

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: $\cup_{i=1}^n = x : x \in A_1 \vee x \in A_2 \dots$

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

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

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

$$n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_r$$

outcomes

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 $A \perp B$ if $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$ This implies $P(A|B) = P(A)$ and $P(B|A) = P(B)$

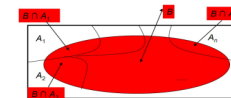
Partition

$A_1, A_2 \dots A_r$ 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

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

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

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: $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$