

Let us take the same example.

$$A_{2m} = \{2\} \quad \text{for all } m \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

$$A_{2m+1} = \{1\} \quad \text{for all } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}.$$

$$\textcircled{a} \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \emptyset.$$

~~Example 4~~ Consider. $A_{2m} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

and $A_{2m+1} = \{1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\}$. Then it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \{1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\} &= \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n \subseteq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n \\ &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\} = \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Continuity of probability)

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

non-decreasing sequence of events ~~in~~ $(E_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ in \mathcal{F} . Then

$$\textcircled{a} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(E_n) = \mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} E_n\right).$$

As a consequence, it follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(E_n) = \mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} E_n\right)$$

where $(E_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ is a non-increasing sequence of events in \mathcal{F} .

Proof.: We shall consider the case where $(E_n : n \geq 1)$ is a sequence of non-decreasing events.

The claim for the non-increasing sequence follows by taking complementation as complementation of a non-decreasing sequence of events leads to a sequence of non-increasing events.

We know $E_n \uparrow E = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n$. We have seen $E \in \mathcal{F}$ as $E_n \in \mathcal{F}$ for every $n \geq 1$. Define $\Delta_n = E_{n+1} \setminus E_n$ for every $n \geq 1$. Note that

$$E_n = E_1 \cup \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_2 \cup \dots \cup \Delta_{n-1} = E_1 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} \Delta_i \quad \rightarrow *_1$$

and E_1 is disjoint of the collection $(\Delta_i : i \geq 1)$ of disjoint events ($\Delta_i \cap \Delta_j = E_{i+1} \setminus E_i = E_{i+1} \cap E_i \in \mathcal{F}$ as E_{i+1} and E_i are events). Combining these facts, we get

$$\mathbb{P}(E_n) = \mathbb{P}\left(E_1 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} \Delta_i\right) = \mathbb{P}(E_1) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathbb{P}(\Delta_i) \quad \rightarrow *_2$$

Now, we can take $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty}$ at both the sides to get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(E_n) = \mathbb{P}(E_1) + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(\Delta_i) = \mathbb{P}\left(E_1 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \Delta_i\right) \quad \rightarrow *_3$$

using countable additivity of the probability.

It follows from (**) that $E_1 \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \Delta_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n = E$.

Hence, the proof is complete. \square

Continuity from above: Probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P)
 $(E_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ be a sequence of events such that

$$E_n \downarrow E \text{ then } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(E_n) = P(E)$$

Continuity from below: Probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) .

$(E_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ be a sequence of events such that—

$$E_n \uparrow E \text{ then } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(E_n) = P(E).$$

(1)

Lecture III Conditional probability and Baye's theorem.

Rough idea: (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space. We say that $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ are independent events if the occurrence or non-occurrence of A does not influence the 'chance' or "odds" concerning the occurrence of the event B and vice-versa. If A and B are not independent, then occurrence of the event A influences or influenced by occurrence B . "Conditional probability" quantifies or measures the influence.

Example: Let us toss two fair coins

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

Define $A = \{\text{both of the coins have same face}\} = \{HH, TT\}$

$$B = \{\text{at least one of two faces is } H\} = \{HT, TH, HH\}$$

Note that if we know that A has occurred, then the only sample point in favor of B is $\{HT, TH\}$. Similarly, occurrence of the event B restricts the sample points favoring the event A .

(2)

Definition (conditional probability)

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space and let $H \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $\mathbb{P}(H) > 0$. For any $A \in \mathcal{F}$, we write

$$\mathbb{P}(A|H) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap H)}{\mathbb{P}(H)} \longrightarrow *_1$$

and call $\mathbb{P}(A|H)$ the conditional probability of A given H .

Important note: $\mathbb{P}(A|H)$ is undefined when $\mathbb{P}(H) = 0$

It is immediate to check that

$$\mathbb{P}(A \cap H) = \mathbb{P}(A|H) \mathbb{P}(H) = \mathbb{P}(H|A) \mathbb{P}(A) \rightarrow *_2$$

if $\min(\mathbb{P}(A), \mathbb{P}(H)) > 0$ or $\mathbb{P}(A \cap H) > 0$.

We have a new formula

$$\mathbb{P}(H|A) = \mathbb{P}(A|H) \frac{\mathbb{P}(H)}{\mathbb{P}(A)} \longrightarrow *_3.$$

if $\mathbb{P}(A \cap H) > 0$.

Theorem

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space and let $H \in \mathcal{F}$ be such that $\mathbb{P}(H) > 0$. Then define a set function \mathbb{P}_H such that $\mathbb{P}_H : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that

(3)

$$P_H(A) = P(A|H) \text{ for all } A \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Then, we have $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P_H)$ is a probability space.

Proof: It is easy to check that-

$$0 = P(\emptyset|H) \leq P(A|H) \leq P(\Omega|H) = 1.$$

We only have to show that P satisfies countable additivity. Consider a sequence $(A_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ of disjoint events, then

$$\begin{aligned} P_H\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) &= P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i | H\right) = \frac{P\left(\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) \cap H\right)}{P(H)} \\ &= \frac{P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (A_i \cap H)\right)}{P(H)} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} (A_i \cap H : i \in \mathbb{N}) \text{ are} \\ \text{disjoint as } (A_i : i \in \mathbb{N}) \\ \text{are so.} \end{array} \right. \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{P(A_i \cap H)}{P(H)} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{using countable additivity} \\ \text{property of probability} \end{array} \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i | H) \quad (\text{By defn of conditional probability}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P_H(A_i). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the proof is complete. \square .

Remark: Define $\mathcal{F}_H = \{E \cap H : E \in \mathcal{F}\}$. Show that-

(H, \mathcal{F}_H, P_H) is a probability space. Note that-

\mathcal{F}_H is a smaller σ -field than the original one.
(Why? Think about it).

In $\textcircled{*}_2$ we derived a product formula for computing probability of intersection of two events in terms of ~~one~~ conditional probability. We can generalize this product formula for any finite collection events using induction. The formula is given as follows.

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \left(\prod_{i=2}^n P(A_i \mid \bigcap_{j=1}^{i-1} A_j) \right) P(A_1) \rightarrow \textcircled{**}_4$$

This formula turns out to be very important to describe complex random experiment (MARKOV CHAIN!).

We now generalize the total probability rule for an infinite sequence of exhaustive and disjoint events.

Total probability rule.

Consider a sequence of disjoint events $(A_i : i \in I)$ such that $\Omega = \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$. Assume that $P(A_i) > 0$ for every $i \in I$.

Then for any $B \in \mathcal{F}$, we have

$$P(B) = \sum_{i \in I} P(A_i) P(B | A_i) \rightarrow \textcircled{**}_5$$

Theorem (Bayes rule)

Let $(A_n : n \geq 1)$ be sequence of disjoint events in the probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) . We further assume that the sequence of events $(A_n : n \geq 1)$ to be exhaustive that is, $\Omega = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$. Let $B \in \mathcal{F}$ with $P(B) > 0$. Then

$$P(A_n | B) = \frac{P(A_n) P(B | A_n)}{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(A_n) P(B | A_n)} \rightarrow \text{**6}$$

* We generalized the previous Bayes formula for countably many disjoint and exhaustive events.

Independence of events

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space and $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ with $P(B) > 0$. Then we have

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B) P(A | B) \rightarrow \text{**7}$$

Assume now that the occurrence of the event B does not influence the occurrence of the event A . Then we can expect to have $P(A | B) = P(A)$. Then the formula in **7 reduces to.

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) P(B).$$

and now, we make it a definition of independent events.

Definition (Independent events).

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space and A and B are two events. We say A and B to be independent if

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) P(B).$$

* Note that we did not define independence of two events through conditional probability as conditional probability is not defined when conditioning event has probability zero.

Theorem

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space. Let $A \in \mathcal{F}$ and $B \in \mathcal{F}$, and ~~A~~ be independent. Then

$$P(A|B) = P(A) \text{ if } P(B) \neq 0.$$

$$\text{and } P(B|A) = P(B) \text{ if } P(A) \neq 0.$$

Exercise.

If A and B are independent events in the probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) , then show that the following pairs of events are independent.

i) A and B^c .

ii) A^c and B

iii) A^c and B^c .

We now would like to generalize the concept of independence of an infinite (countable or uncountable) collection of events. The following definitions are very useful for that. (7)

Definition (Pairwise independent events).

Let \mathcal{U} be a family (countable or uncountable) of events from \mathbb{F} . We say that the events \mathcal{U} are pairwise independent if for every pair of distinct events $A, B \in \mathcal{U}$,

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) P(B).$$

Definition (mutually or completely independent family of events).

Let \mathcal{U} be a family of events from the probability space (Ω, \mathbb{F}, P) . We say \mathcal{U} to be mutually or completely independent family if for every finite subcollection $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k\}$ of \mathcal{U} , the following relation holds:

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3 \cap \dots \cap A_k) = \prod_{i=1}^k P(A_i)$$

Pairwise independent events vs. mutually independent events

mutual independence implies pairwise independence.