

# Crash Course in Statistics

## ZNZ 2026

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Christoph Luchsinger and Zofia Baranczuk

Based on Script by Daniel J. Stekhoven

# About me

- Christoph Luchsinger, born 1968
- PhD in Mathematics (thesis on R\_0...)
- Lecturer University of Zurich: Mathematics for Nature Science
- Managing Director of [www.acad.jobs](http://www.acad.jobs) / [www.math-jobs.com](http://www.math-jobs.com)
- Columnist [www.schweizermonat.ch/author/christophluchsinger](http://www.schweizermonat.ch/author/christophluchsinger)

# About you (10'')

- Each one ...
  - Name
  - Research interest
  - Experience with statistics, theoretical
  - Experience with statistics, computational

# How this is going to work

- Every day (with me) has the same structure

0900-1100 Motivation and background on statistical concepts

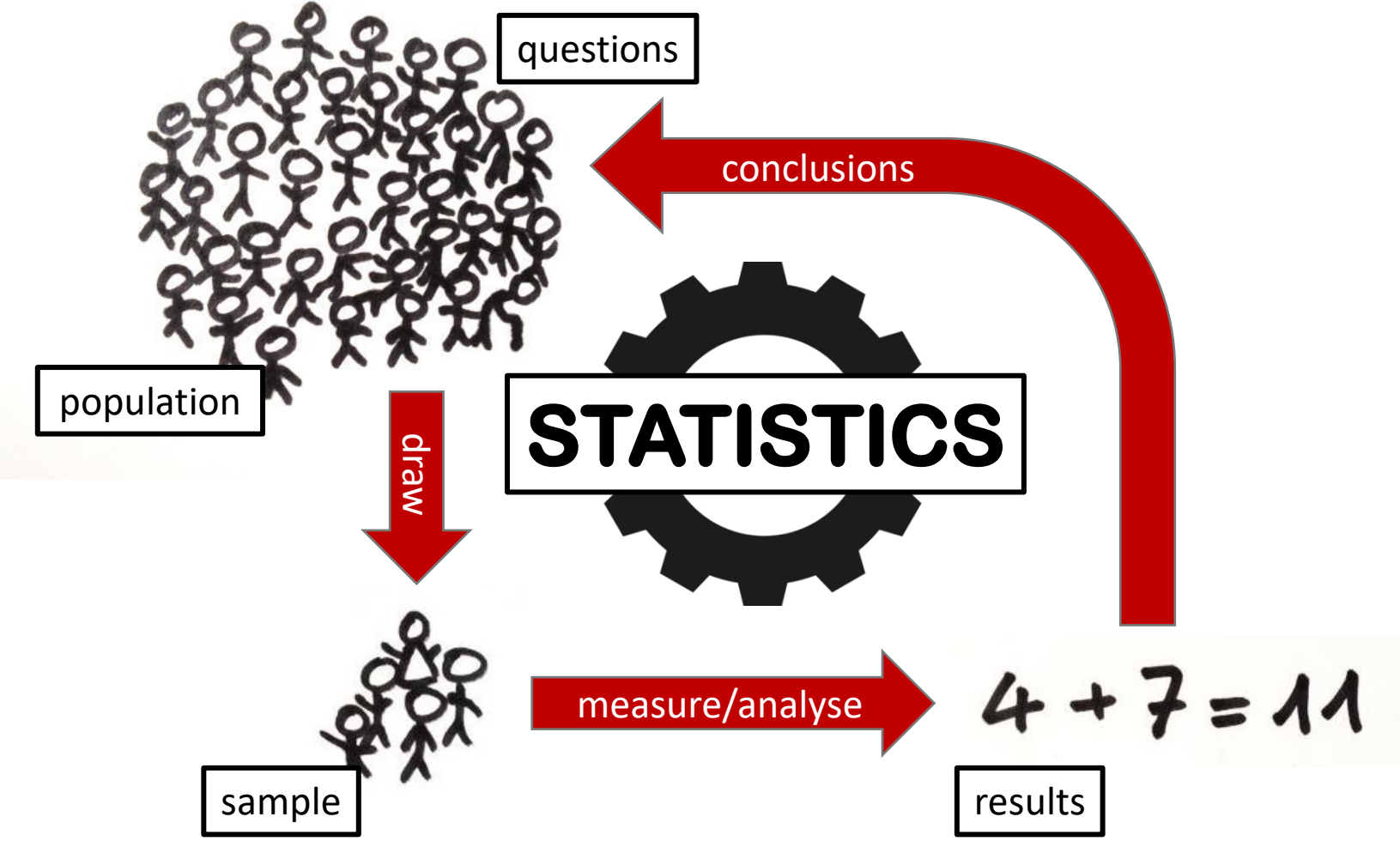
1100-1200 Monday, Wednesday: Exercises

1100-1200 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Theory until 1200 - Friday until finished

# Some comments before we start

- If you miss more than 6 h (two half days) of Course, you don't get any CP's! In detail:
  - Max allowed absence for the theoretical part (Chris): One morning
  - Max allowed absence for "Applications in R" (Zofia): One morning OR 1 afternoon
- So in total, two half days absence is allowed, but not within the same section.
- You will need to finish the exercises and send your exercise to me / or show in class before 1200:
  - [Christoph.Luchsinger@math.uzh.ch](mailto:Christoph.Luchsinger@math.uzh.ch)
  - This will be the basis for receiving the certification!

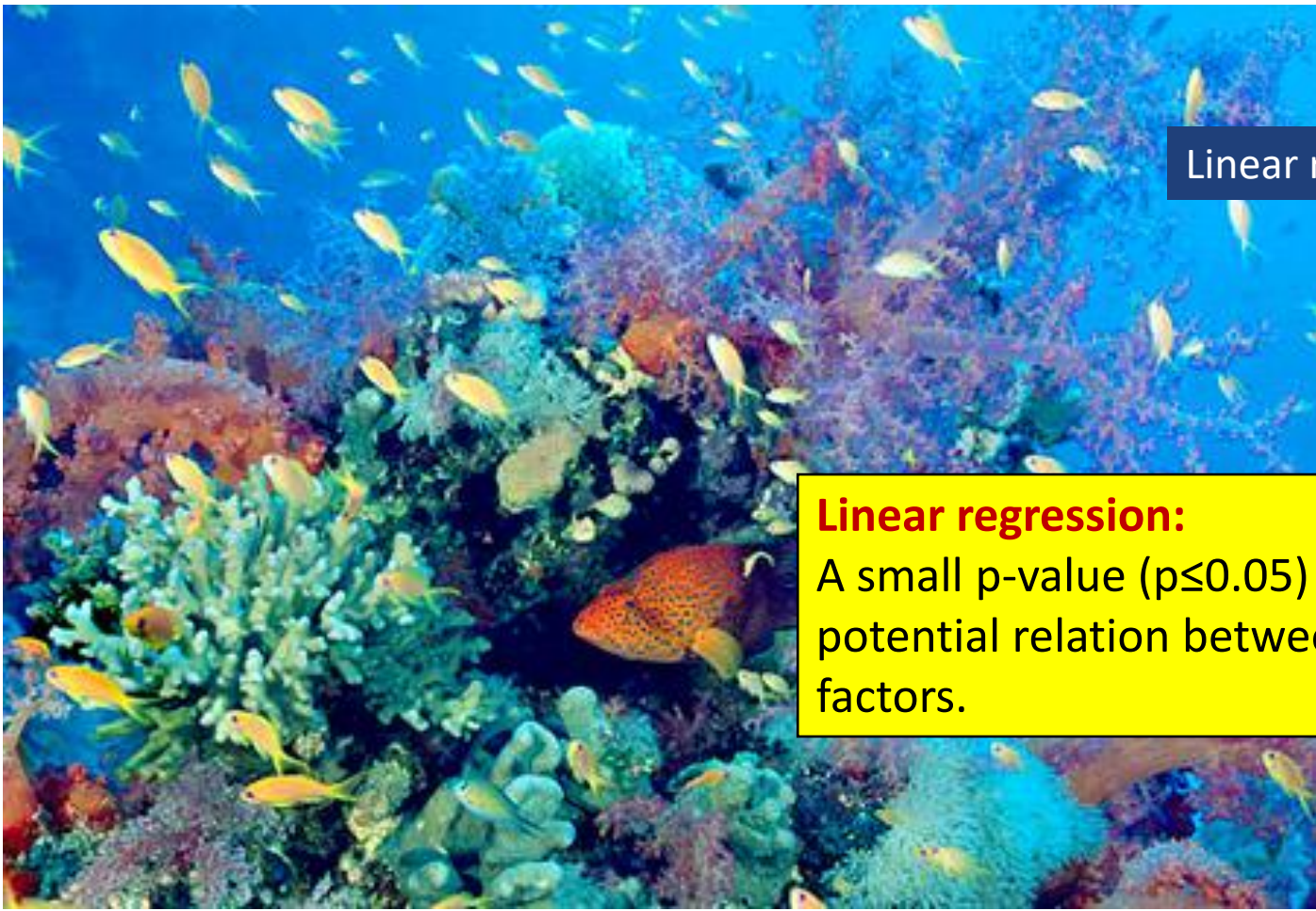
# What is statistics?



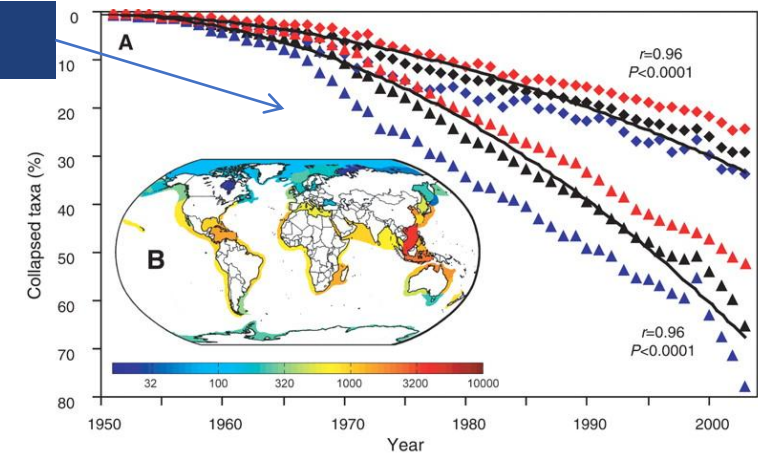
# Regression in science

## Impacts of Biodiversity Loss on Ocean Ecosystem Services

Boris Worm<sup>1,2</sup>, Edward B. Barbier<sup>2</sup>, Nicola Beaumont<sup>3</sup>, J. Emmett Duffy<sup>4</sup>, Carl Folke<sup>5,6</sup>, Benjamin S. Halpern<sup>7</sup>,  
Jeremy B. C. Jackson<sup>8,9</sup>, Heike K. Lotze<sup>1</sup>, Fiorenza Micheli<sup>10</sup>, Stephen R. Palumbi<sup>10</sup>, Enric Sala<sup>8</sup>,  
Kimberley A. Selkoe<sup>7</sup>, John J. Stachowicz<sup>11</sup>, Reg Watson<sup>12</sup>

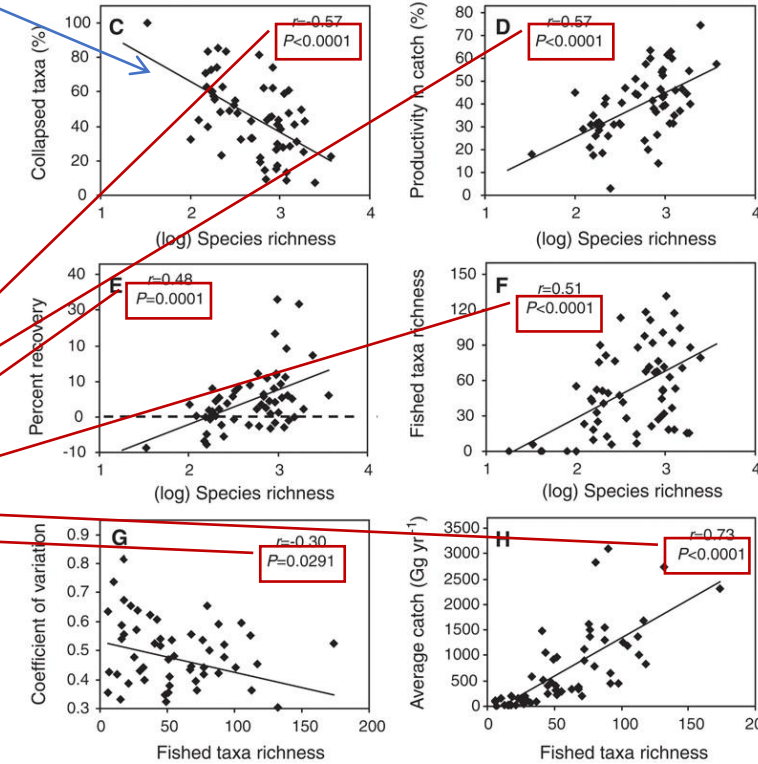


Comparing distributions

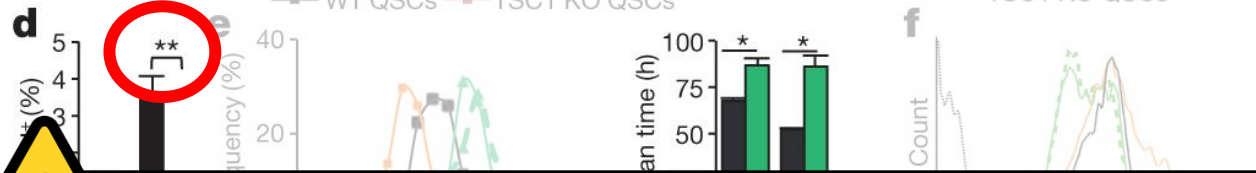
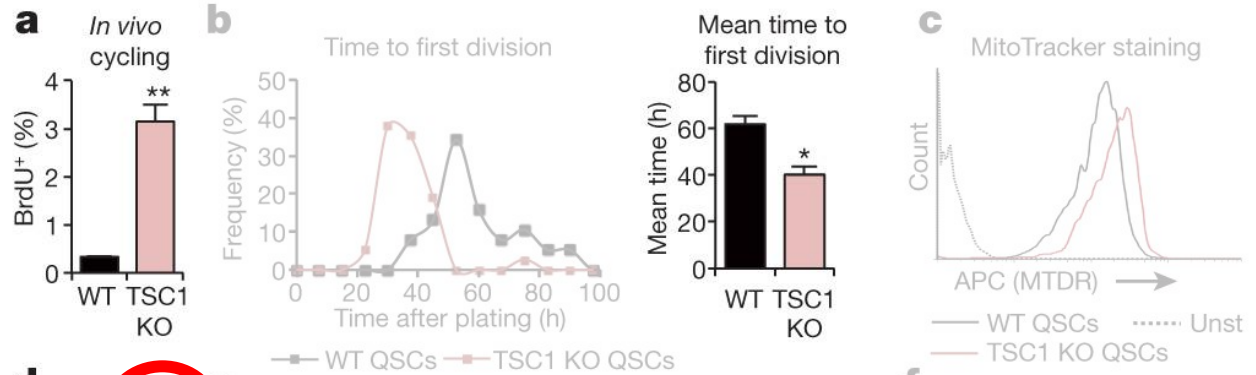


Linear regression

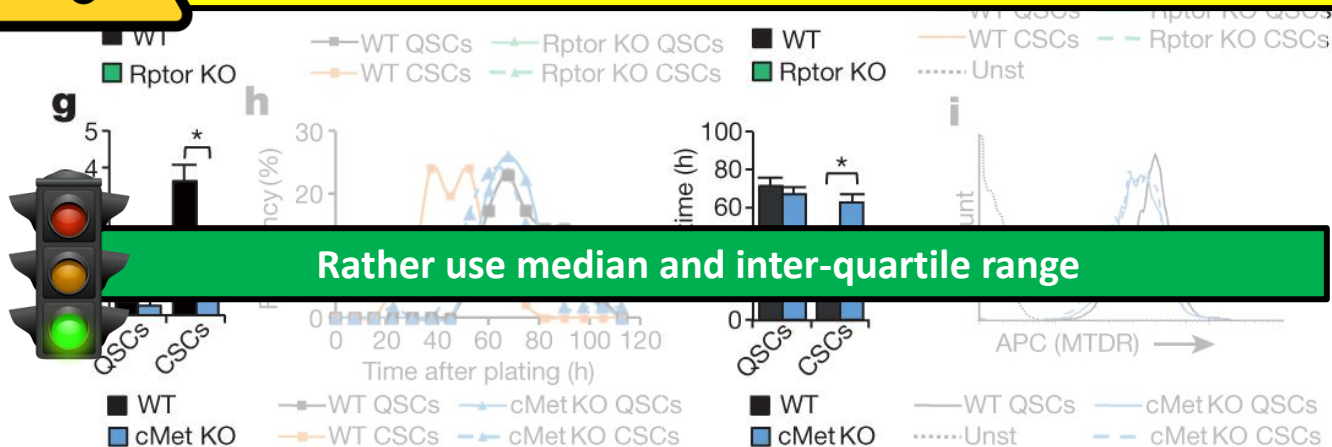
**Linear regression:**  
A small p-value ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) indicates a potential relation between the two factors.



# Activation of mTORC1 is necessary and sufficient for the alert phenotype



**Barplots with SD bars are a terrible way to illustrate the distribution of some measurement**



**Rather use median and inter-quartile range**

# How to test a hypothesis

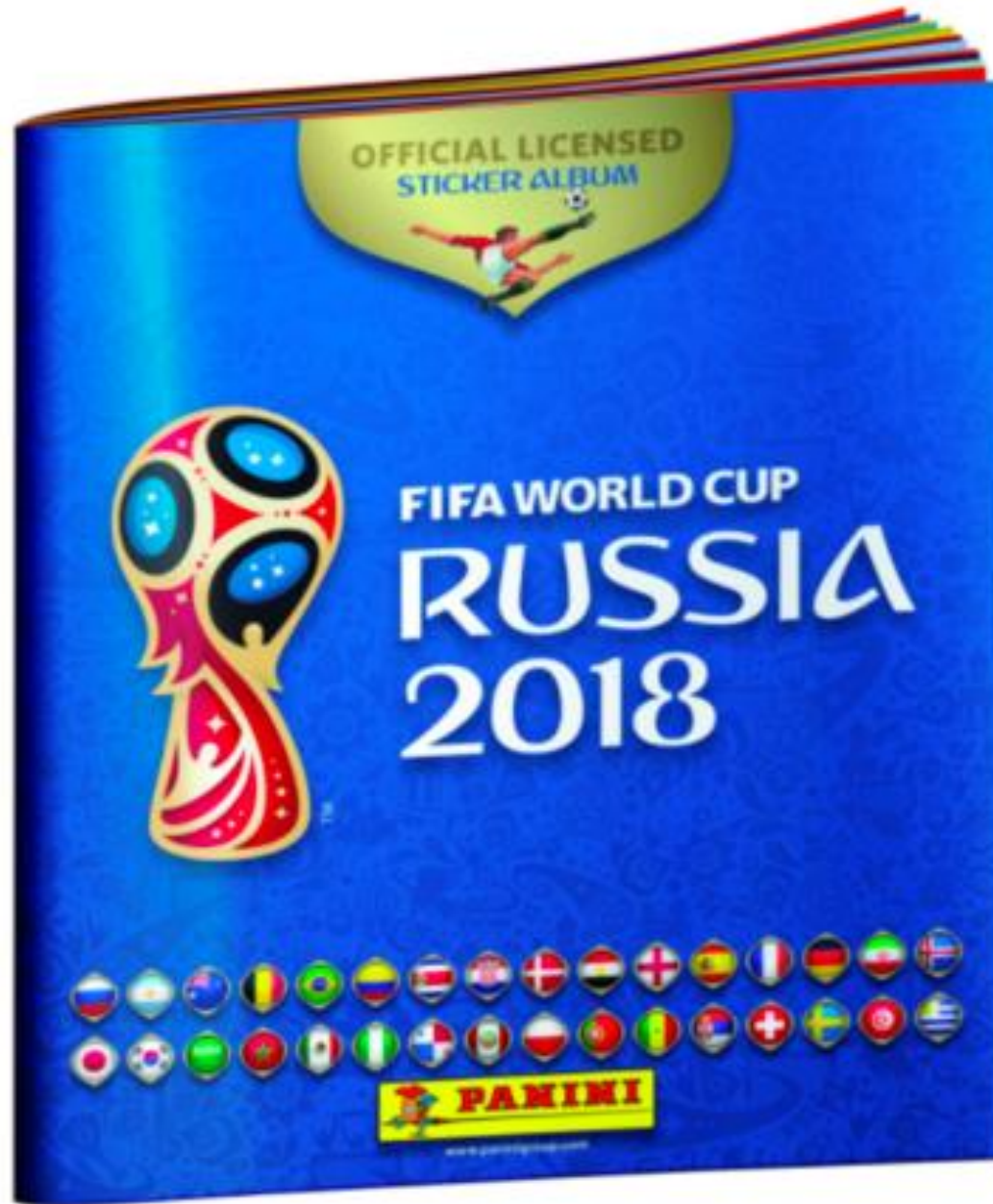
- An example...



© FIFA TM

ZABIVAKA™

650 stickers



Blister

5 Stickers



Box

100 Blister = 500 Stickers





# Keine doppelten Bilder – aber Messi als Superstar

von Herbie Egli – Das Panini-Fieber grassiert: 20 Minuten hat innerhalb von zwei Stunden alle 500 Bilder einer Box ins Album geklebt – und vermisst die doppelten.



20 Minuten-Sportredaktor Herbie Egli klebte innerhalb von zwei Stunden alle 500 Bilder einer Panini-Box ins Album ein. (Video: 20 Minuten)

Im Grossformat auf dem Videoportal

Panini

## Das große teure Kleben

Panini – das sind Millionenumsätze, geheime Algorithmen und die Jagd nach dem letzten Sticker. Über das Geschäft mit der Sammelwut, dem das Internet nichts anhaben kann.

Von Anne-Sophie Lang

6. Juni 2014, 10:27 Uhr / 28 Kommentare



Ein Panini-Mitarbeiter sortiert die Sticker in eine Maschine ein © Reuters

EM-Sticker

## So kriegen Sie das Panini-Album günstig voll

Drimal Ronaldo, aber kein Neuer: Sammelbildfans sind schon Wochen vor Anpfiff im EM-Fieber. Mit welcher Strategie füllt man sein Panini-Album möglichst günstig?



Von Holger Dambeck

ein aus i

17

Empfehlen

4

Morgens um 6 Uhr. Ich bin auf dem Weg zu meinem Frühdienst. Nie gehe ich an den Kiosk etwas besorgen, bevor ich den Zug besteige. Am 21. März muss ich jedoch einen Zwischenstopp einlegen: Die begehrten Panini-Bilder sind endlich im Handel.

Ich kaufe mir gleich eine ganze Box mit total 500 Bildern und

Bildstrecken

# Gut feeling (system 1) and hypotheses

- Complete box → less double stickers
- Buy blisters all over town → many doubles

«Null», because no system involved



- **Null hypothesis:**
  - Stickers are filled **randomly** into the boxes
- **Alternative hypothesis:**
  - Stickers are filled **systematically** into the boxes such that there are less doubles

How can we decide between these two?

# Hypothesis test

- I bought a box with 500 stickers and my god son was able to glue 493 stickers (so 7 doubles) into the album (650 possible pictures).
- If we assume that the null hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_0$  was true:
  - Is it plausible, to glue 493 stickers into the album?
- Do the null hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_0$ : «*randomly packed*» and the observation «*493 stickers glued in*» fit together?

# Problem: what is «*normal*»?

- If we can glue in much more than «*normal*», we probably conclude that they were not packed randomly.
- Given  $\mathcal{H}_0$  is true, how many pictures would be «*normal*» and what would be «*much more*»?
- **Significance level  $\alpha$** : how «*much more*» does an observation have to be, for us to believe that it is not «*normal*» anymore?
  - E.g.  $\alpha = 1/1'000'000$   
→ we reject  $\mathcal{H}_0$ , if an observation occurs less than 1 in 1'000'000 cases.

# Solution for normal: computer simulation

1



342

2



351

○  
○  
○

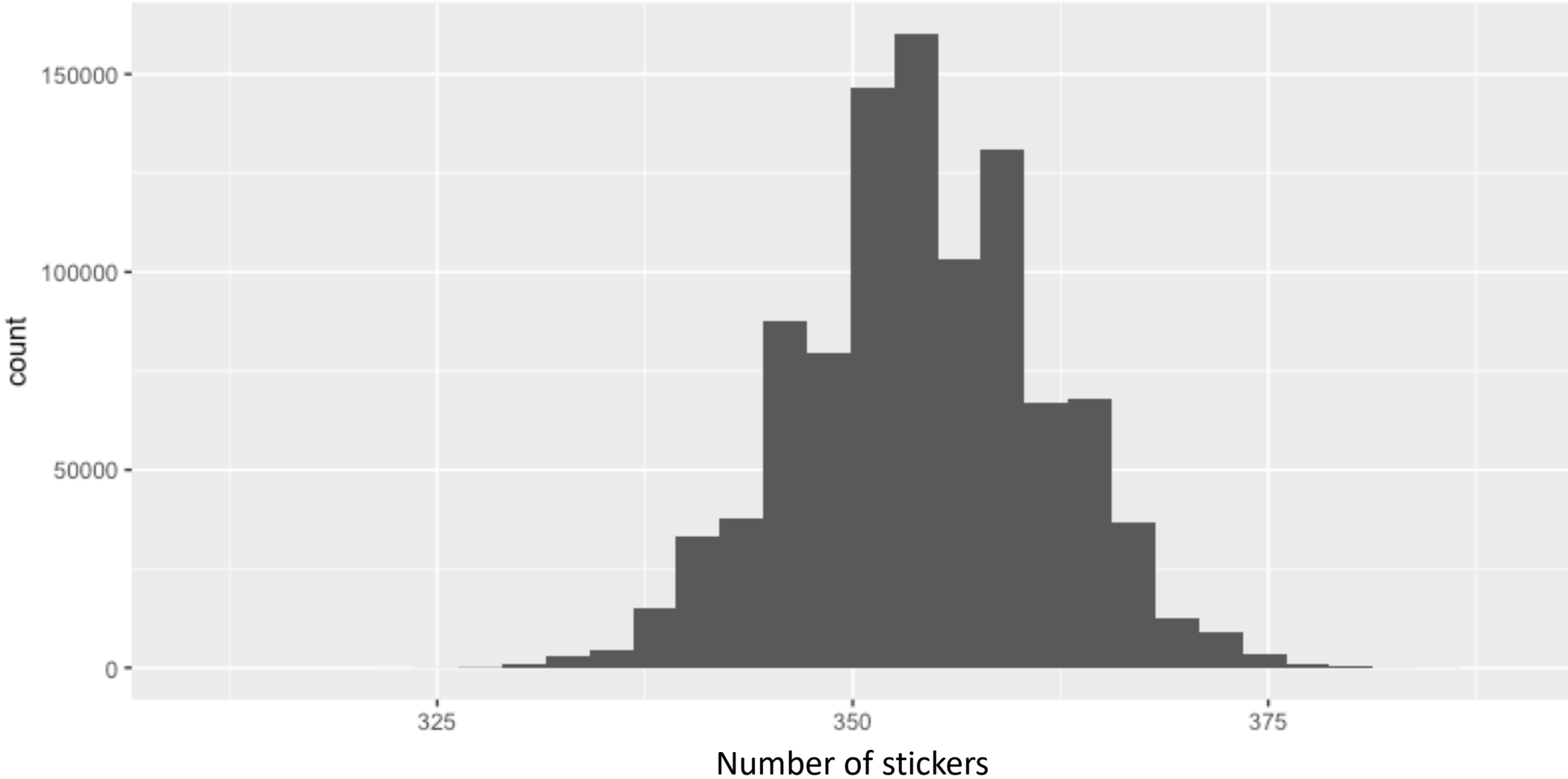
○  
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1 mio

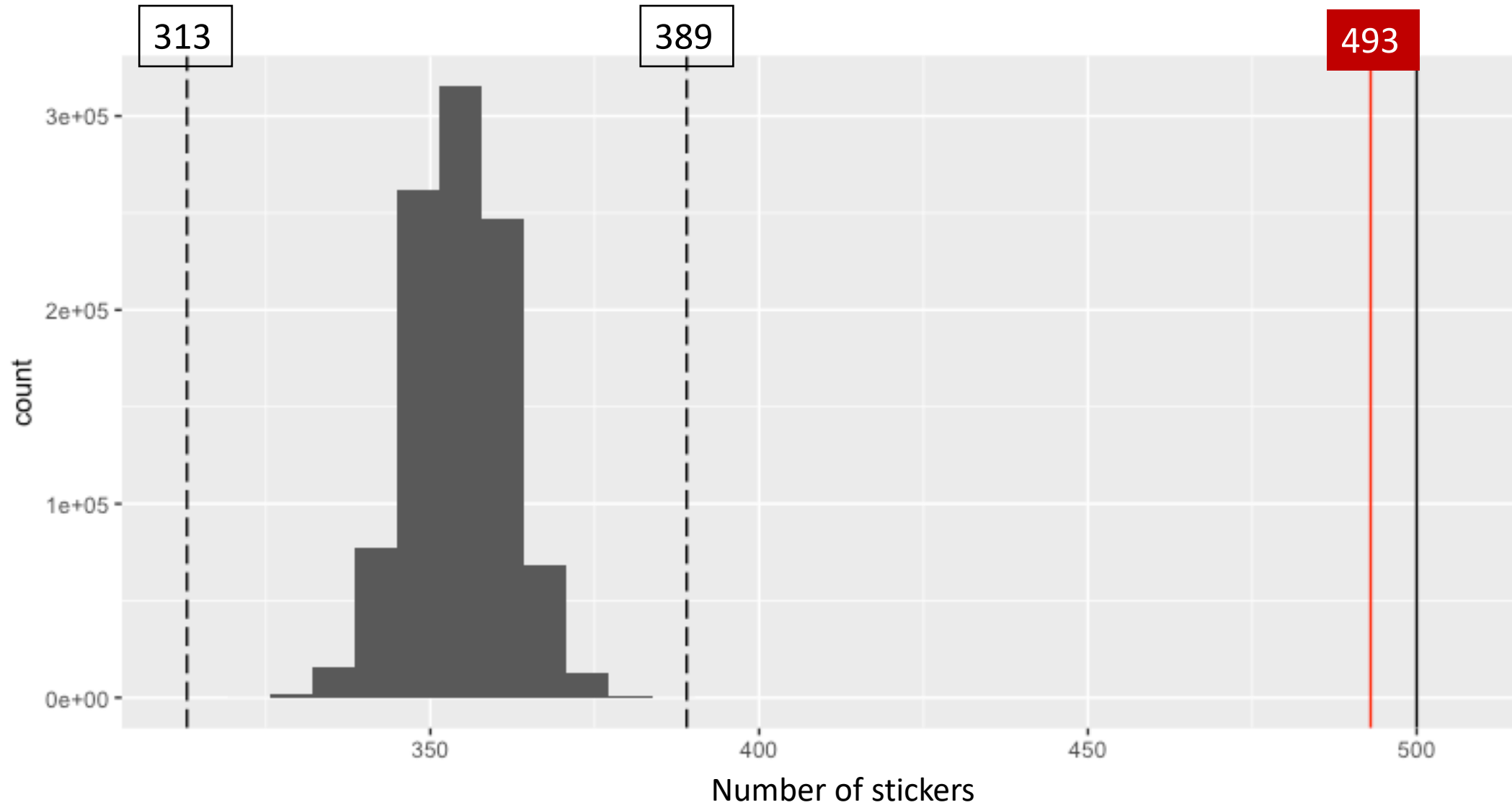


337

# Result of computer simulation



# Normal and our observation



# Conclusion

- If we assume that the stickers were packed randomly:
  - The probability to glue 493 or more stickers into the album would be less than 1 in a million!
  - Our observation and the null hypothesis do not fit together!
- Human being / decision:

**Stickers are**  **randomly packed**

# Keine doppelten Bilder – aber Messi als Superstar

von Herbie Egli - Das Panini-Fieber grassiert: 20 Minuten hat innerhalb von zwei Stunden alle 500 Bilder einer Box ins Album geklebt – und vermisst die doppelten.



Je mehr sich die Box leert, desto erstaunter bin ich, dass ich noch keine doppelten Bilder vorfinde. Ich kann jedes Bildchen im Album einkleben. Auch als der letzte Spieler seinen Platz gefunden hat, habe ich keine doppelten Bilder. Einige Quellen sagen, das sei so, wenn man eine ganze Box kaufe. **Andere sprechen von Zufall.**



20 Minuten-Sportredaktor Herbie Egli klebte innerhalb von zwei Stunden alle 500 Bilder einer Panini-Box ins Album ein. (Video: 20 Minuten)

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Ich kaufe mir gleich eine ganze

Bildstrecken

# Summary: hypothesis test

1. **Modell**: draw 500 stickers from 650 possible slots
2. **Null hypothesis**  $\mathcal{H}_0$ : «stickers are packed **randomly**»  
**Alternative**  $\mathcal{H}_A$ : «stickers are packed **systematically** to avoid doubles»
3. **Test statistic**: Number of stickers glued into an album, when buying a box of 500 stickers.  
**Distribution** of *test statistic* under the null hypothesis: computer simulation
4. **Significance level**  $\alpha = 1/1'000'000$  (you choose, the journal, pharma, regulator (FDA))
5. **Critical region** of the *test statistic*:  
In 1 mio runs the computer never saw more than 389 stickers  
→ *critical region*:  $K = \{389, 390, \dots, 500\}$  – entire tail of the distribution
6. **Decision**: The observed value (493) is inside the *critical region* of the *test statistic*.  
→ The *null hypothesis* will be rejected on a *significance level* of  $\alpha$ .

# Models for probability

Three components:

1. **Space**  $\Omega \rightarrow$  *Universe*, **elementary event**  $\omega_i \rightarrow$  “*Atoms*”
2. **Events**  $A, B, C, \dots$ , Subsets of  $\Omega \rightarrow$  “*Molecules*”
3. **Probability** for an event  $P(A), P(B), P(C), \dots \rightarrow$  *Chance to find molecule*

# Using events to compute stuff

- Operations from Set Theory (dt Mengenlehre) can be directly applied:

$$A \cup B \Leftrightarrow A \text{ or } B$$

$$A \cap B \Leftrightarrow A \text{ and } B$$

$$A^C \Leftrightarrow \text{not } A$$

- Example

- $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
- $\omega_1 = 1, \omega_2 = 2, \dots, \omega_6 = 6$
- Event  $E$ : throw an even number  $\rightarrow E = \{2, 4, 6\}$
- Probability for this event:  $P(E) = 0.5 = 50\%$



# Axioms for probability

1.  $P(A) \geq 0$
2.  $P(\Omega) = 1$
3.  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$ , if  $P(A \cap B) = 0$  (disjoint, disjunkt/elementfremd)

From this we can conclude...

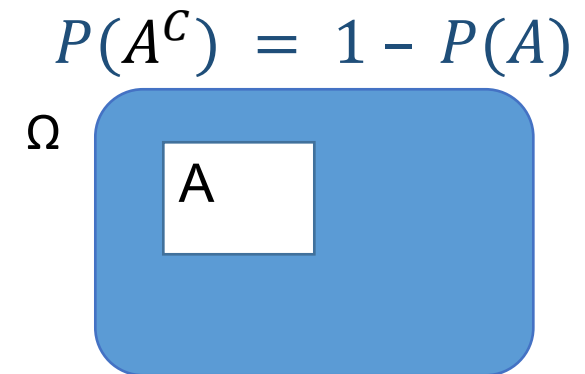
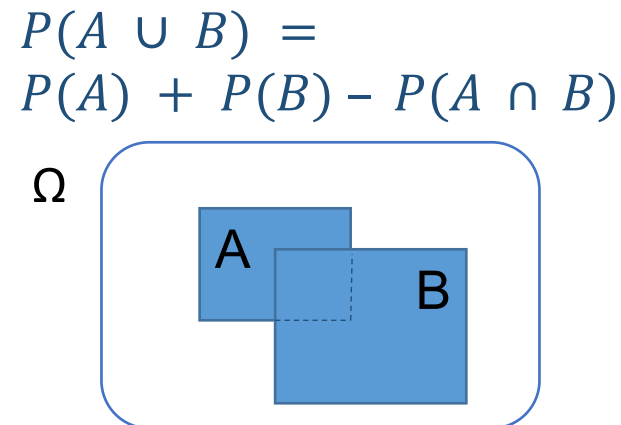
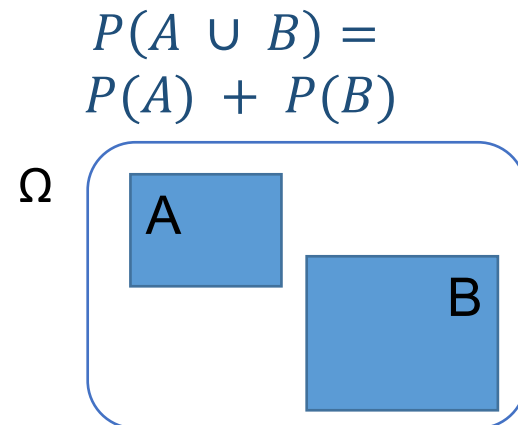
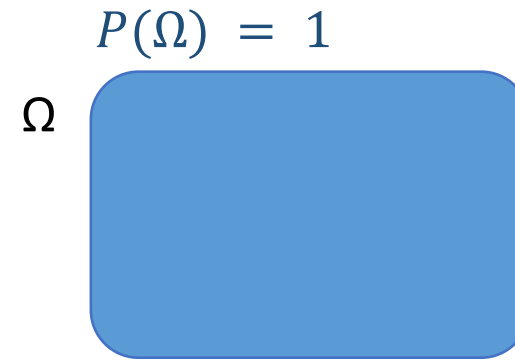
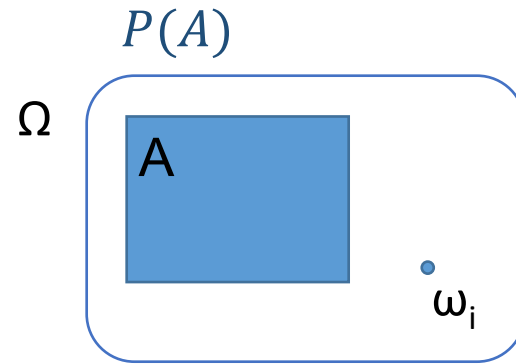
$$1 = P(\Omega) = P(A \cup A^C) = P(A) + P(A^C)$$

$$\Rightarrow P(A^C) = 1 - P(A)$$

...or much simpler...

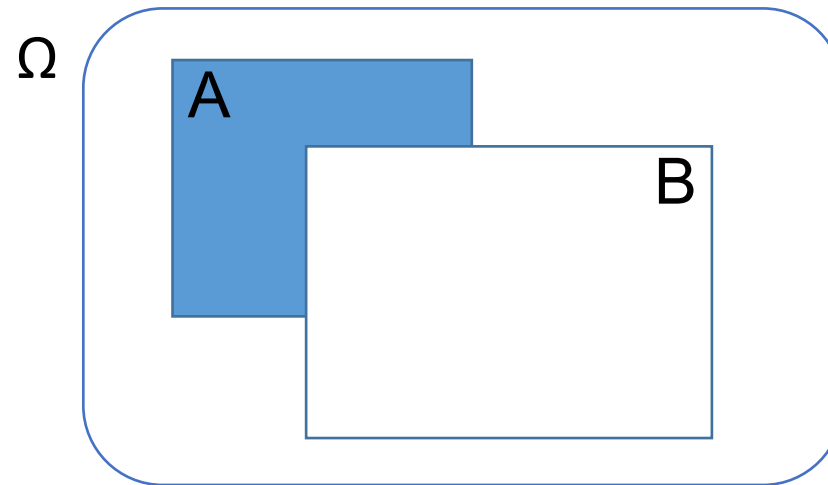
# Venn Diagrams

- Treat probability as an area (as you learned in set theory)...



# Exercise

$$P(A \setminus B) = \dots$$



«A without B»

1.  $P(A) - P(B)$
2.  $P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$
3.  $P(A) - P(A \cap B)$
4.  $P(A) + P(B)$

# Compute probabilities

## 1. Sum of elementary events

$$P(A) = \sum_{\omega \in A} P(\{\omega\})$$

- Example: **Lotto**

- $P(\text{Winnings} \geq 100) = P(\omega_3 \cup \omega_4)$   
 $= P(\omega_3) + P(\omega_4)$   
 $= 0.05 + 0.05$   
 $= 0.1$



Wins	$P(\omega_i)$
$\omega_1 = 1$	0.8
$\omega_2 = 10$	0.1
$\omega_3 = 100$	0.05
$\omega_4 = 1000$	0.05

# Compute probabilities

## 2. Laplace model:

- All elementary events have the same probability

$$P(A) = \frac{\# \text{ favorable Events}}{\# \text{ possible Events}}$$

- **Example: Throw a W20**

- Event  $V$ : results larger 17  
 $\Rightarrow V = \{\omega_{18}, \omega_{19}, \omega_{20}\}$
- $P(V) = \frac{|V|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{3}{20} = 0.15$



Results	$P(\omega_i)$
$\omega_1 = 1$	$1/20$
$\omega_2 = 2$	$1/20$
...	...
$\omega_i = i$	$1/20$
...	...
$\omega_{20} = 20$	$1/20$

# Compute probabilities

## 3. Set operations

$$P(A^C) = 1 - P(A)$$

- Example: **Tombola** – 10 tickets bought
  - Event  $N$ : *not a single prize in 10 tickets*
  - Given:  $P(N) = 0.03$
  - Wanted:  $P(\text{at least 1 win}) = P(N^C)$

$$P(N^C) = 1 - P(N) = 1 - 0.03 = 0.97$$

- Useful: A and B independent:  $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$



# Summary

- Statistics makes statements about a population by using a small sample
- Football stickers are packed into boxes systematically
- Three components:
  - Space made of elementary events
  - Events are sets of elementary events
  - Probability of events
- Probabilities can (and should) be computed