CEE 260/MIE 273: Probability & Statistics in Civil Engineering

10.14.2025

1 Set theory

Properties:

$$A \cup B = B \cup A \tag{1}$$

$$A \cap B = B \cap A \tag{2}$$

$$(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C) \tag{3}$$

$$(AB)C = A(BC) \tag{4}$$

$$(A \cup B) \cap C = (A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C) \tag{5}$$

$$(AB) \cup C = (A \cup C) \cap (B \cup C) \tag{6}$$

De Morgan's rule:

$$\overline{E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n} = \overline{E_1} \cap \overline{E_2} \cap \dots \cap \overline{E_n}$$
(7)

$$\overline{E_1 \cap E_2 \cap \dots \cap E_n} = \overline{E_1} \cup \overline{E_2} \cup \dots \cup \overline{E_n}$$
(8)

2 Mathematics of probability

General rules:

$$P(\overline{E}) = 1 - P(E) \tag{9}$$

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(AB) \tag{10}$$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(AB) = P(A|B)P(B) \tag{11}$$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(AB)}{P(B)} \tag{12}$$

$$P(A|B) = 1 - P(\overline{A}|B) \tag{13}$$

Mutually exclusive events:

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) \tag{14}$$

Statistically independent events:

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B) \tag{15}$$

$$P(A|B) = P(A) \tag{16}$$

$$P(B|A) = P(B) \tag{17}$$

Total probability theorem:

$$P(A) = P(A|E_1)P(E_1) + P(A|E_2)P(E_2) + \dots + P(A|E_n)P(E_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} P(A|E_i)P(E_i)$$
(18)

Bayes' theorem:

$$P(E_i|A) = \frac{P(A|E_i)P(E_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} P(A|E_j)P(E_j)}$$
(19)

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3 Counting

Number of ways to arrange n objects:

$$n! = n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots 3 \times 2 \times 1 \tag{20}$$

Permutations (arrangements) of n objects taken k at a time:

$${}_{n}P_{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \tag{21}$$

Combinations of n objects taken k at a time:

$${}_{n}C_{k} = \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \tag{22}$$

4 Probability distributions

Distribution	Mean	Variance	Median	$P(X \le x)$
Uniform (a, b)	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	uniform.cdf(x, a, b)
$\mathcal{N}(\mu,\sigma)$	μ	σ^2	μ	<pre>norm.cdf(x, mu, sigma)</pre>
$\operatorname{Lognormal}(\mu,\sigma)$	$\left[\exp\left(\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)\right] \exp(2\mu + \sigma^2)$	$\exp\left(\sigma^2\right) - 1$	$\exp\left(\mu\right)$	<pre>lognorm.cdf(x, sigma, np.exp(mu))</pre>
Binomial(n, p)	np	np(1-p)	$\lfloor (n+1)p \rfloor$	binom.cdf(x, n, p)
$Poisson(\lambda)$	λ	λ	$\lfloor \lambda floor$	<pre>poisson.cdf(x, lambda)</pre>
Exponential (λ)	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$	$\frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$	expon.cdf(x, 1/lambda)

Table 1: Common probability distributions.

Note: the $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$ symbol means to round down to the nearest integer.

E1 Formula Sheet CEE 260/MIE 273