An Analytical Introduction to Probability Theory

5. Convergence and Independence

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5.1 Convergence

Definition 5.1 (Almost sure convergence). We say $X_n \to X$ almost surely (a.s.) or with probability 1 if

$$\mathbb{P}\Big(\Big\{\omega: \lim_{n\to\infty} X_n(\omega) = X(\omega)\Big\}\Big) = 1.$$

Recall that in the original MCT in Theorem 4.2, we suppose that $0 \leq X_n(\omega) \leq X_{n+1}(\omega)$ and $X_n(\omega) \to X(\omega)$ for all $\omega \in \Omega$. Here, we show that we can replace the condition "for all $\omega \in \Omega$ " with "almost surely". Let

$$A = \{ \omega : X_n(\omega) \to X(\omega), \ 0 \le X_n(\omega) \le X_{n+1}(\omega), \ n \ge 1 \}$$

and suppose $\mathbb{P}(A) = 1$. We have $0 \leq X_n \mathbf{1}_A(\omega) \leq X_{n+1} \mathbf{1}_A(\omega)$, and $X_n \mathbf{1}_A(\omega) \to X \mathbf{1}_A(\omega)$ $\forall \omega \in \Omega$. Then from the MCT in Theorem 4.2, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n \mathbf{1}_A] \to \mathbb{E}[X \mathbf{1}_A].$$

For any $Y \geq 0$, let $Y \wedge n = \min(Y, n)$ for $n \geq 1$. Observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[Y\mathbf{1}_{A^c}] = \mathbb{E}\left[\lim_{n\to\infty} (Y\wedge n)\mathbf{1}_{A^c}\right]$$

$$= \lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}[(Y\wedge n)\mathbf{1}_{A^c}]$$

$$\leq \lim_{n\to\infty} n\mathbb{P}(A^c)$$

$$= 0$$
(1)

where we have use the MCT in (1). Therefore, $\mathbb{E}[X_n \mathbf{1}_A] = \mathbb{E}X_n$ and $\mathbb{E}[X\mathbf{1}_A] = \mathbb{E}X$, and the MCT holds if " $\forall \omega \in \Omega$ " is replaced with "almost surely" in its theorem statement. The same thing applies for Fatou's Lemma and the DCT.

Definition 5.2 (Convergence in probability). If $\forall \epsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}(|X_n - X| \ge \epsilon) = 0,$$

we say that X_n converges to X in probability and write $X_n \stackrel{p}{\longrightarrow} X$.

Lemma 5.1. If $X_n \to X$ a.s., then $X_n \stackrel{p}{\longrightarrow} X$.

Proof. Suppose $X_n \to X$ a.s., then $\mathbf{1}_{\{|X_n - X| \ge \epsilon\}} \to 0$ a.s. From DCT (since probability measure is finite), we have $\mathbb{P}(|X_n - X| \ge \epsilon) \to 0$.

The converse is not true and here is an example.

Example 5.1. Suppose $\Omega = [0,1]$. Consider the random variables X_n shown in Fig. 1, where X_n follows a similar pattern for $n \geq 5$. We have $X_n \stackrel{p}{\longrightarrow} 0$, but clearly $X_n \not\rightarrow 0$ a.s. as $X_n(\omega) = 1$ for infinitely many values of n for every $\omega \in \Omega$.

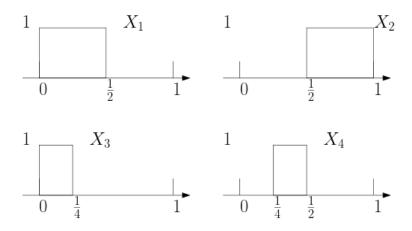


Fig. 1: X_n converges in probability but not almost surely.

5.2 Weak Law of Large Numbers

Markov's inequality: Suppose a > 0 and $X \ge 0$. Then,

$$a\mathbf{1}_{\{X \ge a\}}(\omega) \le X\mathbf{1}_{\{X \ge a\}}(\omega) \le X.$$

Taking expectations, we have

$$a\mathbb{P}(X \ge a) \le \mathbb{E}X,$$

 $\mathbb{P}(X \ge a) \le \frac{1}{a}\mathbb{E}X.$

Chebyshev's inequality follows from Markov's inequality by replacing X with $|X - \mathbb{E}X|^2$ and setting $a = \epsilon^2$: for $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mathbb{E}X| \ge \epsilon) \le \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \operatorname{var}(X).$$

Theorem 5.1 (Weak Law of Large Numbers (WLLN)). Suppose X_1, X_2, \ldots are such that $\mathbb{E}X_i = 0$, $\mathbb{E}X_i^2 = \sigma^2 < \infty$ and $\mathbb{E}[X_i X_j] \leq 0$ for $i \neq j$. Then,

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \stackrel{p}{\longrightarrow} 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty.$$

Proof. We have

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}X_{i}\right)^{2}\right] = \frac{1}{n^{2}}\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n}X_{i}^{2} + 2\sum_{i < j}X_{i}X_{j}\right]$$
$$\leq \frac{1}{n^{2}}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\mathbb{E}X_{i}^{2} = \frac{\sigma^{2}}{n}.$$

From Chebyshev's inequality, we then have for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}X_{i}\right| \geq \epsilon\right) \leq \frac{1}{\epsilon^{2}}\frac{\sigma^{2}}{n} \to 0,$$

as $n \to \infty$.

5.3 Product Measures

Given two measure spaces $(\Omega_1, \mathcal{A}_1, \mu_1)$ and $(\Omega_2, \mathcal{A}_2, \mu_2)$, where both μ_1 and μ_2 are σ -finite, we can define a new measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) , where $\Omega = \Omega_1 \times \Omega_2$ and

$$\mathcal{F} = \sigma \left\{ A \times B : A \in \mathcal{A}_1, B \in \mathcal{A}_2 \right\}.$$

We call $A \times B$ a rectangle. A natural measure μ for this measurable space satisfies

$$\mu(A \times B) = \mu_1(A)\mu_2(B) \tag{2}$$

for all rectanges $A \times B$. It can be checked that the collection of finite disjoint unions of rectangles is an algebra (exercise). To extend this measure μ to \mathcal{F} , we make use of Caratheodory's Extension Theorem (Theorem 3.1): we show that for $A \times B = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} A_i \times B_i$ a disjoint union of rectangles, we have $\mu(A \times B) = \sum_{i \geq 1} \mu_1(A_i)\mu_2(B_i)$.

For $x \in A$, let $I(x) = \{i : x \in A_i\}$ and $B = \bigcup_{i \in I(x)} B_i$ a disjoint union. We have

$$\mathbf{1}_{A}(x)\mu_{2}(B) = \mathbf{1}_{A}(x)\mu_{2}\left(\bigcup_{i\in I(x)} B_{i}\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i\in I(x)} \mathbf{1}_{A}(x)\mu_{2}(B_{i})$$

$$= \sum_{i>1} \mathbf{1}_{A_{i}}(x)\mu_{2}(B_{i}).$$

Integrating w.r.t. μ_1 , we have

$$\mu(A \times B) = \int \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{1}_{A_i}(x) \mu_2(B_i) \, \mathrm{d}\mu_1$$

$$\stackrel{\text{MCT}}{=} \lim_{n \to \infty} \int \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{1}_{A_i}(x) \mu_2(B_i) \, \mathrm{d}\mu_1$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \int \mathbf{1}_{A_i}(x) \mu_2(B_i) \, \mathrm{d}\mu_1$$

$$= \sum_{i \ge 1} \mu_1(A_i) \mu_2(B_i),$$

where the interchange of the sum and integral in the penultimate equality holds because the number of terms is finite. Therefore, Caratheodory's Extension Theorem shows that there is a unique extension of μ defined by (2) to \mathcal{F} . This is called a *product measure*. Notationally, we write $\mu = \mu_1 \times \mu_2$.

The next theorem tells us when we can interchange integrals in general.

Theorem 5.2 (Fubini or Fubini-Tonelli). Suppose $(\Omega_1, \mathcal{A}_1, \mu_1)$ and $(\Omega_2, \mathcal{A}_2, \mu_2)$ are σ -finite and $\mu = \mu_1 \times \mu_2$ is the product measure. Consider $f : \Omega = \Omega_1 \times \Omega_2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}$. If $f \geq 0$ or $\int |f| d\mu < \infty$, then

$$\int_{\Omega_1} \int_{\Omega_2} f(x, y) d\mu_2 d\mu_1 = \int_{\Omega} f d\mu = \int_{\Omega_2} \int_{\Omega_1} f(x, y) d\mu_1 d\mu_2.$$

Proof. Note that implicit in the theorem statement are the following that we need to prove:

- (i) For each $x \in \Omega_1$, $y \mapsto f(x, y)$ is \mathcal{A}_2 -measurable.
- (ii) $x \mapsto \int_{\Omega_2} f(x,y) d\mu_2$ is \mathcal{A}_1 -measurable.
- (iii) $\int_{\Omega_1} \int_{\Omega_2} f(x, y) d\mu_2 d\mu_1 = \int_{\Omega} f d\mu.$

Without loss of generality, we may assume $\mu_1, \mu_2 < \infty$ as the same proof is valid on each partition of Ω and then we can apply the MCT.

The proof follows the steps discussed at the end of Section 4.2. We first prove the theorem for the simplest case where $f = \mathbf{1}_E$, where $E \in \mathcal{F}$, the product σ -algebra. Let $E_x = \{y : (x,y) \in E\}$.

- (i): Fix x, then $y \mapsto f(x,y) = \mathbf{1}_{E_x}(y)$. We need to show $E_x \in \mathcal{A}_2$. Let $\mathcal{E} = \{E \in \mathcal{F} : E_x \in \mathcal{A}_2\}$. We have $(E^c)_x = (E_x)^c$ since $y \in (E^c)_x \Leftrightarrow (x,y) \in E^c \Leftrightarrow y \in (E_x)^c$, and $(\bigcup_{i\geq 1} E_i)_x = \bigcup_{i\geq 1} (E_i)_x$. Therefore, \mathcal{E} is a σ -algebra and it contains all rectangles $A \times B$ where $A \in \mathcal{A}$ and $B \in \mathcal{B}$, which implies that $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{E}$.
- (ii) & (iii): Let $\mathcal{L} = \{ E \in \mathcal{F} : f = \mathbf{1}_E \text{ satisfies (ii) } \& (iii) \}.$

- $\Omega \in \mathcal{L}$.
- If $E \in \mathcal{L}$, $\mu_2((E^c)_x) = \mu_2((E_x)^c) = \mu_2(\Omega_2) \mu_2(E_x)$. Since $\mu_2(\Omega_2) < \infty$ and $\mu_2(E_x)$ is \mathcal{A}_1 -measurable, $\mu_2((E^c)_x)$ is \mathcal{A}_1 -measurable. We also have

$$\int \mu_2((E^c)_x) d\mu_1 = \mu_2(\Omega_2)\mu_1(\Omega_1) - \int \mu_2(E_x) d\mu_1$$
$$= \mu(\Omega) - \mu(E)$$
$$= \mu(E^c).$$

Therefore, $E^c \in \mathcal{L}$.

• If $E_i \in \mathcal{L}$, $i \geq 1$, are disjoint, then

$$\mu_2\left(\left(\bigcup_{i\geq 1} E_i\right)_x\right) = \mu_2\left(\bigcup_{i\geq 1} (E_i)_x\right)$$
$$= \sum_{i\geq 1} \mu_2((E_i)_x)$$
$$= \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_2((E_i)_x),$$

which is \mathcal{A}_1 -measurable from Lemma 4.2 since each $\mu_2((E_i)_x)$ is \mathcal{A}_1 -measurable. From the MCT, we have

$$\int \mu_2 \left((\bigcup_{i \ge 1} E_i)_x \right) d\mu_1 = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_2((E_i)_x) d\mu_1$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int \mu_2((E_i)_x) d\mu_1$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu(E_i)$$

$$= \mu \left(\bigcup_{i \ge 1} E_i \right).$$

Therefore, \mathcal{L} is a λ -system containing the collection of rectangles, which is a π -system. From the π - λ Theorem, we obtain $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{L}$. We have now shown that Fubini's Theorem holds for $f = \mathbf{1}_E, E \in \mathcal{F}$.

From linearity of integrals, the theorem holds for all simple functions f.

For $f \geq 0$, \exists simple $f_i \uparrow f$. Applying MCT gives Fubini's theorem for non-negative f.

Finally, for general $f = f^+ - f^-$, we note that $\int |f| d\mu < \infty$ implies $\int f^+ d\mu$, $\int f^- d\mu < \infty$, and

$$\int f^+ d\mu = \int \int f^+(x,y) d\mu_1 d\mu_2 \implies \int f^+(x,y) d\mu_1 < \infty \mu_2\text{-a.e.}$$
$$= \int \int f^+(x,y) d\mu_2 d\mu_1 \implies \int f^+(x,y) d\mu_2 < \infty \mu_1\text{-a.e.}$$

Similarly for f^- so that

$$\int \int f^{+}(x,y) d\mu_{1} d\mu_{2} - \int \int f^{-}(x,y) d\mu_{1} d\mu_{2} = \int \int f(x,y) d\mu_{1} d\mu_{2}.$$

The proof is now complete.

Example 5.2.

$$y \uparrow \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$
 (3)

We have

$$\sum_{y} \sum_{x} f(x, y) = \sum_{y} 0 = 0.$$
$$\sum_{x} \sum_{y} f(x, y) = 1 + 0 + 0 + \dots = 1.$$

This example shows that the conditions in Fubini's Theorem are essentially necessary.

Example 5.3. Suppose $((0,1), \mathcal{B}(0,1), \lambda) \times ((0,1), 2^{(0,1)}, \nu)$, where $\nu(A) = |A|$ is the counting measure, which is not σ -finite. Let

$$f(x,y) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x = y, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (4)

Then we have

$$\int f(x,y) d\nu = 1 \text{ for each } x \implies \int \int f(x,y) d\nu d\lambda = 1,$$
$$\int f(x,y) d\lambda = 0 \text{ for each } y \implies \int \int f(x,y) d\lambda d\nu = 0.$$

This example shows that σ -finiteness of the measures is necessary.

5.4 Independence

Throughout this section, we consider a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$.

Definition 5.3. Two events A and B are independent if $\mathbb{P}(A \cap B) = \mathbb{P}(A)\mathbb{P}(B)$. We write $A \perp \!\!\! \perp B$.

If $A \perp \!\!\!\perp B$, then it is easy to verify the following:

- (i) $A^c \perp \!\!\!\perp B$.
- (ii) $A \perp \!\!\!\perp B^c$.
- (iii) $A^c \perp \!\!\!\perp B^c$.

I.e., the two σ -algebras $\{\emptyset, \Omega, A, A^c\}$ and $\{\emptyset, \Omega, B, B^c\}$ are "independent".

Definition 5.4. The sub- σ -algebra $A_i \subset A$, i = 1, 2, ..., n, are independent if $\forall A_i \in A_i$,

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

They are said to be pairwise independent if $\mathbb{P}(A_i \cap A_j) = \mathbb{P}(A_i)\mathbb{P}(A_j) \ \forall i \neq j$.

We say that the random variables X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are independent if $\sigma(X_i)$, $i = 1, \ldots, n$, are independent, i.e., $\forall B_i \in \mathcal{B}, i = 1, \ldots, n$,

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 \in B_1, X_2 \in B_2, \dots, X_n \in B_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(X_i \in B_i).$$

Note that independence \implies pairwise independence but the converse is false. Here are two counter examples to show that pairwise independence does not imply independence.

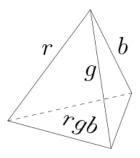


Fig. 2: Dice example: pairwise independence does not imply independence.

Example 5.4. Consider a fair tetrahedron dice that has one red edge, one green edge and one blue edge as shown in Fig. 2. The bottom has all three colors. Let r be the event that the

dice when tossed lands on a face with a red boundary. The events b, g and rgb are defined similarly. Then, by symmetry, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(r) = \mathbb{P}(g) = \mathbb{P}(b) = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$\mathbb{P}(rgb) = \mathbb{P}(rg) = \mathbb{P}(gb) = \mathbb{P}(rb) = \frac{1}{4}.$$

Therefore, these events are pairwise independent but not independent.

Example 5.5. Consider two six-sided fair dice. Let

$$A_1 = \{1st \ dice \ is \ odd\},$$

 $A_2 = \{2nd \ dice \ is \ odd\},$
 $A_{sum} = \{sum \ of \ the \ two \ dice \ is \ odd\}.$

We have

$$\mathbb{P}(A_1) = \mathbb{P}(A_1) = \mathbb{P}(A_{sum}) = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$\mathbb{P}(A_1 \cap A_2) = \mathbb{P}(A_1 \cap A_{sum}) = \mathbb{P}(A_2 \cap A_{sum}) = \frac{1}{4},$$

$$\mathbb{P}(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_{sum}) = 0.$$

Therefore, the events are pairwise independent but not independent. In particular, $\sigma(A_1)$ is not independent with $\sigma(\{A_2, A_{sum}\})$.

Lemma 5.2. Suppose the two collections of subsets \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{C} are π -systems and $\mathbb{P}(B \cap C) = \mathbb{P}(B)\mathbb{P}(C)$, $\forall B \in \mathcal{E}$, $C \in \mathcal{C}$. Then $\sigma(\mathcal{E})$ and $\sigma(\mathcal{C})$ are independent.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{D}_1 = \{D \in \mathcal{A} : \mathbb{P}(D \cap C) = \mathbb{P}(D)\mathbb{P}(C), \forall C \in \mathcal{C}\}$. As an exercise, one can check that \mathcal{D}_1 is a λ -system. Since $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{D}_1$, from the π - λ theorem we have $\sigma(\mathcal{E}) \subset \mathcal{D}_1$.

Let $\mathcal{D}_2 = \{D \in \mathcal{A} : \mathbb{P}(B \cap D) = \mathbb{P}(B)\mathbb{P}(D), \forall B \in \sigma(\mathcal{E})\}$. Similarly \mathcal{D}_2 is a λ -system. From above, $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{D}_2$ and by the π - λ theorem, we have $\sigma(\mathcal{C}) \subset \mathcal{D}_2$. Therefore, $\sigma(\mathcal{E}) \perp \!\!\! \perp \sigma(\mathcal{C})$.

By induction, if \mathcal{B}_i for $i=1,\ldots,n$ are π -systems and are independent, then $\sigma(\mathcal{B}_i)$ are independent.

Corollary 5.1. The random variables X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are independent if

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 \le t_1, X_2 \le t_2, \dots, X_n \le t_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(X_i \le t_i).$$

Proof. Since $\{(-\infty, t] : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is a π -system that generates $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, the corollary follows from Lemma 5.2.

Lemma 5.3. Suppose that each random variable X_i has pdf f_i , i = 1, ..., n. Then $X_1, ..., X_n$ are independent iff \exists a joint pdf $f(x_1, ..., x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(X_i)$.

Proof. ' \Leftarrow ':

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{n} \{X_i \in A_i\}\right) = \int_{A_1 \times \dots \times A_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \, \mathrm{d}x_1 \dots \, \mathrm{d}x_n$$

$$= \int_{A_1 \times \dots \times A_n} \prod_{i=1}^{n} f(x_i) \, \mathrm{d}x_1 \dots \, \mathrm{d}x_n$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \int_{A_i} f(x_i) \, \mathrm{d}x_i$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{P}(X_i \in A_i).$$

 \Rightarrow : Let $X = (X_1, \ldots, X_n)$. For $A_i \in \mathcal{B}, i = 1, \ldots n$, we are given

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in A_1 \times \dots \times A_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(X_i \in A_i)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^n \int_{A_i} f_i(x_i) \, \mathrm{d}x_i$$

$$= \int_{A_1 \times \dots \times A_n} \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(x_i) \, \mathrm{d}x_1 \dots \, \mathrm{d}x_n. \tag{5}$$

We want to show that

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in A) = \int_{A} \prod_{i=1}^{n} f_i(x_i) \, \mathrm{d}x_1 \cdots \, \mathrm{d}x_n$$

for all A in the product σ -algebra $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \sigma\{A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n : A_i \in \mathcal{B}\}.$

Let $\mathcal{L} = \{A \in \mathcal{E} : \mathbb{P}(X \in A) = \int_A \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(x_i) dx_1 \cdots dx_n \}$. It can be checked that \mathcal{L} is a λ -system and $\mathcal{P} = \{A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n : A_i \subset \mathcal{B}\}$ is a π -system and generates $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Since $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{L}$ from (5), by the π - λ Theorem, we have $\sigma(\mathcal{P}) \subset \mathcal{L}$ and the proof is complete.

Lemma 5.4. If $X \perp \!\!\!\perp Y$ and are integrable, then $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}X\mathbb{E}Y$.

Proof. The distribution of (X,Y) on \mathbb{R}^2 is the product measure $\mathbb{P}_X \times \mathbb{P}_Y$. From Fubini's theorem, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} xy \, d\mathbb{P}_X \times \mathbb{P}_Y(x,y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x \, d\mathbb{P}_X(x) \int_{\mathbb{R}} y \, d\mathbb{P}_Y(y) = \mathbb{E}X\mathbb{E}Y.$$

Suppose $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$. For any measurable functions f and g, $f(X) \perp\!\!\!\perp g(Y)$ since $\sigma(f(X)) \subset \sigma(X)$.