

# Stat 19: Fiat Lux, Holdem or Foldem, Probability and Poker

## Outline for the day:

1. Addiction
2. Syllabus, etc.
3. Wasicka/Gold/Binger Example
4. Meaning of Probability
5. Axioms of probability.



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NO CLASS NEXT WEEK, APR9.

For next class Apr 16,

(i) Learn the rules of Texas Hold'em.

( see for instance <http://www.fulltiltpoker.net> )

(ii) Read addiction handout at course website

<http://www.stat.ucla.edu/~frederic/19/S18>

Sometime in the next few weeks

(iii) Download R and try it out.

( <http://cran.stat.ucla.edu> )

# Wasicka/Gold/Binger Example

## Wasicka/Gold/Binger Example, Continued

Gold: 4♠ 3♣.      Binger: A♦ 10♦.      Wasicka: 8♠ 7♠.  
Flop: 10♣ 6♠ 5♠.      (Turn: 7♣. River: Q♠.)

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Wasicka folded?!? ♠ ♣ ♥ ♦

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He had 8♠ 7♠ and the flop was 10♣ 6♠ 5♠.

Worst case scenario: suppose he were up against

9♠ 4♠ and 9♥ 9♦. How could Wasicka win?

88      (3: 8♣8♦, 8♣8♥, 8♦8♥)

77      (3)

44      (3)

[Let “X” = non-49, “Y” = A2378JQK, and “n” = non-♣]

4n Xn      (3 x 32)

9♣ 4n      (3)

9♣ Yn      (24).      **Total: 132 out of 903 = 14.62%.**

## Meaning of Probability.

Notation: “ $P(A) = 60\%$ ”.  $A$  is an *event*.

Not “ $P(60\%)$ ”.

Definition of probability:

Frequentist: If repeated independently under the same conditions millions and millions of times,  $A$  would happen 60% of the times.

Bayesian: Subjective feeling about how likely something seems.

$P(A \text{ or } B)$  means  $P(A \text{ or } B \text{ or both } )$

*Mutually exclusive*:  $P(A \text{ and } B) = 0$ .

*Independent*:  $P(A \text{ given } B)$  [written “ $P(A|B)$ ”] =  $P(A)$ .

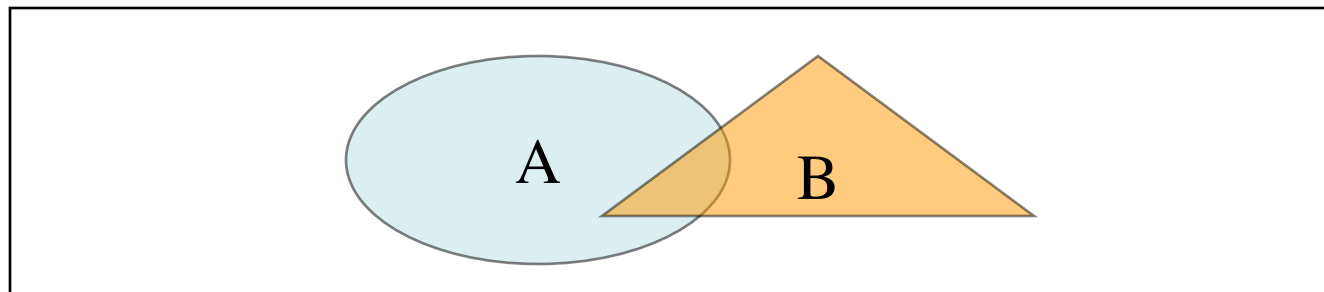
$P(A^c)$  means  $P(\text{not } A)$ .

## 2. Axioms (initial assumptions/rules) of probability:

- 1)  $P(A) \geq 0$ .
- 2)  $P(A) + P(A^c) = 1$ .
- 3) If  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots$  are mutually exclusive, then  
 $P(A_1 \text{ or } A_2 \text{ or } A_3 \text{ or } \dots) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) + P(A_3) + \dots$

(#3 is sometimes called the *addition rule*)

Probability  $\Leftrightarrow$  Area. Measure theory, Venn diagrams



$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \text{ and } B).$$