Contents

1 Probability

1.1 Probability

1. Fill in the details of the proof of Theorem 1.8. Also, prove the monotone decreasing case.

   - For the readers' convenience we restate the Continuity of Probabilities theorem. If $A_n \to A$ then $P(A_n) \to P(A)$ as $n \to \infty$. Here $A_n \to A_n$ means that either A_n is monotone increasing ($A_n \subseteq A_{n+1}$) and we define $A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$, or, A_n is monotone decreasing ($A_n \supseteq A_{n+1}$) and we define $A = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$.

   - We fill in the details now. First of all we want to show that $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$. Suppose without loss of generality that $i < j$ and note that $B_i \subseteq A_i$ then

   $$B_j = A_j \backslash \bigcup_{k=1}^{j-1} A_k$$

   and $B_i \subseteq A_i \subseteq \bigcup_{k=1}^{j-1}$ as such $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$.

   - To see that $A_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} B_i$ let $x \in A_n$ then there exists a minimal $k = k(x)$ such that $x \in A_k$, i.e., for all $k' < k : x \notin A_{k'}$. Then $x \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} A_i$ and therefore $x \in B_k$. Because x are arbitrary it folows that $A_n \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} B_i$. On the other hand

   $$\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{B_i}_{\subseteq A_i} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i = A_n,$$

   where we have used that A_n is monotone increasing. The property that

   $$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i$$

   holds is identical to the finite case, an element is part of the (countably) infinite union if there exists some minimual i such that ...

   - For the monotone decreasing case we instead want to define $B_n := A_n \backslash \bigcup_{i>n} A_i$.

2. Prove the statements in equation (1.1).

   - This can immediately be seen by noting that $A \cup B = (A \backslash B) \cup (A \cap B) \cup (B \backslash A)$ is a disjoint union.

3. Let Ω be a sample space and let $A_1, A_2, \ldots,$ be events. Define $B_n = \bigcup_{i=n}^{\infty} A_i$ and $C_n = \bigcap_{i=n}^{\infty} A_i$

   (a) Show that (B_i) is monotone decreasing and that (C_i) is monotone increasing.

(b) Show that $\omega \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n$ if and only if ω belongs to an infinite number of events $A_1, A_2, \ldots$.

- Let $\omega \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n$ be such that ω does not belong to an infinite number of events $A_1, A_2, \ldots$, i.e., there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $k > N$ it follows that $\omega \notin A_k$. But then $\omega \notin B_k$ for all $k > N$ and as such does not lie in the intersection over all the B_k, which is a contradiction.
- Suppose ω lies in infinitely many $A_1, A_2, \ldots$. Then there exists a sequence $(A_{n_i})_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $n_i < n_j$ for all $i < j$ and such that $\omega \in A_{n_i}$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$. In that case

$$\omega \in B_{n_i}$$

for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$, in particular $\omega \in \cap_{i=\mathbb{N}} B_{n_i}$. Because B_n is monotone decreasing the statement follows.

(c) Show that $\omega \in \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n$ if and only if ω belongs to all the events $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ except possibly a finite number of those events.

- Let $\omega \in \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n$ then there exists $n \geq 1$ such that $\omega \in B_n$. This means that $\omega \in \bigcap_{i=n}^{\infty}$, i.e., ω belongs to all A_i where $i \geq n$.
- Now suppose ω belongs to all events $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ except for a finite number of events. In that case there exist $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\forall k \geq N : \omega \in A_k$. This means that

$$\omega \in \bigcap_{i \geq k} A_i,$$

i.e., $\omega \in C_k$. In particular this shows

$$\omega \in C_k \subseteq \bigcup_{r \geq 1} C_r.$$

4. Let $\{A_i : i \in I\}$ be a collection of events where I is an arbitrary index set. Show that

$$\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} \right)^c = \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i^c, \quad \left(\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i \right)^c = \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i^c$$

holds.

Hint: First prove this for $I = \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$.

5. Suppose we toss a fair coin until we get exactly two heads. Describe the sample space S. What is the probability that exactly k tosses are required?

6. Let $\Omega = \{0, 1, \ldots\}$. Prove that there does not exist a uniform distribution on Ω (i.e., if $P(A) = P(B)$ whenever $|A| = |B|$, then P cannot satisfy the axioms of probability.)

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- Note that $P(\{0\}) \neq 0$ because otherwise $P = 0$, which would mean P is not a probability function. But then it follows for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$P(\{0, \ldots, n\}) = P\left(\bigcup_{k=0}^{n} \{k\}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} P(\{k\}) = (n+1)P(\{0\}) \to \infty$$

  for $n \to \infty$, which is a contradiction to $P(\Omega) = +1$.

7. Let $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ be events. Show that

$$P\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(A_n).$$

Hint: Define $B_n = A_n \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} A_i$. Then show that the B_n are disjoint and that

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n.$$

- This was basically already shown in the first exercise, the only thing we mention here is that we only have to consider the case where the series on the right hand side converges, because the left hand side is always ≤ 1.

8. Suppose that $P(A_i) = 1$ for each i. Prove that

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = 1.$$

9. For fixed B such that $P(B) > 0$, show that $P(\cdot|B)$ satisfies the axioms of probability.

10. You have probably heard it before. Now you can solve it rigorously. It is called the "Monty Hall Problem." A prize is placed at random behind one of three doors. You pick a door. To be concrete, let's suppose you always pick door 1. Now Monty Hall chooses one of the other two doors, opens it and shows you that it is empty. He then gives you the opportunity to keep your door or switch to the other unopened door.Should you stay or switch? Intuition suggests it doesn't matter. The correct answer is that you should switch. Prove it. It will help to specify he sample space and the relevant events carefully. Thus write $\Omega = \{(Wl, W2) : \omega_i \in \{1, 2, 3\}\}$ where ω_1 is where the prize is and ω_2 is the door Monty opens.

11. Suppose that A and B are independentt events. Show that A^c and B^c are independent events.

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$$P(A^c, B^c) = P((A \cup B)^c)$$
$$= 1 - P(A \cup B)$$
$$= 1 - P(A) - P(B) + P(A, B)$$
$$= 1 - P(A) - P(B) + P(A)P(B)$$
$$= (1 - P(A))(1 - P(B))$$
$$= P(A^c)P(B^C).$$

12. There are three cards. The first is green on both sides, the second is red on both sides and the third is green on one side and red on the other. We choose a card at random and we see one side (also chosen at random) . If the side we see is green, what is the probability that the other side is also green? Many people intuitively answer $\frac{1}{2}$. Show that the correct answer is $\frac{2}{3}$.

13. Suppose that a fair coin is tossed repeatedly until both a head and tail have appeared at least once.

   (a) Describe the sample space Ω.

   (b) What is the probability that three tosses will be required?

14. Show that if $P(A) = 0$ or $p(A) = 1$ then A is independent of every other event. Show that if A is independent of itself then $P(A)$ is either 0 or 1.

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   - $P(A) = P(A, A) = P(A)P(A) = P(A)^2 \iff P(A)(P(A) - 1).$

15.

16. Prove Lemma 1.14.

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$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A, B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A)P(B))}{P(B)} = P(A).$$

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$$P(AB) = P(A, B)\frac{P(B)}{P(B)}$$
$$= P(A|B)P(B)$$
$$= P(B|A)\frac{P(A)}{P(B)}P(B)$$
$$= P(B|A)P(A).$$

17. Show that
$$P(A, B, C) = P(A|BC)P(B|C)P(C).$$

18.

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19.

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21. (Computer Experiment.) Suppose a coin has probability P of falling heads up. If we flip the coin many times, we would expect the proportion of heads to be near p. We will make this formal later. Take P = .3 and n = 1,000 and simulate n coin flips. Plot the proportion of heads as a function of n. Repeat for P = .03.

22. (Computer Experiment.) Suppose we flip a coin n times and let P denote the probability of heads. Let X be the number of heads. We call X a binomial random variable, which is discussed in the next chapter. Intuition suggests that X will be close to n p. To see if this is true, we can repeat this experiment many times and average the X values. Carry out a simulation and compare the average of the X's to n p . Try this for p =.3 and n = 10, n = 100, and n = 1,000.

23. (Computer Experiment.) Here we will get some experience simulating conditional probabilities. Consider tossing a fair die. Let A = 2, 4, 6 and B = 1, 2, 3, 4. Then, lP'(A) = 1/2, lP'(B) = 2/3 and lP'(AB) = 1/3. Since lP'(AB) = lP'(A)lP'(B), the events A and B are independent. Simulate draws from the sample space and verify that P(AB) = P(A)P(B) where P(A) is the proportion of times A occurred in the simulation and similarly for P(AB) and P(B). Now find two events A and B that are not independent. Compute P(A),P(B) and P(AB). Compare the calculated values to their theoretical values. Report your results and interpret.

2   Random Variables

1. Show that
$$P(X = x) = F(x^+) - F(x^-).$$

2. Let X be such that $P(X = 2) = P(X = 3) = 1/10$ and $P(X = 5) = 8/10$. Plot the CDF F. Use F to find $P(2 \leq X \leq 4.8)$ and $P(2 \leq X \leq 4.8)$.

3. Prove Lemma 2.15.

4.

5. Let X and Y be discrete random variables. Show that X and Y are independent if and only if $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$ for all x and y.