

VE401 SU2022 RC week1

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Outline

- 1 Principles of Counting
- 2 Concepts of the Probability Theory
- 3 Conditional Probability
- 4 Q&A

Binomial Coefficients

$\binom{n}{k}$: Choose k elements from n objects and the order is not important

- $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$
- In high school we use C_n^k , but now you need to adapt yourselves to new symbol.

ex 1.1

1. (entrance exam, 2020 Shanghai) Select 4 people from 6 people to work on duty. Each of them works one day. We need 1 person for the first day, 1 person for the second day and 2 people for the third day. What's the number of the total method?
2. Distribute 15 students into 3 class, 5 students each. Among these 15 students there're 3 outstanding students. We want to have 1 outstanding student for each class. How many methods to distribute these students?

ex 1.1 answer

1. $\binom{6}{1} \binom{5}{1} \binom{4}{2} = 180$

2.

First distribute top students. The methods are $3!$

Then distribute other students. The methods are $\binom{12}{4} \binom{8}{4} \binom{4}{4} = 34650$

So the total methods are $6 * 34650 = 207900$

Basic Concepts of the Probability Theory

Sample Point: mathematical objects that may appear in a random experiment.

Sample Space: A set that contain all sample points.

- In high school, as well as many probability theory textbook, the definition is “the set of all sample points”.
- example: Throw a dice and record its result. The sample space can be either $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ or N .

Event: A subset of the sample space. Often denoted with a capital letter like B .

- The **sum** and **product** of two events A and B is $A \cup B$ and $A \cap B$ respectively. Another denotation is $A + B$ and AB .

Probabilities of Events

Cardano's Principle(Classical Probability): Let A be a random outcome of an experiment that may proceed in various ways. Assume each of these ways is equally likely. Then the probability $P[A]$ of the outcome A is

$$P[A] = \frac{\text{number of ways leading to outcome } A}{\text{number of ways the experiment can proceed}}$$

- You may think it's too young, _____, _____.

ex 1.2

1. (hypergeometric distribution) There're N products, from which D of them are marked. Now we select n of these products, what's the probability to have k ($k \leq D$) marked products?
2. (lottary problem) There're N lottaries, from which n lottaries have prize. There're M people who draw one lottary in turn. What's the probability that the k th ($k = 1, 2, \dots, M; M \leq N$) people win the lottary? What's your conclusion?

ex 1.2 answer

1.

Total situation: $\binom{N}{n}$, each situation has equal probability. The methods to get exactly k marked products: $\binom{D}{k} \binom{N-D}{n-k}$. So the probability is

$$\frac{\binom{D}{k} \binom{N-D}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

2.

Total situation is P_N^M , each situation has equal probability. Suppose the k th people get the prize, the other $(M-1)$ people get $(N-1)$ prize. The methods are $n * P_{N-1}^{M-1}$, so the probability is

$$\frac{n P_{N-1}^{M-1}}{P_N^M} = \frac{n}{N}$$

And we draw the conclusion that the probability is independent from k . Everyone have the same chance.

What's probability

The concept of “probability” is limited to Classical Probability, where we suppose each kind of “atomic” situation is equally likely. This approach is intuitive, but is stuck in a circular definition because “equally likely” is meaningless before we define probability in another way.

From our observation, we can find that the term “probability” is defined on the events of a sample space S , i.e., a map

$$P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

where \mathcal{F} is some of the subsets of S ($\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^S$).

σ -field

Clearly, not every map P is eligible to become probability. P should satisfy some properties. Before that, we first define the concept of σ -field.

A collection of some subsets of S , denoted as \mathcal{F} , is called σ -field if:

- ① $\Phi \in \mathcal{F}$
- ② $A \in \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow S \setminus A \in \mathcal{F}$
- ③ if $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$ is a finite or countable sequence of subsets, then the union $\bigcup_k A_k \in \mathcal{F}$

Axiomatic Approach of Probability

Clearly, the family of events \mathcal{F} should also be a σ -field. We then define what a probability map P should satisfy:

- ① Regularity: $P[S] = 1$
- ② Additivity for countable: if $A_1, A_2, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$ is a countable sequence of events, and $\forall i \neq j, A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$, then $P[\bigcup_k A_k] = \sum_k P[A_k]$

ex 1.3

Can we randomly and equal likely pick one number from the following set?
Please prove or disprove it.

- \mathbb{N}
- \mathbb{Q}
- \mathbb{R}
- $[0, 1]$

Conditional Probability

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

- confirm that it satisfies the axiomatic of probability.

total probability formula:

$$P[B] = \sum_{k=1}^n P[B|A_k]P[A_k]$$

where A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are mutually exclusive and $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n = S$

independent Events

- **definition:** Two events, A and B , are called **independent** if and only if $P[A \cap B] = P[A]P[B]$
- **corollary:** If A and B are independent,
 - ① $P[A] \neq 0$, then $P[B|A] = P[B]$
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- What's the definition that three events, A, B, C are independent?
- $P[A \cap B] = P[A]P[B]$, $P[A \cap C] = P[A]P[C]$, $P[B \cap C] = P[B]P[C]$, and $P[A \cap B \cap C] = P[A]P[B]P[C]$
- Is the condition " $P[A \cap B \cap C] = P[A]P[B]P[C]$ " useless?

independent Events

No!

Take $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, take one of the number equal likely, and set

$A = \{1, 2\}$, $B = \{1, 3\}$, $C = \{1, 4\}$, we can find that

$P[A] = P[B] = P[C] = \frac{1}{2}$, $P[AB] = P[BC] = P[AC] = \frac{1}{4}$, but

$P[ABC] = \frac{1}{4}$, not $\frac{1}{8}$.

Bayes's Theorem

Please take 30 seconds to derive Bayes's Theorem by yourself. Hint:

$$P[A_k|B] = \frac{P[B \cap A_k]}{P[B]} = \dots$$

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$$P[A_k|B] = \frac{P[B \cap A_k]}{P[B]} = \frac{P[B|A_k]P[A_k]}{\sum_{j=1}^n P[B|A_j]P[A_j]}$$

where A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are mutually exclusive and $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n = S$

corollary:
$$P[A|B] = \frac{P[B|A]P[A]}{P[B|A]P[A] + P[B|\bar{A}]P[\bar{A}]}$$

ex 1.4

(binomial distribution) In one round of experiment, your probability to get result A is p and probability to get result B is $1 - p$. Now you do n rounds of independent experiment. What's the probability to get k result of A?

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For a certain permutation of result, the probability to get k A and $(n - k)$ B is $p^k(1 - p)^{n-k}$ by the independence of the experiment. Now the permutation is not important, and the total permutation is $\binom{n}{k}$ (choose k place out of n experiment and give them result A), so the answer is

$$\binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

ex 1.5

(a very classic problem) There's a type of method to determine cancer. If the examinee is healthy, there's 1% that the method report positive result. If the examinee does have cancer, there's 1% that the method report negative result.

Given that 0.01% people have this kind of cancer, what's the probability that a person who get positive result get cancer?

ex 1.5

(a very classic problem) There's a type of method to determine cancer. If the examinee is healthy, there's 1% that the method report positive result. If the examinee does have cancer, there's 1% that the method report negative result.

Given that 0.01% people have this kind of cancer, what's the probability that a person who get positive result get cancer?

The answer is $\frac{1}{102}$. Set A: get cancer and B: get positive result. Plug in the data to Bayes's formula and you get the result.

- ① $P[A|B]$ is very different from $P[B|A]$
- ② Bayes's formula is good at solving $P[A|B]$ when $P[B|A]$ and other data is available.

ex 1.6

Four people, A, B, C and D, are playing a game: they throw a dice (with number 1-6) in turn and the one who gets the smallest number wins the game. If some people get the same smallest number, these people roll the dice again with the same rule (other people who don't get the smallest number are eliminated) until only one person gets the smallest number. The person A rolls the dice first, and he gets 3. What's the probability that he wins the game finally?

ex 1.6 answer

We need to realize one important thing: if k people get the same smallest number, all of them have $\frac{1}{k}$ probability to win the game because the rule is equal to everyone before they roll the dice. There's no need to consider what will happen in the second round and what's the probability that they go to the 3rd, 4th, ... round.

Set E_i : i people get 3, while other $(3 - i)$ people get more than 3. P_i : A wins when E_i happen.

By total probability formula, the answer $p = \sum_{i=0}^3 P[E_i]P[P_i]$

We can find that $P[P_i] = \frac{1}{i+1}$.

$$P[E_0] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{8}, P[E_1] = 3 * \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 * \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$P[E_2] = 3 * \frac{1}{2} * \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{24}, P[E_3] = \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{216}$$

And plug in all the data and we can find the answer $p = \frac{175}{864}$

ex 1.7

(This exercise is adapted from real life)

As we all know, a TA needs to make RC slides every week. It usually takes a TA hours of time to make one week's slide. So, it's common practice for some TA to "borrow" slides from previous years' TA.

Usually, as a student, you won't find it since many concepts are the same. However, one day you find two TAs make the same mistake in one week's RC slide, which raises much suspicious. Suppose when TA is making RC slides, he has 0.4 probability to "borrow" RC slides from previous TA. Also, a TA has 0.01 probability to make a mistake for a concept when making slides. Suppose previous TA made slides by himself.

- ① What's the probability that they both "borrow" the slide from previous TA?
- ② Suppose the previous TA is very careless, and has 0.02 probability to make a mistake in that concept. But because of that, the TAs in this semester have 0.2 probability to find out the mistake if they "borrow" the slide. What's the probability that they both "borrow" the slide?

ex 1.7 answer

Let's denote the previous TA as No.0, and the current TA No.1 and No.2.

Set: F_i : No.i makes mistake.

B_i : No.i "borrows" the slide from previous TA.

E_i (or $F_i|\overline{B_i}$): No.i makes mistake when making slides by himself.

1.

$$P[E_0] = P[E_1] = P[E_2] = 0.01, P[B_1] = P[B_2] = 0.4$$

What we need is

$$\begin{aligned} & P[B_1 B_2 | F_1 F_2] \\ &= \frac{P[B_1 B_2 F_1 F_2]}{P[F_1 F_2]} \\ &= \frac{P[E_0]P[B_1]P[B_2]}{P[E_0]P[B_1]P[B_2] + P[E_1]P[\overline{B_1}]P[E_0]P[B_2] + P[E_2]P[\overline{B_2}]P[E_0]P[B_1] + P[E_1]P[\overline{B_1}]P[E_2]P[\overline{B_2}]} \\ &= 0.9501 \end{aligned}$$

ex 1.7 answer

2.

It's equal to say that $P[E_0] = 0.02 * (1 - 0.2) = 0.016$. Plug into the same formula and we get the result is 0.9578.

Q&A

Thank you!

If you have any question, feel free to unmute yourself.