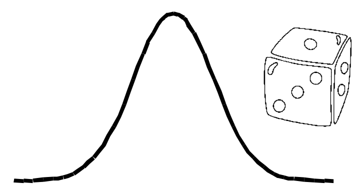
15-251

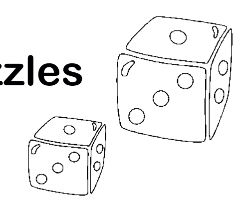
Some ~~Great~~ Theoretical Ideas for ~~in~~ Computer Science

Probability Theory: Counting in Terms of Proportions

Lecture 11 (February 19, 2008)



Some Puzzles



Teams A and B are equally good

In any one game, each is equally likely to win

What is most likely length of a “best of 7” series?

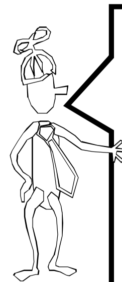
Flip coins until either 4 heads or 4 tails
Is this more likely to take 6 or 7 flips?

6 and 7 Are Equally Likely

To reach either one, after 5 games, it must be 3 to 2

½ chance it ends 4 to 2; ½ chance it doesn't

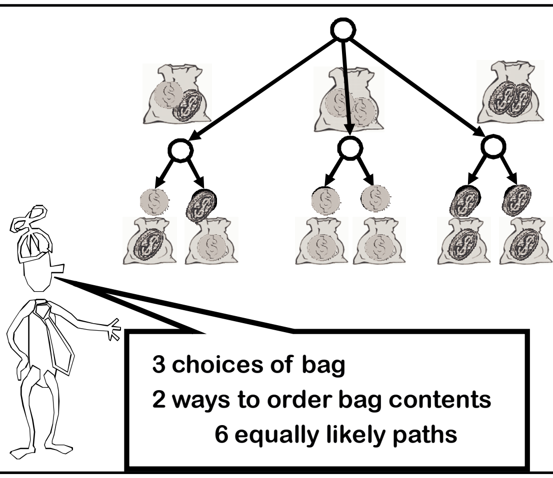
Silver and Gold

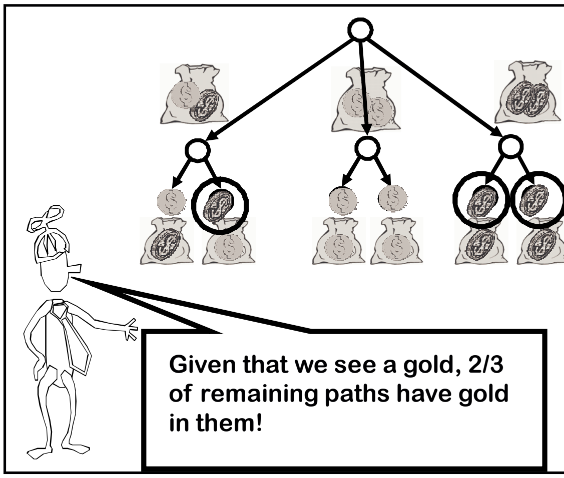


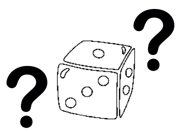
One bag has two silver coins, another has two gold coins, and the third has one of each

One bag is selected at random. One coin from it is selected at random. It turns out to be gold

What is the probability that the other coin is gold?

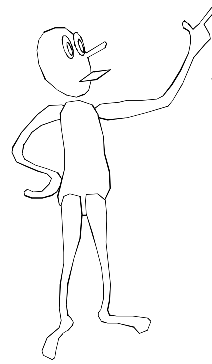






Sometimes, probabilities can be counter-intuitive

Language of Probability



The formal language of probability is a very important tool in describing and analyzing probability distribution

Finite Probability Distribution

A (finite) probability distribution D is a finite set S of elements, where each element x in S has a positive real weight, proportion, or probability p(x)

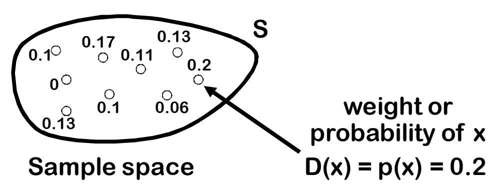
The weights must satisfy:

$$\sum_{x \in S} p(x) = 1$$

For convenience we will define D(x) = p(x)

S is often called the sample space and elements x in S are called samples

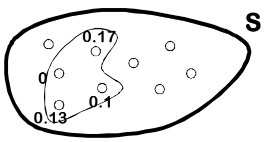
Sample Space



Events

Any set $E \subseteq S$ is called an event

$$Pr_D[E] = \sum_{x \in E} p(x)$$

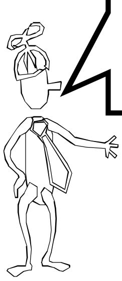


$$Pr_D[E] = 0.4$$

Uniform Distribution

If each element has equal probability, the distribution is said to be uniform

$$Pr_D[E] = \sum_{x \in E} p(x) = \frac{|E|}{|S|}$$



A fair coin is tossed 100 times in a row

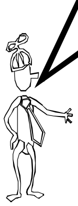
What is the probability that we get exactly half heads?

Using the Language

The sample space S is the set of all outcomes $\{H,T\}^{100}$

Each sequence in S is equally likely, and hence has probability $1/|S|=1/2^{100}$

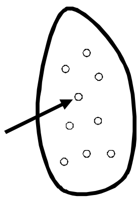
Visually

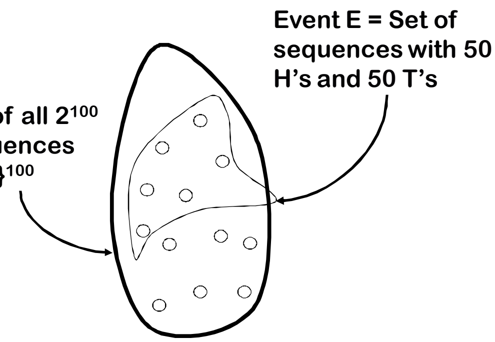


S = all sequences of 100 tosses

x = HHTTT……TH

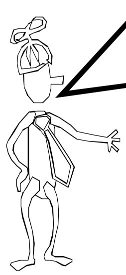
p(x) = 1/|S|





Probability of event E = proportion of E in S

$$\binom{100}{50} / 2^{100}$$



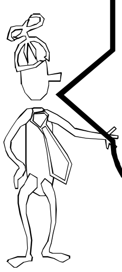
Suppose we roll a white die and a black die

What is the probability that sum is 7 or 11?

Same Methodology!

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

Pr[E] = |E|/|S| = proportion of E in S = 8/36



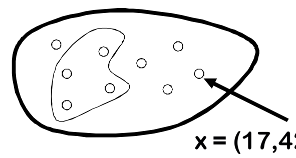
23 people are in a room

Suppose that all possible birthdays are equally likely

What is the probability that two people will have the same birthday?

And The Same Methods Again!

Sample space $W = \{1, 2, 3, \ldots, 366\}^{23}$



$x = (17,42,363,1,\ldots, 224,177)$

23 numbers

Event $E = \{ x \in W \mid \text{two numbers in } x \text{ are same} \}$

What is $|E|$? Count $|\overline{E}|$ instead!

$\overline{E}$ = all sequences in S that have no repeated numbers

$|\overline{E}| = (366)(365)\ldots(344)$

$|W| = 366^{23}$

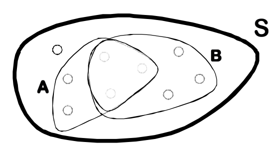
$$\frac{|\overline{E}|}{|W|} = 0.494\ldots$$

$$\frac{|E|}{|W|} = 0.506\ldots$$

More Language Of Probability

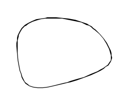
The probability of event A given event B is written Pr[A | B] and is defined to be =

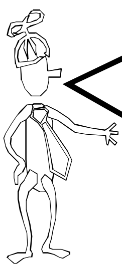
$$\frac{\Pr[A \cap B]}{\Pr[B]}$$



proportion of $A \cap B$

to B





Suppose we roll a white die and black die

What is the probability that the white is 1 given that the total is 7?

event A = {white die = 1}

event B = {total = 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),
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(6,1), (6,2), (6,3), (6,4), (6,5), (6,6) }

$$\Pr[\,A \mid B\,] = \frac{\Pr[\,A \cap B\,]}{\Pr[B]} = \frac{|A \cap B|}{|B|} = \frac{1/36}{1/6}$$

event A = {white die = 1}

event B = {total = 7}

Independence!

A and B are independent events if

$$\Pr[\,A \mid B\,] = \Pr[\,A\,]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Pr[\,A \cap B\,] = \Pr[\,A\,]\Pr[\,B\,]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Pr[\,B \mid A\,] = \Pr[\,B\,]$$

Independence!

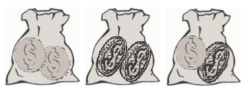
$A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k$ are independent events if knowing if some of them occurred does not change the probability of any of the others occurring

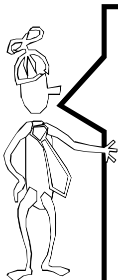
E.g., $\{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$ are independent events if:

$\Pr[A_1 \mid A_2 \cap A_3] = \Pr[A_1]$
$\Pr[A_2 \mid A_1 \cap A_3] = \Pr[A_2]$
$\Pr[A_3 \mid A_1 \cap A_2] = \Pr[A_3]$

$\Pr[A_1 \mid A_2\,] = \Pr[A_1]$ $\quad$ $\Pr[A_1 \mid A_3\,] = \Pr[A_1]$
$\Pr[A_2 \mid A_1\,] = \Pr[A_2]$ $\quad$ $\Pr[A_2 \mid A_3] = \Pr[A_2]$
$\Pr[A_3 \mid A_1\,] = \Pr[A_3]$ $\quad$ $\Pr[A_3 \mid A_2] = \Pr[A_3]$

Silver and Gold





One bag has two silver coins, another has two gold coins, and the third has one of each

One bag is selected at random. One coin from it is selected at random. It turns out to be gold

What is the probability that the other coin is gold?

Let G_1 be the event that the first coin is gold

$Pr[G_1] = 1/2$

Let G_2 be the event that the second coin is gold

$Pr[G_2 \mid G_1] = Pr[G_1 \text{ and } G_2] / Pr[G_1]$

$= (1/3) / (1/2)$

$= 2/3$

Note: G_1 and G_2 are not independent

Monty Hall Problem

Announcer hides prize behind one of 3 doors at random

You select some door

Announcer opens one of others with no prize

You can decide to keep or switch

What to do?

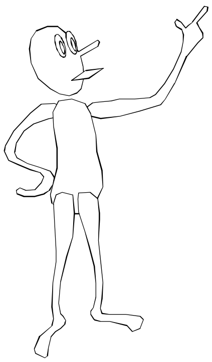
Monty Hall Problem

Sample space = { prize behind door 1, prize behind door 2, prize behind door 3 }

Each has probability 1/3

Staying	Switching
we win if we choose the correct door	we win if we choose the incorrect door
Pr[choosing correct door] = 1/3	Pr[choosing incorrect door] = 2/3

Why Was This Tricky?



We are inclined to think:

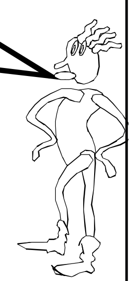
"After one door is opened, others are equally likely…"

But his action is not independent of yours!

Next, we will learn about a formidable tool in probability that will allow us to solve problems that seem really really messy…

If I randomly put 100 letters into 100 addressed envelopes, on average how many letters will end up in their correct envelopes?

On average, in class of size m, how many pairs of people will have the same birthday?



The new tool is called "Linearity of Expectation"

Random Variable

To use this new tool, we will also need to understand the concept of a Random Variable

Random Variable

Let S be sample space in a probability distribution

A Random Variable is a real-valued function on S

Examples:

X = value of white die in a two-dice roll

$X(3,4) = 3$, $X(1,6) = 1$

Y = sum of values of the two dice

$Y(3,4) = 7$, $Y(1,6) = 7$

W = (value of white die)$^{\text{value of black die}}$

$W(3,4) = 3^4$, $Y(1,6) = 1^6$

Tossing a Fair Coin n Times

S = all sequences of $\{H, T\}^n$

D = uniform distribution on S

$\Rightarrow D(x) = (½)^n$ for all $x \in S$

Random Variables (say n = 10)

X = # of heads

X(HHHTTHTHTT) = 5

Y = (1 if #heads = #tails, 0 otherwise)

Y(HHHTTHTHTT) = 1, Y(THHHHTTTTT) = 0

Notational Conventions

Use letters like A, B, E for events

Use letters like X, Y, f, g for R.V.'s

R.V. = random variable

Two Views of Random Variables

Think of a R.V. as

Input to the function is random

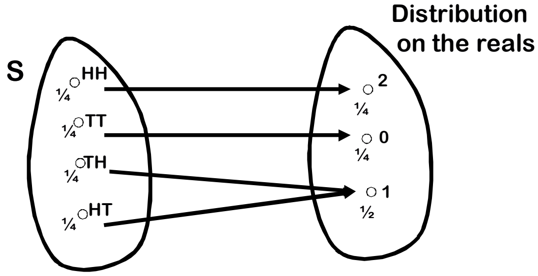
A function from S to the reals R

Or think of the induced distribution on R

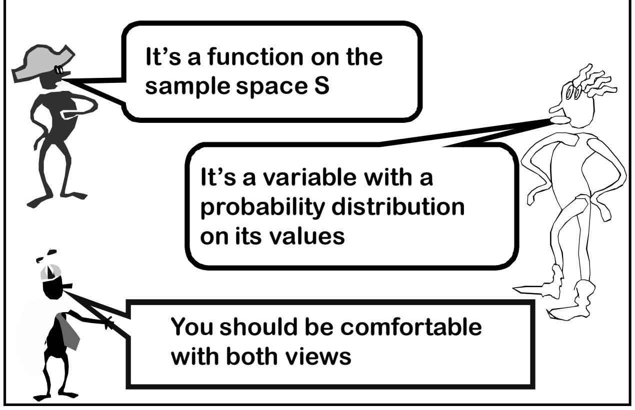
Randomness is "pushed" to the values of the function

Two Coins Tossed

X: {TT, TH, HT, HH} → {0, 1, 2} counts the number of heads



It's a Floor Wax And a Dessert Topping



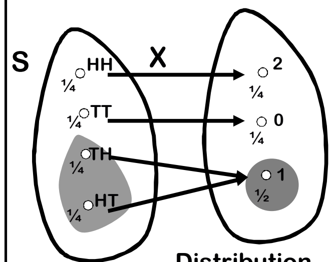
From Random Variables to Events

For any random variable X and value a, we can define the event A that X = a

$Pr(A) = Pr(X=a) = Pr(\{x \in S \mid X(x)=a\})$

Two Coins Tossed

X: {TT, TH, HT, HH} → {0, 1, 2} counts # of heads



Distribution on X

$Pr(X = a) =$
$Pr(\{x \in S \mid X(x) = a\})$

$Pr(X = 1)$

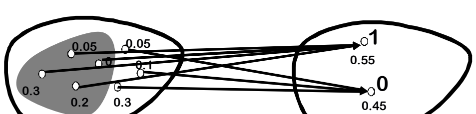
$= Pr(\{x \in S \mid X(x) = 1\})$

$= Pr(\{TH, HT\}) = ½$

From Events to Random Variables

For any event A, can define the indicator random variable for A:

$$X_A(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin A \end{cases}$$



Definition: Expectation

The expectation, or expected value of a random variable X is written as E[X], and is

$$E[X] = \sum_{x \in S} Pr(x)\, X(x) = \sum_{k} k\, Pr[X = k]$$

X is a function on the sample space S

X has a distribution on its values

A Quick Calculation…

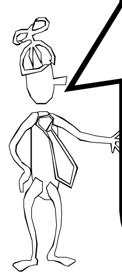
What if I flip a coin 3 times? What is the expected number of heads?

$E[X] = (1/8)\times 0 + (3/8)\times 1 + (3/8)\times 2 + (1/8)\times 3 = 1.5$

But $Pr[\ X = 1.5\ ] = 0$

Moral: don't always expect the expected.
$Pr[\ X = E[X]\ ]$ may be 0 !

Type Checking



A Random Variable is the type of thing you might want to know an expected value of

If you are computing an expectation, the thing whose expectation you are computing is a random variable

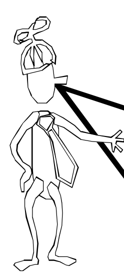
Indicator R.V.s: $E[X_A] = Pr(A)$

For any event A, can define the indicator random variable for A:

$$X_A(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin A \end{cases}$$

$E[X_A] = 1 \times Pr(X_A = 1) = Pr(A)$

Adding Random Variables

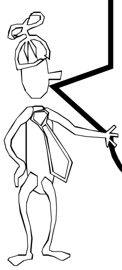


If X and Y are random variables (on the same set S), then $Z = X + Y$ is also a random variable

$Z(x) = X(x) + Y(x)$

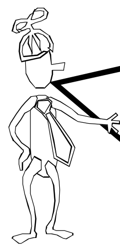
E.g., rolling two dice.
X = 1st die, Y = 2nd die,
Z = sum of two dice

Adding Random Variables



Example: Consider picking a random person in the world. Let X = length of the person's left arm in inches. Y = length of the person's right arm in inches. Let Z = X+Y. Z measures the combined arm lengths

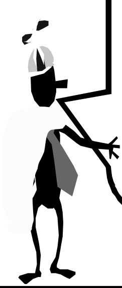
Independence



Two random variables X and Y are independent if for every a,b, the events X=a and Y=b are independent

How about the case of
X=1st die, Y=2nd die?
X = left arm, Y=right arm?

Linearity of Expectation



If Z = X+Y, then

E[Z] = E[X] + E[Y]

Even if X and Y are not independent

$$
\begin{aligned}
E[Z] &= \sum_{x \in S} \Pr[x]\, Z(x) \\
&= \sum_{x \in S} \Pr[x]\, (X(x) + Y(x)) \\
&= \sum_{x \in S} \Pr[x]\, X(x) + \sum_{x \in S} \Pr[x]\, Y(x)) \\
&= E[X] + E[Y]
\end{aligned}
$$

Linearity of Expectation

E.g., 2 fair flips:

X = heads in 1st coin,

Y = heads in 2nd coin

Z = X+Y = total # heads

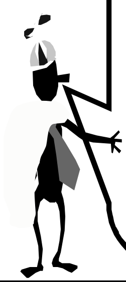
What is E[X]? E[Y]? E[Z]?

1,1,2 HH

1,0,1 HT

0,1,1 TH

0,0,0 TT



Linearity of Expectation

E.g., 2 fair flips:

X = at least one coin is heads

Y = both coins are heads, Z = X+Y

Are X and Y independent?

What is E[X]? E[Y]? E[Z]?

1,1,2 HH

1,0,1 HT

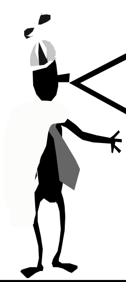
1,0,1 TH

0,0,0 TT

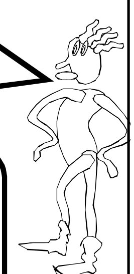
By Induction

$E[X_1 + X_2 + \ldots + X_n] =$

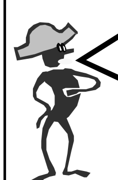
$E[X_1] + E[X_2] + \ldots. + E[X_n]$



The expectation of the sum
=
The sum of the expectations



If I randomly put 100 letters into 100 addressed envelopes, on average how many letters will end up in their correct envelopes?

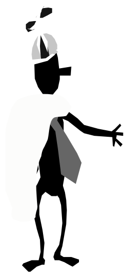


Hmm…

$\sum_k$ k Pr(k letters end up in correct envelopes)

= $\sum_k$ k (…aargh!!…)

Use Linearity of Expectation



Let A_i be the event the i^{th} letter ends up in its correct envelope

Let X_i be the indicator R.V. for A_i

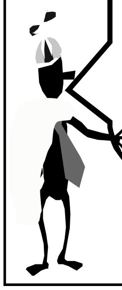
$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A_i \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Let $Z = X_1 + \ldots + X_{100}$

We are asking for E[Z]

$E[X_i] = Pr(A_i) = 1/100$

So E[Z] = 1



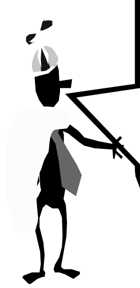
So, in expectation, 1 letter will be in the same correct envelope

Pretty neat: it doesn't depend on how many letters!

Question: were the X_i independent?

No! E.g., think of n=2

Use Linearity of Expectation



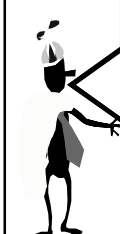
General approach:

View thing you care about as expected value of some RV

Write this RV as sum of simpler RVs (typically indicator RVs)

Solve for their expectations and add them up!

Example



We flip n coins of bias p. What is the expected number of heads?

We could do this by summing

$$\sum_k k \Pr(X = k) = \sum_k k \binom{n}{k} p^k(1-p)^{n-k}$$

But now we know a better way!

Linearity of Expectation!

Let X = number of heads when n independent coins of bias p are flipped

Break X into n simpler RVs:

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the } i^{th} \text{ coin is tails} \\ 0 & \text{if the } i^{th} \text{ coin is heads} \end{cases}$$

$E[X] = E[\Sigma_i X_i] = np$

Here's What You Need to Know…

Language of Probability

Events

Pr [A | B]

Independence

Random Variables

Definition

Two Views of R.V.s

Expectation

Definition

Linearity