

4.2 Combinatorial:

Permutation: A rearrangement of objects into distinct sequence (i.e., order matters). $P_n^m = \frac{m!}{(m-n)!}$

Property: There are $\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2!\dots n_r!}$ different permutations of n objects, of which n_1 are alike, n_2 are alike, \dots , n_r are alike.

Combination: An unordered collection of objects (i.e., order doesn't matter).

Property: There are $\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$ different combinations of n distinct objects taken r at a time.

$$\text{Binomial theorem: } (x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k} \quad (a+b)^n + (a-b)^n = 2 \times (a^2 + b^2)$$

Inclusion-Exclusion Principle: $P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$, number powers (powers)

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

and more generally,

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_N) = \sum_{i=1}^N P(E_i) - \sum_{i_1 < i_2} P(E_{i_1} \cap E_{i_2}) + \dots + (-1)^{r+1} \sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_r} P(E_{i_1} \cap E_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_r}) + \dots + (-1)^{N+1} P(E_1 \cap E_2 \cap \dots \cap E_N) \quad \text{if } E_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$

where $\sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_r} P(E_{i_1} \cap E_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_r})$ has $\binom{N}{r}$ terms.

4.3 Conditional probability and Bayes' formula:

Conditional probability $P(A|B)$: If $P(B) > 0$, then $P(A|B) = \frac{P(AB)}{P(B)}$ is the fraction of B outcomes that are also A outcomes.

Multiplication Rule: $P(E_1 E_2 \dots E_n) = P(E_1)P(E_2 | E_1)P(E_3 | E_1 E_2) \dots P(E_n | E_1 \dots E_{n-1})$.

Law of total probability: for any mutually exclusive events $\{F_i\}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, whose union is the entire sample space ($F_i \cap F_j = \emptyset, \forall i \neq j$; $\bigcup_{i=1}^n F_i = \Omega$), we have

$$P(E) = P(EF_1) + P(EF_2) + \dots + P(EF_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E|F_i)P(F_i) \\ = P(E|F_1)P(F_1) + P(E|F_2)P(F_2) + \dots + P(E|F_n)P(F_n)$$

Independent events: $P(EF) = P(E)P(F) \Rightarrow P(EF^C) = P(E)P(F^C)$.

Independence is a symmetric relation: X is independent of $Y \Leftrightarrow Y$ is independent of X .

Bayes' Formula: $P(F_i | E) = \frac{P(E | F_i)P(F_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n P(E | F_j)P(F_j)}$ if $F_i, i = 1, \dots, n$, are mutually exclusive events whose union is the entire sample space.

As the following examples will demonstrate, not all conditional probability problems have intuitive solutions. Many demand logical analysis instead.

4.5 Expected Value, Variance & Covariance

Expected value, variance and covariance are indispensable in estimating returns and risks of any investments. Naturally, they are a popular test subject in interviews as well. The basic knowledge includes the following:

$$E(X+Y) = E(X) + E(Y)$$

If $E[X_i]$ is finite for all $i = 1, \dots, n$, then $E[X_1 + \dots + X_n] = E[X_1] + \dots + E[X_n]$. The relationship holds whether the X_i 's are independent of each other or not.

$$\text{If } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are independent, then } E[g(X)h(Y)] = E[g(X)]E[h(Y)].$$

$$\text{Covariance: } \text{Cov}(X, Y) = E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])] = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y].$$

$$\text{Correlation: } \rho(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)}} \quad \rho = E(X - E(X))^2$$

If X and Y are independent, $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$ and $\rho(X, Y) = 0$.²⁶

General rules of variance and covariance:

$$\text{Cov}(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i, \sum_{j=1}^m b_j Y_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m a_i b_j \text{Cov}(X_i, Y_j) \quad \text{if } \text{indep. } E(X \cdot Y) = E(X) \cdot E(Y)$$

$$\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

²⁶ The reverse is not true. $\rho(X, Y) = 0$ only means X and Y are uncorrelated; they may well be dependent.

Linearity of conditional expectation:

$$E(X|Y|A) = E(X|A) + E(Y|A)$$

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Conditional expectation and variance: by changing y , E of $g(x)$ changes

$$\text{For discrete distribution: } E[g(X)|Y=y] = \sum_x g(x)p_{xy}(x|y) = \sum_x g(x)p(X=x|Y=y)$$

$$\text{For continuous distribution: } E[g(X)|Y=y] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f_{x|y}(x|y)dx \quad \text{addition from cond. P.}$$

Law of total expectation: The ~~EV~~ of the conditioned EV of X given Y is the same as $E(X)$

$$E[X] = E[E[X|Y]] = \begin{cases} \sum_y E[X|Y=y]p(Y=y), & \text{for discrete } Y \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E[X|Y=y]f_Y(y)dy, & \text{for continuous } Y \end{cases}$$

This is a random variable

4.6 Order Statistics

Let X be a random variable with cumulative distribution function $F_X(x)$. We can derive the distribution function for the minimum $Y_n = \min(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ and for the maximum $Z_n = \max(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ of n IID random variables with cdf $F_X(x)$ as

$$\text{min: } P(Y_n \geq x) = (P(X \geq x))^n \Rightarrow 1 - F_{Y_n}(x) = (1 - F_X(x))^n \Rightarrow f_{Y_n}(x) = n f_X(x) (1 - F_X(x))^{n-1}$$

$$\text{max: } P(Z_n \leq x) = (P(X \leq x))^n \Rightarrow F_{Z_n}(x) = (F_X(x))^n \Rightarrow f_{Z_n}(x) = n f_X(x) (F_X(x))^{n-1}$$