Chapter 1. Introduction to Probability

Section 1.1. The History of Probability

Note. Quoting from the textbook:

> It is generally believed that the mathematical theory of probability was started by the French mathematicians Blaise Pascal (1623–1662) and Pierre Fermat (1601–1665) when they succeeded in deriving exact probabilities for certain gambling problems involving dice. . . . numerical probabilities of various dice combinations had been calculated previously by Girolamo Cardano (1501-1576) and by Galileo Galilei (1564–1642. The theory of probability has been developed steadily since the seventeenth century and has been wifely applied in diverse fields of study.

Note. This chapter covers simple probability and some basic counting arguments. A study of modern probability theory requires a background in measure theory and functional analysis; see my online notes on measure theory based probability.

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