Probability Theory and Example

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Chapter 1

Measure Theory

1.1 Probability Spaces

1.1.1. *Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{F} =$ all subsets so that A or A^c is countable, $P(A) = 0$ in the first case and $= 1$ in the second. Show that $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ is a probability space.*

sol. i) $\mathcal{F}$ is a $\sigma-$algebra on $\mathbb{R}$.
$\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$ since $\emptyset$ is countable.
By definition, $\mathcal{F}$ is closed under complementations.
Countable union of countable sets is countable. Union of countable sets and uncountable sets is uncountable. Thus, $\mathcal{F}$ is closed under countable union.
ii) P is a probability measure.
$P(\emptyset) = 0$ since $\emptyset$ is countable. By definition, for any set A, $P(A) \geq 0$.
Countable union of countable sets is countable. Union of countable sets and uncountable sets is uncountable. Thus, P has the countable additivity property.
If A is countable, then A^c is uncountable since Ω is uncountable. Thus,

$$P(\Omega) = P(A) + P(A^c) = 1$$

By (i) and (ii), $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ is a probability space. □

1.1.2. *Recall the definition of $\mathcal{S}_d$ from Example 1.1.5. Show that $\sigma(\mathcal{S}_d) = \mathcal{R}^d$, the Borel subsets of $\mathbb{R}^d$*

sol. i) $d = 1$. In $\mathbb{R}$, any open set can be represented by countable union of open intervals. Thus, we need to show that any open interval can be represented by elements of $\mathcal{S}$. Let $-\infty < a < b < \infty$.

$$(a, b) = (-\infty, a]^c \cup (\cup_i(-\infty, b - 1/n])$$

If $a = -\infty$, then (a, b) can be represented by the second term. If $b = \infty$, then (a, b) can be represented by the first term. Thus, $\sigma(\mathcal{S}) = \sigma(\mathcal{R}) = \mathcal{R}$.
ii) $d \geq 2$. $\mathcal{S}_d$ is a finite cartesian product of $\mathcal{S}$. Similarly, $\sigma(\mathcal{S}_d) = \sigma(\mathcal{R}_d) = \mathcal{R}_d$. □

1.1.3. *A σ-field F is said to be countably generated if there is a countable collection $C \subset F$ so that $\sigma(C) = F$. Show that $\mathcal{R}^d$ is countably generated.*

sol. Let C be the collection that contains all sets of the form

$$[q_1, \infty) \times \cdots \times [q_d, \infty), (q_1, \ldots, q_d) \in \mathbb{Q}^d$$

Then, C is countable, since it is finite union of countable sets. And $\sigma(C) = \mathcal{R}^d$ as presented by previous exercise. □

1.1.4. *(i) Show that if $F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \ldots$ are σ-algebras, then $\cup_i F_i$ is an algebra. (ii) Give an example to show that $\cup_i F_i$ need not be a σ-algebra.*

sol.

(i) By definition, $\cup_i F_i$ is not empty. Choose $x \in \cup_i F_i$. Then, there exists F_x such that $x \in F_x$. Therefore, $x^c \in F_x \subset \cup_i F_i$. Thus, $\cup_i F_i$ is closed under complementations.

Choose, $x \in F_i, y \in F_j$ and suppose $i \leq j$. Then $x \in F_j$. Thus, $x \cup y \in F_j \Rightarrow x \cup y \in \cup_i F_i$. Thus, $\cup_i F_i$ is closed under union.

(ii) Let $F_i = \sigma(\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \cdots, \{n\}\})$. Let $A = \{\{n\} : n = 3k | k = 1, 2, 3, \cdots\}$. Then for all i, $A \notin F_i$. Thus, $A \notin \cup_i F_i$. However, A can be represented by countable union. Therefore, $\cup_i F_i$ is not a $\sigma-$algebra.

□

1.1.5. *A set $A \subset \{1, 2, \dots\}$ is said to have asymptotic density θ if*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} |A \cap \{1, 2, \cdots, n\}|/n = \theta$$

Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the collection of sets for which the asymptotic density exists. Is $\mathcal{A}$ a σ-algebra? an algebra?

sol. Let A be the set of even numbers. Next, we construct a set B in the following way: we begin with $\{2, 3\}$ and starting with $k = 2$, take all even numbers $2^k < n \leq (3/2)\times 2^k$, and all odd numbers$(3/2)\times 2^k < n \leq 2^{k+1}$. Then, the asymptotic density of B is 0.5. However, the asymptotic density $A \cap B$ does not exists.

When $n = (3/2) \times 2^k$, then the density is $1/3$. When $n = 2^{k+1}$, then the density is $1/4$.

Thus, $\mathcal{A}$ is not closed under intersection. $\mathcal{A}$ is neither $\sigma-$algebra nor algebra □

1.2 Distributions

1.2.1. *Suppose X and Y are random variables on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ and let $A \in \mathcal{F}$. Show that if we let $Z(\omega) = X(\omega)$ for $\omega \in A$ and $Z(\omega) = Y(\omega)$ for $\omega \in A^c$, then Z is a random variable.*

sol. Let the Borel set B which satisfies that

$$\text{if } \omega \in A, \text{ then } Z(\omega) \in B$$

For arbitrary Borel set S, $S = (S \cap B) \cup (S \cap B^c)$. Since S is Borel set, $\{\omega : X(\omega) \in S\}, \{\omega : Y(\omega) \in S\} \in \mathcal{F}$.

$$\begin{aligned}\{\omega : Z(\omega) \in S\} &= \{\omega : Z(\omega) \in (S \cap B)\} \cup \{\omega : Z(\omega) \in (S \cap B^c)\} \\ &= \{\omega : X(\omega) \in (S \cap B)\} \cup \{\omega : Y(\omega) \in (S \cap B^c)\}\end{aligned}$$

Since $\mathcal{F}$ is closed on set operation, $\{\omega : Z(\omega) \in S\} \in \mathcal{F}$. □

1.2.2. *Let χ have the standard normal distribution. Use Theorem 1.2.6 to get upper and lower bounds on $P(\chi \geq 4)$.*

sol.

$$\begin{aligned}P(\chi \geq 4) = (2\pi)^{-1} \int_4^\infty \exp(-y^2/2)dy &\leq (8\pi)^{-1} \exp(-8) \\ (2\pi)^{-1} \int_4^\infty \exp(-y^2/2)dy &\geq (15/128\pi) \exp(-8)\end{aligned}$$

□

1.2.3. *Show that a distribution function has at most countably many discontinuities.*

sol. Let D be the set of discontinuity points. Choose $x, y \in D$. Then we can choose rational number $q_x \in (F(x-), F(x+))$. Since F is increasing, if $x \neq y$, then $q_x \neq q_y$. Thus $x \to q_x$ is one-to-one function. Since $\mathbb{Q}$ is countable, D is at most countable. □

1.2.4. *Show that if $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$ is continuous then $Y = F(X)$ has a uniform distribution on (0,1), that is, if $y \in [0, 1]$, $P(Y \leq y) = y$.*

sol.

$$\begin{aligned}
\{\omega|Y(\omega) \le y\} &= \{\omega|F(X(\omega)) \le y\} \\
&= \{\omega|X(\omega) \le k\} \quad k = \inf\{x|F(x) \ge y\} \\
P(\{\omega|Y(\omega) \le y\}) &= P(\{\omega|X(\omega) \le k\}) \\
&= P(X \le k) = y
\end{aligned}$$

□

1.2.5. *Suppose X has continuous density f, $P(\alpha \le X \le \beta) = 1$ and g is a function that is strictly increasing and differentiable on (α, β). Then $g(X)$ has density $f(g^{-1}(y))/g'(g^{-1}(y))$ for $y \in (g(\alpha), g(\beta))$ and 0 otherwise. When $g(x) = ax + b$ with $a > 0, g^{-1}(y) = (y - b)/a$ so the answer is $(1/a)f((y - b)/a)$.*

1.2.6. *Suppose X has a normal distribution. Use the previous exercise to compute the density of* $\exp(X)$.

1.3 Random Variables

1.3.1. *Show that if $\mathcal{A}$ generates $\mathcal{S}$, then $X^{-1}(A) \equiv \{\{X \in A\} : A \in \mathcal{A}\}$ generates $\sigma(X) = \{\{X \in B\} : B \in \mathcal{S}\}$.*

sol. Let $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{A}$. Since $\bigcup_i A_i \in \mathcal{S}$,

$$\bigcup_i \{X \in A_i\} = \{X \in \bigcup_i A_i\} \in \sigma(X)$$

□

1.3.2. *Prove Theorem 1.3.6 when $n = 2$ by checking $\{X_1 + X_2 < x\} \in \mathcal{F}$.*

sol.

$$\{X_1 + X_2 < x\} =$$

□

1.3.3. *Show that if f is continuous and $X_n \to X$ almost surely then $f(X_n) \to f(X)$ almost surely.*

sol. Let $\Omega_0 = \{\omega : \lim X_n(\omega) = X(\omega)\}$ and $\Omega_f = \{\omega : \lim f(X_n(\omega)) = f(X(\omega))\}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega \in \Omega_0 &\Rightarrow \lim X_n(\omega) = X(\omega) \\
&\Rightarrow \lim f(X_n(\omega)) = f(X(\omega)) \quad \because f \text{ is continuous} \\
&\Rightarrow \omega \in \Omega_f \\
&\Rightarrow 1 = P(\Omega_0) \le P(\Omega_f) \le 1
\end{aligned}$$

□

1.3.4. *(i) Show that a continuous function from $\mathcal{R}^d \to \mathcal{R}$ is a measurable map from $(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathcal{R}^d)$ to $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R})$. (ii) Show that $\mathcal{R}^d$ is the smallest σ-field that makes all the continuous functions measurable.*

sol.

(i) $\mathcal{R}$ is σ-field which is generated by all open sets. If f is continuous mapping and image is open, then inverse-image is also open. Thus, f is a measurable map.

(ii) Let $\mathcal{S}$ be the smallest $\sigma-$field that makes all the continuous functions measurable. Since $\mathcal{R}$ is the smallest $\sigma-$field which is generated by all open sets, $\mathcal{S}$ is generated by all open sets in $\mathbb{R}^d$.

□

1.3.5. *A function f is said to be lower semicontinuous or l.s.c. if*

$$\liminf_{y \to x} f(y) \geq f(x)$$

and upper semicontinuous (u.s.c.) if $-f$ is l.s.c.. Show that f is l.s.c. if and only if $\{x : f(x) \leq a\}$ is closed for each $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and conclude that semicontinuous functions are measurable.

sol.

if

only if

□

1.4 Integration

1.4.1. *Show that if $f \geq 0$ and $\int f d\mu = 0$ then $f = 0$ a.e.*

sol. Let N be the set that satisfies $x \in N \Rightarrow f(x) = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int f d\mu &= \int_N f d\mu + \int_{N^c} f d\mu \\ &= \int_{N^c} f d\mu = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \mu(N^c) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

□

1.4.2. *Let $f \geq 0$ and $E_{n,m} = \{x : m/2^n \leq f(x) < (m+1)/2^n\}$. As $n \uparrow \infty$,*

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{m}{2^n} \mu(E_{n,m}) \uparrow \int f d\mu$$

sol. Let $f_n = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} 1_{E_{n,m}}$. Then, for any n, $f_n < f$. Thus, $\int f d\mu$ is an upper bound of $\int f_n d\mu$. Since $\int f_n d\mu$ is increasing and bounded, it converges. By definition,

$$\int f - f_n d\mu \leq \int 1/2^n d\mu \to 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty$$

Thus, $\int f_n d\mu$ converges to $\int f d\mu$ □

1.4.3. *Let g be an integrable function on $\mathbb{R}$ and $\epsilon > 0$. (i) Use the definition of the integral to conclude there is a simple function $\varphi = \sum_k b_k 1_{A_k}$ with $\int |g - \varphi| dx < \epsilon$. (ii) Use Exercise A.2.1 to approximate the A_k by finite unions of intervals to get a step function*

$$q = \sum_{j=1}^{k} c_j 1_{(a_{j-1}, a_j)}$$

with $a_0 < a_1 < \cdots < a_k$, so that $\int |\varphi - q| < \epsilon$. (iii) Round the corners of q to get a continuous function r so that $\int |q - r| dx <$ epsilon. (iv) To make a continuous function replace each $c_j 1_{(a_{j-1}, a_j)}$ by a function that is 0 $(a_{j-1}, a_j)^c$, c_j on $[a_{j-1} + \delta - j, a_j - \delta_j]$, and linear otherwise. If the δ_j are small enough and we let $r(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} r_j(x)$ then

$$\int |q(x) - r(x)| d\mu = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \delta_j c_j < \epsilon$$

1.4.4. *Prove the Rimann-Legesgue lemma. If g is integrable then*

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int g(x) \cos nx dx = 0$$

sol. Let ϵ be any positive number. There is a simple function φ satisfies that $g - \varphi < \epsilon$. □

1.5 Properties of the integral

1.5.1. *Let* $\|f\|_\infty = \inf\{M : \mu(\{x : |f(x)| > M\}) = 0\}$*. Prove that*

$$\int |fg| d\mu \leq \|f\|_1 \|g\|_\infty$$

sol. By definition, $g \leq \|g\|_\infty$ a.e.. Thus,

$$\int |fg| d\mu \leq \int |f| \|g\|_\infty d\mu = \|g\|_\infty \int |f| d\mu = \|f\|_1 \|g\|_\infty$$

□

1.5.2. *Show that if* μ *is a probability measure then*

$$\|f\|_\infty = \lim_{p\to\infty} \|f\|_p$$

sol. □

1.5.3 (Minkowski's inequality)**.** *(i) Suppose* $p \in (1, \infty)$*. The inequality* $|f + g|^p \leq 2^p(|f|^p + |g|^p)$ *shows that if* $\|f\|^p$ *and* $\|g\|^p$ *are* $< \infty$ *then* $\|f + g\|_p < \infty$*. Apply Holder's inequality to*$|f||f + g|^{p-1}$ *and* $|g||f + g|^{p-1}$ *to show* $\|f + g\|_p \leq \|f\|_p + \|g\|_p$ *(ii) Show that the last result remains true when* $p = 1$ *or* $p = \infty$

sol.

(i)

(ii)

□