

Random Experiment

It is an experiment that its outcomes can not be predicted, and each its outcome has the same chance(probability).

Definition 11 Sample space The *sample space*, denoted by Ω , is the collection or totality of all possible outcomes of a conceptual experiment.

Definition 12 Event and event space An *event* is a subset of the sample space. The class of all events associated with a given experiment is defined to be the *event space*. ////

Example

Tossing one single fair coin one time.

Sample space= $\Omega = \{H, T\}$

Let X be number of appearance the head, that $P(H) = \frac{1}{2}$ then $P(T) = \frac{1}{2}$

Now let $X = 1$ for appearance the head, and let $X = 0$ for without appearance the head, e.g. $P(H) = P(X = 1) = \frac{1}{2}$ then

$$P(T) = P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } P(X = 1) + P(X = 0) = 1$$

Thus X is discrete random variable since its values are countable values, so that its probability is called probability mass function, that is

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & x = 0,1 \\ 0 & \text{other wise} \end{cases}$$

Or $P(X = x) = \frac{1}{2}I_{\{0,1\}}(x)$ where

Definition 14 Indicator function Let Ω be any space with points ω and A any subset of Ω . The *indicator function* of A , denoted by $I_A(\cdot)$, is the function with domain Ω and counterdomain equal to the set consisting of the two real numbers 0 and 1 defined by

$$I_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \omega \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } \omega \notin A. \end{cases}$$

$I_A(\cdot)$ clearly “indicates” the set A . ////

EXAMPLE 13 Let the function $f(\cdot)$ be defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x \leq 0 \\ x & \text{for } 0 < x \leq 1 \\ 2 - x & \text{for } 1 < x \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } 2 < x. \end{cases}$$

By using the indicator function, $f(x)$ can be written as

$$f(x) = xI_{(0, 1]}(x) + (2 - x)I_{(1, 2]}(x),$$

Boolean Algebra (Algebra)

It is a set of all possible subsets of the sample space Ω , denoted as \mathcal{A} , which are called events. Therefore this set has the following properties:

- 1) $\Omega \in \mathcal{A}$,
- 2) $A \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow A^c \in \mathcal{A}$,
- 3) $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow A_1 \cup A_2 \in \mathcal{A}$.

Sigma-algebra (σ - algebra)

Let A be non empty set. Then a collection of all subsets of A , denoted $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{F}, \dots$

It is called σ - algebra iff it has the following properties:

- 1) $\Omega \in \mathcal{A}$,
- 2) $A \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow A^c \in \mathcal{A}$,
- 3) $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3 \cup \dots = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}$.

EXAMPLE 7 Toss a penny, nickel, and dime simultaneously, and note which side is up on each. There are eight possible outcomes of this experiment. $\Omega = \{(H, H, H), (H, H, T), (H, T, H), (T, H, H), (H, T, T), (T, H, T), (T, T, H), (T, T, T)\}$. We are using the first position of (\cdot, \cdot, \cdot) , called a *3-tuple*, to record the outcome of the penny, the second position to record the outcome of the nickel, and the third position to record the outcome of the dime. Let $A_i = \{\text{exactly } i \text{ heads}\}; i = 0, 1, 2, 3$. For each i , A_i is an event. Note that A_0 and A_3 are each elementary events. Again all subsets of Ω are events; there are $2^8 = 256$ of them.

Definition 15 Probability function A *probability function* $P[\cdot]$ is a set function with domain \mathcal{A} (an algebra of events)* and counterdomain the interval $[0, 1]$ which satisfies the following axioms:

- (i) $P[A] \geq 0$ for every $A \in \mathcal{A}$.
- (ii) $P[\Omega] = 1$.
- (iii) If A_1, A_2, \dots is a sequence of mutually exclusive events in \mathcal{A} (that is, $A_i \cap A_j = \phi$ for $i \neq j; i, j = 1, 2, \dots$) and if $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \in \mathcal{A}$, then $P\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P[A_i]$. ////

where

Definition 10 Disjoint or mutually exclusive Subsets A and B of Ω are defined to be *mutually exclusive* or *disjoint* if $A \cap B = \phi$. Subsets A_1, A_2, \dots are defined to be *mutually exclusive* if $A_i \cap A_j = \phi$ for every $i \neq j$

EXAMPLE 16 Consider the experiment of tossing two coins, say a penny and a nickel. Let $\Omega = \{(H, H), (H, T), (T, H), (T, T)\}$ where the first component of (\cdot, \cdot) represents the outcome for the penny. Let us model this random experiment by assuming that the four points in Ω are equally likely; that is, assume $P[\{(H, H)\}] = P[\{(H, T)\}] = P[\{(T, H)\}] = P[\{(T, T)\}]$. The following question arises: Is the $P[\cdot]$ function that is implicitly defined by the above really a probability function; that is, does it satisfy the three axioms? It can be shown that it does, and so it is a probability function.

Definition 16 Probability space A *probability space* is the triplet $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P[\cdot])$, where Ω is a sample space, \mathcal{A} is a collection (assumed to be an algebra) of events (each a subset of Ω), and $P[\cdot]$ is a probability function with domain \mathcal{A} . ////

"Introduction to the Theory of Statistics"

By

Alexander McFarlane Mood