

Basic Probability Definitions

Sample Space (Ω) Set of all possible outcomes of a random experiment.

Event Outcome of a random experiment (inside Ω)

σ -field The allowable events constitute a family of sets F , usually referred to as σ -field. Each set in F is a subset of the sample space Ω .

Probability measure (P) A probability measure on (Ω, F) is a function $P : F \rightarrow [0, 1]$ that satisfies the following two properties:
 1. $P[\Omega] = 1$
 2. The probability of the union of a collection of disjoint members is the sum of its probabilities

Probability space (Ω, F, P)

Basic properties of probability measures
 $P[\emptyset] = 0$
 $P[A^c] = 1 - P[A]$
 If $A \subset B$, then $P[B] = P[A] + P[B \setminus A] \geq P[A]$
 $P[A \cup B] = P[A] + P[B] - P[A \cap B]$

Inclusion Given sets A_1, A_2, \dots

Exclusion Principle $P[\text{union}(A_i)] \leq \text{sum}(P[A_i])$

Principle (comes from last basic property of probability measures) When the two events are disjoint, the inequality is = as they don't share any common space: $P[A \cap B] = 0$

Basic Probability Definitions (cont)

Sampling strategy Choose repeatedly a random number in Ω

Sampling with replacement Select random numbers in Ω , **without taking into account** which ones you've already tested. Therefore, there will be some numbers tested multiple times

Sampling without replacement Select random numbers in Ω **taking into account** which ones you've already used. Therefore, you won't run the algorithm with the same number more than once

Independent (events or family) Two events are independent if: $P[A \cap B] = P[A] P[B]$
 It also applies to families $\{A_i, i \in I\}$

Pairwise To form all possible pairs (two items at a time) from a set

Pairwise independent (family or events) A family or events are pairwise independent if:
 $P[A_i \cap A_j] = P[A_i] P[A_j]$ for all $i \neq j$
 In english terms, a family or events is pairwise independent if any of its possible pairs is independent of each other. For example:
 $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$
 $P(A \cap C) = P(A)P(C)$
 $P(B \cap C) = P(B)P(C)$

Basic Probability Definitions (cont)

Mutually independent (events) More than two events (i.e. A, B, C) are mutually independent if:

1. They are pairwise independent
2. They meet the condition: $P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(A) \times P(B) \times P(C)$

In plain english, events are mutually independent if any event is independent to the other events

Conditional Probability If $P[B] > 0$, the conditional probability that A occurs given that B occurs is: $P[A|B] = P[A \cap B] / P[B]$

Conditional Probability (independent events) If A and B are independent events, then:

$$P[A|B] = P[A \cap B] / P[B] = (P[A] \cdot P[B]) / P[B] = P[A]$$

Law of Total Probability Let e_1, \dots, e_n be **partitions** of Ω (a collection of ALL the sets in Ω which are independent of each other). Also assuming $P[e_i] > 0$ for all i . The probability of A can be written as:
 $P[A] = \text{sum}(i=1, n)(P[A|e_i] \cdot P[e_i])$
 In english, it's the sum of all the possible scenarios in which A can occur



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Basic Probability Definitions (cont)

Bayes Theorem Assuming e_1, \dots, e_n be partitions of Ω :

$$P[e_j|B] = \frac{P[e_j \cap B]}{P[B]} = \frac{P[B|e_j]P[e_j]}{\sum_{i=1, n} (P[B|e_i]P[e_i])}$$

It's basically using conditional theory and then applying conditional theory again for the top part and law of total probability in the lower part

Discrete Random Variables and Expectation

Random Variable A random variable X on a sample space Ω is a real-valued (measurable) function on Ω ; that is $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
Denoted as upper case in this course and real numbers as lower case

Discrete Random Variable A discrete random variable is a random variable that outputs only a finite or countably infinite number of values
(i.e. number of kids in a family, range between 1 and x)

Probability that $X=a$ Sum of all the events w in Ω which $X(w) = a$

Discrete Random Variables and Expectation (cont)

Independence of random variables Two random variables X and Y are independent if and only if:
 $P[(X = x) \cap (Y = y)] = P[X=x] \cdot P[Y=y]$
for all values x and y

Mutually independent random variables Like mutually independent events

Expectation (mean) It is a weighted average of the values assumed by the random variable, taking into account the probability of getting that value.
The expectation of a discrete random variable X , denoted by $E[X]$ is given by
 $E[X] = \sum_{i=x, X} (x \cdot P[X = x])$



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