

Useful facts

1. Permutations and combinations

There are $n! = \prod_{i=1}^n i = 1.2.3.4. \dots n$ permutations of n objects.

There are $\binom{n}{k} = n!/(k!(n-k)!)$ ways of choosing a given k objects from n .

2. Joint and conditional probabilities

If C and D are any events: $P(C \cup D) = P(C) + P(D) - P(C \cap D)$.

The conditional probability of C given D is $P(C | D) = P(C \cap D) / P(D)$.

C and D are independent if and only if $P(C \cap D) = P(C) \times P(D)$.

3. Laws and theorems

Suppose E_1, \dots, E_k is a partition of Ω .

That is $E_i \cap E_j$ is empty, and $E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_k = \Omega$.

The law of total probability states that: $P(D) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(D \cap E_j) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(D | E_j) P(E_j)$

Bayes' Theorem states that: $P(E_i | D) = P(D | E_i) P(E_i) / P(D)$

4. Random variables and distributions

	discrete (mass)	continuous (density)
Probability mass/density function	pmf: $P(X = x) = p_X(x)$	pdf: $f_X(x)$
Cumulative dist. func. $P(X \leq x)$	$F_X(x) = \sum_{w \leq x} p_X(w)$	$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(w) dw$
Joint mass/density func. of (X, Y)	$p_{X,Y}(x, y) = P(X = x, Y = y)$	$f_{X,Y}(x, y)$
Marginal mass/density of X	$p_X(x) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(x, y)$	$f_X(x) = \int_{y=-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy$
Conditional of X given $Y = y$	$p_{X Y}(x y) = p_{X,Y}(x, y) / p_Y(y)$	$f_{X Y}(x y) = f_{X,Y}(x, y) / f_Y(y)$
Independence of X and Y	$p_{X,Y}(x, y) = P(X = x)P(Y = y)$	$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$
or	$p_{X Y}(x y) = p_X(x)$	$f_{X Y}(x y) = f_X(x)$

Must hold for all x and all y

5. Moments of random variables:

(a) Expectation: $E(X)$	$E(X) = \sum_x x P(X = x)$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$
and of $g(X)$	$E(g(X)) = \sum_x g(x) P(X = x)$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_X(x) dx$
and of $g(X, Y)$	$E(g(X, Y)) = \sum_x \sum_y g(x, y) P_{X,Y}(x, y)$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x, y) f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy$

in each case **provided** the sum/integral converges absolutely.

(b) For any random variables X :

Variance: $\text{var}(X) = E((X - E(X))^2) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$

Note also: $E(aX + b) = a E(X) + b$, $\text{var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{var}(X)$.

(c) For any random variables X, Y, Z and W :

Covariance: $\text{cov}(X, Y) = E((X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$

Correlation: $\rho(X, Y) = \text{cov}(X, Y) / \sqrt{\text{var}(X)\text{var}(Y)}$, $-1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1$

Note also:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(X + Y) &= E(X) + E(Y), \\
 \text{var}(X + Y) &= \text{var}(X) + \text{var}(Y) + 2 \text{cov}(X, Y) \\
 \text{cov}(aX + b, cW + d) &= ac \text{cov}(X, W), \\
 \text{cov}(X + Y, W + Z) &= \text{cov}(X, W) + \text{cov}(X, Z) + \text{cov}(Y, W) + \text{cov}(Y, Z)
 \end{aligned}$$

6. Conditional Expectations of random variables:

(a) If $h(y) = E(X | Y = y)$, we write $h(Y) = E(X|Y)$. Note this is a random variable, a function of Y .

Result 1: $E(X) = E(h(Y)) = E(E(X | Y))$ and more generally $E(g(X, Y)) = E(E(g(X, Y) | Y))$

Result 2: $\text{var}(X) = E(\text{var}(X|Y)) + \text{var}(E(X|Y))$.

(b) If X_1, X_2, \dots , are independent, with mean μ and variance σ^2 , and independent of random variable N which takes values $1, 2, 3, \dots$, and $W = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$, then

$$E(W) = E(E(W|N)) = \mu E(N) \text{ and } \text{var}(W) = \sigma^2 E(N) + \mu^2 \text{var}(N).$$

7. A note about Poisson Process rate λ

(a) The number of events N in time t is Poisson: $N \sim \mathcal{Po}(\lambda t)$

(b) Events occur independently. That is, numbers of events in disjoint time intervals are independent.

(c) The time T to the next event is Exponential: $T \sim \mathcal{E}(\lambda)$

(d) Given an event in time interval $(0, s)$, the time T it occurred is Uniform: $T \sim U(0, s)$.

(e) Multiple independent Poisson processes rates λ_i can be combined to a single process rate $\sum_i \lambda_i$.

(f) If each event of a Poisson process rate λ is independently detected with probability p , detected events form a Poisson process rate λp .

8. Standard distributions:

	pmf or pdf	mean	variance
(a) Binomial; $B(n, p)$ index n , parameter p	$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$ $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$	np	$np(1-p)$
(b) Multinomial: $Mn(n, (p_1, \dots, p_k))$ $\sum_i p_i = 1 \quad \sum_i n_i = n$	$P(X_i = n_i, i = 1, \dots, k) = \frac{n!}{(n_1!) \dots (n_k!)} p_1^{n_1} \dots p_k^{n_k}$	$X_i \sim \text{Bin}(n, p_i), i = 1, \dots, k$	
(c) Hypergeometric (N, k, n) ; sample n from N , $p = k/N$ sample n from N	$P(X = x) = \binom{k}{x} \binom{N-k}{n-x} / \binom{N}{n}$ $x = \min(0, k+n-N), \dots, \min(n, k)$ $k = 0, \dots, n, k \leq m, k \geq m+n-N$	$nk/N \equiv np$	$np(1-p) \frac{N-n}{N-1}$
(d) Geometric; $G(p)$; parameter p	$P(X = k) = p(1-p)^{k-1}$ $k = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$	$1/p$	$(1-p)/p^2$
(e) Neg. Binomial; $NegB(r, p)$; index r , parameter p	$P(X = k) = \binom{k-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{k-r}$ $k = r, r+1, r+2, \dots$	r/p	$r(1-p)/p^2$
(f) Poisson; $\mathcal{Po}(\mu)$	$P(X = k) = \exp(-\mu) \mu^k / k!, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$	μ	μ
(g) Uniform on (a, b) ; $U(a, b)$;	$f_X(x) = 1/(b-a), \quad a < x < b$	$(b+a)/2$	$(b-a)^2/12$
(h) Normal, $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$f_X(x) = (1/\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}) \exp(-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2)$	μ	σ^2
(i) Exponential, $\mathcal{E}(\lambda)$ rate parameter λ	$f_X(x) = \lambda \exp(-\lambda x)$ $0 \leq x < \infty$	$1/\lambda$	$1/\lambda^2$