

Tyler Chen

tyler.chen@nyu.edu

courses.chen.princeton.edu/mathstats-f2022

Edstem = discussion

- can insert equations
- supports threading
- don't email me non-personal questions

Gradescope = turn in HW / grade HW

- HW must be legible
- tag each question
- no late HW (email me ahead of time)

Bagel Institute = live questions in lecture

- will test it out
- hopefully makes it easier for people to ask questions

Grading

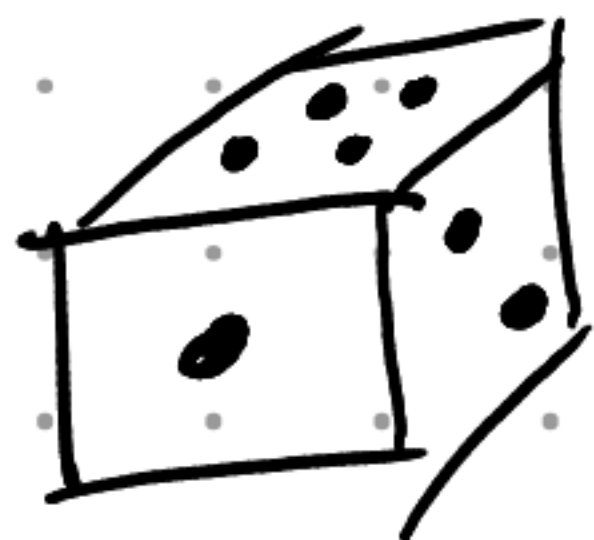
15% participation

30% homework

25% quizzes - meant to test critical concepts. Typically very similar to a past exam

30% final project

Probability Review



roll
once

→ $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} = \Omega$

sample space

"possible outcomes of"
experiment

Where does randomness enter?

- if we place dice on given side, this is deterministic
- if we roll dice, this is still deterministic (at least if we know initial conditions)
- we can abstract away the uncertainty in initial conditions...

How likely am I to roll a given side?

- objective / frequentist: roll dice many times, and tally up results.

1	2	3	4	5	6

- subjective: based on belief
 - e.g. what we might bet based on

Events

An event is a collection of possible outcomes

Ex. $\{1, 3, 5\} = \{\text{roll odd \#}\}$

$$\{1\} = \{\text{roll one}\}$$

$$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} = \{\text{any face}\}$$

Events are subsets of power set of sample space
set of all subsets

How likely is an event?

We write $P[A]$ for the probability of an event A

- What are probabilities of above events?

$$P[\{1, 3, 5\}] = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P[\{1\}] = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$P[\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}] = 1$$

- These probabilities are assigned based on the assumption that dice is fair

- fair: $P[\{1\}] = P[\{2\}] = \dots = P[\{6\}]$

- but how do we get probs. for other events?

A probability distribution assigns a real # to each event such that

1. $P[A] \geq 0 \quad \forall A$

2. $P[\Omega] = 1$

3. if A_1, A_2, \dots disjoint, $P[A_1 + A_2 + \dots] = P[A_1] + P[A_2] + \dots$

Can derive useful properties

- $P[\emptyset] = 0$

- $P[\Omega + \emptyset] = P[\Omega] + P[\emptyset] = 1 + P[\emptyset]$

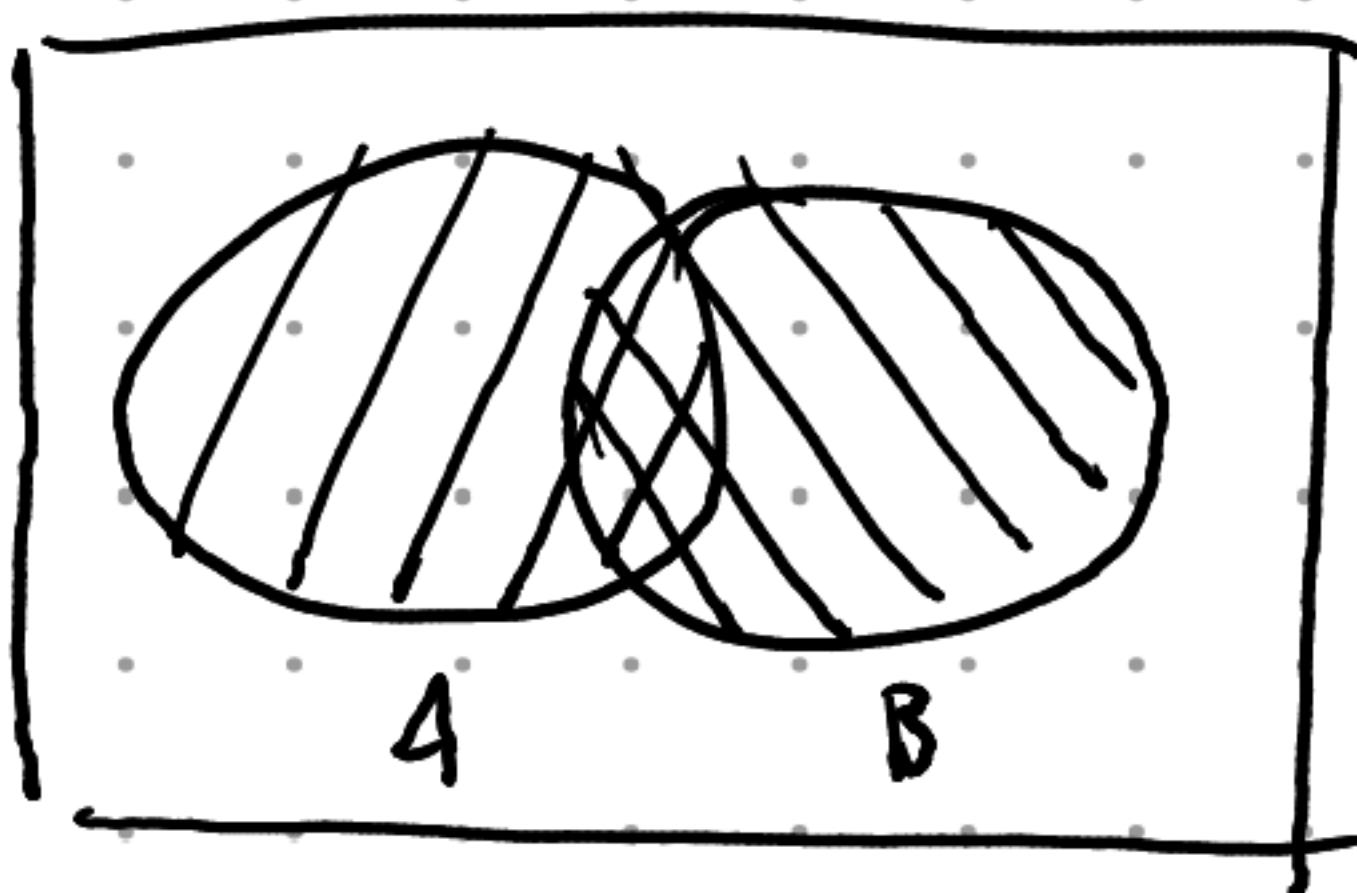
- $P[\Omega + \emptyset] = P[\Omega] = 1$

- $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow P[A] \leq P[B]$

- $P[A] \in [0, 1]$

- $P[A^c] = 1 - P[A]$

- $P[A \cup B] = P[A] + P[B] - P[A \cap B]$



Independence

Events A and B are independent if

$$P[A \cap B] = P[A]P[B]$$

- occurrence of one event does not impact prob. of occurrence of other.
- sometimes we will assume independence
- sometimes we will show/prove independence

Ex. Let $A = \{1, 3, 5\}$ $B = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$

Are A and B independent?

$$A \cap B = \{3, 5\} \quad P[A \cap B] = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$P[A] = \frac{1}{2} \quad P[B] = \frac{2}{3} \Rightarrow P[A]P[B] = \frac{1}{3}$$

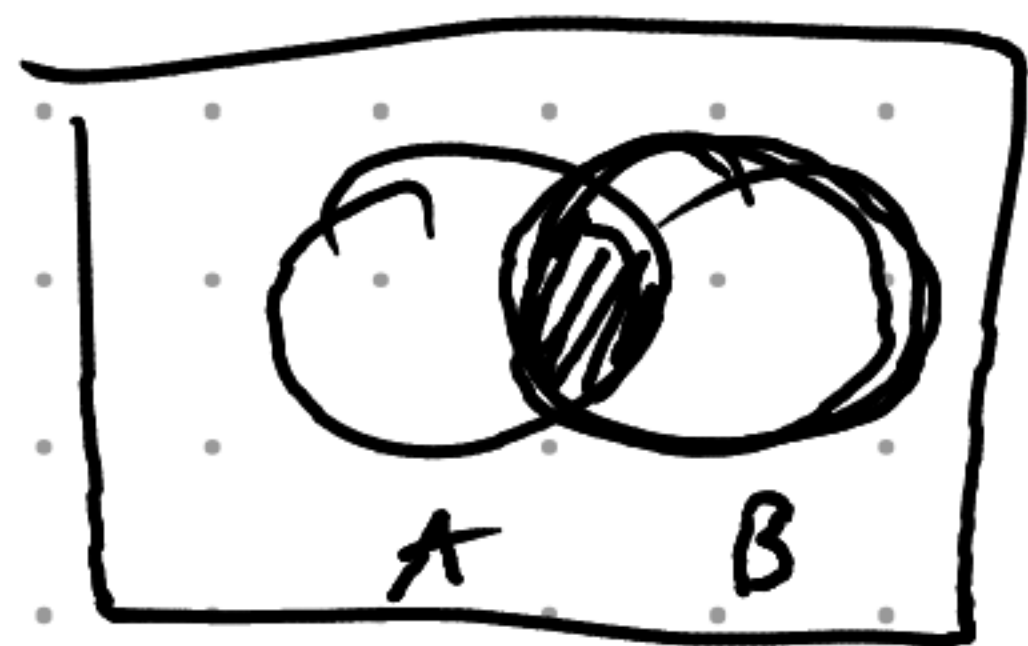
Events are independent!

Conditional Probability

The conditional probability of A given B is

$$P[A|B] = P[A \cap B] / P[B]$$

$$P[\{1\} | \{\text{odd}\}] = P[1 \text{ and odd}] / P[\text{odd}] = \frac{1/6}{1/2} = \frac{1}{3}$$



$$A, B \text{ indep} \iff P[A|B] = P[A]$$

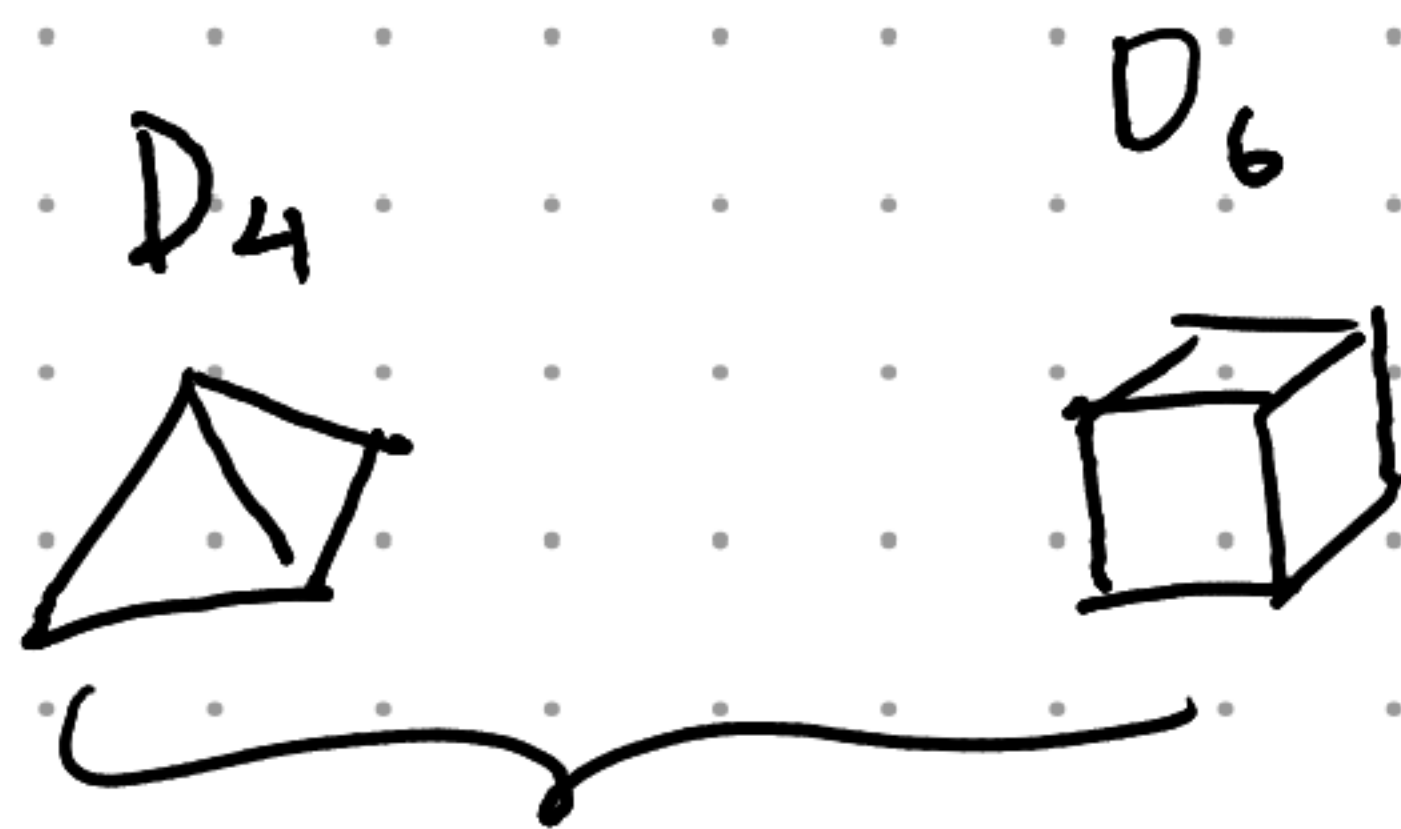
Law of total probability

$$P[B] = P[B|A_1]P[A_1] + P[B|A_2]P[A_2]$$

given $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$, $A_1 \cup A_2 = \Omega$

Bayes theorem

$$P[A|B] = \frac{P[B|A]P[A]}{P[B]}$$



flip for coin $H = \text{use } D_4$
 $T = \text{use } D_6$

roll dice 2x

- What is the sample space?

$\{(1,1), (1,2), \dots, (2,1), \dots, (6,6)\}$

$= \{(a,b) : a, b \in \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}\}$

- What is the probability the second die has a 6?

- What is the probability the second die has a 6 given the first die has a 6?
a 1?

Random Variable

A random variable is a map from the sample space to reals

Ex. dice

$$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$X(\omega) = \omega \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$$

Ex. flip coin 5x $\Omega = \{(c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5) : c_i \in \{H, T\}\}$

$$X(\omega) = \# \text{ heads}$$

$$X(\text{HTTHH}) = 3$$

Cumulative distribution function

$$F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}[X \leq x]$$

Probability mass function

$$f_X(x) = \mathbb{P}[X = x]$$

$$\longleftrightarrow \mathbb{P}[X \in [a, b]] = \int_a^b f_X(x) dx$$

$$F_X(x) = \sum_{x_i \leq x} f_X(x_i)$$

$$\longleftrightarrow F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(x) dx$$

→ If X discrete, the f_X has delta distributions.