

Probability review

• *Probability space* Ω - a finite (or for us at most countable) set endowed with a measure $p : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ satisfying:

$$\forall \omega \in \Omega; p(\omega) \geq 0$$

and

$$\sum_{\omega \in \Omega} p(\omega) = 1.$$

- *An event* $\mathbf{A} \subseteq \Omega$ - $\Pr[\mathbf{A}] = \sum_{\omega \in \mathbf{A}} p(\omega)$.
- *Random variable* \mathbf{X} - $\mathbf{X} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$.

Example: If \mathbf{X} is a random variable then for a fixed $t, t' \in \mathcal{R}$, $t \leq \mathbf{X} \leq t'$ and $\mathbf{X} > t$ are probabilistic events.

- *Two events* \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are independent - $\Pr[\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}] = \Pr[\mathbf{A}] \cdot \Pr[\mathbf{B}]$.
- *Conditional probability of* \mathbf{A} *given* \mathbf{B} - $\Pr[\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{B}] = \Pr[\mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}]/\Pr[\mathbf{B}]$ (assuming $\Pr[\mathbf{B}] \neq 0$).

Example: \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are independent iff $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ and \mathbf{B} are independent iff ... iff $\Pr[\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{B}] = \Pr[\mathbf{A}]$.

- *For a random variable* \mathbf{X} *and an event* \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{X} *is independent of* \mathbf{A} - for all $S \subseteq \mathcal{R}$, $\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in S|\mathbf{A}] = \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in S]$.
- *Two random variables* \mathbf{X} *and* \mathbf{Y} *are independent* - for all $S, T \subseteq \mathcal{R}$, $\mathbf{X} \in S$ and $\mathbf{Y} \in T$ are independent events.
- *Events* $\mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{A}_2, \dots, \mathbf{A}_n$ *are mutually independent* - for all $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$\Pr\left[\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i \cap \bigcap_{i \notin I} \overline{A_i}\right] = \prod_{i \in I} \Pr[A_i] \cdot \prod_{i \notin I} \Pr[\overline{A_i}].$$

- *Random variables* $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$ *are mutually independent* - for all $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n \in \mathcal{R}$, events $\mathbf{X}_1 = t_1, \mathbf{X}_2 = t_2, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n = t_n$ are mutually independent.
- *Expectation of a random variable* \mathbf{X} - $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} p(\omega)\mathbf{X}(\omega)$.

Three easy claims:

Claim: (Linearity of expectation) For random variables $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_1 + \mathbf{X}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{X}_n] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_i].$$

Claim: For independent random variables \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} , $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{Y}] = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}] \cdot \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{Y}]$.

Claim: For a random variable $\mathbf{X} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$, $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \Pr[\mathbf{X} \geq k]$.

Theorem: (Markov Inequality) For a non-negative random variable \mathbf{X} and any $t \in \mathcal{R}$

$$\Pr[\mathbf{X} \geq t] \leq \frac{\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}]}{t}.$$

Proof: $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} p(\omega) \mathbf{X}(\omega) \geq \sum_{\omega \in \Omega, \mathbf{x}(\omega) \geq t} p(\omega) \mathbf{X}(\omega) \geq t \cdot \sum_{\omega \in \Omega, \mathbf{x}(\omega) \geq t} p(\omega) = t \cdot \Pr[\mathbf{X} \geq t]$. \square

• *Variance* $\mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}]$ of a random variable \mathbf{X} - $\mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{E}[(\mathbf{X} - \mu)^2]$ where $\mu = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}]$.

Claim: For any random variable \mathbf{X} , $\mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}^2] - (\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}])^2$.

Claim: For any random variable \mathbf{X} and a constant c , $\mathbf{Var}[c\mathbf{X}] = c^2 \mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}]$.

Claim: (Linearity of variance) For mutually independent random variables $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$, $\mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}_1 + \mathbf{X}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{X}_n] = \mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}_1] + \mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}_2] + \dots + \mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}_n]$.

Theorem: (Chebyshev's inequality) Let \mathbf{X} be a random variable. For any real number $a > 0$ it holds:

$$\Pr(|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}]| > a) \leq \frac{\mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}]}{a^2}.$$

Proof: Let $\mu = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}]$. Consider the non-negative random variable $\mathbf{Y} = (\mathbf{X} - \mu)^2$. Clearly $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{Y}] = \mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}]$. Using Markov inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[|\mathbf{X} - \mu| > a] &= \Pr[\mathbf{Y} > a^2] \\ &\leq \frac{\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{Y}]}{a^2} \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{Var}[\mathbf{X}]}{a^2}. \end{aligned}$$

\square

Theorem: (Chernoff Bounds) Let $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$ be independent 0-1 random variables. Denote $p_i = \Pr[\mathbf{X}_i = 1]$, hence $1 - p_i = \Pr[\mathbf{X}_i = 0]$. Let $\mathbf{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}_i$. Denote $\mu = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i$. For any $0 < \delta < 1$ it holds

$$\Pr[\mathbf{X} \geq (1 + \delta)\mu] \leq \left[\frac{e^\delta}{(1 + \delta)^{(1 + \delta)}} \right]^\mu$$

and

$$\Pr[\mathbf{X} \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{2}\mu\delta^2}.$$

Proof: For any real number $t > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathbf{X} \geq (1 + \delta)\mu] &= \Pr[t\mathbf{X} \geq t(1 + \delta)\mu] \\ &= \Pr[e^{t\mathbf{X}} \geq e^{t(1 + \delta)\mu}] \end{aligned}$$

where based on \mathbf{X} we define new random variables $t\mathbf{X}$ and $e^{t\mathbf{X}}$. Notice, $e^{t\mathbf{X}}$ is a non-negative random variable so one can apply the Markov inequality to obtain

$$\Pr[e^{t\mathbf{X}} \geq e^{t(1 + \delta)\mu}] \leq \frac{\mathbf{E}[e^{t\mathbf{X}}]}{e^{t(1 + \delta)\mu}}.$$

Since all \mathbf{X}_i are mutually independent, random variables $e^{t\mathbf{X}_i}$ are also mutually independent so

$$\mathbf{E}[e^{t\mathbf{X}}] = \mathbf{E}[e^{t \sum_i \mathbf{X}_i}] = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbf{E}[e^{t\mathbf{X}_i}].$$

We can evaluate $\mathbf{E}[e^{t\mathbf{X}_i}]$

$$\mathbf{E}[e^{t\mathbf{X}_i}] = p_i e^t + (1 - p_i) \cdot 1 = 1 + p_i(e^t - 1) \leq e^{p_i(e^t - 1)}.$$

where in the last step we have used $1 + x \leq e^x$ which holds for all x . (Look on the graph of functions $1 + x$ and e^x and their derivatives in $x = 0$.) Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[e^{tX}] &\leq \prod_{i=1}^n e^{p_i(e^t - 1)} \\ &= e^{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i(e^t - 1)} \\ &= e^{\mu(e^t - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

By choosing $t = \ln(1 + \delta)$ and rearranging terms we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathbf{X} \geq (1 + \delta)\mu] &= \Pr[e^{t\mathbf{X}} \geq e^{t(1+\delta)\mu}] \\ &\leq \frac{e^{\mu(e^t - 1)}}{e^{t(1+\delta)\mu}} \\ &= \left[\frac{e^\delta}{(1 + \delta)^{(1+\delta)}} \right]^\mu \end{aligned}$$

That proves the first bound. The second bound is obtained in a similar way:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathbf{X} \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] &= \Pr[-t\mathbf{X} \geq -t(1 - \delta)\mu] \\ &= \Pr[e^{-t\mathbf{X}} \geq e^{-t(1-\delta)\mu}] \\ &\leq \frac{\mathbf{E}[e^{-tX}]}{e^{-t(1-\delta)\mu}}. \end{aligned}$$

Bounding $\mathbf{E}[e^{-tX}]$ as before gives

$$\mathbf{E}[e^{-tX}] \leq e^{\mu(e^{-t} - 1)}$$

By choosing $t = -\ln(1 - \delta)$ and rearranging terms we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathbf{X} \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] &= \Pr[e^{-t\mathbf{X}} \geq e^{-t(1-\delta)\mu}] \\ &\leq \frac{e^{\mu(e^{-t} - 1)}}{e^{-t(1-\delta)\mu}} \\ &= \left[\frac{e^{-\delta}}{(1 - \delta)^{(1-\delta)}} \right]^\mu \end{aligned}$$

We use the well known expansion for $0 < \delta < 1$

$$\ln(1 - \delta) = - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^i}{i}$$

to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \delta) \ln(1 - \delta) &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^{i+1}}{i} - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^i}{i} \\ &= \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^i}{i(i-1)} - \delta \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(1 - \delta)^{(1-\delta)} \geq e^{\frac{\delta^2}{2} - \delta}$$

Hence

$$\Pr[\mathbf{X} \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] \leq e^{-\frac{\delta^2}{2} + \delta - \delta} = e^{-\frac{\delta^2}{2}\mu}$$

□