Introduction to Probability

Berlin Chen

Department of Computer Science & Information Engineering

National Taiwan Normal University
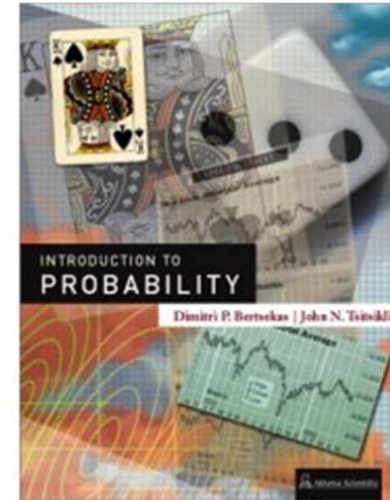
Probability

- Probability and its relatives (Possible, Probable, Likely) were read in many contexts

- Probability was developed to describe phenomena that cannot be predicted with certainty
  - Frequency of occurrences
  - Subjective belief

- Everyone accepts that the probability (of a certain thing to happen) is a number between 0 and 1 (?)

Main Objectives

- Develop the art of describing uncertainty in terms of probabilistic models
  - Fundamentals of probability theory: discrete/continuous random variables, multiple random variables, limit theorems, etc.
  - Definition, axioms, and inferences following the axioms

- Learn the skills of probabilistic reasoning
 - E.g., the use of Bayesian statistics (Bayes' rule)

Textbook

- D. P. Bertsekas, J. N. Tsitsiklis, "*Introduction to Probability*," Athena Scientific, 2nd Edition

- Website
  - http://www.athenasc.com/probbook.html

- Supplement problems of textbook
  - Theoretic problems (marked by *)
  - Problems in the text (various levels of difficulty)
  - Supplementary problems (at the book's website)

Reference Books

- Roy D. Yates, David J. Goodman, "*Probability and Stochastic Processes: A Friendly Introduction for Electrical and Computer Engineers*," 2nd Edition, Wiley, 2004

- Abraham H. Haddad, "*Probabilistic Systems and Random Signals*," Prentice Hall, 2005
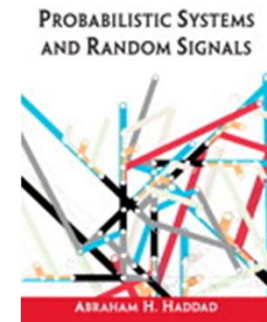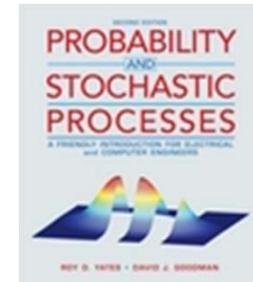
Tentative Topic List

1.		Course Overview & Introduction
2.		Sample Space and Probability
3.		Discrete Random Variables
4.		Continuous Random Variables
5.		Further Topics on Random Variables and Expectations
6.		Limit Theorems

Grading (Tentatively)

- Midterm and Final: 45%

- Quizzes ($\geq$ 5 times) and Homework: 45%

- Attendance/Other: 10%

- TA:郭俊麟同學