

σ -algebra / σ -Field

Let $\Omega \neq \emptyset$ be a set and let 2^Ω denote the power set of Ω . Σ

Then $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^\Omega$ is called a σ -algebra if it satisfies the following:

1. $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}$

2. $A \in \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow A^c \in \mathcal{F}$

3. $A_n \in \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \in \mathcal{F}$ ← countable union.

Trivial implications: $A_n \in \mathcal{F}, \Rightarrow \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \in \mathcal{F}$ (use De Morgan Laws)

Measurable spaces

(Ω, \mathcal{F}) with $\Omega \neq \emptyset$ and \mathcal{F} σ -algebra on Ω is called a measurable space.

Measurable functions (after measures & meas spaces)

Given two measurable spaces (Ω, \mathcal{F}) and (Ω', \mathcal{F}') a function $f: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega'$ is said to be measurable if

$$f^{-1}(B) := \{ \omega \in \Omega : f(\omega) \in B \} \in \mathcal{F}$$

for every $B \in \mathcal{F}'$.

HW: show that $\mathbb{1}_A: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ -measurable iff $A \in \mathcal{F}$.

$$\mathbb{1}_A^{-1}(B) = \{ \omega \in \Omega : \mathbb{1}_A(\omega) \in B \} = \begin{cases} A & \text{if } A \subset B \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In particular, a random variable is a measurable function $X: (\Omega, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$ where $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ is the smallest sigma algebra containing every open set i.e.

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) = \sigma(\text{open sets of } \mathbb{R})$$

$$= \sigma((-\infty, a], a \in \mathbb{R}).$$

↑
Thm

Measures on a measurable space

A measure μ on a measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) is a mapping $\mu: \mathcal{F} \mapsto [0, \infty]$ satisfying:

$$(i) \mu(\emptyset) = 0$$

(ii) σ -additivity i.e if $A_n \in \mathcal{F}, n \in \mathbb{N}$ are disjoint then

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n)$$

Rem Why do we actually work with σ -algebras instead of just the power set of Ω ?

It turns out that it is not always possible to assign a measure to all subsets of Ω that behaves nicely. E.g. one cannot assign a measure μ to all subsets of \mathbb{R} in such a way that $\mu([a, b]) = b - a$ and that μ is translation invariant. However, if we restrict ourself to $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, one
 L> see Banach-Tarski paradox,
 can show the existence of such a measure $\mu \Rightarrow$ Lebesgue measure.

A probability measure P on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) is a measure s.t. $P(\Omega) = 1$.

HF: show

$$P(\emptyset) = 0 \quad (P(\Omega) = P(\Omega \cup \emptyset) = P(\Omega) + P(\emptyset))$$

$$P(A^c) = 1 - P(A) \quad (P(\Omega) = P(A \cup A^c) = P(A) + P(A^c))$$

$$A \subseteq B \Rightarrow P(A) \leq P(B) \quad (P(B) = P(A \cup B \setminus A) = P(A) + \underbrace{P(B \setminus A)}_{\geq 0})$$

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

The triplet (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) is called a probability space.

Distribution of a random variable

The law of a random variable $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined on some probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) is a measure M_X defined by

on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$

Σ

$$M_X(A) = P(X \in A) = P(X^{-1}(A)) \quad \text{"push-forward measure",}$$

$$= P(\{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in A\})$$

The cumulative distribution function of X is defined as $F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = M_X((-\infty, x])$

Example 1: $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$, $P(\omega) = \frac{1}{3} \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$

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

$$\omega \mapsto 1$$

1) compute the law of X $P(X \in A) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 1 \in A \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$

2) $\sigma(X) = ?$

3) Characterise all random variables that are measurable wrt (\emptyset, Ω) .

Example 2 $\Omega = (0, 1)$ $P = \mathcal{L}$ $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}((0, 1))$

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

$$\omega \mapsto \frac{1}{\lambda} \log\left(\frac{1}{1-\omega}\right) \quad \text{for some fixed } \lambda > 0.$$

Compute the cdf of X and identify its distribution.

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = P\left(\{\omega : \frac{1}{\lambda} \log\left(\frac{1}{1-\omega}\right) \leq x\}\right) = P\left(\{\omega : \omega \leq 1 - e^{-\lambda x}\}\right)$$

$$= \mathcal{L}\left(\{\omega : \omega \leq 1 - e^{-\lambda x}\}\right)$$

$$= 1 - e^{-\lambda x} \rightarrow \text{Exp}(1)$$

σ -algebra generated by a random variable

Let $\Omega \neq \emptyset$ and $A \subset 2^{\Omega}$. The σ -algebra generated by A is the smallest σ -algebra $\sigma(A)$ containing A .

i.e $\sigma(A) = \bigcap_{\substack{A \subseteq B \\ B \text{ sigma algebra}}} B$

$$= \{C \subseteq \Omega \mid C \in B \text{ for any sigma alg. } B \text{ on } \Omega \text{ s.t. } A \subseteq B\}.$$

The sigma algebra generated by a random variable $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as $\sigma(X) := \sigma(\{X^{-1}(B) \mid B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})\})$

It is thus the smallest σ -algebra that makes X measurable.

The sigma algebra generated by a collection of random variables $(X_i)_{i \in I}$ is that makes all mappings measurable

i.e

$$\sigma(X_i, i \in I) = \sigma\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} \sigma(X_i)\right)$$

$$\sigma(X_1, X_2, \dots)$$

Almost surely

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space. We say that an event $B \in \mathcal{F}$ happens a.s. if $P(A) = 1$. Σ

E.g. $X = Y$ P -a.s. means $P(\{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) = Y(\omega)\}) = 1$

HF: Construct two rv X & Y st $X = Y$ P -a.s. but $X \neq Y$ pointwise i.e. $P(X = Y) = 1$ but $\exists \omega \in \Omega$ st $X(\omega) \neq Y(\omega)$.

Expectation

The expectation of a rv $X : (\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$ with

$\int |X(\omega)| dP(\omega) < \infty$ is defined as

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{\Omega} X(\omega) dP(\omega).$$

Properties (good exercise)

- Linearity
- Jensen's inequality: $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex, $X, \varphi(X) \in L^1 \Rightarrow \varphi(\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \mathbb{E}[\varphi(X)]$
- Monotone CV Thm: $X_n \geq 0, X_{n+1} \geq X_n, X_n \rightarrow X$ a.s. Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[X_n] = \mathbb{E}[X].$$

- Dominated CV Thm: $X_n \rightarrow X$ P-a.s. $\exists Y \in L^1$ st $|X_n| \leq Y \forall n \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[X_n] = \mathbb{E}[X]$.

- Fatou's Lemma

Let (X_n) be a sequence of non-negative random variables. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} X_n] \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[X_n]$$

\hookrightarrow good exercise prove this using MC Thm applied to the sequence $(\inf_{m \geq n} X_m)_n$

Thm: Let $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function st $g(x) \in L^1$.

- If X is a discrete rv with probability mass function p_X taking values in a countable set S then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \sum_{t \in S} g(t) p_X(t)$$

- If X is an absolutely continuous rv with density function f_X then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_X(x) dx$$

Modes of convergence

Let X_1, X_2, \dots and X be random variables.

- $X_n \rightarrow X$ P-as if $P(\{w: X_n(w) \rightarrow X(w)\}) = 1$
- $X_n \xrightarrow{P} X$ if $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \quad P(|X_n - X| > \varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$
- $X_n \xrightarrow{L^p} X$ if $\mathbb{E}|X|^p < \infty$ and $\mathbb{E}|X_n - X|^p \rightarrow 0$
- $X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X$ if $F_{X_n}(t) \rightarrow F_X(t)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ of continuity of $F_X(\cdot)$.

Thm: The following implications hold.

$$\begin{aligned} X_n &\rightarrow X \text{ P-as} \\ \text{or} \\ X_n &\rightarrow X \text{ in } L^p \ (p \geq 1) \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \Rightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{P} X \Rightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X \right. \\ \downarrow \\ \exists \text{ subsequence } (n_k)_k \text{ st } X_{n_k} \rightarrow X \text{ a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

Conditional expectation

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space and fix a σ -algebra $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$.

The conditional expectation of X given \mathcal{G} is the P -a.s unique integrable rv Y satisfying:



(i) Y is \mathcal{G} -measurable

(ii) $E[X \cdot 1_A] = E[Y \cdot 1_A] \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{G}$.

△ $E[X|\mathcal{G}]$ is a rv.

It is the "best" approximation of X given some partial information \mathcal{G} , in the sense that

$$E[X|\mathcal{G}] := \underset{Z \text{ } \mathcal{G}\text{-meas}}{\operatorname{argmin}} E[(X-Z)^2]$$

see exercise 6.

Properties (good exercise)

- Linearity
- $E[X|\mathcal{G}] = X$ if X is \mathcal{G} -meas.
- $E[E[X|\mathcal{G}]|\mathcal{H}] = E[X|\mathcal{H}]$ if $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$.
- Jensen's inequality
- Monotone CV thm
- Dominated CV thm.

+ see exercise sheet 1.