

# Probability theory lecture 1

## Sample space

Def: a collection of all elementary results, or outcomes of an experiment

## Events

Def: a set of outcomes  
- an event is a subspace of the sample space

## Probability

- the probability that the event A occurs is:

$$P(A) = \frac{\text{nr. of favorable outcomes for the occurrence of } A}{\text{nr. of all possible outcomes of the experiment}}$$

- if the experiment is repeated n times and A occurs  $k_n$  times, the relative frequency of A is:

$$h_n(A) = \frac{k_n}{n}; k_n \text{ is the absolute freq. of } A$$

$$h_n(A) \approx P(A) \text{ if } n \rightarrow \infty$$

- the events  $A_1, A_2 \dots$  are exhaustive if their union equals the whole sample space:

$$A_1 \cup A_2 \dots = \Omega$$

### Axiomatic def.

- sample space ( $\Omega$ ): the set of all possible outcomes
- events ( $F$ ): let  $F$  be a  $\sigma$ -algebra over  $\Omega$ ; any subset  $A \in F$  is an event
- probability measure ( $P$ ): assigns a real nr. between 0 and 1 to each event in  $F$
- outcome ( $\omega$ ): a specific event in  $\Omega$

### Probability space

$$P: F \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$$P(\Omega) = 1, P(\emptyset) = 0$$

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

- $(\Omega, F, P)$  is called a probability space

-  $A^c \rightarrow$  complement of  $A$

$$\bar{A} = A^c = \Omega \setminus A$$

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

$$2) P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

$$3) P(A \setminus B) = P(A) - P(A \cap B)$$

$$4) \text{if } A \subseteq B \Rightarrow P(A) \leq P(B)$$

$$5) P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) \quad \text{where } A, B \in F$$

$(A_n)_{n \geq 1}$  is an increasing seq. of events from  $F$ , if

$$A_n \subseteq A_{n+1}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

a decr. seq. of events from  $F$ , if  $A_{n+1} \subseteq A_n$

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

- if  $(A_n)_{n \geq 1}$  is:

- an incr. seq. of events from  $F$ , then:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(A_n) = P\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right)$$

- a decr. seq. - II - :

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(A_n) = P\left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right)$$

$$\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$$

$$\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$$

## Add Seminars I

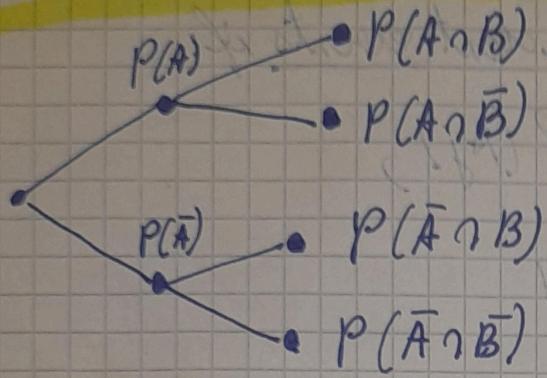
- Arrangements of  $n$  objects taken  $k$ : selections of  $k$  distinct ordered items from  $n$  objects
- Permutations with repetitions:
  - $n$  objects:
  - $n_1$  alike,  $n_2$  alike, ...,  $n_m$  are alike
  - the no. of distinct permutations is:

$$\frac{n!}{n_1! \cdot n_2! \cdots n_m!}$$

## Probability lecture 2

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

↑ probability of A given B (conditional prob.)



- the events A and B are independent if

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

The following are equivalent:

- 1) A and B independent
- 2)  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  ind.
- 3) A and  $\bar{B}$  ind.
- 4)  $\bar{A}$  and B ind.

Def:

- $A_1, A_2 \dots A_n \in \mathcal{F}$  are ind. if:

$$P(A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_m}) = P(A_{i_1}) \cdot \dots \cdot P(A_{i_m})$$

for each subset  $\{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$

- $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are pairwise independent events if:

$$P(A_i \cap A_j) = P(A_i) \cdot P(A_j);$$

$$\forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}, i \neq j$$

## Total probability

- consider a partition of  $\Omega$  with mutually exclusive and exhaustive events  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k$ , that is

$$B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset, \forall i \neq j, \text{ and } B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_k = \Omega$$

- assume these events also partition the event  $A$ :

$$A = (A \cap B_1) \cup (A \cap B_2) \cup \dots \cup (A \cap B_k)$$

and this is also a union of mutually exclusive events

- then  $P(A) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(A \cap B_j) \rightarrow$  Total Probability Law

## Bayes' rule

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

# Probability RVs

## Discrete RV

- prob. mass function (pmf):

$$X \sim \begin{pmatrix} X_1 & X_2 & \cdots & X_m \\ P_1 & P_2 & \cdots & P_m \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } P_i := P(X=x_i)$$

- cumulative dist. function (cdf):

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ x_i \leq x}} P(X=x_i), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

e.g.  $X \sim \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0.5 & 0.25 & 0.25 \end{pmatrix}$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < -1 \\ 0.5 & \text{if } -1 \leq x < 1 \\ 0.5 + 0.25 = 0.75 & \text{if } 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 0.5 + 0.25 + 0.25 = 1 & \text{if } 2 \leq x \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$$

$$P(a < X \leq b) = F(b) - F(a)$$

- if  $X$  continuous  $\Rightarrow P(X = c) = 0$ , we must use  $F(x)$  instead

- $P(X = b) = F(b) - F(b - 0)$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$

•  $F$  monotonically increasing

- $F(b+0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow b} F(x) = F(b)$ ,  $\forall b \in \mathbb{R}$

## Continuous RV

-  $F(x)$  cont.

-  $f(x) = F'(x) \rightarrow$  probability density function (PDF, pdf, density)

- a distribution is cont. if it has a density

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\uparrow$

$$P(x) = P(x \leq X \leq x) = \int_x^x f(x) dt = 0$$

if:  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$  }  $\Rightarrow f$  is a density function  
 and  $f(x) \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$

## Discrete RV: Expectation

- if  $X$  discrete:  $E[X] = \sum_{i \in I} x_i \cdot P(X=x_i) = \mu$

- if  $X$  cont:  $E[X] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x \cdot f(x) dx = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b x \cdot dx = \frac{a+b}{2}$

•  $E[a \cdot X + b] = a \cdot E[X] + b, \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

•  $E[X+Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$

• if  $X(w) \geq 0, \quad \forall w \in \Omega \Rightarrow E[X] \geq 0$

• if  $X(w) \geq Y(w), \quad \forall w \in \Omega \Rightarrow E[X] \geq E[Y]$

• discrete:  $E[h(X)] = \sum_{i \in I} h(x_i) \cdot P(X=x_i)$

• cont.:  $E[h(x)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} h(x) \cdot f(x) dx$

Variance

$$\sigma^2 = V(x) = E[(x - E[x])^2] \rightarrow \text{variance (or dispersion) of } x$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{V(x)} \rightarrow \text{standard deviation of } x$$

- discrete RV:

$$\boxed{\sum_{i=1} (x_i - \mu)^2 \cdot P(x = x_i)}$$

- $V(x) = E[x^2] - (E[x])^2$

- $V(a \cdot x + b) = a^2 \cdot V(x)$ ,  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

Covariance

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = E[(x - E[x])(y - E[y])] = E[xy] - E[x] \cdot E[y]$$

$$V(a \cdot x + b \cdot y) = a^2 \cdot V(x) + b^2 \cdot V(y) + 2 \cdot a \cdot b \cdot \text{cov}(x, y), \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

Correlation coefficient

$$\rho(x, y) = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\sqrt{V(x) \cdot V(y)}}$$

-  $\rho(x, y) \leq 1$

Moments of a RV

$x$  an RV,  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$

-  $E[x^k]$  is the moment of order  $k$  of  $x$

-  $E[|x|^k]$  is the absolute moment of order  $k$  of  $x$

-  $E[(x - E[x])^k]$  is the central moment of order  $k$  of  $x$

## Moment generating function

-  $X$  an RV

- the moment generating function (MGF) of  $X$  is

$$M_X: D \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$M_X(t) = E[e^{t \cdot X}]$$

### Th. 27

-  $X, Y$  RVs

- if  $y = a \cdot x + b$  for fixed  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $M_Y(t) = e^{bt} \cdot M_X(a \cdot t)$   
 $\forall b \in \mathbb{R}, \forall a, t \in \mathbb{R}$  for which  $M_X(a \cdot t)$  is defined

### Th. 29

-  $X, Y$  RVs for which  $\exists s > 0$  s.t.  $M_X(t) = M_Y(t), \forall t \in (-s, s)$ ;  
then  $F_X = F_Y$ , i.e.  $X$  and  $Y$  have the same distribution

- there  $\exists$  there is a one-to-one correspondence between  
the PDF of a RV and the MGF

### Th. 30

-  $X$  a RV with  $E[X], V[X]$ ; assume  $a > 0$ ; then:

#### 1) Markov's inequality

$$P(|X| \geq a) \leq \frac{1}{a} \cdot E[|X|]$$

#### 2) Chebyshev's inequality

$$P(|X - E[X]| > a) \leq \frac{1}{a^2} \cdot V(X)$$

## Distributions (discrete)

Bernoulli  $\rightarrow$  Bernoulli( $p$ ),  $p$  is prob. of success

- repeated independent trials for an experiment s.t.

3 only success or failure

## Binomial

- the nr. of successes in a series of  $n$  independent Bernoulli trials

$X \sim \text{Bino}(n, p)$ ,  $X$  denotes the nr. of successes

## Hypergeometric

$X \sim \text{Hyge}(n, n_1, n_2)$

$\leftarrow$  prob. of obtaining a certain nr. of successes in a fixed-size sample, where each draw is made without replacement

~~xx~~

## Geometric

$X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

$\leftarrow X$  denotes the nr. of failures before the first success in an infinite sequence of Bernoulli trials

## Poisson

$X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$   $\leftarrow X$  denotes the total nr. of occurrences of some phenomenon  $\&$  in a fixed period of time or region of space

## Distributions (continuous)

### Continuous & Uniform

$$X \sim \text{Unif}([a, b]) \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}$$

- used when we pick a value arbitrarily from a given interval, without any particular preference for higher, lower or medium values

### The uniform property

$\forall h > 0, \forall t \in [a, b-h]$  we have

$$P(t < X < t+h) = \int_t^{t+h} \frac{1}{b-a} dx = \frac{h}{b-a}$$

~~$f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}$~~

### Exponential

$$X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda) \quad f(x) = \lambda \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot x} \quad x > 0$$

- models time: waiting time, lifetime of components, failure time, service time in a queue etc.

- if the (discrete) nr. of events has Poisson dist., the (cont.) time between events has exp exponential dist.

$f(x) - \lambda$  represents the frequency and is measured in  $\text{min}^{-1}$

### Memoryless

$$P(T > t+x | T > t) = P(T > x); \quad t, x > 0$$

- geometric distr. is also memoryless

## Gamma distribution

- a specific process takes place in  $\alpha$  independent steps, and each step takes  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$ , then the total time has Gamma distribution with params.  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$

$$X \sim \Gamma(\alpha, \lambda)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{\lambda^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \cdot x^{\alpha-1} \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot x}$$

$$\text{where } \Gamma(t) = \int_0^\infty x^{t-1} \cdot e^{-x} dx, \quad t > 0$$

$\alpha \rightarrow$  shape parameter

$\lambda \rightarrow$  freq. parameter

## Normal

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

for  $x \in (-\infty; \infty)$

where  $\mu = E[X]$  and  $\sigma^2 = V(X)$

- models the distribution of the sum (or average) of a large nr. of independent and identically distributed RVs

e.g. height, weight

## Sequences of random variables

Def. 10 a seq. of RVs

$(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  converges almost surely to a RV  $X$  if

$$P\left(\{w \in \Omega : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} X_n(w) = X(w)\}\right) = 1$$

not.  $X_n \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} X$

Def. 32

$(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  of RVs converges in probability to  $X$  if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(|X_n - X| \leq \varepsilon) = 1, \forall \varepsilon > 0$$

not.  $X_n \xrightarrow{P} X$

Obs.:  $X_n \xrightarrow{P} X \iff \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(|X_n - X| > \varepsilon) = 0, \forall \varepsilon > 0$

Def. 33

$(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  converges in mean square to  $X$  if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E[|X_n - X|^2] = 0$$

not.  $X_n \xrightarrow{L^2} X$

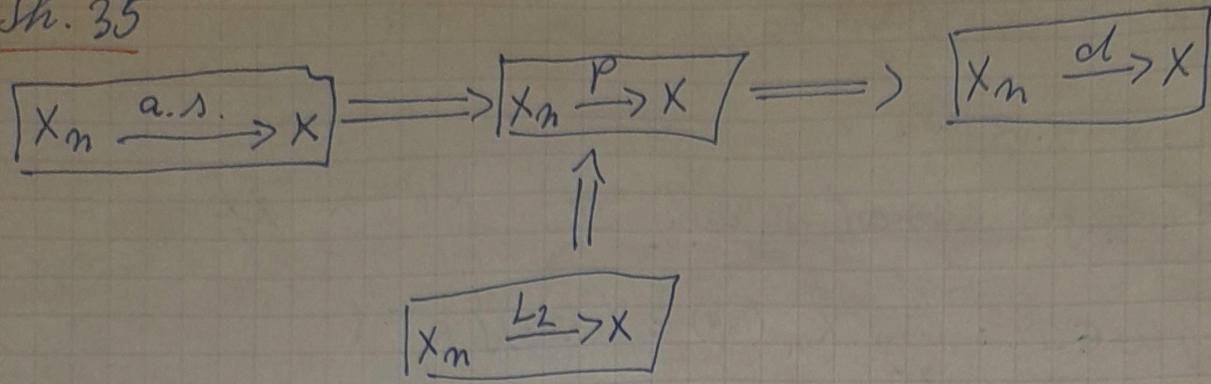
Def. 34

$(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  converges in distribution to  $X$  if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{X_n}(x) = F_X(x) \text{ in each continuity point } x \text{ of } F_X$$

not.  $X_n \xrightarrow{d} X$

### Th. 35



### Law of large numbers (LLN)

- if the same experiment is repeated independently a large nr. of times, the average of the results must be close to the expected value

### Weak law of large numbers (WLLN)

-  $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  s.t.  $E[X_n] < \infty, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$  obeys the WLLN if

$$\frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - E[X_k]) \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

### Th. 36

-  $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  a seq. of pairwise independent RVs satisfying  
 $V(X_n) \leq L, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , where L constant

- then  $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  obeys the WLLN

### strong law of large rvs. (SLLN)

$(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  a seq. of RVs s.t.  $E[X_n] < \infty, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$  obeys SLLN if

$$\frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - E[X_k]) \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0$$

- if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot V(X_n) < \infty \Rightarrow (X_n) \text{ obeys ST-SLLN}$

- if  $(X_n)$  obeys SLLN  $\Rightarrow (X_n)$  obeys WLLN

- if  $E[X_n] = m \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow (X_n)$  obeys SLLN

$$h_n(a) \xrightarrow{a.s.} P(a) \text{ if } n \rightarrow \infty$$

## Sums of RVs

### Random walk

$$S_m = S_{m-1} + X_m \leftarrow \text{random walk in 1D}$$

- & used to model behavior of systems where each step is unpredictable (e.g. movement of particles)

$S_m \rightarrow$  position after  $m$  steps

$X_m \rightarrow$  step taken at step  $m$

- for a random walk in 1D with step size +1 and -1 with prob.  $p$  and  $1-p$ :

$$E[S_m] = m \cdot p$$

$$V(S_m) = m \cdot p \cdot (1-p)$$

### Central limit theorem

-  $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$  a seq. of independent identically distributed RVs

s.t.  $V(X_n) > 0, \forall n \geq 1$ ; then

$$\frac{(X_1 + \dots + X_n) - n \cdot E[X_n]}{\sqrt{n \cdot V(X_n)}} \xrightarrow{P} Z, \text{ where } Z \sim N(0, 1)$$

- the dist. of sample means approximates a normal dist. as the sample size increases, regardless of the sample's dist.