

## Chapter 1: Basic Concepts of Probability

### DEFINITION 1 (EXPERIMENT, SAMPLE SPACE, EVENT)

A **statistical experiment** is any procedure that produces data or observations.

The **sample space**, denoted by  $S$ , is the set of **all possible outcomes of a statistical experiment**. The sample space depends on the problem of interest!

A **sample point** is an **outcome (element)** in the sample space.

An **event** is a **subset of the sample space**.

**Union:**  $A \cup B = x : x \in A \vee x \in B$

**Union of n events:**  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n x : x \in A_1 \vee x \in A_2 \dots$

**Union:**  $A \cap B = x : x \in A \wedge x \in B$

**Intersection of n events:**  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n x : x \in A_1 \wedge x \in A_2 \dots$

**Complement:**  $A' = x : x \in S \wedge x \notin A$

**Mutually Exclusive:**  $A \cap B = \emptyset$

#### MORE EVENT OPERATIONS

(a)  $A \cap A' = \emptyset$  (b)  $A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$

(c)  $A \cup A' = S$  (d)  $(A')' = A$

(e)  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$

(f)  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$

(g)  $A \cup B = A \cup (B \cap A')$

(h)  $A = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap B')$

#### DE MORGAN'S LAW

For any  $n$  events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ ,

(i)  $(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n)' = A_1' \cap A_2' \cap \dots \cap A_n'$

A special case:  $(A \cup B)' = A' \cap B'$

(j)  $(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_n)' = A_1' \cup A_2' \cup \dots \cup A_n'$

A special case:  $(A \cap B)' = A' \cup B'$

#### Multiplication

Sequential experiments  
 $n_1 * n_2 * \dots * n_r$   
outcomes

#### Addition

Independent experiments  
 $n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_r$   
outcomess

**Permutation:**  $P_r^n = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} = n(n-1)\dots(n-(r-1))$   
Selection and arrangement of  $r$  objects out of  $n$ . Order is considered.

**Combination:**  $C_r^n = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} = \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-(r-1))}{r!}$

Selection of  $r$  objects out of  $n$ . Order is not considered.

$$C_r^n = C_{n-r}^n$$

#### Axioms and Properties of Probability

$$1 \ 0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$$

$$2 \ P(S)=1$$

3  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$  if A and B are **mutex** (not to be confused with independence)

$$4 \ P(\emptyset)=0$$

$$5 \ P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)$$

$$6 \ P(A') = 1 - P(A)$$

$$7 \ P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(AB)$$

$$8 \ P(A) = P(A \cap B) + P(A \cap B')$$

$$9 \ A \subset B \rightarrow P(A) \leq P(B)$$

$$10 \ P(A_1) = P(A_2) = \dots = P(A_k) \rightarrow \text{for } B \subset S, P(B) = \frac{|B|}{|S|}$$

### Conditional Probability (B occurs given A):

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

#### Multiplication rules

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A) \text{ if } P(A) \neq 0$$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B)P(A|B) \text{ if } P(B) \neq 0$$

$$\text{Inverse Probability Formula: } P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

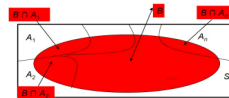
**Independence**  $A \perp B$  iff  $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$  This implies  $P(A|B) = P(A)$  and  $P(B|A) = P(B)$

**Partition**  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$  are mutually exclusive and  $\sum_{i=1}^n A_i = S$

#### THEOREM 11 (LAW OF TOTAL PROBABILITY)

Suppose  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  is a partition of  $S$ . Then for any event  $B$ , we have

$$P(B) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(B \cap A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)P(B|A_i).$$



$$P(B) = P(A)P(B|A) + P(A')P(B|A')$$

#### Bayes' theorem

$$P(A_k|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A_k)}{P(A)P(B|A) + P(A')P(B|A')}$$

$$\text{Bayes' Theorem (n=2): } P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)P(B|A_i)}$$

Denom is P(B)

## L2: Random Variables

Random variable X is a function from S to  $\mathbb{R}$

Uppercase letters denote random variables

Lowercase letters denote observed values of random variables

### DEFINITION 3 (PROBABILITY MASS FUNCTION)

For a discrete random variable  $X$ , define

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} P(X=x), & \text{for } x \in R_X; \\ 0, & \text{for } x \notin R_X. \end{cases}$$

Then  $f(x)$  is known as the **probability function (pf)**, or **probability mass function (pmf)** of  $X$ .

The collection of pairs  $(x_i, f(x_i)), i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , is called the **probability distribution** of  $X$ .

#### PROPERTIES OF THE PROBABILITY MASS FUNCTION

The probability mass function  $f(x)$  of a discrete random variable **must** satisfy:

(1)  $f(x_i) \geq 0$  for all  $x_i \in R_X$ ;

(2)  $f(x) = 0$  for all  $x \notin R_X$ ;

(3)  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f(x_i) = 1$ , or  $\sum_{x_i \in R_X} f(x_i) = 1$ .

For any set  $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$P(X \in B) = \sum_{x_i \in B \cap R_X} f(x_i).$$

#### DEFINITION 4 (PROBABILITY DENSITY FUNCTION)

The **probability density function** of a continuous random variable  $X$ , denoted by  $f(x)$ , is a function that satisfies:

(1)  $f(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x \in R_X$ ; and  $f(x) = 0$  for  $x \notin R_X$ ;

(2)  $\int_{R_X} f(x) dx = 1$ ;

(3) For any  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a \leq b$ ,

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x) dx.$$

note:  $P(a < X < b) = P(a \leq X \leq b)$

To check that a function is a PDF, check conditions 1 and 2

**Cumulative Distribution Function:**  $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$  and

$$P(a \leq b) = P(X \leq b) - P(X \leq a) = F(b) - F(a-)$$

#### Deriving CDF from probability distribution

$x$	0	1	2
$f(x)$	1/4	1/2	1/4

We have

$$F(0) = f(0) = 1/4, F(1) = f(0) + f(1) = 3/4, F(2) = f(0) + f(1) + f(2) = 1.$$

#### D ... bution from cdf

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ 1/4, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 3/4, & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 1, & 2 \leq x \end{cases}$$

- $f(1) = P(X=0) = F(0) - F(0-) = \frac{1}{4} - 0 = \frac{1}{4}$
- $f(2) = P(X=1) = F(1) - F(1-) = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$
- $f(3) = P(X=2) = F(2) - F(2-) = 1 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$

#### CDF - Continuous Random Variable

•  $F(X)$  assumes different values in  $R_x$  when  $F(X) \neq 0$

- $F(X)$  is always non-decreasing (for discrete variable too)  
 $x_1 < x_2 \rightarrow F(x_1) < F(x_2)$
- Probability function and CDF is one-to-one and uniquely determined
- $0 < F(x) < 1$
- (discrete),  $0 < f(x) < 1$
- (continuous),  $f(x) \geq 0$  but  $f(x)$  is not necessarily  $\leq 1$ . While the PDF itself cannot exceed 1, there are points within its range that are greater than 1

#### CDF: CONTINUOUS RANDOM VARIABLE

If  $X$  is a **continuous random variable**,

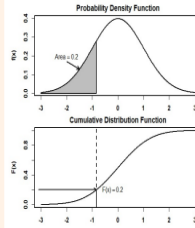
$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt,$$

and

$$f(x) = \frac{dF(x)}{dx}.$$

Further

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = P(a < X < b) = F(b) - F(a).$$



#### Find CDF of a continuous random variable

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{\theta^2} e^{-x^2/(2\theta^2)}, & \text{for } x > 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt = \int_0^x \frac{t}{\theta^2} e^{-t^2/(2\theta^2)} dt = \left[ -e^{-t^2/(2\theta^2)} \right]_{t=0}^x = 1 - e^{-x^2/(2\theta^2)}.$$

#### Discrete: Expectation (mean) and Variance

$$\bullet E(X) = \sum_{x \in R_X} x_i f(x_i) = \mu_x$$

#### Random: Expectation (mean) and Variance

$$\bullet E(X) = \mu_x = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = \infty_{x \in R_X} x f(x) dx$$

• The mean of  $X$  is not necessarily a possible value

#### Properties of Expectation

$$1 \ E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b$$

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

$$3 \ (\text{discrete}) \ E|g(x)| = \sum_{x \in R_X} g(x) f(x)$$

$$3 \ (\text{continuous}) \ E|g(x)| = \int_{x \in R_X} g(x) f(x) dx$$

• Using properties 1, 2 we have

$$E(a_1 X_1 + a_2 X_2 + \dots + a_k X + k) =$$

$$a_1 E(X_1) + \dots + a_k E(X_k)$$

#### Variance

$$\bullet Var(X) = \sigma_x^2 = E(X - \mu_x)^2 = E(X^2) - E(X)^2$$

$$\bullet (\text{discrete}) \ Var(X) = \sum_{x \in R_X} (x - \mu_x)^2 f(x)$$

$$\bullet (\text{continuous}) \ Var(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu_x)^2 f(x) dx$$

$$\bullet V(X) \leq 0 \text{ for any } X, V(X)=0 \text{ when } X \text{ is a constant}$$

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