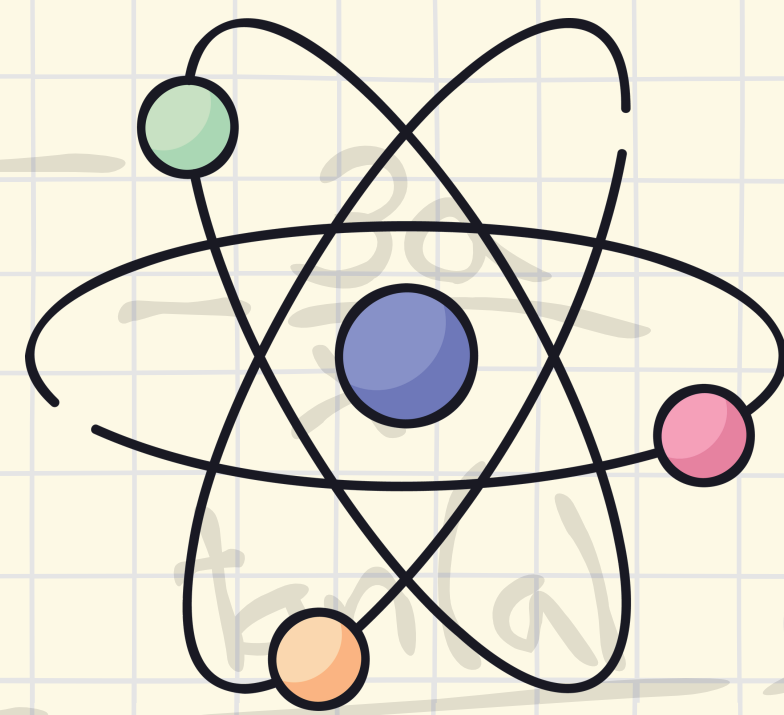


Early Life

David Blackwell was born in 1919 in Centralia, Illinois. He grew up with limited opportunities but developed a strong interest in math at a young age. Much of his knowledge came from his own curiosity and passion to learn.



Education

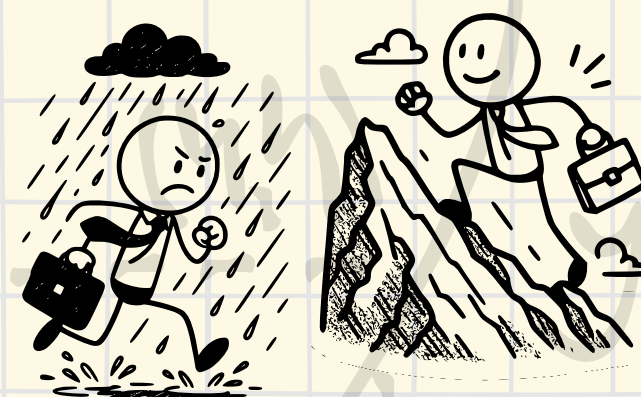
He started college at the University of Illinois when he was sixteen and completed his bachelor's, master's, and PhD there. He earned his PhD in mathematics at age 22! Even though he was highly qualified, he still faced discrimination from universities that refused to hire him because he was Black.

David Blackwell



Contributions to their Field

David Blackwell made major contributions to statistics, probability, and game theory. He is best known for the Rao-Blackwell Theorem, which is commonly used in modern statistics. His work also influenced areas such as information theory, economics, and he laid the foundation for Bayesian statistics.



Adversity

David Blackwell faced many racial barriers in his career due to his skin colour. Some companies initially rejected him due to his skin colour. But even with those barriers, he continued to break many records like becoming the first African-American member of the National Academy of Sciences. He also went on to join UC Berkeley as a Professor of Statistics and eventually became the department head.

Fun Facts!

He never really wanted to become a statistician and rather wanted to be a elementary school teacher. He also was the first African American to be chosen for the National Academy of Science.

