

C&EE 110:  
Introduction to Statistics and Probability

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# 1 | Set Theory and Random Variables

## 1.1 Probabilistic Sets

A random event,  $E$ , has more than 1 possible outcome in the sample space  $S$ .  $S$  is the collection of all possible event outcomes. We know that  $E \subset S$ .

**Ex)** Number in dice roll

$$S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$E_{\text{odd}} = \{1, 3, 5\}$$

$$E_{>3} = \{4, 5, 6\}$$

### Operations

We can apply several operations to our sets.

1. Union, denoted  $E_1 \cup E_2$
2. Intersection, denoted  $E_1 \cap E_2$  or  $E_1 E_2$

Consider  $E_{\text{odd}}$  and  $E_{>3}$  above.

$$E_{\text{odd}} \cup E_{>3} = \{1, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$E_{\text{odd}} \cap E_{>3} = \{5\}$$

These operations are commutative, associative, and distributive. Intersection has precedence over union.

### Special Events

- $S$  is the event that spans the entire sample space
- $\emptyset$  is the null event, it has no outcomes
- if  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are mutually exclusive,  $E_1 E_2 = \emptyset$
- if  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are collectively exhaustive,  $E_1 \cup E_2 = S$
- $\overline{E_1} = S - E_1$ , the complement<sup>1</sup> of  $E_1$

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<sup>1</sup>Demorgan's Laws hold

## Frequentist Probability (Natural Variation)

The probability of occurrence of E is the relative frequency of observations of E in a large number of repeated experiments. Put more formally below,

$$P(E) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{N}, \text{ where } n = \text{occurrences of E in } N \text{ observations in } S$$

## Bayesian Probability (Incomplete Knowledge)

The probability of an event E represents analysts' degree of belief that E will occur.

Frequentist Probability	Bayesian Probability
probability of expecting a ground shaking intensity of 1g in next 100 years	probability of finding water on new planet
max wind speed in a year	probability that a building will collapse under ground shaking intensity of 1g
live load on a building	election results
*based on previous observations	*not based on previous observations
*cannot be reduced through more measurement	*can be reduced if more observations/measurements applied

## 1.2 Axioms

1.  $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
2.  $P(S) = 1$
3.  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$ , s.t.  $AB = \emptyset$

\* these axioms are consistent with Frequentist probability

We can derive several rules from these axioms.

1.  $P(\overline{E}) = 1 - P(E)$
2.  $P(\emptyset) = 0$
3.  $P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 E_2)$ 
  - if  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are mutually exclusive, then we double count their intersection when using the 3rd axiom; subtracting it leads to the correct value
  - what if we have  $> 2$  events? Inclusion/Exclusion rule
  - $P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n) =$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n P(E_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} P(E_i E_j) + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} P(E_i E_j E_k) + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} P(E_1 E_2 \dots E_n)$$

## Conditional Probability

We may want to determine the probability of an event given another event is guaranteed to occur. This is denoted  $P(E_1|E_2)$ , which is read as  $E_1$  given  $E_2$ . It essentially redefines the sample space to be  $E_2$ .

$$P(E_1|E_2) = \begin{cases} \frac{P(E_1E_2)}{P(E_2)} & P(E_2) > 0 \\ 0 & P(E_2) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

From this equation, it follows that

$$P(E_1E_2) = P(E_1|E_2)P(E_2)$$

This holds in general for  $n$  events.

$$P(E_1E_2E_3) = P(E_1|E_2E_3)P(E_2E_3) = P(E_1|E_2E_3)P(E_2|E_3)P(E_3)$$

**Ex)** Applying conditions to operations

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2|E_3) = P(E_1|E_3) + P(E_2|E_3) - P(E_1E_2|E_3)$$

$$P(E_1E_2|E_3) = P(E_1|E_2|E_3)P(E_2|E_3), \text{ which follows from (1.1)}$$

## Independence

Two events are independent iff  $P(E_1|E_2) = P(E_1)$

We have mutual independence if  $P(E_1E_2...E_n) = P(E_1)P(E_2)...P(E_n)$ .

## Theorem of Total Probability

Consider an event  $A$  and a set of mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive events  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$ .

$$P(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A|E_i)P(E_i) \quad (1.2)$$

## Bayes' Rule

Consider an event  $A$  and a set of mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive events  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$  in  $S$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(AE_j) &= P(E_j|A)P(A) = P(A|E_j)P(E_j) \\ P(E_j|A) &= \frac{P(A|E_j)P(E_j)}{P(A)} \\ P(E_j|A) &= \frac{P(A|E_j)P(E_j)}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(A|E_i)P(E_i)} \end{aligned}$$