

MATH 471: Probability

Instructor: Chuang Xu

Group Advising

How do we know Probability?

How do we know Probability?

Probability is ubiquitous.

- Gambling/Lottery.

How do we know Probability?

Probability is ubiquitous.

- Gambling/Lottery.
- Chance of being caught cheating in exams.

How do we know Probability?

Probability is ubiquitous.

- Gambling/Lottery.
- Chance of being caught cheating in exams.
- Whenever you are not sure of something, probability is there waiting for you (for good or bad reasons)...

What is Probability (about)?

What is Probability (about)?

Chance of occurrence of events.

What is the language of Probability?

What is the language of Probability?

Axioms,

What is the language of Probability?

Axioms, sample space,

What is the language of Probability?

Axioms, sample space, events,

What is the language of Probability?

Axioms, sample space, events, probability measures,

What is the language of Probability?

Axioms, sample space, events, probability measures, probability distribution functions,...

Learning some Probability is good

Learning some Probability is good

- **Bayes' Theorem** tells you why having some prior information at hand is beneficial for decision making. Or, why learning generally increases your chance of success.

Learning some Probability is good

- **Bayes' Theorem** tells you why having some prior information at hand is beneficial for decision making. Or, why learning generally increases your chance of success.
- **Markov/Chebyshev/Jensen's Inequalities** tells you how to obtain something useful from something messy at the first glance...

Learning some Probability is good

- **Bayes' Theorem** tells you why having some prior information at hand is beneficial for decision making. Or, why learning generally increases your chance of success.
- **Markov/Chebyshev/Jensen's Inequalities** tells you how to obtain something useful from something messy at the first glance...
- **Law of Large Numbers** (LLN) tells you why perseverance/*meaningful* repetitions is/are important (only meaningful repetitions count).

Learning some Probability is good

- **Bayes' Theorem** tells you why having some prior information at hand is beneficial for decision making. Or, why learning generally increases your chance of success.
- **Markov/Chebyshev/Jensen's Inequalities** tells you how to obtain something useful from something messy at the first glance...
- **Law of Large Numbers** (LLN) tells you why perseverance/*meaningful* repetitions is/are important (only meaningful repetitions count).
- **Central Limit Theorem** (CLT) is another statistical law discovered appearing in diverse forms in life, which explains why a majority students might struggle in mathematics to achieve grade A/ or even pass...

Learning some Probability is good

- **Bayes' Theorem** tells you why having some prior information at hand is beneficial for decision making. Or, why learning generally increases your chance of success.
- **Markov/Chebyshev/Jensen's Inequalities** tells you how to obtain something useful from something messy at the first glance...
- **Law of Large Numbers** (LLN) tells you why perseverance/*meaningful* repetitions is/are important (only meaningful repetitions count).
- **Central Limit Theorem** (CLT) is another statistical law discovered appearing in diverse forms in life, which explains why a majority students might struggle in mathematics to achieve grade A/ or even pass...

How to study Probability?

How to study Probability?

We will introduce some classical techniques in probability.

- Moment generating function.
- Characteristic function.
- ...

How to study Probability?

We will introduce some classical techniques in probability.

- Moment generating function.
- Characteristic function.
- ...

A good number of examples with real-world motivations will be introduced throughout the course.

How Probability is used?

- **Modelling** (MATH 305) arguably *any* science phenomena when noise is taken into account.
- **Optimization** (MATH 414), e.g., featured work on Optimal Transportation by Fields medalists: Cédric Villani, Alessio Figalli.

Expectations on you

Show your interest in Probability and determination to learn it well in the HWs and exams...

Textbook: Grimmett&Welsh. **Probability: An Introduction**. 2nd ed., 2014.

Questions?