

Suppose we perform an experiment. For example

~ Roll a dice 100 times

data = list of 100 numbers in $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

What do we expect the data set to look like?

What is the chance (probability, likelihood) that

the dataset has all odd numbers $\{1, 3, 5\}$?

A probability is a measure which assigns a value in $[0, 1]$ to an event A.

eg A = event where 100 rolls of dice always gives an odd number.

$P(A) = \frac{1}{8}$ gives a weight or way of measuring the likelihood of an event.

Definition

A probability space is a triple (Ω, \mathcal{A}, P)

- Ω is a nonempty set (sample space)
- $\mathcal{A} \subseteq 2^\Omega = \{\text{set of all subsets of } \Omega\}$ is a σ -algebra*
- $P : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a probability measure.
i.e. $P(\Omega) = 1$, $P(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} P(A_n)$ when $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset \forall i \neq j$.

* Definition of the σ -algebra

\mathcal{A} must satisfy the following

- $\Omega \in \mathcal{A}, \emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$

- Closed under complements $[B \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \Omega \setminus B \in \mathcal{A}]$

- Closed under countable unions

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} B_i \in \mathcal{A} \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{N} \\ \Rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} B_i \in \mathcal{A} \end{array} \right]$$

Every set $A \in \mathcal{A}$ is called an event

Example 1

First two σ -algebras

(a) $\{\emptyset, \Omega\}$ is a σ -algebra

(b) $2^{\Omega} = \text{set of all subsets of } \Omega$ is a σ -algebra.

Example 2

Rolling dice

$$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = 2^{\Omega} = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{1\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5\}, \dots\}$$

Size of $\mathcal{A} = 2^6 = 64$, so there are 64 possible events.

Example 3 Flip a coin twice

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

$$A = \mathcal{P}^{\Omega} \quad \text{size of } A = 2^{|\Omega|} = 2^4 = 16.$$

Remark When Ω is discrete or finite, we can always take $A = \mathcal{P}^{\Omega}$ as the σ -algebra.

Example 4 $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$

When Ω is not discrete, we cannot take \mathcal{P}^{Ω} .

(by measure theory, but basically because \mathcal{P}^{Ω} is too large)

Instead we set

$A = \text{the Borel } \sigma\text{-algebra}$

What we need: A contains all intervals $(a, b]$, $a < b$.

An element $A \in A$ is called a Borel set.

Bayes Theorem We fix a probability space

(Ω, \mathcal{A}, P) . Let $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$. Sometimes we want to describe the probability an event A will occur given the fact that another event B has happened. This is denoted $P(A|B)$ and read as "the probability of A given B ".

Def Assume $P(B) > 0$. The conditional probability of A given B is

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

Ex $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$, $A = \{2\}$, $B = \{2, 4, 6\}$

$$P(\{k\}) = \frac{1}{6} \text{ for } k=1, \dots, 6. \quad P(A) = \frac{1}{6}.$$

However if we know only even #'s will be drawn,

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Bayes' Theorem

Let $A, B \in \mathcal{A}_j$, $P(A), P(B) > 0$.

Then

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

Pf

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

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

$$\Rightarrow P(B)P(A|B) = P(A \cap B) = P(B|A)P(A)$$

□

Random Variables

Recall when not working with discrete variables, we have to work with the borel σ -algebra instead of $\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}$. We want to define functions which behave well with the σ -algebra.

Def Let (X, \mathcal{A}) , (Y, \mathcal{B}) be probability spaces.

A function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is called measurable

if $\forall A \in \mathcal{B}$

$$f^{-1}(A) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in A\} \in \mathcal{A}.$$

ex $f(x) = 3$. $(X, \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{f} (R, \mathcal{B}(I))$

Suffices to show for any $I \subseteq R$ $I = (a, \infty)$.

$$f^{-1}(I) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) > a\} \in \mathcal{A}.$$

• For $a \geq 3$, $\{x \in X \mid 3 > a \geq 3\} = \emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$.

• For $a < 3$, $\{x \in X \mid a < 3\} = X \in \mathcal{A}$.

Def Random variable $X: \Omega \rightarrow A$

is a measurable function from the sample space to a value in A .

$A = \mathbb{R} \Rightarrow$ continuous random variable

Ω discrete \Rightarrow discrete random variable

Example

$$\Omega = \{H, T\}$$

$$X(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \omega = H \\ 0 & \text{if } \omega = T \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P[X \in A] &= P[\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \in A\}] \\ &= P[\omega \in X^{-1}(A)] = P[X^{-1}(A)] \end{aligned}$$