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## Certainty Equivalent

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- A game: You get to open one of two doors.
- Between one door is $\$ 1000$.
- Between the other door is $\$ 0$.
- OR instead of playing, you can take $\$ 500$.


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- What if we change the numbers in the game?
- Behind one door is $\$ 10$.
- Behind the other door is $\$ 0$.
- Does your certainty equivalent change?


## Lawsuit

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- Trial costs the plaintiff \$10,000.
- There is a $50 \%$ chance that the plaintiff will win $\$ 100,000$.
- There is a $30 \%$ chance that the plaintiff will win $\$ 20,000$.
- There is a $20 \%$ chance that the plaintiff will lose.
- How much should you offer as a settlement?


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- An outcome is a possible result of the experiment.
- The sample space is the set of all possible outcomes.
- An event is some collection of outcomes.
- The probability of an event is the fraction of times it tends to occur when repeating the experiment many times:

$$
P(A)=\frac{\text { number of times event } A \text { occurs in } N \text { trials }}{\text { number of trials, } N}
$$

when $N$ is large.

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- i.e., the more ways $A$ can happen, the more likely $A$ is to occur.


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- We can illustrate events using Venn diagrams.


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- For instance, in die rolling, if $A=\{1,2,3\}$ and $B=\{4,5,6\}$, then $A \cap B=\emptyset$.
- Two events are said to be mutually exclusive if $A \cap B=\emptyset$.
- The probability of the empty event is zero, since some outcome has to occur: $P(\emptyset)=0$


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- The probability of the certain event is one, since some outcome has to occur: $P(S)=1$.


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- Note: from these axioms you can deduce that $P(\emptyset)=0$ and the probability of any event is at most 1 .

