

§4.1 Randomness

Example: tossing a coin.

mathematical model: set of outcomes $\{H, T\}$

assign probabilities to subsets: $P(\emptyset) = 0$
 $P(\{H\}) = \frac{1}{2}$ $P(\{T\}) = \frac{1}{2}$ $P(\{H, T\}) = 1$

independent sequence of coin tosses: mathematical model:

e.g. 2 coin tosses: $\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$ (4 possibilities)

3 coin tosses: $\{HHH, HHT, HTH, \dots\}$ (8 possibilities)

independence: each coin toss doesn't influence the others

① P.

H	$\frac{1}{2}$
T	$\frac{1}{2}$

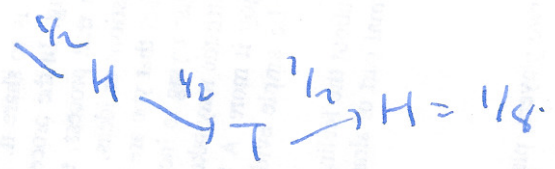
②

H	$\frac{1}{2}$
T	$\frac{1}{2}$

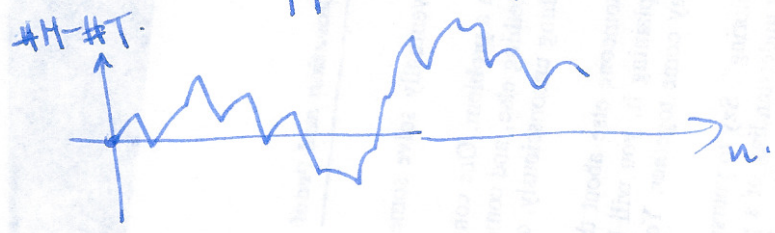
$\frac{1}{2}$	H $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	HT	$\frac{1}{4}$
$\frac{1}{2}$	T $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	HT	$\frac{1}{4}$
		$\frac{1}{2}$	TH	$\frac{1}{4}$
		$\frac{1}{2}$	TT	$\frac{1}{4}$

similarly

①	②	③
H $\frac{1}{2}$	H $\frac{1}{2}$	H $\frac{1}{2}$
T $\frac{1}{2}$	T $\frac{1}{2}$	T $\frac{1}{2}$



Q: what happens if you toss the coin lots of times?



Facts $\cdot$ $\#H - \#T \sim \sqrt{n}$

$$\frac{\#H - \#T}{n} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow 0$$

so for large n , proportion of heads $\rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$

§4.2 Probability models

Sample space: set of events. e.g. roll a dice $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

event: subset of the sample space, e.g. get an even number $\{2, 4, 6\}$.

probability: assigns numbers to subsets. e.g. $P(\{2, 4, 6\}) = 1/2$.

Example roll one dice $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ $P(\{4\}) = 1/6$ $P(\{2, 3\}) = 1/3$ etc.

roll two dice: (independently) $\{(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), \dots, (1,6), (2,1), (2,2), \dots, (6,6)\}$ $\leftarrow 36$ outcomes.

$$P(\text{roll } (6,6)) = 1/36$$

$$P(\text{get numbers which sum to } 7) = P(\{(1,6), (2,5), \dots, (6,1)\}) = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6}$$

Probability rules $0 \leq P(\text{event}) \leq 1$

$$2. P(\text{something happens}) = 1$$

3. If A, B are events which are disjoint

Example: roll 2 or 5 on one dice.

$$4. P(A \text{ does not occur}) = 1 - P(A \text{ occurs})$$

$$\text{Example: } P(\text{not } 3) = 1 - 1/6 = 5/6$$

Example: a model for online course: age of students.

Age group: 18 to 23 24 to 29 30 to 39 40 and over

P. 0.57 0.17 0.14 0.12