

Looking for comprehensive study materials for the Capstone Exam? Explore our:  
[All-In-One Capstone Exam Review and Reference Materials](#)

## A1.1 PROBABILITY

**Conditional Probability of Event  $B$  Given Event  $A$ :**  $P[B|A] = \frac{P[B \cap A]}{P[A]}$

**Probability of Event  $B$  Partitioned by Events  $A$  and  $A'$ :**

$$P[B] = P[B \cap A] + P[B \cap A'] = P[B|A] \cdot P[A] + P[B|A'] \cdot P[A']$$

**Bayes' Rule:**

$$P[A|B] = \frac{P[A \cap B]}{P[B]} = \frac{P[B|A] \cdot P[A]}{P[B|A] \cdot P[A] + P[B|A'] \cdot P[A']}$$

**Independent Events  $A$  and  $B$ :**

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B), \quad P(A|B) = P(A) \quad \text{or} \quad P(B|A) = P(B).$$

**Mutually Independent Events:**

$$P\left(\bigcap_{j=1}^k A_{i_j}\right) = \prod_{i=1}^k P(A_{i_j}).$$

**Factorial Notation:**

$$n! := n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \times \cdots \times 2 \times 1$$

$0!$  is defined to be equal to 1.

**Permutations:**

The number of ways of choosing an ordered subset of size  $k$  **without replacement** from a collection of  $n$  objects:

$$\frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = n \times (n-1) \times \cdots \times (n-k+1)$$

and is denoted by  ${}_n P_k$  or  $P_{n,k}$  or  $P(n,k)$ .

**Combinations:**

the number of ways of choosing a subset of size  $k \leq n$  without replacement and without regard to the order in which the objects are chosen:

$$\frac{n!}{k! \cdot (n-k)!}$$

which is usually denoted by  $\binom{n}{k}$ , or  ${}_n C_k$ ,  $C_{n,k}$ ,  $C(n,k)$ , and is read “ $n$  choose  $k$ ”.

**Binomial Coefficient - Number of Subsets of Size  $k$  From a Collection of  $n$  Objects:**  $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k! \cdot (n-k)!}$

**DeMorgan's Laws:**

$$(A \cup B)' = A' \cap B' \quad \text{and} \quad (A \cap B)' = A' \cup B'.$$

**Inclusion-Exclusion Equations:**

$$\begin{aligned} P(A \cup B) &= P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) \\ P[A \cup B \cup C] &= P[A] + P[B] + P[C] \\ &\quad - P[A \cap B] - P[B \cap C] - P[A \cap C] \\ &\quad + P[A \cap B \cap C] \end{aligned}$$

**Central Limit Theorem:**

Suppose that  $X$  is a random variable with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$  and suppose that  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  are  $n$  independent random variables with the same distribution as  $X$ . Let  $Y_n = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n$ .

Then  $E[Y_n] = n\mu$  and  $Var[Y_n] = n\sigma^2$ , and as  $n$  increases, the distribution of  $Y_n$  approaches a normal distribution  $N(n\mu, n\sigma^2)$ .

**A1.2 UNIVARIATE RANDOM VARIABLES**

**Probability Mass Function of a Discrete Random Variable:**

Denoted  $p(x)$ ,  $p_X(x)$  or  $p_x$ , equal to the probability that the value  $x$  occurs,  $P(X = x)$ .

**Probability Density Function of a Continuous Random Variable:**

Denoted  $f(x)$  or  $f_X(x)$ , and it must be non-negative ( $f(x) \geq 0$ ) on the intervals on which  $X$  is defined.

The probability that  $X$  is in the interval  $(a, b)$  is defined as

$$P(a < X < b) := \int_a^b f(x)dx.$$

**Distribution Function & Survival Function of Random Variable  $X$ :**

$$F_X(t) = P[X \leq t]$$

$$S_X(t) = 1 - F_X(t) = P[X > t]$$

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t)dt$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}F(x) = f(x) = -S'(x)$$

**Hazard Rate Function:**

$$h(x) = \frac{f(x)}{1 - F(x)} = -\frac{d}{dx} \log(1 - F(x))$$

**Conditional distribution of  $X$  given event  $A$ :**

$$f_{X|A}(x|A) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(x)}{P(A)} & \text{if } x \text{ is an outcome in event } A \\ 0 & \text{if } x \text{ is not an outcome in event } A \end{cases}$$

**Expected Value of Random Variable  $X$ :**

$$E[X] = \sum_{\text{all } x_i} x_i \cdot p_X(x_i) \text{ (discrete)}$$

$$E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f_X(x) dx \text{ (continuous)}$$

**Expectation of  $h(x)$ :**

If  $h$  is a function, then

$$E[h(X)] = \begin{cases} \sum_x h(x)p(x) & \text{if } X \text{ is a discrete random variable} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x)f(x) & \text{if } X \text{ is a continuous random variable} \end{cases}$$

For any constants  $a_1, a_2$  and  $b$  and functions  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ ,

$$E[a_1h_1(X) + a_2h_2(X) + b] = a_1E[h_1(X)] + a_2E[h_2(X)] + b$$

As a special case,  $E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b$ .

**Moment of Random Variable  $X$ :**

If  $n \geq 1$  is an integer, the  $n$ -th moment of  $X$  is  $E[X^n]$ .

If the mean of  $X$  is  $\mu$ , then the  $n$ -th central moment of  $X$  is  $E[(X - \mu)^n]$ .

**Variance:**

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[(X - \mu_x)^2] = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

If  $a$  and  $b$  are constants, then  $\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2\text{Var}(X)$ .

**Standard Deviation:**  $\sigma_X = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$ .

**Coefficient of Variation of  $X$  :**  $\frac{\sigma_X}{\mu_X}$  or  $\frac{\sigma_X}{E[X]}$

**Percentiles of a Distribution:** If  $0 < p < 1$ , then the **100p-th percentile** of the distribution of  $X$  is the number  $c_p$  which satisfies both of the following inequalities:

$$P(X \leq c_p) \geq p \text{ and } P(X \geq c_p) \geq 1 - p.$$

**Median of the Distribution of Random Variable  $X$ :**

Smallest  $m$  for which  $F_X(m) = .5$

**Mode of the Distribution of Random Variable  $X$ :**

The point  $c$  at which  $p_X(c)$  (discrete) or  $f_X(c)$  (continuous) is maximized.

**Discrete Uniform Distribution on the Integers  $1, 2, \dots, N$ :**

$$p_X(k) = \frac{1}{N} \text{ for } k = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad E[X] = \frac{N+1}{2} \quad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{N^2-1}{12}$$

**Binomial Distribution for  $n$  Trials and Success Probability  $p$ :**

$$p_X(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \quad E[X] = np \quad \text{Var}[X] = np(1-p)$$

**Geometric Distribution on the Integers  $0, 1, 2, \dots$  and Parameter  $p$ :**

$$p_X(k) = (1-p)^k \cdot p \quad E[X] = \frac{1-p}{p} \quad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

**Poisson Distribution with Mean  $\lambda$ :**

$$p_X(k) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!} \text{ for } k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad E[X] = \lambda \quad \text{Var}[X] = \lambda$$

**Negative Binomial Distribution:** Two Parametrizations

*Successes-Probability Form (Parameters  $p$  and integer  $\gamma \geq 1$ ):*

$$p_X(x) = \binom{\gamma+x-1}{x} p^\gamma (1-p)^x, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad E[X] = \frac{\gamma(1-p)}{p} \quad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{\gamma(1-p)}{p^2}$$

*Mean-Dispersion Form (Parameters  $\mu$  and integer  $\gamma \geq 1$ , as in R):*

$$p_X(x) = \binom{\gamma+x-1}{x} \left(\frac{\gamma}{\gamma+\mu}\right)^\gamma \left(\frac{\mu}{\gamma+\mu}\right)^x, \quad E[X] = \mu \quad \text{Var}[X] = \mu + \frac{\mu^2}{\gamma}$$

$x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

*Conversion:*  $\mu = \frac{\gamma(1-p)}{p}, p = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma+\mu}$

*Note:* Use Mean-Dispersion form for R simulations (`rnbinom(n, size= $\gamma$ , mu= $\mu$ )`).

**Hypergeometric Distribution:**

$$p_X(x) = \frac{\binom{K}{x} \binom{M-K}{n-x}}{\binom{M}{n}} \quad E[X] = \frac{nK}{M} \quad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{nK(M-K)(M-n)}{M^2(M-1)}$$

for  $\max\{0, n - (M - K)\} \leq x \leq \min\{n, K\}$

**Continuous Uniform Distribution on the Interval  $[a, b]$ :**

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{b-a} \text{ for } a \leq x \leq b \qquad E[X] = \frac{a+b}{2} \qquad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$$

**Standard Normal Distribution  $N(0, 1)$  (Mean 0, Variance 1):**

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \text{ for } -\infty < x < \infty \qquad F_X(x) = \Phi(x)$$

**Normal Distribution  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  (Mean  $\mu$ , Variance  $\sigma^2$ ):**

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \text{ for } -\infty < x < \infty \qquad F_X(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

**Exponential Distribution: Two Parametrizations**

*Mean Form (Parameter  $\theta > 0$ ):*

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\theta} e^{-x/\theta}, \ x > 0, \text{ and } f_X(x) = 0 \text{ otherwise} \qquad E[X] = \theta \qquad \text{Var}[X] = \theta^2$$

*Rate Form (Parameter  $\lambda > 0$ ):*

$$f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \ x > 0, \text{ and } f_X(x) = 0 \text{ otherwise} \qquad E[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda} \qquad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

Conversion:  $\theta = \frac{1}{\lambda}, \lambda = \frac{1}{\theta}$

**Gamma Distribution: Two Parametrizations**

*Shape-Scale Form (Parameters  $\alpha > 0, \theta > 0$ ):*

$$f_X(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\theta}}{\theta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)}, \ x > 0, \text{ and } f_X(x) = 0 \text{ otherwise} \qquad E[X] = \alpha\theta \qquad \text{Var}[X] = \alpha\theta^2$$

*Shape-Rate Form (Parameters  $\alpha > 0, \beta > 0$ ):*

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\beta^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}, \ x > 0, \text{ and } f_X(x) = 0 \text{ otherwise} \qquad E[X] = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \qquad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$$

Conversion:  $\theta = \frac{1}{\beta}, \beta = \frac{1}{\theta}$

**Lognormal Distribution with parameters  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$ :** If  $\ln(Y) \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  then we have

$$f_Y = \frac{1}{\sigma y \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\ln(y) - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right), \qquad E[Y] = e^{\mu + \frac{\sigma^2}{2}} \qquad \text{Var}[Y] = E[Y]^2 (e^{\sigma^2} - 1).$$

**Beta Distribution with parameters  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\beta > 0$ :**

$$f_X(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)} = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}, \qquad E[X] = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}, \qquad \text{Var}[X] = \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha + \beta)^2(\alpha + \beta + 1)}.$$

for  $0 < x < 1$  and 0 otherwise.

**Moment Generating Function (MGF):**

$$M_X(t) = E[e^{tX}]$$

**Probability Generating Function (PGF):**

$$P_X(t) = E[t^X]$$

If  $X$  is **discrete** then

$$M_X(t) = \sum e^{tx} \cdot p(x), \quad P_X(t) = \sum t^x \cdot p(x).$$

If  $X$  is **continuous** then

$$M_X(t) = \int e^{tx} \cdot p(x) dx, \quad P_X(t) = \int t^x \cdot p(x) dx.$$

The moments of  $X$  can be found from the successive derivatives of  $M_X(t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} M'_X(0) &= E[X], \\ M''_X(0) &= E[X^2], \\ M_X^{(n)}(0) &= E[X^n], \\ \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \log[M_X(t)] \right|_{t=0} &= \text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

If  $X$  has a discrete non-negative integer distribution with  $p_k = P[X = k]$  and the probability generating function  $P_X(t)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} p_k &= \frac{1}{k!} \cdot P_X^{(k)}(0) \\ P'_X(1) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = E[X] \\ P''_X(1) &= E[X^2 - X] = E[X^2] - E[X] \end{aligned}$$

### A1.3 MULTIVARIATE RANDOM VARIABLES

**Cumulative Distribution Function:**

$$\begin{aligned} F(x, y) &= \sum_{s=-\infty}^x \sum_{t=-\infty}^y f(s, t) \text{ (discrete).} \\ F(x, y) &= \int_{-\infty}^y \int_{-\infty}^x f(s, t) ds dt \text{ (continuous).} \end{aligned}$$

**Marginal Distribution of  $X$  From Joint Distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ :**

$$\begin{aligned} p_X(x) &= \sum_{\text{all } y} p(x, y) \text{ (discrete)} \\ f_X(x) &= \int_y f(x, y) dy \text{ (continuous)} \end{aligned}$$

**Independence of Random Variables  $X$  and  $Y$ :**

$$f(x, y) = f_X(x) \cdot f_Y(y), \quad F(x, y) = F_X(x) \cdot F_Y(y)$$

**Conditional Distribution of  $X$  Given  $Y$ :**

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

**Conditional Expectation:**

$$E[Y|X = x] = \int y f_{Y|X}(y|X = x) dy$$

**If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent random variables:**

$$f_{Y|X}(y|X = x) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_X(x)} = \frac{f_X(x) f_Y(y)}{f_X(x)} = f_Y(y)$$

**Expectation of a Function of Jointly Distributed Random Variables:**

$$\begin{aligned} E[h(X, Y)] &= \sum_x \sum_y h(x, y) f(x, y) \text{ (discrete)} \\ E[h(X, Y)] &= \int_x \int_y h(x, y) f(x, y) dx dy \text{ (Continuous)} \end{aligned}$$

**Covariance and Correlation Between  $X$  and  $Y$ :**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[X, Y] &= E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])] = E[XY] - E[X] \cdot E[Y] \\ \rho_{XY} &= \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X] \cdot \text{Var}[Y]}} \end{aligned}$$

**Variance of the Sum of  $X$  and  $Y$ :**

$$\text{Var}[aX + bY + c] = a^2 \text{Var}[X] + b^2 \text{Var}[Y] + 2ab \text{Cov}[X, Y]$$

**Joint Moment Generating Function:**

$$\begin{aligned} M_{X, Y}(t_1, t_2) &= E[e^{t_1 X + t_2 Y}] \\ E[X^n Y^m] &= \left. \frac{\partial^{n+m}}{\partial t_1^n \partial t_2^m} M_{X, Y}(t_1, t_2) \right|_{t_1=t_2=0} \end{aligned}$$

**Bivariate Normal Distribution:**

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_X\sigma_Y\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \cdot \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)} \cdot \left[\left(\frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)^2 - 2\rho\left(\frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X}\right)\left(\frac{y-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)\right]\right]$$

$$E[Y|X = x] = \mu_Y + \rho_{XY} \cdot \frac{\sigma_Y}{\sigma_X} \cdot (x - \mu_X)$$

$$= \mu_Y + \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X^2} \cdot (x - \mu_X)$$

$$\text{Var}(Y|X = x) = \sigma_Y^2 \cdot (1 - \rho_{XY}^2)$$

**Law of Total Expectation:**

$$E[E[X|Y]] = E[X]$$

**Law of Total Variance:**

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[\text{Var}(X|Y)] + \text{Var}(E[X|Y])$$

**Order Statistics:  $Y_k$  is the  $k$ -th from the smallest of the  $X_i$ 's**

PDF of  $Y_k$  is

$$g_k(t) = \frac{n!}{(k-1)!(n-k)!} \cdot (F(t))^{k-1} \cdot (1-F(t))^{n-k} \cdot f(t).$$