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## Probability — Equally-Likely Outcomes

• Basic definition: If S ("sample space") is a set of equally likely outcomes of some action (e.g., possible results of tossing a fair coin), and E ("event") is a subset of S, then we define the probability of E as

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|}$$

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Examples: Sequences of coin tosses, 5-card "hands" chosen from 52-card deck, etc.

- Note that  $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1.$  (Why?) When is P(E) = 0? When is P(E) = 1?
- Note that we can apply anything we know about sizes of sets. (E.g., if  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are disjoint, what is  $P(E_1 \cup E_2)$  in terms of  $P(E_1)$  and  $P(E_2)$ ?)



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