

# Engineering statistics

## PROBABILITY

- ✓ **Basic concepts of probability**
- ✓ **Event and Types of event**
- ✓ **Theoretical probability**

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## ❖ Probability

- ✓ Is an action through which specific results (counts, measurements or responses) are obtained .
- ✓ All the probability examples are based on four experiments.
  1. Dice or Die
  2. Coin
  3. Balls box or black box
  4. Cards

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- Rolling a dice, or flipping a coin and observing the results are called a probability experiments.
- The result of a single trial in a probability experiment is the outcome.
- The set of all possible outcomes for an experiment is the sample space. Some sample spaces for various probability experiments are shown here.

| Experiment                     | Sample space       |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| flipping or Toss one coin      | (Head, Tail)       |
| Roll a dice or die             | (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) |
| Answer a true / false question | (True , False)     |

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**Example 1** : Find the sample space for rolling two dice.

## Solution

Since each die can land in six different ways, and two dice are rolled, the sample space can be presented as the following :

1. outcomes  $\longrightarrow 6^2$   $\longleftarrow$  **The count of times the experiment has been performed**
2. Rectangular array as shown in the figure

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| Die 1 | Die 2 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     |
| 1     | (1,1) | (2,1) | (3,1) | (4,1) | (5,1) | (6,1) |
| 2     | (2,1) | (2,2) | (2,3) | (2,4) | (2,5) | (2,6) |
| 3     | (3,1) | (3,2) | (3,3) | (3,4) | (3,5) | (3,6) |
| 4     | (4,1) | (4,2) | (4,3) | (4,4) | (4,5) | (4,6) |
| 5     | (5,1) | (5,2) | (5,3) | (5,4) | (5,5) | (5,6) |
| 6     | (6,1) | (6,2) | (6,3) | (6,4) | (6,5) | (6,6) |

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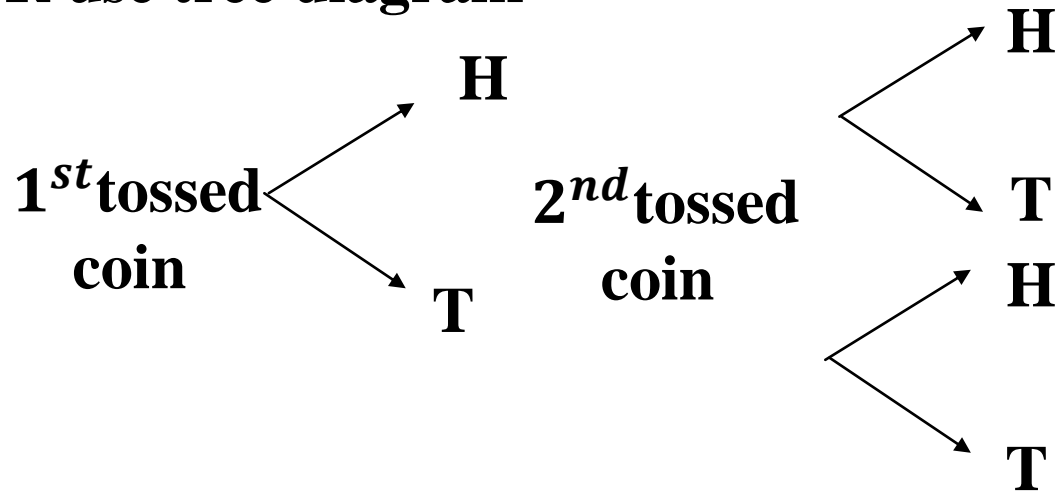
**Example 2** : Two coins are flipped. How many different outcomes are there? List the sample space.

**Solution**

outcomes  $\longrightarrow 2^2$   $\longleftarrow$  The count of times the experiment has been performed

There are 4 different outcomes : {HH, HT, TH, TT}

OR use tree diagram



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Example 3 : find the sample space for the gender of the children if a family has three children. Use B for boy and G for girl.

**Solution : to find all possible outcomes of probability experiments use a tree diagram.**

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❖ **A Event** : consists of one or more outcomes and is a subset of the sample space.

## ➤ Types of event

1. **A simple event** is an event that consists of a single outcome.
2. **A compound event** that consists from more than one outcome.

**Example 4** : A dice is rolled. Event A is rolling an even number. Is the event could be considered as a simple event or isn't ?

Solution

This is not simple event because the outcomes of event A are {2, 4, 6}. The event is compound event



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## 3. Mutually Exclusive Events

- The events are said to be mutually exclusive or disjoint when events contain no sample point in common.
- The events, A and B are mutually exclusive if they cannot occur at the same time

**Example 5** : Decide if the two events are mutually exclusive

Event A : Roll a number less than 3 on a die.

Event B : Roll a 4 on a die

**Solution** : these events cannot happen at the same time, so the events are mutually exclusive.

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## 4. The complementary Events

- The complement of an event  $E$  is the set of outcomes in the sample space that are not include in event  $E$ . The complement of is denoted by  $E^c$

**Example 6** : Find the complement of each event

- a. Rolling a die and getting a 4.
- b. Selecting a month and getting a month that begins with a J
- c. Selecting a day of the week and getting a weekday

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## Solution :

- a. Getting a 1, 2, 3, 5 or 6.
- b. Getting February, March, April, May, August, September, October, November or December.
- c. Getting Saturday, Sunday.

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## ❖ Types of probability

### 1. Theoretical probability

- Is used when each outcome in a sample space is equally likely to occur.
- The theoretical probability for event E is given by

$$P(E) = \frac{\text{number of outcomes in event}}{\text{Total number of outcomes in sample space}}$$

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**Example 7** : A dice is rolled. Find the event A , rolling a 5

**Solution**

**There is one outcome is event A :{5}**

$$P(A) = \frac{\text{number of out comes in event}}{\text{Total number of outcomes in sample space}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= \frac{1}{6} \\ &= \mathbf{0.167} \end{aligned}$$

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## 2. Statistical or Empirical probability

- Is based on observation obtained from probability experiments.
- $P(E) = \frac{\text{frequency of event } E}{\text{Total frequency}}$
- $P(E) = \frac{f}{n}$

**Example 8:** A Travel agent determines that every 50 reservations she makes 12 will be for a cruise. What is the probability that the next reservation she makes will be for a cruise

**Solution :**  $P(\text{cruise}) = \frac{f}{n} = \frac{12}{50} = 0.24$

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**Example 9:** The following frequency distribution table represents the ages of 30 students in a statistics subject. What is the probability that a students is between 26 and 33 years old

Solution

$$P(\text{ages 26 to 33}) = \frac{f}{n}$$
$$= \frac{8}{30} = 0.267$$

| Ages  | frequency     |
|-------|---------------|
| 18-25 | 13            |
| 26-33 | 8             |
| 34-41 | 4             |
| 42-49 | 3             |
| 50-57 | 2             |
|       | $\sum f = 30$ |

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## 3. Subjective probability

- Is based on intuition, educated guesses, and estimates obtained from probability experiments.

**Example 10**: A business analysis predicts that the probability of a certain union going on strike is 0.15

Range of probability of an event E is between 0 and 1, inclusive. That is

$$0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$$