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 - Between one door is \$1000.
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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.

What if we change \$500 to \$X?



- What if we change \$500 to \$X?
- The certainty equivalent is the guaranteed amount of money that an individual would view as equally desirable as a risky asset.

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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

- Your client is being sued.
 - ► 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.

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- There is a 20% chance that the plaintiff will lose.
- How much should you offer as a settlement?

Consider some experiment.



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- Consider some experiment.
- 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:

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

when N is large.

If all outcomes are equally likely, then...

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



▶ Suppose A and B are events for some experiment.

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We can illustrate events using Venn diagrams.

► The event consisting of no outcomes at all is denoted Ø, called the "impossible event" or "empty event"

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► The probability of the empty event is zero, since some outcome has to occur: P(Ø) = 0

The Certain Event

► The event consisting of all possible outcomes is called the "certain event" and is the same as the sample space, *S*.

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

 Axiom 1: The probability of any event is a nonnegative number.

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Axiom 2: The certain event *S* has probability 1.

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- Axiom 3: If A and B are mutually exclusive events, then

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B).$$

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