

Summary of the book¹

A First Course in Quantitative Finance

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August 12, 2023

¹[Maz18]

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Notation

\emptyset	The empty set.
$A \subset S$	Given a set S , $A \subset S$ denotes that A is a subset of S . Following the convention of the book, there's no notational difference between proper and improper subsets.
S^c	Given a set S , S^c denotes the complement of S .
$\#S$	Given a set S , $\#S$ denotes the cardinality (number of elements) of S .
\mathbb{R}	\mathbb{R} denotes the real numbers.
\triangleq	Definition symbol.

Part I

Technical Basics

1 A Primer on Probability

1.1 Probability and Measure

D. 1: Sample space

A set $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots\}$ with elementary states $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots$ which may or may not realize is called a sample space. It is the set of all possible outcomes of an experiment.

D. 2: Event

An event is a set of elementary states of the world, for each of which we can tell with certainty whether or not it has realized after the random experiment is over.

Any subset E of the sample space, $E \subset \Omega$, is known as an event. In other words, an event is a set consisting of possible outcomes of the experiment.

D. 3: Complement

Let U be the set of all elements under study (the "universe") and let $A \subset U$. Then A^c is called the complement of A . A^c is the set of elements that are not in A .

$$A^c = \{x \in U : x \notin A\}.$$

D. 4: σ -algebra

A family \mathcal{F} of sets (events) A, A_1, A_2, \dots is called a σ -algebra, if it satisfies the following conditions

- (i) \mathcal{F} is nonempty, i.e., $\mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$,
- (ii) if $A \in \mathcal{F}$ then $A^c \in \mathcal{F}$,
- (iii) if $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$ then $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \in \mathcal{F}$.

T. 1: De Morgan

The De Morgan's rule:

$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c \right)^c. \quad (1)$$

From this, the subsequent two laws, known as the De Morgan's laws, can be derived¹.

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c = \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right)^c \quad (2)$$

$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c = \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right)^c \quad (3)$$

D. 5: Measurable space

Given a sample space Ω and a σ -algebra \mathcal{F} , the pair (Ω, \mathcal{F}) is called a measurable space.

D. 6: Power set

The power set² of a set S , denoted as 2^S , is the set of all subsets of S , including \emptyset and S itself.

¹See appendix C.1 for derivations.

²The power set is often (like in this book) denoted as 2^S . The reason for this is that a power set of S has $2^{\#S}$ elements (subsets of S). Intuitively, one can either include an element of S in a subset or not, i.e., for each element of S there are two choices, leading to $2^{\#S}$ possible subsets.

D. 7: Borel- σ -algebra on \mathbb{R}

The Borel- σ -algebra on \mathbb{R} , denoted as $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, is the σ -algebra generated by all open sets (a, b) , where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a \leq b$.

D. 8: Generated σ -algebra

The σ -algebra generated³ by the event A is $\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, A, A^c, \Omega\}$, denoted as $\sigma(A)$.

D. 9: Measure

A function $\mu : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$, with the properties

- (i) $\mu(\emptyset) = 0$,
- (ii) $\mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n)$, for $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$,

is called a measure on the measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) .

D. 10: Measure space

Given a measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) and a measure μ on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) , the triple $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$ is called a measure space.

D. 11: Probability space

A measure space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$ where the measure satisfies $\mu(\Omega) = 1$ is called a probability space. The associated measure μ is then called probability and is abbreviated as $P(A)$ for $A \in \mathcal{F}$. Therefore, the probability space triple is written as (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) .

1.2 Filtrations and the Flow of Information**D. 12: Filtration**

The ascending sequence of σ -algebras \mathcal{F}_t , with $\mathcal{F}_0 \subset \mathcal{F}_t \subset \mathcal{F}$, is called a filtration.

If a filtration is generated by successively observing the particular outcomes of a process (like a coin toss), it is called the natural filtration of that process.

1.3 Conditional Probability and Independence**L. 1**

Given a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and an event $A \in \mathcal{F}$ with $P(A) > 0$. Now define

$$\mathcal{F}_A = \{A \cap B : B \in \mathcal{F}\},$$

the family of all intersections of A with every event in \mathcal{F} . Then \mathcal{F}_A is itself a σ -algebra on A and the pair (A, \mathcal{F}_A) is a measurable space.

D. 13: Conditional probability

Given a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and two events $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$. For $P(A) > 0$, the probability measure $P(B | A)$ is called the conditional probability of B given A , and is defined as

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

L. 2

Given a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and an event $A \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $P(A) > 0$. Then the triple $(A, \mathcal{F}_A, P(\cdot | A))$ forms a new probability space.

³It can be shown that $\sigma(A)$ is the smallest σ -algebra containing A .

T. 2: Bayes' rule

$$P(B | A) = \frac{P(A | B)P(B)}{P(A)} = \frac{P(A | B)P(B)}{P(A | B)P(B) + P(A | B^c)P(B^c)}$$

D. 14: Independence

Two events A and B are said to be independent, if

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

A direct consequence of independence is that if events A and B are independent, then the conditional probability of A given B collapses to the unconditional one:

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

1.4 Random Variables and Stochastic Processes

L. 3

There exists a map from the measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) onto another measurable space⁴ (E, \mathcal{B}) , equipped with a distribution function F , induced by the original probability measure P .

D. 15: Random variable

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space and (E, \mathcal{B}) a measurable space. Then the random variable X is a function $X : \Omega \rightarrow E$.

If for every set $B \in \mathcal{B}$, there is also a $X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}$, where the inverse mapping of a random variable X is defined by

$$X^{-1}(B) = \{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in B\},$$

we call X a measurable function⁵.

D. 16: Stochastic process

Given a continuous or discrete index set $0 \leq t \leq T$, a family⁶ of random variables X_t is called a stochastic process.

Note that given a stochastic process X_t , there is also a family of σ -algebras \mathcal{F}_t induced by X_t^{-1} in the original probability space. This is nothing else than the concept of filtrations. To reiterate on the previously stated D. 12, if the filtration \mathcal{F}_t is generated by the process X_t , it is called the natural filtration of this process.

D. 17: Adapted process

If the process X_t is measurable with respect to \mathcal{F}_t , it is called adapted to this σ -algebra.

D. 18: Null set

Nonempty⁷ sets with probability measure zero are called null sets.

D. 19: Complete probability space

A probability space is called complete, if all subsets of null sets are elements of \mathcal{F} .

If a property holds "almost surely", it means that a property is at most violated by events with probability zero.

⁴Usually E is a subset of \mathbb{R} , whereas \mathcal{B} is the corresponding Borel- σ -algebra. For countable E , \mathcal{B} may be chosen as the power set of E .

⁵Note, if for every $B \in \mathcal{B}$, there is a $X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}$, means that we have a way to measure the preimage, $X^{-1}(B)$. Namely using the measure P .

⁶The notation used in this book might make it non-obvious that the stochastic process X_t is actually a sequence that stretches over the defined index set $0 \leq t \leq T$. It might be helpful to keep in mind that when we talk about the stochastic process X_t , we actually mean the sequence $(X_{t_0}, X_{t_1}, \dots, X_{t_T})$.

⁷Example: If $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, then the whole set \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers has probability zero. Actually, in this case, every countable set has probability zero because it is a union of singletons and singletons have probability zero.

1.5 Moments of Random Variables

D. 20: Expectation value

The first moment of a random variable X is its expectation value $m_1 = E[X]$. For discrete random variables, it is defined as

$$E[X] = \sum_n x_n f(x_n)$$

and for continuous random variables, provided that the density function exists, it is defined as

$$E[X] = \int x f(x) dx.$$

L. 4: Linearity of expectation

The expectation value is a linear functional, i.e., for $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, it holds that

$$E[aX + bY] = aE[X] + bE[Y].$$

D. 21: Variance and standard deviation

The second moment is usually understood as a central moment, which means a moment around the expectation value, called the variance, $M_2 = \text{Var}[X]$. It is defined as

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[(X - E[X])^2] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2.$$

The positive root of the variance is called standard deviation, $\text{StD}[X] = \sqrt{\text{Var}[X]}$.

A Distributions and stochastic processes

This section will list distributions and stochastic processes and the properties that were discussed in the book.

A.1 Binomial distribution

TODO

A.2 Normal distribution

TODO

A.3 Wiener process

TODO

B Prerequisites

B.1 Combinatorial Analysis

If not otherwise stated, the content in this section is taken from [Ros10].

D. 22: Binomial coefficient

We define $\binom{n}{r}$, for $r \leq n$, by

$$\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$$

and say that $\binom{n}{r}$ represents the number of possible combinations of n objects taken r at a time.¹

L. 5

A useful combinatorial identity is

$$\binom{n}{r} = \binom{n-1}{r-1} + \binom{n-1}{r} \quad 1 \leq r \leq n.$$

T. 3: The binomial theorem

$$(x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k}$$

¹By convention, $0!$ is defined to be 1. Thus, $\binom{n}{0} = \binom{n}{n} = 1$. We also take $\binom{n}{i}$ to be equal to 0 when either $i < 0$ or $i > n$.

C Derivations and Proofs

C.1 De Morgan's Laws

The first law (Equation 2) can be derived by taking the complement on both sides of Equation 1:

$$\left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right)^c = \left(\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c \right)^c \right)^c = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c.$$

The second law (Equation 3) can be found by replacing A_n with $B_n \triangleq A_n^c$:

$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n^c \triangleq \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \stackrel{1}{=} \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c \right)^c \triangleq \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \right)^c.$$

Bibliography

[Ros10] Sheldon M. Ross. *A First Course in Probability*. 8th ed. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2010.

[Maz18] Thomas Mazzoni. *A First Course in Quantitative Finance*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. DOI: 10.1017/9781108303606.