Difficult Probability Problems And Solutions

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Basic Probability Theory - Robert B. Ash 2008-06-26
This introduction to more advanced courses in probability and real analysis emphasizes the probabilistic way of thinking, rather than measure-theoretic concepts. Geared toward advanced undergraduates and graduate students, its sole prerequisite is calculus. Taking statistics as its major field of application, the text opens with a review of basic concepts, advancing to surveys of random variables, the properties of expectation, conditional probability and expectation, and characteristic functions. Subsequent topics include infinite sequences of random variables, Markov chains, and an introduction to statistics. Complete solutions to some of the problems appear at the end of the book.
Probability and Probability Distribution - M. D. PETALE

Introduction to Probability - Charles Miller Grinstead 2012-10-30
This text is designed for an introductory probability course at the university level for sophomores, juniors, and seniors in mathematics, physical and social sciences, engineering, and computer science. It presents a thorough treatment of ideas and techniques necessary for a firm understanding of the subject.
Probability for Risk Management - Matthew J.

Hassett 2006

Introduction to Probability - Joseph K. Blitzstein 2014-07-24
Developed from celebrated Harvard statistics lectures, Introduction to Probability provides essential language and tools for understanding statistics, randomness, and uncertainty. The book explores a wide variety of applications and examples, ranging from coincidences and paradoxes to Google PageRank and Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC). Additional

Problems in Probability - Albert N. Shiryaev 2012-08-07
For the first two editions of the book Probability (GTM 95), each chapter included a comprehensive and diverse set of relevant exercises. While the work on the third edition was still in progress, it was decided that it would be more appropriate to publish a separate book that would comprise all of the exercises from previous editions, in addition to many new exercises. Most of the material in this book consists of exercises created by Shiryaev, collected and compiled over the course of many years while working on many interesting topics. Many of the exercises resulted from discussions that took place during special seminars for graduate and undergraduate students. Many of the exercises included in the book contain helpful hints and other relevant information. Lastly, the author has included an appendix at

the end of the book that contains a summary of the main results, notation and terminology from Probability Theory that are used throughout the present book. This Appendix also contains additional material from Combinatorics, Potential Theory and Markov Chains, which is not covered in the book, but is nevertheless needed for many of the exercises included here.

40 Puzzles and Problems in Probability and Mathematical Statistics - Wolf Schwarz 2007-11-25
This book is based on the view that cognitive skills are best acquired by solving challenging, non-standard probability problems. Many puzzles and problems presented here are either new within a problem solving context (although as topics in fundamental research they are long known) or are variations of classical problems which follow directly from elementary concepts. A small number of particularly instructive problems is taken from previous sources which in this case are generally given. This book will be a handy resource for professors looking for problems to assign, for undergraduate math students, and for a more general audience of amateur scientists.

Digital Dice - Paul J. Nahin 2013-03-24
Some probability problems are so difficult that they stump the smartest mathematicians. This text shows readers how to get numerical answers to difficult probability problems without having to solve complicated mathematical questions.

Elementary Probability - David Stirzaker 2003-08-18
Now available in a fully revised and updated second edition, this well established textbook provides a straightforward introduction to the theory of probability. The presentation is entertaining without any sacrifice of rigour; important notions are covered with the clarity that the subject demands. Topics covered include conditional probability, independence, discrete and continuous random variables, basic combinatorics, generating functions and limit theorems, and an introduction to Markov chains. The text is accessible to undergraduate students and provides numerous worked examples and exercises to help build the important skills necessary for problem solving.

Probability Problems and Solutions - Stefan Hollos 2013-04
This book will help you learn probability in the most effective way possible - through problem solving. It contains over 200 problems in discrete probability with detailed solutions for each. Most of the problems require very little mathematical background to solve. A good grasp of algebra is all that is required. Some prior exposure to probability or combinatorics will make things easier but the book has enough introductory material to cover any deficiency in those areas. There are sections that review the basics of discrete probability and combinatorics. There are also sections on advance topics in discrete probability that are helpful in solving the more difficult and interesting problems. The problems range widely in difficulty and variety. They begin very easy and increase in difficulty as you go. The first few are warm up problems to wake up your probability neurons and get you ready for what's to come. Some of the later problems can be quite challenging and may take some effort to solve. There are problems on letters and words, dice and coin problems, card problems, sports problems, Bayesian problems, collection problems, birthday problems and many many more. The almost endless variety of probability problems is one of the things that makes them so stimulating and fun to solve.

Elements of Information Theory - Thomas M. Cover 2012-11-28
The latest edition of this classic is updated with new problem sets and material The Second Edition of this fundamental textbook maintains the book's tradition of clear, thought-provoking instruction. Readers are provided once again with an instructive mix of mathematics, physics, statistics, and information theory. All the essential topics in information theory are covered in detail, including entropy, data compression, channel capacity, rate distortion, network information theory, and hypothesis testing. The authors provide readers with a solid understanding of the underlying theory and applications. Problem sets and a telegraphic summary at the end of each chapter further assist readers. The historical notes that follow each chapter recap the main points. The Second Edition features: * Chapters reorganized to improve teaching * 200 new problems * New material on source coding, portfolio theory, and

feedback capacity * Updated references Now current and enhanced, the Second Edition of Elements of Information Theory remains the ideal textbook for upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses in electrical engineering, statistics, and telecommunications.

Fifty Challenging Problems in Probability with Solutions - Frederick Mosteller 2012-04-26
Remarkable puzzlers, graded in difficulty, illustrate elementary and advanced aspects of probability. These problems were selected for originality, general interest, or because they demonstrate valuable techniques. Also includes detailed solutions.

Duelling Idiots and Other Probability Puzzlers - Paul J. Nahin 2012-07-22
What are your chances of dying on your next flight, being called for jury duty, or winning the lottery? We all encounter probability problems in our everyday lives. In this collection of twenty-one puzzles, Paul Nahin challenges us to think creatively about the laws of probability as they apply in playful, sometimes deceptive, ways to a fascinating array of speculative situations. Games of Russian roulette, problems involving the accumulation of insects on flypaper, and strategies for determining the odds of the underdog winning the World Series all reveal intriguing dimensions to the workings of probability. Over the years, Nahin, a veteran writer and teacher of the subject, has collected these and other favorite puzzles designed to instruct and entertain math enthusiasts of all backgrounds. If idiots A and B alternately take aim at each other with a six-shot revolver containing one bullet, what is the probability idiot A will win? What are the chances it will snow on your birthday in any given year? How can researchers use coin flipping and the laws of probability to obtain honest answers to embarrassing survey questions? The solutions are presented here in detail, and many contain a profound element of surprise. And some puzzles are beautiful illustrations of basic mathematical concepts: "The Blind Spider and the Fly," for example, is a clever variation of a "random walk" problem, and "Duelling Idiots" and "The Underdog and the World Series" are straightforward introductions to binomial distributions. Written in an informal way and

containing a plethora of interesting historical material, Duelling Idiots is ideal for those who are fascinated by mathematics and the role it plays in everyday life and in our imaginations.
Math in Society - David Lippman 2012-09-07
Math in Society is a survey of contemporary mathematical topics, appropriate for a college-level topics course for liberal arts major, or as a general quantitative reasoning course.This book is an open textbook; it can be read free online at http://www.opentextbookstore.com/mathinsociety/. Editable versions of the chapters are available as well.
Statistics and Probability for Engineering Applications - William DeCoursey 2003-05-14
Statistics and Probability for Engineering Applications provides a complete discussion of all the major topics typically covered in a college engineering statistics course. This textbook minimizes the derivations and mathematical theory, focusing instead on the information and techniques most needed and used in engineering applications. It is filled with practical techniques directly applicable on the job. Written by an experienced industry engineer and statistics professor, this book makes learning statistical methods easier for today's student. This book can be read sequentially like a normal textbook, but it is designed to be used as a handbook, pointing the reader to the topics and sections pertinent to a particular type of statistical problem. Each new concept is clearly and briefly described, whenever possible by relating it to previous topics. Then the student is given carefully chosen examples to deepen understanding of the basic ideas and how they are applied in engineering. The examples and case studies are taken from real-world engineering problems and use real data. A number of practice problems are provided for each section, with answers in the back for selected problems. This book will appeal to engineers in the entire engineering spectrum (electronics/electrical, mechanical, chemical, and civil engineering); engineering students and students taking computer science/computer engineering graduate courses; scientists needing to use applied statistical methods; and engineering technicians and technologists. * Filled with practical techniques directly applicable on the job * Contains hundreds of

solved problems and case studies, using real data sets * Avoids unnecessary theory

Challenging Mathematical Problems with Elementary Solutions - ?. ? ????? 1987-01-01
Volume II of a two-part series, this book features 74 problems from various branches of mathematics. Topics include points and lines, topology, convex polygons, theory of primes, and other subjects. Complete solutions.

Introduction to Probability Models - Sheldon M. Ross 2006-12-11
Introduction to Probability Models, Tenth Edition, provides an introduction to elementary probability theory and stochastic processes. There are two approaches to the study of probability theory. One is heuristic and nonrigorous, and attempts to develop in students an intuitive feel for the subject that enables him or her to think probabilistically. The other approach attempts a rigorous development of probability by using the tools of measure theory. The first approach is employed in this text. The book begins by introducing basic concepts of probability theory, such as the random variable, conditional probability, and conditional expectation. This is followed by discussions of stochastic processes, including Markov chains and Poison processes. The remaining chapters cover queuing, reliability theory, Brownian motion, and simulation. Many examples are worked out throughout the text, along with exercises to be solved by students. This book will be particularly useful to those interested in learning how probability theory can be applied to the study of phenomena in fields such as engineering, computer science, management science, the physical and social sciences, and operations research. Ideally, this text would be used in a one-year course in probability models, or a one-semester course in introductory probability theory or a course in elementary stochastic processes. New to this Edition: 65% new chapter material including coverage of finite capacity queues, insurance risk models and Markov chains Contains compulsory material for new Exam 3 of the Society of Actuaries containing several sections in the new exams Updated data, and a list of commonly used notations and equations, a robust ancillary package, including a ISM, SSM, and test bank Includes SPSS PASW Modeler and SAS JMP

software packages which are widely used in the field Hallmark features: Superior writing style Excellent exercises and examples covering the wide breadth of coverage of probability topics Real-world applications in engineering, science, business and economics

How to Solve It - G. Polya 2014-10-26
A perennial bestseller by eminent mathematician G. Polya, How to Solve It will show anyone in any field how to think straight. In lucid and appealing prose, Polya reveals how the mathematical method of demonstrating a proof or finding an unknown can be of help in attacking any problem that can be "reasoned" out—from building a bridge to winning a game of anagrams. Generations of readers have relished Polya's deft—indeed, brilliant—instructions on stripping away irrelevancies and going straight to the heart of the problem.

A First Look at Rigorous Probability Theory - Jeffrey Seth Rosenthal 2006
Features an introduction to probability theory using measure theory. This work provides proofs of the essential introductory results and presents the measure theory and mathematical details in terms of intuitive probabilistic concepts, rather than as separate, imposing subjects.

Mathematics for Machine Learning - Marc Peter Deisenroth 2020-04-23
The fundamental mathematical tools needed to understand machine learning include linear algebra, analytic geometry, matrix decompositions, vector calculus, optimization, probability and statistics. These topics are traditionally taught in disparate courses, making it hard for data science or computer science students, or professionals, to efficiently learn the mathematics. This self-contained textbook bridges the gap between mathematical and machine learning texts, introducing the mathematical concepts with a minimum of prerequisites. It uses these concepts to derive four central machine learning methods: linear regression, principal component analysis, Gaussian mixture models and support vector machines. For students and others with a mathematical background, these derivations provide a starting point to machine learning texts. For those learning the mathematics for the first time, the methods help build intuition and

practical experience with applying mathematical concepts. Every chapter includes worked examples and exercises to test understanding. Programming tutorials are offered on the book's web site.

Probability Through Problems - Marek Capinski 2013-06-29
This book of problems is designed to challenge students learning probability. Each chapter is divided into three parts: Problems, Hints, and Solutions. All Problems sections include expository material, making the book self-contained. Definitions and statements of important results are interlaced with relevant problems. The only prerequisite is basic algebra and calculus.

Introduction to Probability - Dimitri P. Bertsekas 2002

Mathematical Statistics - Jun Shao 2008-02-03
This graduate textbook covers topics in statistical theory essential for graduate students preparing for work on a Ph.D. degree in statistics. This new edition has been revised and updated and in this fourth printing, errors have been ironed out. The first chapter provides a quick overview of concepts and results in measure-theoretic probability theory that are useful in statistics. The second chapter introduces some fundamental concepts in statistical decision theory and inference. Subsequent chapters contain detailed studies on some important topics: unbiased estimation, parametric estimation, nonparametric estimation, hypothesis testing, and confidence sets. A large number of exercises in each chapter provide not only practice problems for students, but also many additional results.

Probability and Stochastic Processes - Roy D. Yates 2014-01-28
This text introduces engineering students to probability theory and stochastic processes. Along with thorough mathematical development of the subject, the book presents intuitive explanations of key points in order to give students the insights they need to apply math to practical engineering problems. The first seven chapters contain the core material that is essential to any introductory course. In one-semester undergraduate courses, instructors can select material from the remaining chapters to

meet their individual goals. Graduate courses can cover all chapters in one semester.

Fat Chance - Benedict Gross 2019-05-31
In a world where we are constantly being asked to make decisions based on incomplete information, facility with basic probability is an essential skill. This book provides a solid foundation in basic probability theory designed for intellectually curious readers and those new to the subject. Through its conversational tone and careful pacing of mathematical development, the book balances a charming style with informative discussion. This text will immerse the reader in a mathematical view of the world, giving them a glimpse into what attracts mathematicians to the subject in the first place. Rather than simply writing out and memorizing formulas, the reader will come out with an understanding of what those formulas mean, and how and when to use them. Readers will also encounter settings where probabilistic reasoning does not apply or where intuition can be misleading. This book establishes simple principles of counting collections and sequences of alternatives, and elaborates on these techniques to solve real world problems both inside and outside the casino. Pair this book with the HarvardX online course for great videos and interactive learning: https://harvardx.link/fat-chance.

Head First Statistics - Dawn Griffiths 2008-08-26
A comprehensive introduction to statistics that teaches the fundamentals with real-life scenarios, and covers histograms, quartiles, probability, Bayes' theorem, predictions, approximations, random samples, and related topics.

Understanding Probability - Henk Tijms 2007-07-26
In this fully revised second edition of Understanding Probability, the reader can learn about the world of probability in an informal way. The author demystifies the law of large numbers, betting systems, random walks, the bootstrap, rare events, the central limit theorem, the Bayesian approach and more. This second edition has wider coverage, more explanations and examples and exercises, and a new chapter introducing Markov chains, making it a great choice for a first probability course. But its easy-

going style makes it just as valuable if you want to learn about the subject on your own, and high school algebra is really all the mathematical background you need.

Challenging Problems in Algebra - Alfred S. Posamentier 2012-05-04
Over 300 unusual problems, ranging from easy to difficult, involving equations and inequalities, Diophantine equations, number theory, quadratic equations, logarithms, more. Detailed solutions, as well as brief answers, for all problems are provided.

Applied Probability - Kenneth Lange 2008-01-17
Despite the fears of university mathematics departments, mathematics educat,ion is growing rather than declining. But the truth of the matter is that the increases are occurring outside departments of mathematics. Engineers, computer scientists, physicists, chemists, economists, statis- cians, biologists, and even philosophers teach and learn a great deal of mathematics. The teaching is not always terribly rigorous, but it tends to be better motivated and better adapted to the needs of students. In my own experience teaching students of biostatistics and mathematical bi- ogy, I attempt to convey both the beauty and utility of probability. This is a tall order, partially because probability theory has its own vocabulary and habits of thought. The axiomatic presentation of advanced probability typically proceeds via measure theory. This approach has the advantage of rigor, but it inwitably misses most of the interesting applications, and many applied scientists rebel against the onslaught of technicalities. In the current book, I endeavor to achieve a balance between theory and app- cations in a rather short compass. While the combination of brevity apd balance sacrifices many of the proofs of a rigorous course, it is still cons- tent with supplying students with many of the relevant theoretical tools. In my opinion, it better to present the mathematical facts without proof rather than omit them altogether.

Probability, Statistics, and Stochastic Processes - Peter Olofsson 2012-05-22
Praise for the First Edition ". . . an excellent textbook . . . well organized and neatly written." —Mathematical Reviews ". . . amazingly interesting . . ." —Technometrics Thoroughly updated to showcase the interrelationships between probability, statistics, and stochastic processes, Probability, Statistics, and Stochastic Processes, Second Edition prepares readers to collect, analyze, and characterize data in their chosen fields. Beginning with three chapters that develop probability theory and introduce the axioms of probability, random variables, and joint distributions, the book goes on to present limit theorems and simulation. The authors combine a rigorous, calculus-based development of theory with an intuitive approach that appeals to readers' sense of reason and logic. Including more than 400 examples that help illustrate concepts and theory, the Second Edition features new material on statistical inference and a wealth of newly added topics, including: Consistency of point estimators Large sample theory Bootstrap simulation Multiple hypothesis testing Fisher's exact test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test Martingales, renewal processes, and Brownian motion One-way analysis of variance and the general linear model Extensively class-tested to ensure an accessible presentation, Probability, Statistics, and Stochastic Processes, Second Edition is an excellent book for courses on probability and statistics at the upper-undergraduate level. The book is also an ideal resource for scientists and engineers in the fields of statistics, mathematics, industrial management, and engineering.

One Thousand Exercises in Probability - Geoffrey Grimmett 2001-05-24
This guide provides a wide-ranging selection of illuminating, informative and entertaining problems, together with their solution. Topics include modelling and many applications of probability theory.

Inverse Problem Theory and Methods for Model Parameter Estimation - Albert Tarantola 2005-01-01
While the prediction of observations is a forward problem, the use of actual observations to infer the properties of a model is an inverse problem. Inverse problems are difficult because they may not have a unique solution. The description of uncertainties plays a central role in the theory, which is based on probability theory. This book proposes a general approach that is valid for linear as well as for nonlinear problems. The philosophy is essentially probabilistic and allows

the reader to understand the basic difficulties appearing in the resolution of inverse problems. The book attempts to explain how a method of acquisition of information can be applied to actual real-world problems, and many of the arguments are heuristic.

Challenging Mathematical Problems with Elementary Solutions - ?. ? ????? 1987-01-01 Volume I of a two-part series, this book features a broad spectrum of 100 challenging problems related to probability theory and combinatorial analysis. The problems, most of which can be solved with elementary mathematics, range from relatively simple to extremely difficult. Suitable for students, teachers, and any lover of mathematics. Complete solutions.

Finite Automata and Regular Expressions - Stefan Hollos 2013-08
This is a book about solving problems related to automata and regular expressions. It helps you learn the subject in the most effective way possible, through problem solving. There are 84 problems with solutions. The introduction provides some background information on automata, regular expressions, and generating functions. The inclusion of generating functions is one of the unique features of this book. Few computer science books cover the topic of generating functions for automata and there are only a handful of combinatorics books that mention it. This is unfortunate since we believe the connection between computer science and combinatorics, that is opened up by these generating functions, can enrich both subjects and lead to new methods and applications. We cover a few interesting classes of problems for finite state automata and then show some examples of infinite state automata and recursive regular expressions. The final problem in the book involves constructing a recursive regular expression for matching regular expressions. This book explains: * Why automata are important. * The relationship of automata to regular expressions. * The difference between deterministic and nondeterministic automata. * How to get the regular expression from an automaton. * Why two seemingly different regular expressions can belong to the same automaton. * How the regular expression for an infinite automaton is different than one for a finite one. * The relationship of a regular

expression to a regular language. * What a generating function for a language tells you about the language. * How to get a generating function from a regular expression. * How the generating function of a recursive regular expression is different from that of an ordinary regular expression. * How to test divisibility properties of integers (binary and decimal based) using automata. * How to construct an automaton to search for a given pattern, or for a given pattern not occurring. * How to construct an automaton for arbitrary patterns and alphabets. * How the recursive regular expression for nested parentheses leads to the Catalan numbers. Included in this book: * Divisibility problems in binary and decimal. * Pattern search problems in binary, ternary, and quaternary alphabets. * Pattern search problems for circular strings that contain or do not contain a given pattern. * Automata, regular expressions, and generating functions for gambling games. * Automata and generating functions for finite and infinite correctly nested parentheses. * The recursive regular expression for matching regular expressions over a binary alphabet. * A further reading list.

Collection of problems in probability theory - L.D. Meshalkin 2012-12-06
The Russian version of A collection of problems in probability theory contains a chapter devoted to statistics. That chapter has been omitted in this translation because, in the opinion of the editor, its content deviates somewhat from that which is suggested by the title: problems in pro bability theory. The original Russian version contains some errors; an attempt was made to correct all errors found, but perhaps a few stiII remain. An index has been added for the convenience of the reader who may be searching for a definition, a classical problem, or whatever. The index lists pages as well as problems where the indexed words appear. The book has been translated and edited with the hope of leaving as much "Russian flavor" in the text and problems as possible. Any pecu liarities present are most likely a result of this intention. August, 1972 Bryan A. Haworth viii Foreword to the Russian edition This Collection of problems in probability theory is primarily intended for university students in physics and mathematics departments. Its goal is to help the student of

probability theory to master the theory more pro foundly and to acquaint him with the application of probability theory methods to the solution of practical problems. This collection is geared basically to the third edition of the GNEDENKO textbook Course in proba bility theory, Fizmatgiz, Moscow (1961), Probability theory, Chelsea (1965).

Open Middle Math - Robert Kaplinsky 2019 Imagine that you assign a math problem and your students, instead of getting discouraged after not solving it on the first attempt, start working harder--as if on a quest to figure out the answer. They talk to each other and enthusiastically share their discoveries. What could possibly make this fantastic scenario come true? The answer is: the Open Middle math problems and strategies in this book. Open Middle Math by Robert Kaplinsky gives middle and high school teachers the problems and planning guidance that will encourage students to see mathematics in an entirely different light. These challenging and rewarding Open Middle math problems will help you see your students build genuine conceptual understanding, perseverance, and creativity. Inside, you'll learn how to: Implement Open Middle math problems that are simultaneously accessible for both students who are struggling and those looking for more challenge. Select and create Open Middle math problems that will help you detect students' misconceptions and strengthen their conceptual understanding. Prepare for and facilitate powerful classroom conversations using Open Middle math problems. Access resources that will help you continue learning beyond this book. With these practical and intuitive strategies, extensive resources, and Robert's own stories about his journey learning to use Open Middle math problems successfully, you will be able to support, challenge, and motivate all your students.
Introduction to Counting and Probability - David Patrick 2007-08-01

A First Course in Probability - Sheldon M. Ross 2002
This market-leading introduction to probability features exceptionally clear explanations of the mathematics of probability theory and explores its many diverse applications through numerous interesting and motivational examples. The outstanding problem sets are a hallmark feature of this book. Provides clear, complete explanations to fully explain mathematical concepts. Features subsections on the probabilistic method and the maximum-minimums identity. Includes many new examples relating to DNA matching, utility, finance, and applications of the probabilistic method. Features an intuitive treatment of probability—intuitive explanations follow many examples. The Probability Models Disk included with each copy of the book, contains six probability models that are referenced in the book and allow readers to quickly and easily perform calculations and simulations.
Digital Dice - Paul J. Nahin 2013-03-24
Some probability problems are so difficult that they stump the smartest mathematicians. But even the hardest of these problems can often be solved with a computer and a Monte Carlo simulation, in which a random-number generator simulates a physical process, such as a million rolls of a pair of dice. This is what Digital Dice is all about: how to get numerical answers to difficult probability problems without having to solve complicated mathematical equations. Popular-math writer Paul Nahin challenges readers to solve twenty-one difficult but fun problems, from determining the odds of coin-flipping games to figuring out the behavior of elevators. Problems build from relatively easy (deciding whether a dishwasher who breaks most of the dishes at a restaurant during a given week is clumsy or just the victim of randomness) to the very difficult (tackling branching processes of the kind that had to be solved by Manhattan Project mathematician Stanislaw Ulam). In his characteristic style, Nahin brings the problems to life with interesting and odd historical anecdotes. Readers learn, for example, not just how to determine the optimal stopping point in any selection process but that astronomer Johannes Kepler selected his second wife by interviewing eleven women. The book shows readers how to write elementary computer codes using any common programming language, and provides solutions and line-by-line walk-throughs of a MATLAB code for each problem. Digital Dice will appeal to anyone who enjoys popular math or computer

science. In a new preface, Nahin wittily addresses some of the responses he received to the first edition.

The Pleasures of Probability - Richard Isaac 2013-11-11
The ideas of probability are all around us. Lotteries, casino gambling, the al most non-stop polling which seems to mold public policy more and more these are a few of the areas where principles of probability impinge in a direct way on the lives and fortunes of the general public. At a more re moved level there is modern science which uses probability and its offshoots like statistics and the theory of random processes to build mathematical descriptions of the real world. In fact, twentieth-century physics, in embrac ing quantum mechanics, has a world view that is at its core probabilistic in nature, contrary to the deterministic one of classical physics. In addition to all this muscular evidence of the importance of probability ideas it should also be said that probability can be lots of fun. It is a subject where you can start thinking about amusing, interesting, and often difficult problems with very little mathematical background. In this book, I wanted to introduce a reader with at least a fairly decent mathematical background in elementary algebra to this world of probabil ity, to the way of thinking typical of probability, and the kinds of problems to which probability can be applied. I have used examples from a wide variety of fields to motivate the discussion of concepts.