

Probability: reasoning under uncertainty

Medical example:

1 in 100 adults has disease D.

if x has D, prob of positive test result is 90%

if x doesn't have D, prob of positive test is 15%

What is prob that your patient with a positive test result has D?

CSE examples:

1. Performance: events happen randomly.
failures, data arrivals, workloads are events.
 2. Patterns in data:
Netflix recommendations, Google page rank, spam detection
 3. Scientific data analysis: experimental error
such as measurement
 4. Algorithm design: probabilistic algorithms
make use of random number generator.
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Counting: If some probabilistic experiment has a finite set Ω of outcomes and each outcome is equally likely, then the probability of event $A \subseteq \Omega$ is

$$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|} \quad \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \text{counting} \\ \leftarrow \end{matrix}$$

Ex: $A = \{5, 6\}$, $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$$P(A) = \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Counting the sizes of A and Ω can be complex.