

Review of Probability Theory & Stochastic Process

Lecturer: Vijay G. Subramanian

Scribes: Xupeng Wei

1 Probability Theory

Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$

Definition 1 (Random variable). X is a random variable, $X : \Omega \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ that is measurable.

Borel σ -algebra $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$

$\forall B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, find $X^{-1}(B) = \{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in B\}$ (Inverse map).

$\tilde{\mathcal{G}} = \{X^{-1}(B) : B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})\}$ - Collection of subsets of Ω .

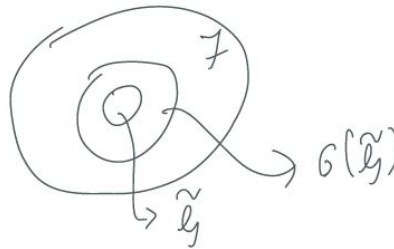
$\tilde{\mathcal{G}} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ or not?

If yes, then X is measurable and a random variable.

In simpler terms, $\forall B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, $X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}$.

$\sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{G}})$ - Smallest σ -algebra that contains $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$.

X is a random variable if and only if $\sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{G}}) \subseteq \mathcal{F}$.



Induced distribution for a random variable is defined on each $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}_X(B) &= \mathbb{P}(X \in B) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(X^{-1}(B)), \text{ since } X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}.\end{aligned}$$

We have already defined a random variable X as

$$\begin{aligned}X : \Omega &\mapsto \mathbb{R}. \\ (\mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) & \quad (\mathbb{B}(\mathbb{R}))\end{aligned}$$

Now we generalize to random variables taking values in other probability spaces. For example,

$$\begin{aligned}X : \Omega_1 &\mapsto \Omega_2 \text{ (Examples are } \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ or } \mathbb{R}^3\text{).} \\ (\mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) & \quad (F_2)\end{aligned}$$

$X : \Omega_1 \mapsto \Omega_2$ is a random variable.

If it is a measurable map,

$\forall B \in \mathcal{F}_2$, $X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}_1$ needs to hold.

Example 2 (Uniform distribution). $\Omega = [0, 1]$, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}([0, 1])$, \mathbb{P} : uniform distribution in $[0, 1]$, i.e., if $[a, b] \subseteq [0, 1]$, $\mathbb{P}([a, b]) = b - a$.

Then for $B \in \mathcal{B}([0, 1])$, $\mathbb{P}(B) = \int_0^1 \mathbb{1}_B(x) dx$.

Example 3 (Binary expansion). $\omega \in \Omega$, $\omega_i \in \{0, 1\}$.

Binary expansion: $0.\omega_1\omega_2\omega_3\dots$

Suppose $0.1000\dots$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$, or $0.011111\dots$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$.

Define a random variable $X : \Omega \mapsto \{0, 1\}$, $X(\omega) = \omega_1$, $2^{\{0,1\}} = \{\emptyset, \{0\}, \{1\}, \{0, 1\}\}$.

Induced measure $\mathbb{P}_X(X = 0) = \frac{1}{2} = \mathbb{P}_X(X = 1)$.

X is a Bernoulli random variable.

Example 4 (Decimal expansion). $\Omega = [0, 1]$, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}([0, 1])$, \mathbb{P} uniform distribution.

$X : \Omega \mapsto \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$, $\omega \mapsto 0.\omega_1\omega_2\omega_3\dots$

$X(\omega) = \omega_1$, $2^{\{0,\dots,9\}}$ contains all subsets.

$\mathbb{P}_X(X = 0) = \mathbb{P}_X(X = 1) = \dots = \mathbb{P}_X(X = 9) = \frac{1}{10}$ is the induced distribution.

Typically, for discrete random variables, power set (the set of all subsets) is a σ -algebra.

Example 5 (Exponential distribution). $X(\omega) = -\log(\omega)$, $\Omega = [0, 1]$.

Space of $X(\omega)$ is \mathbb{R}_+ , $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}_+)$ is the σ -algebra.

The cumulative distribution function is

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x) &= \mathbb{P}_X(X \in [0, x]) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(X^{-1}([0, x])) && (X(\omega) = -\log(\omega)) \\ &= \mathbb{P}([e^{-x}, 1]) && (\omega = e^{-X(\omega)}) \\ &= 1 - e^{-x}, \end{aligned}$$

which is the exponential distribution of parameter 1.

Example 6. $\Omega = \{0, 1\}^2$. Elements are $(0, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, $(1, 0)$ & $(1, 1)$. (2-bit numbers uniformly chosen.)

$\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$ (Power set).

\mathbb{P} uniform on Ω .

$X \rightarrow$ First bit; $Y \rightarrow$ Second bit; $Z = X \oplus Y$ (XOR), all take values in $\{0, 1\} = \Omega_2$, and $\mathcal{F}_2 = 2^{\Omega_2} = \{\emptyset, \{0\}, \{1\}, \{0, 1\}\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} X^{-1}(\{0\}) &= \{(0, 0), (0, 1)\}, X^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{(1, 0), (1, 1)\} \\ Y^{-1}(\{0\}) &= \{(0, 0), (1, 0)\}, Y^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{(0, 1), (1, 1)\} \\ Z^{-1}(\{0\}) &= \{(0, 0), (1, 1)\}, Z^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{(0, 1), (1, 0)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\sigma(X)$ denote the smallest σ -algebra under which X is measurable.

$\forall B \in \mathcal{F}_2$, find $X^{-1}(B)$, collect as $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$. Find $\sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{G}})$.

$\sigma(X) = \{\emptyset, \{(0, 0), (0, 1)\}, \{(1, 0), (1, 1)\}, \Omega\}$, which is strictly smaller than 2^Ω . (e.g. $\{(0, 0)\} \in 2^\Omega$)

Example 7. $\Omega = [0, 1]$, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}([0, 1])$.

$$Z(\omega) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \omega \in [0, 0.5) \\ 1 & \text{if } \omega \in [0.5, 1] \end{cases}$$

$\sigma(Z)$ is a subset of $\mathcal{B}([0, 1])$. $\sigma(Z) = \{\emptyset, [0, 0.5), [0.5, 1], [0, 1]\}$, where $[0, 1] = \Omega$.

Example 8. $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$. $\Omega = \{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}$.

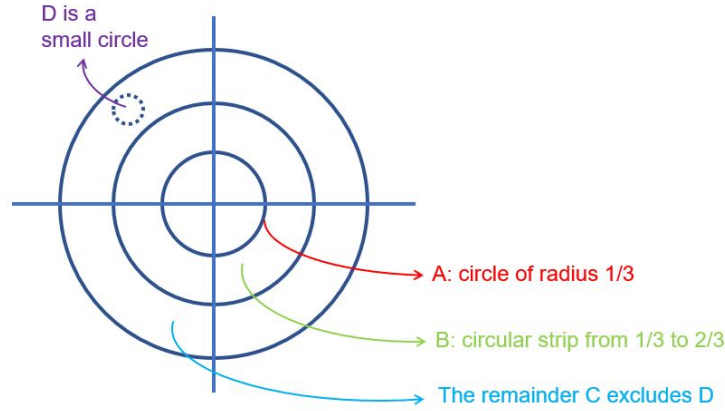
A, B, C, D are disjoint and union is Ω - partition

$\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, A, B, C \cup D, A \cup B, A \cup C \cup D, B \cup C \cup D, \Omega\}$.

$X : \Omega \mapsto \{1, 2, 3, 4\} = \Omega_2$, and $\mathcal{F}_2 = 2^{\Omega_2}$.

We define X as:

$$X(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \in A, \\ 2, & \omega \in B, \\ 3, & \omega \in C, \\ 4, & \omega \in D. \end{cases}$$



Is X a random variable?

$\forall E \in \mathcal{F}_2$, check if $X^{-1}(E) \in \mathcal{F}$.

Choose $E = \{3\}$. What is $X^{-1}(E)$? - $X^{-1}(E) = C$.

Does C belong to \mathcal{F} ? No!

Therefore, X is not a random variable.

Please review:

- Collection of random variables,
- Moments,
- Convergence,
- Independence.

2 Stochastic Processes

Definition 9 (Random process/Stochastic process). Given a fully ordered index set \mathcal{I} (usually $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}_+, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}_+$) and a probability space (E, \mathcal{E}) , a stochastic process is a function $X : \mathcal{I} \times \Omega \mapsto E$, such that for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$ we have $X(i, \cdot) : \Omega \mapsto E$ is an E -valued random variable, i.e. $X(i, \omega) \in E$.

Example 10 (Binary expansion). $\Omega = [0, 1]$, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}([0, 1])$.

$$\omega = 0.\omega_1\omega_2\omega_3\omega_4\dots$$

Now suppose ω above is a binary expansion.

$$X_1(\omega) = \omega_1, X_2(\omega) = \omega_2, \dots$$

If $\{X_i(\omega)\}_{i=1}^\infty$, $\mathcal{I} = \mathbb{N}$, $X : \mathcal{I} \times \Omega \mapsto \{0, 1\}$ (as E)

X_1, X_2, \dots are random variables. $\{X_i(\omega)\}_{i=1}^\infty$ is a stochastic process, which takes values in $\{0, 1\}$.

Independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.)

Bernoulli($\frac{1}{2}$) random variables

Example 11. $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$, $X_i \sim \text{i.i.d. exp}(1)$ random variables.

Example 12. $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$, $X_i \sim \text{i.i.d. } \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

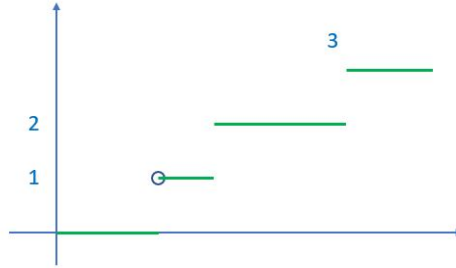
$$S_0 = 0, S_1 = X_1, S_2 = X_1 + X_2, S_3 = X_1 + X_2 + X_3, \dots$$

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad (n = 0, \text{ then value}=0 \text{ by definition}).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[S_1 S_2] &= \mathbb{E}[X_1^2 + X_1 X_2] = \mathbb{E}[X_1^2] + \mathbb{E}[X_1 X_2] \\ &= \sigma^2 + \mathbb{E}[X_1] \mathbb{E}[X_2] = \sigma^2 \neq \mathbb{E}[S_1] \mathbb{E}[S_2] = 0.\end{aligned}$$

$$\{S_j\}_{j=0}^\infty = \{S_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+}, S_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, i\sigma^2)$$

Example 13 (Poisson process). $\{N(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$, $N(0) = 0$, $N(t) \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ (non-negative integers).
Counting process



$$N(t) \sim \text{Poisson}(t), \mathbb{P}(N(t) = k) = e^{-t} \frac{t^k}{k!}, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+.$$

$$N(s, t) = N(t) - N(s) \text{ - increment.}$$

Independent increments. Jump process.

t_1, t_2, t_3 , $(N(t_1) = N(t_1) - N(0), N(t_1, t_2), N(t_2, t_3))$ are all independent, and $N(s, t) \sim \text{Poisson}((t - s))$, $t \geq s$.

Example 14 (Brownian motion). - Wiener process

$$\{W(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}, W(0) = 0, W(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, t) (\sim: \text{distributed as}).$$

Independent increments t_1, t_2, t_3 .

$(W(t_1), W(t_1, t_2), W(t_2, t_3))$ independent, and

$$W(s, t) = W(t) - W(s) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, t - s), t \geq s.$$

Continuous sample-paths



$$X : \mathcal{I} \times \Omega \mapsto E,$$

$X(i, \cdot)$ is a random variable for every i .

$X(\cdot, \omega)$ - Sample path.