### Random Process Background

Young W Lim

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Based on Probability, Random Variables and Random Signal Principles, P.Z. Peebles, Jr. and B. Shi

#### Outline



#### Measurable Space

- Measurable Space
- Sigma Alebra
- Topological Space
- Open Set



Measurable Space **Topological Space** 

### Outline



#### 1 Measurable Space

- Measurable Space
- Sigma Alebra
- Topological Space
- Open Set



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# Space (1)

• A space consists of

selected mathematical objects that are treated as points, and selected relationships between these points.

- the nature of the points can vary widely: for example, the points can be
  - elements of a set
  - functions on another space
  - subspaces of another space
- It is the relationships that define the nature of the space.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space\_(mathematics)

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- While modern mathematics uses many types of **spaces**, such as
  - Euclidean spaces
  - linear spaces
  - topological spaces
  - Hilbert spaces
  - probability spaces
- it does <u>not</u> define the notion of **space** itself.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space\_(mathematics)

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# Space (3)

a space is

a set (or a universe) with some added structure

- It is <u>not</u> always clear whether a given <u>mathematical object</u> should be considered as a geometric space, or an algebraic structure
- A general definition of **structure** embraces all common types of **space**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space (mathematics)

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### Mathematical objects (1)

- A mathematical object is an abstract concept arising in mathematics.
- an mathematical object is anything that has been (or could be) formally <u>defined</u>, and with which one may do
  - deductive reasoning
  - mathematical proofs

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical object

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## Mathematical objects (2)

#### • Typically, a mathematical object

- can be a value that can be assigned to a variable
- therefore can be involved in formulas

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical\_object

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### Mathematical objects (3)

#### • Commonly encountered mathematical objects include

- numbers
- sets
- functions
- expressions
- geometric objects
- transformations of other mathematical objects
- spaces

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical\_object

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### Mathematical objects (4)

- Mathematical objects can be very complex;
  - for example, the followings are considered as mathematical objects in proof theory.
    - theorems
    - proofs
    - theories

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical\_object

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## Structure (1)

• a structure is a set

endowed with some additional features on the set

- e.g. an operation
- relation
- metric
- topology
- Often, the *additional features* are attached or related to the set, so as to provide it with some *additional meaning* or *significance*.

https://www.localmaxradio.com/questions/what-is-a-mathematical-space

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## Structure (2)

- A partial list of possible structures are
  - measures
  - algebraic structures (groups, fields, etc.)
  - topologies
  - metric structures (geometries)
  - orders
  - events
  - equivalence relations
  - differential structures
  - categories.

https://www.localmaxradio.com/questions/what-is-a-mathematical-space

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#### Mathematical space (1)

- A mathematical space is, informally, a collection of mathematical objects under consideration.
- The universe of mathematical objects within a space are *precisely* defined entities whose rules of *interaction* come baked into the rules of the space.

https://www.localmaxradio.com/questions/what-is-a-mathematical-space

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### Mathematical space (2)

- A space differs from a mathematical set in several important ways:
  - A mathematical set is also a collection of objects
  - but these objects are being pulled from a space (or universe) of objects where the rules and definitions have already been agreed upon

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### Mathematical space (3)

- A space differs from a mathematical set in several important ways:
  - A mathematical set has no internal structure,
  - whereas a **space** usually has some internal structure.

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#### Mathematical space (4)

- having some internal structure could mean a variety of things, but typically it involves
  - *interactions* and *relationships* between elements of the **space**
  - *rules* on how to *create* and *define new* elements of the **space**

https://www.localmaxradio.com/questions/what-is-a-mathematical-space

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#### Measurable space (1)

- A measurable space is any space with a sigma-algebra which can then be equipped with a measure
  - collection of **subsets** of the **space** following certain **rules** with a way to assign sizes to those sets.

https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-measurable-space-and-probability-space-

intuitively-What-differences-do-they-have

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## Measurable space (2)

#### Intuitively,

certain **sets** belonging to a **measurable space** can be given a size in a *consistent way*.

consistent way means that certain axioms are met:

- the empty set is given a size of zero
- if a measurable set is contained inside another one, then its size is less than or equal to the size of the containing set
- the size of a disjoint union of sets is the sum of the individual sets' sizes

https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-measurable-space-and-probability-space-

intuitively-What-differences-do-they-have

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## Probability space

- A probability space is simply a measurable space equipped with a probability measure.
- A probability measure has the special property of giving the entire **space** a size of **1**.
  - this then implies that the size of any <u>disjoint union</u> of sets (the <u>sum</u> of the sizes of the sets) in the **probability space** is less than or equal to 1

https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-measurable-space-and-probability-space-

intuitively-What-differences-do-they-have

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## Sigma algebra (1)

- We term the structures which allow us to use measure to be sigma algebras
- the only requirements for sigma algebras (on a set X) are:
  - the {} and X are in the **set**.
  - if A is in the **set**, complement(A) is in the **set**.
  - for any sets  $E_i$  in the set,  $\bigcup_i E_i$  is in the set (for countable *i*).

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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## Sigma algebra (2)

- The most intuitive way to think about a **sigma algebra** is that it is the kind of **structure** we can do probability on.
  - for example, we can assign <u>ratios</u> of <u>areas</u> and <u>length</u>, so the measure on such a set X tells something about the probability of its subsets.
  - we can find the probability of subsets A and B because we know their ratios with respect to a set X ;
  - we also know that
    - (the measure of) their complements are defined, and
    - their unions and intersections are defined,
    - so we know how to find the probability of things in this set X.

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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## Sigma algebra (3)

- The sigma algebra which contains the standard topology on R (that is, *all* open sets on R) is called the Borel Sigma Algebra, and the elements of this set are called Borel sets.
- What this gives us, is the set of sets on which outer measure gives our list of dreams. That is, if we take a Borel set and we check that length follows translation, additivity, and interval length, it will always hold.

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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## Sigma algebra (4)

- The set of Lebesgue measurable sets is the set of **Borel sets**, along with (union) all the sets which differ from a Borel set by a set of measure 0.
- More intuitively, it is all the sets we can normally measure, plus a bunch of stuff that <u>doesn't</u> affect our ideas of area or volume (think about the border of the circle above).

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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## Borel Sets (1-1)

- a Borel set is any set in a topological space that can be formed from open sets (or, equivalently, from closed sets) through the operations of
  - countable union,
  - countable intersection, and
  - relative complement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set

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## Borel Sets (1-2)

- For a topological space X, the collection of all Borel sets on X forms a σ-algebra, known as the Borel algebra or Borel σ-algebra.
- The Borel algebra on X is the smallest σ-algebra containing all open sets (or, equivalently, all closed sets).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set

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## Borel Sets (1-3)

- Borel sets are important in measure theory, since any measure defined on the open sets of a space, or on the closed sets of a space, must also be defined on all Borel sets of that space.
- Any measure defined on the Borel sets is called a **Borel measure**.
- Borel sets and the associated Borel hierarchy also play a fundamental role in descriptive set theory.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel set

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## Borel Sets (2)

- Borel sets are those obtained from intervals by means of the operations allowed in a σ-algebra. So we may construct them in a (transfinite) "sequence" of steps:
- ... And again and again.

https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/220248/understanding-borel-sets

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### Borel Sets (3-1)

- Start with finite unions of closed-open intervals. These sets are completely elementary, and they form an algebra.
- 2. Adjoin countable unions and intersections of elementary sets. What you get already includes open sets and closed sets, intersections of an open set and a closed set, and so on. Thus you obtain an algebra, that is still <u>not</u> a  $\sigma$ -algebra.

https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/220248/understanding-borel-sets

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### Borel Sets (3)

3. Again, adjoin countable unions and intersections to 2. Observe that you get a strictly larger class, since a countable intersection of countable unions of intervals is <u>not</u> <u>necessarily</u> included in 2.

Explicit examples of sets in 3 but not in 2 include  $F_{\sigma}$  sets, like, say, the set of *rational numbers*.

4. And do the same again.

https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/220248/understanding-borel-sets

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### Borel Sets (4-1)

• And even after a sequence of steps we are not yet finished. Take, say, a countable union of a set constructed at step 1, a set constructed at step 2, and so on. This union may very well not have been constructed at any step yet. By axioms of  $\sigma$ -algebra, you should include it as well - if you want, as step  $\infty$ 

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## Borel Sets (4-2)

- (or, technically, the first infinite ordinal, if you know what that means).
- And then continue in the same way until you reach the first uncountable ordinal. And only then will you finally obtain the generated  $\sigma$  -algebra.

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## Topology

#### topology

from the Greek words  $\tau \delta \pi \circ \varsigma$ , 'place, location', and  $\lambda \delta \omega \circ \varsigma$  'ctudu'

and λόγος, '<mark>study</mark>'

is concerned with the properties of a geometric object

- that are *preserved* under <u>continuous</u> deformations, such as stretching, twisting, crumpling, and bending;
- that is, without closing holes, opening holes, tearing, gluing, or passing through itself.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topology

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## Topological space (1)

 a topological space is, roughly speaking, a geometrical space in which closeness is defined but <u>cannot</u> necessarily be measured by a numeric distance.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set

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## Topological space (2)

- More specifically, a topological space is
- a set whose elements are called points,
- along with an additional structure called a topology,
  - which can be defined as
  - a set of neighbourhoods for each point
  - that satisfy some axioms
  - formalizing the concept of <u>closeness</u>.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set

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#### Topological space (3)

• There are several equivalent definitions of a topology, the most commonly used of which is the definition through open sets, which is easier than the others to manipulate.

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## Topological space (4)

- A **topological space** is the most general type of a mathematical space that <u>allows</u> for the definition of
  - limits,
  - continuity, and
  - connectedness.
- Common types of topological spaces include
  - Euclidean spaces,
  - metric spaces and
  - manifolds.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set

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## Topological space (5)

• Although very general,

the concept of **topological spaces** is fundamental, and used in virtually every branch of modern mathematics.

 The study of topological spaces in their own right is called point-set topology or general topology.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set

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## Open set (1)

- an open set is a generalization of an open interval in the real line.
- a metric space is a set along with a distance defined between any two points
- in a metric space,

an **open set** is a set that, along with every point P, contains all points that are sufficiently near to P

• all points whose distance to *P* is less than some value depending on *P* 

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## Open set (2)

- More generally, an open set is
  - a member of a given collection of subsets of a given set,
  - a collection that has the property of containing
    - every union of its members
    - every finite intersection of its members
    - the empty set
    - the whole set itself

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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# Open set (2)

- A set in which such a collection is given is called a **topological space**, and the collection is called a **topology**.
- These conditions are very loose, and allow enormous flexibility in the choice of open sets.
- For example,
  - every subset can be open (the discrete topology), or
  - <u>no</u> subset can be open (the indiscrete topology) except
    - the space itself and
    - the empty set .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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## Open set (3)

Example:

- The *circle* represents the set of points (x, y) satisfying  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ .
- The *disk* represents the set of points (x, y) satisfying  $x^2 + y^2 < r^2$ .
- The circle set is an open set,
- the disk set is its boundary set, and
- the union of the *circle* and *di*sk sets is a **closed set**.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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## Open set (4)

- A set is a collection of distinct objects.
- Given a set A, we say that a is an element of A if a is one of the distinct objects in A, and we write a ∈ A to denote this
- Given two sets A and B, we say that A is a subset of B if every element of A is also an element of B write A ⊆ B to denote this.

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## Open set (5) Open Balls

- We give these definitions in general, for when one is working in R<sup>n</sup> since they are really not all that different to define in R<sup>n</sup> than in R<sup>2</sup>
- An open ball  $B_r(a)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ <u>centered</u> at  $a = (a_1, \dots a_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with <u>radius</u> ris the set of all points  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that the <u>distance</u> between x and  $\mathbf{a}$  is less than r
- In  $\mathbb{R}^2$  an open ball is often called an open disk

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#### Open set (6) Interior points

- Suppose that  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- A point *p* ∈ S is an interior point of S if there exists an open ball B<sub>r</sub>(*p*) ⊆ S.
- Intuitively, *p* is an interior point of S if we can squeeze an entire open ball centered at *p* within S

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## Open set (7) Boundary points

- A point *p* ∈ ℝ<sup>n</sup> is a boundary point of S if all open balls centered at *p* contain both points in S and points not in S.
- The boundary of S is the set ∂S that consists of all of the boundary points of S.

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#### Open set (8) Open and Closed Sets

- A set O ⊆ ℝ<sup>n</sup> is open if every point in O is an interior point.
- A set C ⊆ ℝ<sup>n</sup> is closed if it contains all of its boundary points.

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Open set (8) Bounded and Unbounded

• A set S is bounded if there is an open ball  $B_M(0)$  such that

#### $S \subseteq B$ .

- intuitively, this means that we can <u>enclose</u> all of the set S <u>within</u> a large enough ball centered at the origin.
- A set that is not bounded is called unbounded

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#### Outline



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#### Topologically distinguishable points (1)

- Intuitively, an open set provides a *method* to *distinguish* two points.
- two points in a topological space, there exists an open set
  - containing one point but
  - not containing the other (distinct) point
  - the two points are topologically distinguishable.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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## Topologically distinguishable points (2)

- In this manner, one may speak of whether two points, or more generally two subsets, of a topological space are "near" without concretely defining a distance.
- Therefore, topological spaces may be seen as a generalization of spaces equipped with a notion of distance, which are called metric spaces.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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## Topologically distinguishable points (3)

- In the set of all real numbers, one has the natural Euclidean metric; that is, a function which measures the distance between two real numbers: d(x,y) = |x - y|.
- Therefore, given a real number x, one can speak of the set of all points <u>close</u> to that real number x; that is, within ε of x.
- In essence, points within ε of x approximate x to an accuracy of degree ε.
- Note that ɛ > 0 always, but as ɛ becomes smaller and smaller, one obtains points that approximate x to a higher and higher degree of accuracy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open set

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## Topologically distinguishable points (4)

- For example, if x = 0 and ε = 1, the points within ε of x are precisely the points of the interval (-1,1); that is, the set of all real numbers between -1 and 1.
- However, with  $\varepsilon = 0.5$ , the points within  $\varepsilon$  of x are precisely the points of (-0.5, 0.5).
- Clearly, these points <u>approximate</u> x to a greater degree of accuracy than when ε = 1.

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## Topologically distinguishable points (5)

- The previous discussion shows, for the case x = 0, that one may <u>approximate</u> x to *higher* and *higher* degrees of accuracy by defining ε to be *smaller* and *smaller*.
- In particular, sets of the form (-ε,ε) give us a lot of information about points close to x = 0.
- Thus, rather than speaking of a <u>concrete</u> <u>Euclidean metric</u>, one may use <u>sets</u> to describe points <u>close</u> to *x*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

## Topologically distinguishable points (6)

- This innovative idea has far-reaching consequences; in particular, by defining different collections of sets containing 0 (distinct from the sets (-ε,ε)), one may find different results regarding the distance between 0 and other real numbers.
- For example, if we were to define R as the only such set for "measuring distance", all points are <u>close</u> to 0 since there is only <u>one</u> possible degree of accuracy one may achieve in <u>approximating</u> 0: being a member of R.

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## Topologically distinguishable points (7)

- Thus, we find that in some sense, every real number is distance 0 away from 0.
- It may help in this case to think of the measure as being a binary condition: all things in *R* are equally close to 0,

while any item that is not in R is not close to 0.

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## Topologically distinguishable points (8)

- In general, one refers to the family of sets containing 0, used to <u>approximate</u> 0, as a neighborhood basis;
  a member of this neighborhood basis
  is referred to as an **open set**.
- In fact, one may generalize these notions to an <u>arbitrary</u> set (X); rather than just the real numbers.
- In this case, given a point (x) of that set, one may define a collection of sets
   "around" (that is, containing) x, used to approximate x.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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## Topologically distinguishable points (9)

- Of course, this collection would have to satisfy certain properties (known as axioms) for otherwise we may not have a well-defined method to measure distance.
- For example, every point in X should approximate x to some degree of accuracy.
- Thus X should be in this family.
- Once we begin to define "smaller" sets containing x, we tend to approximate x to a greater degree of accuracy.
- Bearing this in mind, one may <u>define</u> the remaining axioms that the family of sets about x is required to satisfy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\_set

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## Definitions (1) Euclidean space

- A subset U of the Euclidean n-space R<sup>n</sup> is open if, for every point x in U, there exists a positive real number ε (depending on x) such that any point in R<sup>n</sup> whose Euclidean distance from x is smaller than ε belongs to U
- Equivalently, a subset U of ℝ<sup>n</sup> is open if every point in U is the center of an open ball contained in U
- An example of a subset of ℝ that is not open is the closed interval [0,1], since neither 0 − ε nor 1 + ε belongs to [0,1] for any ε > 0, no matter how small.

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## Definitions (2) Metric space

- A subset U of a metric space (M, d) is called open if, for any point x in U, there exists a real number ε > 0 such that any point y ∈ M satisfying d(x,y) < ε belongs to U.</li>
- Equivalently, *U* is **open** if every point in *U* has a neighborhood contained in *U*.
- This generalizes the Euclidean space example, since Euclidean space with the Euclidean distance is a metric space.

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#### Definitions (3) Topological space

• A topology  $\tau$  on a set X is

a set of subsets of X with the *properties* below. Each member of  $\tau$  is called an open set.[3]

- $X \in \tau$  and  $arnothing \in au$
- Any union of sets in  $\tau$  belong to  $\tau$  : if  $\{U_i : i \in I\} \subseteq \tau$  then

$$\bigcup_{i\in I}U_i\in\tau$$

• Any finite intersection of sets in  $\tau$  belong to  $\tau$  : if  $U_1, \ldots, U_n \in \tau$  then

 $U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_n \in \tau$ 

• X together with  $\tau$  is called a **topological space**.

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## Definitions (4) Topological space

- Infinite intersections of open sets need not be open.
- For example, the intersection of all intervals of the form (-1/n, 1/n), where *n* is a positive integer, is the set  $\{0\}$  which is not open in the real line.
- A metric space is a topological space, whose topology consists of the collection of all subsets that are unions of open balls.
- There are, however, topological spaces that are not metric spaces.

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## Topological space via neighborhoods (1)

- This axiomatization is due to Felix Hausdorff.
- Let X be a set;
- the elements of X are usually called points, though they can be any mathematical object.
- We allow X to be empty.
- Let  $\mathcal{N}$  be a function assigning to each x (point) in X a non-empty collection  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  of subsets of X.
- The elements of  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  will be called neighbourhoods of x with respect to  $\mathcal{N}$  (or, simply, neighbourhoods of x).
- The function  ${\mathscr N}$  is called a neighbourhood topology if the axioms below[8] are satisfied; and
- then X with  $\mathcal{N}$  is called a topological space.

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## Topological space via neighborhoods (2)

- If N is a neighbourhood of x (i.e., N ∈ N(x)), then x ∈ N. In other words, each point belongs to every one of its neighbourhoods.
- If N is a subset of X and includes a neighbourhood of x, then N is a neighbourhood of x. I.e., every superset of a neighbourhood of a point x ∈ X is again a neighbourhood of x.
- The intersection of two neighbourhoods of x x is a neighbourhood of x.
- Any neighbourhood  $\mathcal{N}$  of x includes a neighbourhood  $\mathcal{M}$  of x such that  $\mathcal{N}$  is a neighbourhood of each point of M.

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## Topological space via neighborhoods (3)

- The first three axioms for neighbourhoods have a clear meaning.
- The fourth axiom has a very important use in the structure of the theory, that of linking together the neighbourhoods of different points of X.
- A standard example of such a system of neighbourhoods is for the real line ℝ, where a subset N of ℝ is defined to be a neighbourhood of a real number x if it includes an open interval containing x.

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#### Topological space via open sets (1)

- A topology on a set X may be defined as a collection τ of subsets of X, called open sets and satisfying the following axioms:
  - The empty set and X itself belong to  $\tau$  .
  - Any arbitrary (finite or infinite) union of members of  $\tau$  belongs to  $\tau$  .
  - The intersection of any finite number of members of  $\tau$  belongs to  $\tau$  .

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Topological space via open sets (2)

- As this definition of a topology is the most <u>commonly used</u>, the set τ of the open sets is commonly called a **topology** on X.
- A subset  $C \subseteq X$  is said to be closed in  $(X, \tau)$  if its complement  $X \setminus C$  is an open set.

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## Topological space via neighborhoods (4)

- Given such a structure, a subset U of X is defined to be **open** if U is a neighbourhood of all points in U.
- The **open sets** then satisfy the axioms given below.
- Conversely, when given the open sets of a topological space, the neighbourhoods satisfying the above axioms can be recovered by defining N to be a neighbourhood of x if N includes an open set U such that x ∈ U.

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## Examples of topoloy (1)

• Given  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , {\displaystyle  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ } the trivial or indiscrete topology on X X is the family  $\tau = \{ \{ \}, \{ 1, 2 \}$ , 3, 4 } = {  $\varnothing$ , X } {\displaystyle \tau two subsets of X X required by the axioms forms a topology of X. X. Given  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , {\displaystyle X=\{1,2,3,4\},} the family  $\tau = \{ \{ \}, \{ 2 \}, \{ 1, 2 \}, \{ 2, 3 \}, \{ 1, 2, 3 \}, \{ 1, 2 \}$  $.3.4\} =$  $\{ \emptyset, \{2\}, \{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}, X \}$  {\displaystyle \tau  $= \{ \{ \}, \{2\}, \{1,2\}, \{2,3\}, \{1,2,3\}, \{1,2,3,4\} \} = \{ varnoth$ ing  $\{2, \{1,2,\}, \{2,3,\}, \{1,2,3,\}, X\}$  of six subsets of X X forms another topology of  $X \cdot X$ .

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#### Examples of topoloy (2)

• Given X = { 1, 2, 3, 4 }, {\displaystyle X=\{1,2,3,4\},} the discrete topology on X X is the power set of X, X, which is the family  $\tau = \wp (X)$  {\displaystyle \tau =\wp (X)} consisting of all possible subsets of X. X. In this case the topological space (X,  $\tau$ ) (X, \tau) is called a discrete space. Given X = Z, {\displaystyle X=\mathbb {Z},} the set of integers, the family  $\tau$  \tau of all finite subsets of the integers plus Z \mathbb {Z} itself is not a topology, because (for example) the union of all finite sets not containing zero is not finite but is also not all of Z, {\displaystyle \mathbb {Z},} and so it cannot be in  $\tau$ . \tau.

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# Stochastic Process (1)

In probability theory and related fields, a **stochastic** (/stoʊ'kæstık/) or **random** process is a mathematical object usually defined as a family of **random variables**.

The word stochastic in English was originally used as an adjective with the definition "pertaining to **conjecturing**", and stemming from a Greek word meaning "to <u>aim</u> at a mark, <u>guess</u>", and the Oxford English Dictionary gives the year 1662 as its earliest occurrence.

From Ancient Greek στοχαστικός (stokhastikós), from στοχάζομαι (stokházomai, "aim at a target, guess"), from στόχος (stókhos, "an aim, a guess").

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# Stochastic Process (2)

The definition of a **stochastic process** varies, but a **stochastic process** is *traditionally* defined as a collection of **random variables** indexed by some set.

The terms **random process** and **stochastic process** are considered <u>synonyms</u> and are used <u>interchangeably</u>, without the **index set** being precisely specified.

Both "collection", or "family" are used while instead of "index set", sometimes the terms "parameter set" or "parameter space" are used.

## Stochastic Process (3)

The term **random function** is also used to refer to a **stochastic** or **random process**, though sometimes it is only used when the stochastic process takes <u>real values</u>.

This term is also used when the **index sets** are **mathematical spaces** other than the **real line**,

while the terms **stochastic process** and **random process** are usually used when the **index set** is interpreted as time,

and other terms are used such as **random field** when the **index set** is *n*-dimensional **Euclidean space**  $\mathbb{R}^n$ or a manifold

# Stochastic Process (4)

A stochastic process can be denoted, by  $\{X(t)\}_{t\in T}$ ,  $\{X_t\}_{t\in T}$ ,  $\{X(t)\}$ ,  $\{X_t\}$  or simply as X or X(t), although X(t) is regarded as an abuse of function notation.

For example, X(t) or  $X_t$  are used to refer to the **random variable** with the **index** t, and not the entire **stochastic process**.

If the **index set** is  $T = [0, \infty)$ , then one can write, for example,  $(X_t, t \ge 0)$  to denote the **stochastic process**.

# Stochastic Process Definition (1)

A stochastic process is defined as a <u>collection</u> of **random variables** defined on a common **probability space**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ ,

- Ω is a sample space,
- $\mathscr{F}$  is a  $\sigma$  -algebra,
- P is a probability measure;
- the random variables, indexed by some set T,
- all take values in the same **mathematical space** S, which must be **measurable** with respect to some  $\sigma$  -algebra  $\Sigma$

#### Stochastic Process Definition (2)

In other words, for a given probability space  $(\Omega, \mathscr{F}, P)$ and a measurable space  $(S, \Sigma)$ , a stochastic process is a collection of S-valued random variables, which can be written as:

 $\{X(t):t\in T\}.$ 

#### Stochastic Process Definition (3)

Historically, in many problems from the natural sciences a point  $t \in T$  had the meaning of time, so X(t) is a **random variable** representing a value observed at time t.

A stochastic process can also be written as  $\{X(t, \omega) : t \in T\}$ to reflect that it is actually a function of two variables,  $t \in T$  and  $\omega \in \Omega$ .

# Stochastic Process Definition (4)

There are <u>other</u> ways to consider a stochastic process, with the above definition being considered the traditional one.

For example, a stochastic process can be interpreted or defined as a  $S^{T}$ -valued **random variable**, where  $S^{T}$  is the space of all the possible functions from the set T into the space S.

However this alternative definition as a "function-valued random variable" in general requires additional regularity assumptions to be well-defined.

#### Index set (1)

The set T is called the **index set** or **parameter set** of the **stochastic process**.

Often this set is some <u>subset</u> of the <u>real line</u>, such as the natural numbers or an interval, giving the set T the interpretation of time.

### Index set (2)

In addition to these sets, the index set T can be another set with a **total order** or a more general set, such as the Cartesian plane  $R^2$  or *n*-dimensional **Euclidean space**, where an element  $t \in T$  can represent a point in space.

That said, many results and theorems are only possible for **stochastic processes** with a **totally ordered index set**.

#### State space

The mathematical space S of a stochastic process is called its state space.

This mathematical space can be defined using integers, real lines, *n*-dimensional Euclidean spaces, complex planes, or more abstract mathematical spaces.

The **state space** is defined using elements that reflect the <u>different</u> values that the **stochastic process** can <u>take</u>.

# Sample function (1)

A sample function is a <u>single</u> outcome of a stochastic process, so it is formed by taking a <u>single</u> <u>possible value</u> of each random variable of the stochastic process.

More precisely, if  $\{X(t, \omega) : t \in T\}$  is a stochastic process, then for any point  $\omega \in \Omega$ , the mapping  $X(\cdot, \omega) : T \to S$ , is called a sample function, a realization, or, particularly when T is interpreted as <u>time</u>, a sample path of the stochastic process  $\{X(t, \omega) : t \in T\}$ .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stochastic\_process

# Sample function (2)

This means that for a fixed  $\omega \in \Omega$ , there exists a **sample function** that maps the **index set** T to the **state space** S.

# Other names for a **sample function** of a **stochastic process** include **trajectory**, **path function** or **path**

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