

probability and stochastic processes

1. experiments, models, and probabilities

**theorem 1.1** demorgan's law related all three basic operations  $(A \cup B)^c = (A^c \cap B^c)$

**theorem 1.2** for mutually exclusive events  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ ,  $P[A_1 \cup A_2] = P[A_1] + P[A_2]$

**theorem 1.3**  
 $testIf A = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_m$  and  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  for all  $i \neq j$ , then

$$P[A] = \sum_{i=1}^m P[A_i]$$

**theorem 1.4** The probability measure  $P[\cdot]$  is a function that satisfies the following properties:

- $P[\emptyset] = 0$
- $P[A^c] = 1 - P[A]$
- For any A and B (not necessarily mutually exclusive),  $P[A \cup B] = P[A] + P[B] - P[A \cap B]$
- $A \subset B, P[A] \leq P[B]$

**theorem 1.5** The probability of an event  $B = s_1, s_2, \dots, s_m$  is the sum of the probabilities of the outcomes contained in the event:

$$P[B] = \sum_{i=1}^m P[s_i]$$

**theorem 1.6** For an experiment with sample space  $S = s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$  in which each outcomes  $s_i$  is equally likely,

$$P[s_i] = \frac{1}{n} \quad 1 \leq i \leq n$$

**theorem 1.7** A conditional probability measure  $P[A|B]$  has the following properties that correspond to the axioms of probability:

- Axiom 1:  $P[A|B] \geq 0$
- Axiom 2:  $P[B|B] = 1$
- Axiom 3: If  $A = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_m$  and  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  for all  $i \neq j$ , then  $P[A|B] = P[A_1|B] + P[A_2|B] + \dots + P[A_m|B]$

**theorem 1.8** For a partition  $B = B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$  and any event  $A$  in the sample space, let  $C_i = A \cap B_i$  For  $i \neq j$ , the events  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  are mutually exclusive and  $A = C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots$

**theorem 1.9** For any event  $A$  and partition  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$

$$P[A] = \sum_{i=1}^m P[A \cap B_i]$$

**theorem 1.10** Law of total probability

For a partition  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$  with  $P[B_i] > 0$  for all  $i$ ,

$$P[A] = \sum_{i=1}^m P[A|B_i]P[B_i]$$

**theorem 1.11** Bayes' theorem

$$P[B|A] = \frac{P[A|B]P[B]}{P[A]}$$

**Definition 1.1 Outcome** An outcome of an experiment is a possible result of the experiment.

**Definition 1.2 Sample space** The sample space of an experiment is the finest-grain, mutually exclusive, collectively exhaustive set of all possible outcomes of the experiment.

**Definition 1.3 Event** An event is a subset of the sample space.

**Definition 1.4 Axioms of Probability** A probability measure  $P[\cdot]$  is a function that maps events in the sample space to real numbers such that

- Axiom 1** For any event  $A$ ,  $P[A] \geq 0$
- Axiom 2**  $P[S] = 1$
- Axiom 3** For any countable collection  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  of mutually exclusive events,

$$P[A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots] = P[A_1] + P[A_2] + \dots$$

**Definition 1.5 Conditional probability** The conditional probability of an event  $A$  given the occurrence of the event B is

$$P[A|B] = \frac{P[AB]}{P[B]}$$

Conditional probability is defined only when  $P[B] > 0$ .

**Definition 1.6 Two independent events** Two events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent if

$$P[AB] = P[A]P[B]$$

**Definition 1.7 Three Independent Events**  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  are mutually exclusive and independent if and only if

- (a)  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are independent
- (b)  $A_2$  and  $A_3$  are independent
- (c)  $A_1$  and  $A_3$  are independent
- (d)  $P[A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3] = P[A_1]P[A_2]P[A_3]$

**Definition 1.8 More than Two Independent Events**

If  $n \geq 3$  events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are mutually independent if an only if

- (a) all collections of  $n - 1$  events chosen from  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are mutually independent,
- (b)  $P[A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_n] = P[A_1]P[A_2] \dots P[A_n]$

2. Sequential Experiments

**theorem 2.1** An experiment consists of two subexperiments. If one subexperiment has  $k$  outcomes and the other has  $n$  outcomes, then the experiment has  $kn$  outcomes.

**theorem 2.2** The number of  $k$ -permutations of  $n$  distinguishable objects is

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

**theorem 2.4** Given  $m$  distinguishable objects, there are  $m^n$  ways to choose ith replacement an ordered sample of  $n$  objects.

**theorem 2.5** For  $n$  reptitions of a subexperiment with sample space  $S_xub = s_1, s_2, \dots, s_m - 1$ , the sample space  $S$  of the sequential experiment has  $m^n$  outcomes.

**theorem 2.6** The number of observation sequences for  $n$  subexperiments with sample space  $S = 0, 1$  with 0 appearing  $n_0$  times and 1 appearing  $n_1 = n - n_0$  times is  $\binom{n}{n_0}$ .

**theorem 2.7** For  $n$  reptitions of a subexperiment with sample space  $S = s_0, s_1, \dots, s_m - 1$ , the number of length  $n = n_0 + n_1 + \dots + n_{m-1}$  observation sequences with  $s_i$  appearing  $n_i$  times is

$$\binom{n}{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_{m-1}} = \frac{n!}{n_0!n_1! \dots n_{m-1}!}$$

**theorem 2.8** The probability of  $n_0$  failures and  $n_1$  successes in  $n = n_0 + n_1$  independent trials is

$$P[E_{n_0, n_1}] = \binom{n}{n_1} (1-p)^{n-n_1} p^{n_1} = \binom{n}{n_0} (1-p)^{n_0} p^{n-n_0}$$

**theorem 2.9** A subexperiment has sample space  $S = s_0, s_1, \dots, s_m - 1$  with  $P[s_i] = p_i$  for  $n = n_0 + n_1 + \dots + n_{m-1}$  independent trials, the probability of  $n_i$  occurrences of  $s_i$  is  $0, 1, \dots, m - 1$  is

$$P[E_{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_{m-1}}] = \binom{n}{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_{m-1}} p_0^{n_0} p_1^{n_1} \dots p_{m-1}^{n_{m-1}}$$

**Definition 2.1 n choose k** For an integer  $n \geq 0$ , we define

$$\binom{n}{k} = \begin{cases} \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} & k = 0, 1, \dots, n, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Definition 2.2 Multinomial coefficient** For an integer  $n \geq 0$ , we define

$$\binom{n}{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_{m-1}} = \frac{n!}{n_0!n_1! \dots n_{m-1}!}$$

3. Discrete Random Variables

**theorem 3.1** For a discrete random variable X with PMF  $P_X(x)$  and range  $S_X$ :

- (a) For any  $x \in S_X$ ,  $P_X(x) \geq 0$
- (b)  $\sum_{x \in S_X} P_X(x) = 1$
- (c) For any event  $B \subset S_X$ , The probability that X is in the set B is

$$P[B] = \sum_{x \in B} P_X(x)$$

**theorem 3.2** For any discrete random variable X with range  $S_x = x_1, x_2, \dots$  satisfying  $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots$ ,

- (a)  $F_X = (-\infty) = 0$  and  $F_X(\infty) = 1$
- (b) For all  $x' \geq x$ ,  $F_X(x') \geq F_X(x)$
- (c) For all  $x' > x$ ,  $F_X(x') > F_X(x)$
- (d)  $F_X(x) = F_X(x_i)$  for all x such that  $x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}$
- theorem 3.3** For all  $b > a$ ,  $F_X(b) - F_X(a) = P[a < X \leq b]$

**theorem 3.4** The Bernoulli  $(p)$  random variable X has expected value  $E[X] = p$

**theorem 3.5** The geometric  $(p)$  random variable X has expect value  $E[X] = 1/p$

**theorem 3.6**

- (a) For the binomial  $(n, p)$  random variable X of Definition 3.6  $E[X] = np$
- (b) For the Pascal  $(k, p)$  random variable X of Definition 3.7  $E[X] = k/p$
- (c) For the discrete uniform  $(k, l)$  random variable X of Definition 3.8  $E[X] = \frac{k+l}{2}$

**theorem 3.8** Perform  $n_1$  Bernoulli trials. In each trial, let the probability of success be  $\alpha/n_1$ , where  $\alpha > 0$  is a constant and  $n_1 > \alpha$ . Let the random variable  $K_{n_1}$  be the number of successes in the  $n_1$  trials. As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $P_{K_{n_1}}(k)$  converges to the PMF of a Poisson  $(\alpha)$  random variable.

**theorem 3.9** For a discrete random variable X, the PMF of  $Y = g(X)$  is

$$P_Y(y) = \sum_{x \in g^{-1}(y)} P_X(x)$$

**theorem 3.10** Given a random variable X with PMF  $P_X(x)$ , and the derived random variable  $Y = g(x)$ , the expected value of Y is

$$E[Y] = \mu_Y = \sum_{x \in S_X} g(x)P_X(x)$$

**theorem 3.11** For any random variable X

$$E[X - \mu_X] = 0$$

**theorem 3.12** For any random variable X

$$E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b$$

**theorem 3.13** In the absence of observations, the minimum mean square error estimate random variable X is

$$\hat{x} = E[X]$$

**theorem 3.14**

$$Var[X] = E[X^2] - \mu_X^2 = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

**theorem 3.15**

$$Var[aX + b] = a^2Var[X]$$

**theorem 3.16**

- (a) If X is Bernoulli  $(p)$ , then  $Var[X] = p(1 - p)$
- (b) If X is geometric  $(p)$ , then  $Var[X] = (1 - p)/p^2$
- (c) If X is binomial  $(n, p)$ , then  $Var[X] = np(1 - p)$
- (d) If X is Pascal  $(k, p)$ , then  $Var[X] = k(1 - p)/p^2$
- (e) If X is Poisson  $(\alpha)$  then  $Var[X] = \alpha$
- (f) If X is discrete uniform  $(k, l)$ , then  $Var[X] = (l - k)(l - k + 2)/12$

**Definition 3.1 Random Variable**

A random variable consists of an experiment with a probability measure  $P[\cdot]$  defined on a sample space S and a function that assigns a real number to each outcome in the sample space of the experiment.

**Definition 3.2 Discrete Random Variable X** is a discrete random variable if the range of X is a countable set.

$$S_X = x_1, x_2, \dots$$

**Definition 3.3 Probability Mass Function PMF** The probability mass function (PMF) of a discrete random variable X is a function that assigns a probability to each value in the range of X

$$P_X(x) = P[X = x]$$

**Definition 3.4 Bernoulli (p) Random Variable X** is a Bernoulli  $(p)$  random variable if the PMF of X has the form

$$P_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - p & x = 0 \\ p & x = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where the parameter p is on the range  $0 < p < 1$

**Definition 3.5 Geometric (p) Random Variable X** is a geometric  $(p)$  random variable if the PMF of X has the form

$$P_X(x) = \begin{cases} p(1 - p)^{x-1} & x = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where the parameter p is on the range  $0 < p < 1$

**Definition 3.6 Binomial (n, p) Random Variable X** is a binomial  $(n, p)$  random variable if the PMF of X has the form

$$P_X(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x}$$

where  $0 < p < 1$  and n is an integer such that  $n \geq 1$

**Definition 3.7 Pascal (k, p) Random Variable**

$$P_X(x) = \binom{x-1}{k-1} p^k (1 - p)^{x-k}$$

where  $0 < p < 1$  and k is an integer such that  $k \geq 1$

**Definition 3.8 Discrete Uniform (k, l) Random Variable X** is a discrete uniform  $(k, l)$  random variable if the PMF of X has the form

$$P_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{l - k + 1} & x = k, k + 1, k + 2, \dots, l \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where the parameters k and l are integers such that  $k < l$ .

**Definition 3.9 Poisson (α) Random Variable X** is a Poisson  $(\alpha)$  random variable if the PMF of X has the form

$$P_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha^x e^{-\alpha}}{x!} & x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where the parameter  $\alpha$  is in the range  $\alpha > 0$

**Definition 3.10 Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)** The cumulative distribution function (CDF) of a discrete random variable X is a function that assigns a probability to each value in the range of X.

$$F_X(x) = P[X \leq x]$$

**Definition 3.11 Mode A** mode of random variable X is a number  $x_{modal}$  satisfying  $P_X(x_{modal}) \geq P_X(x)$  for all x

**Definition 3.12 Median A** median of random variable X is a number that satisfies  $P_X \leq x_{median} = 1/2, P[X \geq x_{median}] = 1/2$

**Definition 3.13 Expected Value** The expected value of X is

$$E[X] = \mu_X = \sum_{x \in S_X} xP_X(x)$$

**Definition 3.14 Derived Random Variable** Each sample value y of a derived random variable Y is a mathematical function g(x) of a sample value x of another random variable X. We adopt the notation  $Y = g(X)$  to describe the relationship of the two random variables.

**Definition 3.15 Variance** The variance of random variable X is

$$Var[X] = \sigma_X^2 = E[(X - \mu_X)^2]$$

**Definition 3.16 Standard Deviation** The standard deviation of random variable X is

$$\sigma_X = \sqrt{Var[X]}$$

**Definition 3.17 Moments** For random variable X

- (a) The nth moment is  $E[X^n]$
- (b) The nth central moment is  $E[(X - \mu_X)^n]$

4. Continuous Random Variables

**theorem 4.1** For any random variable X,

- (a)  $F_X(-\infty) = 0$
- (b)  $F_X(\infty) = 1$
- (c)  $P[x_1 < X \leq x_2] = F_X(x_2) - F_X(x_1)$

**theorem 4.2** For a continuous random variable X, with PMF  $f_X(x)$ ,

- (a)  $f_X(x) \geq 0$  for all x,
- (b)  $f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(u) du$ ,
- (c)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1$

**theorem 4.3**

$$P[x_1 < X \leq x_2] = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} f_X(x) dx$$

**theorem 4.4** The expected value of a function, g(X), of random variable X is

$$E[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f_X(x) dx$$

**theorem 4.5** For any random variable X,

- (a)  $E[X - \mu_X] = 0$
- (b)  $E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b$
- (c)  $Var[X] = E[X^2] - \mu_X^2$
- (d)  $Var[aX + b] = a^2Var[X]$

**theorem 4.6** If X is a uniform  $(a, b)$  random variable,

- The CDF of X is

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < a \\ (x - a)/(b - a) & a \leq x \leq b \\ 1 & x > b \end{cases}$$

- The expected value of X is  $E[X] = (a + b)/2$
- The variance of X is  $Var[X] = (b - a)^2/12$

**theorem 4.7** Let X be a uniform  $(a, b)$  random variable, where a and b are both integers. Let  $K = \lceil X \rceil$ . Then K is a discrete uniform  $(a + 1, b)$  random variable.

**theorem 4.8** If X is an exponential  $(\lambda)$  random variable,

- The CDF of X is

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- The expected value of X is  $E[X] = 1/\lambda$
- The variance of X is  $Var[X] = 1/\lambda^2$

**theorem 4.9** If X is an exponential  $(\lambda)$  random variable, then  $K = \lceil X \rceil$  is a geometric  $(p)$  random variable with  $p = 1 - e^{-\lambda}$

**theorem 4.10** If X is an Erlang  $(n, \lambda)$  random variable, then

- (a)  $E[X] = \frac{n}{\lambda}$
- (b)  $Var[X] = \frac{n}{\lambda^2}$

**theorem 4.11** Let  $K_\alpha$  denote a Poisson  $\alpha$  random variable. For any  $x > 0$ , the CDF of an Erlang  $(n, \lambda)$  random variable X satisfies,

$$F_X(x) = 1 - F_{K_\alpha}(n - 1) = \begin{cases} 1 - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(\lambda x)^k e^{-\lambda x}}{k!} & x \geq n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**theorem 4.12** If X is a Gaussian  $(\mu, \sigma)$  random variable, then

$$E[X] = \mu \quad Var[X] = \sigma^2$$

**theorem 4.13** If X is a Gaussian  $(\mu, \sigma)$ ,  $Y = aX + b$  is Gaussian  $(a\mu + b, a\sigma)$

**theorem 4.14** If X is a Gaussian  $(\mu, \sigma)$  random variable, the CDF of X is

$$F_X(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

The probability that X is in the interval  $(a, b]$  is

$$P[a < X \leq b] = \Phi\left(\frac{b - \mu}{\sigma}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{a - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

**theorem 4.15**  $\Phi(-z) = 1 - \Phi(z)$

**theorem 4.16** For any continuous function g(x),

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)\delta(x - x_0)dx = g(x_0)$$

**theorem 4.17**  $\int_{-\infty}^x \delta(v)dv = u(x)$

**theorem 4.18** For a random variable X, we have the following equivalent statements:

- (a)  $P[X = x_0] = q$
- (b)  $P[x_0] = q$
- (c)  $F_X(x_0^+) - F_X(x_0^-) = q$
- (d)  $f_x(x_0) = q\delta(0)$

**Definition 4.1 Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)** The cumulative distribution function (CDF) of random variable X is  $F_X(x) = P[X \leq x]$

**Definition 4.2 Continuous Random Variable X** is a continuous random variable if the CDF  $F_X(x)$  is a continuous function.

**Definition 4.3 Probability Density Function (PDF)** The probability density function (PDF) of a continuous random variable X is

$$f_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$$

**Definition 4.4 Expected Value** The expected value of a random variable X is

$$E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$$

**Definition 4.5 Uniform Random Variable X**