APMA 1655 Honors Statistical Inference I February 21, 2023

Homework 1

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- You are strongly encouraged to work in groups, but solutions must be written independently.

Please feel free to use the following laws without proving them:
Let A, B, and C be events. Then, we have

- (Commutative Law) $A \cup B = B \cup A$,
- (Commutative Law) $A \cap B = B \cap A$,
- (Associative Law) $(A \cup B) \cup B = A \cup (B \cup C)$,
- (Associative Law) $(A \cap B) \cap C = A \cap (B \cap C)$,
- (Distributive law) $(A \cup B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C)$,
- (Distributive law) $(A \cap B) \cup C = (A \cup C) \cap (B \cup C)$.
- Let $\{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n, \ldots\}$ be a sequence of events, then we have

$$\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right)^c = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c, \quad \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right)^c = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^c.$$

Problem 1 (Set theory)

Suppose we are interested in a sample space Ω. Please review the following definitions

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \left\{\omega \in \Omega : \text{ there exists at least one } n' \text{ such that } \omega \in A_{n'}\right\},$$
$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \{\omega \in \Omega : \omega \in A_n \text{ for all } n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots\}$$

1. (0.5 points) We define a sequence $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n, \ldots\}$ of events as the following:

$$A_1 = \Omega,$$
$$A_n = \emptyset, \quad \text{for all } n = 2, 3, \ldots.$$

Please prove the following:

$$\Omega = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n. \tag{1}$$

Proof. Since $A_1 = \Omega$, we immediately have that $\Omega \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$. Additionally, we have that for all $A_i \in \{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$, $A_i \subset \Omega$. Thus, $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \subset \Omega$ completing the double inclusion. Therefore, we have proven that $\Omega = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ as desired. $\square$

2. Let E_1 and E_2 be two events with $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$. We define a sequence $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n, \ldots\}$ of events as the following:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= E_1, \\ A_2 &= E_2, \\ A_n &= \emptyset, \qquad \text{for all } n = 3, 4, \ldots. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Please prove the following:

(a) (0.5 points) The sequence $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n, \ldots\}$ defined in Eq. (2) is mutually disjoint.

Proof. Let $x, y \in \{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ such that $x \neq y$. The possible combinations of x and y can be expressed with the following cases: (we have that $\cap$ is commutative, so the order of x and y does not matter)

- Case 1 ($x = E_1$ and $y = E_2$): $x \cap y = E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$
- Case 2 ($x = E_1$ and $y = \emptyset$): $x \cap y = E_1 \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$
- Case 3 ($x = E_2$ and $y = \emptyset$): $x \cap y = E_2 \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$

Therefore, since $x, y \in \{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} : x \neq y \implies x \cap y = \emptyset$, we have proven that $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is mutually disjoint. $\square$

(b) (0.5 points) We have the following identity

$$E_1 \cup E_2 = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n,$$

where $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ are defined in Eq. (2).

Proof. Since $A_1 = E_1$ and $A_2 = E_2$, we have that $E_1 \cup E_2 \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$. Additionally, for all $A_i \in \{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$, we have that $A_i \subset E_1 \cup E_2$. Thus, $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \subset E_1 \cup E_2$, completing the double inclusion. Therefore, we have proven that $E_1 \cup E_2 = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$. $\square$

3. (1 points) Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$ = the collection of all real numbers. We define a sequence of events as follows

$$A_n = \left[0, 1 + \frac{1}{n}\right), \qquad \text{for all } n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots. \tag{3}$$

Please prove the following identity

$$[0, 1] = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n,$$

where $A_1, A_2, A_3, \ldots$ are defined in Eq. (3).

Remark: Please read the following explanation for notations:

$$\left[0, 1+\frac{1}{n}\right) = \left\{x : x \text{ is a real number such that } 0 \leq x \text{ and } x < 1+\frac{1}{n}\right\}$$
$$= \text{the collection of real numbers that are no less than 0 but smaller than } 1+\frac{1}{n};$$

$$[0,1] = \text{ the collection of real numbers that are no less than 0 but no higher than 1}$$
$$= \{x : x \text{ is a real number such that } 0 \leq x \text{ and } x \leq 1\}.$$

Proof. $A_{n+1} \subsetneq A_n$ since $[0, 1+\frac{1}{n+1}] \subsetneq [0, 1+\frac{1}{n}]$. Thus,

$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = \lim_{n\to\infty} A_n = \lim_{n\to\infty} [0, 1+\frac{1}{n}] = [0,1]$$

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Problem 2 (Definition of Probability Spaces)

(1 point) Suppose n is a fixed positive integer. We define the pair $(\Omega, \mathbb{P})$ as follows

- $\Omega = \{1, 2, \cdots, n\}$.
- For any $A \subset \Omega$, we define $\mathbb{P}(A) = \frac{\#A}{n}$, where $\#A$ denotes the number of elements in A.

Please prove that the pair $(\Omega, \mathbb{P})$ defined herein is a probability space.

Proof. We will show that $(\Omega, \mathbb{P})$ is a probability space by proving the following three axioms.

- $\underline{\mathbb{P}(A \subset \Omega) \geq 0}$: Let $A \subset \Omega$. We have that $\mathbb{P}(A) = \frac{\#A}{n} \geq 0$ since $\#A \geq 0$ and $n \geq 0$.
- $\underline{\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1}$: $\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = \frac{n}{n} = 1$
- <u>Countable Additivity</u>: Let $A_1, \ldots, A_m \subset \Omega$ be mutually disjoint events.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}(A_1 \cup \cdots \cup A_m) &= \frac{\#A_1 + \cdots + \#A_m}{n} && \text{(definition of } \mathbb{P}) \\
&= \frac{\#A_1}{n} + \cdots + \frac{\#A_m}{n} && \text{(common denominator)} \\
&= \mathbb{P}(A_1) + \cdots + \mathbb{P}(A_m) && \text{(definition of } \mathbb{P})
\end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 3 (Properties of $\mathbb{P}$)

Let $(\Omega, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space. Then, we have the following properties

1. (0 point) $\mathbb{P}(\emptyset) = 0$, i.e., the probability of the impossible event is zero;
2. (0 point) if two events E_1 and E_2 satisfy $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$, we have $\mathbb{P}(E_1 \cup E_2) = \mathbb{P}(E_1) + \mathbb{P}(E_2)$;
3. (0.5 points) suppose $A, B \subset \Omega$. If $A \subset B$, then $\mathbb{P}(A) \leq \mathbb{P}(B)$;[1]
4. (0.5 points) $0 \leq \mathbb{P}\{A\} \leq 1$ for any subsets $A \subset \Omega$;
5. (0.5 points) $\mathbb{P}(A^c) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(A)$.
6. (1 point) for any $A, B \subset \Omega$, we have $\mathbb{P}\{A \cup B\} = \mathbb{P}\{A\} + \mathbb{P}\{B\} - \mathbb{P}\{A \cap B\}$;
7. (1 point) for any sequence of subsets $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$, we have $\mathbb{P}\{\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}\{A_n\}$.[2]

Properties 1 and 2 were proved in class, and you do not need to prove them in HW 1.
Please prove Properties 3-7 above.

Problem 4 (Application of the Probability Properties)

Let $(\Omega, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space.

1. (1 point) Let A and B are two events. Suppose $B \subset A$. Please prove the following:
$$\mathbb{P}(A^c) \leq \mathbb{P}(B^c).$$
2. (1 point) Let A and B are two events. If $\mathbb{P}(A) = 0.7$ and $\mathbb{P}(B) = 0.6$, what is the smallest possible value of $\mathbb{P}(A \cup B)$? What is the largest possible value of $\mathbb{P}(A \cup B)$?
3. (1 point) Let A and B are two events. If $\mathbb{P}(A) = 0.7$ and $\mathbb{P}(B) = 0.6$, what is the smallest possible value of $P(A \cap B)$? What is the largest possible value of $P(A \cap B)$?

[1] Hint: If $A \subset B$, we have $B = (B \cap A^c) \cup A$; furthermore, $(B \cap A^c)$ and A are disjoint.
[2] More precisely, we have the following:
$$\mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{n} A_k\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^{k-1} \left\{ \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k \leq n} \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcap_{l=1}^{k} A_{i_l}\right) \right\};$$
However, the identity above is not usually used in applications. You do not need to prove this precise identity in HW 1.