

# Data Science

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June 24, 2022

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# Contents

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List of Figures	xiii
List of Tables	xv
<b>I Probability</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Sets, the sample space, and probability</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>thomas mcandrew</i>	
1.1 Introduction	4
1.2 Probability lingo	4
1.2.1 Sets	4
1.3 Applying set theory to probability	7
1.3.1 Foundation	8
1.3.2 The principle of equally likely outcomes—one way to assign probabilities	9
1.3.3 A frequentist approach to assigning probabilities	10
1.3.4 Products, Conditionals, Baye's Theorem, and Repeated Experiments	11
1.3.4.1 Product Sets	11
1.3.4.2 Conditional probabilities	13
1.3.4.3 The multiplication rule as a tool to compute sequential events	17
1.3.4.4 Partitions and the law of total probability	21
1.3.4.5 Baye's Theorem	22
1.3.4.6 Repeated experiments	22
1.3.5 The datapoint, dataset, and dataframe	23
1.4 Exercises	24
1.5 Student Advice, Examples, and Insights	33
1.6 Glossary	35
<b>2 Random variables</b>	<b>37</b>
<i>thomas mcandrew</i>	
2.1 Introduction	38
2.2 Maps from the sample space to the number line	38
2.3 A new sample space	39
2.4 How to assign probabilities to a random variable	39
2.5 Probability mass function	41
	vii

2.6	Cumulative mass function . . . . .	43
2.7	Two or more random variables . . . . .	44
2.8	Functions of a random variable . . . . .	48
2.8.1	Multiplying and adding a constant to a random variable . . . . .	48
2.8.1.1	Translation . . . . .	48
2.8.1.2	Scaling . . . . .	49
2.8.2	General transformation of a discrete random variable . . . . .	50
2.8.3	Expectation . . . . .	51
2.8.3.1	Properties of the expectation . . . . .	51
2.8.4	Second moment and variance . . . . .	52
2.8.5	Just in time summation . . . . .	52
2.8.6	How the expected value earned its name . . . . .	53
2.8.6.1	Markov inequality . . . . .	53
2.8.6.2	Chebychev's inequality . . . . .	53
2.8.7	Covariance . . . . .	53
2.8.8	Correlation . . . . .	53
2.9	A Model . . . . .	54
2.10	Exercises . . . . .	54
<b>3</b>	<b>Probability distributions: templates</b>	<b>59</b>
	<i>thomas mcandrew</i>	
3.1	Introduction . . . . .	59
3.2	Discrete distributions . . . . .	60
3.2.1	The Bernoulli distribution . . . . .	60
3.2.2	The Geometric distribution . . . . .	61
3.2.3	The Poisson distribution . . . . .	61
3.2.4	The Binomial distribution . . . . .	62
3.2.5	The Discrete Uniform distribution . . . . .	63
3.3	Continuous distributions . . . . .	64
3.3.1	Discrete to continuous: Points to intervals . . . . .	64
3.3.2	Densities . . . . .	64
3.3.3	Uniform continuous distribution . . . . .	65
3.3.4	Just-in-time integration . . . . .	66
3.3.5	Normal Distribution . . . . .	67
3.3.5.1	The expected value and variance are equal to distinct parameters . . . . .	67
3.3.5.2	Shifting and scaling by a constant is easy . . . . .	68
3.4	Quantiles and the quantile function . . . . .	68
3.5	Exercises . . . . .	69
<b>II</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Law of large numbers, Method of Moments, and the Central limit theorem</b>	<b>73</b>

*thomas mcandrew*

4.1	Introduction . . . . .	73
4.2	Independent and identically distributed and sample . . . . .	74
4.3	Properties of the Expected value and Variance of a sum . . . . .	74
4.4	Law of large numbers . . . . .	75
4.4.1	LLN for transformations . . . . .	79
4.5	Statistics, Estimators, and the Method of Moments . . . . .	79
4.6	Central limit theorem . . . . .	84
4.7	Confidence intervals: the CLT in action . . . . .	85
4.7.1	Z values . . . . .	86
4.7.2	Using the CLT to build a confidence interval . . . . .	88
4.7.3	Hypothesis Testing . . . . .	90
4.7.3.1	Z-test for Normally distributed data . . . . .	92
4.7.3.2	Z-test for a Bernoulli sample . . . . .	93
4.7.3.3	The p-value . . . . .	94
4.8	Exercises . . . . .	94

### III Algorithms lab 101

#### 5 Laboratory 01 103

*thomas mcandrew, david braun*

5.1	Jupyter Notebooks . . . . .	104
5.1.1	File . . . . .	104
5.1.1.1	A new notebook . . . . .	104
5.1.1.2	The notebook . . . . .	104
5.1.1.3	Save your work . . . . .	105
5.1.1.4	Export for submission . . . . .	105
5.1.2	Kernel . . . . .	106
5.2	Programming and R . . . . .	107
5.3	Arithmetic . . . . .	107
5.4	Vectors . . . . .	108
5.4.1	Assignment . . . . .	108
5.4.1.1	c() . . . . .	109
5.4.1.2	assign . . . . .	109
5.4.1.3	equals . . . . .	109
5.5	Print . . . . .	109
5.6	Combining vectors . . . . .	110
5.7	Indexing and access . . . . .	111
5.7.1	Numeric indexing . . . . .	111
5.7.2	Logical vectors and logical indexing . . . . .	112
5.7.2.1	True and False . . . . .	112
5.7.2.2	Logical comparisons . . . . .	112
5.7.2.3	Logic . . . . .	112
5.7.2.4	AND, OR, and NOT . . . . .	113
5.7.2.5	Equivalence of TRUE and FALSE to 1 and 0 . . . . .	114

5.7.3	Two functions that are useful for operating on vectors . . . . .	114
5.8	Assignment 01 . . . . .	115
5.8.1	The data . . . . .	115
5.8.2	Please complete the following . . . . .	115
<b>6</b>	<b>Laboratory 02</b>	<b>117</b>
	<i>thomas mcandrew, david braun</i>	
6.0.1	Control flow . . . . .	117
6.0.1.1	Choice or Selection . . . . .	117
6.0.1.2	Repetition . . . . .	120
6.0.1.3	Assignment . . . . .	123
<b>7</b>	<b>Laboratory 03</b>	<b>127</b>
	<i>thomas mcandrew, david braun</i>	
7.0.1	Functions . . . . .	127
7.0.1.1	Anatomy of a function . . . . .	128
7.0.1.2	Declaring a function . . . . .	128
7.0.1.3	Calling a function . . . . .	128
7.0.1.4	Named vs unnamed arguments . . . . .	129
7.0.1.5	Default arguments . . . . .	129
7.0.1.6	Binding and Scope . . . . .	131
7.0.1.7	Assignment . . . . .	131
<b>8</b>	<b>Laboratory 04</b>	<b>133</b>
	<i>thomas mcandrew, david braun</i>	
8.1	Matrix Algebra . . . . .	133
8.1.1	Recap on vectors and operations on vectors . . . . .	133
8.1.1.1	Definition . . . . .	134
8.1.1.2	Vector times a scalar . . . . .	134
8.1.1.3	Vector plus/minus a vector . . . . .	135
8.1.2	The Matrix . . . . .	135
8.1.2.1	Matrix plus/minus a matrix . . . . .	137
8.1.2.2	Matrix times a Matrix . . . . .	138
8.1.2.3	Matrix times a vector . . . . .	140
8.1.2.4	Matrix Transpose . . . . .	142
8.1.2.5	Matrix inverse . . . . .	143
8.1.3	Assignment . . . . .	144
<b>9</b>	<b>Laboratory 05</b>	<b>145</b>
	<i>thomas mcandrew, david braun</i>	
9.0.1	Data Frame . . . . .	145
9.0.1.1	How to read a CSV file into a data frame . . . . .	145
9.0.1.2	Selecting a column and the \$ operator . . . . .	147
9.0.1.3	Logical indexing . . . . .	148
9.0.1.4	Functions for data frames . . . . .	149
9.0.2	Assignment . . . . .	152

*Contents*

xi

**Bibliography**

**153**



## ***List of Figures***

1.1	.....	18
1.2	.....	19
1.3	.....	20
1.4	A partition $\mathcal{P} = \{B_1, B_2, B_2\}$ of the set $A$ .....	21
2.1	List .....	41
2.2	A barplot for visualizing the probability mass function of our random variable $Y$ . The support of $Y$ is plotted on the horizontal axis and height of each bar corresponds to the probability assigned to that value in the support. ....	42
2.3	A barplot for visualizing the cumulative mass function of our random variable $Y$ . The support of $Y$ is plotted on the horizontal axis and height of each bar corresponds to the probability assigned to values ( $v$ ) less than or equal to $v$ in the support. .	44
5.1	kernelselect.png .....	104
5.2	Caption .....	106





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## *List of Tables*

---

1.1	Frequencies collected about our vaccination experiment . . .	13
1.2	Probabilities estimated from our data using a frequentest approach. . . . .	16
1.3	Probabilities of the cooccurrence of an intervention and the rise or fall of an infectious agent, and the probability of each of these four events assuming they are independent. . . . .	17
1.4	Example data frame $\mathcal{F}$ built from a data set $\mathcal{D}$ that contains 5 data points where each data point is a tuple of length three. . .	24
5.1	Caption . . . . .	113



**Part I**

**Probability**



# 1

## *Sets, the sample space, and probability*

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### CONTENTS

1.1	Introduction .....	3
1.2	Probability lingo .....	4
1.2.1	Sets .....	4
1.3	Applying set theory to probability .....	7
1.3.1	Foundation .....	7
1.3.2	The principle of equally likely outcomes—one way to assign probabilities .....	9
1.3.3	A frequentist approach to assigning probabilities .....	10
1.3.4	Products, Conditionals, Baye’s Theorem, and Repeated Experiments .....	11
1.3.4.1	Product Sets .....	11
1.3.4.2	Conditional probabilities .....	13
1.3.4.3	The multiplication rule as a tool to compute sequential events .....	16
1.3.4.4	Partitions and the law of total probability ...	21
1.3.4.5	Baye’s Theorem .....	22
1.3.4.6	Repeated experiments .....	22
1.3.5	The datapoint, dataset, and dataframe .....	23
1.4	Exercises .....	24
1.5	Student Advice, Examples, and Insights .....	33
1.6	Glossary .....	35

## 1.1 Introduction

When we decide to study a topic, we often have in mind a population, a protocol to observe members of our population, a hypothesis that posits some aspects of our observed members. We collect data, we compile results. At the close of our study we want to know how the results ("what happened") contribute to our hypotheses ("what we thought may happen") and, importantly, the chances that if we reproduced the same study that the results would lead us towards the same conclusions.

For example, suppose we decide to study the impact of percutaneous intervention (PCI) versus optimal medical therapy (OMT) to treat patients who have had a myocardial infarction, often called a "heart attack". Patients are enrolled in a study and randomly assigned PCI or OMT. We hypothesize that PCI will result in a prolonged life from when the intervention took place onward. After our study we find patients who underwent PCI live on average 100 days longer than those who underwent OMT. However, it feels unsatisfactory to have a single number describing how effective PCI was at prolonging life. We may want to know the chances PCI prolongs life 80 days, 30 days, or maybe zero days, compared to OMT.

We want to understand how likely we are to see specific events. The formal method of assigning chances to a set of events is called probability theory.

## 1.2 Probability lingo

### 1.2.1 Sets

We define a **set** as a collection of items, sometimes called elements. A set is typically given a capital letter (for example  $A$ ) and the elements are included inside curly braces.

Here, we define three sets

$$A = \{a, b, c\} \tag{1.1}$$

$$C = \{-1, 1, 3.14\} \tag{1.2}$$

$$Z = \{\text{orange}, 1, \text{puppy dog}\} \tag{1.3}$$

The elements inside a set are unordered and do not necessarily need to be numbers. A set can contain any object. The set  $A$  could have been defined

as  $\{a, b, c\}$  or  $\{c, b, a\}$ . We use the symbol  $\in$  to express that an element "is a member of" a set. For example,  $a \in A$  can be read "the element  $a$  is a member of the set  $A$ " or "the element  $a$  is in the set  $A$ ". We can also communicate when an element is not a member of a set with the symbol  $\notin$ . For example,  $c \notin C$  is read "the element  $c$  is not a member of (not in) the set  $C$ ".

**Generating sets:** We can define a set by enclosing in brackets each individual element.  $S = \{a, b, c, 10\}$ . However, some sets may be easier to build with properties. A property is a function from elements to either true or false. For example we could define the property  $P(x) = 1$  when  $x$  is even and 0 when  $x$  is odd. To build a set that contains elements with a specific property, we write  $S = \{x|P(x)\}$  or  $S = \{x|x \text{ is an even integer}\}$ . This is read "the elements  $x$  such that  $x$  is an even integer". The vertical bar replaces the words "such that".

Two sets are **equal** if they contain the same elements. In other words, if for an element  $x$ ,  $x \in A$  implies that  $x \in B$  **and** if for an element  $y$ ,  $y \in B$  implies that  $y \in A$  then the set  $A$  and set  $B$  are equal. If a set  $A$  and set  $B$  are equal we write  $A = B$ . If two sets do not contain the same elements then they are **unequal** and we write  $A \neq B$ .

Lets look at an example.

$$A = \{a, b, c\} \quad (1.4)$$

$$B = \{b, a, c\} \quad (1.5)$$

$$C = \{b, c\} \quad (1.6)$$

Above,  $A = B$  but  $A \neq C$  and  $B \neq C$ .

A set  $A$  is a **subset** of a second set  $B$  if all of the elements in  $A$  are also elements in  $B$ . We can say that  $A$  is a subset of  $B$  if every element in  $x$  implies that element is in  $B$ , or  $x \in A$  implies  $x \in B$ . We write  $A \subset B$  to denote that  $A$  is a subset of  $B$ . To denote that a set  $A$  is **not a subset** of  $B$ , we write  $A \not\subset B$ . In the example above, the  $C$  is a subset of  $A$   $C \subset A$ , but  $A$  is not a subset of  $C$ , or  $A \not\subset C$ .

We can build new sets by operating on two or more existing sets.

Set **intersection** takes as input two or more sets,  $A, B$ , and returns a set that contains all the elements that are in both  $A$  **and**  $B$ . We use the symbol "cap" to denote set intersection  $A \cap B$  and often say "A intersect B".

For the above sets  $A$  and  $C$ , their intersection is

$$A \cap C = \{c, b\} \quad (1.7)$$

because the element  $c$  belongs to both set  $A$  and set  $C$  and because the element  $b$  belongs to  $A$  and  $C$ .

We can intersect more than two sets.



Let  $A = \{a, b, 10, 12\}$ ,  $Z = \{b, 10, -1\}$ ,  $U = \{a, b, c, d, 10\}$ . Then

$$A \cap Z = \{b, 10\} \quad (1.8)$$

and

$$A \cap Z \cap U = \{b, 10\}. \quad (1.9)$$

If  $A$  is a subset of  $B$ ,  $A \subset B$ , then the only elements both sets have in common are those in  $A$ . The intersection of  $A$  and  $B$  is then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } A \subset B \text{ then} \\ A \cap B = A. \end{aligned} \quad (1.10)$$

Set **union** takes as input two or more sets and output a set that contains all the elements that belong to first set or the second set or the third set, and so on. We use the "cup" symbol to denote set union. As an example, consider the sets  $A$ ,  $Z$ , and  $U$  to be the same as they are above. Then  $A$  **union**  $Z$  is

$$A \cup Z = \{a, b, 10, 12, -1\} \quad (1.11)$$

This is because each of the above elements belongs to at least one of the sets  $A$  and  $Z$ . As another example,

$$A \cup Z \cup U = \{a, b, c, 10, 12, -1\} \quad (1.12)$$

Intersection and union are the most common set operations. Before we define the set operation **complement**, we need to discuss two special sets.

The **universal set** is the set of all elements. We denote the universal set with a  $\mathcal{G}$ . The set which contains no elements is called the **empty set**, and we denote the empty set as  $\emptyset$ .

If a set  $A$  and set  $B$  have no elements in common, then  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ . We often say that the set  $A$  and  $B$  are **disjoint**. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{1, 3, 5\} \\ Q &= \{2, 4, 6\} \\ A \cap Q &= \emptyset \end{aligned} \quad (1.13)$$

Because the intersection between  $A$  and  $Q$  is empty, these sets are disjoint.

Now for our final set operation—complement. The set complement takes as input a single set,  $A$ , and outputs a set with elements that are members of  $\mathcal{G}$  but are not members of  $A$ . We denote set complement in one of two ways:  $A^c$  or  $A'$ .

---

*Set operations example*

Let's look at an example of how these sets and set operations work. Define the universal set,  $\mathcal{G}$ , to be the set of all positive integers (i.e.  $1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$ ). Let's define the sets  $A_1 = \{1\}$ ,  $A_2 = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $A_3 = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $A_n = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, n\}$ . We use a subscript and a number to "index" our sets. An index is an easy way to keep track of sets (and many mathematical objects).

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \cap A_2 &= \{1\} \\ A_1 \cap A_5 &= \{1\} \\ A_3 \cap A_8 &= \{3\} \end{aligned} \tag{1.14}$$

Note that  $A_3 \cap A_8$  is not the value 3, but the set  $\{3\}$ . The examples above suggest a pattern for any set  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  where  $i \leq j$ :

$$A_i \cap A_j = \{i\} \tag{1.15}$$

Let's look at set union in this example

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \cup A_2 &= \{1, 2\} \\ A_1 \cup A_5 &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \\ A_3 \cup A_8 &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\} \end{aligned} \tag{1.16}$$

and we see the following pattern for  $i \leq j$

$$A_i \cup A_j = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, j\} = A_j \tag{1.17}$$

Because we defined a universal set, we can look at set complement

$$\begin{aligned} A_1^c &= \{2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\} \\ A_5^c &= \{6, 7, 8, 9, \dots\} \\ A_8^c &= \{9, 10, 11, 12, \dots\} \end{aligned} \tag{1.18}$$

---

### 1.3 Applying set theory to probability

### 1.3.1 Foundation

The ideas about sets and set operations are the foundations for how we think about probability, about experiments, and hypotheses. We only need to recast the above set ideas to results from an experiment.

We use  $\mathcal{G}$  to define the set of all possible outcomes from an experiment and call this set the **sample space**. The term "experiment" has a broad meaning. An experiment can mean everything from a randomized controlled trial to an observational study. Here an **experiment** is the process that generates outcomes.

An **outcome** is defined as an element of the sample space. An outcome is a single observation from an experiment, and we define an **event** as a set of outcomes. Most often we use  $o_i$  to denote an outcome and  $E_i$  to denote an event.

The **probability** of an event  $E$  is a mapping from the set  $E$  to a number between, or equal to, the values 0 and 1. We use  $P(E)$  to denote the probability of event  $E$ . We require that the probabilities assigned to individual sets consisting of a single element in  $E$  add up to the probability of  $E$ . Let's suppose there are  $n$  outcomes in the event  $E$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \{o_1, o_2, o_3, \dots, o_n\} \\ P(E) &= P(\{o_1\}) + P(\{o_2\}) \cdots P(\{o_n\}) \end{aligned} \quad (1.19)$$

We further require  $P(\mathcal{G}) = 1$ . In other words, the probability that something happens is certain. Note that we do not need to describe how we assign probabilities to events, we only describe what values we expect those numbers to be.

Let's further detail relationships between probabilities of sets that we would expect.

1. If  $A \subset B$  then  $P(A) \leq P(B)$ .
2.  $P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$  (why?)
3.  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$
4. If  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint then  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

The following three axioms (knowledge we assume true without proof) are called **Kolmogorov's axioms** ()

1. For any event  $E$ ,  $P(E) \geq 0$
2.  $P(\mathcal{G}) = 1$
3. If  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are disjoint then  $P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2)$

**Example:** When we want to compute the probability that an outcome fall in any one of the events, say  $E_1, E_2, E_3$ , knowing that these events have no outcomes in common, that they are disjoint, makes the computation easy. An intuitive way to think about events that are disjoint is if they cannot all occur at the same time. Suppose we wish to study the prevalence of stroke among patients who are older than sixty-five. Strokes can be categorized into transient ischemia attacks (TIA), ischemic stroke (IS), and hemorrhagic stroke (HS). Further lets assume the following probabilities for each event:  $P(\{TIA\}) = 0.15$ ,  $P(\{IS\}) = 0.75$ ,  $P(\{HS\}) = 0.10$ , and that these events cannot occur simultaneously. Then the probability of the event  $E = \{TIA, HS\}$  can be broken into the union of two disjoint events  $E = \{TIA\} \cup \{HS\}$  and we can use what we know about these disjoint events to compute the probability of  $E$

$$P(E) = P(\{TIA, HS\}) \quad (1.20)$$

$$= P(\{TIA\} \cup \{HS\}) \quad (1.21)$$

$$= P(\{TIA\}) + P(\{HS\}) \quad \text{disjoint} \quad (1.22)$$

$$= 0.15 + 0.75 = 0.90 \quad (1.23)$$

### 1.3.2 The principle of equally likely outcomes—one way to assign probabilities

There are many different ways to assign probabilities to events. In this text, we will only consider using the principle of equally likely outcomes to assign probabilities. The **principle of equally likely outcomes** (PELO) states that the probability we assign to every event which contains a single outcome,  $E_i = \{o_i\}$ , in a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$  is equal.

We can use this principle to assign probabilities first to every individual outcome and then to arbitrary events. Assume the PELO is true, then

$$o_1, o_1, o_1, \dots, o_n \in \mathcal{G} \quad (1.24)$$

$$E_i = \{o_i\} \quad (1.25)$$

$$E_1 \cup E_2 \cup E_3 \cup \dots \cup E_n = \mathcal{G} \quad (\text{why?}) \quad (1.26)$$

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n) = P(\mathcal{G}) = 1 \quad (1.27)$$

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n) = P(E_1) + P(E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n) \quad (\text{disjoint}) \quad (1.28)$$

$$P(E_1) + P(E_2) + \dots P(E_n) = 1 \quad (1.29)$$

$$n \cdot p = 1 \quad (p \text{ is the constant prob. we are after}) \quad (1.30)$$

$$p = 1/n \quad (1.31)$$

The PELO tells us that the probability of an event with a single outcome is equal to one divided by the total number of outcomes in the sample space. The PELO also tells us that for a sample space with  $n$  elements the probability of an event  $E = \{o_1, o_2, o_4\}$  that contains three outcomes is  $P(E) = \frac{3}{20}$ .

*An example when, and when not, the PELO applies.*

PELO only works when we expect each outcome in our sample space to be equally likely.

**Example 1** Suppose our experiment is a coin toss and we will observe whether or not the coin lands heads up (H) or tails up (T). If we assume the coin has not been altered in any way, then PELO applies. Our sample space is  $\mathcal{G} = H, T$ . Because there are two outcomes in our sample space,  $P(\{H\}) = 1/2$  and  $P(\{T\}) = 1/2$ .

**Example 2** Suppose for our experiment we observe for one year a single patient who was admitted to the hospital because of an influenza infection and we plan to observe if that patient returns to the hospital because of a second infection. Our sample space contains one outcome  $R$  if the patient is re-admitted to the hospital within one year and a second outcome if they are no re-admitted ( $N$ ). Our sample space is  $\mathcal{G} = R, N$ . If we applied the PELO to this problem we would have to assume the probability this patient returns, or does not return, are equal. Intuitively, it feels unreasonable to assume these two events have equal probabilities.

We need an additional way to assign probabilities.

### 1.3.3 A frequentist approach to assigning probabilities

An empirical approach to assign probabilities to an event  $A$  with sample space  $\mathcal{G}$  is to do the following:

1. Generate  $1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, N$  outcomes from  $\mathcal{G}$
2. Define a variable  $N(A)$  and set that variable to zero.
3. If the 1st outcome is a member of  $A$  than add one to  $N(A)$ , otherwise move on
4. If the 2nd outcome is a member of  $A$  than add one to  $N(A)$
- $\vdots$
5. If the Nth outcome is a member of  $A$  than add one to  $N(A)$

The above algorithm defined a variable  $N(A)$  that counts the number of outcomes that belong to  $A$  out of the  $N$  generated outcomes. We can assign to  $A$  the probability

$$P(A) = \frac{N(A)}{N} \quad (1.32)$$

that is, the number of times we observed an outcome that belonged to  $A$  divided by the number of outcomes we observed.

As an example, suppose we want to understand the probability that patients with non-medically treated type II diabetes transition to needing treatment within one year of their diagnosis. Our outcomes are  $\mathcal{G} = \{\text{"need treatment"} \text{ and } \text{"no treatment"}\}$ . To assign a probability to the event  $E = \{\text{need treatment}\}$  using the frequentist approach we decide to request anonymized patient records from a set of hospitals, asking that each hospital only send those patients who had an original diagnosis of type II diabetes without medication and who have had a physician visit one year more later. After our data request, we received 5,000 patient records and find that 1,585 of these patients were asked to start medication for their type II diabetes within one year. A frequentist approach would assign

$$P(E) = 1,585/5,000 = 0.317 \quad (1.33)$$

and also assign to the event  $F = \{\text{no treatment}\}$

$$P(F) = 0.683 \text{ (why?)} \quad (1.34)$$

### 1.3.4 Products, Conditionals, Baye's Theorem, and Repeated Experiments

#### 1.3.4.1 Product Sets

Suppose a novel vaccine was developed and we are asked to compare two probabilities: the probability a vaccinated patient is infected before 30 days after they receive their vaccine and the probability a patient who has not received a vaccine is infected before 30 days since they have enrolled in the experiment. To estimate these probabilities, we enroll 200 volunteer patients. We will assign 100 patients to be given the treatment and the remaining 100 patients will be observed without treatment.

Because of our experimental design,  $P(\{\text{vaccinated}\}) = 1/2$  and  $P(\{\text{not vaccinated}\}) = 1/2$  with a sample space  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{assignment}}$ , containing two outcomes  $\{\text{vaccinated, not vaccinated}\}$ . But our main interest is in the probability of infection within 30 days of enrolling in the study, and so our main

interest is in the a related sample space  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{infection}} = \{\text{infection, no infection}\}$ . We need a way to combine these sample spaces together so that we can estimate the probability of a patient that is vaccinated and that is infected.

Up until this point we have learned how to assign probabilities to events in one sample space. Lets look at how we may assign events to a combination of, and later a sequence of, sample spaces.

**Products of sets:** First, we'll need to talk about the product of two sets. Let  $A = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $B = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Then the Cartesian product  $C = A \times B$  is a set where each element in  $A$  is paired with each element in  $B$ .

$$C = \{(a, 1), (a, 2), (a, 3), (b, 1), (b, 2), (b, 3), (c, 1), (c, 2), (c, 3)\} \quad (1.35)$$

We use the notation  $(,)$ , called a "tuple", to denote pairs. A **tuple** is an outcome belonging to a sample space built from the Cartesian product of many individual sample spaces. Tuples are ordered. The tuple  $(a, 1) \neq (1, a)$ . The above is called a Cartesian product because you could imagine creating a grid where the horizontal axis has gridlines at "a", "b", "c" and the vertical axis has grid lines at "1", "2", and "3". Where the gridlines intersect are the tuples that belong to  $C$ .

We can apply the Cartesian product to combine samples spaces. Define  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{experiment}}$  as the Cartesian product between  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{assignment}}$  and  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{infection}}$ , or

$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{experiment}} = \mathcal{G}_{\text{assignment}} \times \mathcal{G}_{\text{infection}} \quad (1.36)$$

This new sample space has the following outcomes:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{experiment}} = \{(\text{vaccinated, infection}), (\text{vaccinated, not infected}), (\text{not vaccinated, infection}), (\text{not vaccinated, not infected})\} \quad (1.37)$$

Our new sample space has 4 outcomes, two outcomes from the assignment sample space are paired with two outcomes from the infection sample space (2 outcomes  $\times$  2 outcomes equals 4 outcomes in the new space).

With this new space in hand, we can assign probabilities to the outcomes "vaccinated and infected" and the outcome "not vaccinated and infected". You may hear events like the above called **compound events**, or **joint events**.

Let's use the frequentist approach to estimate the probabilities of these four events. We enroll all 200 patients over a 6 months period and then follow each patient for 30 days. At 7 days, 14 days, 21 days, and at the end of there 30 day period they meet with a physician to relay information about how they feel that could indicate they had an infection. We collect the following data:

From our experimental evidence we would assign a probability of  $P(\{\text{vacc, infected}\}) = 0.10$  to those who were vaccinated and infected and

Vaccinated	Infected	Frequency	Estimated Prob.
Yes	Yes	20	$20/200 = 0.1$
Yes	No	80	$80/200 = 0.4$
No	Yes	40	$40/200 = 0.2$
No	No	60	$60/200 = 0.3$

**TABLE 1.1**

Frequencies collected about our vaccination experiment

a probability of  $P(\{\text{no vacc, infected}\}) = 0.20$  to those who were not vaccinated and were infected. But this was not what were were asked to compute. We were asked to compute the probability that someone is infected after they received (given that they already had) a vaccine, and the probability of infection given a patient was not vaccinated. Probabilities of one event, given we have observed another event are called **conditional probabilities**.

#### 1.3.4.2 Conditional probabilities

Assume a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$ . We define the conditional probability of event  $A$  given event  $B$  as

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \quad (1.38)$$

**Example:** Lets use the definition above to compute the probability of an event  $A$  given  $\mathcal{G}$ , the sample space (remember that the sample space is a set and so technically an event). By the definition of conditional probability

$$P(A|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{P(A \cap \mathcal{G})}{P(\mathcal{G})} \quad (1.39)$$

We know that  $P(\mathcal{G}) = 1$  (Kolmogorov axioms in ??) and so

$$P(A|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{P(A \cap \mathcal{G})}{P(\mathcal{G})} \quad (1.40)$$

$$P(A|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{P(A \cap \mathcal{G})}{1} \quad (1.41)$$

$$= P(A \cap \mathcal{G}) \quad (1.42)$$

The set  $A$  must be a subset of  $\mathcal{G}$  and so by (1.10)

$$P(A|\mathcal{G}) = P(A \cap \mathcal{G}) = P(A) \quad (1.43)$$

The above example shows that we can think of the event that we condition on as a new sample space. Lets return to our example of vaccination and the incidence of infection.



To compute the probability of infection given a patient was vaccinated we need to compute

$$P(\text{inf}|\text{vacc}) = \frac{P(\text{inf} \cap \text{vacc})}{P(\text{vacc})} \quad (1.44)$$

where the event "inf" contains those outcomes in  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{experiment}}$  which have "infected" in the first position of their tuple (infected,  $\cdot$ ) and the event "vacc" contains those outcomes which have "vaccinated" in the second position of their tuple ( $\cdot$ , vaccinated). Events which hold one or more positions in a tuple constant are often called **marginal events** and the associated probability is called a **marginal probability**. Then  $P(\text{inf} \cap \text{vacc})$  are those outcomes with "infected" in the first position and "vaccinated" in the second position. We have a single outcome where this happens: {(infected, vaccinated)} and this outcome has a probability of  $P(\text{inf} \cap \text{vacc}) = 0.1$ .

Computing  $P(\text{vacc})$  is only slightly more difficult. We can use what we learned about unions and disjoint events for help.

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{vacc}) &= P(\{(\text{infected}, \text{vacc}), (\text{not infected}, \text{vacc})\}) \\ &= P(\{(\text{infected}, \text{vacc})\} \cup \{(\text{not infected}, \text{vacc})\}) \\ &= P(\{(\text{infected}, \text{vacc})\}) + P(\{(\text{not infected}, \text{vacc})\}) \\ &= 0.1 + 0.4 = 0.5 \end{aligned} \quad (1.45)$$

We arrive at our final result.

$$P(\text{inf}|\text{vacc}) = \frac{P(\text{inf} \cap \text{vacc})}{P(\text{vacc})} = \frac{0.1}{0.5} = 0.2 \quad (1.46)$$

and we can do the same for

$$P(\text{inf}|\text{no vacc}) = \frac{P(\text{inf} \cap \text{no vacc})}{P(\text{no vacc})} = \frac{0.2}{0.5} = 0.4 \quad (1.47)$$

We report back to our experimental team that our estimated probability of infection from someone who received a vaccine is 0.2 and the probability of infection from someone who did not received a vaccine is 0.4, double the probability of a vaccinated individual.

Conditional probabilities give us, for free, an alternative way to compute the probability of the intersection of two sets. All we need to do is rearrange the definition of conditional probability

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \quad (1.48)$$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B)P(A|B) \quad (1.49)$$

Equation (1.49) is called the **multiplication rule**. Lets explore how the multiplication rule may make computing probabilities easier.

**Example:** We want to compute the probability that it rains and we remember to leave the house with an umbrella. We can imagine our sample space having the following four outcomes:  $\mathcal{G} = \{(\text{rain}, \text{remember}), (\text{rain}, \text{forgot}), (\text{no rain}, \text{remember}), (\text{no rain}, \text{forgot})\}$ . We try to remember all the times that the outcome (rain, remember) occurred in our past—but we cannot. Instead, we can certainly estimate the probability we forgot our umbrella given that it rained because it was an unpleasant experience (for some). We estimate  $P(\text{forgot}|\text{rain}) = 0.95$ . To compute  $P(\text{forgot} \cap \text{rain})$  all we need now is the probability it rains. We take a look at the weather station reports over the past year and use the frequentest approach to estimate the probability it rains:  $P(\text{rain}) = 0.25$ . So then the probability it rains and we forget our umbrella is

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{forgot} \cap \text{rain}) &= P(\text{forgot}|\text{rain})P(\text{rain}) \\ &= 0.95 \times 0.25 = 0.2375 \end{aligned} \quad (1.50)$$

The multiplication rule makes computations easier because we can think of events occurring in sequence. First it rains and second we forget our umbrella.

Conditional probabilities also allow us to express what it means for two events to be **independent**. An event  $A$  is independent from an event  $B$  if

$$P(A|B) = P(A) \quad (1.51)$$

We know the event  $B$  occurred, but this has not changed the probability that  $A$  has occurred. When two events are independent we can compute their intersection more easily.

Event  $A$  and  $B$  are independent

$$\begin{aligned} P(A \cap B) &= P(A|B)P(B) && \text{multiplication rule} \\ P(A \cap B) &= P(A)P(B) && \text{independence} \end{aligned} \quad (1.52)$$

If two events are independent then the probability they occur together is the product of their probabilities. Statistical independence can be difficult to see.

**Example** We are recruited to track the evolution of an infectious agent for a team of public health officials (PHOs). To support future strategic planning the PHOs want to know the impact of intervention  $X$  on increases or decreases in the incidence of this infectious agent. The PHO team collected for each county in their state whether the intervention was enacted, and whether the incidence of case counts of this infectious agent increased or decreased 60 days after the intervention was in place data. When we look at this table, our first thought may be that when the intervention is enacted there is a high probability that the infection rate decreases (0.525), evidence that this is an important intervention for preventing the spread of this agent.

Intervention	Raise in infection	Probability
yes	yes	0.225
yes	no	0.525
no	yes	0.075
no	no	0.175

**TABLE 1.2**

Probabilities estimated from our data using a frequentist approach.

But be careful. Let's compute the probability of intervention  $P(\text{intervention})$  where we define the event intervention as  $\{(\text{intervention}, \text{rise}), (\text{intervention}, \text{no rise})\}$  and the probability of a raise in infection  $P(\text{raise})$  where the event raise is defined as  $\{(\text{intervention}, \text{rise}), (\text{no intervention}, \text{rise})\}$ . To do this we should define our sample space to be clear about what outcomes we can observe from our experiment.

Our sample space is the set of four pairs

$$\mathcal{G} = \{(\text{intervention}, \text{raise}), (\text{intervention}, \text{lower}), (\text{no intervention}, \text{raise}), (\text{no intervention}, \text{lower})\} \quad (1.53)$$

and we want to compute  $P(\text{intervention}) = 0.225 + 0.525 = 0.75$  (why?) and  $P(\text{raise}) = 0.225 + 0.075 = 0.30$  (why?).

One way that can test whether intervention is independent of a rise or fall in incidence, is compare the probabilities we estimated from our data (in table 1.2) to the product of individual events we computed above. Lets look at an example. The probability of an intervention and rise in incidence was estimated from our data to be  $P(\text{intervention}, \text{raise}) = 0.225$ . Lets compare this probability to the product  $P(\text{intervention}) \cdot P(\text{raise})$ .

$$P(\text{intervention}) \cdot P(\text{raise}) = 0.75 \cdot 0.30 = 0.225 \quad (1.54)$$

We have a match. Our estimated probability of an intervention and a rise occurring together is equal to the probability that an intervention occurs and a rise in incidence occurs. We can do the same procedure above for the remaining three scenarios.

We see that the probabilities we collected from the data match the product of the probabilities of each individual event (Table 1.3). Intervention is independent, does not change the probability, of a rise or fall in incidence of the infectious agent we are tracking. We will need to report these results to the PHO team and recommend they try alternative interventions to curb the spread of this agent.

Intervention	Raise	Probability from data	Probability assuming indep.
yes	yes	0.225	$0.75 (0.30) = 0.225$
yes	no	0.525	$0.75 (0.70) = 0.525$
no	yes	0.075	$0.25 (0.30) = 0.075$
no	no	0.175	$0.25 (0.70) = 0.175$

**TABLE 1.3**

Probabilities of the cooccurrence of an intervention and the rise or fall of an infectious agent, and the probability of each of these four events assuming they are independent.

### 1.3.4.3 The multiplication rule as a tool to compute sequential events

The multiplication rule equips us with a way to break down an event that involves many simultaneous phenomena into a sequence of, potentially easier to compute, probabilities.

**Example:** Suppose we wish to study the impact diabetes and smoking may have on the probability of a stroke before the age of 50. We decide to observe a population of humans in the US who are all 18 years old and host annual check-ins to record whether each person has acquired diabetes, is considered obese, and has experienced a stroke.

Our sample space is  $\mathcal{G} = \{(x, y, z) \mid x \in \{\text{diab}, \text{no diab}\} \text{ and } y \in \{\text{obese}, \text{no obese}\} \text{ and } z \in \{\text{stroke}, \text{no stroke}\}\}$ . For example, one outcome in our sample is  $o = (\text{diab}, \text{no obese}, \text{no stroke})$  or the outcome that a patient has acquired diabetes, is not considered obese, and has not experienced a stroke.

We may find it difficult to collect data that purposely recorded these three variables together, however it may be easier to find data that has paired diabetes with obesity and diabetes with stroke. The multiplication rule can give us some intuition about the outcomes we wish to study.

Define three events:

1.  $D = \{(x, y, z) \mid x = \text{diab}\}$
2.  $O = \{(x, y, z) \mid y = \text{obese}\}$
3.  $S = \{(x, y, z) \mid z = \text{stroke}\}$

We may find information to assign a probability to  $O$ . Lets suppose we found  $P(O) = 0.60$ . Investigating further we find a dataset that compares those who have obesity and diabetes. This data may allow us to assign the following probabilities  $P(D|O) = 0.5$  and  $P(D|O^c) = 0.31$ . Finally, we find a dataset that measured the prevalence of stroke among patients with-/without diabetes and obesity, giving us the following probability assign-

ments:  $P(S|D \cap O) = 0.2$ ,  $P(S|D \cap O^c) = 0.1$ ,  $P(S|D^c \cap O) = 0.15$ , and  $P(S|D^c \cap O^c) = 0.01$ .

If we feel that the above information applies to our study, we can compute the probability of simultaneous events by breaking them into a sequence of conditional probabilities. Suppose we wish to compute  $P(D \cap O \cap S)$ . This can be separated using the multiplication rule:

$$P(D \cap O \cap S) = P(S|O \cap D)P(O \cap D) \quad (1.55)$$

$$= P(S|O \cap D)P(D|O)P(O). \quad (1.56)$$

We can now compute the probability of our simultaneous event with the information we collected across several studies.

$$P(D \cap O \cap S) = P(S|O \cap D)P(D|O)P(O) \quad (1.57)$$

$$= 0.2 \times 0.5 \times 0.60 = 0.06 \quad (1.58)$$

If we want, we can visualize all the conditional relationships related to  $D$ ,  $O$ , and  $S$  with a **tree diagram**. A tree diagram starts with a dot that represents the "root". We pick an event, say  $O$ , and create two branches: one for when  $O$  occurs and one for when  $O^c$  occurs.

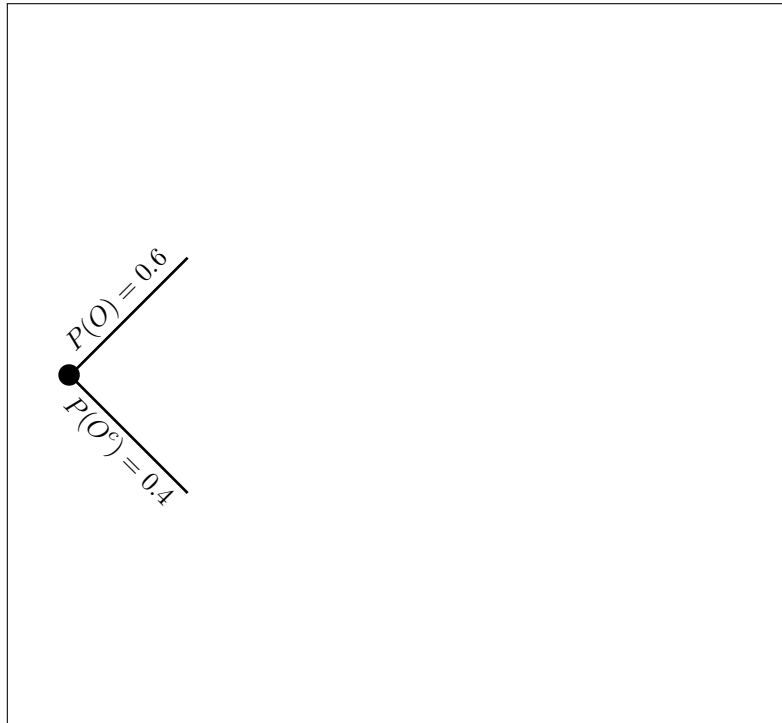
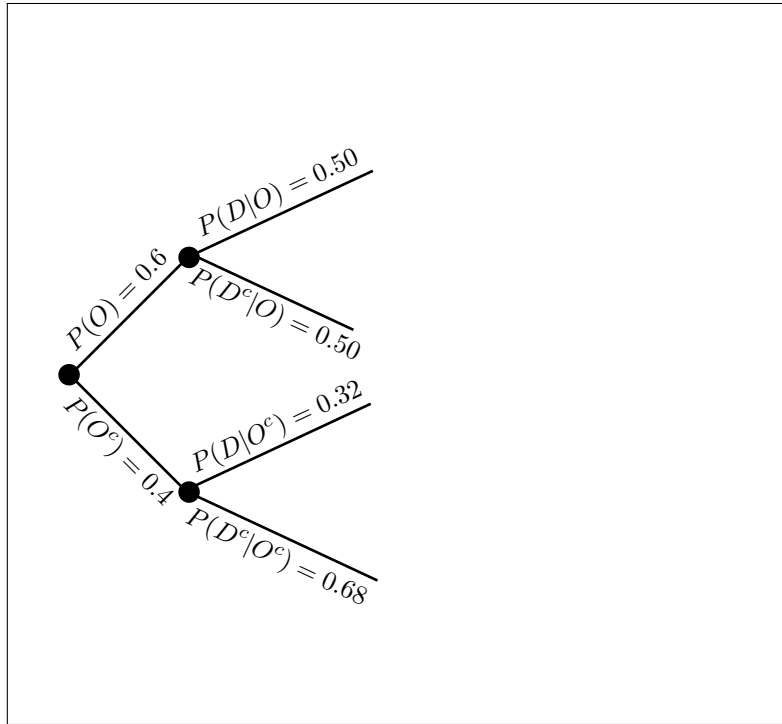


FIGURE 1.1

We pick the next event, say  $D$ , and create two branches from  $O$  and two branches from  $O^c$  for a total of four branches. Conditional on  $O$ , two branches represent the occurrence of  $D$  and occurrence of  $D^c$ . Conditional on  $O^c$ , two branches represent the occurrence of  $D$  and occurrence of  $D^c$ .



**FIGURE 1.2**

We can, in this example, do the same procedure for  $S$  that we did for  $D$ , but this time we need to look at the occurrence of  $S$  and  $S^c$  for the four newest branches we created.

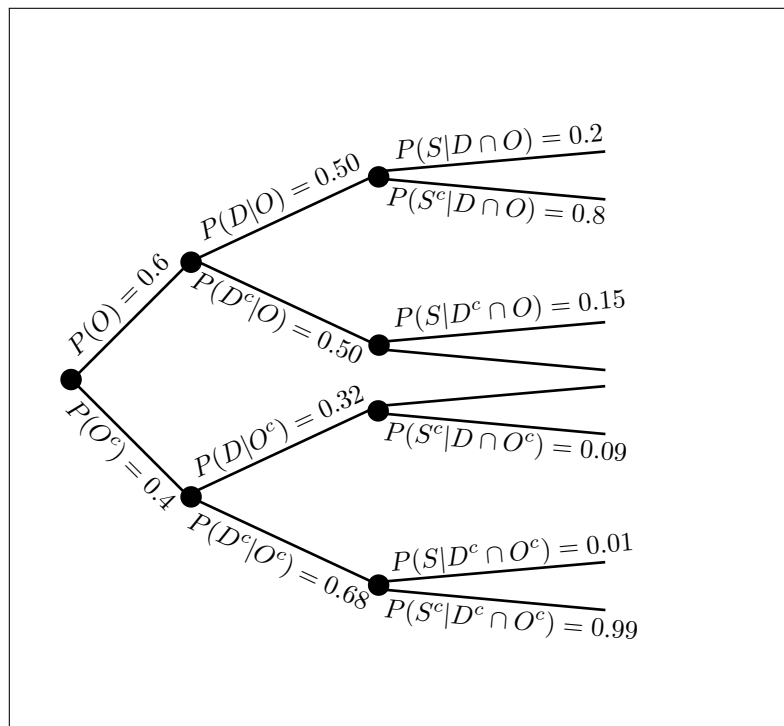
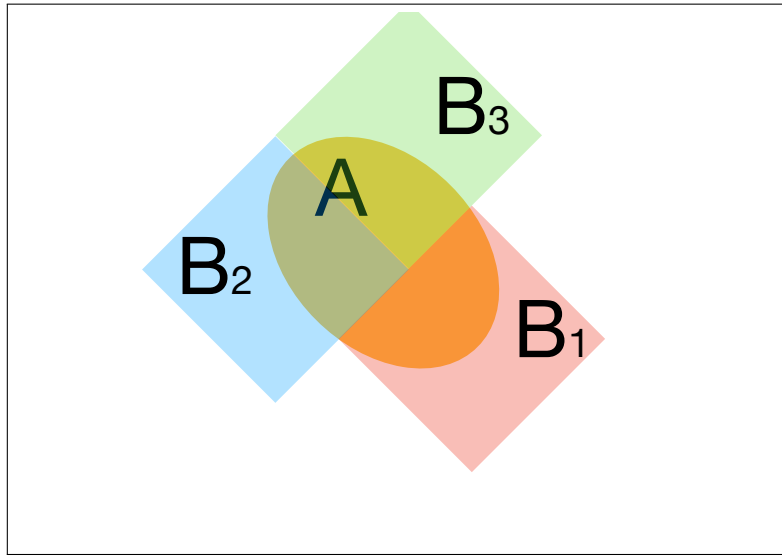


FIGURE 1.3

#### 1.3.4.4 Partitions and the law of total probability

The multiplication rule is one way to use conditional probabilities to make computing probabilities of the intersection of many events more manageable. We can also use conditional probabilities to simplify computing single events easier.

A **partition** of the event  $A$  is a collection of sets  $\mathcal{P} = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\}$  such that  $A = (A \cap B_1) \cup (A \cap B_2) \cup (A \cap B_3) \dots \cup (A \cap B_n)$  and for each  $i, k$  pair of sets  $B_i \cap B_k = \emptyset$ .



**FIGURE 1.4**

A partition  $\mathcal{P} = \{B_1, B_2, B_3\}$  of the set  $A$

Because  $B_i$  and  $B_k$  are disjoint for any choice of  $i$  and  $k$ , then  $A \cap B_i$  and  $A \cap B_k$  are also disjoint sets. We can use the disjoint property of our partition to break down the probability of  $A$  into the sum of probabilities of  $A$  intersect  $B_k$  for  $k$  from 1 to  $n$ .

$$P(A) = P((A \cap B_1) \cup (A \cap B_2) \cup (A \cap B_3) \dots \cup (A \cap B_n)) \quad (1.59)$$

$$= P(A \cap B_1) + P(A \cap B_2) + \dots + P(A \cap B_n) \quad (\text{Disjoint}) \quad (1.60)$$

We can further manipulate the above using the multiplication rule to find

$$P(A) = P(A \cap B_1) + P(A \cap B_2) + \dots + P(A \cap B_n) \quad (1.61)$$

$$= P(B_1)P(A|B_1) + P(B_2)P(A|B_2) + \dots + P(B_n)P(A|B_n) \quad (1.62)$$

This is called **the law of total probability**. Intuitively the law of total proba-



bility says that the probability of an event  $A$  can be computed by first considering the probabilities of a collection of related events, and then considering the probability that  $A$  occurs given each related event.

**Example:** Let  $\mathcal{G} = \{(a, 1), (a, 2), (a, 3), (b, 4)\}$  and further suppose we assign the following probabilities to each outcome.

Outcome	Probability
$(a, 1)$	0.10
$(a, 2)$	0.25
$(a, 3)$	0.14
$(b, 4)$	0.51

Define the events  $A = \{(a, 1), (b, 4), (a, 2)\}$ . The finest (as opposed to course) partition is a collection of sets where each outcome in  $A$  is in one, and only one, of the sets  $B_1, B_2, \dots$ . For example a partition of  $A$  could be  $\mathcal{P} = \{B_1, B_2, B_3\}$  where  $B_1 = \{(a, 1)\}$ ,  $B_2 = \{(b, 4)\}$ , and  $B_3 = \{(a, 2)\}$ . A courser partition is  $\mathcal{P} = \{B_1, B_2\}$  where  $B_1 = \{(a, 1)\}$  and  $B_2 = \{(a, 2), (b, 4)\}$ .

#### 1.3.4.5 Baye's Theorem

We have investigated how the conditional probability is related to simultaneous events, gives us a natural definition of Independence, and can allow us to compute the probability of an event if we have a partition of that event.

The final relationship we will explore is between two conditional probabilities.

**Baye's Theorem** relates two conditional probabilities to one another

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)} \quad (1.63)$$

We can show that Baye's theorem is true from the definition of conditional probability.

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \quad \text{definition} \quad (1.64)$$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)} \quad \text{multiplication rule} \quad (1.65)$$

#### 1.3.4.6 Repeated experiments

Many natural experiments involve repeated observations. It may be of interest to observe the whether and assign a probability to "sunny" or "cloudy"

weather conditions. However, many vacationers, who plan to spend 2, 3, or more days at a remote destination may want to know the probability that the next  $X$  days are sunny.

The Cartesian product gives us a natural way to express repeated experiments. If we chose to repeat an experiment  $N$  times where each experiment produced an outcome in  $\mathcal{G}$ , we could imagine the set of outcomes as tuples of length  $N$  where each entry in the tuple is from our sample space. In other words, a single outcome in this repeated experiment would be  $(o_1, o_2, o_3, \dots, o_N)$  and this outcome is a member of the set  $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \times \dots \times \mathcal{G}$ .

Back to our vacation example. If a vacationer wanted to understand the chances they had of enjoying 5 sunny days in a row, then we know that we could defined a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{\text{"sunny"}, \text{"not sunny"}\}$  and we also know that the vacationer is interested in outcomes in the sample space

$$(d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4, d_5) \in \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \quad (1.66)$$

where  $d_i$  is the outcome on day  $i$ . We can frame the problem, and clearly layout the potential outcomes, for example on outcome is ("sunny", "sunny", "not sunny", "sunny", "not sunny").

### 1.3.5 The datapoint, dataset, and dataframe

The sample space, event, and outcome are all potential results from an experiment. When we conduct an experiment we will generate an outcome from our sample space and call this realized outcome a **data point**.

**Example:** Consider the experiment of flipping a coin and recording whether the coin lands heads or tails side up. We can define a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{H, T\}$  where  $H$  is an outcome that represents the coin landing heads up and  $T$  represents tails up. Up until this point we have structured our experiment, but we have generated no data. We flip the coin and the coin lands tails side up. Now we have performed an experiment and generated the data point  $T$ .

Now suppose that we conduct an experiment with the same sample space ( $\mathcal{G}$ ) a number  $N$  times and with each experiment we record a data point. A tuple of data points  $d$  is called a **data set**  $\mathcal{D} = (d_1, d_2, d_3, \dots, d_N)$  where  $d_i$  is the data point generated from the  $i^{\text{th}}$  experiment. We say that we have drawn or that we have sampled a data set  $\mathcal{D}$ . Further, data points ( $d$ ) are often called realized outcomes because they are no longer in a set of potential possibilities but are now determined items.

A data set  $\mathcal{D}$  can be unwieldy depending on the number of data points, the complexity of the sample space, or both. A **data frame** is one way to organize a data set. A data frame  $\mathcal{F}$  is a table where each data point  $d$  in a dataset  $\mathcal{D}$

is represented as a row in the table and if the data point is a tuple then a separate column is created for each position in the tuple.

**Example:** Suppose we design an experiment to collect from humans predictions, two weeks ahead from the time of our experiment, of the number of incident cases and incident deaths at the US national level of COVID-19 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7523166/>). We decide to collect from each human whether they are an expert in the modeling of infectious disease, a prediction of incident cases, and a prediction of incident deaths. We draw a data set  $\mathcal{D}$  of 50 human judgement predictions. We can organize this data set into a data frame

Expert	Prediction of cases	Prediction of deaths
Yes	145	52
No	215	34
Yes	524	48
Yes	265	95
No	354	35

**TABLE 1.4**

Example data frame  $\mathcal{F}$  built from a data set  $\mathcal{D}$  that contains 5 data points where each data point is a tuple of length three.

Above, the first data point is  $(Yes, 145, 52)$ , the second data point is  $(No, 215, 34)$ , and so on until the last data point  $(No, 354, 35)$ . A data frame can also include informative information for others such as labels for each column.

## 1.4 Exercises

1.

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}; \quad B = \{1, 3, 6\}$$

$$C = \{7\} \quad D = \emptyset$$

- (a) Please compute  $A \cap B$
- (b) Please compute  $A \cup C$
- (c) Please compute  $A \cup D$
- (d) Please compute  $A \cap D$
- (e) Please compute  $(A \cap B) \cup (C \cup D)$

2. Let the sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ 
  - (a) Please compute  $A^c$
  - (b) Please compute  $B^c$
  - (c) Please compute  $D^c$
  - (d) Please compute  $\mathcal{G} \cap A$
  - (e) Is  $A \subset \mathcal{G}$ ?
  - (f) Is  $\emptyset \subset \mathcal{G}$ ?
3. *Delfina Szigethy—Class of 2025:* 10 students in an Economics class and 10 students in a Biology class are asked to respond to the statement: Pick a number between 0 and 10. The data set collected for the economics class is  $E = (1, 2, 4, 4, 6, 7, 7, 8, 9, 10)$  and the data set collected for the biology class is  $B = (0, 2, 2, 5, 6, 6, 7, 9, 9, 10)$ 
  - (a) Find the sample space  $\mathcal{G}$
  - (b) Form the **set**  $E$  from the responses from the 10 students in economics
  - (c) Form the **set**  $B$  from the responses from the 10 students in Biology
  - (d) Please compute  $E \cup B$
  - (e) Please compute  $E \cap B$
  - (f) Are the sets  $E$  and  $B$  disjoint?
  - (g) Suppose  $P(E) = 0.3$ . Please compute  $P(E^c)$
4. Let the sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{0, 1, 2, a, b, c\}$  and let  $A = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $B = \{x | x \text{ is a letter of the English alphabet}\}$ 
  - (a) Please compute  $A \cap B$
  - (b) Please compute  $A \cup B$
  - (c) Please compute  $A^c$
  - (d) Is  $A \cup B = \mathcal{G}$ ?
  - (e) If we assigned probabilities to all outcomes, could  $P(A \cup B) = 1$ ? why or why not?
5. Let  $A = 0, 1, 2$  for some sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . Further assume  $P(A) = 0.2$ .
  - (a) Are the sets  $A$  and  $A^c$  disjoint? Why or why not.
  - (b) Simplify  $P(A \cup A^c)$  into an expression that involves  $P(A)$  and  $P(A^c)$ .
  - (c) Use Kolmogorov's axioms to show that  $P(A) = 1 - P(A^c)$

6. Let  $\mathcal{G} = \{x | x \text{ is a positive integer}\}$ 
  - (a) Are the sets  $\emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{G}$  disjoint?
  - (b) Simplify  $P(\mathcal{G} \cup \emptyset)$  into an expression that involves  $P(\mathcal{G})$  and  $P(\emptyset)$
  - (c) Use Kolmogorov's axioms to show that  $P(\emptyset) = 0$
7. If  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{2, 3, 4\}$  and  $C = \{1, 3\}$ 
  - (a) Can  $P(A) < P(B)$ ? Why or why not
  - (b) Can  $P(A) < P(C)$ ? Why or why not
8. Use what you know about the intersection, about subsets, and about probability to show that  $P(A \cap B) \leq P(A)$ . Hint: How are  $A \cap B$  and  $A$  related?
9. *Chinwe Okezie—Class of 2025:* Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ,  $B = \{4, 5, 6\}$  and  $C = \{2, 4, 6\}$  and assume that the above outcomes follow the Principle of Equally Likely Outcomes.
  - (a) Can  $P(A) > P(B)$ ?
  - (b) Can  $P(B) > P(A)$ ?
  - (c) Can  $P(C) < P(B)$ ?
10. *Audrey Vitello—Class of 2025:* Every year at the town fair there is a pie baking contest among the four best bakers. The best tasting pie wins and the outcome associated with this outcome is the baker's number in the contest. For example, if baker one wins the outcome is the value 1, if baker two wins the outcome is the value 2 and so on.  
  
 In the past ten years Mr. Brown, consistently contestant number 4, has won 3 times.
  - (a) Compute  $P(4)$
11. Suppose we wish to study the reemergence of cancer among patients in remission. We collect data on 1,000 patients who are in cancer remission and follow them for 5 years. At five years we are interested in the probability of a second cancer.
  - (a) Define a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$  we can use to assign probabilities to a second cancer and no second cancer.
  - (b) After five years of followup we find that 238 patients experienced a second cancer. Use the frequentist approach to assign probabilities to a second cancer and no second cancer.
  - (c) If you collected data on 2,000 patients do you expect the probability of a second cancer to change? How do you expect the probability to be different for 2,000 patients than with 1,000 patients?

12. A study (link = <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj8222>) found that young adults were 32 times more at risk to develop multiple sclerosis (MS) after infection with the Epstein-Barr virus compared to young adults who were not infected by the virus. The experiment enrolled 10 million young adults and observed them for a period of 20 years.
  - (a) Design a sample space if we wish to study outcomes that describe the number of young adults who develop MS.
  - (b) Build the event ( $E_1$ ) "less than 10% of young adults develop MS" using set notation.
  - (c) Build the event ( $E_2$ ) "less than 5% of young adults develop MS" using set notation.
  - (d) Are  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  disjoint? Why or why not?
  - (e) Can  $P(E_1) < P(E_2)$ ?
13. *Kareem Hargrove—Class of 2025*: Suppose we wish to study the five year incidence of asthma among patients who were infected with SARS-CoV-2. We decide to enroll 10,000 patients who were infected with SARS-CoV-2, follow them for 5 years, and count the number of patients who were diagnosed with asthma at or before five years of followup.
  - (a) Define a sample space to describe whether a patient is or is not diagnosed with asthma within five years of followup.
  - (b) After the observation period ends we find 4,973 patients were diagnosed with asthma. Use the Frequentist approach to assign a probability to being diagnosed with asthma.
  - (c) Use the Frequentist approach to assign a probability to not being diagnosed with asthma.
14. Please compute the following
  - (a)  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $B = \{4, 5, 6\}$ . Please compute  $A \times B$  (Answer should be a set of tuples)
  - (b)  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Please compute  $A \times A$  (Answer should be a set of tuples)
  - (c) How many elements are in  $A \times A$  (looking for a number)
  - (d) How many elements are in  $A \times A \times A$ ? (looking for a number)
  - (e) How many elements are in  $A \times A \times A \times \cdots \times A$  where we take the Cartesian product  $N$  times? (looking for a number)
15. Define a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{a, b, c, d, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and let  $E_1 = \{1, 3, 5\}$ ,  $E_2 = \{a, b, c\}$ ,  $E_3 = \{a, d, 5\}$ . We further assign the following probabilities

Outcome	$P(\{\text{Outcome}\})$
a	0.10
b	0.05
c	0.15
d	0.02
1	0.14
2	0.25
3	0.08
4	0.04
5	0.17

- (a) Compute  $P(E_1)$  (looking for a number)
  - (b) Compute  $P(E_2)$  (looking for a number)
  - (c) Compute  $P(E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (d) Compute  $P(E_1 \cap E_2)$  (looking for a number)
  - (e) Compute  $P(E_1 \cap E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (f) Compute  $P(E_2 \cap E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (g) Compute  $P(E_1|E_2)$  (looking for a number)
  - (h) Compute  $P(E_1|E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (i) Compute  $P(E_2|E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (j) Compute  $P(E_3|E_2)$  (looking for a number)
16. Define a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{(a, 1), (b, 1), (c, 1), (a, 2), (b, 2), (c, 2)\}$  and let  $E_1 = \{(a, 1), (a, 2), (c, 2)\}$ ,  $E_2 = \{(c, 2), (a, 1)\}$ ,  $E_3 = \{(b, 2)\}$ . We further assign the following probabilities

Outcome	$P(\{\text{Outcome}\})$
(a,1)	0.05
(b,1)	0.22
(c,1)	0.15
(a,2)	0.02
(b,2)	0.13
(c,2)	0.43

- (a) Compute  $P(E_1)$  (looking for a number)
- (b) Compute  $P(E_2)$  (looking for a number)
- (c) Compute  $P(E_3)$  (looking for a number)
- (d) Compute  $P(E_1 \cap E_2)$  (looking for a number)

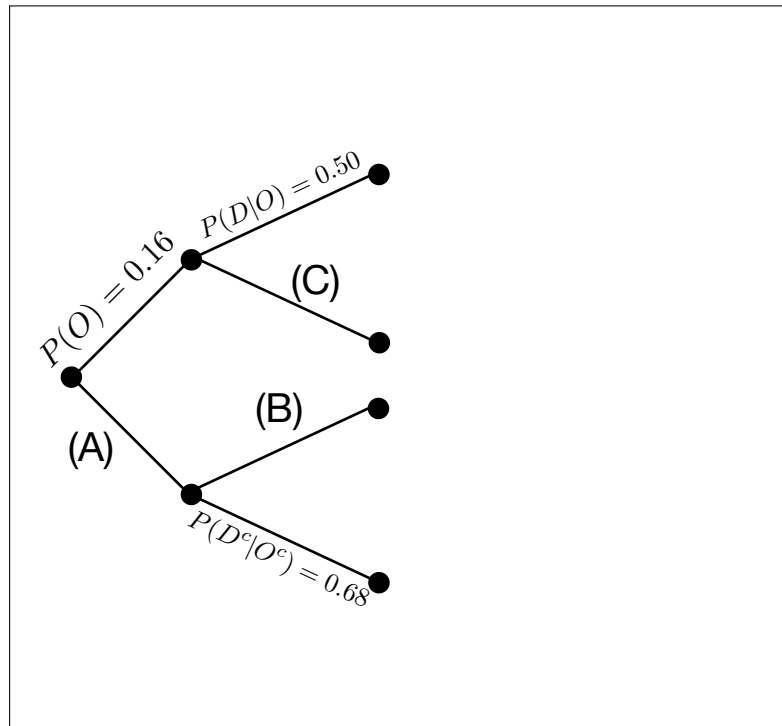
- (e) Compute  $P(E_1 \cap E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (f) Compute  $P(E_2 \cap E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (g) Compute  $P(E_1|E_2)$  (looking for a number)
  - (h) Compute  $P(E_1|E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (i) Compute  $P(E_2|E_3)$  (looking for a number)
  - (j) Compute  $P(E_3|E_2)$  (looking for a number)
17. *Imani Ashman—Class of 2024:* A college student has been up studying for their midterm and decides to visit a coffee shop before the exam. The probability that they order a coffee ( $C$ ) is 0.2, the probability they order a bagel ( $B$ ) is 0.4, and the probability they order a bagel given that they have already ordered a coffee is 0.3. There is also the potential that they don't order a bagel or a coffee before the midterm ( $N$ ). The sample space is defined as  $\mathcal{G} = \{B, C, N\}$ .
- (a) Compute  $P(B \cap C)$
  - (b) Compute  $P(C|B)$
  - (c) Compute the probability that they order nothing?
18. Given two events  $A$  and  $B$ , show that  $P(A|B) \geq P(A \cap B)$  (looking for a short explanation and mathematical argument)
19. Suppose we wish to study adverse outcomes among patients who have unprotected left main disease (<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa1909406>). In this experiment (called a clinical trial) we randomize patients to receive percutaneous intervention (PCI) or a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG). We wish to study the number of patients who received a PCI and experienced a myocardial infarction (MI) between the time they had their procedure and 5 years, however we only know three pieces of information: (i) the probability a patient was randomized to PCI was 0.5, (ii) the probability a patient was randomized to CABG was 0.5, and (iii) we know that the probability of a MI was 0.2 among patients who received a PCI.
- (a) Define a sample space that will allow us to compute the probability a patient was randomized to PCI and experienced an MI (looking for a description of the sample space and a set)
  - (b) Please compute the probability a patient experiences an MI and was randomized to PCI. (looking for a number)
  - (c) Please compute the probability a patient does not experience an MI and was randomized to PCI. (looking for a number)



20. If two events  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint, are they also independent? (looking for a description and mathematical argument to backup your description.)
21. Researchers studied epidemiological characteristics of a variant of SARS-CoV-2 called B.1.526 (<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abm0300>). Suppose we too wanted to study the impact of B.1.526 on a population of patients who have been admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 by collecting each patient's age, whether they have were vaccinated against COVID-19, and whether their infection was due to the B.1.526 variant.
  - (a) If we define our experiment as generating the above three pieces of information from a single patient, define a sample space ( $\mathcal{G}$ ) for these potential outcomes. (looking for a short description and the sample space)
  - (b) Define a sample space if we repeated our above experiment 2 times. In other words, what would be our sample space if we collected information from 2 patients?
22. Can a data set ever have more elements than a sample space? Explain. (looking for a paragraph with some examples)
23. Suppose we collect the following data about the co-occurrence of patients admitted to the hospital for influenza-like illness (ILI) and whether the patient does or does not work in a clinical setting. After data collection we estimate the following probabilities: The probability that a patient works in a clinical setting is 0.12. The probability that a patient who works in a clinical setting is admitted to the hospital for ILI is 0.2, and the probability a patient who does not work in a clinical setting was admitted to the hospital for ILI is 0.3.
  - (a) Define a sample space to study outcomes related to the co-occurrence of ILI/No ILI and patients who do/do not work in a clinical setting. (Looking for a set and a very brief description of an outcome or two.)
  - (b) Compute the probability a patient is admitted to the hospitals for ILI and they work in a clinical setting. (Looking for an equation and number)
  - (c) Compute the probability a patient is not admitted to the hospital for ILI and they work in a clinical setting. (Looking for an equation and number)
  - (d) Compute the probability a patient is admitted to the hospital for ILI and they do not work in a clinical setting. (Looking for an equation and number)
  - (e) Compute the probability a patient is not admitted to the hospital

for ILI and they do not work in a clinical setting. (Looking for an equation and number)

24. *Matthew Jung—Class of 2025*: Pretend you are on a game show. To win a prize, you are randomly assigned either door one, door two, or door three. If you are assigned door one, there's a 9% chance to win \$20,000, a 20% chance to win \$10,000, and a 10% chance to win \$40,000. If you are assigned door two, there's a 10% chance to win \$50,000 and a 30% chance to win \$5,000. If you are assigned door three, there's a 1% chance to win \$100,000 and a 20% chance to win \$15,000.
- (a) Define the sample space for all of the possible outcomes.
  - (b) Build the table of all possible outcomes and their probabilities.
  - (c) Compute the probability of winning \$40,000 given you get door two.
  - (d) Compute the probability of winning less than \$40,000 given you get door one.
  - (e) Compute the probability of winning \$100,000 given you get door three.
25. Show that for two events  $A$  and  $B$  the  $P(A|B)P(B) \leq P(B)$ . Why is this the case intuitively? (Looking for two brief descriptions)



26. Please use the above tree diagram to answer the following questions.

- (a) Fill in the  $P(O^c)$  which corresponds to (A) in the figure
- (b) Fill in the  $P(D|O^c)$  which corresponds to (B) in the figure
- (c) Fill in the  $P(D^c|O)$  which corresponds to (C) in the figure
- (d) Please compute  $P(D)$
- (e) Please compute  $P(D^c)$

27. *Walker Frisbie—Class of 2025:* Suppose we want to study the relationship between the probability you feel ill after riding the roller coaster called the "Intimidator 305" (An actual roller coaster located in VA and my #1 favorite. I have ridden 150 different coasters) and the following three events: (i) we ate two hotdogs just before the ride, (ii) you rode this same coaster 10 times in the past 30 mins, and (iii) you have not had any water and are dehydrated.

Build a probability tree diagram with a root. Next add two branches that represent the events that you ride the Intimidator and that you do not ride the Intimidator. Given you ride the Intimidator with probability 0.9,

create three branches for the events that you ate two hotdogs with probability 0.3, rode the coaster 10 times with probability 0.2, and are dehydrated with probability 0.5. Given you did **not** ride the Intimidator, create three branches for the events that you ate two hotdogs with probability 0.6, rode the coaster 10 times with probability 0.2, and are dehydrated with probability 0.2. For each of the six branches you created, add two branches: one for the event you feel ill and one for the event that you do not feel ill.

- (a) Assign your own probabilities to each of these ill/not ill events.
  - (b) Compute  $P(\text{feel ill})$
28. Influenza is a contagious virus that enters the respiratory system from a human's nose, throat, or lungs. Common symptoms are cough, chills, and a fever. Suppose we collect data from a local hospital about those who were infected and not infected by the influenza virus and the above three symptoms. Let  $\mathcal{G} = \{(x, y) | x \text{ is "Flu" or "not Flu" and } y \in \{\text{cough, chills, fever}\}\}$ . Suppose further that we define events  $F = \{(x, y) | x \text{ is "Flu"}\}$ ,  $C = \{(x, y) | y \text{ is "Cough"}\}$ ,  $H = \{(x, y) | y \text{ is "Chills"}\}$ ,  $E = \{(x, y) | y \text{ is "Fever"}\}$ , and that  $P(C|F) = 0.5$  and  $P(C|F^c) = 0.15$ ,  $P(H|F) = 0.25$  and  $P(H|F^c) = 0.01$ ,  $P(E|F) = 0.98$  and  $P(E|F^c) = 0.35$ ,  $P(F) = 0.02$
- (a) A patient presents with the chills. What is the probability they have influenza?
  - (b) What symptom from the above, if present, would indicate with a high probability a patient has influenza?

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## 1.5 Student Advice, Examples, and Insights

*Jessica Berman - Class of 2025-Advice:* When I see a problem pertaining to conditional probability it helps me to talk the question out and actually say to myself "what is the probability of A given B has already occurred" because  $P(A|B)$  is not clear to me without saying it aloud.

*Jessica Berman - Class of 2025-Example:* A fun fact about conditional probability is that it is used in politics. For example, if there are 4 candidates running in a presidential election, the chances of winning for each of them is 25

*Monelli Esfandiary—Class of 2025—Insight:* PELO assumes you assign the same probability to every outcome in your sample space. The frequentist approach assigns a probability to each outcome that is proportional to the number of times we observe that outcome in a dataset. Though the PELO

and Frequentist approach appear different, we can show that the PELO is a special case of the Frequentist approach. Suppose we create a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{H, T\}$ . PELO would assign  $P(\{H\}) = C$  and  $P(\{T\}) = C$ , and so  $(1 = 2C) = (0.5 = C)$ . But we could arrive at the same result using the Frequentist approach if we sampled every outcome from  $\mathcal{G}$  once.

*Anyah Kumar—Class of 2025—Statistical Independence:* The topic from chapter one that I liked the most was statistical independence. Two events,  $A$  and  $B$ , are statistically independent when one probability does not affect the probability of the other. This may remind you of mutually exclusive events. However, mutually exclusive events cannot be statically independent because when one event occurs the other event **CANNOT** occur. That's why I like statistical independence, because the probability of one event doesn't change the probability of another event which makes computing the probability of the two events simpler.

*Ava Barrentine—Class of 2025—Baye's thm:* Baye's Theorem is the most interesting to me as it shows the probability of an event, given another has already happened. I never thought one probability could be calculated based on a second event taking place. This theory is useful for so many reasons. For example, this equation can be used to calculate the probability of there being a forest fire when a gender reveal party has happened (probably very low). Say the probability of a forest fire (event  $A$ ) is  $P(A) = 0.3$ . The probability of a baby shower happening in/by the woods ( $B$ ) is  $P(B) = 0.05$ . The probability of a forest fire happening due to a baby shower  $P(A|B) = 0.007$ . For Baye's Theorem, we can compute :  $(0.3 \times 0.007)/0.05 = 0.042 = 4.2\%$  chance that given that a forest fire started, a baby shower took place near the woods.

*Josephine Osroagbo—Class of 2025—PELO:* I feel that the Principle of Equally Likely Outcomes does not occur frequently when defining an experiment and assigning probabilities to events. For example, suppose we wish to study the prevalence of COVID-19 hospitalizations among those who are 60 years of age or older with a vaccine to guard against infection and without a vaccine.

We can define a sample space for a single patient as  $\mathcal{G} = \{(H, V), (H, V^c), (H^c, V), (H^c, V^c)\}$  where  $H$  represents the event that a person is hospitalized and  $V$  represents that a person was vaccinated against infection by SARS-CoV-2.

If we applied PELO to this experiment we would have to assume the above four events occur with equal probability. Intuitively, this is likely not the case.

*Neha Paras—Class of 2025—A connection between PELO and Uniform:* While looking back at my chapter 1 notes, I grazed through the section about PELO. PELO states that the probability of each event in a sample space with a single outcome is equal. This reminded me of the class lesson where we were introduced to the uniform discrete distribution. I thought PELO and the uni-

form distribution were similar because they both assign to an event with a single outcome a probability of one divided by the number of outcomes in the sample space. I thought the connection between these two concepts was interesting, and it made me think more about how distributions fall outside of uniform. I am excited for future learning about the uniform distribution, for random events, as well as for the normal distribution.

---

## 1.6 Glossary

**Set:**

**Subset:**

**Set equality:**

**Set intersection:**

**Set union:**

**Universal set:**

**Empty set:**

**Sample space:**

**Experiment:**

**Outcome:**

**Event:**

**Probability:**

**Kolmogorov's Axioms:**

**Principle of Equally Likely Outcomes:**

**Product Set:**

**Compound event:**

**Conditional probability:**

**Multiplication Rule:**

**Independence:**



# 2

## Random variables

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### CONTENTS

2.1	Introduction .....	37
2.2	Maps from the sample space to the number line .....	38
2.3	A new sample space .....	39
2.4	How to assign probabilities to a random variable .....	39
2.5	Probability mass function .....	41
2.6	Cumulative mass function .....	43
2.7	Two or more random variables .....	44
2.8	Functions of a random variable .....	48
2.8.1	Multiplying and adding a constant to a random variable .....	48
2.8.1.1	Translation .....	48
2.8.1.2	Scaling .....	49
2.8.2	General transformation of a discrete random variable ..	50
2.8.3	Expectation .....	51
2.8.3.1	Properties of the expectation .....	51
2.8.4	Second moment and variance .....	52
2.8.5	Just in time summation .....	52
2.8.6	How the expected value earned its name .....	53
2.8.6.1	Markov inequality .....	53
2.8.6.2	Chebychev's inequality .....	53
2.8.7	Covariance .....	53
2.8.8	Correlation .....	53
2.9	A Model .....	53
2.10	Exercises .....	54



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## 2.1 Introduction

The foundations of probability are built on sets, yet data is more naturally stored and more easily computed on if it is represented numerically.

Random variables match each outcome in our sample space to a value on the number line.

In addition to computational advantages, random variables help us extract from our data the most important characteristics, and they serve as building blocks which we can use to create powerful models. Random variables are also a language we can use to communicate our modeling efforts to other mathematicians, statisticians, and data scientists.

Suppose we hypothesize that the frequency of social media posts on some popular outlet are related to influenza-like illness (ILI)—a syndromic diagnosis suggesting a patient may have influenza. A patient is diagnosed with ILI if their temperature is measured to be at or above 38C and symptoms resembling the flu. Because influenza is most active in winter and spring, we collect a random sample, each day, of social media posts from September to May and in addition we collect the proportion of patients who are admitted to the hospital and are diagnosed with influenza-like illness at the US national level.

The above hypothesis, data collection, and future inference has numerous details. However, we will see shortly that we can simplify our hypothesis by using random variables.

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## 2.2 Maps from the sample space to the number line

Given a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$ , a **random variable**, (e.g.  $X$ ), is a function from each element in  $\mathcal{G}$ —from each outcome—to a value on the real number line. The real number line contains all numbers: integer and decimal, from negative to positive infinity.

**Example:** Suppose our sample space contains two elements  $\mathcal{G} = \{a, b\}$ . We may decide to define a random variable  $X$  that maps the outcome  $a$  to the value  $-1$  and the outcome  $b$  to the value  $1$ . In otherwords,  $X(a) = -1$  and  $X(b) = 1$ . We could as well define a random variable  $Y$  on the same sample space such that  $Y(a) = 0$  and  $Y(b) = 1$ .

**Example:** Suppose our sample space contains all integers from 0 to 1000  $\mathcal{G} = \{0, 1, 2, 3 \dots, 1000\}$ . We may be most interested in when an integer is even or

odd, and so we can define a random variable  $Y(y) = 0$  when  $y$ , our outcome, is an odd integer and  $Y(y) = 1$  when  $y$  is even. This is an example of how a random variable can distill down a sample space with many outcomes into a random variable with two.

**Example:** Suppose we decide to study the relationship between the cumulative total number of cigarettes smoked by a person from the date that they started smoking and the presence of lung cancer. We define our sample space to be  $\mathcal{G} = \{(x, y) | x \in \mathbb{Z}, y \in \{0, 1\}\}$ . We define two random variables, a random variable  $X$  that maps the outcome  $(x, y)$  to the value in the first position  $x$ , and a random variable  $Y$  that maps the *outcome*  $(x, y)$  to the value in the second position  $y$ . Though our outcomes are linked, we can use random variables to think about two separate outcomes—cigarettes smoked and lung cancer—and how they interact.

---

## 2.3 A new sample space

When we build a random variable ( $X$ ) that maps outcomes to values on the number line we create a new sample space which we will call the support of  $X$  or  $\text{supp}(X)$ . Define a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$  without outcomes  $o_i$ . Then the **support of  $X$**  is

$$\text{supp}(X) = \{x | X(o) = x \text{ for some outcome } o \text{ in } \mathcal{G}\} \quad (2.1)$$

Our new sample space is the set of all the potential values that our random variable  $X$  can produce. This is a sample space linked to  $\mathcal{G}$ , but in practice after we develop a random variable we often no longer reference  $\mathcal{G}$ .

**Example:** In our above example where  $\mathcal{G} = \{a, b\}$ , the random variable  $X$  has support  $\text{supp}(X) = \{-1, 1\}$  and  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{0, 1\}$ . Lets look at another example, when above  $\mathcal{G}$  is the set of all integers from 0 to 1000. Even though the sample space is quite large, the random variable that maps the integers to 0 when they are odd and 1 when even has a small support ( $\text{supp}(Y) = \{0, 1\}$ ).

---

## 2.4 How to assign probabilities to a random variable

Random variable themselves do not require that we include the probability of each of their values. Random variables are a function from outcomes to the real numbers—nothing more. That said, in practice we build random variables expecting that the probabilities we assign to outcomes in our sam-

ple space will correspond to probabilities assigned to values of our random variable.

We assign a probability to the value  $x$ , which belongs in the support of random variable  $X$ , the sum of the probabilities of all the outcomes that  $X$  maps to  $x$ .

$$P(X = x) = P(o_1) + P(o_2) + \cdots + P(o_n) \quad (2.2)$$

where each outcome  $o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n$  is mapped by  $X$  to the value  $x$ . In other words,  $X(o) = x$  for each of  $o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n$ .

**Example:** Define a  $\mathcal{G} = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$  and a random variable  $X$  that maps the outcomes to the following values

Outcome	P(outcome)	X(outcome)
a	0.1	0
b	0.25	1
c	0.15	1
d	0.3	2
e	0.2	0

We assign the probability that  $X = 0$  as the sum of the probabilities assigned to outcome  $a$  and outcome  $e$ , or

$$P(X = 0) = P(\{a\}) + P(\{e\}) \quad (2.3)$$

$$= 0.1 + 0.2 = 0.3 \quad (2.4)$$

We can run the same procedure for all the elements in the support of  $X$ ,

$$P(X = 1) = P(\{b\}) + P(\{c\}) \quad (2.5)$$

$$= 0.25 + 0.15 = 0.40 \quad (2.6)$$

$$P(X = 2) = P(\{d\}) = 0.3 = 0.30, \quad (2.7)$$

and organize our work in a table

X	P(X=x)
0	0.30
1	0.40
2	0.30

A **probability distribution** for a random variable  $X$  is a set of tuples where the first position in each tuple is a value in the support of  $X$  and the second position in the tuple is the corresponding probability assigned to that value.

**Example:** A probability distribution for the random variable  $X$  above is  $\{(0, 0.30), (1, 0.40), (2, 0.30)\}$ .

**Example:** Imagine we run an experiment that collects data on marathon runners. We decide to collect the number of elapsed minutes until they finish the race. Our sample space is defined as all positive integers  $\mathcal{G} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ . We may decide to build a random variable  $X$  that maps outcomes less than 60 to the value 1, outcomes from 61 to 120 to the value 2, and outcomes greater than 120 to the value 3. One potential probability distribution for  $X$  is  $\{(1, 0.10), (2, 0.50), (3, 0.40)\}$ . For this probability distribution,  $P(X = 1) = 0.10$ ,  $P(X = 2) = 0.50$ , and  $P(X = 3) = 0.40$ .

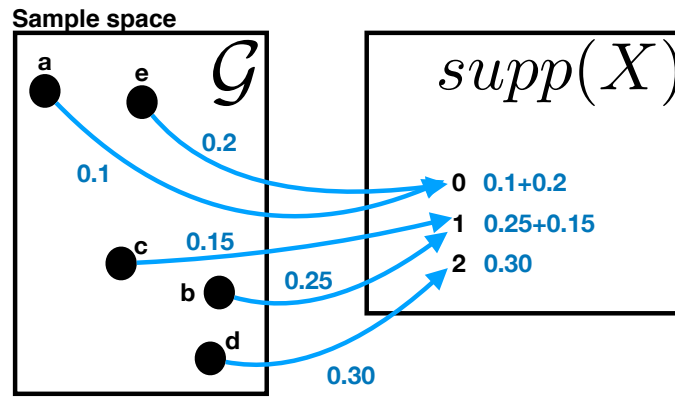


FIGURE 2.1

A sample space  $\mathcal{G}$  with elements  $\{a, b, c, d, e\}$  and a random variable  $X$  that maps each element in  $\mathcal{G}$  to one of the values: 0, 1, or 2. Probabilities corresponding to outcomes in the sample space and how they map to probabilities for each value of  $X$  are shown in blue.

## 2.5 Probability mass function

There are several supportive tools that we can use to help us better understand random variable we create. The first is the probability mass function, or p.m.f. The **probability mass function** is a function that maps values in the support of a random variable  $X$  to their corresponding probabilities. Inputs are values of  $X$ , outputs are probabilities.

The probability mass function is a convenient way to organize a probability distribution and it allows us to transfer all the information we know about functions to random variables.

**Example:** Define a random variable  $Y$  with support  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ , probability distribution  $\{(-1, 0.2), (0, 0.5), (1, 0.3)\}$ , and probability mass function

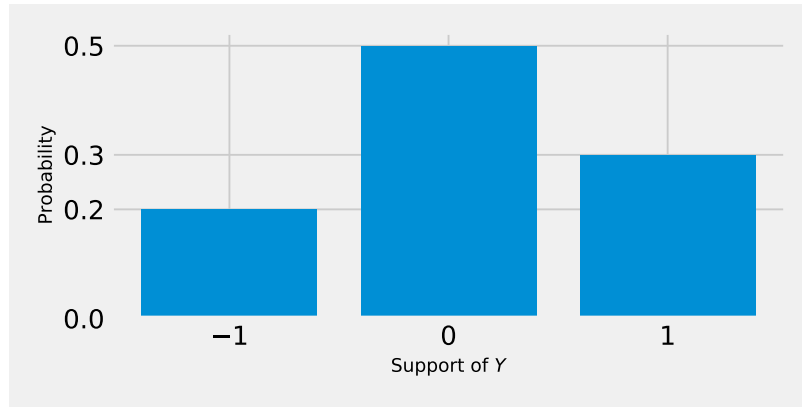
$$f(y) = \begin{cases} 0.2 & \text{when } y = -1 \\ 0.5 & \text{when } y = 0 \\ 0.3 & \text{when } y = 1 \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

The function—our probability mass function—is a type of function called a **piecewise** function.

We can ask our pm.f. to return the probability for a given value

$$f(1) = 0.3 \quad (2.9)$$

and we can visualize our probability mass function using, for example, a barplot.



**FIGURE 2.2**

A barplot for visualizing the probability mass function of our random variable  $Y$ . The support of  $Y$  is plotted on the horizontal axis and height of each bar corresponds to the probability assigned to that value in the support.

**Distributed as  $f$ :** Because we can use the probability mass function to describe the probability distribution of a random variable, we will often write

$$Y \sim f \quad (2.10)$$

The above formula is read "the random variable  $Y$  is distributed as  $f$ ", and what we mean when a random variable is distributed as  $f$  is that the support of  $Y$  is the same as the domain of the function  $f$  and that the probability of a value  $y$  is equal to  $f(y)$ , or

$$\text{supp}(Y) = \text{dom}(f) \quad (2.11)$$

$$P(Y = y) = f(y) \quad (2.12)$$

The probability mass function is a convenient method for assigning probabilities to random variables and visualizing the distribution of a random variable.

## 2.6 Cumulative mass function

The **cumulative mass function** is a function that maps values in the support of a random variable  $X$  to the probability that the random variable is less than or equal to this value, or  $P(X \leq x)$ .

We use a capital  $F$  to denote a cumulative mass function (c.m.f). The c.m.f. corresponding to random variable  $X$  has a domain equal to the support of  $X$  and produces values between 0 and 1 (the values a function can produce is called the function's **image**).

$$\text{supp}(X) = \text{dom}(F) \quad (2.13)$$

$$\text{image}(F) = [0, 1] \quad (2.14)$$

$$P(X \leq x) = F(x) \quad (2.15)$$

The c.m.f. too can be visualized and we could also use the c.m.f. to describe the probability distribution of a random variable. This is because we can use the c.m.f. to derive the p.m.f.

**Example:** For a random variable

$$X \sim f \quad (2.16)$$

$$\text{supp}(X) = \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \quad (2.17)$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0.1 \\ 1 & 0.3 \\ 2 & 0.2 \\ 3 & 0.4 \end{cases} \quad (2.18)$$

The c.m.f is then

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0.1 \\ 1 & 0.3 + 0.1 = 0.4 \\ 2 & 0.2 + 0.3 + 0.1 = 0.6 \\ 3 & 0.4 + 0.2 + 0.3 + 0.1 = 1 \end{cases} \quad (2.19)$$

We can use the c.m.f ( $F(x)$ ) to compute any p.m.f ( $f(x)$ ) too by noticing that

**FIGURE 2.3**

A barplot for visualizing the cumulative mass function of our random variable  $Y$ . The support of  $Y$  is plotted on the horizontal axis and height of each bar corresponds to the probability assigned to values ( $v$ ) less than or equal to  $v$  in the support.

for a support  $\{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_n\}$  where the values in this set are ordered from smallest to largest

$$f(x_i) = [f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1}) + \dots + f(x_0)] - [f(x_{i-1}) + \dots + f(x_0)] \quad (2.20)$$

$$= F(x_i) - F(x_{i-1}). \quad (2.21)$$

Because the p.d.f. and c.m.f. equivalently describe the probability distribution of a random variable we can write  $X \sim F$  or  $X \sim f$ .

---

## 2.7 Two or more random variables

A single random variable is a useful way to describe a sample space and the probabilities assigned to values on the number line corresponding to outcomes.

But more complicated scientific questions often require several random variables and rules for how they interact. We will explore how to generate multiple random variables on the same sample space. Then we will develop an approach to define probabilities for combinations of random variables, a joint probability mass function and joint cumulative mass function.

Suppose we design a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$  and build two random variables on this space  $X$  and  $Y$ . Because  $X$  and  $Y$  are random variables we can think of

the support of  $X$  and support of  $Y$  as two new sample spaces. Lets assume that the outcomes in  $\text{supp}(X) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_N\}$  and that the outcomes in  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_M\}$ . Then we can define a new set of outcomes in the space  $\text{supp}(X) \times \text{supp}(Y) = \{x_i, y_j\}$  for all combinations of  $i$  from 1 to  $N$  and  $j$  from 1 to  $M$ .

This new space above maps outcomes in  $\mathcal{G}$  to a tuple  $(x_i, y_j)$  where the outcomes were mapped by  $X$  to the value  $x_i$  and by  $Y$  to the value  $y_j$ . If we assign the probability of  $(x_i, y_j)$  to be the the sum of the probabilities of all outcomes in  $\mathcal{G}$  that  $X$  maps to  $x_i$  and  $Y$  maps to  $y_j$  then we call this a **joint probability distribution**.

**Example:** A pharmaceutical company launches a clinical trial to study adverse events from a novel medicine. The trial enrolls patients and randomizes them to receive the novel drug or optimal medical therapy. The trial expects three potential adverse events which we call  $\text{ae}_1$ ,  $\text{ae}_2$ , and  $\text{ae}_3$ . We may choose to define a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{(\text{nov}, \text{ae}_1), (\text{nov}, \text{ae}_2), (\text{nov}, \text{ae}_3), (\text{omt}, \text{ae}_1), (\text{omt}, \text{ae}_2), (\text{omt}, \text{ae}_3)\}$  and further build a random variable  $X$  that maps outcomes to values 0 when an adverse event was experienced by a control patient and 1 when an adverse event was experienced by a novel drug patient, and a random variable  $Y$  that maps adverse event 1 to the value 1, adverse event 2 to the value 2, and adverse event 3 to the value 3.

$$\mathcal{G} = \{(\text{nov}, \text{ae}_1), (\text{nov}, \text{ae}_2), (\text{nov}, \text{ae}_3), (\text{omt}, \text{ae}_1), (\text{omt}, \text{ae}_2), (\text{omt}, \text{ae}_3)\}$$

Event	X
(nov, ae <sub>1</sub> )	1
(nov, ae <sub>2</sub> )	1
(nov, ae <sub>3</sub> )	1
(omt, ae <sub>1</sub> )	0
(omt, ae <sub>2</sub> )	0
(omt, ae <sub>3</sub> )	0

Event	Y
(nov, ae <sub>1</sub> )	1
(nov, ae <sub>2</sub> )	2
(nov, ae <sub>3</sub> )	3
(omt, ae <sub>1</sub> )	1
(omt, ae <sub>2</sub> )	2
(omt, ae <sub>3</sub> )	3

A joint probability distribution would assign probabilities to all possible pairs of values for  $X$  and  $Y$ .

We write  $P(X = x, Y = y)$  to denote the probability assigned to the joint



X	Y	prob
1	1	0.1
1	2	0.05
1	3	0.23
0	1	0.05
0	2	0.30
0	3	0.27

probability that the random variable  $X$  equals the value  $x$  and the random variable  $Y$  equals the value  $y$ . With the above example in mind,  $P(X = 0, Y = 2) = 0.30$  and this probability could be described as the probability an OMT patient experiences adverse event 2.

Joint probability distributions are often visualized as a table with one random variable's values representing the rows and the second random variable's values representing the columns

	Y = 1	Y = 2	Y = 3
X=0	0.05	0.30	0.27
X=1	0.10	0.05	0.23

A joint distribution can be used to compute probabilities that the random variable  $X$  equals the value  $x$  for any value of  $Y$ — $P(X = x)$  and also the probability that the random variable  $Y$  equals the value  $y$  for any value of  $x$ — $P(Y = y)$ . These probabilities are called **marginal probabilities**.

The marginal probabilities that  $X$  equals 0, or  $P(X = 0)$ , is computed by summing the joint probabilities where  $X = 0$ . We can use the same procedure to compute the marginal probability that  $X = 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = 0) &= P(X = 0, Y = 1) + P(X = 0, Y = 2) + P(X = 0, Y = 3) \\ &= 0.05 + 0.30 + 0.27 = 0.62 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = 1) &= P(X = 1, Y = 1) + P(X = 1, Y = 2) + P(X = 1, Y = 3) \\ &= 0.10 + 0.05 + 0.23 = 0.38 \end{aligned}$$

The same procedure can be done for the random variable  $Y$  to find marginal probabilities:

$$\begin{aligned}
P(Y = 1) &= P(X = 0, Y = 1) + P(X = 1, Y = 1) \\
&= 0.1 + 0.05 = 0.15 \\
P(Y = 2) &= P(X = 0, Y = 2) + P(X = 1, Y = 2) \\
&= 0.05 + 0.30 = 0.35 \\
P(Y = 3) &= P(X = 0, Y = 3) + P(X = 1, Y = 3) \\
&= 0.23 + 0.27 = 0.50
\end{aligned}$$

Joint distributions need not be restricted to only two random variables. We can build joint distributions of any number of random variables and can compute marginal probabilities in the same way that we do for a joint distribution of two random variables.

The rules, laws, and theorems of probability that we learned in chapter one carry over to random variables. This is because we can consider a new sample space of values that our random variable can take. Suppose we build two random variables  $X$  that maps outcomes to the values -1,0,1 and  $Y$  that maps outcomes to the values 1,2,3. We can define a new sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{(x, y) | x \in \text{supp}(X) \text{ and } y \in \text{supp}(Y)\}$ . With our new sample space, we can now discuss statements like  $P(X = x | Y = y)$ .

**Example:** If we continue with our pharmaceutical example, we can build a new sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{(0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3), (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3)\}$  and compute, for example,  $P(X = 1 | Y = 2) = \frac{P(X=1, Y=2)}{P(Y=2)} = \frac{0.05}{0.35} = 0.14$ .

We can define the conditional probability of the value of one random variable given another as

$$P(A = a | B = b) = \frac{P(A = a, B = b)}{P(B = b)} \quad (2.22)$$

and so define statistical independence between two random variables,  $A$  and  $B$ , as

$$P(A = a | B = b) = P(A = a) \text{ for all } a \in \text{supp}(A), b \in \text{supp}(B) \quad (2.23)$$

We can also translate the law of total probability from events to random variables. For a partition  $[Y = y_1] \cup [Y = y_2] \cup [Y = y_3] \cup \dots \cup [Y = y_n]$  of the event that the random variable  $X = x$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X = x) &= P(X = x | Y = y_1)p(y_1) + P(X = x | Y = y_2)p(y_2) \\
&\quad + P(X = x | Y = y_3)p(y_3) \dots + P(X = x | Y = y_n)p(y_n)
\end{aligned} \quad (2.24)$$

By thinking of the values of a random variable as outcomes in a new sample space, we can apply our past intuition and the past mechanics of events, sets to a collection of random variables.

## 2.8 Functions of a random variable

There are times that we may wish to summarize the behavior of a random variable. One common way to describe how probability is distributed among values in the support of a random variable is by computing some function of that random variable.

### 2.8.1 Multiplying and adding a constant to a random variable

Suppose we have defined a random variable  $X$  and wish to study a new random variable  $Y = g(X)$  that is a function of  $X$ . The values and the probabilities assigned to  $X$ , along with the function  $g$  will determine the values in the support of  $Y$  and assigned probabilities to these values.

#### 2.8.1.1 Translation

Define a random variable  $X$  with p.m.f.  $f_X$  and a new random variable  $Y = X + c$  where  $c$  is a constant. Then the support for  $Y$ ,  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{x + c | x \in \text{supp}(X)\}$  and the p.m.f. of  $Y$ ,  $f_Y(y)$  is

$$f_Y(y) = P(Y = y) \quad (2.25)$$

$$= P(X + c = y) \quad (2.26)$$

$$= P(X = y - c) \quad (2.27)$$

$$= f_X(y - c) \quad (2.28)$$

In otherwords, the probability distribution on  $Y$  is  $\mathbb{P} = \{(y, p) \mid y = x + c \text{ and } P(X = x) = p\}$ . This type of transformation of the random variable  $X$  to  $Y$  is called a **translation**.

**Example:** Suppose we define a random variable  $Z$  such that  $\text{supp}(Z) = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and

$$f_Z(z) = \begin{cases} 0.10 & \text{if } z = 0 \\ 0.05 & \text{if } z = 1 \\ 0.20 & \text{if } z = 2 \\ 0.12 & \text{if } z = 3 \\ 0.07 & \text{if } z = 4 \\ 0.58 & \text{if } z = 5 \end{cases} \quad (2.29)$$

We can define a new random variable  $Y = Z - 4$ . This random variable will have  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{-4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1\}$  and

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0.10 & \text{if } y = -4 \\ 0.05 & \text{if } y = -3 \\ 0.20 & \text{if } y = -2 \\ 0.12 & \text{if } y = -1 \\ 0.07 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ 0.58 & \text{if } y = 1 \end{cases} \quad (2.30)$$

### 2.8.1.2 Scaling

Define a random variable  $X$  with p.m.f.  $f_X$  and a new random variable  $Y = c \cdot X$  where  $c$  is a constant. Then the support for  $Y$ ,  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{c \cdot x | x \in \text{supp}(X)\}$  and the p.m.f. of  $Y$ ,  $f_Y(y)$  is

$$f_Y(y) = P(Y = y) \quad (2.31)$$

$$= P(cX = y) \quad (2.32)$$

$$= P(X = y/c) \quad (2.33)$$

$$= f_X(y/c) \quad (2.34)$$

When we multiply or divide a random variable by a constant to produce a new random variable this is called **scaling**.

**Example:** Suppose we define a random variable  $Z$  such that  $\text{supp}(Z) = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and

$$f_Z(z) = \begin{cases} 0.10 & \text{if } z = 0 \\ 0.05 & \text{if } z = 1 \\ 0.20 & \text{if } z = 2 \\ 0.12 & \text{if } z = 3 \\ 0.07 & \text{if } z = 4 \\ 0.58 & \text{if } z = 5 \end{cases} \quad (2.35)$$

We can define a new random variable  $Y = 4 \cdot Z$ . This random variable will have  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{0, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20\}$  and

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0.10 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ 0.05 & \text{if } y = 4 \\ 0.20 & \text{if } y = 8 \\ 0.12 & \text{if } y = 12 \\ 0.07 & \text{if } y = 16 \\ 0.58 & \text{if } y = 20 \end{cases} \quad (2.36)$$

### 2.8.2 General transformation of a discrete random variable

We explored translation and scaling as specific ways to use one random variable to generate another. However, there are many functions we can apply to a random variable  $X$  to create a new random variable  $Y$ , and we need a more general method to compute the probability mass function for  $Y$ .

Build a random variable  $X$  and define  $Y$  to be a new random variable such that  $Y = g(X)$ . Then the support for  $Y$  is  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{y | y = g(x) \text{ and } x \in \text{supp}(X)\}$ , and

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(x_1) + f_X(x_2) + \cdots + f_X(x_n) \quad (2.37)$$

where  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in g^{-1}(y)$ . If  $Y$  is a function of  $X$  then the probability that the random variable  $Y$  will assign to the value  $y$  is the sum of the probabilities the random variable  $X$  assigns to the set of values  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  that are mapped to  $y$  by the function  $g$ .

**Example:** Let  $X$  be the random variable with p.m.f

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0.01 & \text{if } x = -2 \\ 0.05 & \text{if } x = -1 \\ 0.50 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 0.34 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 0.10 & \text{if } x = 2 \end{cases} \quad (2.38)$$

and also build a new random variable  $Y = X^2$ . Here the function  $g$  is  $g(x) = x^2$ . The support of  $Y$  is

$$\text{supp}(Y) = \{-2^2, -1^2, 0^2, 1^2, 2^2\} \quad (2.39)$$

$$= \{4, 1, 0, 1, 4\} \quad (2.40)$$

$$= \{0, 1, 4\} \quad (2.41)$$

To compute  $P(Y = 0)$  we need to sum up the probabilities of all values in  $\text{supp}(X)$  that  $g$  maps to 0. In our case the only value mapped to 0 is the

value 0, and so  $P(Y = 0) = P(X = 0) = 0.50$ . To compute  $P(Y = 1)$  we need to sum the probabilities of all values that  $g$  maps to the value 1. In this case two values in  $X$  map to 1, the values  $-1$  and  $1$ , and so  $P(Y = 1) = P(X = -1) + P(X = 1) = 0.05 + 0.34 = 0.39$ . Finally,  $P(Y = 4) = P(X = -2) + P(X = 2) = 0.11$  (why?). The pm.f for  $Y$  is

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0.50 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ 0.39 & \text{if } y = 1 \\ 0.11 & \text{if } y = 4 \end{cases} \quad (2.42)$$

### 2.8.3 Expectation

Suppose we build a random variable  $X$  with a corresponding probability mass function  $f_X$ .

The **expected value** of a random variable  $X$  is computed as

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = P(X = x_1)x_1 + P(X = x_2)x_2 + \cdots + P(X = x_n)x_n \quad (2.43)$$

$$= f(x_1)x_1 + f(x_2)x_2 + \cdots + f(x_n)x_n \quad (2.44)$$

where  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are all values in the  $\text{supp}(X)$ .

An intuitive definition of the expected value is that  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  is a weighted average of all values in the support of  $X$  where the weight for  $x_i$  is the probability of  $x_i$ . The expected value of  $X$  will be close to values in  $\text{supp}(X)$  with high probability.

**Example:** Build a random variable  $Y$  with support  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{-1, 0, 1\}$  and  $f_Y = \{(-1, 0.2), (0, 0.5), (1, 0.3)\}$ . The expected value of  $Y$  is  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = 0.2(-1) + 0.5(0) + 0.3(1) = 0.1$ .

#### 2.8.3.1 Properties of the expectation

The expectation is a linear function, that is  $\mathbb{E}(aY + b) = a\mathbb{E}(Y) + b$ . We can show this by defining a random variable  $Z = aY + b$  and asking

$$\mathbb{E}(Z) = z_1 f_Z(z_1) + z_2 f_Z(z_2) + \cdots + z_n f_Z(z_n) \quad (2.45)$$

$$= (ay_1 + b)f_Z(z_1) + (ay_2 + b)f_Z(z_2) + \cdots + (ay_n + b)f_Z(z_n) \quad (2.46)$$

$$= a[y_1 f_Z(z_1) + y_2 f_Z(z_2) + \cdots + y_n f_Z(z_n)] + b[f_Z(z_1) + f_Z(z_2) + \cdots + f_Z(z_n)] \quad (2.47)$$

$$= a[y_1 f_Z(z_1) + y_2 f_Z(z_2) + \cdots + y_n f_Z(z_n)] + b \text{ (why?) } \quad (2.48)$$

$$= a(y_1 f_Y(y_1) + y_2 f_Y(y_2) + \cdots + y_n f_Y(y_n)) + b \quad (2.49)$$

$$= a\mathbb{E}(Y) + b \quad (2.50)$$

The step (2.49) deserves some attention. Values  $z_i$  are equal to  $ay_i + b$ , they are

mapped from the values  $y_i$  and so the probability that  $Z$  equals  $z_i$  is equivalent to the probability that  $Y$  equals  $y_i$ .

### 2.8.4 Second moment and variance

Define a random variable  $Y$  with  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n\}$ , then **variance** is the following function of  $Y$

$$V(Y) = [y_1 - \mathbb{E}(Y)]^2 P(Y = y_1) + [y_2 - \mathbb{E}(Y)]^2 P(Y = y_2) + \dots + [y_n - \mathbb{E}(Y)]^2 P(Y = y_n) \quad (2.51)$$

The variance can be thought of as the squared distance of each value in the support of the random variable  $Y$  from the expected value weighted by the probability of each value. In some sense, the variance attempts to measure the squared distance from the expected value.

**Example:** Define a random variable  $Z$  with probability mass function

$$f_Z(z) = \begin{cases} 0.14 & \text{if } z = 0 \\ 0.39 & \text{if } z = 1 \\ 0.21 & \text{if } z = 2 \\ 0.26 & \text{if } z = 4 \end{cases} \quad (2.52)$$

To compute  $V(Z)$  we need to first compute the expected value of  $Z$  or  $\mathbb{E}(Z)$ :

$$\mathbb{E}(Z) = f_Z(0) \cdot 0 + f_Z(1) \cdot 1 + f_Z(2) \cdot 2 + f_Z(4) \cdot 4 \quad (2.53)$$

$$= 0.14 \cdot 0 + 0.39 \cdot 1 + 0.21 \cdot 2 + 0.26 \cdot 4 \quad (2.54)$$

$$= 1.85 \quad (2.55)$$

Now we can compute the variance

$$V(Z) = (0 - 1.85)^2 \cdot f_Z(0) + (1 - 1.85)^2 \cdot f_Z(1) + (2 - 1.85)^2 \cdot f_Z(2) + (4 - 1.85)^2 \cdot f_Z(4) \quad (2.56)$$

$$= (0 - 1.85)^2 \cdot 0.14 + (1 - 1.85)^2 \cdot 0.39 + (2 - 1.85)^2 \cdot 0.21 + (4 - 1.85)^2 \cdot 0.26 \quad (2.57)$$

$$= 1.97 \quad (2.58)$$

### 2.8.5 Just in time summation

Summing a sequence of values is performed so frequently in mathematics and statistics that we have developed a special notation that simplifies sums.

Given a sequences of values,  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$ , that we wish to sum define the following operator to represent that sum

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n \quad (2.59)$$

## 2.8.6 How the expected value earned its name

### 2.8.6.1 Markov inequality

$$P(X > a) < \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{a} \quad (2.60)$$

Suppose we define a random variable  $X$  with a support that takes only non-negative numbers.

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x_i \in \text{supp}(X)} x_i f_X(x_i) \quad (2.61)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x_i \leq a} x_i f_X(x_i) + \sum_{x_i > a} x_i f_X(x_i) \quad (2.62)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) > \sum_{x_i > a} x_i f_X(x_i) \quad (2.63)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) > \sum_{x_i > a} a f_X(x_i) \quad (2.64)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) > a \sum_{x_i > a} f_X(x_i) \quad (2.65)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) > a P(X > a) \quad (2.66)$$

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{a} > P(X > a) \quad (2.67)$$

$$(2.68)$$

### 2.8.6.2 Chebychev's inequality

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## 2.8.7 Covariance

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## 2.8.8 Correlation

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## 2.9 A Model

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### 2.10 Exercises

1. Suppose  $\mathcal{G} = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $P(\{a\}) = 0.2$ ,  $P(\{b\}) = 0.3$ ,  $P(\{c\}) = 0.5$ . Define a random variable  $X$  such that  $X(a) = 1$ ,  $X(b) = 1$ , and  $X(c) = 0$ . Define a second random variable  $Y$  such that  $Y(a) = 0$ ,  $Y(b) = 1$ ,  $Y(c) = 2$ .
  - (a) Compute  $P(X = 1)$
  - (b) Compute  $P(X = 0)$
  - (c) What is  $\text{supp}(X)$ ?
  - (d) What new sample space does  $X$  generate?
  - (e) Compute  $P(Y = 1)$
  - (f) Compute  $P(Y = 0)$
  - (g) What is  $\text{supp}(Y)$ ?
  - (h) What new sample space does  $Y$  generate?
2. Let  $\mathcal{G} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$ , the set of all positive integers. Further define a random variable  $K$  with the following probability mass function

$$f(k) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \text{ when } k \leq 10$$

$$f(11) = 0.009$$

- (a) Is the pmf  $f$  a valid probability distribution? Why or why not?
  - (b) What value of  $K$  is assigned the highest probability?
  - (c) Please define the cumulative mass function for the random variable  $K$
3. Define a random variable with  $\text{supp}(Y) = \{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$  and cu-

mulative mass function

$$F(y) = \begin{cases} 0.10 & \text{when } y = -3 \\ 0.24 & \text{when } y = -2 \\ 0.36 & \text{when } y = -1 \\ 0.50 & \text{when } y = 0 \\ 0.67 & \text{when } y = 1 \\ 0.78 & \text{when } y = 2 \\ 1.00 & \text{when } y = 3 \end{cases}$$

- (a) What is  $P(Y \leq -1)$
  - (b) What is  $P(Y = -1)$
  - (c) What is  $P(Y = 1)$
  - (d) Please define the p.m.f for the random variable  $Y$ .
  - (e) Graph the c.m.f
  - (f) Graph the p.m.f
4. Define the following joint distribution of random variable  $Q$  and  $R$  that are mapped from the sample space  $\mathcal{G}$

Q	R	prob
2	1	0.01
2	2	0.075
2	3	0.13
1	1	0.1
1	2	0.05
1	3	0.17
0	1	0.05
0	2	0.30
0	3	0.115

- (a) What is the implied support of  $Q$ ?
- (b) What is the implied support of  $R$ ?
- (c) Compute  $P(Q=1, R=2)$
- (d) Compute the marginal probabilities for  $Q$
- (e) Compute the marginal probabilities for  $R$
- (f) Compute  $P(R = 1 | Q = 0)$
- (g) The random variable  $Q$  is called **statistically independent** from  $R$  if for every value  $q \in \text{supp}(Q)$  and for every value  $r \in R$  the following

is true  $P(Q = q|R = r) = P(Q)$ . Is  $Q$  statistically independent from  $R$ ? Why or why not?

5. For two events  $A$  and  $B$  that are statistically independent, we found that  $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$ . Please derive an equivalent expression for two random variables by applying the definition of conditional probability and statistical independence to random variables.
6. Define the following joint distribution of random variable  $Q$  and  $R$  that are mapped from the sample space  $\mathcal{G}$

Q	R	prob
2	1	0.01
2	2	0.075
2	3	0.13
1	1	0.1
1	2	0.05
1	3	0.17
0	1	0.05
0	2	0.30
0	3	0.115

- (a) Please compute  $\mathbb{E}(Q)$
  - (b) Please compute  $\mathbb{E}(R)$
  - (c) Please compute  $V(Q)$
  - (d) Please compute  $V(R)$
7. *Kimberly Palaguachi-Lopez—Class of 2024:* Consider the following joint distribution of random variable  $Z$  and  $L$  that are mapped from the sample space  $\mathcal{G}$

Z	L	prob
1	0	0.05
2	0	0.15
3	0	0.19
2	1	0.02
1	1	0.12
3	1	0.04
2	0.5	0.10
3	0.5	0.13
1	0.5	0.20

- (a) Please compute the  $\text{supp}(Z)$ ?
- (b) Please compute the  $\text{supp}(L)$ ?

- (c) Solve for  $P(Z = 1, L = 1)$
  - (d) Solve for the respective marginal probabilities of  $Z$
  - (e) Solve for the respective marginal probabilities of  $L$
  - (f) Is the probability distribution for the random variable  $Z$  a valid probability distribution? Why or why not? Is the probability distribution for  $L$  a valid probability distribution? Why or why not?
8. Suppose  $X$  is a random variable with support  $\text{supp}(X) = \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$  and  $Y = |X|$ . Further assume the c.m.f of  $X$  is

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0.05 & \text{if } x = -2 \\ 0.15 & \text{if } x = -1 \\ 0.35 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 0.65 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 0.95 & \text{if } x = 2 \\ 1.00 & \text{if } x = 3 \end{cases} \quad (2.69)$$

- (a) Define the support of  $Y$
  - (b) Build the p.m.f of  $Y$
  - (c) Build the c.m.f of  $Y$
9. Compute  $\sum_{i=-5}^{i=5} i^2 / 2$
10. Simplify the  $V(X)$  into the equation  $E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$ . Hint: Write down the definition of variance using the expectation, then expand the squared terms and simplify.
11. Define the random variable  $A$  with pmf

$$f_B(b) = \begin{cases} 0.52 & \text{if } b = 0 \\ 0.12 & \text{if } b = 1 \\ 0.34 & \text{if } b = 2 \end{cases} \quad (2.70)$$

- (a) Compute  $\mathbb{E}(B)$
- (b) Compute  $V(B)$
- (c) Use Chebychev's inequality to make a statement about  $P(B \geq b)$



# 3

## *Probability distributions: templates*

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### CONTENTS

3.1	Introduction .....	59
3.2	Discrete distributions .....	60
3.2.1	The Bernoulli distribution .....	60
3.2.2	The Geometric distribution .....	61
3.2.3	The Poisson distribution .....	61
3.2.4	The Binomial distribution .....	62
3.2.5	The Discrete Uniform distribution .....	63
3.3	Continuous distributions .....	63
3.3.1	Discrete to continuous: Points to intervals .....	64
3.3.2	Densities .....	64
3.3.3	Uniform continuous distribution .....	65
3.3.4	Just-in-time integration .....	65
3.3.5	Normal Distribution .....	67
3.3.5.1	The expected value and variance are equal to distinct parameters .....	67
3.3.5.2	Shifting and scaling by a constant is easy ....	67
3.4	Quantiles and the quantile function .....	68
3.5	Exercises .....	69

### 3.1 Introduction

There exist several probability distributions that have been studied in depth. Templates like this allow us to model data generated from an experiment quickly. Random variable templates are so useful that several computer lan-

guages have optimized how to compute probabilities, expected values, and higher moments.

We will study parametric distributions for random variables. A set of **parameters**—constants—determine how our random variable assigns probabilities to outcomes.

## 3.2 Discrete distributions

### 3.2.1 The Bernoulli distribution

The Bernoulli distribution assigns probabilities to a random variable whose support contains the values 0 and 1. The Bernoulli distribution has a single parameter, often denoted  $\theta$ , that controls how probabilities are assigned to these two values 0 and 1.

To communicate that a random variable  $Z$  has a Bernoulli distribution with parameter  $\theta$ , we write

$$Z \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta) \quad (3.1)$$

The parameter  $\theta$  can take any value between 0 and 1 inclusive, or  $\theta \in [0, 1]$ . The allowable values a set of parameters can take is called the **parameter space**.

The support of  $Z$  is  $\text{supp}(Z) = \{0, 1\}$ , and the probability mass function for the random variable  $Z$  is

$$f_Z(z) = \begin{cases} \theta & \text{if } z = 1 \\ 1 - \theta & \text{if } z = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3.2)$$

We can use the probability mass function to compute the expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(Z) = f_Z(1) \cdot 1 + f_Z(0) \cdot 0 \quad (3.3)$$

$$= f_Z(1) \cdot 1 = f_Z(1) \quad (3.4)$$

$$= \theta, \quad (3.5)$$

and we can use the probability mass function to compute the variance

$$V(Z) = (1 - \theta)^2 f_Z(1) + (0 - \theta)^2 f_Z(0) \quad (3.6)$$

$$= (1 - \theta)^2 \theta + \theta^2 (1 - \theta) \quad (3.7)$$

$$= \theta(1 - \theta) [(1 - \theta) + \theta] \quad (3.8)$$

$$= \theta(1 - \theta) \quad (3.9)$$

**Example:** Define  $Z \sim \text{Bernoulli}(0.45)$ . Then  $\text{supp}(Z) = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $P(Z = 0) = 0.55$ , the  $P(Z = 1) = 0.45$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(Z) = 0.45$  and  $V(Z) = 0.45(0.55) = 0.25$ .

**Example:** A clinical trial enrolls patients and follows them for one year. The clinical team wants to understand the proportion of patients that experience or do not experience an adverse event. We could model whether each patient either experiences or does not experience an adverse event using a Bernoulli distribution. Define  $Z_i$  as a Bernoulli distributed random variable for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  patient in the study. When  $Z_i = 1$  the  $i^{\text{th}}$  patient experienced an adverse event and 0 otherwise.

### 3.2.2 The Geometric distribution

If a random variable  $X$  has a **Geometric** distribution then the support is the values  $\text{supp}(X) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\}$  and the probability mass function is

$$f_X(x) = p(1 - p)^{x-1} \quad (3.10)$$

A random variable that has a geometric distribution has a single parameter  $p$  that can take any value between 0 and 1 inclusive, or  $p \in [0, 1]$ .

The expected value and variance are

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{p} \quad (3.11)$$

$$V(X) = \frac{1}{p} \left( \frac{1 - p}{p} \right) \quad (3.12)$$

A random variable that follows the Geometric distribution often corresponds to an experiment where there is a  $p$  probability that an event occurs (often called a success), a  $(1 - p)$  probability an event does not occur (often called a failure). We assume that each experiment is independent from the previous experiments. The Geometric distribution assigns a probability to the the number of times the experiment is repeated until the event occurs (i.e. the number of repeated experiments until success).

**Example:** Suppose we want to study the number of times a diagnostic test needs to be implemented until that test detects the presence of viral infection. Further assume we have found in a laboratory setting that the probability this test detects a viral infection is 0.70. We could model the number of attempts until detection as a random variable  $A$ , and the rv  $A$  would follow a geometric distribution with parameter value equal to 0.70 or  $A \sim \text{Geom}(0.70)$ .

### 3.2.3 The Poisson distribution

If a random variable  $X$  has a Poisson distribution then the support of  $X$  is all non-negative integers or  $\text{supp}(X) = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$ , and the probability mass function is



$$f_X(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} \quad (3.13)$$

where  $x!$  is read "x factorial" and is defined as

$$x! = x(x-1)(x-2)(x-3) \cdots (2)(1) \quad (3.14)$$

For example,  $5! = (5)(4)(3)(2)(1) = 60$ . The parameter space for the single parameter  $\lambda$  is all positive real numbers or  $\lambda \in (0, \infty)$ .

The expected value and variance are

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \lambda \quad (3.15)$$

$$V(X) = \lambda \quad (3.16)$$

A random variable that follows a Poisson distribution often corresponds to an experiment where the quantity of interest is a rate. A Poisson random variable assigns probabilities to the number of occurrences of an event in a given time period.

**Example:** The owner of a cafe wants records the number of espressos they produce each day and wants to characterize the probability they produce 0, 1, 2, etc. espressos. For one month the owner records the number of espressos produced per day and find on average that they produce 25 per day. We can model the number of espressos per day as a random variable  $X \sim \text{Pois}(25)$ .

### 3.2.4 The Binomial distribution

A random variable  $X$  distributed Binomial( $N, \theta$ ) has as support  $\text{supp}(X) = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots, N\}$ , and the probability mass function is

$$f_X(x) = \binom{N}{x} \theta^x (1-\theta)^{N-x} \quad (3.17)$$

where  $\binom{N}{x}$  is called a binomial coefficient and is defined as  $\binom{N}{x} = \frac{N!}{x!(N-x)!}$ . The binomial coefficient is often read "N choose x" and counts the number of ways one can choose  $x$  items from a set of  $N$  items where the order that the  $x$  items is chosen does not matter. For example,  $\binom{10}{4}$  counts the number of ways to choose 4 items from a set of 10 items where the order we selected each of the four items does not matter.

The expected value and variance of  $X$  are

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = N\theta \quad (3.18)$$

$$V(X) = N\theta(1-\theta) \quad (3.19)$$

Given  $N$  observations, the binomial distribution assigns probabilities to the number of observations that experience an outcome of interest where we assume that the probability any single observation experiences the event is  $\theta$ .

**Example:** Imagine we randomize 200 patients in a clinical trial where 100 are enrolled to receive a novel treatment and 100 are enrolled to receive a control treatment. In the treatment group, 10 patients experience an adverse event from the treatment and in the control group 15 patients experience an adverse event. In previous work we found that the probability any one patient experiences an adverse event in the treatment group is 0.02 and in the control group is 0.04. We can define a random variable  $T \sim \text{Bin}(100, 0.02)$  that assigns a probability to the number of patients who experience an adverse event and define a random variable  $C \sim \text{Bin}(100, 0.04)$  that assigns probabilities to the number of patients who experience an event in the control group.

### 3.2.5 The Discrete Uniform distribution

A random variable  $X$  has a uniform discrete distribution  $U(\alpha, \beta)$  if this random variable has a support equal to  $\text{supp}(X) = \{\alpha, \alpha + 1, \alpha + 2, \dots, \beta\}$  and a probability mass function equal to

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{N} \quad (3.20)$$

$$N = \beta - \alpha + 1 \quad (3.21)$$

where  $N$  counts the number of outcomes between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  inclusive.

The expected value and variance of  $X$  are

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \quad (3.22)$$

$$V(X) = \frac{N^2 - 1}{12} \quad (3.23)$$

The parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  for a uniform discrete distribution can take any integer value so long as the constraint  $\alpha < \beta$  is satisfied.

**Example:** A game of dice is played between two friends. The die that rolls has six sides. We can model the probability the first player rolls any of the one through six values as  $F \sim U(1, 6)$  and the probability the second player rolls values between one and six as  $S \sim U(1, 6)$ .

### 3.3 Continuous distributions

Up until this point we have characterized discrete sample spaces and random variables that are defined on discrete sample spaces, called discrete random variables.

A **continuous sample space**,  $\mathcal{G}$ , is a subset of the real line ( $\mathbb{R}$ ). There are an infinite, uncountable number of outcomes possible in a continuous sample space and this introduces some oddities when we try to assign probabilities on a sample space like this.

A **continuous random variable** is a function from a continuous sample space to the real line.

#### 3.3.1 Discrete to continuous: Points to intervals

Consider a discrete sample space with outcomes  $\mathcal{G} = \{0, 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 1\}$ , and define a random variable  $X$  that has a uniform discrete distribution with parameters 0 and 1 or  $X \sim U(0, 4)$ . Because there are 5 outcomes the probability of each outcome is  $1/5$ .

Let's increase the size of our discrete sample space to contain 100 values between 0 and 1 by setting  $\mathcal{G} = \{0, 1/99, 2/99, 3/99, \dots, 98/99, 1\}$ . If we define a uniformly distributed random variable on this space then the probability of each outcome is  $1/100$ .

As we increase the number of points in our sample space, the probability assigned to each individual point will shrink towards zero. In a continuous space the probability of any individual value is zero.

Because the  $P(X = x) = 0$  for a continuous random variable defined on a continuous  $\mathcal{G}$ , we need a new way to define probabilities for a continuous random variables.

#### 3.3.2 Densities

For a continuous random variable  $X$  with support  $\text{supp}(X) = A$ , where  $A$  is an interval of the real line, we will assign non-negative probabilities to any interval that is a subset of  $A$  according to a probability density function  $f_X$ .

A probability density function  $f_X$  will help us compute the probability over an interval in  $A$ . A probability density must have values that are non-negative (i.e. on or above the horizontal line  $x=0$  in an  $xy$ -plane) and the area under this probability density function for the set  $A$  must equal one.

The probability that a random variable with pdf  $f_X$  assigns to the interval  $(a, b) \subset A$  is the area under  $f_X$  from  $a$  to  $b$ .

<picture>

### 3.3.3 Uniform continuous distribution

For a discrete random variable,  $X$ , the discrete uniform distribution from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$  assigns the same probability to every outcome  $\alpha, \alpha + 1, \dots, \beta$ .

For a continuous random variable  $Y$ , the continuous uniform distribution from  $a$  to  $b$  or  $Y \sim U(a, b)$  will assign the same probability to any interval of the same length between the values  $a$  and  $b$ .

The probability density function on the set  $A = (a, b)$  is

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{b-a} \quad (3.24)$$

To compute the probability of an interval, let's say  $(c, d)$  where  $c > a$  and  $d < b$ , we need to compute the area under  $f_Y(y)$  from  $c$  to  $d$ .

<picture>

The area under  $f_Y(y)$  is equivalent to the area of a rectangle with width  $d - c$  and height  $\frac{1}{b-a}$ . This area equals  $\frac{d-c}{b-a}$  and so

$$P(c < Y < d) = \frac{d-c}{b-a} \quad (3.25)$$

We can also define the cumulative density function (cdf),  $F_Y(y)$ , as

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y < y) = P(a < Y < y) = \frac{y-a}{b-a} \quad (3.26)$$

The cdf is an important function for continuous random variables because this function inputs a value  $y$  and returns the probability over all values less than  $y$ —an interval.

<picture>

The expected value and variance are

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = \frac{a+b}{2} \quad (3.27)$$

$$V(Y) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12} \quad (3.28)$$

### 3.3.4 Just-in-time integration

We recognized that the area under the probability density function of a continuous uniform random variable  $f_Y(y)$  is the same as the area of a rectangle.

But there are several continuous random variables with non-linear densities that are not easy to compute. We need a special tool and special notation to handle computing areas under these densities.

Suppose we define a continuous random variable  $Z$  that has two parameters,  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$ , with the following probability density function

$$f_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(z-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (3.29)$$

defined over all negative and positive numbers or  $\mathbb{R}$ .

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The area under this density is not at all straight forward to compute. However, we may be able to use the area of several rectangles—areas that we can compute—to approximate the area under this more complicated curve. Approximating the area under a curve with a set of simpler curves is called **Riemann integration**.

Lets suppose we are interested in

$$P(-1 < Z < 1) \quad (3.30)$$

which is the area under  $f_Z(z)$  from the value -1 to the value 1.

<picture>

One way to approximate this area is to split up the interval  $I = (-1, 1)$  into (lets say) 20 pieces  $P = \{(-1, -9/10), [-9/10, -8/10), \dots, [1/10, 2/10), [2/10, 3/10], \dots [9/10, 1)\}$ . For each smaller interval  $P_i$  we can choose a single point  $z_i$ , where  $z_{-10}$  is a point between -1 and -9/10, the point  $z_{-9}$  is a point between -9/10 and -8/10 and so on. We can create rectangles with width 1/10 and height  $f(z_i)$  and sum these rectangles to approximate the area under  $f_Z$ .

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The area of these rectangles is

$$P(-1 < z < 1) \approx \sum_{i=-10}^{10} \frac{1}{10} f(z_i) \quad (3.31)$$

As we split this interval into more and more intervals the rectangles will better and better approximate the area under  $f_Z$ .

<picture>

If there exists a number  $S$  such that the more splits we create the approximate area gets closer to  $S$ , then  $S$  is called the integral of  $f_Z$  from  $-1$  to  $1$  and is the exact area under  $f_Z$ .

We write

$$\int_{z=-1}^{z=1} f_Z(z) dz \quad (3.32)$$

to represent the area under the probability density  $f_Z$  between the values  $-1$  and  $1$ .

**Example:** For a continuous random variable  $X \sim U(a, b)$  the integral from  $a$  to a value  $x$  is the area of a rectangle.  $\int_{x=a}^{x=x} f_X(x) dx = \frac{x-a}{b-a}$ .

**Example:** The cumulative density function evaluate at a value  $y$  for a random variable  $Y$  is the area under the probability density function from the smallest possible value in the support of  $Y$  to  $y$ . This can be represented with an integral  $F_Y(y) = \int_{y=-\infty}^{y=y} f_Y(y) dy$ .

### 3.3.5 Normal Distribution

A continuous random variable  $X$  has a Normal distribution with parameters  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  if the support of  $X$  is all real numbers and the probability density function is

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \quad (3.33)$$

The normal distribution has several important properties that apply **only to the normal distribution**.

#### 3.3.5.1 The expected value and variance are equal to distinct parameters

The expected value and variance of  $X$  are

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu \quad (3.34)$$

$$V(X) = \sigma^2 \quad (3.35)$$

For most continuous distributions the expected value and variance are a combination of all the parameter values. The normal distribution is unique in that the expected value only contains a single parameter  $\mu$  and the variance only contains a unique parameter  $\sigma$ .

### 3.3.5.2 Shifting and scaling by a constant is easy

If a random variable  $Y = c + X$  where  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  then the distribution of  $Y$  is  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu + c, \sigma^2)$ . If a random variable  $Y = cX$  where  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  then the distribution of  $Y$  is  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, c^2\sigma^2)$ .

These shifting and scaling properties are unique to the normal distribution.

---

## 3.4 Quantiles and the quantile function

A  $(100 \times p)$  **quantile** is a value  $x$  such that

$$P(X < x) \leq p \quad (3.36)$$

$$P(X \leq x) \geq p \quad (3.37)$$

where  $p \in [0, 1]$ .

If  $X$  is a discrete random variable the  $P(X < x)$  may not equal  $P(X \leq)$ . However when  $X$  is a continuous random variable the  $P(X < x)$  will equal  $P(X \leq x)$  and so for a continuous random variable the  $(100 \times p)$  quantile is a value  $x$  such that

$$P(X < x) = p \quad (3.38)$$

**Example:** Define  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . Then The 97.5th quantile for  $X$  is the value 1.96 because  $P(X < 1.96) = 0.975$ . The 2.5th quantile for  $X$  is the value -1.96 because  $P(X < -1.96) = 0.025$ . The 90th quantile for  $X$  is the value 1.28 because  $P(X < 1.28) = 0.90$  and so the value -1.28 is the 10th quantile because  $P(X < -1.28) = 0.10$ .

**Example:** Define  $Y \sim \text{Binom}(10, 0.3)$ . Then the 90th quantile is the value 5. This is because  $P(Y \leq 5) = 0.95 \geq 0.90$  and  $P(Y < 5) = 0.85 \leq 0.90$ .

We can also define a **Quantile function** for a random variable  $X$  that takes as input values of  $p \in [0, 1]$  and returns the value  $x$  such that

$$P(X < x) \leq p \quad (3.39)$$

$$P(X \leq x) \geq p \quad (3.40)$$

Often we can think of the quantile function as the inverse of the cumulative mass (density) function. For a random variable  $Y$ , the cmf or cdf takes as input values in the support of  $Y$  and returns the probability that  $P(Y \leq y)$ .

Instead, the Quantile function takes as input a probability and returns the value such that  $P(Y \leq y) \geq p$  and  $P(Y < y) \leq p$ .

### 3.5 Exercises

1. Let  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(0.2)$ 
  - (a)  $P(X=0) = ?$
  - (b)  $P(X=1) = ?$
  - (c) Please compute  $\mathbb{E}(X)$
  - (d) Please compute  $V(X)$
  - (e) Define the  $\text{supp}(X)$
2. Let  $Y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta)$ , and show that  $P(Y = 1) = \mathbb{E}(Y)$
3. Let  $Y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta)$ , and show that  $V(Y) \leq \mathbb{E}(Y)$
4. Let  $Y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta)$ , and let  $Z$  be the following function of  $Y$ :

$$Z(y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } y = 1 \end{cases} \quad (3.41)$$

What probability distribution does  $Z$  follow and why?

5. Design an experiment (short description) and define a random variable  $Y$  that may follow a geometric distribution. In the context of your experiment, how would you communicate  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$  to another without statistical expertise?
6. Define a random variable  $R$  with a binomial distribution ( $R \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.2)$ ).
  - (a) Compute  $\mathbb{E}(R)$
  - (b) Compute  $V(R)$
  - (c) Describe to someone who may not have statistical expertise what  $P(R = 3)$  means? Be sure to include assumptions about the Binomial distribution and how the parameters  $N, \theta$  relate to this probability.
  - (d) For what value of  $\theta$  is  $V(R)$  the highest? Why does this make sense intuitively?
7. Suppose  $Y \sim \text{Pois}(2)$ 
  - (a) Compute  $P(Y = 2)$



- (b) Compute  $P(Y \leq 2)$
  - (c) Compute  $P(Y > 2)$
8.  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- (a) Let  $Y = X - \mu$ . What is the distribution of  $Y$ ?
  - (b) Let  $Z = Y/\sigma$ . What is the distribution of  $Z$ ?
  - (c) Compute  $P(Z = 0)$
9. Suppose we define a new random variable  $W$  with support  $\text{supp}(W) = [0, 1]$  and probability density function
- $$f_W(w) = 2w \tag{3.42}$$
- (a) Compute  $P(W < 1/2) = \int_0^{1/2} f_W(w) \, dw$
  - (b) Compute  $P(W < 1) = \int_0^1 f_W(w) \, dw$
10. Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable. Is  $P(X \leq x) = P(X < x)$ ? Why or why not?

**Part II**

**Statistics**



# 4

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## *Law of large numbers, Method of Moments, and the Central limit theorem*

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### CONTENTS

4.1	Introduction .....	73
4.2	Independent and identically distributed and sample .....	74
4.3	Properties of the Expected value and Variance of a sum .....	74
4.4	Law of large numbers .....	75
4.4.1	LLN for transformations .....	78
4.5	Statistics, Estimators, and the Method of Moments .....	79
4.6	Central limit theorem .....	83
4.7	Confidence intervals: the CLT in action .....	85
4.7.1	Z values .....	86
4.7.2	Using the CLT to build a confidence interval .....	88
4.7.3	Hypothesis Testing .....	90
4.7.3.1	Z-test for Normally distributed data .....	92
4.7.3.2	Z-test for a Bernoulli sample .....	93
4.7.3.3	The p-value .....	94
4.8	Exercises .....	94

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### 4.1 Introduction

The law of large numbers (LLN) and the central limit theorem underpin a large portion of statistical theory. We will see that the LLN will link proportions to probabilities, expected values to the sample mean, and allow us to estimate parameters of a random variable given a dataset.

The method of moments will be the primary tool we use to derive parameter estimates for parameters for a given distribution of a random variable. This method follows directly from the LLN.

Finally, we will explore the Central limit theorem which is the foundation of much of generating hypothesis tests and building confidence intervals.

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## 4.2 Independent and identically distributed and sample

To model a dataset,  $\mathcal{D}$ , we will need to make assumptions about how our data set was generated.

A common assumption for a dataset with  $n$  data points  $\mathcal{D} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  is that each data point was generated from a random variable  $x_1 \sim X_1, x_2 \sim X_2, \dots, x_n \sim X_n$ . The collection of random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  is called a **sample** and the dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  above is typically called one **realized sample** or a **realization** of the sample.

If we additionally assume that all the random variables are **identically distributed**, or that they have the same distribution  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \sim f$ , and we assume that for any  $i$  and  $j$  that  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  are independent then we call our sample a **random sample**.

Because pairwise independence between random variables and that all random variables are identically distributed are two common assumptions, they are abbreviated as **i.i.d** which stands for "independent and identically distributed".

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## 4.3 Properties of the Expected value and Variance of a sum

To explore the law of large numbers, we will need another property of the expectation. The expected value of the sum of random variables is the sum of the expected value of each individual random variable.

$$\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y) \quad (4.1)$$

When we combine the properties of expected values we have already learned, we can state

$$\mathbb{E}(aX + bY) = a\mathbb{E}(X) + b\mathbb{E}(Y) \quad (4.2)$$

and this is true for any number of random variables

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i \mathbb{E}(X_i) \quad (4.3)$$

We start at the definition of the expected value to derive this property

$$\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \sum_x \sum_y (X + Y) f_{X+Y}(x, y) \quad (4.4)$$

$$= \sum_x \sum_y X f_{X+Y}(x, y) + \sum_x \sum_y Y f_{X+Y}(x, y) \quad (4.5)$$

$$= \sum_x \sum_y X f_{X+Y}(x, y) + \sum_x \sum_y Y f_{X+Y}(x, y) \quad (4.6)$$

$$= \sum_x X f_X(x) + \sum_y Y f_Y(y) \quad (4.7)$$

$$= \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y) \quad (4.8)$$

**Example:** Suppose  $X \sim \text{Geom}(1/4)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1/2)$  then  $\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y) = \frac{1}{1/4} + \frac{1}{2} = 4\frac{1}{2}$ .

The variance is an expected value and so it follows that

$$V(X + Y) = V(X) + V(Y) \quad (4.9)$$

and we can state more generally that for two independent random variables

$$V(aX + bY) = a^2 V(X) + b^2 V(Y) \quad (4.10)$$

**Example:** Let  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(N, \theta)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(M, \gamma)$  then  $V(X - Y) = V(X + (-1)Y) = V(X) + (-1)^2 V(Y) = N\theta(1 - \theta) + M\gamma(1 - \gamma)$ .

## 4.4 Law of large numbers

The intuition behind the law of large numbers can be characterized by the following experiment: you are asked to flip a fair coin and record the whether the coin is heads up or tails up. After 10 flips you are asked to compute the proportion of heads up flips, after 50 flips you are asked to compute this proportion, after 100, 1,000, 10,000 flips you are asked to compute the proportion of heads up flips. We expect that if this coin is fair that the proportion of flips with heads face up will get closer and closer to 0.50.

The law of large numbers attempts to describe this intuition.

Define a sequence of random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  such that any pair of random variables,  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  are independent (that is  $P(X_i = x|X_j = y) = P(X_i = x)$ ). Finally, transform this sequence into a single random variable  $\bar{X}$  that is equal to  $\bar{X} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + \dots + X_N}{N}$ .

Then the law of large numbers (LLN) states that given any small number  $\epsilon$  that is greater than 0 as  $n$  grows towards infinity ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ )

$$P(|\bar{X}_n - \mu| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.11)$$

where  $\mu = \mathbb{E}(\bar{X})$ .

We can picture a distribution  $Z_n = |\bar{X}_n - \mu|$  that depends on  $n$  and as  $n$  increase the random variable  $Z_n$  assigns more and more probability to the value 0. <pic>

The LLN has many applications.

### *Proportions approximate probabilities*

Let a sequence of Bernoulli distributed random variables be (i) pairwise independent and (ii) be distributed the same  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$ .

Lets take a look at the transformation  $\bar{X}$ . Consider a sequence of two random variables with a Bernoulli distribution. Then define

$$S = X_1 + X_2 \quad (4.12)$$

The expected value of  $S$  is

$$\mathbb{E}(S) = \mathbb{E}(X_1 + X_2) \quad (4.13)$$

$$= \mathbb{E}(X_1) + \mathbb{E}(X_2) \quad (4.14)$$

$$= \theta + \theta \quad (4.15)$$

$$= 2\theta \quad (4.16)$$

and the expected value of  $\bar{X}$  is then

$$\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}) = \frac{\mathbb{E}(S)}{2} = \frac{2\theta}{2} = \theta \quad (4.17)$$

To gain intuition about what a sample from  $\bar{X}$  looks like, assume we collect data points from  $n$  random variables  $x_1 \sim X_1, x_2 \sim X_2, \dots, x_n \sim X_n$ . An example of a single data point  $d$  could be

$$d = (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0) \quad (4.18)$$

and the sample mean  $\bar{x}$ , one sample from  $\bar{X}$ , is then

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{10} d_i \quad (4.19)$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{S}{n} \quad (4.20)$$

However, the value of  $S$  can be counted in two different ways. We can sum up  $d_i$  one by one in order, or we can multiply zero by the frequency of zeros in our dataset, multiply 1 by the frequency of ones in our dataset, and sum both of these products.

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{10} d_i \quad (4.21)$$

$$= 0 + 1 + 0 + 1 + 0 + 0 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 0 \quad (4.22)$$

$$S = N(0) \cdot 0 + N(1) \cdot 1 \quad (4.23)$$

where  $N(x)$  is the number of values  $x$  in our dataset.

If we use the above method to sum our data points the sample mean simplifies to

$$\bar{x} = \frac{N(0) \cdot 0 + N(1) \cdot 1}{N} \quad (4.24)$$

$$= \frac{N(1)}{N}. \quad (4.25)$$

The sample mean is the proportion of 1s ( $p_n$ ) from our sample of  $n$  data points, and the law of large number then says that

$$P(|\bar{X} - \mu| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.26)$$

$$P(|p_n - \theta| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.27)$$

or, roughly, that the sample proportion approaches  $\theta$ , the true probability that a 1 will appear.

---



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*The Relationship between the expected value and the sample mean*

Define a discrete random variable  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \sim f_X$ ,  
 $\text{supp}(X_i) = \{1, 2, 3\}$

Lets assume  $n = 10$  and take a closer look at  $S$ . One sample from our  $n = 10$  random variables could be  $d = (2, 1, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 1, 2, 2)$  and we can compute the sum  $S = 2 + 1 + 3 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 + 1 + 2 + 2$ . However, we could have also summed these ten numbers by multiplying each unique number in the dataset by the frequency this number occurs and then summing these products:  $S = N(1) \cdot 1 + N(2) \cdot 2 + N(3) \cdot 3$ , where  $N(x)$  is the number of times the value  $x$  appears. For our specific example  $S = 2 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 3$ . The sample mean is then

$$\bar{x} = \frac{S}{N} \quad (4.28)$$

$$= \frac{N(1) \cdot 1 + N(2) \cdot 2 + N(3) \cdot 3}{N} \quad (4.29)$$

$$= \frac{N(1)}{N}1 + \frac{N(2)}{N}2 + \frac{N(3)}{N}3 \quad (4.30)$$

We know from our discussion of the LLN and Bernoulli distributed random variables that  $\frac{N(1)}{N}$  is the proportion of 1s,  $p_n(1)$ , and this proportion will approach the true probability of a 1 as we collect more data (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ).

Let's rewrite the above sample mean computation

$$\bar{x} = \frac{N(1)}{N}1 + \frac{N(2)}{N}2 + \frac{N(3)}{N}3 \quad (4.31)$$

$$= p_n(1)1 + p_n(2)2 + p_n(3)3 \quad (4.32)$$

$$(4.33)$$

As  $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{N(1)}{N}1 + \frac{N(2)}{N}2 + \frac{N(3)}{N}3 \quad (4.34)$$

$$= f_X(1)1 + f_X(2)2 + f_X(3)3 \quad (4.35)$$

but the above is the expected value of  $X$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(X)$ , and so as  $n$  gets larger the sample mean will become closer to the true expected value.

---

#### 4.4.1 LLN for transformations

Earlier we saw that by definition if we define a random variable  $X$  and a function  $g$  then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \sum_{i \in \text{supp}(X)} g(x_i) f_X(x_i) \quad (4.36)$$

Because the above is equivalent to the expectation of a transformed random variable  $Y = g(X)$  the LLN has a similar result for any transformation of a random variable.

As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$P(|\bar{Y}_n - \mu_Y| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.37)$$

where  $\mu_Y = \mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$ .

The above implies that the LLN applies to any transformation of a random variable, including

$$S = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mu)^2}{N} \quad (4.38)$$

where  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$ .

Let us find a simple expression for  $\mathbb{E}(S)$ .

$$\mathbb{E}(S) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mu)^2}{N} \right] \quad (4.39)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} [(X_i - \mu)^2] \quad (4.40)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N V(X) \quad (4.41)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} NV(X) = V(X) \quad (4.42)$$

Because  $\mathbb{E}(S) = V(X)$ , the LLN states that for any  $\epsilon > 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$P(|S - V(X)| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.43)$$

or that  $S$  approaches the true variance of  $X$ .

---

## 4.5 Statistics, Estimators, and the Method of Moments

Given a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)$  or collection of random variables that are i.i.d, a **statistic** is a function of our sample

$T(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)$ . Because a statistic is a function of a collection of random variables, our statistic too can be characterized by a probability distribution over potential values of the statistic.

For a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)$  all with the same probability density function  $f_X(\theta)$  where  $\theta$  is a parameter, an *estimator*,  $T(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  of  $\theta$  is (i) a statistic that (ii) is meant get closer to  $\theta$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

An **estimate** is an estimator applied to a realized sample, and an estimate for a parameter is often denoted as the parameter with a "hat". For example, an estimate of the parameter  $\beta$  would be denoted  $\hat{\beta}$ .

One way to develop an estimator for a parameter, or for several parameters, is to use the **Method of Moments**. For a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  where each random variable follows the same probability density function with  $k$  parameters  $X_i \sim f_X(x|\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_k)$ , the Method of moments generates estimators for all  $k$  parameters by solving this set of equations

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = g_1(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \quad (4.44)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X^2) = g_2(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \quad (4.45)$$

$$\vdots \quad (4.46)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X^k) = g_k(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k), \quad (4.47)$$

replacing each exact, expected value by sample means. The expected value  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  is replaced by  $\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i / N$ , the expected value  $\mathbb{E}(X^2)$  is replaced by its sample mean  $\bar{X^2} = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 / N$ , etc.

Lets look at an example.

---

### *MoM estimator for the Bernoulli*

Suppose we are studying the probability of survival among patients who are treated with dialysis and experienced a myocardial infarction (see [10.1056/NEJM199809173391203](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJM199809173391203) for a manuscript on this topic). We collect data on 50 patients and model whether they survive or not as a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_{50})$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$  and the value 1 represents survival and zero otherwise. We follow patients for a year and record a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$  that contains 36 ones and 14 zeros.

Because the Bernoulli distribution has a single parameter we only need a single equation that related the expected value and

our parameter  $\theta$ . Because the Bernoulli distribution has a single parameter we only need a single equation that related the expected value and our parameter  $\theta$ .

The expected value is  $E(X) = \theta$  and so we can derive a MoM estimator by replacing the exact  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  with the sample mean  $\bar{X}$ . Our estimator for  $\theta$  is  $\hat{\theta} = \bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^N x_i / N = 36/50 = 72\%$ .

### MoM estimator for the Uniform Continuous

Suppose  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{10})$  is a random sample such that  $Y_i \sim U(\alpha, \beta)$ . We collect a dataset (realized sample)  $\mathcal{D} = (0.22, 0.45, 0.12, 0.32, 0.56, 0.73, 0.91, 0.51, 0.11, 0.67)$ . To develop an estimate for  $\alpha$  and an estimate for  $\beta$  using the method of moments, we will need to look at the following two equations:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \quad (4.48)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X^2) = g(\alpha, \beta) \quad (4.49)$$

On first glance, the second equation sounds difficult to solve. However, we found an expression for the variance that depends on  $\mathbb{E}(X^2)$  and on  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  in chapter 2, exercise 9.

$$V(X) = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - [\mathbb{E}(X)]^2 \quad (4.50)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X^2) = V(X) + [\mathbb{E}(X)]^2 \quad (4.51)$$

We know that  $V(X) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$  and so

$$\mathbb{E}(X^2) = V(X) + [\mathbb{E}(X)]^2 \quad (4.52)$$

$$= \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12} + \left[ \frac{(\alpha + \beta)}{2} \right]^2 \quad (4.53)$$

$$= \frac{\beta^2 + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha\beta}{12} + \frac{\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + 2\alpha\beta}{4} \quad (4.54)$$

$$= \frac{\beta^2 + \alpha^2 + \alpha\beta}{3} \quad (4.55)$$

Now our MoM equations are

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \quad (4.56)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X^2) = \frac{\beta^2 + \alpha^2 + \alpha\beta}{3} \quad (4.57)$$

and we will replace  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  with the sample mean  $\bar{X}$  and replace  $\mathbb{E}(X^2)$  with  $\bar{X}^2$ , and then solve for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \quad (4.58)$$

$$\bar{X}^2 = \frac{\beta^2 + \alpha^2 + \alpha\beta}{3} \quad (4.59)$$

From the first equation we find  $\alpha = 2\bar{X} - \beta$ . We can plug the above into the second equation to find

$$\bar{X}^2 = \frac{\beta^2 + (2\bar{X} - \beta)^2 + (2\bar{X} - \beta)\beta}{3} \quad (4.60)$$

$$3\bar{X}^2 = \beta^2 + 4\bar{X}^2 + \beta^2 - 4\bar{X}\beta + 2\bar{X}\beta - \beta^2 \quad (4.61)$$

$$3\bar{X}^2 = \beta^2 + 4\bar{X}^2 - 2\bar{X}\beta \quad (4.62)$$

$$0 = \beta^2 - (2\bar{X})\beta + (4\bar{X}^2 - 3\bar{X}^2) \quad (4.63)$$

$$\hat{\beta} = 2\bar{X} \pm \frac{\sqrt{(2\bar{X})^2 - 4(1)(4\bar{X}^2 - 3\bar{X}^2)}}{2} \quad (4.64)$$

$$\hat{\beta} = 2\bar{X} \pm \frac{\sqrt{4\bar{X}^2 - (16\bar{X}^2 - 12\bar{X}^2)}}{2} \quad (4.65)$$

$$\hat{\beta} = 2\bar{X} \pm \frac{\sqrt{-12\bar{X}^2 + 12\bar{X}^2}}{2} \quad (4.66)$$

$$\hat{\beta} = 2\bar{X} \pm \frac{2\sqrt{3}\sqrt{\bar{X}^2 - \bar{X}^2}}{2} \quad (4.67)$$

$$\hat{\beta} = 2\bar{X} \pm \sqrt{3}\sqrt{\bar{X}^2 - \bar{X}^2} \quad (4.68)$$

$$(4.69)$$

and so for our problem above  $\hat{\beta} = 1.37$  and so  $\alpha = -0.45$ .

---

### MoM estimator for the Poisson

Suppose  $(R_1, R_2, \dots, R_5)$  is a random sample such that  $R_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ , and we are given the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (3, 7, 10, 12, 45)$ .

We can develop an estimator for  $\lambda$  by using the LLN and MoM:

$$\frac{1}{n} (R_1 + R_2 + \dots + R_n) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(R) \quad (4.70)$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

The MoM of moments estimator is

$$\frac{1}{n} (r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_n) \approx \mathbb{E}(R) \quad (4.71)$$

$$\frac{1}{n} (r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_n) = \lambda \quad (4.72)$$

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n r_i \quad (4.73)$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

In our example, our estimate for the true  $\lambda$  would be

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{1}{5} (3 + 7 + 10 + 12 + 45) = 15.4 \quad (4.74)$$

We can compute an estimated expected value, variance, estimated probabilities, etc by replacing the our true parameter value  $\lambda$  with our estimate  $\hat{\lambda}$ . For example, an estimate for the expected value is

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{R}) = \hat{\lambda} = 15.4, \quad (4.75)$$

an estimated probability mass function

$$f_R(r; \hat{\lambda}) = e^{-\hat{\lambda}} \frac{\hat{\lambda}^r}{r!} \quad (4.76)$$


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## 4.6 Central limit theorem

Given a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , we used the LLN and method of moments to produce point estimates—a single number—for a parameter that assigned probabilities to value of  $X_i$ . However the LLN only guarantees that our estimator will grow closer to the true parameter value as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . The LLN does not describe how close we are to the true parameter value for any specific  $n$ .

The Central limit theorem (CLT) describes the statistical distribution of the sample mean  $\bar{X}$ , allowing us to describe how close we are to the true parameter value of interest.

For a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  the **Central Limit Theorem** states

$$\bar{X}_n \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right) \quad (4.77)$$

or that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sim \mathcal{N}\left(n\mu, n\sigma^2\right) \quad (4.78)$$

where  $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n)$ ,  $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$  and  $\sigma^2 = V(X)$ .

---

### *CLT for the Bernoulli*

Suppose we wish to study a random sample of  $n$  Bernoulli distributed random variables  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n) \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$ .

We know that  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = \theta$  and  $V(Y) = \theta(1 - \theta)$ , and so

$$\bar{Y}_n \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\theta, \frac{\theta(1 - \theta)}{n}\right) \quad (4.79)$$

We saw in the previous section on the LLN and MoM that an estimate for  $\theta$  is the sample mean so then

$$\hat{\theta} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\theta, \frac{\theta(1 - \theta)}{n}\right) \quad (4.80)$$

However, we still cannot compute probabilities that  $\hat{\theta}$  is in

some interval because the Normal distribution on the right hand side involves the true, unknowable,  $\theta$ .

$$\hat{\theta}(Y) - \theta \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{\theta(1-\theta)}{n}\right) \quad (4.81)$$

here we introduce the notation  $\hat{\theta}(Y)$  to reinforce that this is a random variable and not a single value.

To approximate the difference  $\hat{\theta}(Y) - \theta$  we can replace  $\theta$  with our MoM estimate  $\bar{y}$ .

$$\hat{\theta}(Y) - \theta \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{\bar{y}_n(1-\bar{y}_n)}{n}\right) \quad (4.82)$$

We can use the above to approximate the probability that the difference between our estimated  $\hat{\theta}$  and the true  $\theta$  is inside some interval. Suppose we collect the data  $\mathcal{D} = (1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0)$ . Then the CLT says

$$\hat{\theta}(Y) - \theta \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{\bar{y}_n(1-\bar{y}_n)}{n}\right) \quad (4.83)$$

$$\hat{\theta}(Y) - \theta \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{\frac{9}{15} \cdot \frac{6}{15}}{15}\right) \quad (4.84)$$

$$(4.85)$$

and we can compute for example the probability that our estimate is 0.1 away from the truth.

$$P(-0.1 < \hat{\theta}(Y) - \theta < 0.1) = F(0.1) - F(-0.1) \approx 0.57 \quad (4.86)$$

In other words, there is a 0.57 probability that our estimate is within 0.1 of the true parameter value  $\theta$ .

## 4.7 Confidence intervals: the CLT in action

Given a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , a **confidence interval** for a parameter  $\theta$  is a pair of statistics  $(L(X), U(X))$  such that  $P(\theta \in [L(X), U(X)]) =$



$1 - \alpha$ . The number  $\alpha$  is called the **confidence coefficient** and we often say that the interval  $[L(X), U(X)]$  is a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for the parameter  $\theta$ .

A confidence interval provides a range of values that the true parameter is likely to be between.

**Example:** Suppose we decide to study the prevalence of tuberculosis among people who have diabetes mellitus. Our model supposes we can represent each person in our sample with a random variable  $X \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$  where  $\theta$  is the probability of an active tuberculosis infection. Given a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$ , we find 34 people had an active infection and 3,456 did not. If we generate a 95% confidence interval for the parameter  $\theta$  that is  $[0.05\%, 2\%]$  then there are two claims. Claim one: The confidence interval applied to a random sample that follows all of our assumptions will have a 95% probability that the parameter value is within our confidence interval. Claim two: the confidence interval that was produced from our data either does or does not contain the true parameter value, and we are 95% confident that this interval contains the true parameter value.

#### 4.7.1 Z values

Suppose we assumed a random sample generated an observed dataset  $\mathcal{D}$

$$(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \quad (4.87)$$

$$X_i \sim f \quad (4.88)$$

The following transformation

$$Z = \frac{X - \mathbb{E}(X)}{\sqrt{V(X)}} \quad (4.89)$$

is called **standardizing** a random variable.

We can show that a standardized variable has an expected value of zero and variance of one using expected value and variance properties.

$$\mathbb{E}(Z) = \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{V(X)}} [X - \mathbb{E}(X)]\right) \quad (4.90)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{V(X)}} [\mathbb{E}(X) - \mathbb{E}(X)] \quad (4.91)$$

$$= 0 \quad (4.92)$$

The expected value of our standardized random variable  $Z$  is zero.

$$V(Z) = V\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{V(X)}} [X - \mathbb{E}(X)]\right) \quad (4.93)$$

$$= \frac{1}{V(X)} [V(X) - 0] \quad (4.94)$$

$$= 1 \quad (4.95)$$

The variance of our standardized random variable  $Z$  is one.

In practice, we can transform our individual data points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  into standard, or "z" scores by subtracting from each point  $x_i$  the sample mean and sample standard deviation.

**Example:** Suppose we are given a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (1.05, 4.20, -2.80, 1.34)$ . To transform these four points into four z-scores we need to follow three steps: (i) compute the sample mean, (ii) compute the sample standard deviation, and (iii) subtract from each point the sample mean and divide this difference by the sample standard deviation.

The sample mean is

$$\bar{x} = (1.05 + 4.20 - 2.80 + 1.34) / 4 = 0.95$$

.

The sample standard deviation is

$$s = \left[ (1.05 - 0.95)^2 + (4.20 - 0.95)^2 + (-2.80 - 0.95)^2 + (1.34 - 0.95)^2 \right] / 4 = 2.49$$

.

Our four z-scores are then

$$z = ((1.05 - 0.95) / 2.49, (4.20 - 0.95) / 2.49, (-2.80 - 0.95) / 2.49, (1.34 - 0.95) / 2.49)$$

Z-scores are useful for characterizing the probability of sample points in a dataset and for eliminating measurement units from a set of sample points. The z score for a sample point  $z_i$

$$z_i = \frac{x_i - \mathbb{E}(X)}{\sqrt{V(X)}} \quad (4.96)$$

can be interpreted as the number of standard deviations the sample point  $x_i$  is from the expected value of the random variable  $X_i$ .

Chebychev's inequality tells us that values generated by a random variable  $X$  are likely close to the expected value, and so large z-scores are improbable

while z-scores close to zero are probable. A z-score is meant to map values to the probability that this observation occurred. Large z values should denote a small probability that this event occurred and small z values should denote a large probability that this event occurred.

Z-scores also eliminate measurement units ( $u$ ) from an observation by mapping  $u$  to units of standard deviation. Mapping the units of two or more variables to the number of standard deviations from their mean is a convenient way to compare two variables (i) where one variable has large values and the second has small values (ii) where one variable has a large variance and the second has a small variance. Large, small values and large, small variances associated with a variable are often because of the chosen units.

#### 4.7.2 Using the CLT to build a confidence interval

The method of moments (MoM) has given us an algorithm for estimating parameter values, however the MoM only provides a single estimate. Because we compute our estimated parameter values from a sample of data, we know that our estimate is not exact and will vary for every data set we collect.

A confidence interval for a parameter, or parameters, is a set of statistics—a lower bound ( $L$ ) and upper bound ( $U$ )—where we expect the true parameter values to lie with high probability. Confidence intervals take into account the size of our sample dataset, the variability in our estimate of parameter values, and should accompany a point estimate for a parameter.

##### Example:

More formally, given a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , a confidence interval for the parameter  $\theta$  is a pair of statistics  $[L(X), U(X)]$  such that  $P(\theta \in [L(X), U(X)]) = 1 - \alpha$ . The value  $\alpha$  is called the confidence coefficient and the interval  $[L(X), U(X)]$  is called a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval.

One way to build a confidence interval is to use the Central Limit Theorem. The CLT states that

$$\bar{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \quad (4.97)$$

where  $\mu$  is  $E(X)$  and  $\sigma^2$  is  $V(X)$ .

Suppose  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ . The CLT states that

$$\bar{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2/n) \quad (4.98)$$

We can subtract from our random variable  $\bar{X}$  the expected value  $\mu$

$$\bar{X} - \mu \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2/n) \quad (4.99)$$

and divide by  $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$  to find that

$$\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (4.100)$$

$$Z = \frac{\sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)}{\sigma} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (4.101)$$

where  $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$  and  $\sigma^2 = V(X)$ .

The translated and scaled quantity above, a new random variable  $Z$ , has a standard normal distribution. A random variable  $Z$  has a **standard normal** distribution if  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . That is, a normal distribution with expected value zero and variance one.

One way to form a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence for a parameter  $\mu$  is to find two values  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $P(a < Z < b) = 1 - \alpha$  and then solve for  $\mu$ .

Lets suppose we found these two values  $a$  and  $b$

$$P(a < Z < b) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.102)$$

$$P\left(a < \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}} < b\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.103)$$

$$P\left(a \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} < \bar{X} - \mu < b \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.104)$$

$$P\left(-a \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} > \mu - \bar{X} > -b \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.105)$$

$$P\left(\bar{X} - a \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} > \mu > \bar{X} - b \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.106)$$

The normal distribution is symmetric about 0 and so if  $P(Z > a) = \alpha$  then  $P(Z < -a) = \alpha$ . To bound  $Z$  such that  $P(a < Z < b) = 1 - \alpha$  we will split  $1 - \alpha$  evenly.

Suppose we find values  $a$  and  $b$  such that

$$P(Z < a) = \alpha/2 \quad (4.107)$$

$$P(Z > b) = \alpha/2 \quad (4.108)$$

$$(4.109)$$

then

$$P([Z < a] \cup [a < Z < b] \cup [Z > b]) = 1 \quad (4.110)$$

$$P(Z < a) + P(a < Z < b) + P(Z > b) = 1 \quad (4.111)$$

$$P(a < Z < b) = 1 - P(Z < a) - P(Z > b) \quad (4.112)$$

$$P(a < Z < b) = 1 - \alpha/2 - \alpha/2 \quad (4.113)$$

$$P(a < Z < b) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.114)$$

We define the symbol  $z_\alpha$  as the value such that the probability that a random variable  $Z$  with a standard normal distribution,  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , is less than  $z_\alpha$  equals  $\alpha$ .

$$P(Z < z_\alpha) = \alpha. \quad (4.115)$$

So then

$$P\left(\bar{X} - a \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} > \mu > \bar{X} - b \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.116)$$

$$P\left(\bar{X} - z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} > \mu > \bar{X} - z_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.117)$$

$$P\left(\bar{X} + z_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} > \mu > \bar{X} - z_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.118)$$

$$P\left(\bar{X} - z_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} < \mu < \bar{X} + z_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad (4.119)$$

Often a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence for  $\mu$  is written

$$\bar{X} \pm z_{1-\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \quad (4.120)$$

**Example:** Suppose  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$  and  $Y_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ . The variance for  $Y_i$ ,  $\sigma^2 = V(Y)$  is  $\lambda$ . Then a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\lambda$  is  $\bar{Y} \pm z_{1-\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{n}}$ . Given a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (2, 5, 3, 8, 10)$  we can estimate  $\hat{\lambda} = \bar{y}$  and so a sample confidence interval is  $\bar{y} \pm z_{1-\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\bar{y}}{n}} = 5.6 \pm z_{1-\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{5.6}{5}}$

Below is a table of common  $z$  values

A 95% confidence interval will use the  $z$  values -1.96 and 1.96, a 90% confidence interval will use the  $z$  values -1.64 and 1.64, and a 80% confidence interval will use the values -1.28 and 1.28.

### 4.7.3 Hypothesis Testing

The goal of statistical hypothesis testing is to support or deny a claim about a parameter. We first generate a set of statements about a parameter—called a

$\alpha$	$z_\alpha$
0.025	-1.96
0.050	-1.64
0.100	-1.28
0.500	0
0.900	1.28
0.950	1.64
0.975	1.96

**hypotheses**—that can we test. Second, we collect data that will help us make a decision about whether one statement or the other is true. Third, we decide which statement can be refuted.

A **hypothesis** is typically a pair of statements about a parameter. The **null hypothesis** ( $H_0$ ) is a statement about a parameter value that allows us to characterize data generated by that parameter.

**Example:** Suppose the following random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$   $X_i \text{ Bern}(\theta)$ . Then a null hypothesis might be  $\theta = 0.50$ . This statement about a parameter would allow us to characterize samples of data  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  we may see from our random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ .

The **alternative hypothesis** ( $H_1$ ) is a statement about a parameter value that is contrary to the null hypothesis.

**Example:** Suppose the sample sample and distribution as in the above example. Then an alternative hypothesis may be  $\theta > 0.50$ . This statement about a parameter would also allow us to characterize samples of data  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  we may see from our random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ .

We will say that a **hypothesis** must contain a null and alternative statement.

**Example:** A hypothesis may be  $H_0 : \theta = 0.50$  vs  $H_1 : \theta > 0.50$

Though we plan to collect data and create a test that will support or deny the above hypothesis, we may make a mistake. We will never know the true parameter value from any finite given random sample and so our test will be imperfect. Mistakes in hypothesis testing are categorized into two types: types I and II. A **type I error** (informally called a false positive) is when we decide to accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) however the null hypothesis is the truth. A **type II error** (informally called a false negative) is when we decide to accept the null hypothesis however the alternative hypothesis is true. Related to type I and II errors is the **power** of a hypothesis. The **power** of a hypothesis test is the probability that we decide on the alternative hypothesis given that the alternative hypothesis is true.

Define a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)$  and  $X_i \text{ f}$ . We define the **space**,  $S$ , of our random sample as  $\text{supp}(X_1) \times \text{supp}(X_2) \times \dots \times \text{supp}(X_n)$ . The

space of a random sample is the set of all possible tuples that our random sample could generate, or all possible data sets.

A **hypothesis test** is a decision criteria such that we reject the null hypothesis if a realization  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  from our random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  satisfies some criteria. The set  $C$  of all possible realizations that lead us to reject the null hypothesis is called the **critical region**.

**Example:** Suppose  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  and  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1)$ . We can form the hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 0$  vs  $H_1 : \mu > 0$ . Intuitively we may decide to collect realizations  $\mathcal{D} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ , compute  $\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i / n$ , and decide to reject the null hypothesis if  $\bar{x} > c$ . The set of all samples  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  where  $\bar{x} > c$  would be our **critical region**.

#### 4.7.3.1 Z-test for Normally distributed data

A two-sided one-sample  $Z$  test supposes that given a random samples  $(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)$  the following null and alternative hypotheses

$$H_0 : \mu = \mu_0 \quad (4.121)$$

$$H_1 : \mu \neq \mu_0 \quad (4.122)$$

where  $\mu_0$  is a constant, we can form the following statistic—called a test statistic

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X} - \mu_0}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}} \quad (4.123)$$

A **test statistic** is a statistic that is used to help determine whether a sample is or is not in a pre-specified critical region.

If the  $H_0$  was true, we would expect  $\bar{X}$  to be close to the value  $\mu_0$ , then our test statistic  $Z$  should be close to the value zero. When  $Z$  is far from zero then we would reject  $H_0$  and suspect that  $H_1$  is the more plausible conclusion.

Then we can define a critical region ( $C$ ) as

$$C = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mid |Z| > c\} \quad (4.124)$$

The value  $c$  can be chosen by limiting our potential type I error, the error that we accept  $H_1$  given that  $H_0$  is true. If  $H_0$  is true then the probability that we accept  $H_1$  is all the possible samples such that

$$P(|Z| > c) \quad (4.125)$$

$$P(-c > Z > c) \quad (4.126)$$

or samples where  $Z$  is smaller than negative  $c$  and larger than positive  $c$ .

Lets limit our type I error to  $\alpha$  so that we need to find a value  $c$  such that

$$P(-c > Z > c) \leq \alpha \quad (4.127)$$

We will split the probability  $\alpha$  in half so that

$$P(Z > c) \leq \frac{\alpha}{2} \quad (4.128)$$

$$P(Z < -c) \leq \frac{\alpha}{2} \quad (4.129)$$

We know from the CLT that the random variable  $Z$  has a standard normal distribution if  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu_0$ , in other words, if  $H_0$  is true. This means that we can compute the probability that

$$P(Z > c) = \frac{\alpha}{2}. \quad (4.130)$$

This is by definition the value  $z_{1-\alpha/2}$ .

**Example:** Suppose we collect a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (-0.43, 1.58, -2.37, -0.11, -0.15, 2.23, -0.87, -1.24, 1.55, 0.38)$ . We assume that the data was generated from a random sample  $(G_1, G_2, \dots, G_{10})$  where  $G_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . We wish to test the following hypotheses:

$$H_0 : \mu = 0 \quad (4.131)$$

$$H_1 : \mu > 0 \quad (4.132)$$

with the critical region  $C = \{(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_{10}) | Z > 2\}$

We first compute our  $Z$  sample statistic  $Z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{\sigma^2 / \sqrt{n}} = \frac{0.057 - 0}{0.18 / \sqrt{10}} = 1.01$ . We used the MoM estimate for  $\sigma^2$ . Because our sample  $Z$  statistic is  $1.01 < 2$  we cannot reject the null hypothesis.

#### 4.7.3.2 Z-test for a Bernoulli sample

The  $Z$ -test can be applied to any random sample. For example, suppose we take a random sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$  where  $Y_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$ .

We can build a  $Z$  test statistic for hypotheses of the form

$$H_0 : \theta = \theta_0 \quad (4.133)$$

$$H_1 : \theta \neq \theta_0 \quad (4.134)$$



as

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X} - \theta_0}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}} \quad (4.135)$$

$$= \frac{\bar{X} - \theta_0}{\sqrt{\hat{\theta}(1 - \hat{\theta})/n}} \quad (4.136)$$

$$(4.137)$$

where  $\hat{\theta}$  is the MoM estimator for  $\theta$ .

### 4.7.3.3 The p-value

\nobreak

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## 4.8 Exercises

1. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $D = (10, 2, 6, 7, 17, 3, 1, 1, 6, 5, 4, 1)$  and further we assume that each data point  $d_i$  was generated by sampling from a sequence of i.i.d random variables  $d_1 \sim X_1, d_2 \sim X_2, \dots, d_{12} \sim X_{12}$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Geom}(p)$ .
  - (a) State the LLN for the above problem
  - (b) Compute the sample mean of  $D$
  - (c) What can we say about the sample mean, using the LLN, if we collect 13, 14,  $\dots$  data points?
2. Suppose we collect the following sample  $\mathcal{D} = (10, 2, 6, 7, 17, 3, 1, 1, 6, 5, 4, 1)$  and further we assume that each data point  $d_i$  was generated by sampling from a sequence of i.i.d random variables  $d_1 \sim X_1, d_2 \sim X_2, \dots, d_{12} \sim X_{12}$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ .
  - (a) State the LLN for the above problem
  - (b) Compute the sample variance
  - (c) What can we say about the sample variance, using the LLN, if we collect 13, 14,  $\dots$  data points?
3. Define independent and identically distributed random variables  $B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4, B_5 \sim \text{Geom}(p)$ . Suppose we sample these rvs and collect  $d = (12, 9, 1, 5, 3)$ .
  - (a) Use the method of moments to develop an estimator for  $p$ .
  - (b) Estimate  $p$  from the above sample  $\mathcal{D}$ .

- (c) What is the estimated expected value?
  - (d) What is the estimated variance?
  - (e) What is the estimated  $P(B_1 = 1)$
4. Assume  $(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, \dots, Y_n)$  are a random sample where  $Y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . Further assume we collected the data set  $\mathcal{D} = (1.30, -2.11, 1.44, 0.35, -0.40, 0.61, -1.06, -0.86, -0.60, 0.19)$ .
- (a) Use the method of moments to develop an estimator for  $\mu$  and for  $\sigma^2$ .
  - (b) Estimate  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  from the above sample  $\mathcal{D}$ .
  - (c) What is the estimated expected value?
  - (d) What is the estimated variance?
  - (e) What is the estimated  $P(Y_1 = 2)$
5. Lets assume we decide to study the incubation period for the influenza virus. The incubation period is defined as the number of days between when the virus infects a host and when that host becomes symptomatic. We collect from 5 individuals the date they came in contact with someone who was infected with influenza and the date they themselves were symptomatic.

$$\mathcal{D} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Date of contact} & \text{Date of Symptoms} \\ 02/20 & 02/21 \\ 04/12 & 04/17 \\ 03/22 & 03/25 \\ 10/24 & 10/26 \\ 07/15 & 07/18 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.138)$$

- (a) Provide a statistical setup for this data. Define a sample, assumptions about the sample, and a distribution for each random variable that is a part of the sample
  - (b) Estimate the parameters in your statistical setup using the Method of Moments
  - (c) Describe your results
6. Suppose  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$  is a random sample where  $Y_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ .
- (a) Define an estimator for  $\lambda$  using the MoM
  - (b) Characterize the distribution of  $\hat{\lambda}$  using the CLT.

7. The Aedes mosquito is a vector for yellow and dengue fever, the Zika virus, and Chikungunya. Tracking the daily incidence of Aedes mosquitoes in a given location is one signal associated with the incidence of these four diseases. Mosquitoes are routinely captured and counted and the daily frequency of mosquitoes is reported to departments of public health.

Suppose we capture and count the number of mosquitoes in a specific county for two weeks, and compile this data in the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (124, 98, 188, 212, 100, 34, 90, 99, 46, 176, 67, 94, 344, 67)$  where one data point represents the number of mosquitoes collected in one day.

- (a) Define a set of random variables that we will use to model the daily frequency of mosquitoes. Include notation for the random sample and define a common Poisson distribution for all random variables.
  - (b) Use the method of moments to estimate parameter value ( $\lambda$ ) from the given dataset  $\mathcal{D}$
  - (c) Estimate the probability that we observe 124 mosquitoes
  - (d) Estimate the probability that we observe 120 to 125 mosquitoes
  - (e) Estimate the expected value and the variance
  - (f) Let's rework the above model and assume that each random variable follows a Normal distribution. Use the method of moments to estimate parameters value ( $\mu, \sigma^2$ ) from the given dataset  $\mathcal{D}$ .
  - (g) Estimate the expected value and the variance for the Normal model
8. A Randomized Control trial (RCT) is a common study design to compare the efficacy and safety of a novel device. Suppose the sponsor for a new cardiovascular device wishes to compare the safety of their device, which they define as the percent of patients who survive 7 days after the procedure, and the efficacy, which they define as the percent of patients who survive at one year after the procedure.

The trial enrolls 50 patients to receive the device (the device group) and 50 patients who receive optimal medical therapy (the control group). The trial enrolls these 100 patients over the course of two years. At year 3 all 100 patients have been contacted at one year after their procedure (called a patient's one year followup).

We find that in the device group 8 patients did not survive at or after 7 days from the date of their procedure and 18 patients did not survive one year after the date of their procedure. In the control group 9 patients did

not survive at or after 7 days and 33 patients did not survive one year after the procedure.

- (a) Define a set of random variables that we will use to model the number of patients in the device group who survive 7 days after the procedure out of a total of 50 patients and a second set of random variables to model the number of patients in the control group who survive 7 days after the procedure out of a total of 50 patients. Include mathematical notation for the random sample and a common distribution for both sets of random variables.
  - (b) Use the Method of Moments to estimate the parameters for the distribution you chose for survival at or after 7 day for patients in the device group. Report the parameter estimate.
  - (c) Use the Method of Moments to estimate the parameters for the distribution you chose for survival at or after 7 days for patients in the control group. Report the parameter estimate.
  - (d) What can you conclude about the safety of the novel device compared to the safety of optimal medical therapy?
  - (e) Use the Method of Moments to estimate the parameters for the distribution you chose for survival at one year for patients in the device group. Report the parameter estimate.
  - (f) Use the Method of Moments to estimate the parameters for the distribution you chose for survival at one year for patients in the control group. Report the parameter estimate.
  - (g) What can you conclude about the efficacy of the novel device compared to the efficacy of optimal medical therapy?
9. Suppose a random sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{10})$  generates the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (0, -2.3, 0.4, 9.2, 10, -9.8, 3, 3, 3, 0)$ . Assume that  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and compute the corresponding ten z-scores.
  10. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (6.51, -1.11, 7.29, 0.23, 3.45, 0.85, -0.42, 5.66, 0.04, -1.31)$ . Further, let's assume  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ .
    - (a) Please compute a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\mu$ . The symbol  $z_{1-\alpha/2}$  should appear in this interval.
    - (b) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\mu$ .
    - (c) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\mu$ .
    - (d) Why is your 95% confidence interval larger than your 80% confidence interval?

11. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (4, 0, 1, 2, 8, 13, 0, 1, 0, 3)$ . Further, let's assume  $X_i \sim \text{Geom}(p)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\frac{1}{p}$ . The symbol  $z_{1-\alpha/2}$  should appear in this interval.
  - (b) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\frac{1}{p}$ .
  - (c) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\frac{1}{p}$ .
12. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1)$ . Further, let's assume  $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\theta$ . The symbol  $z_{1-\alpha/2}$  should appear in this interval.
  - (b) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\theta$ .
  - (c) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\theta$ .
13. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (6, 6, 2, 7, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 5)$ . Further, let's assume  $X_i \sim \text{Binomial}(50, \theta)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\theta$ . The symbol  $z_{1-\alpha/2}$  should appear in this interval.
  - (b) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\theta$ .
  - (c) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\theta$ .
14. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (1, 4, 2, 1, 1, 4, 3, 2, 3, 0)$ . Further, let's assume  $X_i \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\lambda$ . The symbol  $z_{1-\alpha/2}$  should appear in this interval.
  - (b) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\lambda$ .
  - (c) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\lambda$ .
15. Consider two random samples  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{n_1})$  and  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{n_2})$  where  $Y_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta_y)$  and  $X_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta_x)$ . Please compute a  $1 - \alpha$  confidence interval for  $\bar{Y} - \bar{X}$ .
16. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D}_y = (0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1)$  corresponding to a random sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_9)$  where  $Y_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta_y)$  and a dataset  $\mathcal{D}_x = (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)$  corresponding to a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_6)$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta_x)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\theta_y - \theta_x$ .
  - (b) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\theta_x - \theta_y$ .
  - (c) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\theta_y - \theta_x$ .

17. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D}_y = (3, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, 4, 0, 3)$  corresponding to a random sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{10})$  where  $Y_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_y)$  and a dataset  $\mathcal{D}_x = (1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1)$  corresponding to a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_8)$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_x)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\lambda_y - \lambda_x$ .
  - (b) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\lambda_y - \lambda_x$ .
18. Suppose we collect the following dataset  $\mathcal{D}_y = (-2.02, 0.78, -0.20, -0.47, 0.11, -2.57, 1.27, 3.17, 0.60)$  corresponding to a random sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_9)$  where  $Y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_y, 2)$  and a dataset  $\mathcal{D}_x = (2.46, -6.00, -3.67, -1.48, -3.60, 1.72, -1.28, -2.93, -1.70)$  corresponding to a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_9)$  where  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_x, 2)$ .
  - (a) Please compute a 95% confidence interval for  $\mu_y - \mu_x$ .
  - (b) Please compute a 80% confidence interval for  $\mu_y - \mu_x$ .
19. Suppose we collect a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (2, 5, 1, 10, 5, 8, 3)$ . Assume that this data was generated from a random sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5, Y_6, Y_7)$  where  $Y_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ .

Our null and alternative hypotheses for the parameter  $\lambda$  are

$$H_0 : \lambda = 4 \quad (4.139)$$

$$H_1 : \lambda > 4 \quad (4.140)$$

- (a) Please compute a Z test statistic for the above sample.
  - (b) Given a critical region  $C = \{(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_7) \mid Z > 2.0\}$ , would we reject the null hypothesis?
  - (c) Please provide an intuitive explanation for the critical region C.
  - (d) If we developed a new critical region  $C_1$  and  $C_1 \subset C$  would our type I error for  $C_1$  be smaller or larger than the type I error for C?
20. Suppose we are asked to analyze the primary safety endpoint for a clinical trial at a point when half of the patients were enrolled and followed for one year. The trial plans to enroll a total of 70 patients. At one year we find that 12% of patient experienced the safety endpoint, defined as a combination of all cause mortality, myocardial infarction, or stroke. The trial is assumed safe if the true proportion of events is smaller than 10%.
  - (a) Please develop a statistical setup for the above dataset. Include a sequence of random variables and define a common distribution for this sample.
  - (b) Derive a method of moments estimator for the above parameter(s) of your common distribution.

- (c) Compute an estimate of your parameters using your MoM estimator.
- (d) Compute a 95% confidence interval for your parameter(s).
- (e) State a reasonable null and alternative hypothesis to test if your parameter is below 0.10.
- (f) Please compute a  $Z$  test statistic for the above sample and your hypotheses.
- (g) Given a critical region  $C = \{(y_1, y_2, \dots) \mid Z < -1.96\}$ , would we reject the null hypothesis?
- (h) Would the pvalue that corresponds to this test statistic be greater than or smaller than 0.05? Why?

# 5

## *Likelihood theory*

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### CONTENTS

5.1	Jupyter Notebooks .....	103
5.1.1	File .....	104
5.1.1.1	A new notebook .....	104
5.1.1.2	The notebook .....	104
5.1.1.3	Save your work .....	105
5.1.1.4	Export for submission .....	105
5.1.2	Kernel .....	106
5.2	Programming and R .....	107
5.3	Arithmetic .....	107
5.4	Vectors .....	108
5.4.1	Assignment .....	108
5.4.1.1	c() .....	108
5.4.1.2	assign .....	109
5.4.1.3	equals .....	109
5.5	Print .....	109
5.6	Combining vectors .....	110
5.7	Indexing and access .....	110
5.7.1	Numeric indexing .....	111
5.7.2	Logical vectors and logical indexing .....	112
5.7.2.1	True and False .....	112
5.7.2.2	Logical comparisons .....	112
5.7.2.3	Logic .....	112
5.7.2.4	AND, OR, and NOT .....	113
5.7.2.5	Equivalence of TRUE and FALSE to 1 and 0 .....	113
5.7.3	Two functions that are useful for operating on vectors ..	114
5.8	Assignment 01 .....	114
5.8.1	The data .....	115
5.8.2	Please complete the following .....	115



## 5.1 Introduction

There are many different strategies for estimating parameters when given a sample  $(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)$ , and a single relation of all the random variables in this sample—what we call a dataset ( $\mathcal{D}$ ). Each strategy for estimating parameters has advantages and disadvantages. Up until this point we learned a single strategy called *The Method of Moments*. Lets explore a second, popular strategy for estimating parameters given a sample and a model called *The likelihood approach*.

The likelihood approach has as advantages that estimators are often simpler to compute than the method of moments, we can construct a straightforward method to compute the variance of estimators which is based on the curvature of a likelihood functions, and XXX.

## 5.2 Probability of a dataset

Suppose that we are provided a single dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ , and we assume that this dataset was generated from a sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, \dots, Y_n)$ .

The **Probability of our dataset**— $P(\mathcal{D})$ —is defined as

$$P(\mathcal{D}) = P(Y_1 = y_1 \cap Y_2 = y_2 \cap \dots \cap Y_n = y_n) \quad (5.1)$$

$$= P(Y_1 = y_1, Y_2 = y_2, \dots, Y_n = y_n) \quad (5.2)$$

where we use a comma to denote the  $\cap$  symbol. The probability of our dataset is the probability that random variable  $Y_1$  generates the realized value  $y_1$ ,  $Y_2$  generates  $y_2$ , and so on, all simultaneously.

If we assume that our sample is independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) then we can simplify  $P(\mathcal{D})$ .

We need one fact first.

### 5.2.0.1 Conditional probability chains

Consider computing the probability of a sample of size three  $(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ .

$$P(X_1 = x_1 \cap X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3) \quad (5.3)$$

We can imagine that inside the **event**  $X_1 = x_1 \cap X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3$  there exists two events.

$$[X_1 = x_1] \cap [X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3] \quad (5.4)$$

Here, we partitioned the above event that contained three random variables into two events: one event that contains a single random variable and a second event that contains two random variables.

Now we can use an identity that we learned in the past to break this probability into two. For two events  $A$  and  $B$ , recall

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B|A)P(A). \quad (5.5)$$

Then

$$P([X_1 = x_1] \cap [X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3]) = \quad (5.6)$$

$$P(X_1 = x_1|[X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3])P(X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3). \quad (5.7)$$

We could apply the same technique above to the event  $X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3$  and find that

$$P(X_1 = x_1|[X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3])P(X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3) = \quad (5.8)$$

$$P(X_1 = x_1|[X_2 = x_2 \cap X_3 = x_3])P(X_2 = x_2|X_3 = x_3)P(X_3 = x_3) \quad (5.9)$$

The process of breaking a single probability into several probabilities in this way is sometimes called producing a conditional chain of probabilities.

### 5.2.1 Probability of an i.i.d. sample

Given an i.i.d. sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$  the probability of this sample is

$$P(Y_1 = y_1, Y_2 = y_2, \dots, Y_n = y_n) \quad (5.10)$$

We can break this probability into several conditional probabilities.

$$P(Y_1 = y_1, Y_2 = y_2, \dots, Y_n = y_n) = \quad (5.11)$$

$$P(Y_1|Y_2 \cap Y_3 \cap \dots \cap Y_n)P(Y_2|Y_3 \cap \dots \cap Y_n)P(Y_3|Y_4 \cap \dots \cap Y_n) \dots \quad (5.12)$$

$$P(Y_{n-1}|Y_n)P(Y_n) \quad (5.13)$$

But because we assume our sample is (mutually) independent then

$$P(Y_1|Y_2 \cap Y_3 \cap \dots \cap Y_n)P(Y_2|Y_3 \cap \dots \cap Y_n)P(Y_3|Y_4 \cap \dots \cap Y_n) \dots \quad (5.14)$$

$$P(Y_1) \dots P(Y_{n-1}|Y_n)P(Y_n) = P(Y_1)P(Y_2) \dots P(Y_n) \quad (5.15)$$

To recap, the probability of a dataset generated by an i.i.d. sample is

$$P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, X_3 = x_3, \dots, X_n = x_n) = \quad (5.16)$$

$$P(X_1 = x_1)P(X_2 = x_2)P(X_3 = x_3) \dots P(X_n = x_n) \quad (5.17)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^N P(X_i = x_i) \quad (5.18)$$

**Example:** Suppose an i.i.d. sample  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$  generated a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ . Further assume  $Y_i \sim \text{Bern}(\theta)$  for  $i = 1$  to  $N$ . Then

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\theta) = P(Y_1 = y_1)P(Y_2 = y_2) \cdots P(Y_n = y_n) \quad (5.19)$$

$$= \left[ \theta^{y_1} (1 - \theta)^{1-y_1} \right] \left[ \theta^{y_2} (1 - \theta)^{1-y_2} \right] \cdots \left[ \theta^{y_n} (1 - \theta)^{1-y_n} \right] \quad (5.20)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^N \left[ \theta^{y_i} (1 - \theta)^{1-y_i} \right] \quad (5.21)$$

$$= \theta^{\sum_{i=1}^N y_i} (1 - \theta)^{N - \sum_{i=1}^N y_i} \quad (5.22)$$

### 5.3 The likelihood function

The probability of our dataset  $P(\mathcal{D})$  depends on a set of parameters  $(\theta)$ , and we can write  $P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)$ . Different choices for our parameter values will result in different values of  $P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)$ .

**Example:** (Bernoulli example continued). Suppose that we are given the dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1)$  and we assume that these 7 datapoints were generated from an i.i.d. Bernoulli model. Then, as we saw above,

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\theta) = \theta^{\sum_{i=1}^N y_i} (1 - \theta)^{N - \sum_{i=1}^N y_i} \quad (5.23)$$

. For our dataset, we can fill in the  $y_i$  values to find

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\theta) = \theta^4 (1 - \theta)^{7-4} \quad (5.24)$$

We can now compute the probability of our data for different choices of  $\theta$

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\theta = 0.25) = 0.25^4 (1 - 0.25)^3 = \quad (5.25)$$

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\theta = 0.50) = 0.50^4 (1 - 0.50)^3 = \quad (5.26)$$

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\theta = 0.75) = 0.75^4 (1 - 0.75)^3 = \quad (5.27)$$

The **likelihood function**,  $\mathcal{L}$ , is the probability of our observed data as a function of a set of parameter values

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta|\mathcal{D}) = P(\mathcal{D}|\theta) \quad (5.28)$$

The difference between  $P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)$  and  $\mathcal{L}(\theta|\mathcal{D})$  is the argument. For  $P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)$  we expect, given a set of fixed parameter values, to compute the probability of

different datasets. For  $\mathcal{L}(\theta|\mathcal{D})$  we expect, given a fixed, observed dataset  $\mathcal{D}$ , to compute the probability of  $\mathcal{D}$  for different values of  $\theta$ .

The likelihood function allows us to investigate the plausability of different parameter values after we observed a dataset. The likelihood need not be a probability distribution, and often is not.

**Example:** Suppose we observe for 7 days the number of patients who arrive at a specific hospital and are diagnosed with influenza. The data we collect is  $\mathcal{D} = (10, 13, 4, 17, 34, 11, 3)$ . We choose to consider our data a random sample  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_7)$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ . Then

$$P(\mathcal{D}|\lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^7 f(x_i|\lambda) \quad (5.29)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^7 \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!} \quad (5.30)$$

$$= \frac{e^{-7\lambda} \lambda^{10+13+\dots+3}}{10!13!4!\dots 3!} \quad (5.31)$$

If we consider the above as a function of  $\lambda$ — $\mathcal{L}(\lambda|\mathcal{D})$  then if  $\mathcal{L}(\lambda_1|\mathcal{D}) > \mathcal{L}(\lambda_2|\mathcal{D})$  then the parameter value  $\lambda_1$  may be a more plausible parameter value compared to  $\lambda_2$ .

One way to use the likelihood function is to attempt to find the most plausible parameter value, the value that maximizes the likelihood. However this value may be difficult to find. Lets explore one strategy for simplifying the search for this optimal parameter value and a second strategy that can help us compute this optimal value.

---

## 5.4 The logarithm and the log likelihood

With a likelihood function in hand, one aim may be to find the set of parameter values that maximizes this function—the set of parameter values that are more plausible given an observed dataset. However, the likelihood function  $\mathcal{L}$  can in many cases be difficult to compute because it is a sequence of multiplications. Our aim is to find a related function  $\ell\ell$  such that parameter values that maximize  $\mathcal{L}$  also maximize this "easier to work with"  $\ell\ell$  function.

A function  $g$  is **monotone increasing** if for two values  $x > y$  then  $g(x) \geq g(y)$ . If a monotone function  $g$  is applied to a second function  $f$ , the values that maximize  $f$  also maximize this new function.

*Hypothesis:* Suppose the value  $x^*$  maximizes the function  $f$ . That is, for all  $x$

the value  $f(x^*) \geq f(x)$ . Then if  $g$  is a monotone increasing function then  $x^*$  also maximizes  $g(f(x))$ .

*Evidence:* We know that  $f(x^*) \geq f(x)$ .  $g$  is a monotone increasing function and so by definition for  $x \geq y$ ,  $g(x) \geq g(y)$ . We can use as an input to  $g$  the values  $f(x^*)$  and  $f(x)$  to find that because  $f(x^*) \geq f(x)$  then  $g(f(x^*)) \geq g(f(x))$ .

The above property of a monotone increasing function is useful if we can find such a function that simplifies our likelihood—a sequence of multiplications. The logarithm is a monotone increasing function (i.e. if  $x \geq y$  then  $\log(x) \geq \log(y)$ ), and the logarithm transforms multiplications (hard) into sums (easy).

The **log likelihood** function is the natural logarithm of the likelihood function

$$\ell\ell(\theta|\mathcal{D}) = \log[\mathcal{L}(\theta|\mathcal{D})] \quad (5.32)$$

The loglikelihood simplifies the likelihood by transforming a large sequence of multiplications into sums.

There is one more principle about maximizing functions that will be useful. Suppose we find the value  $(x^*)$  that maximizes the function

$$g(x) = f(x) + c \quad (5.33)$$

then that value  $x^*$  also maximizes  $f(x)$ . Also, suppose we find the value  $(x^*)$  that maximizes the function

$$g(x) = c \cdot f(x) \quad (5.34)$$

then that value  $x^*$  also maximizes  $f(x)$ .

The above two principles state that if we are interested in finding the maximum value of a function  $g$  then we can consider a simpler function  $f$  which does not contain unrelated constants.

**Example:** The value  $x^*$  that maximizes the function  $g(x) = -x^2 + 3$  is the same value that maximizes the function  $f(x) = -x^2$ .

**Example:** The value  $x^*$  that maximizes the function  $g(x) = \frac{e^{-x^2}}{4}$  is the same value that maximizes the function  $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$ .

**Example:** We found in the previous section that the likelihood for the number of admitted patients with influenza was

$$\mathcal{L}(\lambda|\mathcal{D}) = \frac{e^{-7\lambda} \lambda^{10+13+\dots+3}}{10!13!4! \dots 3!}. \quad (5.35)$$

The log likelihood of the above is, the simpler,

$$\ell(\lambda|\mathcal{D}) = \log \left[ \frac{e^{-7\lambda} \lambda^{10+13+\dots+3}}{10!13!4! \dots 3!} \right] \quad (5.36)$$

$$= -7\lambda + (10 + 13 + \dots + 3) \log(\lambda) - [\log(10!) + \log(13!) + \dots + \log(3!)] \quad (5.37)$$

We see that the last term of factorials does not involve our parameter value  $\lambda$ . This term is then a constant and we could instead aim to find the maximum of the simpler function

$$\ell(\lambda|\mathcal{D}) = -7\lambda + (10 + 13 + \dots + 3) \log(\lambda) \quad (5.38)$$

$$= -7\lambda + 83 \log(\lambda) \quad (5.39)$$

In some cases, we may be able to find the parameter value, or set of parameter values, that maximize the log likelihood function. To explore this topic we will need to briefly learn about the derivative of a continuous function.

## 5.5 Just in time derivatives

The derivative describes the tangential slope of a function at a point, and is an excellent linear approximation to a complicated function. We will see how we can use the derivative to setup and solve an equation that will return a parameter value that maximizes the log likelihood. This estimate of our parameter will be called a **maximum likelihood estimate**.

### 5.5.1 Sequences and limits

A sequence is defined as a function whose domain is the natural numbers  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$ . Often we annotate the value associated with the 1,  $f(1)$  as  $a_1$ , the value associated with 2,  $f(2)$ , as  $a_2$ , and so on.

**Example:** The following is a sequence  $f(x) = 2^{-x}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ . The first few values of this sequence are  $f(1) = a_1 = 1/2$ ,  $f(2) = a_2 = 1/4$ ,  $f(3) = a_3 = 1/8$ , and so on. We can also describe the above sequence using this notation  $\{2^{-n}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ .

Intuitively, we may wish to know how a sequence behaves as it is enumerated. A sequence may increase to infinity, decrease to negative infinity, oscillate or have some other periodic behavior, or a sequence may move closer and closer to a single value. If a sequence  $a_{n=1}^{\infty}$  gets closer and closer to a single value  $l$  then we say that the sequence has a **limit** and that limit is the value  $l$ .

The more formal definition of a limit is the following: For a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , given any value  $\epsilon > 0$  the value  $l$  is a limit if you can find an integer  $N$  such that  $|a_N - l| < \epsilon$  for integers greater than  $N$  (i.e.  $N + 1, N + 2, \dots$ ).

We may also define a limit  $L$  of a function at the value  $a$  if given a sequence of values  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  that approach the value  $a$ , the sequence  $f(a_1), f(a_2), f(a_3), \dots$  approaches the value  $L$ . We call  $L$  the limit of  $f$  at the value  $a$  and write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \quad (5.40)$$

Intuitively, the above says that as the input of our function approaches the value  $a$ , the function values approach the value  $L$ .

To solve our problem of finding the parameter value that maximizes the log likelihood, we need to learn about a special type of limit called the derivative.

### 5.5.2 Derivative of a function

The derivative of a function at the value  $a$ , or  $f'(a)$ , is

$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} \quad (5.41)$$

For intuition, we can imagine building a sequence

$$a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n \rightarrow a \quad (5.42)$$

that approaches the value  $a$  and computing the associated sequence

$$\frac{f(a_1) - f(a)}{a_1 - a}, \frac{f(a_2) - f(a)}{a_2 - a}, \frac{f(a_3) - f(a)}{a_3 - a}, \dots, \frac{f(a_n) - f(a)}{a_n - a} \rightarrow f'(a) \quad (5.43)$$

One common sequence that approaches  $a$  is the sequence  $a + \{h_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  and where the sequence  $h$  approaches 0. Then the definition of the derivative would be

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a + h) - f(a)}{a + h - a} \quad (5.44)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a + h) - f(a)}{h} \quad (5.45)$$

This is because as the sequence  $\{h_n\}$  approaches zero, the sequence  $\{a + h_n\}$  approaches the value  $a$ .

**Example:** Let  $g(x) = x^2$ . The derivative of  $g$  at the value 1 is by definition

$$g'(1) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(1+h) - g(1)}{h} \quad (5.46)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+h)^2 - 1^2}{h} \quad (5.47)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2 + 2h + 1 - 1}{h} \quad (5.48)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2 + 2h}{h} \quad (5.49)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h + 2}{1} \quad (5.50)$$

$$= 2 \quad (5.51)$$

For any value  $c$  we find that the derivative of  $g$  is

$$g'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(c+h) - g(c)}{h} \quad (5.52)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(c+h)^2 - c^2}{h} \quad (5.53)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2 + 2hc + c^2 - c^2}{h} \quad (5.54)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2 + 2hc}{h} \quad (5.55)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h + 2c}{1} \quad (5.56)$$

$$= 2c \quad (5.57)$$

In some sense, the derivative  $g'(c)$  too is a function, the function  $g'(c) = 2c$ .

### 5.5.3 When the derivative equals zero

When the derivative of a function at the point  $x^*$  is 0 the point  $x^*$  is either a minimum or a maximum value. This is the key to finding a parameter value that maximizes our log likelihood. If we can compute the derivative of our log likelihood  $\ell\ell'(\theta)$  and find the value  $\theta$  such that  $\ell\ell' = 0$  then we know we have found either a parameter value that minimizes or maximizes our log likelihood, which then minimizes or maximizes our likelihood, which suggests that this parameter value is the most plausible value given our observed data. Phew.

Lets prove that when the derivative equal zero then we are at a maximum.

*Hypothesis:* If  $f(x^*) > f(x)$  for any possible input  $x$  then  $f'(x^*) = 0$ . *Evidence:*



By definition

$$f'(x^*) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x^*} \frac{f(x) - f(x^*)}{x - x^*} = 0 \quad (5.58)$$

$$(5.59)$$

Let us build a sequence of values  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  that approaches  $x^*$  such that all the values are smaller than  $x^*$ . Then if we choose any  $x_n$  in the sequence, the following must be true:

$$\frac{f(x_n) - f(x^*)}{x_n - x^*} > 0 \text{ bc } f(x^*) \text{ is a max} \quad (5.60)$$

$$\frac{f(x_n) - f(x^*)}{x_n - x^*} = c \text{ c is some positive value} \quad (5.61)$$

$$f(x_n) - f(x^*) = c(x_n - x^*) \text{ algebra} \quad (5.62)$$

$$f(x_n) - c(x_n - x^*) = f(x^*) \text{ algebra} \quad (5.63)$$

$$(5.64)$$

Because our sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is always smaller than  $x^*$ , the term  $(x_n - x^*)$  is negative, and so then

$$f(x_n) + v = f(x^*) \quad (5.65)$$

$$f(x_n) < f(x^*) \quad (5.66)$$

Instead of a sequence that is always smaller than  $x^*$  we could have chosen a sequence that is always larger than  $x^*$ .

$$\frac{f(x_n) - f(x^*)}{x_n - x^*} < 0 \quad (5.67)$$

$$\frac{f(x_n) - f(x^*)}{x_n - x^*} = -c \quad (5.68)$$

$$f(x_n) - f(x^*) = -c(x_n - x^*) \quad (5.69)$$

$$f(x_n) + c(x_n - x^*) = f(x^*) \quad (5.70)$$

$$(5.71)$$

Because the sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is always larger than  $x^*$  the quantity  $(x_n - x^*)$  is positive. Then

$$f(x_n) + v = f(x^*) \quad (5.72)$$

$$f(x_n) < f(x^*) \quad (5.73)$$

[NEED PICTURE HERE]

#### **5.5.4 derivative "rules"**

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---

### **5.6 Estimating variance, curvature of the likelihood, and Fishers Information**

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---

### **5.7 Evaluating estimators**





## **Part III**

# **Algorithms lab**



# 6

## Laboratory 01

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### CONTENTS

6.0.1	Control flow .....	117
6.0.1.1	Choice or Selection .....	117
6.0.1.2	Repetition .....	120
6.0.1.3	Assignment .....	123

### 6.1 Jupyter Notebooks

All of our lab work will take place in Jupyter Notebooks. Jupyter Notebooks are a tool for organizing textual descriptions of work and computer programs. The goal is to produce one document to communicate a set of scientific ideas and allow another to understand exactly how you arrived at your conclusions.

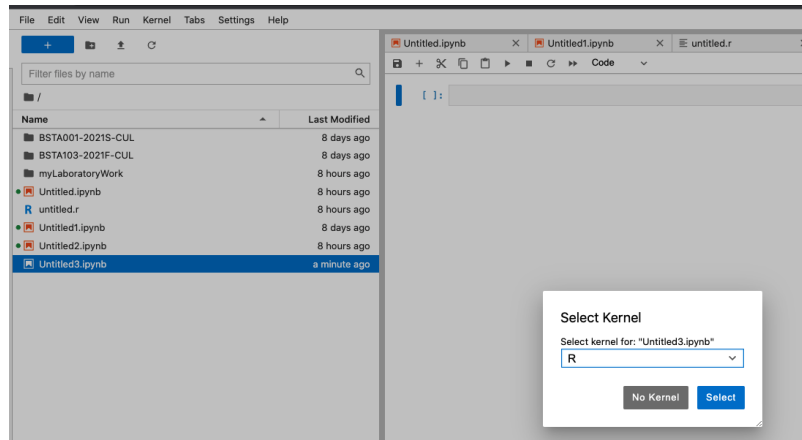
Jupyter has some important buttons.

#### 6.1.1 File

\nobreak

##### 6.1.1.1 A new notebook

Under file->New->Notebook you can create a new notebook. When asked to "Select Kernel" click on the drop down menu and select "R"



**FIGURE 6.1**  
kernelselect.png

#### 6.1.1.2 The notebook

A notebook is a collection of cells. A **cell** is a container that can hold text or computer code. Cells in Jupyter look like gray rectangles. There are three cell types in Jupyter: (i) Code, (ii) Markdown, and (iii) Raw. The two that we will focus on are Code and Markdown.

The “Code” cell holds computer code that the R kernel (see below about a kernel) can use to compute. We may want to import data, run a statistical analysis, and output results. This is for the “Code” cell.

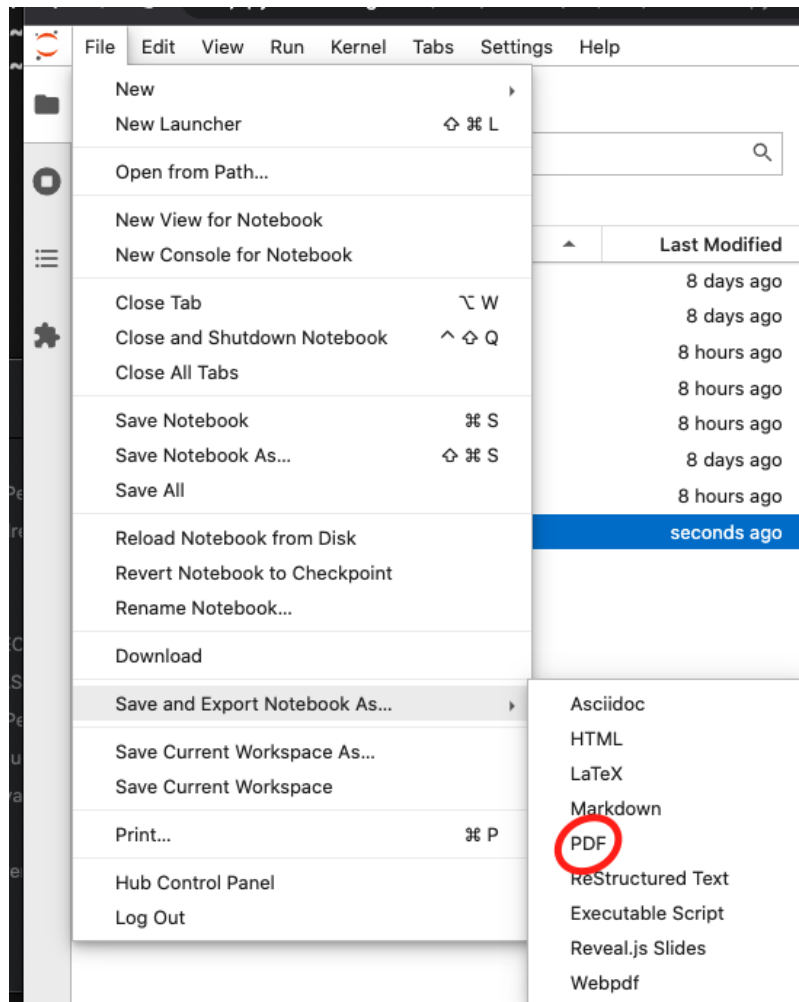
“Markdown” is itself a special language that a Jupyter Notebook interprets as text. The “Markdown” cell is most useful for write ups, descriptions of a Code cell above or below, or scientific conclusions, comments, and thoughts. When you need to write, think Markdown.

#### 6.1.1.3 Save your work

You can always save your work, and should do so often, by clicking File -> Save Notebook.

#### 6.1.1.4 Export for submission

In class, we will ask that you submit your work on Coursesite as a **PDF**. Work in another format will not be accepted. To export your notebook as a PDF, choose File->Save and Export Notebook As->PDF

**FIGURE 6.2**

Caption

After you click PDF, a PDF file will be created and saved in a “Downloads” folder on your local machine. Make sure the PDF file contains (1) Your first and surname, the date, and a descriptive title.

### 6.1.2 Kernel

The kernel is the component that executes code inside your notebook. No kernel, no running code.



Over the course, you may find that your notebook has disconnected or otherwise will no longer execute the code you wrote. Most often, the kernel has stopped. To restart you kernel select Kernel->Restart Kernel.

---

## 6.2 Programming and R

The R programming language, while not explicitly written for statistics, has a long history as a tool for data analysis, statistics, machine learning, and data science. R supports all of the main paradigms in computing and you will be able to transfer what you learn in R to other programming languages without much difficulty.

Programming is difficult. Like any skill, programming take time to master. Error messages will be commonplace, you will find it difficult to ask the computer to calculate what you want. You will be frustrate and that is ok. Over time you will learn to read the error messages, code will flow more easily. The most important part of programming is daily practice.

When we **execute** code, we ask the computer to translate what we wrote into binary and return a set of results that may or may not be stored in memory. In the Jupyter environment we execute code by pressing "Run" or by using the shortcut "Shift+Enter".

---

## 6.3 Arithmetic

R supports all standard arithmetic calculations. Lets "Run" our first computation.

R can interpret addition

```
[100]: 2+2
```

4

Subtraction

```
[101]: 9-3
```

6

Division

[102]: 3/4

0.75

multiplication

[103]: 4\*4

16

and exponentiation

[104]: 3^9

19683

As expected, we can compute more difficult arithmetic expressions.

[105]: (2^4)+3/2 - 1

16.5

## 6.4 Vectors

The **vector** is the fundamental object in R.

A mathematical vector is an ordered list of numbers. They are denoted by a sequence of numbers surrounded by square brackets.

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6.1)$$

Above, the vector **v** is a vector of length 3 and contains, in order, the values 1, 2, and 3.

In R, vectors are given a name and stored in the computer in one of two ways: (i) using the **c()** operator or (ii) using the assign function.

### 6.4.1 Assignment

\nobreak

#### 6.4.1.1 c()

We can store a vector named `v` with the values 1,2,3 in R as follows

```
[106]: v = c(1,2,3)
```

#### 6.4.1.2 assign

We can also use the `assign` function to store a vector, named `q`, with the values 3,2,1 as follows

```
[107]: assign("q",c(3,2,1))
```

#### 6.4.1.3 equals

The equals sign **does not** represent two objects are equal to one another. The equals sign in computer programming stands for “assign”.

When we write `v = c(1,2,3)`, this is understood as “we assign the variable `v` to the vector (1,2,3). As an example, let's create a vector (4,5,6) names `x` and then assign the variable `y` to be the same as `x`

```
[108]: x = c(4,5,6)
      y = x
```

The last line above does not ask whether or not `x` is the same as `y`. Instead, this line assigns the variable `y` to be the same vector as `x`.

---

## 6.5 Print

When we created the vectors `v` and `q` “nothing happened”. Though the vector `v` and `q` were created and stored in the computer, R does not display these on your screen by default. One way to view any object in R is to print it.

You can print an object, `x`, in R by writing `print(x)`

```
[109]: print(v)
```

```
[1] 1 2 3
```

```
[110]: print(q)
```

```
[1] 3 2 1
```

```
[111]: print(x)
       print(y)
```

```
[1] 4 5 6
[1] 4 5 6
```

**You do not need to print any object, ever.** Printing is not necessary. You should use print to explore whether you programmed something write or to communicate scientific results.

---

## 6.6 Combining vectors

We can append one vector to another in R by using the `c()` operator. Suppose we wish to combine the two vectors

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}; z = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0.2 \\ 90 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6.2)$$

into one vector

$$r = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \\ 0.2 \\ 90 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6.3)$$

Lets first create the vectors `x` and `z`

```
[112]: x = c(1,2,3)
       z = c(-1,0.2,90)
```

Now we can create the vector `r`

```
[113]: r = c(x,z)
```

If we want to check our work, we can print out `r`.

```
[114]: print(r)
```

```
[1] 1.0 2.0 3.0 -1.0 0.2 90.0
```

## 6.7 Indexing and access

Vectors are useful for storing several different numbers. We can access single elements, or several elements inside a vector by (i) naming the vector we want to access, (ii) typing square brackets “[ ]”.

### 6.7.1 Numeric indexing

If we want to access the 4th element in `r`, we can type

```
[115]: r[4]
```

```
-1
```

If we want to access, the 2nd, 4th, and then the first element of `r` we can include in square brackets the vector `c(2,4,1)`

```
[116]: r[c(2,4,1)]
```

```
1. 2 2. -1 3. 1
```

We can access the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd elements in `r` using the vector `c(1,2,3)`, however a shortcut is to use the **colon** operator. The colon operator takes as input two integers (a,b) separated by a colon (a:b) and expands to the vector `c(a, a+1, a+2, a+3, ..., b)`.

Watch

```
[117]: z = 3:5
```

```
[118]: print(z)
```

```
[1] 3 4 5
```

The colon operator is useful for accessing items in a vector

```
[119]: r[2:5]
```

```
1. 2 2. 3 3. -1 4. 0.2
```

The above is called **numeric indexing**. Numeric indexing is the access of elements in an object (here a vector) by inputting a single number, or vector of numbers. Indices are always integers. Fractional or decimal numbers cannot be used as indices. Up until now we only used *positive* integers to access elements of a vector.

R also accepts negative integers as indices. Warning: R handles negative indices different than the majority of other programming languages. A negative index in R standard for **exclude**.

For example, if we want to return all the elements of a vector `q = c(1,4,6,10,0.5)` except for the 2nd element, we can write `q[-2]`

```
[120]: q = c(1,4,6,10,0.5)
      q[-2]
```

```
1. 1 2. 6 3. 10 4. 0.5
```

## 6.7.2 Logical vectors and logical indexing

\nobreak

### 6.7.2.1 True and False

R, like all programming languages, understands how to operate with binary logic (aside: binary logic is not the only type. If interested, google the tetralemma). True in R is represented as the word **TRUE** in all capitals. False in R is represented as the word **FALSE** in all capitals. The symbols **TRUE** and **FALSE** are reserved, special symbols in R. You cannot assign a variable to **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

```
[121]: TRUE
```

```
TRUE
```

```
[122]: FALSE
```

```
FALSE
```

### 6.7.2.2 Logical comparisons

R understand the following logical operators: `>` "Greater than" `>=` "Greater than or equal to" `<` "Less than" `<=` "Less than or equal to" `==` "Is equal to" `!=` "Not equal" `|` "OR" `&` "AND"

### 6.7.2.3 Logic

Logic is a method to evaluate statements, sometimes called propositions as either True or False. The above symbols are used to evaluate statements.

When you pose a proposition to R, such as `v > -1` R will evaluate that proposition for each individual element in the vector `v`. Lets create the vector `v = c(-10, 10, 4)` and ask R to evaluate the proposition `v > -1`.

```
[123]: v = c(-10,10,4)
       v > -1
```

1. FALSE 2. TRUE 3. TRUE

We see that R returns a vector with the same number of elements as in `v` containing the values TRUE or FALSE. A vector that contains values TRUE/FALSE is called a **logical vector**. Like any other vector we can store a logical vector.

```
[124]: log = v > -1
```

```
[125]: print(log)
```

```
[1] FALSE TRUE TRUE
```

#### 6.7.2.4 AND, OR, and NOT

AND, OR, and NOT are **logical operators**, they allow us to combine one or more propositions. Given two propositions  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ , the AND, OR, and NOT operator will evaluate to the following

$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_1$ AND $p_2$	$p_1$ OR $p_2$	$\neg p_1$
TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE
FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE
FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE

**TABLE 6.1**

Caption

Logical operators come in handy in **logical indexing**. When we write `r[l]` where `l` is a logical vector, R will return the values in `r` where `l` is TRUE.

```
[126]: r = c(-10,0,10,55,0.34,-0.97)
       l = c(TRUE,FALSE,TRUE,FALSE,TRUE,TRUE)

       r[l]
```

```
1. -10 2. 10 3. 0.34 4. -0.97
```

More often we will include the logical statement directly inside the square brackets

```
[127]: r[ r>0 ]
```

```
1. 10 2. 55 3. 0.34
```

### 6.7.2.5 Equivalence of TRUE and FALSE to 1 and 0

The symbol TRUE in R is understood to be the same as the value 1, and the symbol FALSE in R is understood to be the same value as 0.

```
[128]: TRUE==1
```

TRUE

```
[129]: FALSE==0
```

TRUE

```
[130]: TRUE==0
```

FALSE

```
[131]: FALSE==1
```

FALSE

### 6.7.3 Two functions that are useful for operating on vectors

Functions in mathematics take as input a list of objects and return a unique object. The same is true of functions in programming and so in R.

We can create our own functions in R (this will come later), but R also has a large library of built-in functions that are automatically included once you start R. Two very useful ones are the `sum` function and the `length` function.

The `sum` function takes as input a vector and returns the sum of each element in the function.

```
[133]: v = c(3,2,1)
       sum(v)
```

6

The `length` function takes as input a vector and returns the number of elements in the vector

```
[134]: length(v)
```

3



---

## 6.8 Assignment 01

We are recruited to track the evolution of an infectious agent for a team of public health officials (PHOs). To support future strategic planning the PHOs want to know the impact of intervention  $X$  on increases or decreases in the incidence of this infectious agent. The PHO team collected for each county in their state whether the intervention was enacted, and whether the incidence of case counts of this infectious agent increased or decreased 60 days after the intervention was in place data.

Using R, we will assign probabilities to the four events in our sample space  $\{(intervention, rise), (intervention, no\ rise), (no\ intervention, rise), (no\ intervention, no\ rise)\}$

### 6.8.1 The data

In the below cell there is a few lines of code pre-programmed. Please runs this cell below.

This cell will create two vectors.

The first vector is called `intervention_rise` and contains one element for each county that has intervention  $X$  collected by the PHO team. An element is the value 1 if there was a rise in incidence for the infectious agent and 0 if there was a fall in incidence.

The second vector is called `nointervention_rise` and contains one element for each county that did not have intervention  $X$  collected by the PHO team. An element is the value 1 if there was a rise in incidence for the infectious agent and 0 if there was a fall in incidence.

### 6.8.2 Please complete the following

1. Use the `length` function to count the number of counties where intervention  $X$  took place
2. Use the `length` function to count the number of counties where no intervention  $X$  took place
3. Use the `sum` function to count the number of counties that observed a rise in incidence.
4. Use the `sum` function and the `not (!)` operator to count the number of counties that observed a fall in incidence.
5. Use the frequentist approach to compute the probability
  - that an intervention would take place in a county
  - that a rise in incidence was observed in a county
  - of a rise in incidence given a county implemented intervention  $X$

- of a rise in incidence given a county has not implemented intervention X
6. Use the multiplication rule to compute the probability
    - that an intervention and rise is observed (Hint:  $P(\text{Intervention}) * P(\text{Rise} | \text{Intervention})$ )
    - that an intervention and fall is observed
    - that no intervention and rise is observed
    - that no intervention and fall is observed
  7. Compute the probability of the below events, assuming intervention and rise/fall. are independent
    - Intervention and Rise
    - Intervention and Fall
    - No Intervention and Rise
    - No Intervention and Fall
  8. Do you think intervention X is effective at preventing the spread of our infectious agent?

```
[178]: #RUN THIS CODE. DO NOT WORRY WHAT IT SAYS.
nums = runif(10^3,0,1)

intervention_rise = c()
nointervention_rise = c()
for (i in nums){
  if (runif(1)> 0.4){
    if ( i>0.800 ){
      risefall = 1
    } else{risefall=0}
    intervention_rise = c(intervention_rise, risefall)
  }
  else {
    if ( i>0.325 ){
      risefall = 1
    } else{risefall=0}
    nointervention_rise = c(nointervention_rise, risefall)
  }
}
```



# 7

## Laboratory 02

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### CONTENTS

7.0.1	Functions .....	127
7.0.1.1	Anatomy of a function .....	128
7.0.1.2	Declaring a function .....	128
7.0.1.3	Calling a function .....	128
7.0.1.4	Named vs unnamed arguments .....	129
7.0.1.5	Default arguments .....	129
7.0.1.6	Binding and Scope .....	130
7.0.1.7	Assignment .....	131

### 7.0.1 Control flow

Now that we defined some fundamental objects and operations in R, we need to explore how R, and many other programming language execute code. R executes code sequentially from top to bottom. The line of R code at the top is run first, then the second highest line, then the third highest and so on.

When code is executed line by line from top to bottom it is called **sequential control**. Sequential control is the default way R executes statements.

However, we can change the order in which R executes lines of code in three ways: (i) choice (ii) repetition (iii) functions (we'll talk much more about functions next week).

#### 7.0.1.1 Choice or Selection

An R **program** is a set of statements meant to produce one or more results. We can choose to execute all the lines in our program, or we can choose to execute some lines and not others dependent on conditions. When we execute

some lines of R code to run and not others we are using a specific type of control flow called **Selection** (“we select some lines and not others”).

While we often define statements as sentences that are either TRUE or FALSE, in R we define a logical statement that evaluates to TRUE or to FALSE an **expression**.

The main ways to control which lines to execute is with the if/else, if/else-if/else, and the switch statement.

### *If/else*

The following study at this link = <https://doi.org/10.1200/jco.2005.03.0221> chose to study the effects of a novel treatment on newly diagnosed myeloma. The study investigators randomly assigned 103 patients to receive a control therapy and 104 patients to receive the novel treatment. The primary outcome of interest was the rate of response among patients in control and treatment where a response was defined as a 50% or greater decrease in detection of the cancer.

We could decide to define a vector  $v$  that will contain three pieces of information: a patient id that is an integer used to link a single patient to their clinical records, whether the patient was assigned to receive a treatment or control therapy, and the percent response where 100 means complete response/reduction and 0 means no response/reduction.

```
[70]: pt = c(1256, "TREATMENT", 87)
```

We stored a vector called `pt` with our three pieces of info. Now suppose we want to add an additional piece of info to our patient vector that determines if the patient had a successful or unsuccessful response.

We need the if/else syntax. The if/else is an expression placed inside of parentheses and two blocks of code. if the expression evaluates to TRUE the first block of code will be executed and the second block is skipped. If the expression evaluates to FALSE then the second block will be executed and first block will be skipped.

```
[71]: if( pt[3] > 50 ){ # Our expression is pt[3] > 50
      pt = c(pt,1)
    }else{
      pt = c(pt,0)
    }
```

We expect that the code above will create a new vector `c(1256,"TREATMENT",87,1)`. To be sure, let's check the variable `pt` by printing it.

```
[72]: print(pt)
```

```
[1] "1256"      "TREATMENT" "87"      "1"
```

### *if/elseif/else and switch*

The **if/else** handles one condition that either evaluates to TRUE or FALSE. However, we may need to execute a specific piece of code that depends on more than one condition. The **if/else if/else** syntax can execute a specific block of code dependent on more than one condition.

For example, suppose that we want to classify a patient's response as either above 75, between 50 and 75, not including 50 and 75, or less than or equal to 50. Let us also assume our patient is a following vector:

```
[73]: pt = c(6587, "CONTROL", 24)
```

We can use the if /else if/ else syntax.

```
[74]: if( pt[3] > 75 ){
      pt = c(pt,2)
    }else if ( pt[3] >50 ) {
      pt = c(pt,1)
    }else {pt = c(pt,0) } # Our if/else if/else will run this
      ↳code bc the above two conditions are not met.
```

The if/else if/ else syntax begins at the top condition (`pt[3] > 75`). If the top condition is FALSE then the condition second to the top is evaluated next (`pt[3] > 50`). If the second condition is FALSE, and there are no additional else if conditions, then code in the else block is executed.

```
[75]: print(pt)
```

```
[1] "6587"      "CONTROL" "24"      "0"
```

### *Compound expressions*

The expressions we used above evaluated a single expression as either TRUE or FALSE. At times we may need more complicated expressions that must evaluate several expressions at once. We will call these compound expressions.

For example, we may want to treatment response values different if the patient was assigned to treatment versus control. Suppose if a patient is assigned control and has a response above 50 they receive a 1, if a patient is assigned control with a response equal to or less than 50 they receive a 0. If a patient is assigned treatment and has a response above 50 they receive a 2 and if their response is equal to or less than 50 they receive a 3.

We need to evaluate two expressions based on the patient assignment and response. We are allowed to include logical comparisons (LAB01) inside expressions.

```
[76]: pt = c(1359, "TREATMENT", 72)

if( (pt[3] > 50) && (pt[2]=="CONTROL") ){
  pt = c(pt,1)
}else if ( (pt[3] <= 50) && (pt[2]=="CONTROL") ){
  pt = c(pt,0)
}else if ( (pt[3] > 50) && (pt[2]=="TREATMENT") ){
  pt = c(pt,2)
}else if ( (pt[3] <= 50) && (pt[2]=="TREATMENT") ){
  pt = c(pt,3)
}

# check our work
print(pt)
```

```
[1] "1359"      "TREATMENT" "72"        "2"
```

The above code used the logical comparison AND (&&) to test whether the patient was treatment/control and if there response was above or below 50.

### 7.0.1.2 Repetition

Often we will need to repeat a certain number of lines of code. We may need to apply the same operation to many different patients or observations or apply some set of code repeatedly until a condition is met. Loops allow us to **repeat** lines of code before continuing to execute lines of code below our loop.

#### *While loop*

The while loop repeats lines of code—called a **block**—until a specific condition is met.

```
[77]: x = 2
while(x<1000){
  x = x^(2)
}
print(x)
```

```
[1] 65536
```

In the code above, we used the syntax `while (CONDITION) {CODE}` to execute a while loop. The code above assigned the variable `x` the value 2.

The next line of code was the while loop. Because the condition evaluated to FALSE (x was not less than 1000) the code inside the parentheses—the code block—was executed once. After executing the code block the condition  $x < 1000$  was tested again. Because the condition evaluated to FALSE, the code block was executed again, and again, and again, until the condition evaluated to TRUE. After the code block evaluated to TRUE, we continued to execute lines below the while loop in sequence.

The above code is equivalent to the following expanded code

```
[78]: x=2
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      if (x <1000){
        x=x^2
      }
      print(x)
```

```
[1] 65536
```

and so the while loop is a natural way to repeat a series of R code until meeting some condition.

#### *For loop*

Suppose we want to execute a code a block a *fixed* number of times. We could use a while loop to square the variable x four times using the below code:



```
[79]: number_of_times=1
      x = 2

      while (number_of_times <5){
        x=x^2
        number_of_times = number_of_times+1
      }
      print(x)
```

[1] 65536

Because repeating code a fixed number of times is needed so often to solve a problem, a second type of loop was created—the **for loop**. The **for loop** repeats a code block a fixed number of times by iterating through a sequence.

### Sequences

A sequence is a mapping, or function, from the numbers 1,2,3,4,... to some set of items  $a, b, c, d, \dots$ . We often denote the items  $a, b, c, d, \dots$  with a single variable name and a subscript that is called an index:  $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots$ . In the above sequence the number 1 maps to  $a_1$ , the number 2 maps to  $a_2$  and so on.

We can create sequences of integers in R with the function `seq`. We can provide `seq` two integers, a “from” and “to” and this function will produce all integers between “from” and “to”, including both the “from” value and the “to” value. We will produce all integers from -2 to 8. Watch

```
[80]: seq(-2,8)
```

1. -2 2. -1 3. 0 4. 1 5. 2 6. 3 7. 4 8. 5 9. 6 10. 7 11. 8

This sort of request is so common in R that there is an easier way to write “from,to” sequences. We place the “from” value to the left and the “to” value to the right of a colon.

```
[81]: -2:8
```

1. -2 2. -1 3. 0 4. 1 5. 2 6. 3 7. 4 8. 5 9. 6 10. 7 11. 8

R understand that the colon asks to produce all integers starting with the value on the left and ending with the value on the right.

### Back to the for loop

Lets look how we can use sequences and the idea of the for loop to rewrite our code.

```
[82]: x=2
      for(number_of_times in 1:4){
        x=x^2
      }
      print(x)
```

```
[1] 65536
```

We can think of the for loop above in expanded form.

```
[83]: x=2

      x=x^2
      x=x^2
      x=x^2
      x=x^2

      print(x)
```

```
[1] 65536
```

### 7.0.1.3 Assignment

Lets use our new control flow skills to compute probabilities and conditional probabilities.

Run the below code to create one vector that describes whether patients were assigned to treatment or control and a second vector describing whether the patient had a succussful or unsuccessfull status.

```
[84]: draw_random_number = function(){
      return(runif(1))
    }
```

#### *Practice loop and conditional structure*

After running the above code block, we can create a random number by running the following code `draw_random_number()`

1. Run the code `draw_random_number()`
2. Create and if/else statement that prints "Less than 1/2" when `draw_random_number()` is smaller than the value 0.5 and else prints "greater than or equal to 1/2" when `draw_random_number()` is 0.5 or larger.
3. Create a variable category and assign this variable the value -1.



the variable `num_of_treat_assigns` by 1, else we increment the variable `num_of_contr_assigns` by 1.

9. Lets add to our if/else statement. Create two variables `num_of_trt_status_success` and `num_of_ctr_status_success` and assign them both the value 0. Inside our loop, when a patient treatment is "t" we will implement step 8 and in addition we will increment the variable `num_of_trt_status_success` by 1. If the patient treatment is "c" then we will increment `num_of_ctr_status_success` by 1.
10. Using `num_of_trt_status_success` and `num_of_treat_assigns` compute the conditional probability of success given the patient was assigned treatment.
11. Using `num_of_ctr_status_success` and `num_of_contr_assigns` compute the conditional probability of success given the patient was assigned control.



# 8

## Laboratory 03

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### CONTENTS

8.1	Matrix Algebra .....	133
8.1.1	Recap on vectors and operations on vectors .....	133
8.1.1.1	Definition .....	133
8.1.1.2	Vector times a scalar .....	134
8.1.1.3	Vector plus/minus a vector .....	135
8.1.2	The Matrix .....	135
8.1.2.1	Matrix plus/minus a matrix .....	137
8.1.2.2	Matrix times a Matrix .....	138
8.1.2.3	Matrix times a vector .....	140
8.1.2.4	Matrix Transpose .....	142
8.1.2.5	Matrix inverse .....	143
8.1.3	Assignment .....	144

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### 8.0.1 Functions

Functions in R are used to organize our work, clarify code for others, and allows us to apply the same finite steps to many different objects.

**Example:** Suppose we want to use the frequentist approach to assign probabilities to a sample space  $\mathcal{G} = \{-1, 0, 1\}$  based on a dataset  $\mathcal{D}$ . Our dataset may look like  $\mathcal{D} = (-1, 0, 0, 1, -1, 1, 1, 1, -1)$ . To assign a probability to the event  $\{-1\}$  we can write R code to count the number of times the outcome  $-1$  appears in our data and divide by the number of data points in our data set. For the event  $\{0\}$  we can write R code to perform the *same steps* for 0 as we performed for the event  $\{-1\}$ . Because we are repeating the same steps for the event  $\{-1\}$  and for event  $\{0\}$ , a function may simplify our code.

**Example:** We are asked to support a clinical team that collected data on pa-

tients who are current smokers and outcomes thought to be linked to smoking. The code needs (i) to be processed, (ii) analyzed, and (iii) reported. Though we can write our code in sequence to perform all three steps, we may be able to better organize our work into three functions: one that processes the data, a function that analyses the data, and a third to report.

### 8.0.1.1 Anatomy of a function

A function in R has the following X parts:

- *Assignment*: We create a function by assigning a variable name to the function
- *Function* : Next we need to use the reserved word “function” so that R knows we are creating a function.
- *Arguments*: After the word function we will include open and closed parentheses. Inside these parentheses we can include one or more arguments for the function. An argument is an input to our function.
- *Code block*: We write a sequence of steps to execute R code inside two curly brackets {}. **Important: Any variables that were created inside this code block are deleted after the function is finished.**
- *Return*: Inside the code block we can also include a return statement. This statement includes variables that were generated inside the code block that we wish to keep when the function is finished executing.

### 8.0.1.2 Declaring a function

When store a function in memory, we call this **declaring a function**.

Lets declare a function called `sum_two_numbers`. This function will have two arguments: one called `x` and one called `y`. Arguments are names that we use to identify specific inputs to our function—they are placeholders for variables outside of our function that we may want to use as inputs. In the code block we will write a line of code that stores the sum of `x` and `y` as the variable `z`. The second line in the code block will `return(z)`. Because we did not return `x` or `y` they will be deleted from memory after the function is finished executing.

```
[10]: sum_two_numbers = function(x,y){
      z = x+y      # line of code in the code block. This uses
      ↪our x,y arguments (place holders)
      return(z)    # Return the variable z
    }
```

### 8.0.1.3 Calling a function

When we declare a function it is stored in memory. If we want to apply our function to a set of arguments (inputs) then we **call** our function.

Lets call our function `sum_to_numbers` with the arguments 2 and 4.

```
[11]: result = sum_two_numbers(2,4)
```

We **called** our function by typing the name of the function and supplying the function with two arguments: 2 and 4. When we called the function, the following took place. 1. The variable `x` was assigned the value 2. 2. the variable `y` was assigned the value 4. 3. The first line of the code block was executed. 4. The second line of the code block was executed, returning the variable `z`. 5. The returned variable (`z`) was stored in the variable `result`.

Watch

```
[12]: print(result)
```

```
[1] 6
```

#### 8.0.1.4 Named vs unnamed arguments

When we input our argument 2 and 4 into the function `sum_to_numbers` we did not specify which value should be assigned to the argument `x` and which should be assigned to `y`. When we do not specify the argument names we are providing a function **unnamed arguments**.

We could have called the function `sum_to_numbers` by specifying which arguments correspond to which values. When we supply a name and the value to the argument we are providing **named arguments**.

```
[13]: sum_to_numbers(y=2,x=4) # named arguments
```

```
6
```

#### 8.0.1.5 Default arguments

When we declare a function we specify which arguments are needed for the function to execute all the lines in the coded block. We expect all these arguments to have values, but there may be a time when we do not necessarily need someone who uses our function to specify all the arguments. Instead, we can provide **default** argument values.

Lets create a function called `sumMult` that takes as input a vector that we will assign the name `v` and a logical value called `sum_or_mult`. If the value of `sum_or_mult` is `TRUE` then we will add all the items in the vector. If the value of `sum_or_mult` is `FALSE` then we will multiply all the values.

By default, we will add all the items. This means that is the user does not supply a value for the argument `sum_or_mult` then we automatically assign to `sum_or_mult` the value `TRUE`. To give the function `sumMult` a default value



for the argument `sumMult` we will include after `sum_or_mult` an equals sign and our desired default value.

```
[2]: sumMult = function(v,sum_or_mult=TRUE){ # This assigns the
    ↪sum_or_mult a default value of TRUE

    ## if sum_or_mult is TRUE, we sum. if sum_or_mult is
    ↪FALSE, we multiply
    if (sum_or_mult==TRUE){
        summation=0
        for (item in 1:length(v)){
            summation = summation + item
        }
        return(summation)
    }
    else{
        product = 1
        for (item in 1:length(v)){
            product = product * item
        }
        return(product)
    }
}
```

Lets create a vector called `fun_vector` and assign to it `c(4,2,-2,9,10,11,-0.3)` and lets call the function `sumMult`.

```
[20]: fun_vector = c(4,2,-2,9,10,11,-0.3)

result1 = sumMult(fun_vector) # Default for
    ↪sum_or_mult is TRUE

result2 = sumMult(fun_vector,sum_or_mult=TRUE) # We are
    ↪always allowed to assign this argument a value

result3 = sumMult(fun_vector,sum_or_mult=FALSE) # and we can
    ↪assign this argument a different value then the default
```

```
[21]: print(result1)
print(result2)
print(result3)
```

```
[1] 28
[1] 28
[1] 5040
```

### 8.0.1.6 Binding and Scope

To show that the variables `summation` and `product` are deleted after we call the function, let's try to print the variable `summation`.

```
[23]: print(summation)
```

```
Error in print(summation): object 'summation' not found
Traceback:

1. print(summation)
```

R replies that it looked but cannot find the object `summation`. The function `sumMult` created a variable called `summation` operated with it inside the code block of our function and then deleted this variable.

When a variable name is assigned an object in R, the name and the object are associated with one another in the computer. The process of associating an object to a name in the computer is called **binding**.

When we call a function, the values we provide are bound to each argument name, the function is executed, and those variables are deleted. Which variables we can access during the executing of an R program is called **lexical scope**. Variables created inside a function can only be accessed and used by lines of code inside the code block. These variables are “in scope” of the function.

### 8.0.1.7 Assignment

Let's explore how functions can help us organize our work, clarify code for others, and repeat similar operations on objects of the same type.

#### *Unnamed and named arguments*

1. Declare a function `subtract` that takes two arguments: `x` and `y`. Inside the code block assign the variable `z` to be `x` minus `y` and return the variable `z`.
2. Call the function `subtract` on the values 2 and 6.
3. Call the function `subtract` on the values 2 and 6 but bind 2 to the argument `y` and 6 to the argument `x`.
4. Why did the results for 2. and for 3. change?

#### *Successive subtraction*

1. Declare a function `vec_subtract` that takes a vector argument that we will bind to `v`. Inside the code block compute the first item minus the second item minus the third item and so on. Store this subtraction in the variable `s` and return the variable `s`.

2. Call the function on the vector [1,2,3,4,5]

*Frequentist approach to probability assignment*

1. Run the code below called `random_vector`. This is a function that creates a vector of length 1000 filled with numbers between 0 and 1. The second line calls the function with no arguments and creates a variable called `rand_vec`.
2. Declare a function `freq_assign` that takes two arguments: `v` and `outcome`.
3. Inside the code block perform the following operations
4. Use the `length` function (pre-built by R) to compute the length of `v` and store this value in the variable `N`.
5. Create a variable called `outcome_of_interest` and assign to it an empty vector `c()`.
6. Create a for loop that iterates the variable `i` from the value 1 to the value `N`.
7. Inside the for loop use an if/else to identify if each item in `v` is less than or equal to `outcome`. If the item is less than or equal to `outcome` then append the value 1 to `outcome_of_interest` else append the value 0. We should expect a vector `outcome_of_interest` that is the same length as `v` which contains 1s for every value less than `outcome` and 0s otherwise.
8. Use the `sum` function in R (pre-built) to compute the sum of `outcome_of_interest` and assign this value the name `count`
9. `return count/N`
10. Call the function on `rand_vec` and record the result. Use 0.5 as the input value for `outcome`.

```
[8]: random_vector = function(N=1000){  
      return(runif(N))  
    }  
    rand_vec = random_vector()
```

# 9

## Laboratory 04

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### CONTENTS

9.0.1	Data Frame .....	145
9.0.1.1	How to read a CSV file into a data frame ....	145
9.0.1.2	Selecting a column and the \$ operator .....	147
9.0.1.3	Logical indexing .....	148
9.0.1.4	Functions for data frames .....	149
9.0.2	Assignment .....	152

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### 9.1 Matrix Algebra

Statisticians and data scientists use the language of vectors and matrices to organize data and work with models. We will take a close look at matrix algebra, taking time to relate matrix algebra to the more familiar algebra that you have worked with in the past.

#### 9.1.1 Recap on vectors and operations on vectors

\nobreak

##### 9.1.1.1 Definition

A vector  $v$  is an ordered list of real numbers. We denote a vector with a lower case letter and enclose the values in the vector with square brackets. We can write a vector  $v$  as a *row vector*

$$v = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] \quad (9.1)$$

or as a *column vector*

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.2)$$

A vector has a **length**, defined as the number of values included in that vector. For example, the above vector is length 5.

We can create a vector in R by using the `c` operator.

```
[1]: v = c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
```

#### 9.1.1.2 Vector times a scalar

A vector of length one is called a **scalar**. We can define the results of multiplying a vector  $v = [1, 2, 3, 4]$  by a scalar  $\alpha$  as each entry of the vector times the scalar  $\alpha$ .

$$\alpha v = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \times 1 \\ \alpha \times 2 \\ \alpha \times 3 \\ \alpha \times 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.3)$$

For example, the vector  $v = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]$  times the scalar  $\alpha = 7$  will result in a vector

$$\alpha v = [7 \times 1, 7 \times 2, 7 \times 3, 7 \times 4] \quad (9.4)$$

$$= [7, 14, 21, 28] \quad (9.5)$$

R understands how to multiply vectors and scalars with no additional syntax.

```
[3]: v = c(1, 2, 3, 4)
      alpha = 7
```

```
alpha*v
```

```
1. 7 2. 14 3. 21 4. 28
```

### 9.1.1.3 Vector plus/minus a vector

A vector  $v$  plus a vector  $q$  creates a new vector that adds the individual entries of  $v$  and  $q$

$$v = [4, -1, 7] \quad (9.6)$$

$$q = [0, 32, 9] \quad (9.7)$$

$$v + q = [4 + 0, -1 + 32, 7 + 9] = [4, 31, 16] \quad (9.8)$$

A vector  $v$  minus a vector  $q$  creates a new vector that subtracts the individual entries of  $q$  from  $v$

$$v = [4, -1, 7] \quad (9.9)$$

$$q = [0, 32, 9] \quad (9.10)$$

$$v - q = [4 - 0, -1 - 32, 7 - 9] = [4, -33, -2] \quad (9.11)$$

$$q - v = [0 - 4, 32 - (-1), 9 - 7] = [-4, 33, 2] \quad (9.12)$$

R also understands vector addition and subtraction with no special syntax.

```
[6]: v = c(4, -1, 7)
     q = c(0, 32, 9)

     add = v+q
     subtract = v-q

     print(add)
     print(subtract)
```

```
[1]  4 31 16
```

```
[1]  4 -33 -2
```

### 9.1.2 The Matrix

A **matrix** is an ordered list of vectors.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 2 & 13 \\ 90 & 23 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.13)$$

A matrix has a dimension which is an ordered pair of numbers: the first number indicates the number of rows of the matrix and the second number indicates the number of columns. For example, the matrix  $M$  above has dimension  $(4,3)$ .

To build a matrix in R we can issue the `matrix` command. `Matrix` is a function that takes a vector as an argument and can take one of many optional arguments.

If we give the `matrix` function only a vector, the default behavior of this function is to create a vector.

```
[8]: A = matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6))
      A
```

```

      1
      2
      3
      4
      5
      6
```

A matrix:  $6 \times 1$  of type `dbl`

This is because a vector can be thought of as a matrix with one column. In other words, a matrix with dimension  $(N,1)$  is a vector of length  $N$ .

We can provide another argument to the `matrix` function—`ncol`—to specify the number of columns we want to create.

```
[9]: A = matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6), ncol=2)
      A
```

```

      1  4
      2  5
      3  6
```

A matrix:  $3 \times 2$  of type `dbl`

Above we used the `ncol` argument to specify a matrix with two columns. R will automatically determine the number of rows for the matrix and fill-in the values of the matrix column by column.

If we want, we can ask R to fill in values of the matrix row by row by including an additional argument in the `matrix` function `byrow`

```
[10]: v = c(1,2,3,4,5,6)
      A = matrix(v, ncol=2)

      B = matrix(v, ncol=2, byrow=TRUE)

      print(A)
      print(B)
```

```
      [,1] [,2]
[1,]     1     4
[2,]     2     5
[3,]     3     6
      [,1] [,2]
[1,]     1     2
[2,]     3     4
[3,]     5     6
```

We see that matrix A was “column filled” and matrix B was “row filled”.

There are similar operations for matrices as there are for vectors.

### 9.1.2.1 Matrix plus/minus a matrix

Given a matrix  $A$  and matrix  $B$ , the sum of  $A$  and  $B$  is a new matrix  $C$  where the  $ij$  entry of  $C$  ( $C_{ij}$ ) is the sum of the corresponding entries from  $A$  and  $B$  ( $C_{ij} = A_{ij} + B_{ij}$ ). To add two matrices they must have the same dimension.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.14)$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.15)$$

$$C = A + B = \begin{bmatrix} 1+6 & 2+5 & 3+4 \\ 4+3 & 5+2 & 6+1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 7 & 7 \\ 7 & 7 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.16)$$

$$D = A - B = \begin{bmatrix} 1-6 & 2-5 & 3-4 \\ 4-3 & 5-2 & 6-1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & -3 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.17)$$

$$(9.18)$$

R understands matrix addition and subtraction without any additional syntax.

```
[17]: A = matrix(c(-1,2,4,1,3,8), ncol=3)
      D = matrix(c(90,0.34,1.54,-9.43,10,0), ncol=3)

      print(A)
```



```
print(D)
```

```
A+D
```

```
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]   -1    4    3
[2,]    2    1    8
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 90.00  1.54  10
[2,]  0.34 -9.43    0
```

89.00	5.54	13
2.34	-8.43	8

A matrix: 2 × 3 of type dbl

```
[14]: A-D
```

-91.00	2.46	-7
1.66	10.43	8

A matrix: 2 × 3 of type dbl

### 9.1.2.2 Matrix times a Matrix

Two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  can be multiplied together  $C = AB$  if the number of columns of  $A$  is equal to the number of rows of  $B$ . In other words, if the dimension of  $A$  is  $(a,b)$  and the dimension of  $B$  is  $(c,d)$  then  $b$  and  $c$  must be equal.

The  $i,j$  entry of this product,  $C_{ij}$  is the following sum of products:

$$C_{i,j} = a_{i,1}b_{1,j} + a_{i,2}b_{2,j} + a_{i,3}b_{3,j} + \cdots + a_{i,N}b_{N,j} \quad (9.19)$$

$$= \sum_{e=1}^N a_{i,e}b_{e,j} \quad (9.20)$$

For example, suppose that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.21)$$

and that

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 4 & -2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (9.22)$$

Then the product  $C = AB$  equals

$$C = AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1*1+2*3 & 1*2+2*4 & 1*-1+2*-2 \\ 3*1+4*3 & 3*2+4*4 & 3*-1+4*-2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 10 & -5 \\ 15 & 22 & -11 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.23)$$

The above definition and computation can feel cumbersome. We can simplify the above calculations by introducing the inner product.

The inner product between two **vectors**  $v$  and  $q$ , or  $v'q$ , is

$$v = [1, 2, 3] \quad (9.24)$$

$$q = [4, 5, 6] \quad (9.25)$$

$$(9.26)$$

$$v'q = 1 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 5 + 3 \cdot 6 \quad (9.27)$$

$$= 4 + 10 + 18 = 32 \quad (9.28)$$

Let us use the inner product to simplify the above matrix multiplication. First, we rewrite the matrix  $A$  as a stack of two *row* vectors

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.29)$$

where  $a_1 = [1, 2]$  and  $a_2 = [3, 4]$

Second, we rewrite the matrix  $B$  as a stack of three *column* vectors

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.30)$$

where  $b_1 =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$b_2 =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$b_3 =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

\$

Then the product  $AB$  is a matrix of inner products

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} a'_1 b_1 & a'_1 b_2 & a'_1 b_3 \\ a'_2 b_1 & a'_2 b_2 & a'_2 b_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.31)$$

Matrix multiplication is different than multiplication between two variables that represent real numbers because matrix multiplication is **not** commutative—the product  $AB$  is not rarely equal to  $BA$ .

To compute the product of two matrices in R we need the `%*%` operator

```
[22]: A = matrix(c(-1,0,1,-2,-1,3,4,5,6),ncol=3)
      B = matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9),ncol=3)

      print(A)
      print(B)

      print(A%*%B)
      print(B%*%A)
```

```
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]  -1  -2   4
[2,]   0  -1   5
[3,]   1   3   6
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]   1   4   7
[2,]   2   5   8
[3,]   3   6   9
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]   7  10  13
[2,]  13  25  37
[3,]  25  55  85
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]   6  15  66
[2,]   6  15  81
[3,]   6  15  96
```

Note above that we computed the product  $AB$  and  $BA$  and these products resulted in different matrices.

### 9.1.2.3 Matrix times a vector

A matrix  $A$  with dimension  $(r, c)$  can be multiplied by a vector  $v$  if the length of  $v$  is  $c$ . Then the product  $Av$  is a vector with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  entry of  $Av$  defined

as

$$(Av)_i = \sum_{k=1}^c A_{i,k} v_k \quad (9.32)$$

For example, Let the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.33)$$

and the vector

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.34)$$

then

$$Av = \begin{bmatrix} 1*4 + 2*(-3) \\ 3*4 + 4*(-3) \\ 5*4 + 6*(-3) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.35)$$

The definition above can also be simplified by using inner products. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.36)$$

where  $a_1 = [1, 2]$ ,  $a_2 = [3, 4]$ , and  $a_3 = [5, 6]$ . Then the product  $Av$  simplifies to

$$Av = \begin{bmatrix} a'_1 v \\ a'_2 v \\ a'_3 v \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.37)$$

We can use the `%%` operator in R to multiply together a matrix and a vector

```
[32]: A = matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6), ncol=2, byrow=TRUE)
      v = c(4,-3)

print("Matrix A")
print(A)
```

```
print("Vector v")
print(v)

print("Av")
product = A%%v
print(product)
```

```
[1] "Matrix A"
      [,1] [,2]
[1,]     1     2
[2,]     3     4
[3,]     5     6
[1] "Vector v"
[1]  4 -3
[1] "Av"
      [,1]
[1,]    -2
[2,]     0
[3,]     2
```

#### 9.1.2.4 Matrix Transpose

Given a matrix  $M$ , the **tranpose** of  $M$ ,  $M'$  or  $M^T$ , is a matrix where the first row of  $M'$  corresponds to the first column of  $M$ , the second row of  $M'$  corresponds to the second columns of  $M$  and so on. If  $M$  has dimension  $(r, c)$  then  $M'$  has dimensions  $(c, r)$ .

For example, if

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 2 & 13 \\ 90 & 23 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.38)$$

then the tranpose of  $M$ ,

$$M' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 & 90 \\ 2 & 5 & 2 & 23 \\ 3 & 6 & 13 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.39)$$

We can use the `t()` operator to transpose a matrix in R.

```
[36]: M = matrix(c( 1,2,3,4,5,6,3,2,13,90,23,0),ncol=3,byrow=TRUE)

print("The matrix M")
```

```
print(M)

print("The transpose")
Mt = t(M)

print(Mt)
```

```
[1] "The matrix M"
      [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]     1     2     3
[2,]     4     5     6
[3,]     3     2    13
[4,]    90    23     0
[1] "The transpose"
      [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
[1,]     1     4     3    90
[2,]     2     5     2    23
[3,]     3     6    13     0
```

### 9.1.2.5 Matrix inverse

For a super fun overview of matrix multiplication and the concept of identities and inverses, click [here](#)!

#### *The identity matrix*

The **identity matrix** of dimension  $r$ , usually labeled  $I_r$ , is a matrix with  $r$  rows and  $r$  columns such that the diagonal elements of the matrix, the (1,1) entry, (2,2) entry, up to (r,r) entry are the number 1 and all other entries are 0. For example,

$$I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9.40)$$

This matrix is called the identity matrix because any matrix  $A$  times  $I$  returns  $A$ . To be more precise, this matrix is the *multiplicative* identity matrix. But the adjective *multiplicative* is usually dropped.

#### *The inverse matrix*

The **inverse** of a matrix  $A$ — $A^{-1}$ —is a matrix such that, if  $A$  has the same number of rows and columns (called square) then

$$AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I \quad (9.41)$$

The idea of a matrix inverse is the same as in algebra. If we have a variable  $a$

then the inverse of  $a$ , called  $a^{-1}$  is the unique number such that

$$a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1} \cdot a = 1.$$

In matrix algebra, the identity matrix takes the place of the “1” in algebra.

We can compute the inverse of a matrix  $A$  in R using the `solve` function.

```
[41]: A = matrix(c(3,4,5,6),ncol=2)

print("A")
print(A)

print("A inverse")
Ainverse = solve(A)
print(Ainverse)
```

```
[1] "A"
     [,1] [,2]
[1,]    3    5
[2,]    4    6
[1] "A inverse"
     [,1] [,2]
[1,]   -3  2.5
[2,]    2 -1.5
```

### 9.1.3 Assignment

1. Define the vector  $v$  of length 3 with the following numbers: -1,0,1
2. Define the matrix  $A$  with dimension (2,3) by filling, column wise, the values: 1,2,3,4,5,6
3. Multiply  $A$  by  $v$  ( $Av$ )
4. Multiply  $v$  by  $A$  ( $vA$ ). Why does R return an error?
5. Write a function that takes two argument which are both matrices and returns the product of these matrices.

# 10

## Laboratory 05

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### CONTENTS

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#### 10.0.1 Data Frame

We learned in lecture that a dataframe is a specific way to organize data points sampled from a sample space  $\mathcal{G}$ . A dataframe supposes a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N)$  should be organized so that each row is a single outcome  $d_i$  and each column is a position in the tuple  $d_i = (x, y, z, \dots)$

The dataframe is a common way computational scientists think about data.

##### 10.0.1.1 How to read a CSV file into a data frame

The function `read.csv` takes as an argument a string that indicates a file on your local computer OR a URL online. Below the `read.csv` function is used to import into memory a **dataframe** related to bad drivers from the statsitcal news outlet called *FiveThirtyEight*.

The news article is here <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/which-state-has-the-worst-drivers/>

```
[23]: d = read.csv("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/
         ↳fivethirtyeight/data/master/bad-drivers/bad-drivers.csv")
         d # Jupyter will by default print any variable
```



State <chr>	Number.of.drivers.involved.in.fatal.collisions.per.billion.miles <dbl>
Alabama	18.8
Alaska	18.1
Arizona	18.6
Arkansas	22.4
California	12.0
Colorado	13.6
Connecticut	10.8
Delaware	16.2
District of Columbia	5.9
Florida	17.9
Georgia	15.6
Hawaii	17.5
Idaho	15.3
Illinois	12.8
Indiana	14.5
Iowa	15.7
Kansas	17.8
Kentucky	21.4
Louisiana	20.5
Maine	15.1
Maryland	12.5
Massachusetts	8.2
Michigan	14.1
Minnesota	9.6
Mississippi	17.6
Missouri	16.1
Montana	21.4
Nebraska	14.9
Nevada	14.7
New Hampshire	11.6
New Jersey	11.2
New Mexico	18.4
New York	12.3
North Carolina	16.8
North Dakota	23.9
Ohio	14.1
Oklahoma	19.9
Oregon	12.8
Pennsylvania	18.2
Rhode Island	11.1
South Carolina	23.9
South Dakota	19.4
Tennessee	19.5
Texas	19.4
Utah	11.3
Vermont	13.6
Virginia	12.7
Washington	10.6
West Virginia	23.8
Wisconsin	13.8
Wyoming	17.4

A data.frame: 51 × 8

### 10.0.1.2 Selecting a column and the \$ operator

With a dataframe you can select rows by asking R to return the number column where the first column in the dataframe is 1, the second column 2, and so on. You can also ask R to return a column of your dataframe by column name.

The 3rd column of the dataframe that we read records, by state, the percentage of fatal collision that involved a driver who was impaired by alcohol.

We can ask R for the 3rd column by using square brackets in the same way that we used square brackets to select rows and columns of matrices.

[24]: `d[,3]`

```
1. 39 2. 41 3. 35 4. 18 5. 35 6. 37 7. 46 8. 38 9. 34 10. 21 11. 19 12. 54 13. 36 14. 36
15. 25 16. 17 17. 27 18. 19 19. 35 20. 38 21. 34 22. 23 23. 24 24. 23 25. 15 26. 43
27. 39 28. 13 29. 37 30. 35 31. 16 32. 19 33. 32 34. 39 35. 23 36. 28 37. 32 38. 33
39. 50 40. 34 41. 38 42. 31 43. 21 44. 40 45. 43 46. 30 47. 19 48. 42 49. 34 50. 36
51. 42
```

We can request a column from a dataframe by asking for 1. The dataframe  
2. square brackets Inside the square brackets you divide the rows you want selected and the columns you want selected by a comma.

For example, if we wanted to look at the 10th row and 3rd column we can write

[25]: `d[10,3]`

21

If instead we wanted to view rows 10,11,12 and columns 3 and 4 we could write

[26]: `d[ 10:12, c(3,4) ]`

	Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.Speeding <int>	Percenta <int>
10	21	29
11	19	25
12	54	41

A data.frame: 3 × 2

The above examples select columns and rows by number. One advantage of a dataframe is that we can select columns **by name**.

For example, we may be interested in rows 10-12 of the column "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.Speeding"

```
[27]: d[10:12, "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.
      ↳Who.Were.Speeding"]
```

```
1. 21 2. 19 3. 54
```

We can ask for **all** rows that correspond to a column by leaving the entry to the left of the comma blank.

```
[28]: d[, "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.
      ↳Were.Speeding"]
```

```
1. 39 2. 41 3. 35 4. 18 5. 35 6. 37 7. 46 8. 38 9. 34 10. 21 11. 19 12. 54 13. 36 14. 36
15. 25 16. 17 17. 27 18. 19 19. 35 20. 38 21. 34 22. 23 23. 24 24. 23 25. 15 26. 43
27. 39 28. 13 29. 37 30. 35 31. 16 32. 19 33. 32 34. 39 35. 23 36. 28 37. 32 38. 33
39. 50 40. 34 41. 38 42. 31 43. 21 44. 40 45. 43 46. 30 47. 19 48. 42 49. 34 50. 36
51. 42
```

Finally, there is a shorthand for the code `d[, "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.Speeding"]` using the dollarsign operator. The dollar sign operator can be thought of as a function that takes a column name as input and returns the column of data inside your data frame corresponding to that column.

```
[41]: d$Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.
      ↳Speeding
```

```
NULL
```

### 10.0.1.3 Logical indexing

We are allowed to use logical indexing like we learned when selecting items in vectors and matrices to select rows and columns of a data frame. For example, suppose we are interested in **all** columns of our data frame where the Percentage Of Drivers Involved In Fatal Collisions Who Were Speeding is above 40%.

```
[30]: d[ d$ "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.
      ↳Were.Speeding" > 40, ]
```

	State <chr>	Number.of.drivers.involved.in.fatal.collisions.per.billion.miles <dbl>	P
2	Alaska	18.1	4
7	Connecticut	10.8	4
12	Hawaii	17.5	5
26	Missouri	16.1	4
39	Pennsylvania	18.2	5
45	Utah	11.3	4
48	Washington	10.6	4
51	Wyoming	17.4	4

A data.frame: 8 × 8

or maybe we are interested in not all columns, but just the states where this percentage is above 40%. We can subset to a specific column by including in square brackets the name of the column

```
[34]: d[ d$ "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.
      ↳Were.Speeding" > 40, "State" ]
```

1. 'Alaska' 2. 'Connecticut' 3. 'Hawaii' 4. 'Missouri' 5. 'Pennsylvania' 6. 'Utah'  
7. 'Washington' 8. 'Wyoming'

If we wanted to include more than one column then we can include a vector that contains each column we want to select.

```
[36]: d[ d$"Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.
      ↳Were.Speeding" > 40, c("State", "Car.Insurance.Premiums....
      ↳") ]
```

	State <chr>	Car.Insurance.Premiums.... <dbl>
2	Alaska	1053.48
7	Connecticut	1068.73
12	Hawaii	861.18
26	Missouri	790.32
39	Pennsylvania	905.99
45	Utah	809.38
48	Washington	890.03
51	Wyoming	791.14

A data.frame: 8 × 2

#### 10.0.1.4 Functions for data frames

There are several useful functions that take as an argument a data frame. The `nrow` function takes a data frame as an argument and returns the number of rows (i.e. the number of data points) in the data frame. The `ncol` function takes a data frame as an argument and returns the number of columns in the data frame.

```
[31]: number_of_rows = nrow(d)
      number_of_columns = ncol(d)

      print(number_of_rows)
      print(number_of_columns)
```

```
[1] 51
[1] 8
```

The `colnames` function takes as an argument a data frame and returns a vector that contains the name of each column in the data frame.

```
[32]: column_names = colnames(d)
      print(column_names)
```

```
[1] "State"
[2] "Number.of.drivers.involved.in.fatal.collisions.per.billion.
    ↳miles"
[3] "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.
    ↳Were.Speeding"
[4]
"Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.
    ↳Alcohol.Impaired"
[5] "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.
    ↳Were.Not.Distracted"
[6] "Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Had.
    ↳Not.Been.Involve
d.In.Any.Previous.Accidents"
[7] "Car.Insurance.Premiums..."
[8]
"Losses.incurred.by.insurance.companies.for.collisions.per.
    ↳insured.driver..."
```

The `summary` function is a function that takes as an argument a data frame and returns, for each column in the data frame, the minimum value, maximum value, mean (average), median, 25th percentile (called the 1st quartile), and the 75th percentile (called the 3rd quartile).

```
[33]: summary(d)
```

```
      State
Length:51
Class :character
Mode  :character
```

Number.of.drivers.involved.in.fatal.collisions.per.billion.

→miles

Min. : 5.90

1st Qu.:12.75

Median :15.60

Mean :15.79

3rd Qu.:18.50

Max. :23.90

Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.

→Speeding

Min. :13.00

1st Qu.:23.00

Median :34.00

Mean :31.73

3rd Qu.:38.00

Max. :54.00

Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.

→Alcohol.Impaired

Min. :16.00

1st Qu.:28.00

Median :30.00

Mean :30.69

3rd Qu.:33.00

Max. :44.00

Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Were.

→Not.Distracted

Min. : 10.00

1st Qu.: 83.00

Median : 88.00

Mean : 85.92

3rd Qu.: 95.00

Max. :100.00

Percentage.Of.Drivers.Involved.In.Fatal.Collisions.Who.Had.Not.

→Been.Involved.In.Any.Previous.Accidents

Min. : 76.00

1st Qu.: 83.50

Median : 88.00

Mean : 88.73

3rd Qu.: 95.00

Max. :100.00

Car.Insurance.Premiums...

Min. : 642.0

1st Qu.: 768.4

Median : 859.0

```
Mean      : 887.0
3rd Qu.:1007.9
Max.      :1301.5
Losses.incurred.by.insurance.companies.for.collisions.per.
→insured.driver...
Min.      : 82.75
1st Qu.:114.64
Median   :136.05
Mean     :134.49
3rd Qu.:151.87
Max.     :194.78
```

### 10.0.2 Assignment

We are going to look at a dataset that was collected on University “Fight Songs” that are played during sporting events. The article about the data set is here= <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/college-fight-song-lyrics/>

1. The data is at the URL (<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/fivethirtyeight/data/master/fight-songs/fight-songs.csv>). Please read in this raw CSV as a `data.frame`
2. Use the `nrow` and `ncol` function to describe the number of fight songs sampled and the number of different characteristics collected about each song.
3. How many songs were sampled with a BPM (beats per minute) above 150?
4. Select the rows where BPM is greater than 150 and select the column “nonsense” (Whether or not the song uses nonsense syllables (e.g. “Whoo-Rah” or “Hooperay”))
5. Summarize the data frame. Why do you think the summary function does not produce useful information for many of the columns?

---

## *Bibliography*