

# **Bus 273: Statistical Analysis For Business**

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- R files used for this course are available upon request.



# PART II:

# Probability

# and Stochastic Models



# Chapter 5:

# Stochastic Models

# Behind the Observations



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

**Randomness.** — There is “randomness” in observed data:

- Drawing another sample will lead to a different selection.
- Many future events cannot be predicted with certainty.

Questions in this context:

- How were the data at hand produced?
- What is behind the data?

Inductive statistics. . .

- . . . is an effort to answer these questions.
- . . . needs probability.



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

## Inductive statistics.

- The paradigm of inductive statistics is:

**Regard the observations as the outcome of a random experiment, that is, as being produced by a stochastic model.**

- Stochastic model: a mathematical model on the basis of probability.
- The object of research is then the stochastic model, rather than the observations!



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

Example: Throwing a die once.

This is a random experiment.

- **Before** the die is thrown:

$X$  = number which appears

is a random variable, and  $P(X = i) = 1/6$ .

- **After** the die is thrown, a probability statement is no longer meaningful! But we can still see the result as being produced by a chance setup.



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

Example: A public opinion poll.

- Q: “Do you think New Orleans should be rebuilt?”
- Define:  $p$  = share of American adults who say “YES”
- For each randomly selected person, we have a random variable:

$$X = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the person says “YES”} \\ 0 & \text{if the person says “NO”} \end{cases}$$

- Then,  $P(X = 1) = p$  — the share  $p$  can be seen as a probability!
- How can we learn about  $p$ ?



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

Example: A public opinion poll.

- Q: “Do you think New Orleans should be rebuilt?”
- There is empirical evidence:  
384 out of 609 randomly selected American adults said “YES”. (According to CNN, 2005-09-08.)
- We can then estimate  $p$ :

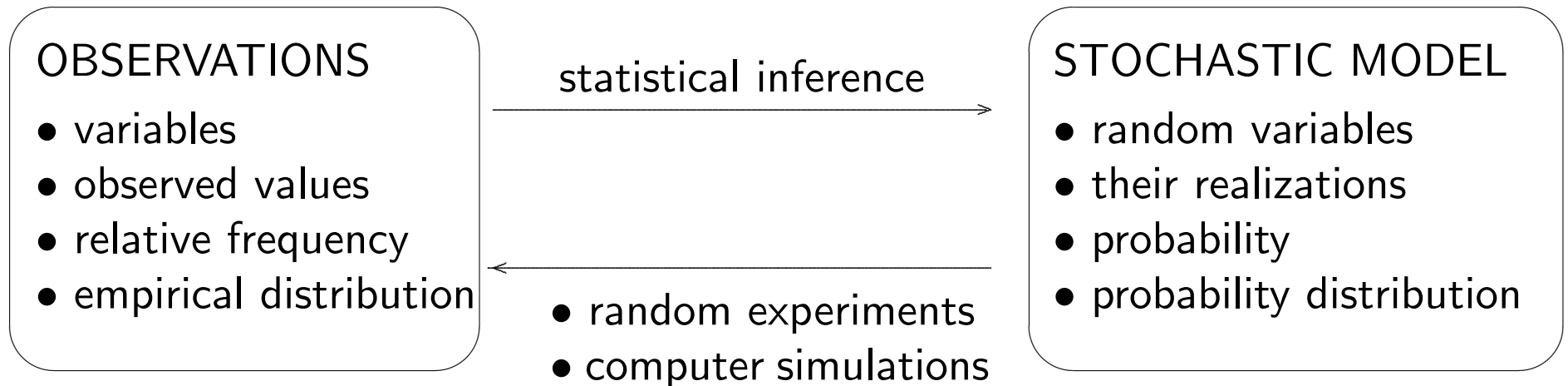
$$\hat{p} = \frac{384}{609} = 63\%.$$

- Observe that  $p$  and  $\hat{p}$  are different objects!



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

Observations and stochastic models:  
analogies and their relation.



# 5.1 Data and Stochastic Models

Again: Why do we need stochastic models?

- The entire population is always identified with a stochastic model.
- A random sample allows us to learn about the stochastic model.
- The estimated model represents what we know about the population.



# 5.2 Probability Calculations

How to obtain a stochastic model. . .

Basic questions:

- Which outcomes are possible?  
Which values can the random variable take on?
- Which probabilities can be assigned to sets of possible outcomes?



# 5.2 Probability Calculations

## Events and probabilities.

- An event is a set of possible outcomes of a random experiment.  
An event has a certain propensity (tendency) to occur.
- This propensity is expressed by a number between 0 and 1, the probability of the event.
- Probabilities must not be assigned totally arbitrarily to events! Certain rules must not be violated.



## 5.2 Probability Calculations

Kolmogorov's axioms.

- i) Every event  $A$  has a probability  $P(A) \geq 0$ .
- ii)  $P(\Omega) = 1$ , where  $\Omega$  is the set of *all* possible outcomes.
- iii)  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$  for disjoint events  $A$  and  $B$ .

From this, further rules can be derived, for example:

$$A \subset B \Rightarrow P(A) \leq P(B)$$

$$P(\bar{A}) = 1 - P(A)$$

$$P(B) = P(A \cap B) + P(\bar{A} \cap B)$$

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$



## 5.2 Probability Calculations

How can we find the probability of an event?

Two important special cases. . .

- **Laplace experiments:** finite number of outcomes, each with equal probability. Then:

$$P(A) = \frac{\# \text{ outcomes favourable for } A}{\# \text{ possible outcomes}}$$

- **Urn models:** We are now going to look at a simple urn model. . .

Modifications of the model will carry us very far in Chapters 6, 7 and 8.



## 5.3 Urn Models

Urn models: an example.

An urn contains 10 balls:

8 balls are red,      2 balls are blue.

Now suppose two balls are randomly drawn from the urn.

We want to find:

$$P(\underbrace{\text{the 1}^{\text{st}} \text{ ball is red}}_{\text{event } A} \text{ and } \underbrace{\text{the 2}^{\text{nd}} \text{ ball is blue}}_{\text{event } B})$$



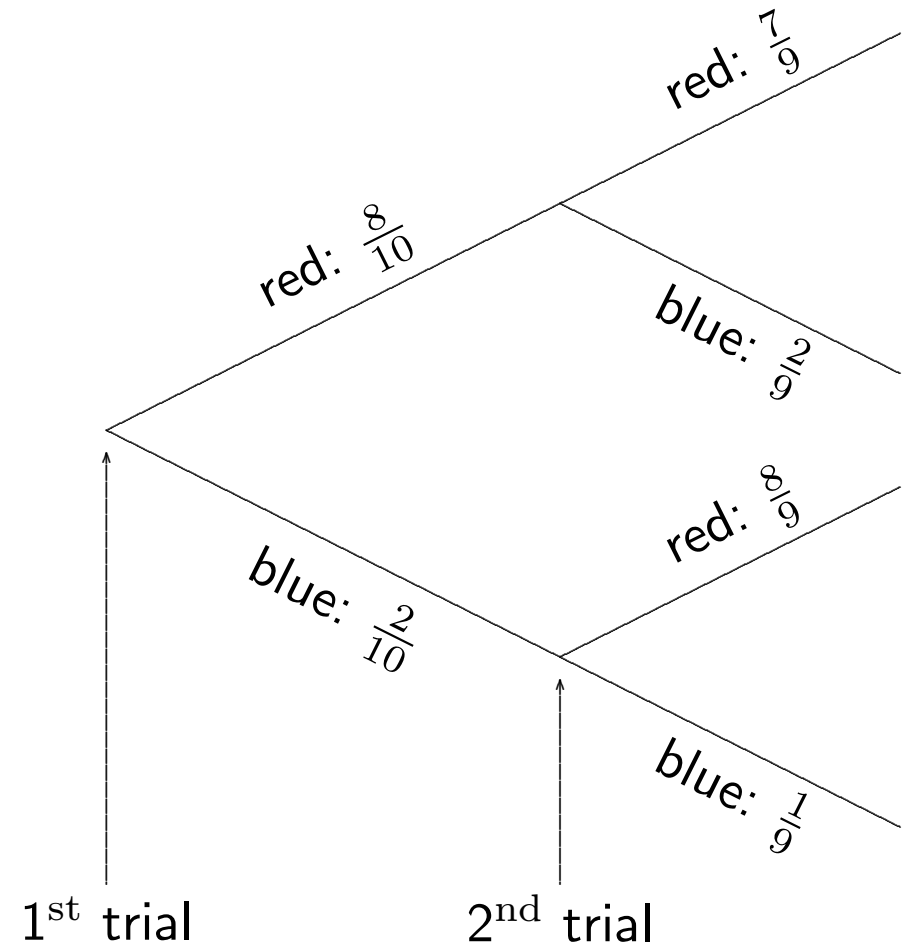
## 5.3 Urn Models

An urn model.

**Drawing without replacement:**

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B|A) = \frac{8}{10} \cdot \frac{2}{9}$$

The events  $A$  and  $B$  are dependent.



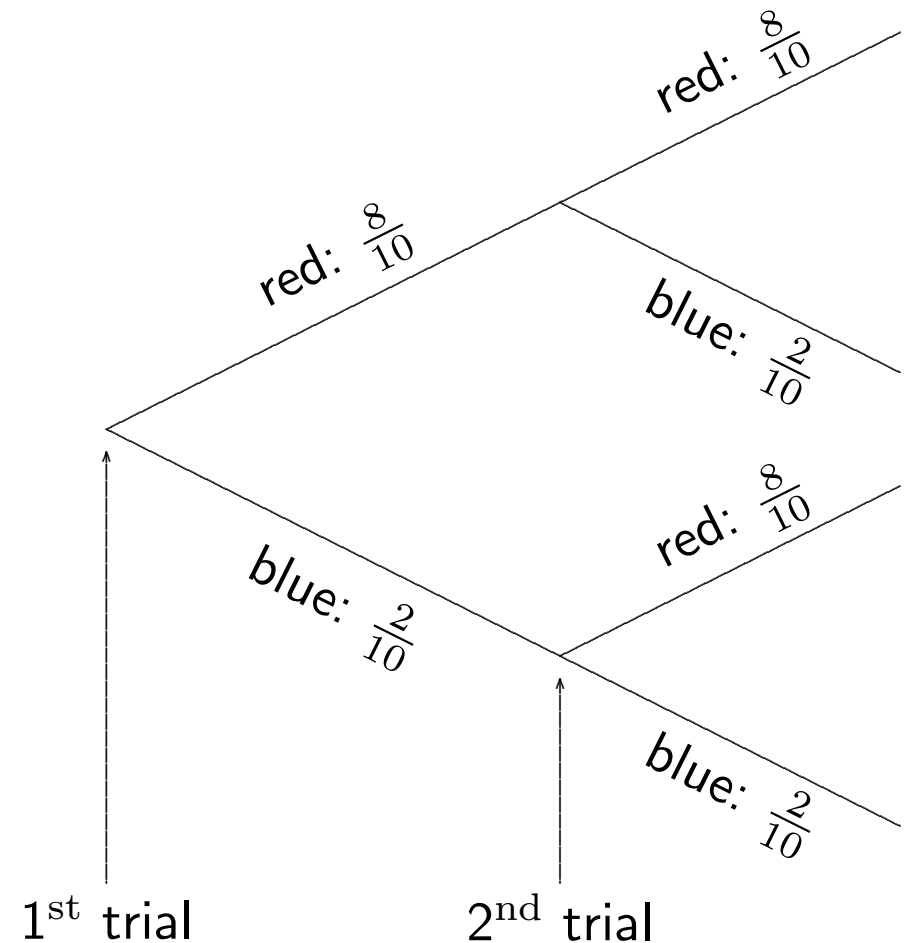
## 5.3 Urn Models

An urn model.

Drawing with replacement:

$$\begin{aligned} P(A \cap B) &= P(A) \cdot P(B|A) \\ &= P(A) \cdot P(B) \\ &= \frac{8}{10} \cdot \frac{2}{10} \end{aligned}$$

The events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent.



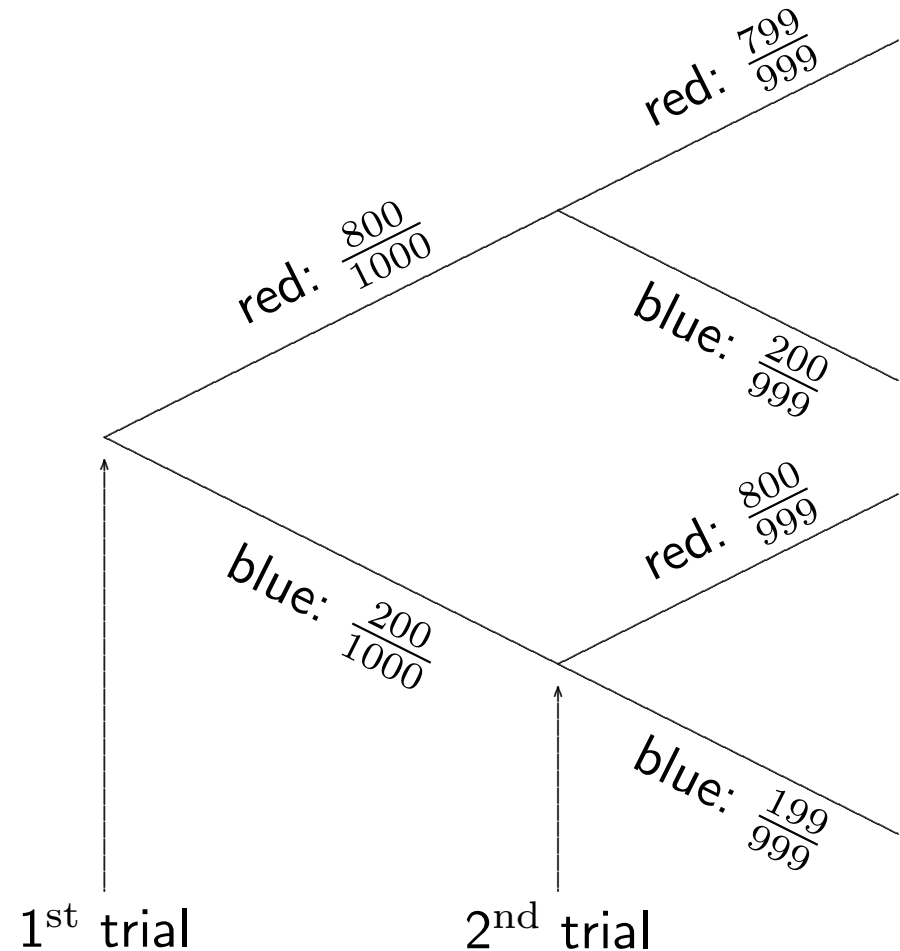
## 5.3 Urn Models

An urn model.

**Drawing without replacement,  
but large number of balls:**

$$\begin{aligned} P(A \cap B) &= P(A) \cdot P(B|A) \\ &\approx P(A) \cdot P(B) \\ &= \frac{8}{10} \cdot \frac{2}{10} \end{aligned}$$

The events  $A$  and  $B$  are (almost) independent.



## 5.3 Urn Models

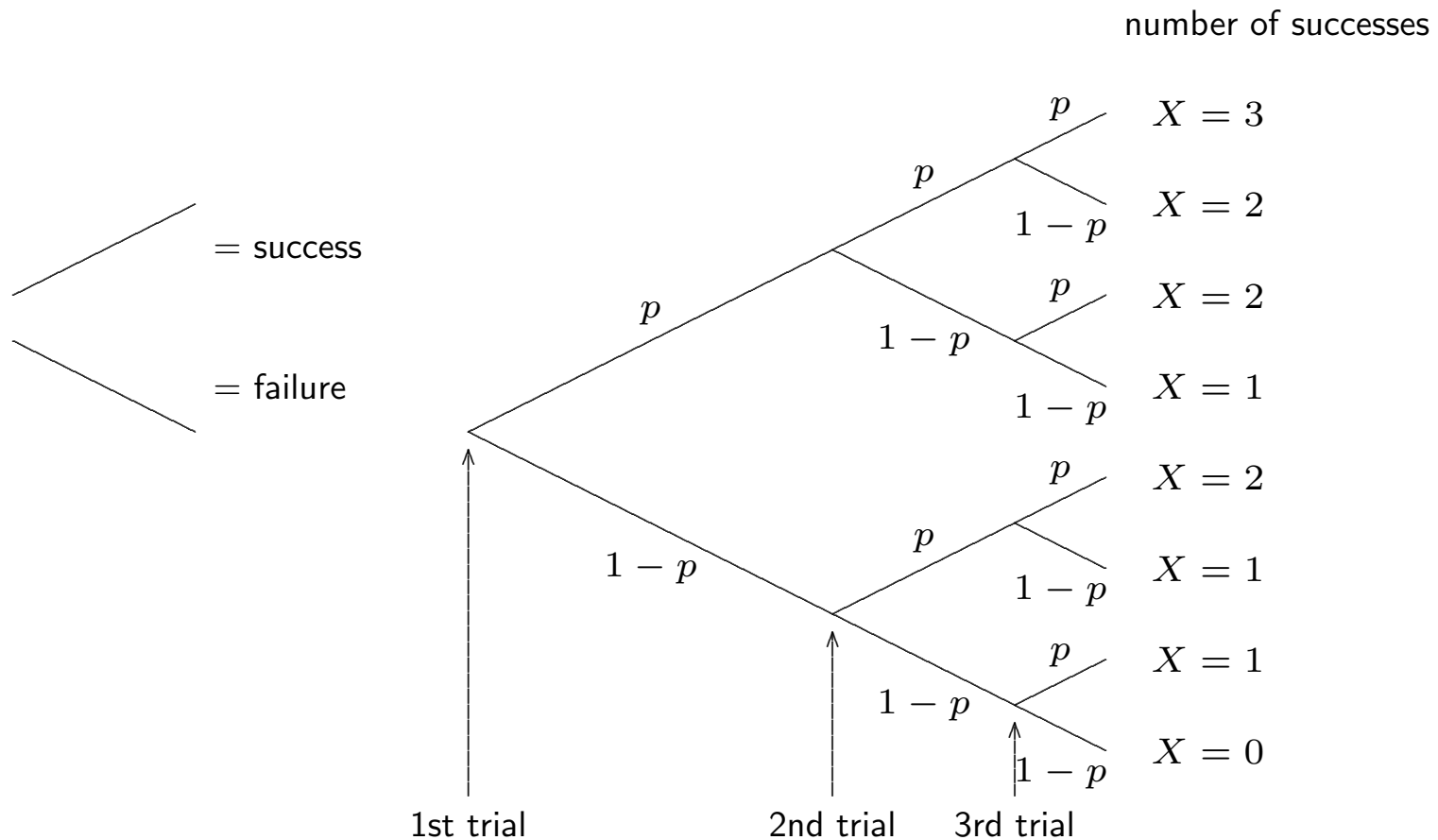
Consequences for sampling (with a binary variable).

- Sampling with replacement is like complete random sampling.
- Sampling without replacement reduces the uncertainty if the population is small.
- Sampling without replacement from a large population:  
We may act as if the sample was obtained by complete random sampling.



# 5.3 Urn Models

A setup with three independent trials:



## 5.3 Urn Models

Bernoulli trials; the binomial distribution. . .

- Combining branches for each event  $\{X = i\}$ :

$$P(X = 0) = (1 - p)^3$$

$$P(X = 1) = 3p(1 - p)^2$$

$$P(X = 2) = 3p^2(1 - p)$$

$$P(X = 3) = p^3$$



## 5.3 Urn Models

Bernoulli trials; the binomial distribution. . .

- This can be written more elegantly:

$$P(X = i) = \binom{3}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{3-i}, \quad i = 0, \dots, 3.$$

- This is a special case of the binomial distribution:

$$P(X = i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}, \quad i = 0, \dots, n.$$



## 5.4 Conditional Probability

Definition of conditional probability.

- Let  $A$  be an event such that  $P(A) > 0$ . Then,

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}$$

is called the conditional probability of  $B$  on condition  $A$ .

- With this:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B|A) \cdot P(A)$$

$$P(B) = P(B|A) \cdot P(A) + P(B|\bar{A}) \cdot P(\bar{A})$$



## 5.4 Conditional Probability

### Examples.

- Rolling a die once. Let  $A = \{4, 5, 6\}$ ,  $B = \{4, 6\}$ .

$$\text{Then, } P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} = \frac{1/3}{1/2} = \frac{2}{3}.$$

- What is  $P(B)$  in the urn example (drawing without replacement, page 17)?

$$P(B|A) = \frac{2}{9}, \quad P(B|\bar{A}) = \frac{1}{9};$$

therefore,

$$P(B) = \frac{2}{9} \cdot \frac{8}{10} + \frac{1}{9} \cdot \frac{2}{10} = \frac{2}{10}.$$



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

The Bayes theorem and its purpose.

- The Bayes theorem states that

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B|A) \cdot P(A) + P(B|\bar{A}) \cdot P(\bar{A})}$$

- $P(A)$ : prior probability of  $A$   
(before we know if  $B$  occurs or not)
- $P(A|B)$ : posterior probability of  $A$   
(after we know  $B$  has occurred)
- The prior  $P(A)$  is augmented to the posterior  $P(A|B)$ , using the empirical evidence that  $B$  has occurred.



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

## Example 1: Sampling from boxes.

- Two boxes with 5 balls each:
  - Box I: 2 white, 3 black.
  - Box II: 4 white, 1 black.
- A ball is drawn from one of the boxes. This ball is black. It is not known from which box the ball was drawn.
- Probability that the drawn ball comes from Box I?



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

Example 1: Sampling from boxes.

- Define events:

$A_1$  = Box I was chosen,

$A_2$  = Box II was chosen,

$B$  = the drawn ball is black.

- Problem: Find  $P(A_1|B)$ !

- Solution: Apply

$$P(A_1|B) = \frac{P(B|A_1) \cdot P(A_1)}{P(B|A_1) \cdot P(A_1) + P(B|A_2) \cdot P(A_2)}$$



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

Example 1: Sampling from boxes.

- To apply

$$P(A_1|B) = \frac{P(B|A_1) \cdot P(A_1)}{P(B|A_1) \cdot P(A_1) + P(B|A_2) \cdot P(A_2)},$$

we need the prior probabilities:  $P(A_1)$ ,  $P(A_2)$ .

- We set:  $P(A_1) = P(A_2) = \frac{1}{2}$  (reflecting ignorance!)
- Then,

$$P(A_1|B) = \frac{\frac{3}{5} \cdot 0.5}{\frac{3}{5} \cdot 0.5 + \frac{1}{5} \cdot 0.5} = 0.75.$$

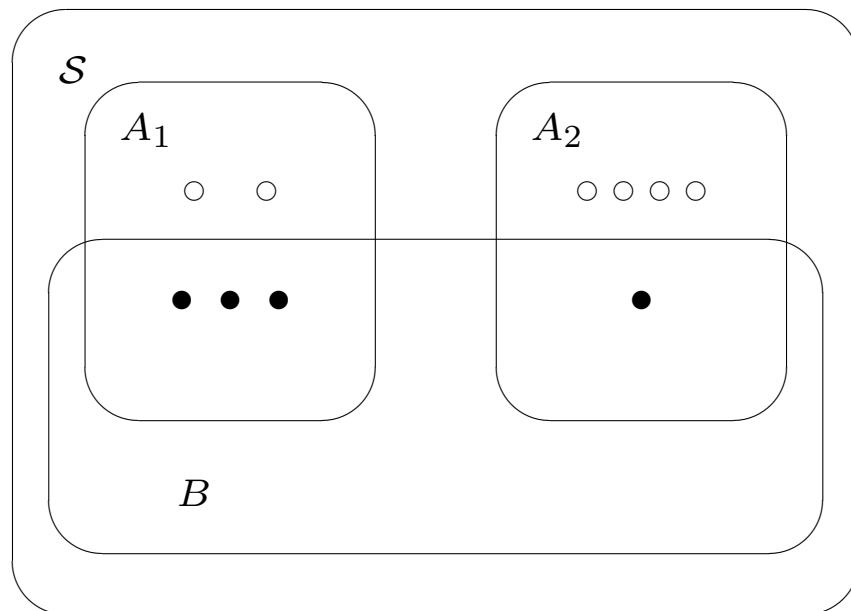


# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

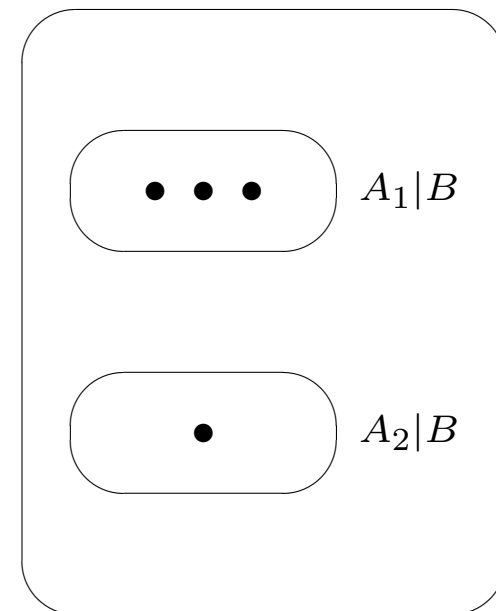
Example 1: Sampling from boxes.

Illustration of Bayes's theorem:

original state space



new state space



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

## Example 2: HIV tests.

- No HIV test is 100% accurate:  
It may produce a false positive or a false negative result.
- A person is tested. Define events:
  - $A$ : person is HIV infected;
  - $\bar{A}$ : person is not HIV infected;
  - $B$ : test result is positive;
  - $\bar{B}$ : test result is negative.



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

## Example 2: HIV tests.

- Probabilities and their names in epidemiology:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{sensitivity} & = P(B|A), \\ \text{specificity} & = P(\bar{B}|\bar{A}), \\ \text{prevalence} & = P(A), \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{PPV} & = P(A|B), \\ \text{NPV} & = P(\bar{A}|\bar{B}). \end{array}$$

- Suppose a person has tested positive. What is  $P(A|B)$ ?
- Bayes:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B|A) \cdot P(A) + P(B|\bar{A}) \cdot P(\bar{A})}$$



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

## Example 2: HIV tests.

- For a numerical example, let's assume:

$$P(B|A) = 0.98, \quad P(\bar{B}|\bar{A}) = 0.99.$$

- Scenario 1: Low HIV prevalence:  $P(A) = 0.001$ . Then:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{0.98 \cdot 0.001}{0.98 \cdot 0.001 + 0.01 \cdot 0.999} = 0.089.$$

91% false positives! Most probably no infection in spite of positive test.

- Scenario 2: High HIV prevalence:  $P(A) = 0.1$ . Then:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{0.98 \cdot 0.1}{0.98 \cdot 0.1 + 0.01 \cdot 0.9} = 0.916.$$

8.4% false positives. Less uncertainty, PPV is much higher.



# 5.5 The Bayes Theorem

## Example 2: HIV tests.

- What we can learn from the test result depends on what we already know or assume to know.
- The Bayes theorem processes the information contained in the experiment (the test).
- A positive test result need not indicate infection.
- A negative test result need not indicate the absence of infection.

