

202A Notes

Chapter 1 Probability Theory

1.1 Set Theory

Def 1.1.1 (Sample space)

The set, S , of all possible outcome of a particular experiment is called the sample space for the experiment.

Def 1.1.2 (Event)

An event is any collection of possible outcomes of an experiment, that is, any subset of S (including S itself).

Th 1.1.4 (Properties of sets)

For any three events, A , B , and C , define on a sample space S ,

1. Commutativity:

$$A \cup B = B \cup A; A \cap B = B \cap A$$

2. Associativity:

$$A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap C; A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup C$$

3. Distributive Laws:

$$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C); A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$$

4. DeMorgan's Laws:

$$(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c; (A \cap B)^c = A^c \cup B^c$$

Def 1.1.5 (Disjoint sets)

Two events A and B are disjoint (or mutually exclusive) if $A \cap B = \emptyset$. The events A_1, A_2, \dots are pairwise disjoint (or mutually exclusive) if $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$.

Def 1.1.6 (Partition)

If A_1, A_2, \dots are pairwise disjoint and $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = S$, then the collection A_1, A_2, \dots forms a partition of S .

1.2 Basics of Probability Theory

Def 1.2.1 (σ -Algebra)

A collection of subsets of S is called a sigma algebra (or Borel field), denoted by \mathcal{B} , if it satisfies the following three properties:

1. $\emptyset \in \mathcal{B}$

2. If $A \in \mathcal{B}$, then $A^c \in \mathcal{B}$ (\mathcal{B} is closed under complementation)

3. If $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{B}$, then $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{B}$ (\mathcal{B} is closed under countable unions)

Def 1.2.4 (Probability function)

Given a sample space S and an associated sigma algebra \mathcal{B} , a probability function is a function P with domain \mathcal{B} that satisfies:

1. $P(A) \geq 0$ for all $A \in \mathcal{B}$
2. $P(S) = 1$
3. If $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{B}$ are pairwise disjoint, then $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$

Th 1.2.6 (Simple definition of probability function)

Let $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$ be a finite set. Let \mathcal{B} be any sigma algebra of subsets of S . Let p_1, \dots, p_n be nonnegative numbers that sum to 1. For any $A \in \mathcal{B}$, define $P(A)$ by

$$P(A) = \sum_{i: s_i \in A} p_i.$$

(The sum over an empty set is defined to be 0.) Then P is a probability function on \mathcal{B} . This remains true if $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots\}$ is a countable set.

Th 1.2.8 (Properties of the probability function I)

1. $P(\emptyset) = 0$
2. $P(A) \leq 1$
3. $P(A^c) = 1 - P(A)$

Th 1.2.9 (Properties of the probability function II)

If P is a probability function and A and B are any sets in \mathcal{B} , then

1. $P(B \cap A^c) = P(B) - P(A \cap B)$
2. $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$
3. If $A \subset B$, then $P(A) < P(B)$

Th 1.2.10 (Bonferroni's inequality)

$$P(A \cap B) \geq P(A) + P(B) - 1$$

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i\right) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) - (n-1)$$

Th 1.2.11 (Results for dealing with a collection of sets)

If P is a probability function, then

1. $P(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A \cap C_i)$ for any partition C_1, C_2, \dots
2. $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$ for any sets A_1, A_2, \dots (Boole's inequality)

Proof for 2:

We first establish a disjoint collection A_1^*, A_2^*, \dots , with the property that $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i^* = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$.

$$A_1^* = A_1, \quad A_i^* = A_i \setminus \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} A_j \right), i = 2, 3, \dots$$

Therefore, we have

$$P \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right) = P \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i^* \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i^*)$$

where the last equality follows since the A_i^* are disjoint. To see this, we write

$$\begin{aligned} A_i^* \cap A_k^* &= \left\{ A_i \setminus \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} A_j \right) \right\} \cap \left\{ A_k \setminus \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{k-1} A_j \right) \right\} \text{ (definition of } A_i^*) \\ &= \left\{ A_i \cap \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} A_j \right)^c \right\} \cap \left\{ A_k \cap \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{k-1} A_j \right)^c \right\} \text{ (definition of } \setminus \text{)} \\ &= \left\{ A_i \cap \bigcap_{j=1}^{i-1} A_j^c \right\} \cap \left\{ A_k \cap \bigcap_{j=1}^{k-1} A_j^c \right\} \text{ (DeMorgan's Laws)} \end{aligned}$$

Now if $i > k$, the first intersection above will be contained in the set A_k^c , which will have an empty intersection with A_k . If $k > i$, the argument is similar. Further, by construction $A_i^* \subset A_i$, so $P(A_i^*) \leq P(A_i)$ and we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$$

Th 1.2.14 (Fundamental theorem of counting)

If a job consists of k separate tasks, the i -th of which can be done in n_i ways, then the entire job can be done in $n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_k$ ways.

Def 1.2.17 (Combination)

For nonnegative integers n and r , where $n \geq r$, we define the symbol $\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$

Remark 1.2.18 (Number of possible arrangements of size r from n objects)

1. Ordered, without replacement: $\frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$
2. Ordered, with replacement: n^r
3. Unordered, without replacement: $\binom{n}{r}$
4. Unordered, with replacement: $\binom{n+r-1}{r}$

Remark 1.2.19 (Methods for poker game)

If we wish to calculate probabilities for events that depend on the order, such as the probability of an ace in the first two cards, then we must use the ordered outcomes. If we want to calculate the probability of an event that does not depend on the order, we can use either the ordered or unordered sample space.

Remark 1.2.20 (Sampling with replacement)

Consider sampling $r = 2$ items from $n = 3$ items, with replacement.

Unordered	{1,1}	{2,2}	{3,3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}
Ordered	(1,1)	(2,2)	(3,3)	(1,2),(2,1)	(1,3),(3,1)	(2,3),(3,2)
Probability	1/9	1/9	1/9	2/9	2/9	2/9

The formula for the number of outcomes in the unordered sample space is useful for enumerating the outcomes, but ordered outcomes must be counted to correctly calculate probabilities.

1.3 Conditional Probability and Independence**Def 1.3.2 (Conditional probability)**

If A and B are events in S , and $P(B) > 0$, then the conditional probability of A given B , written $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$

Th 1.3.5 (Bayes' rule)

Let A_1, A_2, \dots be a partition of the sample space, and let B be any set. Then, for each $i = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$P(A_i|B) = \frac{P(B|A_i)P(A_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(B|A_j)P(A_j)}$$

Def 1.3.7 (Independence)

Two events, A and B , are statistically independent if $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$

Th 1.3.9 (Independence)

If A and B are independent events, then the following pairs are also independent:

1. A and B^c
2. A^c and B
3. A^c and B^c

Remark 1.3.8 (Independence among more than two events)

The requirement $P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(A)P(B)P(C)$ is NOT a strong enough condition to guarantee pairwise independence.

If A, B, C are pairwise independent, there might be $P(A \cap B \cap C) \neq P(A)P(B)P(C)$.

Def 1.3.12 (Mutually independent)

A collection of events A_1, \dots, A_n are mutually independent if for any subcollection A_{i_1}, \dots, A_{i_k} , we have

$$P\left(\bigcap_{j=1}^k A_{i_j}\right) = \prod_{j=1}^k P(A_{i_j})$$

1.4 Random Variables

Def 1.4.1 (Random variables)

A random variable is a function from a sample space S into real numbers.

Remark 1.4.2 (Random variables)

In defining a random variable, we have also define a new sample space (the range of the random variable). We must check formally that our probability function, which is defined on the original sample space, can be used for the random variable.

Suppose we have a sample space $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$ with a probability function P , and we define a random variable X with range $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$. We can define a probability function P_X on \mathcal{X} in the following way.

$$P_X(X = x_i) = P(\{s_j \in S : X(s_j) = x_i\})$$

Such is also the case if \mathcal{X} is countable. If \mathcal{X} is uncountable, we define in the following way. For any set $A \subset \mathcal{X}$,

$$P_X(X \in A) = P(\{s \in S : X(s) \in A\})$$

1.5 Distribution Functions

Def 1.5.1 (Cumulative distribution function)

The cumulative distribution function or cdf of a random variable X , denoted by $F_X(x)$, is defined by

$$F_X(x) = P_X(X \leq x), \quad \text{for all } x$$

Th 1.5.3 (Properties of cdf)

The function $F(x)$ is a cdf if and only if the following three conditions hold:

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$
2. $F(x)$ is a nondecreasing function of x
3. $F(x)$ is a right-continuous; that is, for every number x_0 , $\lim_{x \downarrow x_0} F(x) = F(x_0)$

Def 1.5.7 (Continuous variable)

A random variable X is continuous if $F_X(x)$ is a continuous function of x . A random variable X is discrete if $F_X(x)$ is a step function of x .

Def 1.5.8 (Identically distributed)

The random variables X and Y are identically distributed if, for every set $A \in \mathcal{B}^1$, $P(X \in A) = P(Y \in A)$

Notice that two random variables that are identically distributed are not necessarily equal.

Th 1.5.10 (Identically distributed)

The following two statement are equivalent:

1. The random variables X and Y are identically distributed.
2. $F_X(x) = F_Y(x)$ for every x .

1.6 Density and Mass Functions**Def 1.6.1 (Probability mass function)**

The Probability mass function (pmf) of a discrete random variable X is given by

$$f_X(x) = P(X = x) \quad \text{for all } x.$$

Def 1.6.3 (Probability density function)

The Probability density function or pdf, $f_X(x)$, of a continuous random variable X is the function that satisfies

$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(t) dt$$

Th 1.6.5 (Properties of pdf or pmf)

A function $f_X(x)$ is a pdf (or pmf) of a random variable X if and only if

1. $f_X(x) \geq 0$ for all x .
2. $\sum_x f_X(x) = 1$ (pmf) or $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1$ (pdf).