

Important Announcements

- assignment 1 will be released this Friday (Jan 17)
- review session by TA after due date

- Countable set: A set with cardinality that is finite or countably infinite

- Uncountable set: A set with cardinality that is uncountably infinite

Questions

(1) is $(w_1, w_2, w_3)^T$ a row or column vector?

(2) $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, $\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) = ?$
 $\mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3, 2\}$

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) = \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{11}{6}$$
$$\qquad \qquad \qquad \frac{3}{6} \quad \frac{2}{6}$$

(3) What does the integral of a function represent?

(4) What does the derivative of a function represent?

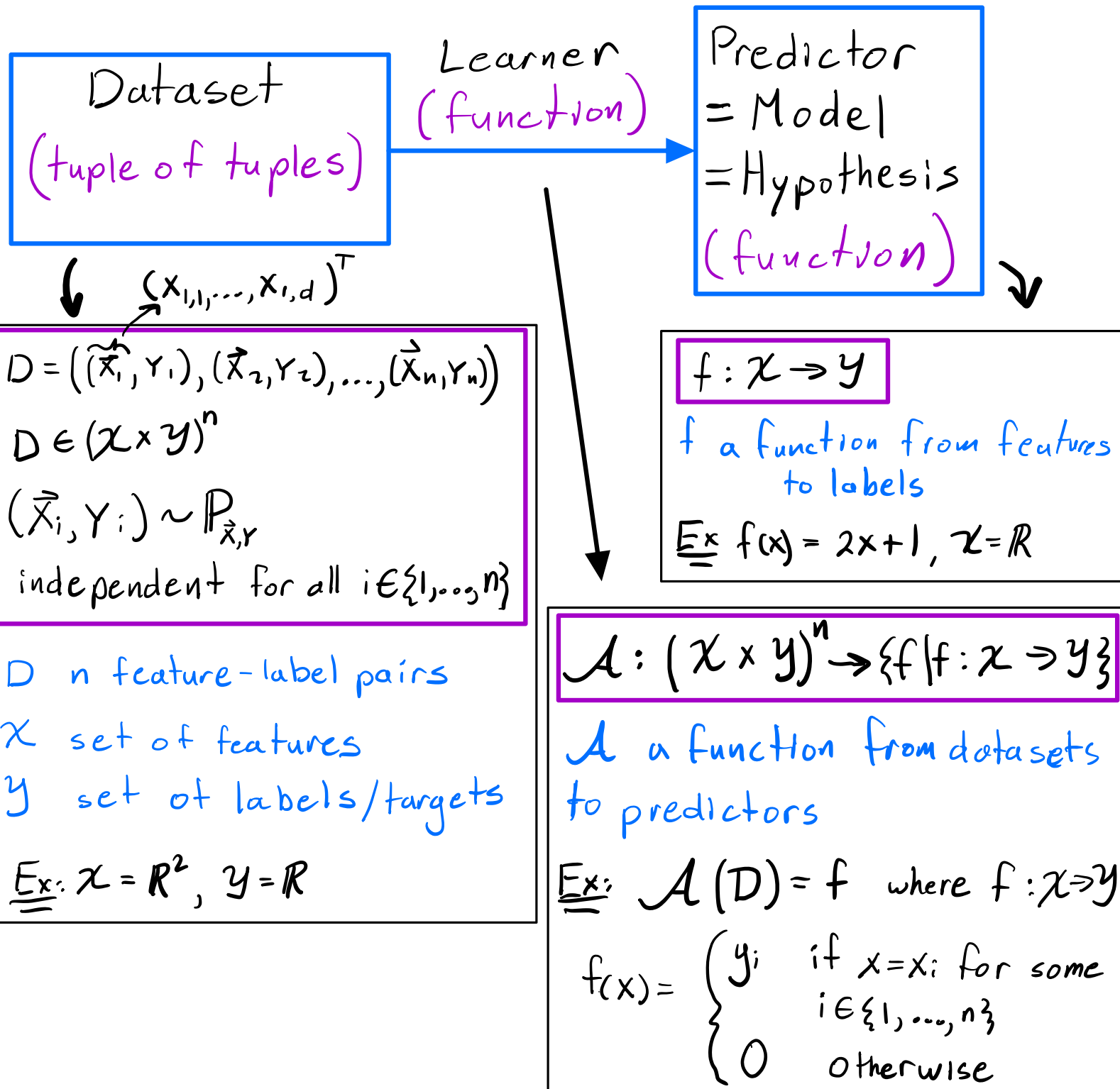
(5) Can you calculate the partial derivative of $f(x)$, where $x \in \mathbb{R}$

(6) Define the gradient

$$f(x_1, x_2) \qquad \nabla f(x_1, x_2) = \left(\frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} \right)$$

Motivation

Supervised Learning: Learning from a randomly sampled batch of labeled data



Probability

Note: Humans have a bad intuition when it comes to randomness

- Random Variables
 - Calculating probabilities using pmf and pdf
 - Multivariate random variables
 - Conditional and marginal probabilities
 - Representing random features, labels, and datasets
 - Functions of random variables
 - Expectation and variance
- Thinking Fast and Slow
by: Daniel Kahneman

Warning: If some things seem informal, it is likely because we would need tools from Measure Theory, which we will not cover in this course.

Experiment: A process that generates an uncertain outcome

Ex: flipping a coin, rolling a dice

Outcome Space/Set: The set of all outcomes from the experiment

Ex: $y = \{0, 1\}$ Heads Tails flipping a coin

$$X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$
 rolling a dice $[0, 900]$ \mathbb{R}

amount of a chemical in a wine
measurement error

The outcome space/set can be either a

1) countable set or

2) uncountable set

Event: A subset of the outcome space (imprecise)

Ex: Outcome space: $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$ an outcome is a single element of the outcome set
Events: $\{0\}, \{1\}, \{0, 1\} = \mathcal{Y}, \emptyset$

Ex: Outcome space: $\mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
Events: $\emptyset, \mathcal{X}, \{1\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 6\}, \{1, 2, 3\}, \dots$

Ex: Outcome space: $[0, 900]$
Events: $\emptyset, [0, 900], [0, 4], [1, 2] \cup [7, 30], \dots$

Probability Distribution: A function P defining the likelihood of each event (and satisfying certain properties)

$P: \underbrace{\text{event space/set}}_{\text{a set containing all the events}} \rightarrow [0, 1]$

A complicated set (σ -algebra) that we will not define

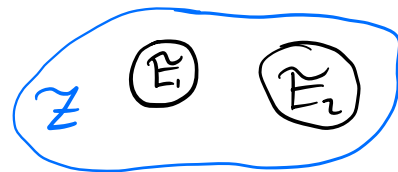
Properties: (imprecise)

Outcome space: \mathcal{Z}

1. $P(\mathcal{Z}) = 1$

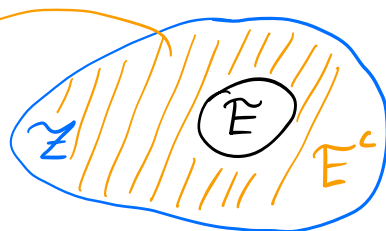
2. If $E_1 \subset \mathcal{Z}$, $E_2 \subset \mathcal{Z}$ and $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$, then

$$P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2)$$



E_x : (of property 2.)

Events: E , E^c



$$E \cap E^c = \emptyset, E \cup E^c = \mathcal{Z}$$

$$P(E \cup E^c) = P(E) + P(E^c)$$

$$= P(\mathcal{Z}) = 1$$

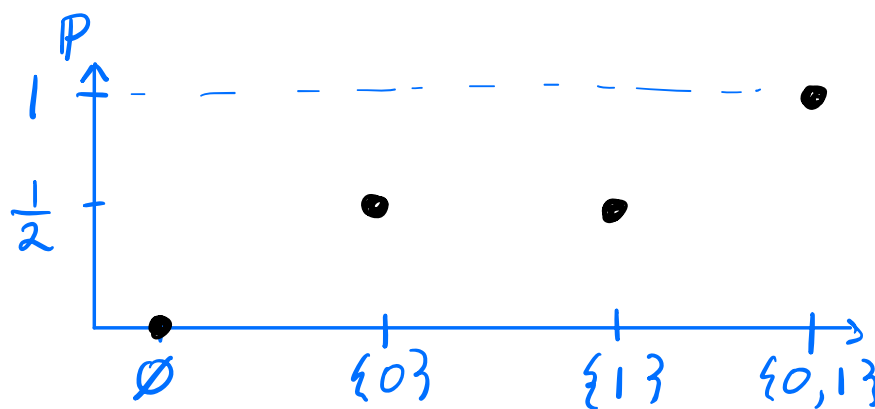
rearranging:

$$P(E) = 1 - P(E^c)$$

E_x : Outcome space: $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$

$$P(\emptyset) = 0, P(\mathcal{Y}) = 1, P(\{0\}) = \frac{1}{2}, P(\{1\}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

each event of
an experiment
is associated with
a probability



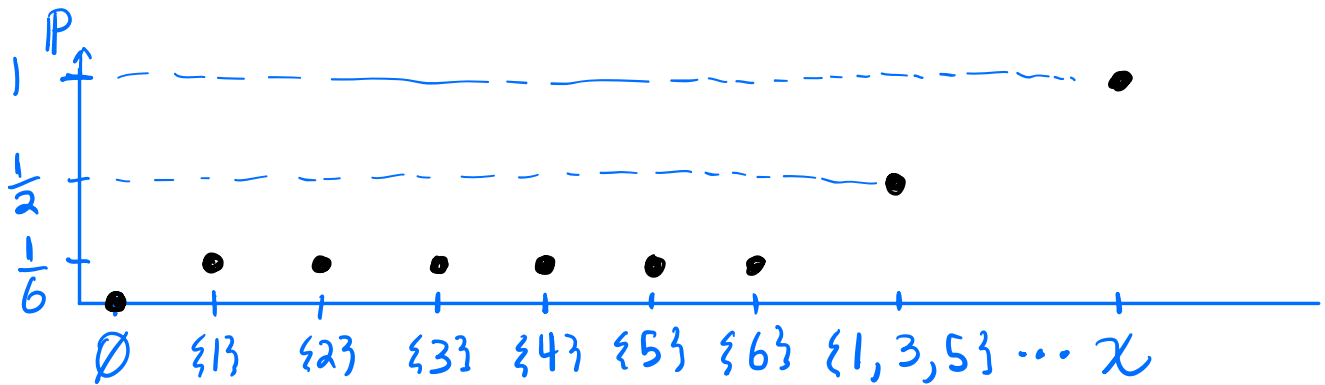
all events
of experiment

Ex: Outcome space: $\mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$$P(\{1\}) = P(\{2\}) = \dots = P(\{6\}) = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$P(\{1, 3, 5\}) = P(\{1\}) + P(\{3\}) + P(\{5\}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(\mathcal{X}) = 1$$



Random Variables

Random Variable (r.v.): (imprecise) A variable that takes a value based on the outcome of an experiment, and is associated with a probability distribution. The value can be any random outcome.

Ex: $X \in \mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ with P from prev. example
 $Y \in \mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$ with P from prev. example
 $Z \in \{H, T\}$

A random variable is actually a function (satisfying certain properties) from one outcome space to another outcome space. Ex $X(T) = 0, X(H) = 1$.

It will not be necessary to know this for this course

Probability Distributions with r.v.

Ex: Outcome space: \mathcal{X} r.v.: $X \in \mathcal{X}$

$$P(\{1, 3, 5\}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P(X \in \{1, 3, 5\})$$

"the r.v. X is an element of the event $\{1, 3, 5\}$ "

$$P(\{4, 5, 6\}) = P(X \in \{4, 5, 6\}) = P(X \geq 4)$$

$$P(\{4\}) = P(X \in \{4\}) = P(X = 4)$$

Notation: $Z \sim P$ "Z is sampled according to distribution P"

Discrete r.v.: A r.v. that takes values from:

- A countable outcome space, or
- an uncountable outcome space, but there is a countable event that has probability 1

Ex: $Y \in \mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$, $X \in \mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$, $Z \in \mathbb{N}$ ← two ways to describe same discrete experiment

Ex: $X \in \mathbb{R}$ where $P(X=1) = \dots = P(X=6) = \frac{1}{6}$ ← same discrete experiment

Probability 1 so $P(X \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}) = 1$
for countable event $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ and $P(\mathbb{R} \setminus \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}) = 0$

$$P(X=x) = P(X \in \{x\})$$

$\frac{1}{6}$



"outcomes are all real numbers but all probability that sum to one is on a discrete number of outcomes"

$x \in \mathbb{R}$

Note: You can always take a r.v. defined on a countable outcome space and define it on a larger uncountable outcome space by setting the probability of the event containing all the new outcomes to zero

Continuous r.v.: A r.v. that takes values from:

- an uncountable outcome space and the probability of any single outcome is zero

Ex: $Z \in [0, 100]$ and $P(Z=z) = P(Z \in \{z\}) = 0$ for all $z \in [0, 100]$
but $P(Z \in [0, 100]) = 1$

Ex: $Z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $P(Z=z) = P(Z \in \{z\}) = 0$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}$
but $P(Z \in \mathbb{R}) = 1$

Calculating Probabilities

Motivation: It is hard to define the values of a probability distribution P for all the events

Probability Mass Function (pmf): A function $p: \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ where \mathcal{Z} is a discrete outcome space and $\sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} p(z) = 1$.

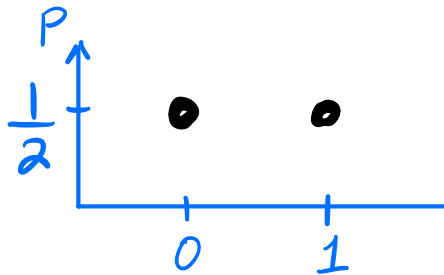
The probability of an event $E \subset \mathcal{Z}$ is:

$$P(Z \in E) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{z \in E} p(z)$$

where $Z \in \mathcal{Z}$

Ex: Outcome space: \mathcal{Y}

$$p(0) = \frac{1}{2}, p(1) = \frac{1}{2}$$



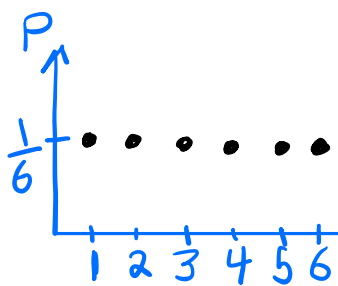
$$P(Y \in \{0, 1\}) = \sum_{y \in \{0, 1\}} p(y) = p(0) + p(1) = 1$$

$$P(Y=0) = P(Y=1) = P(Y \in \{1\}) = \sum_{y \in \{1\}} p(y) = p(1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(Y \in \emptyset) = \sum_{y \in \emptyset} p(y) = 0$$

Ex: Outcome space: \mathcal{X}

$$p(1) = p(2) = \dots = p(6) = \frac{1}{6}$$



$$P(X \in \{1, 3, 5\}) = \sum_{x \in \{1, 3, 5\}} p(x) = p(1) + p(3) + p(5) = \frac{1}{2}$$

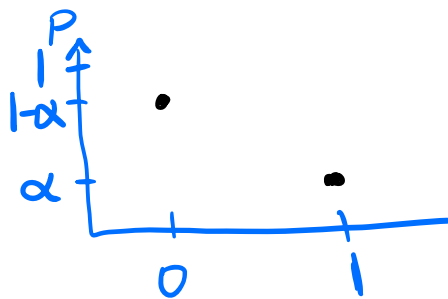
Discrete Probability Distributions with special names:

Bernoulli distribution (parameter: $\alpha \in [0, 1]$):

Outcome space: $\{0, 1\}$

pmf: $p(1) = \alpha, p(0) = 1 - \alpha$

Distribution $P = \text{Bernoulli}(\alpha)$



$P(Z=1) = P(Z \in \{1\}) = p(1) = \alpha$ $Z \in \{0, 1\}$ is a "Bernoulli r.v."

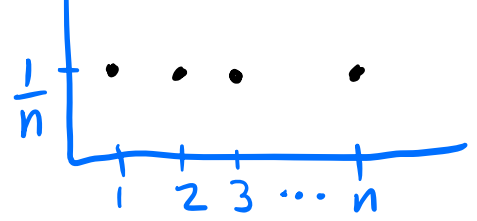
Discrete Uniform Distribution (parameter: n):

Outcome space: $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

P_{\uparrow}

pmf: $p(1)=p(2)=\dots=p(n)=\frac{1}{n}$

Distribution $P = \text{Uniform}(n)$



Intuition with a rod in physics

