

# (I) PROBABILITY

(1)

## Probability

"Mathematical Language for quantifying"  
Uncertainty

### \* Sample Space and Events

→ It is set of possible outcomes of an experiment  
→ Generally denoted by  $\Omega$

⇒ Subsets of  $\Omega$  are called Events.

⇒ Point  $\omega$  of  $\Omega$  are called Sample outcome  
or  
realizations  
or  
elements ✓

Example: If we toss a coin twice then;

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

→ One of the element of Sample Space

⇒ Event that first is heads

$$A = \{HT, HH\}$$

⇒ Let  $A^c = \{\omega \in \Omega : \omega \notin A\}$  denotes the Complement of A.

→  $A^c$  can be read as "not A".  
→ Complement of  $\Omega$  is the empty set  $\emptyset$ .

⇒ The union of events A & B is defined

$$A \cup B = \{\omega \in \Omega : \omega \in A \text{ or } \omega \in B\}$$

⇒ If  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  is a sequence of sets then

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \left\{ \omega \in \Omega : \omega \in A_i \text{ for at least one } i \right\}$$

⇒ The intersection of A and B is

$$A \cap B = \{\omega \in \Omega : \omega \in A \text{ \& } \omega \in B\}$$

{ sometimes we write  $A \cap B$  as  $AB$ }

⇒ If  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  is a sequence of set then

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \{\omega \in \Omega : \omega \in A_i \text{ } \forall i\}$$

⇒ The set difference is defined by

$$A - B = \{\omega : \omega \in A, \omega \notin B\}$$

⇒ If every element of A is contained in B

$$A \subset B \quad \text{or} \quad B \supset A$$

(sub set)

(super set)

⇒ If  $A$  is a finite set, let  $|A|$  denote the number of elements in  $A$ .

⇒ We say  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  are disjoint or mutually exclusive if  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  where  $i \neq j$ .

⇒ A partition of  $\Omega$  is a sequence of disjoint sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = \Omega$ .

⇒ Given an event  $A$ , define the indicator function of  $A$  by

$$I_A(\omega) = I(\omega \in A) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \omega \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } \omega \notin A \end{cases}$$

⇒ A sequence of sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  is monotone increasing if  $A_1 \subset A_2 \subset \dots$  and we define  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$ .

⇒ A sequence of sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  is monotone decreasing if  $A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \dots$  and then we define  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$ .

⇒ In either case, we will write  $A_n \rightarrow A$ .



## ★ Probability

⇒ A function  $P$  that assigns a real number  $P(A)$  to each event  $A$  is a Probability distribution or a Probability measure if it satisfies the following three axioms:

Axiom 1:  $P(A) \geq 0 \quad \forall A$

Axiom 2:  $P(\Omega) = 1$

Axiom 3: If  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  are disjoint then

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$$

⇒ Properties of  $P$  from the axioms

$$P(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$A \subset B \Rightarrow P(A) \leq P(B)$$

$$0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$$

$$P(A^c) = 1 - P(A)$$

$$A \cap B = \emptyset \Rightarrow P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$$

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

## \* Probability on Finite Sample Space

⇒ Suppose that the sample space  $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n\}$  is finite.

⇒ If  $\Omega$  is finite and if each outcome is equally likely, then

$$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|}$$

⇒ It is called uniform probability distribution.

## \* Independent Events

⇒ Two events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent if

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

→  $A \perp B \Rightarrow A$  and  $B$  are Independent.

→  $A \not\perp B \Rightarrow A$  and  $B$  are Not independent.

⇒ A set of events  $\{A_i : i \in I\}$  is independent if

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i \in J} A_i\right) = \prod_{i \in J} P(A_i)$$

⇒ Independence can arise in two distinct ways.

→ we explicitly assume that two events are independent.

→ we derive independence by verifying that  $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$  holds.



⇒ There is no way to judge independence by looking at the sets in a Venn diagram.

### \* Conditional Probability

If  $P(B) > 0$  then the Conditional Probability of A given B is

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

"Think of  $P(A|B)$  as fraction of times A occurs among those in which B occurs"

⇒ The rules of probability apply to events on the left of the bar.

⇒ If A and B are independent events then  $P(A|B) = P(A)$

⇒ For any pair of events A and B

$$P(AB) = P(A|B) P(B)$$

⇒ Another interpretation of independence is that knowing B doesn't change the probability of A.

## \* Bayes Theorem

### The Law of Total Probability

Let  $A_1, \dots, A_K$  be a partition of  $\Omega$   
Then for any event  $B$

$$P(B) = \sum_{i=1}^K P(B|A_i) P(A_i)$$

### Bayes Theorem

Let  $A_1, \dots, A_K$  be a partition of  $\Omega$   
Such that  $P(A_i) > 0 \forall$  each  $i$ .  
If  $P(B) > 0$  then, for each  $i = 1, \dots, K$

$$P(A_i|B) = \frac{P(B|A_i) P(A_i)}{\sum_j P(B|A_j) P(A_j)}$$

$P(A_i) \Rightarrow$  Prior probability of  $A$ .

$P(A_i|B) \Rightarrow$  Posterior probability of  $A$ .