

* Bayesian Statistics

• Review of Probability Theory:

X - data-generating Process (random variable), x - realization/data (outcome)
where $x \in \text{SUPP}(X)$

• The SUPPORT of X contains all possible outcomes of X .

- Discrete case: The support of X is at most countably infinite, $|\text{SUPP}(X)| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$.

- The probability mass function $P(X)$ maps $P: \text{SUPP}(X) \rightarrow (0, 1]$.

- The cumulative distribution function (CDF) is given by $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$,

$$F(x) = \sum_{\substack{y \in \text{SUPP}(X) \\ y \leq x}} P(y)$$

- Continuous case: The support of X is uncountably infinite, $|\text{SUPP}(X)| = |\mathbb{R}|$.

- The CDF is given by $F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(x) dx$.

- $P(X \in [a, b]) = P(X \leq b) - P(X \leq a) = F(b) - F(a) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$.

- The probability density function maps $P: \text{SUPP}(X) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$.

• Examples of distributions:

$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p) \Rightarrow P(x) = p^x (1-p)^{1-x}$, where $x \in \{0, 1\}$

$X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p) \Rightarrow \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$

$X \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda) \Rightarrow \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$

$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2}$

• We say that a distribution is degenerate when $P(x) = 0$ or 1 , for some x
(In other words, the process is not random).

• The Parameter space Θ of a random variable is the set of parameter values for which the RV is non-degenerate.

• A parametric model is given by $F: \{P(x; \theta) : \theta \in \Theta\}$, s.t. $\dim(\Theta) < \infty$

ex: $F_{\text{bern}} = \{p^x (1-p)^{1-x} : p \in (0, 1)\}$

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