

# ECE600: Random Variables and Waveforms

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## Random Models in ECE

- Communications and Information Theory
- Computer Networks
- Solid State (Quantum Mechanics)
- Optics
- Control Theory
- Electromagnetics and Antennas
- Machine Learning, Big Data and Statistical Pattern Recognition

# Probability is Used to Model Uncertainty

- Systems that are too complex to model deterministically: (Ignorance)
  - Maxwell: Theory of Gases
  - Boltzmann: Statistical Mechanics
- Systems that are inherently random:
  - Games of Chance
  - Quantum Mechanics
  - Other "fundamentally random" systems.

## Set Theory

- Why Set Theory?
- A random experiment: Roll a fair die
 
$$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$
- We can define events:
 
$$A_1 = \{1, 3, 5\} = \text{outcome is odd}$$

$$A_2 = \text{outcome is divisible by 3} = \{3, 6\}$$

$$A_3 = \text{outcome is prime} = \{2, 3, 5\}$$

- Each event of interest is a subset of  $\mathcal{S} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

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- There are  $2^6 = 64$  distinct subsets of  $\mathcal{S}$ .

Events:

- Events are subsets of  $\mathcal{S}$ .
- The collection of all events is called the event space:

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{S}) = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{64}\}$$

1.6

Our random experiment is completely characterized by

1.6

$$\{\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{S}), P(\cdot)\}$$

where

$$P(\cdot) : \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{S}) \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

and assigns probabilities to each event in  $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{S})$ .

This framework - with minor modifications - will be used to describe all of the random experiments in this course.

A solid understanding of set theory will be important.

1.7

## Basic Set Theory Definitions

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- A set is simply a collection of objects. We intentionally leave this undefined.

Defn: In any given set problem, the set containing all possible elements called the universe, the universal set, or the space. We typically denote it by  $\mathcal{S}$ .

n.b In probability the universal set is typically the sample space  $\mathcal{S}$ .

## Set Operations

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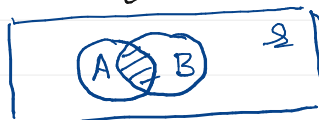
Defn: The union of two sets A and B, denoted  $A \cup B$ , is defined as

$$A \cup B \triangleq \{w \in \mathcal{S} : w \in A \text{ or } w \in B\}$$



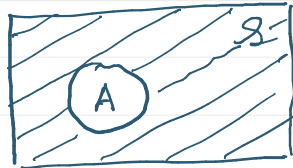
Defn: The intersection of two sets A and B, denoted  $A \cap B$ , is defined as

$$A \cap B \triangleq \{w \in \mathcal{S} : w \in A \text{ and } w \in B\}$$



Defn: The complement of a set  $A$  (with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$ ), denoted  $\bar{A}$ ,  $A'$  or  $A^c$ , is defined as

$$\bar{A} \triangleq \{w \in \mathcal{U} : w \notin A\}$$



Defn: The empty set, denoted  $\phi$ , contains no elements.

There are 3 fundamental set operations we have just defined:

Union:  $A \cup B \triangleq \{w \in \mathcal{U} : w \in A \text{ or } w \in B\}$

Intersection:  $A \cap B \triangleq \{w \in \mathcal{U} : w \in A \text{ and } w \in B\}$

Complement:  $\bar{A} \triangleq \{w \in \mathcal{U} : w \notin A\}$

These are the three fundamental set operations, but there are two other "set difference operations" that are sometimes used:

Defn: The set difference of two sets  $A$  and  $B$ , denoted  $A - B$  or  $A \setminus B$ , is defined as

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$$A - B = \{w \in \mathcal{X} : w \in A \text{ and } w \notin B\} \\ = A \cap \overline{B}$$

Defn: The symmetric difference between two sets  $A$  and  $B$  is defined as

$$A \Delta B = \{w \in \mathcal{X} : w \in A \text{ or } w \in B, \\ \text{but not both}\}.$$

$$= (A - B) \cup (B - A) \\ = (A \cup B) - (A \cap B) \\ = \dots = (A \cap \overline{B}) \cup (\overline{A} \cap B)$$

Defn: Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  are equal if they contain exactly the same elements

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Fact: Two sets  $A$  and  $B$  are equal if and only if  $A \subset B$  and  $B \subset A$ .

Proof: Exercise

Algebra of Set Theory

1.  $A \cup B = B \cup A$ . (  $\cup$  is commutative )
2.  $A \cap B = B \cap A$ . (  $\cap$  is commutative )
3.  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap C$ . (  $\cup$  is associative )
4.  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup C$ . (  $\cap$  is associative )
5.  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$  (  $\cap$  is distributive over union )
6.  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$  (  $\cup$  is distributive over  $\cap$  )
7.  $\overline{\overline{A}} = A$
8.  $\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$  } DeMorgan's Laws
9.  $\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$  }
10.  $\overline{S} = \emptyset$
11.  $A \cap S = A$  } Obvious (?)
12.  $A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$  }
13.  $A \cup S = S$  }
14.  $A \cup \emptyset = A$  }
15.  $A \cup \overline{A} = S$  }
16.  $A \cap \overline{A} = \emptyset$  }

Defn: An indexed collection of sets is a set of sets

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$$\{ A_i, i \in I \},$$

where  $I$  is an index set.

- So  $\{ A_i ; i \in I \}$  is a "set of sets" or a "family of sets" or a "collection of sets."

## Some Typical index Sets $I$ :

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$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\} = \text{natural numbers.}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}_+ = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\} = \text{non-negative integers}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\} = \text{integers}$$

$$I_n = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$$

$$\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, +\infty) = \text{real line}$$

Example:  $I = \{1, 2, 3\}$

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$$A_1 = [0, 1] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$$

$$A_2 = [1, 2]$$

$$A_3 = [2, 3]$$

$$\text{So } \{A_i; i \in I\} = \{[0, 1], [1, 2], [2, 3]\}$$

Example: In our die rolling example,  
 $\mathcal{S} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ .

We had  $2^6 = 64$  possible subsets

$$\{A_i; i \in I\} = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{64}\}$$

$$I = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 64\}$$