MATH357 - Statistics

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§1 Review of Probability

↪**Definition 1.1** (Measurable Space, Probability Space): We work with a set Ω = sample space = {outcomes}, and a σ-algebra $\mathcal{F}$, which is a collection of subsets of Ω containing Ω and closed under taking complements and countable unions. The tuple $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ is called *measurable space*.

We call a nonnegative function $P : \mathcal{F} \to \mathbb{R}$ defined on a measurable space a *probability function* if $P(\Omega) = 1$ and if $\{E_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ a disjoint collection of subsets of Ω, then $P\left(\bigcup_{n\geq 1} E_n\right) = \sum_{n\geq 1} P(E_n)$. We call the tuple $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ a *probability space*.

↪**Definition 1.2** (Random Variables): Fix a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$. A Borel-measurable function $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ (namely, $X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}$ for every $B \in \mathfrak{B}(\mathbb{R})$) is called a *random variable* on $\mathcal{F}$.

- *Probability distribution*: X induces a probability distribution on $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbb{R})$ given by $P(X \in B)$
- *Cumulative distribution function (CDF)*:

$$F_X(x) := P(X \leq x).$$

Note that $F(-\infty) = 0, F(+\infty) = 1$ and F right-continuous.

We say X *discrete* if there exists a countable set $S := \{x_1, x_2, \ldots\} \subset \mathbb{R}$, called the *support* of X, such that $P(X \in S) = 1$. Putting $p_i := P(X = x_i)$, then $\{p_i : i \geq 1\}$ is called the *probability mass function* (PMF) of X, and the CDF of X is given by

$$P(X \leq x) = \sum_{i : x_i \leq x} p_i.$$

We say X *continuous* if there is a nonnegative function f, called the *probability distribution function* (PDF) of X such that $F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} f(t) \, \mathrm{d}t$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then,

- $\forall B \in \mathfrak{B}(\mathbb{R}), P(X \in B) = \int_B f(t) \, \mathrm{d}t$
- $F'(x) = f(x)$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = 1$

If $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ a random variable and $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ a Borel-measurable function, then $Y := g(X) : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ also a random variable.