Thinking Probabilistically

Probability theory has diverse applications in a plethora of fields, including physics, engineering, computer science, chemistry, biology, and economics. This book will familiarize students with various applications of probability theory, stochastic modeling, and random processes, using examples from all these disciplines and more.

The reader learns via case studies and begins to recognize the sort of problems that are best tackled probabilistically. The emphasis is on conceptual understanding, the development of intuition, and gaining insight, keeping technicalities to a minimum. Nevertheless, a glimpse into the depth of the topics is provided, preparing students for more specialized texts while assuming only an undergraduate-level background in mathematics. The wide range of areas covered – never before discussed together in a unified fashion – includes Markov processes and random walks, Langevin and Fokker–Planck equations, noise, generalized central limit theorem and extreme values statistics, random matrix theory, and percolation theory.

Ariel Amir is a Professor at Harvard University. His research centers on the theory of complex systems.

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Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-47952-3 — Thinking Probabilistically Ariel Amir Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

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Stochastic Processes, Disordered Systems, and Their Applications

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79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

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www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108479523 DOI: 10.1017/9781108855259

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First published 2021

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Ltd. Padstow, Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Amir, Ariel, 1981- author.

Title: Thinking probabilistically : stochastic processes, disordered systems, and their applications / Ariel Amir.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020019651 (print) | LCCN 2020019652 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108479523 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108789981 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108855259 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Probabilities–Textbooks. | Stochastic processes–Textbooks. | Order-disorder models–Textbooks.

Classification: LCC QA273 .A548 2021 (print) | LCC QA273 (ebook) | DDC 519.2–dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020019651 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020019652

ISBN 978-1-108-47952-3 Hardback ISBN 978-1-108-78998-1 Paperback

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Acknowledgments

I am indebted to the students of Harvard course APMTH 203 for their patience and perseverance as the course materials were developed, and I am hugely grateful to all of my teaching fellows along the years for their hard work: Sarah Kostinksi, Po-Yi Ho, Felix Wong, Siheng Chen, Pétur Rafn Bryde, and Jiseon Min. Much of the contents of the Appendices draws on their helpful notes.

I thank Eli Barkai, Stas Burov, Ori Hirschberg, Yipei Guo, Jie Lin, David Nelson, Efi Shahmoon, Pierpaolo Vivo, and Ahmad Zareei for numerous useful discussions and comments on the notes. Christopher Bergevin had excellent suggestions for Chapter 2, and Julien Tailleur for Chapter 3. Ori Hirschberg and Eli Barkai had many important comments and useful suggestions regarding Chapter 6. I thank Grace Zhang, Satya Majumdar, and Fernando L. Metz for a careful reading of Chapter 8. I am grateful to Martin Z. Bazant and Bertrand I. Halperin for important comments on Chapter 9. I thank Terry Tao for allowing me to adapt the discussion of Black–Scholes in Chapter 3 from his insightful blog. I also thank Dr. Yasmine Meroz and Dr. Ben Golub for giving guest lectures in early versions of the course. Finally, I am grateful to Simon's coffee shop for providing reliably excellent coffee, which was instrumental to the writing of this book.

I dedicate this book to Lindy, Maayan, Tal, and Ella, who keep my feet on the ground and a smile on my face.