

# EMP 214 - Probability cheat sheet<sup>1</sup>

## 1 Prerequisites

$$1 + a + a^2 + a^3 + \dots = \frac{1}{1-a}$$

$$a + a^2 + a^3 + a^4 + \dots = \frac{a}{1-a}$$

$$a(1 + a + a^2 + a^3 + \dots) = \frac{a}{1-a}$$

$$1 + 2a + 3a^2 + 4a^3 + \dots = \frac{1}{(1-a)^2}$$

## 2 Axioms of Probability

- Non negativity : ensures that probability is never negative.  
 $\mathbb{P}[A] \geq 0$
- Normalization : ensures that probability is never greater than 1.  
 $\mathbb{P}[\Omega] = 1$
- Additivity : allows us to add probabilities when two events do not overlap.

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}[A_i]$$

### 2.1 Unions of Two Non-Disjoint Sets

$$\mathbb{P}[A \cup B] = \mathbb{P}[A] + \mathbb{P}[B] - \mathbb{P}[A \cap B]$$

## 3 Contional probability

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{\mathbb{P}[A \cap B]}{\mathbb{P}[B]}$$

- Independence : Two events A and B are independent if :

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \mathbb{P}[A]$$

or  $\mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = \mathbb{P}[A]\mathbb{P}[B]$

Doctor: "Sir, the surgery has a 50% survival rate, but don't worry, my last 20 patients have all survived"



- Note:

Disjoint  $\nRightarrow$  Independent

If A and B are disjoint, then  $A \cap B = \phi$ . This only implies that  $\mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = 0$ .

- Law of Total Probability :

$$\mathbb{P}[A] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}[A|B_i]\mathbb{P}[B_i]$$

- Bayes' rule

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{\mathbb{P}[B|A]\mathbb{P}[A]}{\mathbb{P}[B]}$$

## 4 Series and Parallel Circuits

- Series devices:

$$\mathbb{P}[\text{Circuit operates}] = \mathbb{P}[\text{device 1 operates}] \times \mathbb{P}[\text{device 2 operates}] \times \dots \times \mathbb{P}[\text{device n operates}]$$

- Parallel devices:

$$\mathbb{P}[\text{Circuit fails}] = \mathbb{P}[\text{device 1 fails}] \times \mathbb{P}[\text{device 2 fails}] \times \dots \times \mathbb{P}[\text{device n fails}]$$

- Remember :

$$\mathbb{P}[\text{failure}] = 1 - \mathbb{P}[\text{success}]$$

## 5 Techniques of Counting

- Arranging  $n$  items in  $n$  places : number of ways

$$n!$$

- Permutations :

$${}^n P_k = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$$

- Combinations :

$${}^n C_k = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{{}^n P_k}{k!}$$

	order	no order
replacement	$n^r$	$n^{-r+1}C_r$
no replacement	${}^n P_r$	${}^n C_r$

## 6 Discrete Random Variables

- What are random variables?  
Random variables are mappings from events to numbers.
- probability mass function (PMF) of a random variable  $X$  is a function which specifies the probability of obtaining a number  $x$ .

$$p_X(x) = \mathbb{P}[X = x]$$

- Note that a PMF should satisfy the following condition

$$\sum_{x \in X(\Omega)} p_X(x) = 1$$

- Cumulative distribution function CDF :

$$F_X(x_k) = \mathbb{P}[X \leq x_k] = \sum_{l=-\infty}^k p_X(l)$$

- What is expectation?  
Expectation = Mean = Average computed from a PMF.

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu = \sum_{x \in X(\Omega)} xp_X(x)$$

- Properties:

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \sum_{x \in X(\Omega)} g(X)p_X(x)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$$

- What is variance?  
It is a measure of the deviation of the random variable X relative to its mean.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X] &= \sigma^2 = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mu^2 \end{aligned}$$

- Properties:

$$\text{Var}[aX + b] = a^2 \text{Var}[X]$$

- Coefficient of variance =  $\frac{\sigma}{\mu}$

<sup>1</sup>Taha Ahmed

## 7 Special Discrete Random Variables

### 7.1 Bernoulli

(a coin-flip random variable)

- $\mathbb{P}[\text{success}] = p$ ,  $\mathbb{P}[\text{failure}] = 1 - p = q$

- PMF :

$$p_X(0) = 1 - p \quad p_X(1) = p$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = p$$

- Variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X] &= p(1 - p) \\ &= pq \end{aligned}$$

### 7.2 Binomial

(n times coin-flips random variable)

- $\mathbb{P}[\text{success}] = p$ ,  $\mathbb{P}[\text{failure}] = 1 - p = q$

- PMF :

$$p_X(k) = {}^nC_k p^k q^{n-k}$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = np$$

- Variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X] &= np(1 - p) \\ &= npq \end{aligned}$$

- Show that the binomial PMF sums to 1.:  
Use the binomial theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n p_X(k) &= \sum_{k=0}^n {}^nC_k p^k q^{n-k} \\ &= (p + (1 - p))^n \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

### 7.3 Geometric

(Trying a binary experiment until we succeed random variable)

- $\mathbb{P}[\text{success}] = p$ ,  $\mathbb{P}[\text{failure}] = 1 - p = q$

- PMF :

$$p_X(k) = \underbrace{(1 - p)^{k-1}}_{k-1 \text{ failures}} \underbrace{p}_{\text{final success}}$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{p}$$

- Variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X] &= \frac{1 - p}{p^2} \\ &= \frac{q}{p^2} \end{aligned}$$

### 7.4 Poisson

(For small p and large n where  $\lambda = np$ )

- $\lambda$  = the rate of the arrival

- PMF :

$$p_X(k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \lambda$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \lambda$$

- Show that the Poisson PMF sums to 1.:  
Use the exponential series:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p_X(k) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \\ &= e^{-\lambda} \underbrace{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}}_{=e^{\lambda}} \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

## 8 Continuous Random Variables

- probability density function (PDF) is a continuous version of a PMF, we integrate PDF to compute the probability

$$\mathbb{P}[a \leq X \leq b] = \int_a^b f_X(x) dx$$

- Note that a PMF should satisfy the following condition

$$\int_{\Omega} f_X(x) dx = 1$$

- Note :

$$\mathbb{P}[X = \text{certain point}] = 0$$

- Cumulative distribution function CDF :

$$F_X(x_k) = \mathbb{P}[X \leq x] = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(t) dt$$

- Note:

$$\text{CDF} = \int \text{PDF}$$

$$\text{PDF} = \frac{d}{dx} \text{CDF}$$

- Expectation (Mean):

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu = \int_{\Omega} x f_X(x) dx$$

- Properties:

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \mu = \int_{\Omega} g(X) f_X(x) dx$$

$$\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$$

- Mode: the peak of the PDF

How to find mode from PDF:

- Find a point c such that  $f_X(c)$  is maximized by differentiation (and test the edges of the interval).

How to find mode from CDF:

- Continuous: Find a point c such that  $F_X(c)$  has the steepest slope.
- Discrete: Find a point c such that  $F_X(c)$  has the biggest gap in a jump.

- Median: (a point c that separates the PDF into two equal areas)

$$\mathbb{P}[x < c] = \mathbb{P}[x > c] = 0.5$$

$$F_X(c) = 0.5$$

- Note : Symmetric distribution is a distribution in which Median = Mean

- Percentiles:

To get the  $\alpha$  percentile, find the value c at which

$$F_X(c) = \alpha$$

- Variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X] &= \sigma^2 = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= \int_{\Omega} (x - \mu)^2 f_X(x) dx \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mu^2 \end{aligned}$$

- Properties:

$$\text{Var}[aX + b] = a^2 \text{Var}[X]$$

## 9 Special Continuous Random Variables

### 9.1 Uniform

- PDF :

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b - a} & a \leq x \leq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{a + b}{2}$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \frac{(a - b)^2}{12}$$

## 9.2 Exponential

- What is the origin of exponential random variables?
  - An exponential random variable is the *interarrival* time between two consecutive Poisson events.

- PDF :

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- CDF :

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

- Memorylessness property:

$$\mathbb{P}[T < t + m | T > t] = \mathbb{P}[T < m] = F_X(m)$$

- Starting from poisson distribution, derive an expression of PDF of exponential random variable

We assume that N is Poisson with a parameter  $\lambda t$  for any duration  $t$  :

$$\mathbb{P}[N = n] = e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^n}{n!}$$

Let  $T$  be the interarrival time between two events

$$\mathbb{P}[T > t] = \mathbb{P}[\text{interarrival time} > t] = \mathbb{P}[\text{no arrival in } t]$$

$$= \mathbb{P}[N = 0] = e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^0}{0!} = e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\text{since } \mathbb{P}[T > t] = 1 - F_T(t)$$

$$\therefore F_T(t) = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$f_T(t) = \frac{d}{dx} F_T(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$$

## 9.3 Erlange-k

(A generalization of the exponential distribution is the length until  $r$  counts occur in a Poisson process. )

- PDF :

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda x} x^{k-1}}{(k-1)!}$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{k}{\lambda}$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \frac{k}{\lambda^2}$$

## 9.4 Gamma

- PDF :

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta^r \Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta}$$

$\alpha$  : Shape parameter

$\beta$  : Scale parameter

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \alpha\beta$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \alpha\beta^2$$

- Starting from gamma distribution, derive an expression of PDF for erlang-k random variable

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta^r \Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta}$$

$$\text{Substitute } \alpha = k \text{ and } \beta = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda x} x^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)}$$

If k is an integer, X has an Erlang distribution.

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda x} x^{k-1}}{(k-1)!}$$

- Exponential distribution is a special case of Gamma distribution with  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\beta = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

- Chi-Squared distribution  $\chi^2$  is a special case of Gamma distribution with  $\alpha = v/2$  and  $\beta = 2$   
it is a important distribution in statistics, also called as number of degrees of freedom

## 9.5 Gaussian

- We write

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

- PDF :

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right)$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2$$

## 9.6 Standart Gaussian

- We write

$$Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

- Conversion from Gaussian to Standard Gaussian

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

- PDF :

$$f_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}$$

- CDF:

$$\Phi(z) = \mathbb{P}[Z < z]$$

$$\mathbb{P}[Z > z] = 1 - \Phi(z)$$

$$\Phi(-z) = 1 - \Phi(z)$$

- Expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu = 0$$

- Variance:

$$\text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2 = 1$$

## 10 Moment generating function

- MGF:

$$M_X(t) = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}]$$

- $r^{\text{th}}$  moment:

$$\mathbb{E}[X^r] = \left. \frac{d^r}{dt^r} M_X(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

## 11 Joint Discrete Probability Distributions

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$$f_{XY}(x, y) = \mathbb{P}[X = x, Y = y]$$

- Properties :

$$\sum_X \sum_Y f_{XY}(x, y) = 1$$

- Marginal PMF :

$$f_X(x) = \sum_Y f_{XY}(x, y)$$

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_X f_{XY}(x, y)$$

- Independence : X and Y are independent if

$$\underbrace{f_{XY}(x, y) = f_X(x) \times f_Y(y)}_{\text{for all values of x and y}}$$

also if :

$$f_{X|Y} = f_X$$

$$f_{Y|X} = f_Y$$

- Conditional probability:

$$f_{Y|X} = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_X(x)}$$

$$f_{X|Y} = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

## 12 Joint Continuous Probability Distributions

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$$\mathbb{P}[\Lambda] = \iint_{\Lambda} f_{XY} dx dy$$

for any event  $\Lambda \subseteq \Omega_X \times \Omega_Y$

• Properties :

$$\iint_A f_{XY}(x, y) dA = 1$$

• Marginal PMF :

$$f_X(x) = \int_Y f_{XY}(x, y) dy$$

$$f_Y(y) = \int_X f_{XY}(x, y) dx$$

• Independence : X and Y are independent if

$$f_{XY}(x, y) = f_X(x) \times f_Y(y)$$

also if :

$$f_{X|Y} = f_X$$

$$f_{Y|X} = f_Y$$

• Conditional probability:

$$f_{Y|X} = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_X(x)}$$

$$f_{X|Y} = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

## 13 Expectation, Covariance and Correlation Coefficient

• Discrete:

$$\mathbb{E}[g(x, y)] = \sum_X \sum_Y g(x, y) f_{XY}(x, y)$$

• Continuous:

$$\mathbb{E}[g(x, y)] = \int_X \int_Y g(x, y) f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy$$

• Properties:

$$\mathbb{E}[x + y] = \mathbb{E}[x] + \mathbb{E}[y]$$

• if  $x$  and  $y$  are independent:

$$\mathbb{E}[xy] = \mathbb{E}[x]\mathbb{E}[y]$$

• Covariance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X, Y) &= \sigma_{XY} = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] \end{aligned}$$

• Variance:

$$\mathbb{V}[X + Y] = \mathbb{V}[X] + \mathbb{V}[Y] + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

• if  $x$  and  $y$  are independent:

$$\mathbb{V}[X + Y] = \mathbb{V}[X] + \mathbb{V}[Y]$$

• Correlation Coefficient:

$$\rho_{X,Y} = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

## 14 Random Processes

• Expectation:

$$\mu_X(t) = \mathbb{E}[X(t, A)] = \sum_A X(t, A) f_A(a)$$

$$\mu_X(t) = \mathbb{E}[X(t, A)] = \int_A X(t, A) f_A(a) dA$$

• Auto-correlation function :

$$R_{XX}(t, t + \tau) = \mathbb{E}[X(t)X(t + \tau)]$$

• Auto-covariance function :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}_{XX}(t, t + \tau) &= R_{XX}(t, t + \tau) - \mu_X(t)\mu_X(t + \tau) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X(t)X(t + \tau)] - \mathbb{E}[X(t)]\mathbb{E}[X(t + \tau)] \end{aligned}$$

• Wide Sense Stationary Process WSSP:

Expectaion = Constant, Not depend on time

$$R_{XX}(t, t + \tau) = \mathbb{E}[X(t)X(t + \tau)] = R_{XX}(\tau)$$

depend on time difference only

• Average power for WSSP:

$$R_{XX}(\tau = 0) = \mathbb{E}[X(t)X(t + 0)] = \mathbb{E}[X^2(t)]$$