

Lecture Notes

on

Information Theory and Coding



July 2020
(Be safe and stay at home)

Independence between events

- N events are statistically independent if the intersection of the events contained in any subset of those N events have probability equal to the product of the individual probabilities
- Example: Three events A , B and C are independent if:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B), P(A \cap C) = P(A)P(C), P(B \cap C) = P(B)P(C)$$

$$P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(A)P(B)P(C)$$

Random Variables

- A random variable (rv) is a function that maps each $\omega \in \Omega$ to a real number.

$$\begin{aligned} X &: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \omega &\rightarrow X(\omega) \end{aligned}$$

- Through a random variable, subsets of Ω are mapped as subsets (intervals) of the real numbers.

$$P(X \in I) = P(\{\omega | X(\omega) \in I\})$$

Random Variables

- A real random variable is a function whose domain is Ω and such that
 - for all real number x , the set $A_x = \{\omega | X(\omega) \leq x\}$ is an event.
 - $P(\omega | X(\omega) = \pm\infty) = 0$.

Cumulative Distribution Function

$$F_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$$X \rightarrow F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = P(\omega | X(\omega) \leq x)$$

- $F_X(\infty) = 1$
- $F_X(-\infty) = 0$
- If $x_1 < x_2$, $F_X(x_2) \geq F_X(x_1)$.
- $F_X(x^+) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} F_X(x + \epsilon) = F_X(x)$. (continuous on the right side).
- $F_X(x) - F_X(x^-) = P(X = x)$.

Types of Random Variables

- Discrete: Cumulative function is a step function (sum of unit step functions)

$$F_X(x) = \sum_i P(X = x_i)u(x - x_i)$$

where $u(x)$ is the unit step function.

- Example: X is the random variable that describes the outcome of the roll of a die. $X \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

Types of Random Variable

- Continuous: Cumulative function is a continuous function.
- Mixed: Neither discrete nor continuous.

Probability Density Function

- It is the derivative of the cumulative distribution function:

$$p_X(x) = \frac{d}{dx} F_X(x)$$

- $\int_{-\infty}^x p_X(x) dx = F_X(x)$.
- $p_X(x) \geq 0$.
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_X(x) dx = 1$.
- $\int_a^b p_X(x) dx = F_X(b) - F_X(a) = P(a \leq X \leq b)$.
- $P(X \in I) = \int_I p_X(x) dx, I \subset \mathbb{R}$.

Discrete Random Variables

- Let us now focus only on discrete random variables.
- Let X be a random variable with sample space \mathcal{X}
- The probability mass function (probability distribution function) of X is a mapping $p_X(x) : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ satisfying:

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p_X(x) = 1$$

- The number $p_X(x) := P(X = x)$

Discrete Random Vectors

- Let $Z = [X, Y]$ be a random vector with sample space $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$
- The joint probability mass function (probability distribution function) of Z is a mapping $p_Z(z) : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ satisfying:

$$\sum_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}} p_Z(z) = \sum_{x, y \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} p_{XY}(x, y) = 1$$

- The number $p_Z(z) := p_{XY}(x, y) = P(Z = z) = P(X = x, Y = y)$.

Discrete Random Vectors

- Marginal Distributions

$$p_X(x) = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} p_{XY}(x, y)$$

$$p_Y(y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p_{XY}(x, y)$$

Discrete Random Vectors

- Conditional Distributions

$$p_{X|Y=y}(x) = \frac{p_{XY}(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}$$

$$p_{Y|X=x}(y) = \frac{p_{XY}(x, y)}{p_X(x)}$$

Discrete Random Vectors

- Random variables X and Y are independent if and only if

$$p_{XY}(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y)$$

- Consequences:

$$p_{X|Y=y}(x) = p_X(x)$$

$$p_{Y|X=x}(y) = p_Y(y)$$

Moments of a Discrete Random Variable

- The n -th order moment of a discrete random variable X is defined as:

$$E[X^n] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} x^n p_X(x)$$

- if $n = 1$, we have the mean of X , $m_X = E[X]$.
- The m -th order central moment of a discrete random variable X is defined as:

$$E[(X - m_X)^m] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} (x - m_X)^m p_X(x)$$

- if $m = 2$, we have the variance of X , σ_X^2 .

Moments of a Discrete Random Vector

- The joint moment n -th order with relation to X and k -th order with relation to Y :

$$m_{nk} = E[X^n Y^k] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} x^n y^k p_{XY}(x, y)$$

- The joint central n -th order with relation to X and k -th order with relation to Y :

$$\mu_{nk} = E[(X - m_X)^n (Y - m_Y)^k] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} (x - m_X)^n (y - m_Y)^k p_{XY}(x, y)$$

Correlation and Covariance

- The correlation of two random variables X and Y is the expected value of their product (joint moment of order 1 in X and order 1 in Y):

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = m_{11} = E[XY]$$

- The covariance of two random variables X and Y is the joint central moment of order 1 in X and order 1 in Y :

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mu_{11} = E[(X - m_X)(Y - m_Y)]$$

- $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \text{Corr}(X, Y) - m_X m_Y$
- Correlation Coefficient:

$$\rho_{XY} = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y} \quad \rightarrow \quad -1 \leq \rho_{XY} \leq 1$$