

# PROBABILITY THEORY

## Sem. 1, Euler's Functions; Counting, Outcomes, Events

**Euler's Gamma Function**  $\Gamma : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$   $\Gamma(a) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{a-1} e^{-x} dx$

1.  $\Gamma(1) = 1$ ; 2.  $\Gamma(a+1) = a\Gamma(a)$ ,  $\forall a > 0$ ;

3.  $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ; 4.  $\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sqrt{2} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} dt = \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-t^2} dt = \sqrt{\pi}$ .

**Euler's Beta Function**  $\beta : (0, \infty) \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$   $\beta(a, b) = \int_0^1 x^{a-1} (1-x)^{b-1} dx$

1.  $\beta(a, 1) = \frac{1}{a}$ ,  $\forall a > 0$ ; 2.  $\beta(a, b) = \beta(b, a)$ ,  $\forall a, b > 0$ ; 3.  $\beta(a, b) = \frac{a-1}{b} \beta(a-1, b+1)$ ,  $\forall a > 1, b > 0$ ;

4.  $\beta(a, b) = \frac{b-1}{a+b-1} \beta(a, b-1) = \frac{a-1}{a+b-1} \beta(a-1, b)$ ,  $\forall a, b > 1$ ; 5.  $\beta(a, b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$ ,  $\forall a, b > 0$ .

**Arrangements:**  $A_n^k = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$ ; **Permutations:**  $P_n = A_n^n = n!$ ; **Combinations:**  $C_n^k = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$ .

## Sem. 2, Class. Probability; Rules of Probability; Cond. Probability; Ind. Events

**Classical Probability:**  $P(A) = \frac{\text{nr. of favorable outcomes}}{\text{total nr. of possible outcomes}}$ .

**Mutually Exclusive Events:**  $A, B$  m. e. (disjoint, incompatible)  $\Leftrightarrow P(A \cap B) = 0$ .

**Rules of Probability:**

$$P(\overline{A}) = 1 - P(A);$$

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B);$$

$$P(A \setminus B) = P(A) - P(A \cap B).$$

**Conditional Probability:**  $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ ,  $P(B) \neq 0$ .

**Independent Events:**  $A, B$  ind.  $\Leftrightarrow P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B) \Leftrightarrow P(A|B) = P(A)$ .

**Total Probability Rule:**  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  a partition of  $S$ , then  $P(E) = \sum_{i \in I} P(A_i)P(E|A_i)$ .

**Multiplication Rule:**  $P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = P(A_1)P(A_2|A_1)P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) \dots P\left(A_n \middle| \bigcap_{i=1}^{n-1} A_i\right)$ .

## Sem. 3, Probabilistic Models

**Binomial Model:** The probability of  $k$  successes in  $n$  Bernoulli trials, with probability of success  $p$ , is  $P(n, k) = C_n^k p^k q^{n-k}$ ,  $k = \overline{0, n}$ .

**Hypergeometric Model:** The probability that in  $n$  trials, we get  $k$  white balls out of  $n_1$  and  $n - k$  black balls out of  $N - n_1$  ( $0 \leq k \leq n_1$ ,  $0 \leq n - k \leq N - n_1$ ), is  $P(n; k) = \frac{C_{n_1}^k C_{N-n_1}^{n-k}}{C_N^n}$

**Poisson Model:** The probability of  $k$  successes ( $0 \leq k \leq n$ ) in  $n$  trials, with probability of success  $p_i$  in the  $i^{th}$  trial ( $q_i = 1 - p_i$ ),  $i = \overline{1, n}$ , is  $P(n; k) = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} p_{i_1} \dots p_{i_k} q_{i_{k+1}} \dots q_{i_n}$ ,  $i_{k+1}, \dots, i_n \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$  = the coefficient of  $x^k$  in the expansion  $(p_1 x + q_1)(p_2 x + q_2) \dots (p_n x + q_n)$ .

**Pascal (Negative Binomial) Model:** The probability of the  $n^{th}$  success occurring after  $k$  failures in a sequence of Bernoulli trials with probability of success  $p$  ( $q = 1 - p$ ), is  $P(n; k) = C_{n+k-1}^{n-1} p^n q^k = C_{n+k-1}^k p^n q^k$ .

**Geometric Model:** The probability of the  $1^{st}$  success occurring after  $k$  failures in a sequence of Bernoulli trials with probability of success  $p$  ( $q = 1 - p$ ), is  $p_k = p q^k$ .

#### Sem. 4, Discrete Random Variables and Discrete Random Vectors

**Bernoulli Distribution** with parameter  $p \in (0, 1)$ :  $X \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1-p & p \end{pmatrix}$

**Binomial Distribution** with parameters  $n \in \mathbb{N}, p \in (0, 1)$ :  $X \begin{pmatrix} k \\ C_n^k p^k q^{n-k} \end{pmatrix}_{k=0, \overline{n}}$

**Discrete Uniform Distribution** with parameter  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  pdf:  $X \begin{pmatrix} k \\ \frac{1}{m} \end{pmatrix}_{k=1, \overline{m}}$

**Hypergeometric Distribution** with parameters  $N, n_1, n \in \mathbb{N}, n, n_1 \leq N$ :  $X \begin{pmatrix} k \\ p_k \end{pmatrix}_{k=0, \overline{n}}$ , where

$$p_k = \frac{C_{n_1}^k C_{N-n_1}^{n-k}}{C_N^n}$$

**Poisson Distribution** with parameter  $\lambda > 0$ :  $X \begin{pmatrix} k \\ p_k \end{pmatrix}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where  $p_k = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$

$X$  represents the number of “rare events” that occur in a fixed period of time;  $\lambda$  represents the frequency, the average number of events occurring per time unit.

**(Negative Binomial) Pascal Distribution** with parameters  $n \in \mathbb{N}, p \in (0, 1)$ :  $X \begin{pmatrix} k \\ C_{n+k-1}^k p^n q^k \end{pmatrix}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$

**Geometric Distribution** with parameter  $p \in (0, 1)$ :  $X \begin{pmatrix} k \\ pq^k \end{pmatrix}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$

**Cumulative Distribution Function (cdf)**  $F_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{x_i \leq x} p_i$

**Discrete Random Vector:**  $(X, Y) : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ ,

– (joint) pdf  $p_{ij} = P(X = x_i, Y = y_j), (i, j) \in I \times J$ ,

– (joint) cdf  $F = F_{(X,Y)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, F(x, y) = P(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \sum_{x_i \leq x} \sum_{y_j \leq y} p_{ij}, \forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ,

– marginal densities  $p_i = P(X = x_i) = \sum_{j \in J} p_{ij}, \forall i \in I, q_j = P(Y = y_j) = \sum_{i \in I} p_{ij}, \forall j \in J$

**Operations:**  $X \begin{pmatrix} x_i \\ p_i \end{pmatrix}_{i \in I}, Y \begin{pmatrix} y_j \\ q_j \end{pmatrix}_{j \in J}$

$X$  and  $Y$  are **independent**  $\Leftrightarrow p_{ij} = P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = P(X = x_i) P(Y = y_j) = p_i q_j$ .

$X + Y \begin{pmatrix} x_i + y_j \\ p_{ij} \end{pmatrix}_{(i,j) \in I \times J}, \alpha X \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_i \\ p_i \end{pmatrix}_{i \in I}, XY \begin{pmatrix} x_i y_j \\ p_{ij} \end{pmatrix}_{(i,j) \in I \times J}, X/Y \begin{pmatrix} x_i / y_j \\ p_{ij} \end{pmatrix}_{(i,j) \in I \times J} (y_j \neq 0)$

#### Sem. 5, Continuous Random Variables and Continuous Random Vectors

$X : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  cont. random variable with pdf  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , cdf  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Properties:

1.  $F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt$

2.  $f(x) \geq 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) = 1$

3.  $P(X = x) = 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, P(a < X < b) = \int_a^b f(t) dt$

4.  $F(-\infty) = 0, F(\infty) = 1$

**Continuous R. Vector:**  $(X, Y) : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , pdf  $f = f_{(X,Y)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , cdf  $F = F_{(X,Y)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow$

$\mathbb{R}, F(x, y) = P(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y f(u, v) dv du, \forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Properties:

1.  $P(a_1 < X \leq b_1, a_2 < Y \leq b_2) = F(b_1, b_2) - F(a_1, b_2) - F(b_1, a_2) + F(a_1, a_2)$

2.  $F(\infty, \infty) = 1, F(-\infty, y) = F(x, -\infty) = 0, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$
3.  $F_X(x) = F(x, \infty), F_Y(y) = F(\infty, y), \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  (marginal cdf's)
4.  $P((X, Y) \in D) = \int_D \int f(x, y) dy dx$
5.  $f_X(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x, y) dy, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, f_Y(y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x, y) dx, \forall y \in \mathbb{R}$  (marginal densities)
6.  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent  $\Leftrightarrow f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y), \forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Function**  $Y = g(X)$ :  $X$  r.v.,  $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  differentiable with  $g' \neq 0$ , strictly monotone

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{|g'(g^{-1}(y))|}, y \in g(\mathbb{R})$$

**Uniform distribution**  $\mathcal{U}(a, b), -\infty < a < b < \infty$ : pdf  $f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, x \in [a, b]$ .

**Normal distribution**  $N(\mu, \sigma), \mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma > 0$ : pdf  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}, x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Gamma distribution**  $\text{Gamma}(a, b), a, b > 0$ : pdf  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(a)b^a} x^{a-1} e^{-\frac{x}{b}}, x > 0$ .

**Exponential distribution**  $\text{Exp}(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(1, 1/\lambda), \lambda > 0$ : pdf  $f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, x > 0$ .

- Exponential distribution models *time*: waiting time, interarrival time, failure time, time between rare events, etc. The parameter  $\lambda$  represents the frequency of rare events, measured in  $\text{time}^{-1}$ .

- Gamma distribution models the *total* time of a multistage scheme.

- For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , a  $\text{Gamma}(\alpha, 1/\lambda)$  variable is the sum of  $\alpha$  independent  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$  variables.

## Sem. 6, Numerical Characteristics of Random Variables

**Expectation:**

$X$  discr. with pdf  $X \begin{pmatrix} x_i \\ p_i \end{pmatrix}_{i \in I}$ ,  $E(X) = \sum_{i \in I} x_i p_i$ ,  $X$  cont. with pdf  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $E(X) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f(x) dx$ .

**Variance:**  $V(X) = E((X - E(X))^2) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$ .

**Standard Deviation:**  $\sigma(X) = \sqrt{V(X)}$ .

**Moment of order k**  $\nu_k = E(X^k)$ ,

**Absolute moment of order k**  $\underline{\nu}_k = E(|X|^k)$ ,

**Central moment of order k**  $\mu_k = E((X - E(X))^k)$ .

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

**Correlation Coefficient:**  $\rho(X, Y) = \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{V(X)}\sqrt{V(Y)}}$

**Properties:**

1.  $E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b, V(aX + b) = a^2V(X)$

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

3. if  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $E(XY) = E(X)E(Y)$  and  $V(X + Y) = V(X) + V(Y)$

4.  $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, X$  discrete, then  $E(h(X)) = \sum_{i \in I} h(x_i) p_i$ ,  $X$  continuous, then  $E(h(X)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} h(x) f(x) dx$

5.  $\text{cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$

6.  $V\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 V(X_i) + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_i a_j \text{cov}(X_i, X_j)$

7.  $X, Y$  independent  $\Rightarrow \text{cov}(X, Y) = \rho(X, Y) = 0$  ( $X$  and  $Y$  are *uncorrelated*)

8.  $-1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1; \rho(X, Y) = \pm 1 \Leftrightarrow \exists a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq 0$  s.t.  $Y = aX + b$

9.  $(X, Y)$  a cont. r. vector with pdf  $f(x, y), h: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , then  $E(h(X, Y)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x, y) f(x, y) dx dy$ .

## Sem. 7, Inequalities; Central Limit Theorem; Markov Chains; Point Estimators

**Markov's Inequality:**  $P(|X| \geq a) \leq \frac{1}{a} E(|X|), \forall a > 0$ .

**Chebyshev's Inequality:**  $P(|X - E(X)| \geq \varepsilon) \leq \frac{V(X)}{\varepsilon^2}, \forall \varepsilon > 0.$

**Central Limit Theorem (CLT)** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be independent random variables with the same expectation  $\mu = E(X_i)$  and same standard deviation  $\sigma = \sigma(X_i)$  and let  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ . Then, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$Z_n = \frac{S_n - E(S_n)}{\sigma(S_n)} = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow Z \in N(0, 1), \text{ in distribution (in cdf).}$$

## **STATISTICS**

$X$  a population characteristic,  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  a sample of size  $n$ , i.e. independent and identically distributed, with the same pdf as  $X$ ;  $\theta$  target parameter,  $\bar{\theta} = \bar{\theta}(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  point estimator.

**Sample Mean:**  $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i,$

**Sample Moment:**  $\bar{\nu}_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k,$

**Sample Absolute Moment:**  $\bar{\mu}_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^k,$

**Sample Variance:**  $s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2.$

**Likelihood Function of a Sample:**  $L(X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(X_i | \theta).$

**Fisher's Information:**  $I_n(\theta) = E \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln L(X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right];$

- if the range of  $X$  does not depend on  $\theta$ , then  $I_n(\theta) = -E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln L(X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta)}{\partial^2 \theta} \right]$  and  $I_n(\theta) = nI_1(\theta).$

**Efficiency of an Absolutely Correct Estimator:**  $e(\bar{\theta}) = \frac{1}{I_n(\theta)V(\bar{\theta})}.$

**Estimator  $\bar{\theta}$  is**

- **unbiased:**  $E(\bar{\theta}) = \theta;$
- **MVUE (min. var. unbiased estimator):**  $E(\bar{\theta}) = \theta$  and  $V(\bar{\theta}) \leq V(\hat{\theta}), \forall \hat{\theta}$  unbiased estimator;
- **absolutely correct:**  $E(\bar{\theta}) = \theta$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} V(\bar{\theta}) = 0;$
- **efficient:** absolutely correct and  $e(\bar{\theta}) = 1.$

**Method of Moments:**

Solve the system  $\nu_k = \bar{\nu}_k$ , for as many parameters as needed ( $k = 1 \dots$  nr. of unknown parameters).

**Method of Maximum Likelihood:**

Solve the system  $\frac{\partial \ln L(X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta)}{\partial \theta_j} = 0, j = \overline{1, m}$  for the unknown parameters  $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m).$

**Hypothesis Testing:**  $H_0 : \theta = \theta_0$  with one of the alternatives  $H_1 : \begin{cases} \theta < \theta_0 & \text{(left-tailed test),} \\ \theta > \theta_0 & \text{(right-tailed test),} \\ \theta \neq \theta_0 & \text{(two-tailed test).} \end{cases}$

**Significance Level:**  $\alpha = P(\text{type I error}) = P(\text{reject } H_0 | H_0) = P(TS \in RR | \theta = \theta_0).$

**Type II Error:**  $\beta = P(\text{type II error}) = P(\text{do not reject } H_0 | H_1) = P(TS \notin RR | H_1).$

**Power of a Test:**  $\pi(\theta^*) = P(\text{reject } H_0 | \theta = \theta^*) = P(TS \in RR | \theta = \theta^*).$

**Neyman-Pearson Lemma (NPL):** Suppose we test two simple hypotheses  $H_0 : \theta = \theta_0$  versus  $H_1 : \theta = \theta_1$ . Let  $L(\theta^*)$  denote the likelihood function of the sample, when  $\theta = \theta^*$ . Then for every  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , a most powerful test (a test that maximizes the power  $\pi(\theta_1)$ ) is the test with  $RR = \left\{ \frac{L(\theta_1)}{L(\theta_0)} \geq k_\alpha \right\}$ , for some constant  $k_\alpha > 0$ .