



Springer Texts in Statistics

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# Probability with Applications in Engineering, Science, and Technology

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# Topics

- ▶ Counting: thinking algorithmically
- ▶ Events: what could happen in principle
- ▶ Experiments: how can events interact
- ▶ Probability: quantifying what could happen

# Counting

# Counting

Basic principles of combinatorics:

- ▶ if an experiment has  $n$  outcomes;  
and another experiment has  $m$  outcomes,
- ▶ then the two experiments jointly have  $n \cdot m$  outcomes.

# Permutations

## Definition

Let  $H = \{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n\}$  be a set of  $n$  different objects. The *permutations* of  $H$  are the different orders in which you can write all of its elements.

# Permutations with repetitions

## Definition

Let  $H = \{h_1 \dots h_1, h_2 \dots h_2, \dots, h_r \dots h_r\}$  be a set of  $r$  different types of **repeated** objects:  $n_1$  many of  $h_1$ ,  $n_2$  of  $h_2$ ,  $\dots$   $n_r$  of  $h_r$ . The *permutations with repetitions* of  $H$  are the different orders in which you can write all of its elements.

## $k$ -Permutations

### Definition

Let  $H = \{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n\}$  be a set of  $n$  different objects. The  $k$ -permutations of  $H$  are the different ways in which one can pick and write  $k$  of its elements of  $H$  in order.



## $k$ -Permutations with repetitions

### Definition

Let  $H = \{h_1 \dots, h_2 \dots, \dots, h_r \dots\}$  be a set of  $r$  different types of **repeated** objects, **each of infinite supply**. The  $k$ -permutations with repetitions of  $H$  are the different orders in which one can write an ordered sequence of length  $k$  using the elements of  $H$ .

## $k$ -Combinations

### Definition

Let  $H = \{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n\}$  be a set of  $n$  different objects. The  $k$ -combinations of  $H$  are the different ways in which one can pick  $k$  of its elements **without order**.

# Events

# Events

A mathematical model for experiments:

- ▶ *Sample space*: the set  $\Omega$  of all possible outcomes
- ▶ An *event* is a collection<sup>1</sup> of possible outcomes:  $E \subseteq \Omega$
- ▶ *Union*  $E \cup F$  and *intersection*  $E \cap F$  of events make sense

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<sup>1</sup>Sometimes  $\Omega$  is too large, and not all subsets are events. Ignore this now.

# Examples

# Union and intersection

## Union

Union  $E \cup F$  of events  $E$  and  $F$  means  $E$  and  $F$ .

Infinite union  $\bigcup_i E_i$  of events  $E_i$  means **at least one of the  $E_i$ 's**.

## Intersection

Intersection  $E \cap F$  of events  $E$  and  $F$  means  $E$  and  $F$ .

Infinite intersection  $\bigcap_i E_i$  of events  $E_i$  means **each of the  $E_i$ 's**.

## Definition

If  $E \cap F = \emptyset$ , we call events  $E$  and  $F$  *mutually exclusive*.

If events  $E_1, E_2, \dots$  satisfy  $E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$  whenever  $i \neq j$ , we call them *mutually exclusive*. **They cannot happen at the same time.**

## Inclusion and implication

### Remark

If the event  $E$  is a *subset* of the event  $F$ , written  $E \subseteq F$ , then the occurrence of  $E$  *implies* that of  $F$ .

# Complementarity

## Definition

The *complement* of an event  $E$  is  $E^c = \Omega - E$ .

This is the event that  $E$  does *not* occur.



# Experiments

# Experiments

How events can interact:

- ▶ Commutativity
- ▶ Distributivity
- ▶ Associativity
- ▶ De Morgan's Law

# Properties of events

▶ Commutativity:  $E \cup F = F \cup E$   
 $E \cap F = F \cap E$

▶ Associativity:  $E \cup (F \cup G) = (E \cup F) \cup G$   
 $E \cap (F \cap G) = (E \cap F) \cap G$

## Properties of events

- ▶ Distributivity:  $(E \cup F) \cap G = (E \cap G) \cup (F \cap G)$   
 $(E \cap F) \cup G = (E \cup G) \cap (F \cup G)$

## De Morgan's law

- ▶ De Morgan's law:  $(E \cup F)^c = E^c \cap F^c$

# Probability

- ▶ Definition by axioms
- ▶ How to compute probabilities
- ▶ Inclusion-exclusion principle
- ▶ Equally likely outcomes

# Axioms of probability

## Definition

The *probability*  $\mathbf{P}$  on a sample space  $\Omega$  assigns *numbers* to *events* of  $\Omega$  in such a way that:

1. the probability of any event is non-negative:  $\mathbf{P}(E) \geq 0$ ;
2. the probability of the sample space is one:  $\mathbf{P}(\Omega) = 1$ ;
3. for countably many *mutually exclusive* events  $E_1, E_2, \dots$ :

$$\mathbf{P}\left(\bigcup_i E_i\right) = \sum_i \mathbf{P}(E_i)$$

# How to compute probabilities

## Proposition

For any event,  $\mathbf{P}(E^c) = 1 - \mathbf{P}(E)$ .

## Corollary

We have  $\mathbf{P}(\emptyset) = \mathbf{P}(\Omega^c) = 1 - \mathbf{P}(\Omega) = 1 - 1 = 0$ .

For any event,  $\mathbf{P}(E) = 1 - \mathbf{P}(E^c) \leq 1$ .



## How to compute probabilities

### Proposition

For any two events,  $\mathbf{P}(E \cup F) = \mathbf{P}(E) + \mathbf{P}(F) - \mathbf{P}(E \cap F)$ .

### Proposition (*Boole's inequality*)

For any events  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$ :

$$\mathbf{P}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{P}(E_i).$$

# Inclusion-exclusion

## Proposition

*For any events:*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(E \cup F \cup G) &= \mathbf{P}(E) + \mathbf{P}(F) + \mathbf{P}(G) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{P}(E \cap F) - \mathbf{P}(E \cap G) - \mathbf{P}(F \cap G) \\ &\quad + \mathbf{P}(E \cap F \cap G). \end{aligned}$$

# Inclusion-exclusion

## Proposition

For any events:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(E \cup F \cup G) &= \mathbf{P}(E) + \mathbf{P}(F) + \mathbf{P}(G) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{P}(E \cap F) - \mathbf{P}(E \cap G) - \mathbf{P}(F \cap G) \\ &\quad + \mathbf{P}(E \cap F \cap G). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n) &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \mathbf{P}(E_i) \\ &\quad - \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 \leq n} \mathbf{P}(E_{i_1} \cap E_{i_2}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < i_3 \leq n} \mathbf{P}(E_{i_1} \cap E_{i_2} \cap E_{i_3}) \\ &\quad - \dots \\ &\quad + (-1)^{n+1} \mathbf{P}(E_1 \cap E_2 \cap \dots \cap E_n). \end{aligned}$$

## Example

### Example

In a sports club,

36 members play tennis,    22 play tennis and squash,  
28 play squash,            12 play tennis and badminton,  
18 play badminton,        9 play squash and badminton,  
                                 4 play tennis, squash and badminton.

How many play at least one of these games?

## How to compute probabilities

### Proposition

If  $E \subseteq F$ , then  $\mathbf{P}(F - E) = \mathbf{P}(F) - \mathbf{P}(E)$ .

### Corollary

If  $E \subseteq F$ , then  $\mathbf{P}(E) \leq \mathbf{P}(F)$ .

Equally likely outcomes

## The return of counting

Finite sample space,  $|\Omega| = N < \infty$ , has special important case where each experiment outcome has *equal probability*:

$$\mathbf{P}(\omega) = \frac{1}{N} \quad \text{for all } \omega \in \Omega$$

### Definition

Outcomes  $\omega \in \Omega$  are also called *elementary events*.

## Example

### Example

Rolling two dice, what is the probability that the sum of the numbers shown is 7?

What's wrong with this solution? "The number 7 is one out of the possible values 2, 3, . . . , 12 for the sum, and the answer is  $\frac{1}{11}$ ."



# Summary

- ▶ Counting: permutations, combinations, repetitions
- ▶ Events: sample space, union, intersection, complement
- ▶ Experiments: distributivity, De Morgan's law
- ▶ Probability: axioms, how to compute, equally likely outcomes