

Example 4 – A couple plans to have children until they have a girl or until they have three children. What is the probability they will have a girl among their children?

Simulation:

- Step 1: Probability Model
 - $P(\text{girl}) = 0.49$
 - $P(\text{boy}) = 0.51$

More boys than girls are born.
Boys have higher infant mortality so sexes even out.
- Step 2: Assign digits
 - 00, 01, 02, ..., 48 = girl ($49/100 = 0.49$)
 - 49, 50, 51, ..., 99 = boy ($51/100 = 0.51$)
- Step 3: Simulate repetitions
- From table of random digits:

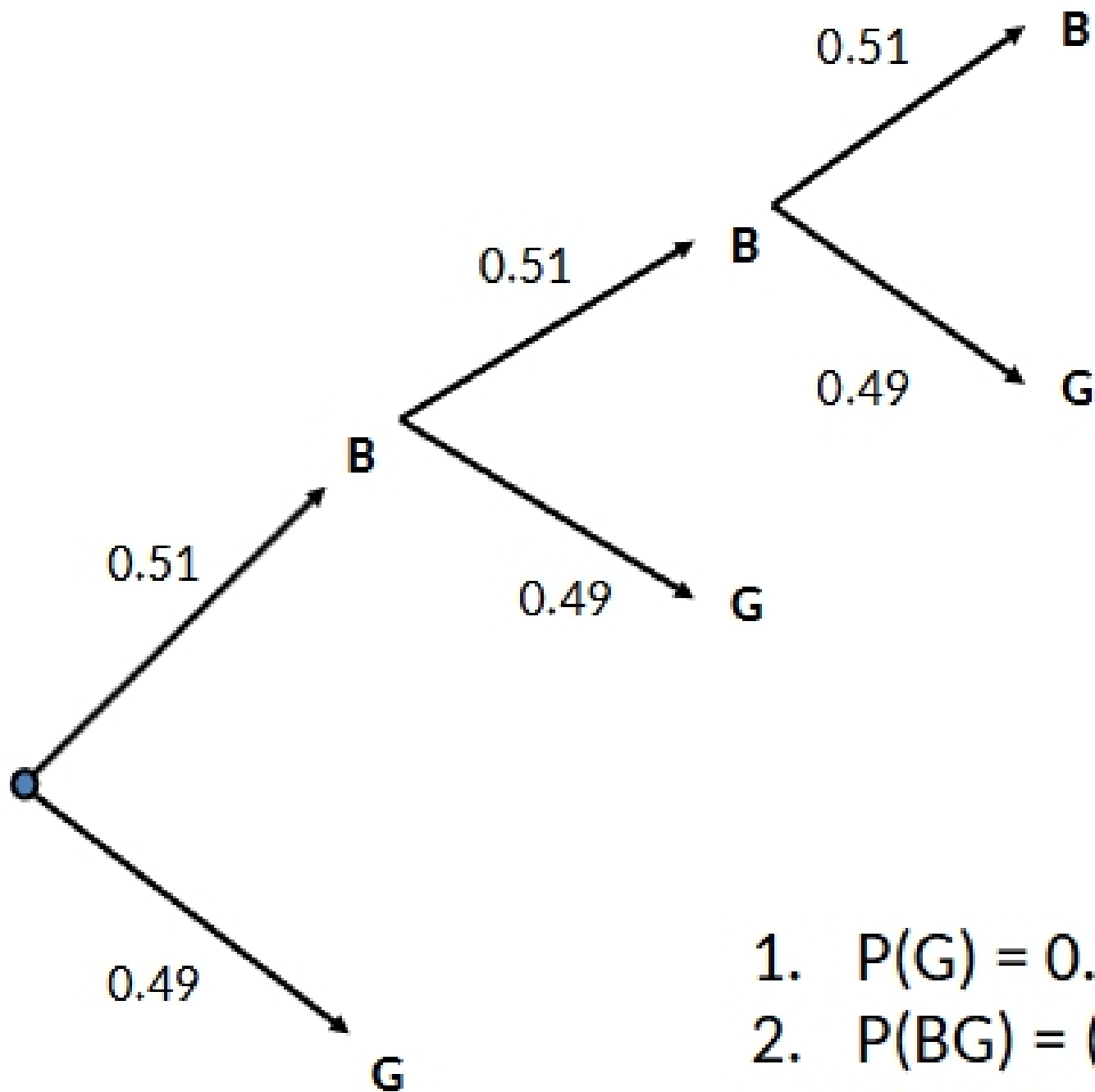
69	05	16	48	17	87	17	40	95	17	84	53	40	64	89	87	20
B	G	G	G	G	B	G	G	B	G	B	B	G	B	B	B	G
- Estimated probability $P(\text{at least one girl}) = 9 / 10 = 0.90$
- True probability is 0.867

Tree Diagram

- **Tree Diagram**

- Useful tool for organizing more complicated probabilities
- Graphical form R
- Represents different stages of a probability model by different “branchings”
- Multiplication up the branches denotes intersections of events (considering conditions)
- Adding the resulting intersections’ probabilities can give us the probability of a union

- **Compute true probability this couple will have a girl**



1. $P(G) = 0.49$
2. $P(BG) = (0.51)(0.49) = 0.250$
3. $P(BBG) = (0.51)^2(0.49) = 0.127$

$$P(G \text{ in three}) = 0.49 + 0.250 + 0.127 \\ = 0.867$$