

Revision Notes

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Chapter 16 - Probability

- **Probability** is a numerical measure of the uncertainty of diverse phenomena. It can range from 0 to 1 a positive value.
- The phrases 'probably', 'doubt', 'most probably', 'chances' and so on, all have an element of ambiguity in them.
- Probability= $\frac{\text{no. of favourable outcome}}{\text{total no. of outcomes}}$
- Approaches to Probability:
- i. Statistical approach: Observation & data collection
- ii. Classical approach: Only Equal probable events
- iii. Axiomatic method: For real-life situations. It has a strong connection to set theory.

• Random Experiments:

- (i) There are multiple possible outcomes.
- (ii) It is impossible to know the outcome ahead of time.
- Outcomes: An outcome is a probable result of a random experiment.
- **Sample space** refers to the set of all possible results of a random experiment. The letter S stands for it. For example, in a coin toss, the sample space is Head, Tail.

Each element of the sample space is referred to as a **sample point**. For example, in a coin flip, the head is a sample point.

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• Event:

An event is a collection of favourable outcomes.

An event is defined as a subset E of a sample space S. For example, suppose you get an unusual result when you roll a dice.

• Occurrence of an event:

The occurrence of an event E in a sample space S is said to have occurred if the experiment's outcome ω is such that $\omega \in E$. We say that the event E did not happen if the outcome ω is such that $\omega \in E$.

• Types of Event

- i. Impossible and Sure Events
- ii. Simple Event
- iii. Compound Event

• Impossible and Sure Events:

Events that are both impossible and certain are described by the empty set ϕ and the sample space S. The impossible event is denoted by ϕ , and the entire sample space is referred to as the Sure Event.

For example, while rolling a dice, an impossible event is when the number is greater than 6 and a sure event is when the number is less than or equal to 6.

• Simple (or elementary) event: A simple event has only one sample point of a sample space.

There are exactly n simple occurrences in a sample space with n different items. For example, if you roll a dice, a simple event could be receiving a four.



• **Compound Event:** A compound event is one in which there are multiple sample points.

For example, in the case of rolling a die, a simple event could be the event of receiving a four.

• Algebra of Events:

- i. Complementary Event
- ii. Event 'A or B'
- iii. Event 'A and B'
- iv. Event 'A but not B

• Complementary Event

Complementary event to A='not A'

Example: If event A=Event of getting odd number in throw of a die, that is $\{1, 3, 5\}$ Then, Complementary event to A= Event of getting even number in throw of a die, that is $\{2, 4, 6\}$

A'= $\{\omega: \omega \in S \text{ and } \omega \notin A\} = S - A$ (Where S is the Sample Space)



• Event (A or B):

 $A \cup B$ is known as the union of two sets A and B, it contains all those elements which are present in either of the two sets.

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If the sets A and B correspond to two events in a sample space, then 'A \cup B' is the event 'either A or B or both'. This event 'A \cup B' is also called 'A or B'

Event

A or $B = A \cup B = \{ \omega : \omega \in A \text{ or } \omega \in B \}$



• Event 'A and B':

 $A \cap B$ is known as the intersection of two sets A and B, it contains all those elements which are common in both the two sets. i.e., which belong to both 'A and B'. If A and B are two events, then the set $AA \cap B$ denotes the event 'A and B'.

Thus, $A \cap B = \{\omega : \omega \in A \text{ and } \omega \in B\}$



• Event 'A but not B'

A–B is the set of all those elements which are in A but not in B . Therefore, the set A–B may denote the event ' A but not B '.

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 $A - B = A \cap B'$



• Mutually exclusive events

Events A and B are said to be mutually exclusive if the occurrence of one of them precludes the occurrence of the other, i.e., if they can't happen at the same time.

A die is thrown, for example. All even outcomes is event A, and all odd outcomes is event B. Then A and B are mutually exclusive events, and they cannot happen at the same time.

A sample space's simple events are always mutually exclusive.

• Exhaustive events:

Sample space contains lot of events together.

Example: A die is thrown.

Event A= All even outcome and event B= All odd outcome. Even A & B together forms exhaustive events as it forms Sample Space.

• Axiomatic Approach to Probability:

Another way of explaining probability by using axioms are rules is called the Axiomatic approach.

Let S be sample space of a random experiment. The probability P is a real

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valued function whose domain is the power set of S and range is the interval [0,1] satisfying the following axioms

I. For any event E, $P[E] \ge 0$

II.
$$P[S]=1$$

III. If E and F are mutually exclusive events, then $P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F)$

It follows from (III) that $P(\phi)=0$. Let $F=\phi$ and $E=\phi$ be two disjoint events,

$$\therefore P(E \cup \phi) = P(E) + P(\phi) \text{ or } P(E) = P(E) + P(\phi) \text{ i.e } P(\phi) = 0$$

Let S be a sample space containing outcomes $\omega_1, \omega_2, ..., \omega_n$ i.e., $S = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, ..., \omega_n\}$ then

- I. $0 \le P(\omega_i) \le 1$ for each $\omega_i \in S$
- II. $P(\omega_1) + P(\omega_2) + \dots + P(\omega_n) = 1$
- III. For any event $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{E}) = \sum \mathbf{P}(\omega_i), \omega_i \in \mathbf{A}$

IV. $P(\phi) = 0$

• Probabilities of equally likely outcomes:

Let $P(\omega_i) = p$, for all $\omega_i \in S$ where $0 \le p \le 1$, then $p = \frac{1}{n}$ where n=number of elements.

Let S be a sample space and E be an event, such that n(S)=n and n(E)=m. If each outcome is equally likely, then it follows that $P(E)=\frac{m}{n}$

 $=\frac{\text{Number of outcomes favourable to E}}{\text{Total possible outcomes}}$



• Probability of the event 'A or B':

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

- Probability of the event 'A and B': $P(A \cap B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cup B)$
- Probability of the event 'Not A '

P(A') = P(not A) = 1 - P(A)

