

Basic probability

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November 2024

1 Set theory

Definition 1 *The set, S , of all possible outcomes of a particular experiment is called the **sample space** for the experiment.*

Definition 2 *An **event** is any collection of possible outcomes of an experiment, that is, any subset of S .*

Let A , be an event of a subset S . We say that the event A occurs if the outcome of the experiment is in the set A .

2 Axiomatic probability theory

When an experiment is performed, the realization of the experiment is an outcome on the sample space. When a experiment is repeated a number of times, different outcomes may occur each time, or some outcomes may repeat. This "frequency of occurrence" of an outcome can be though of as a probability.

For each event A in the sample space S , we want to associate with A a number between zero and one that will be called the probability of A , denoted by $P(A)$.