

Math Problem Set 1

Open Source Macroeconomics Laboratory Boot Camp

Ruby Zhang

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1. Exercises from the book:

3.6 Since $A \in \mathcal{F}$, which is the power set of Ω , then $A \subset \Omega = \cup_{i \in I} B_i$. Therefore, $A = \cup_{i \in I} A \cap B_i$. By the definition of a probability space, P is countably additive on \mathcal{F} so $P(\cup_{i \in I} A \cap B_i) = P(A) = \sum_{i \in I} P(A \cap B_i)$.

3.8 First, we will prove that if E_1 and E_2 are independent events, then E_1^c and E_2^c are also independent events. Note that:

$$\begin{aligned} P(E_1^c \cap E_2^c) &= P((E_1 \cup E_2)^c) \\ &= 1 - (P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)) \\ &= 1 - P(E_1) - P(E_2) + P(E_1) \times P(E_2) \\ &= (1 - P(E_1)) \times (1 - P(E_2)) \\ &= P(E_1^c) \times P(E_2^c) \end{aligned}$$

From the rule of unions and intersections, we have that $(\cup_{k=1}^n E_k)^c = \cap_{k=1}^n E_k^c$. In addition, since $\{E_k\}_{k=1}^n$ is a collection of independent events, so from the previous proof we have that $\{E_k^c\}_{k=1}^n$ is also a collection of independent events. Then we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} P(\cup_{k=1}^n E_k) &= 1 - P((\cup_{k=1}^n E_k)^c) \\ &= 1 - P(\cap_{k=1}^n E_k^c) \\ &= 1 - \prod_{k=1}^n P(E_k^c) \\ &= 1 - \prod_{k=1}^n (1 - P(E_k)) \end{aligned}$$

3.11 From Bayes' Rule, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} P(s = \text{crime} | s \text{ tested } +) &= \frac{P(s \text{ tested } + | s = \text{crime})P(s = \text{crime})}{P(s \text{ tested } +)} \\ &= \frac{1 \times \frac{1}{250,000,000}}{\frac{1}{3,000,000}} \\ &= \frac{3}{250} \end{aligned}$$

3.12 Without loss of generality, suppose the contestant picked door A_1 and Monty opened door A_2 , which contains a goat. We want to show that the contestant is better off picking door A_3 . Since the contestant chose the first door with no prior information, then $P(A_1) = 1/3$. Therefore, $P(A_2 \cup A_3) = 2/3$. However, if A_2 contains a goat, then $P(A_3) = 0$ and we know that $P(A_2 \cap A_3)$ since the car cannot be behind both. Thus, $P(A_2 \cup A_3) = P(A_3) = 2/3$. The contestant would have double the chance of winning if they switched doors versus sticking with their original decision. In a similar situation with 10 doors, you would have a $1/10$ probability of winning if you stuck with your original decision, but you have a $9/10$ probability of winning if you switched to the remaining door.

3.16 We want to show that $E[(X - \mu)^2] = E[X^2] - \mu^2$. From the definition of variance and the fact that expectation is the weighted average and is thus additive, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X] &= E[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= E[(X - E[X])^2] \\ &= E[X^2 - 2XE[X] + E[X]^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - E[2XE[X]] + E[E[X]^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - 2E[X]^2 + E[X^2] \text{ since } E[X]^2 \text{ is a constant} \\ &= E[X^2] - E[X]^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - \mu^2 \end{aligned}$$

3.33 For a binomial random variable B , we have that $B = \sum_{i=1}^n B_i$, where all B_i 's are independently Bernoulli distributed random variables such that $E[B_i] = p$ and $\text{Var}(B_i) = p(1 - p)$. Thus, using the weak law of large numbers, we have that for all $\epsilon > 0$,

$$P\left(\left|\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n B_i}{n} - p\right| \geq \epsilon\right) = P\left(\left|\frac{B}{n} - p\right| \geq \epsilon\right) \leq \frac{p(1 - p)}{n\epsilon^2}$$

3.36 Let $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n 242X_i$, where X_i is the probability that student i will enroll at the school, so X_i 's are independently Bernoulli distributed random variables. Thus, $E[X_i] = \mu = 0.801$ and $\text{Var}[X_i] = 0.801 \times 0.199 = 0.1594$.

We want to estimate $P(S_n \geq 5500) = 1 - P(S_n \leq 5500)$. Using the Central Limit Theorem, we have the estimation that:

$$P\left(\frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} \leq y\right) = P(S_n \leq \sigma\sqrt{n}y + n\mu) \\ \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^y e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx$$

We can calculate y as follows:

$$\sigma\sqrt{n}y + n\mu = 5500 \\ y = \frac{5500 - 6242 \times 0.801}{\sqrt{0.1594 \times 6242}} \\ = 15.8563$$

Computing the integral using wolfram alpha, we thus have that:

$$P(S_n \geq 5500) = 1 - P(S_n \leq 5500) = 1 - 1 = 0$$

2. (a)
- (b)
3. To prove that Benson's Law is a well-defined discrete probability distribution, we must show that the probability of the entire space of outcomes is 1:

$$P(\Omega) = \sum_{d=1}^9 \log_{10}\left(1 + \frac{1}{d}\right) \\ = \log_{10}\left(\sum_{d=1}^9 \frac{d+1}{d}\right) \text{ this is a telescoping sum} \\ = \log_{10} 10 \\ = 1$$

4. (a) The probability that the person wins $\$2^n$ is if they flip $n - 1$ heads in a row then tails on the n th flip. The probability of that happening is $1/2^n$. Thus, for any given winning $x_n = \$2^n$, $p_n x_n = 1$. Since $n = \mathbb{N}$, then $E[X] = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_n x_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 = +\infty$.
- (b) Since the player has log utility, for a given winning $x_n = \$2^n$, the utility $u_n = n \log 2$. The probability has not changed, thus we have that $E[\log X] = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_n u_n = \log 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{2^n} = 2 \log 2$, which was found using Wolfram Alpha.
- 5.
6. (a)

- (b)
- (c)
- 7. (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)
- 8.
- 9. (a)
- (b)
- 10.