proportions of HIV infections by country

TABLE 4.6.7 Proportions Infected with HIV

Country	No. AIDS Cases	Population (millions)	$pr(\text{HIV})$	Having   Test $pr(\text{HIV}   \text{Positive})$
United States	218,301	252.7	0.00864	0.109
Canada	6,116	26.7	0.00229	0.031
Australia	3,238	16.8	0.00193	0.026
New Zealand	323	3.4	0.00095	0.013
United Kingdom	5,451	57.3	0.00095	0.013
Ireland	142	3.6	0.00039	0.005

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## Statistical independence

- Events  $A$  and  $B$  are *statistically independent* if knowing whether  $B$  has occurred gives no new information about the chances of  $A$  occurring,

i.e. if  $\text{pr}(A | B) = \text{pr}(A)$

- Similarly,  $P(B | A) = P(B)$ , since  $P(B|A) = P(B \& A)/P(A) = P(A \& B)/P(A) = P(B)$
- If  $A$  and  $B$  are *statistically independent*, then

$$\text{pr}(A \text{ and } B) = \text{pr}(A) \times \text{pr}(B)$$

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## People vs. Collins

TABLE 4.7.2 Frequencies Assumed by the Prosecution

Yellow car	$\frac{1}{10}$	Girl with blond hair	$\frac{1}{3}$
Man with mustache	$\frac{1}{4}$	Black man with beard	$\frac{1}{10}$
Girl with ponytail	$\frac{1}{10}$	Interracial couple in car	$\frac{1}{1000}$

- The first occasion where a conviction was made in an American court of law, largely on statistical evidence, 1964. A woman was mugged and the offender was described as a wearing dark cloths, with blond hair in a pony tail who got into a yellow car driven by a black male accomplice with mustache and beard. The suspect brought to trial were picked out in a line-up and fit all of the descriptions. Using the *product rule for probabilities* an expert witness computed the chance that a random couple meets these characteristics, as 1:12,000,000.

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## Summary

- What does it mean for two events  $A$  and  $B$  to be *statistically independent*?
- Why is the working rule under independence,  $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A)P(B)$ , just a special case of the multiplication rule  $P(A \& B) = P(A | B)P(B)$ ?
- Mutual independence* of events  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n$  if and only if  $P(A_1 \& A_2 \& \dots \& A_n) = P(A_1)P(A_2)\dots P(A_n)$
- What do we mean when we say two human characteristics are *positively associated*? *negatively associated*? (blond hair – blue eyes, pos.; black hair – blue eyes, neg. assoc.)

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## Review

- What happens to the calculated  $P(A \text{ and } B)$  if we treat positively associated events as independent? if we treat negatively associated events as independent?
- (Example, let  $B = \{A + \{b\}\}$ ,  $A$  &  $B$  are pos-assoc'd,  $P(A \& B) = P(A)[P(A) + P(\{b\})]$ , under indep. assum'ns. However,  $P(A \& B) = P(B|A)P(A) = 1 \times P(A) > P(A)[P(A) + P(\{b\})]$ , *underestimating* the real chance of events. If  $A$  &  $B$  are neg-assoc'd  $\rightarrow A$  & comp(B) are pos-assoc'd. In general, this may lead to answers that are grossly too small or too large ...)
- Why do people often treat events as independent? When can we trust their answers? (Easy computations! Not always!)

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## Summary of ideas

- The *probabilities* people quote come from 3 main sources:
  - (i) *Models* (idealizations such as the notion of equally likely outcomes which suggest probabilities by symmetry).
  - (ii) *Data* (e.g. relative frequencies with which the event has occurred in the past).
  - (iii) *subjective feelings* representing a degree of belief
- A simple probability model consists of a sample space and a probability distribution.
- A *sample space*,  $S$ , for a random experiment is the set of all possible outcomes of the experiment.

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## Summary of ideas cont.

- A list of numbers  $p_1, p_2, \dots$  is a *probability distribution* for  $S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots\}$ , provided
  - all of the  $p_i$ 's lie between 0 and 1, and
  - they add to 1.
- According to the probability model,  $p_i$  is the probability that outcome  $s_i$  occurs.
- We write  $p_i = P(s_i)$ .

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**Summary of ideas cont.**

- An **event** is a collection of outcomes
- An event **occurs** if any outcome making up that event occurs
- The probability of event  $A$  can be obtained by adding up the probabilities of all the outcomes in  $A$
- If all outcomes are equally likely,

$$\text{pr}(A) = \frac{\text{number of outcomes in } A}{\text{total number of outcomes}}$$

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**Summary of ideas cont.**

- The **complement** of an event  $A$ , denoted  $\bar{A}$ , occurs if  $A$  does not occur
- It is useful to represent events diagrammatically using **Venn diagrams**
- A **union** of events,  **$A$  or  $B$**  contains all outcomes in  $A$  or  $B$  (including those in both). It occurs if at least one of  $A$  or  $B$  occurs
- An **intersection** of events,  **$A$  and  $B$**  contains all outcomes which are in **both**  $A$  and  $B$ . It occurs only if both  $A$  and  $B$  occur
- **Mutually exclusive** events cannot occur at the same time

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**Summary of ideas cont.**

- The **conditional probability** of  $A$  occurring **given** that  $B$  occurs is given by
 
$$\text{pr}(A | B) = \frac{\text{pr}(A \text{ and } B)}{\text{pr}(B)}$$
- Events  $A$  and  $B$  are **statistically independent** if knowing whether  $B$  has occurred gives no new information about the chances of  $A$  occurring, i.e. if  $P(A | B) = P(A) \rightarrow P(B|A)=P(B)$ .
- If events are **physically independent**, then, under any sensible probability model, they are also **statistically independent**
- Assuming that events are independent when in reality they are not can often lead to answers that are grossly too big or grossly too small

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**Formula Summary**

- For discrete sample spaces,  $\text{pr}(A)$  can be obtained by adding the probabilities of all outcomes in  $A$
- For equally likely outcomes in a finite sample space

$$\text{pr}(A) = \frac{\text{number of outcomes in } A}{\text{total number of outcomes}}$$

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**Formula summary cont.**

- $\text{pr}(S) = 1$
- $\text{pr}(\bar{A}) = 1 - \text{pr}(A)$
- If  $A$  and  $B$  are mutually exclusive events, then  $\text{pr}(A \text{ or } B) = \text{pr}(A) + \text{pr}(B)$   
(here "or" is used in the inclusive sense)
- If  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  are mutually exclusive events, then  $\text{pr}(A_1 \text{ or } A_2 \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } A_k) = \text{pr}(A_1) + \text{pr}(A_2) + \dots + \text{pr}(A_k)$

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**Formula summary cont.**

**Conditional probability**

- Definition:
 
$$\text{pr}(A | B) = \frac{\text{pr}(A \text{ and } B)}{\text{pr}(B)}$$
- Multiplication formula:
 
$$\text{pr}(A \text{ and } B) = \text{pr}(B|A)\text{pr}(A) = \text{pr}(A|B)\text{pr}(B)$$

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### Formula summary cont.

#### Multiplication Rule under independence:

- If  $A$  and  $B$  are independent events, then

$$\text{pr}(A \text{ and } B) = \text{pr}(A) \text{pr}(B)$$

- If  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are mutually independent,

$$\text{pr}(A_1 \text{ and } A_2 \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } A_n) = \text{pr}(A_1) \text{pr}(A_2) \dots \text{pr}(A_n)$$

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### Examples – Birthday Paradox

- **The Birthday Paradox:** In a random group of  $N$  people, what is the change that at least two people have the same birthday?
- E.x., if  $N=23$ ,  $P>0.5$ . Main confusion arises from the fact that in real life we rarely meet people having the same birthday as us, and we meet more than 23 people.
- The reason for such high probability is that any of the 23 people can compare their birthday with any other one, not just you comparing your birthday to anybody else's.
- There are  $N\text{-Choose-}2 = 20*19/2$  ways to select a pair or people. Assume there are 365 days in a year,  $P(\text{one-particular-pair-same-B-day})=1/365$ , and
- $P(\text{one-particular-pair-failure})=1-1/365 \sim 0.99726$ .
- For  $N=20$ ,  $20\text{-Choose-}2 = 190$ .  $E=\{\text{No 2 people have the same birthday is the event all 190 pairs fail (have different birthdays)}\}$ , then  $P(E) = P(\text{failure})^{190} = 0.99726^{190} = 0.59$ .
- Hence,  $P(\text{at-least-one-success})=1-0.59=0.41$ , quite high.
- Note: for  $N=42 \rightarrow P>0.9 \dots$

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