

Brief History of Probability

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EDITORIAL

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Plato (428 BC-348 BC) and his famous student Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC) used to debate the philosophical meaning of the word chance in ancient times. Antimenos (530 BC-510 BC), a Greek, invented the first insurance system in 324 BC, which guaranteed a sum of money against victories or losses in specific occurrences. Because of the various uncertainties in everyday life, such as health, weather, birth, death, and games, the concept of chance or random variables as an experiment's outcome was born (for example, the length of an object, the height of people, the temperature in a city in a given day). Almost all mathematical and scientific measures have the fundamental quality that the results fluctuate from trial to trial. To put it another way, results are, in general, random. As a result, the quantity we're interested in measuring is referred to as a random variable.

The Latin word "probo" and the English words "probe" and "probable" were once related with the word "probability." This word, when employed in a mathematical sense, had a meaning that was similar to plausibility in other languages. The concept of probability emerged in ancient times in gambling difficulties with the winning or losing of a game. Gerolamo Cardano (1501-1576), a prominent physician, mathematician, and gambler, became Professor and Chair of Mathematics at the University of Bologna in Italy. The pragmatic approach to difficulties of dice games emerged in Italy during the fifteenth century.

During that time, there were more references to games of chance, but no advice on how to assess probability of happenings. Cardano wrote the first mathematical treatment of probability, *Liber de Ludo Aleae* (Games of Chance), which included the first mathematical treatment of mathematical expectation (or mean), addition of probability, frequency tables for throwing a dice, n successes in n independent trials, and the law of large numbers. His work, however, received little attention and did not contribute to the development of probability theory. A century later, Cardano's manual was released in 1633. Cardano introduced the concept of probability p between 0 and 1 to an event whose outcome is random in this published handbook, and then applied it to games of chance. He was also the creator of the. The law of large numbers asserts that if the likelihood of an occurrence is p , then after a large number of events, the probability of that event is p . The number of times it will occur is close to np in trials n .