

Probability

Definition 1: Probability Space (Ω, F, P)

Ω – sample space: all possible results.

Example: roll a six sided die, results is $\Omega = \{1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6\}$

F – power set of Ω : set of all subsets.

$$F = 2^\Omega$$

$$|F| = 2^{|\Omega|}$$

Example: $\{\emptyset\ \{1\}\ \{2\}\ \{3\}\ \dots\ \{6\}\ \{12\}\ \{13\}\ \dots\ \{26\}\ \dots\ \{66\}\ \{111\}\ \{112\}\ \dots\ \{123456\}\}$

P – probability function: maps a subset of the sample space to a probability

$$F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Definition 2: $P: F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

E is an event, $E \subseteq F$

A) $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

B) $P(\Omega) = 1$

C) $P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2)$ iff $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup E_3 \dots \cup E_n) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) + P(E_3) + \dots + P(E_n) \text{ iff } E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset \ \forall \ i \neq j$$

Lemma 1: $P((E_1 \cup E_2) - (E_1 \cap E_2)) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$

Proof:

Note that $E_1 = E_1 - (E_1 \cap E_2) + (E_1 \cap E_2)$

Thus...

$$P(E_1) = P(E_1 - (E_1 \cap E_2)) + P(E_1 \cap E_2) \quad \text{and}$$

$$P(E_2) = P(E_2 - (E_1 \cap E_2)) + P(E_1 \cap E_2)$$

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1 - (E_1 \cap E_2)) + P(E_2 - (E_1 \cap E_2)) + P(E_1 \cap E_2)$$

and

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2) - P(E_1) - P(E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$$

Definition 3: Conditional Probability

Events $A, B \in F$

$P(A | B)$ – Probability of event A given event B is true

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

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_k) = \underbrace{P(A_1) \cdot P(A_2 | A_1) \cdot P(A_3 | A_1 \cap A_2) \cdot \dots \cdot P(A_k | A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_{k-1})}_{P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3)}$$

Definition 4: Random Variables

Choose an event from the sample space Ω . A random variable X is an “observation.”

$$X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Discrete, either a finite number of possibilities or countable infinite.

$X = a$ is $\{y \in \Omega \mid X(y) = a\}$ “a set in Ω in which the random value is a ”

Example: roll a six-sided die twice, sum the results

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

$|\Omega| = 36$

Each event has $\frac{1}{36}$ probability.

$X=4$ is $\{13, 22, 31\}$

$P(X=4) = \frac{3}{36} = \frac{1}{12}$

$P(X=2) = \frac{1}{36} \quad \{1-1\}$

$P(X=7) = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6} \quad \{1-6, 2-5, 3-4, 4-3, 5-2, 6-1\}$

Definition 5: Independent events

X and Y are independent iff $\forall x,y P((X=x) \cap (Y=y)) = P(X=x) \cdot P(Y=y)$

Definition 6: Expectation

The expectation of a random variable X is

$$E(X) = \sum_{i \in R(X)} i \cdot P(X = i)$$

Example: Pick 10 cards. What is the expected number of red cards? ($10 \times .5 = 5$)

Lemma 2: Linearity of Expectation

Given events X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k (mutually exclusive)

$E(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_k) = E(X_1) + E(X_2) + \dots + E(X_k)$

Example:

X : card is a spade = $\frac{13}{52} = .25$

Y : card is a king = $\frac{4}{52} = .077$

$P(X \cap Y) = P(\text{King of spades}) = \frac{1}{52} = .019 = \frac{13}{52} \times \frac{4}{52}$

Thus, X and Y are mutually exclusive.

Counterexample:

X : card is a face card = $\frac{12}{52} = .23$

Y : card is a king = $\frac{4}{52} = .077$

$P(X \cap Y) \neq \frac{1}{52}$

Thus, X and Y are not mutually exclusive.

Prove $E(X + Y) = E(X) + E(Y)$

$|X| = i \quad |Y| = j$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X + Y) &= \sum_{i+j \in R(X+Y)} (i + j) P((X + Y) = i + j) \\ &= \sum_{i+j \in R(X+Y)} (i + j) P(X = i \wedge Y = j) \\ &= \sum_{i+j \in R(X+Y)} [i \cdot P(X = i \wedge Y = j) + j \cdot P(X = i \wedge Y = j)] \\ &= \sum_{i \in R(X)} \sum_{j \in R(Y)} i \cdot P(X = i \wedge Y = j) + \sum_{i \in R(X)} \sum_{j \in R(Y)} j \cdot P(X = i \wedge Y = j) \\ &= E(X) + E(Y) \end{aligned}$$

Definition 7: Variance of a random variable X

$\text{Var}(X) = E(X - E(X))^2 \quad E(X)$ is the mean of the data

$$\begin{aligned}
&= E(X^2 - 2XE(X) + (E(X))^2) \\
&= E(X^2) - E(2XE(X)) + E(E(X))^2 \\
&= E(X^2) - 2E(X)E(X) + (E(X))^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus } \text{Var}(X) = E(X - E(X))^2 = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$$

$$\text{Standard deviation: } \sigma(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

Definition 8: Covariance of two random variables X, Y

Note the similarity between Covariance and Variance. Variance is the covariance of a variable with itself.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= E((X - E(X)) \cdot (Y - E(Y))) \\
&= E(X \cdot Y - X \cdot E(Y) - Y \cdot E(X) + E(X) \cdot E(Y)) \\
&= E(X \cdot Y) - E(X \cdot E(Y)) - E(Y \cdot E(X)) + E(X) \cdot E(Y) \\
&= E(X \cdot Y) - E(X) \cdot E(Y) + \cancel{E(X) \cdot E(Y)} + \cancel{E(X) \cdot E(Y)} \\
&= E(X \cdot Y) - E(X) \cdot E(Y)
\end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3: $\text{Var}(X+Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2 \cdot \text{Cov}(X, Y)$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(X+Y) &= E(X+Y - E(X+Y))^2 \\
&= E((X+Y)^2 - 2(X+Y)E(X+Y) + (E(X+Y))^2) \\
&= E((X+Y)^2) - (E(X+Y))^2 \\
&= E(X^2) + 2E(X \cdot Y) + E(Y^2) - (E(X+Y))^2 \\
&= E(X^2) + 2E(X \cdot Y) + E(Y^2) - (E(X) + E(Y))^2 \\
&= E(X^2) + 2E(X \cdot Y) + E(Y^2) - (E(X)^2 + 2E(X)E(Y) + E(Y)^2) \\
&= (E(X^2) - (E(X))^2) + (E(Y^2) - (E(Y))^2) + (2E(X \cdot Y) - 2E(X)E(Y)) \\
&= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2 \cdot \text{Cov}(X, Y)
\end{aligned}$$

Lemma 4: Events X, Y are independent $\rightarrow E(X \cdot Y) = E(X) \cdot E(Y)$

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$$

$$\text{Var}(X+Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$$

Example: Bernoulli distribution

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1 : \text{tails } p \\ 2 : \text{heads } 1-p \end{cases}$$

$$P(Y=1) = p$$

$$P(Y=0) = 1 - p$$

$$E(Y) = p$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = E(Y^2) - (E(Y))^2$$

Toss a coin n times: Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n

X is the number of 1's.

$$X = Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n$$

$$E(X) = E(Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n)$$

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

$$E(X) = \sum_{k=0}^n k \cdot P(x = k)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \text{Var}(Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n) = np \\ &= \text{Var}(Y_1) + \text{Var}(Y_2) + \dots + \text{Var}(Y_n) \\ &= np(1-p)\end{aligned}$$