



# Probabilities: The Little Numbers That Rule Our Lives

*Peter Olofsson*

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**Probabilities: The Little Numbers That Rule Our Lives** Peter Olofsson

Praise for the *First Edition*

“If there is anything you want to know, or remind yourself, about probabilities, then look no further than this comprehensive, yet wittily written and enjoyable, compendium of how to apply probability calculations in real-world situations.”

- **Keith Devlin**, Stanford University, National Public Radio’s “Math Guy” and author of *The Math Gene* and *The Unfinished Game*

From probable improbabilities to regular irregularities, *Probabilities: The Little Numbers That Rule Our Lives, Second Edition* investigates the often surprising effects of risk and chance in our lives. Featuring a timely update, the *Second Edition* continues to be the go-to guidebook for an entertaining presentation on the mathematics of chance and uncertainty.

The new edition develops the fundamental mathematics of probability in a unique, clear, and informal way so readers with various levels of experience with probability can understand the little numbers found in everyday life. Illustrating the concepts of probability through relevant and engaging real-world applications, the *Second Edition* features numerous examples on weather forecasts, DNA evidence, games and gambling, and medical testing. The revised edition also includes:

- The application of probability in finance, such as option pricing
- The introduction of branching processes and the extinction of family names
- An extended discussion on opinion polls and Nate Silver’s election predictions

*Probabilities: The Little Numbers That Rule Our Lives, Second Edition* is an ideal reference for anyone who would like to obtain a better understanding of the mathematics of chance, as well as a useful supplementary textbook for students in any course dealing with probability.

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