

Probability construction (general setting)

Operatively, there are two ways of furnishing a (measure of) probability on a measurable space : it may be claimed

The first is common in applications such as Bayesian Statistics, where you make an hypothesis on the distribution a

In both cases some check are in order, as we need to ensure that the probability is *coherent*. Note that in the second

Discrete setting

Some results of this kind were produced already: we have dealt with the case of discrete partitions of the sample sp

[Existence and Uniqueness] Let \mathcal{E} be a discrete partition of Ω and let the function $\mu : E_k \in \mathcal{E} \rightarrow p_k \in R$ be such that $\sum p_k = 1$ and $p_k \geq 0$ for all $k \in I$. Then, there exist a unique probability P on $\sigma(\mathcal{E})$ such that P and μ agree on \mathcal{E} . A function μ with t

Morally, the discrete probability density on a partition describes a unique and consistent probability on the generat

Let \mathcal{E} be a discrete partition of Ω . Then

Now suppose that $\mu : E_k \in \mathcal{E} \rightarrow p_k \in R$ is a discrete probability density. Then, if P is the probability defined in Theorem

A special case worth mentioning is that of the atomic partition on a discrete Ω . Here, the generated is $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ and th

General setting

For more general settings the short message is that Theorem 1 holds, provided some conditions, while no explicit cha

We present a powerful theorem of measure theory, that does just that. It will allow us to extend a *pre-probability*, a

Let \mathcal{A} be an algebra defined on Ω . Then, $\mu : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow R$ is a *pre-probability* if

$\mu(\Omega) = 1$

$\mu(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu(A_i)$ for $A_i \in \mathcal{A}$

if $\bigcup_{i \in N} A_i \in \mathcal{A}$, then $\mu(\bigcup_{i \in N} A_i) = \sum_{i \in N} \mu(A_i)$.

The latter is the condition that ensure coherence with respect to the probability, and can be read as a *need-based*.

[Carathéodory's Theorem] Let \mathcal{A} be an algebra defined on Ω , and suppose that $\mu : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow R$ is a pre-probability. Then, there

We can refine the result for practical purposes by exploiting the equivalence between σ -additivity and continuity¹.

[Carathéodory's Theorem, continuity characterization] Let \mathcal{A} be an algebra defined on Ω , and suppose that $\mu : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow R$ sat

$\mu(\Omega) = 1$,

$\mu(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu(A_i)$,

if $A_i \downarrow \emptyset$, then $\mu(A_i) \downarrow 0$,

where $A_n \in \mathcal{A}$. Then, there exists a unique probability $P : \sigma(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow R$ such that μ and P agree on \mathcal{A} . The usefulness of this is

Another refinement is in order: the minimal information condition could be weaker. This is an application of the M

[π -system] A collection \mathcal{C} is said to be a π -system if stable under finite intersection. Explicitly, if $A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{C}$ th

This theorem is not just about comparisons. It furnishes sharp² conditions for the uniqueness in Theorem : it requi

*Borel's σ -algebra

* σ -algebra on Bernoulli Space