

Lecture 3 Worksheet

Task 1

- What is the sample space of an experiment? State a short definition and give at least 3 distinct examples of experiment and their sample space?
 Experiment: Delivering babies, determining newborn's gender
 Sample Space: {Boy, Girl}
 Experiment: Taking an exam, determining letter grade
 Sample Space: {A,B,C,D,F}
 Experiment: Determining the weather
 Sample Space: {Sunny, Rainy, Cloudy, ...}

- What is an event in the context of a sample space of an experiment? We should first define what an outcome is.

$\omega = Outcome$, where ω is an element

Then an event is something where an outcome occurs. In other words, it contains the outcome.

$E = Event = \{\omega\}$, where E is a subset and $\omega \in E$

Task 2

- Translate the following statements between Math and English. Capital letters such as E and F denote events in a sample space

English	Math
E does not occur	E^c
E or F occurs	$E \cup F$
E and F occurs	$E \cap F$
Only one of E or F occurs	$(E \setminus F) \cup (F \setminus E)$
If F occurs, then so does E	$F \in E$
No event occurs	\emptyset
E does not occur or F occurs	$E^c \cup F$
E and F do not occur	$E^c \cap F^c$

Task 3

1. Given $n \geq 1$ and events E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n of a sample space, prove that:

$$\left(\bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j\right)^c = \bigcap_{j=1}^n E_j^c$$

Showing that the LHS is a subset of the RHS:

Starting with

$$\begin{aligned} x &\in \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j\right)^c \\ \Rightarrow x &\in \{E_j\}^c \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ \Rightarrow x &\notin \{E_j\} \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

This says that x is not in the sample space of E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n

In other words, x is in the complement of each event $E_1^c, E_2^c, \dots, E_n^c$

$$\Rightarrow x \in \{E_1^c \wedge E_2^c \wedge \dots \wedge E_n^c\}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \in \bigcap_{j=1}^n E_j^c$$

We can apply this logic to all $x \in \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j\right)^c$,

$$\text{Therefore, } \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j\right)^c \subset \bigcap_{j=1}^n E_j^c$$

Now, showing that the RHS is a subset of the LHS:

Starting with

$$\begin{aligned} x &\in \bigcap_{j=1}^n E_j^c \\ \Rightarrow x &\in \{E_1^c \wedge E_2^c \wedge \dots \wedge E_n^c\} \end{aligned}$$

In other words, x is not in any of the events

$$\Rightarrow x \notin \{E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n\}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \notin \bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j$$

$$\Rightarrow x \in \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j\right)^c$$

Therefore, since the two sets are subsets of each other

$$\left(\bigcup_{j=1}^n E_j\right)^c = \bigcap_{j=1}^n E_j^c$$

Task 4

1. A probability function $P : 2^S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 - (P1) For any $E \subset S$, $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
 - (P2) $P(S) = 1$
 - (P3) $P\left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j\right) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) + \dots + P(E_{\infty})$, if $E_j \cap E_k = \emptyset$ for $j, k \in \mathbb{N}$
2. Show that: $P(E \cup F) + P(E \cap F) = P(E) + P(F)$

This equation holds for general sets E, F so E and F may or may not have common elements.

We can define

$$P(E \cup F) = \underbrace{P(E \setminus F)}_{E \text{ without } F} + \underbrace{P(F \setminus E)}_{F \text{ without } E} + \underbrace{P(E \cap F)}_{E \text{ and } F}$$

Here we are trying to construct the probability of E or F $P(E \cup F)$ by separating it into different parts. The first 2 terms are disjoint.

Then we account for any similarities by adding in the probability of the intersection $P(E \cap F)$

Also we can define and justify the following

$$\begin{aligned} P(E) &= P(E \setminus F) + P(E \cap F) \\ &= P(E \cap F^c) + P(E \cap F) \text{ by def. of } E \setminus F \\ &= P((E \cap F^c) \cup (E \cap F)) \text{ summed by their union} \\ &= P(E \cup (F \cap F^c)) \text{ by set properties} \\ &= P(E \cup \emptyset) \\ &= P(E) \end{aligned}$$

A similar argument is formed to show that $P(F) = P(F \setminus E) + P(F \cap E)$.

Plugging these into our original equation,
For the LHS:

$$\begin{aligned} P(E \cup F) + P(E \cap F) &= \\ &= [P(E \setminus F) + P(F \setminus E) + P(E \cap F)] + P(E \cap F) \\ &= P(E \setminus F) + P(F \setminus E) + 2P(E \cap F) \end{aligned}$$

Now plugging into the RHS:

$$\begin{aligned} P(E) + P(F) &= \\ &= [P(E \setminus F) + P(E \cap F)] + [P(F \setminus E) + P(E \cap F)] \\ &= P(E \setminus F) + P(F \setminus E) + 2P(E \cap F) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the 2 quantities are equal.

3. Show that: $P(\emptyset) = 0$

We can prove this by rewriting the probability of the event and using set axioms.

Let S = Sample Space

Then $P(S) = 1$ by (P2)

$$\begin{aligned} P(S) &= \\ &= P(S \cup \emptyset) \\ &= P(S) + P(\emptyset) \text{ since } S \text{ and } \emptyset \text{ are disjoint} \\ &= 1 + P(\emptyset) = 1 \text{ by (P2)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $P(\emptyset) = 0$ has to hold

4. Show that: $P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$

In this context, E denotes some event and E^c denotes all the events other than E .

From this, we can relate their union to the sample space S

$$E \cup E^c = S$$

Now, since E and E^c are disjoint sets by definition of the complement, we can add their individual probabilities to get the probability of the union, without over-counting common elements.

$$P(E) + P(E^c) = P(E \cup E^c) = P(S)$$

Rearranging this equation, we get:

$$P(E^c) = P(S) - P(E)$$

By (P3): $P(S) = 1$ the following equation holds:

$$P(E^c) = 1 - P(E)$$