

A local television weatherman announces, “There is a 30 percent chance of rain tomorrow.” What is your interpretation of this statement?

- (i) It will rain tomorrow for 30 percent of the time. That is, for 7.2 hours tomorrow, it will be raining. For the remaining 16.8 hours, it will not be raining.
- (ii) It will rain tomorrow in 30 percent of the region covered by the local television station. It will not rain in the other 70 percent of the region.
- (iii) Among all local meteorologists, 30 percent of them think that it will rain tomorrow. The remaining 70 percent of the meteorologists think that it will not rain tomorrow.
- (iv) Thirty percent of all inhabitants of the region covered by this local television station will see rain at least once during their day tomorrow; the remaining 70 percent will not see rain during their day.
- (v) It will rain on 30 percent of the days in which this same forecast is made.

I think (v) is the “best” interpretation, but in reality all 5 interpretations are valid depending on how you conceptualize the underlying sample space for such a probability assignment; i.e., $P(A) = 0.30$, where A is the event it rains.

For each possible interpretation, describe a sample space that would make each interpretation valid.