

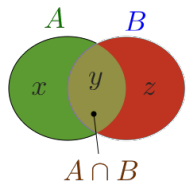
CS70: Lecture 17.

Conditional Probability, Independence, Bayes' Rule

1. Probability Basics Review (Cont'd)
2. Conditional Probability
3. Independence of Events
4. Bayes' Rule

Inclusion/Exclusion

$$Pr[A \cup B] = Pr[A] + Pr[B] - Pr[A \cap B]$$



$$\begin{aligned} Pr[A] &= x + y \\ Pr[B] &= y + z \\ Pr[A \cap B] &= y \\ Pr[A \cup B] &= x + y + z \end{aligned}$$

Probability is Additive

Theorem

(a) If events A and B are disjoint, i.e., $A \cap B = \emptyset$, then

$$Pr[A \cup B] = Pr[A] + Pr[B].$$

(b) If events A_1, \dots, A_n are **pairwise** disjoint, i.e., $A_k \cap A_m = \emptyset, \forall k \neq m$, then

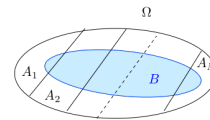
$$Pr[A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n] = Pr[A_1] + \dots + Pr[A_n].$$

Proof:

Obvious.

Total probability

Assume that Ω is the union of the disjoint sets A_1, \dots, A_N .



Then,

$$Pr[B] = Pr[A_1 \cap B] + \dots + Pr[A_N \cap B].$$

Indeed, B is the union of the disjoint sets $A_n \cap B$ for $n = 1, \dots, N$.

Consequences of Additivity

Theorem

(a) $Pr[A \cup B] = Pr[A] + Pr[B] - Pr[A \cap B]$;
(inclusion-exclusion property)

(b) $Pr[A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n] \leq Pr[A_1] + \dots + Pr[A_n]$;
(union bound)

(c) If A_1, \dots, A_N are a **partition** of Ω , i.e., pairwise disjoint and $\cup_{m=1}^N A_m = \Omega$, then

$$Pr[B] = Pr[B \cap A_1] + \dots + Pr[B \cap A_N].$$

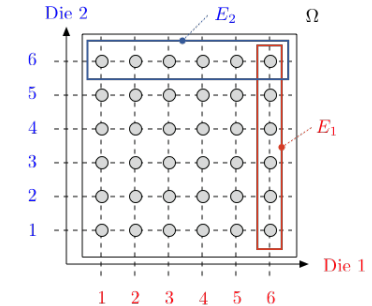
(law of total probability)

Proof:

(b) is obvious.

See next two slides for (a) and (c).

Roll a Red and a Blue Die.



$$|E_1 \cup E_2| = |E_1| + |E_2| - |E_1 \cap E_2|$$

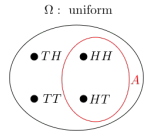
E_1 = 'Red die shows 6'; E_2 = 'Blue die shows 6'

$E_1 \cup E_2$ = 'At least one die shows 6'

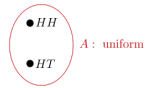
$$Pr[E_1] = \frac{6}{36}, Pr[E_2] = \frac{6}{36}, Pr[E_1 \cup E_2] = \frac{11}{36}$$

Conditional probability: example.

Two coin flips. First flip is heads. Probability of two heads?
 $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$; Uniform probability space.
 Event $A =$ first flip is heads: $A = \{HH, HT\}$.



New sample space: A ; uniform still.



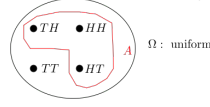
Event $B =$ two heads.

The probability of two heads if the first flip is heads.
The probability of B given A is $1/2$.

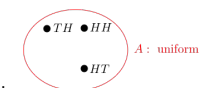
A similar example.

Two coin flips. At least one of the flips is heads.
 \rightarrow Probability of two heads?

$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$; uniform.
 Event $A =$ at least one flip is heads. $A = \{HH, HT, TH\}$.



New sample space: A ; uniform still.



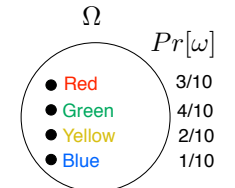
Event $B =$ two heads.

The probability of two heads if at least one flip is heads.
The probability of B given A is $1/3$.

Conditional Probability: A non-uniform example



Physical experiment



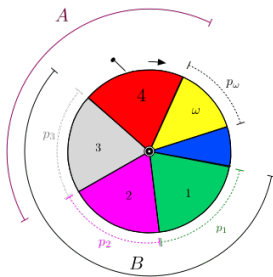
Probability model

$\Omega = \{\text{Red, Green, Yellow, Blue}\}$

$$Pr[\text{Red} | \text{Red or Green}] = \frac{3}{7} = \frac{Pr[\text{Red} \cap (\text{Red or Green})]}{Pr[\text{Red or Green}]}$$

Another non-uniform example

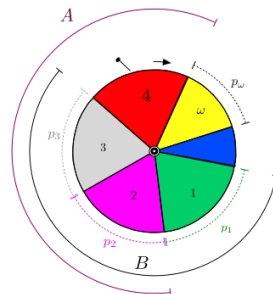
Consider $\Omega = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ with $Pr[n] = p_n$.
 Let $A = \{3, 4\}, B = \{1, 2, 3\}$.



$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{p_3}{p_1 + p_2 + p_3} = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]}$$

Yet another non-uniform example

Consider $\Omega = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ with $Pr[n] = p_n$.
 Let $A = \{2, 3, 4\}, B = \{1, 2, 3\}$.

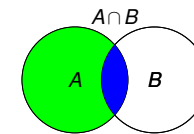


$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{p_2 + p_3}{p_1 + p_2 + p_3} = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]}$$

Conditional Probability.

Definition: The **conditional probability** of B given A is

$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[A]}$$

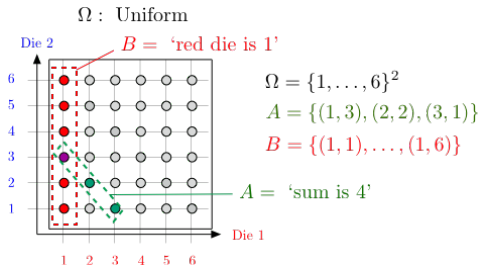


In $A!$
 In B ?
 Must be in $A \cap B$.

$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[A]}$$

More fun with conditional probability.

Toss a red and a blue die, sum is 4,
What is probability that red is 1?

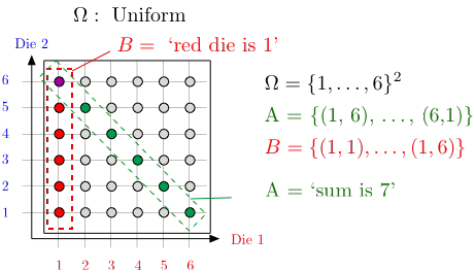


$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{|B \cap A|}{|A|} = \frac{3}{3} = 1; \text{ versus } Pr[B] = 1/6.$$

B is more likely given A .

Yet more fun with conditional probability.

Toss a red and a blue die, sum is 7,
what is probability that red is 1?

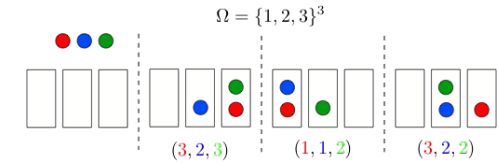


$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{|B \cap A|}{|A|} = \frac{1}{6}; \text{ versus } Pr[B] = \frac{1}{6}.$$

Observing A does not change your mind about the likelihood of B .

Emptiness..

Suppose I toss 3 balls into 3 bins.
 $A = \text{'1st bin empty'}$; $B = \text{'2nd bin empty.'}$ What is $Pr[A|B]$?



$$Pr[B] = Pr[\{(a, b, c) \mid a, b, c \in \{1, 3\}\}] = Pr[\{1, 3\}^3] = \frac{8}{27}$$

$$Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[(3, 3, 3)] = \frac{1}{27}$$

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]} = \frac{(1/27)}{(8/27)} = 1/8; \text{ vs. } Pr[A] = \frac{8}{27}.$$

A is less likely given B : If second bin is empty the first is more likely to have balls in it.

Gambler's fallacy.

Flip a fair coin 51 times.
 $A = \text{'first 50 flips are heads'}$
 $B = \text{'the 51st is heads'}$
 $Pr[B|A]$?

$A = \{HH \dots HT, HH \dots HH\}$
 $B \cap A = \{HH \dots HH\}$

Uniform probability space.

$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{|B \cap A|}{|A|} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Same as $Pr[B]$.

The likelihood of 51st heads does not depend on the previous flips.

Product Rule

Recall the definition:

$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[A]}.$$

Hence,

$$Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B|A].$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[A \cap B \cap C] &= Pr[(A \cap B) \cap C] \\ &= Pr[A \cap B]Pr[C|A \cap B] \\ &= Pr[A]Pr[B|A]Pr[C|A \cap B]. \end{aligned}$$

Product Rule

Theorem Product Rule

Let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n be events. Then

$$Pr[A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n] = Pr[A_1]Pr[A_2|A_1] \dots Pr[A_n|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_{n-1}].$$

Proof: By induction.

Assume the result is true for n . (It holds for $n = 2$.) Then,

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n \cap A_{n+1}] &= Pr[A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n]Pr[A_{n+1}|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n] \\ &= Pr[A_1]Pr[A_2|A_1] \dots Pr[A_n|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_{n-1}]Pr[A_{n+1}|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n], \end{aligned}$$

so that the result holds for $n + 1$. \square

Correlation

An example.

Random experiment: Pick a person at random.

Event A : the person has lung cancer.

Event B : the person is a heavy smoker.

Fact:

$$Pr[A|B] = 1.17 \times Pr[A].$$

Conclusion:

- ▶ Smoking increases the probability of lung cancer by 17%.
- ▶ Smoking causes lung cancer.

Proving Causality

Proving causality is generally difficult. One has to eliminate external causes of correlation and be able to test the cause/effect relationship (e.g., randomized clinical trials).

Some difficulties:

- ▶ A and B may be positively correlated because they have a common cause. (E.g., being a rabbit.)
- ▶ If B precedes A , then B is more likely to be the cause. (E.g., smoking.) However, they could have a common cause that induces B before A .

More about such questions later. For fun, check "N. Taleb: Fooled by randomness."

Correlation

Event A : the person has lung cancer. Event B : the person is a heavy smoker. $Pr[A|B] = 1.17 \times Pr[A]$.

A second look.

Note that

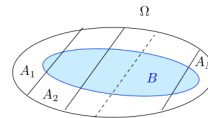
$$\begin{aligned} Pr[A|B] = 1.17 \times Pr[A] &\Leftrightarrow \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]} = 1.17 \times Pr[A] \\ &\Leftrightarrow Pr[A \cap B] = 1.17 \times Pr[A]Pr[B] \\ &\Leftrightarrow Pr[B|A] = 1.17 \times Pr[B]. \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion:

- ▶ Lung cancer increases the probability of smoking by 17%.
- ▶ Lung cancer causes smoking. **Really?**

Total probability

Assume that Ω is the union of the disjoint sets A_1, \dots, A_N .



Then,

$$Pr[B] = Pr[A_1 \cap B] + \dots + Pr[A_N \cap B].$$

Indeed, B is the union of the disjoint sets $A_n \cap B$ for $n = 1, \dots, N$. Thus,

$$Pr[B] = Pr[A_1]Pr[B|A_1] + \dots + Pr[A_N]Pr[B|A_N].$$

Causality vs. Correlation

Events A and B are **positively correlated** if

$$Pr[A \cap B] > Pr[A]Pr[B].$$

(E.g., smoking and lung cancer.)

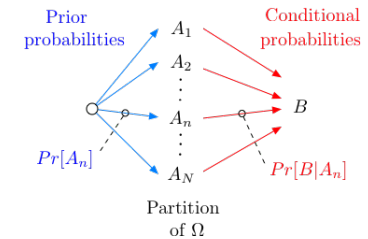
A and B being positively correlated does not mean that A causes B or that B causes A .

Other examples:

- ▶ Tesla owners are more likely to be rich. That does not mean that poor people should buy a Tesla to get rich.
- ▶ People who go to the opera are more likely to have a good career. That does not mean that going to the opera will improve your career.
- ▶ Rabbits eat more carrots and do not wear glasses. Are carrots good for eyesight?

Total probability

Assume that Ω is the union of the disjoint sets A_1, \dots, A_N .



$$Pr[B] = Pr[A_1]Pr[B|A_1] + \dots + Pr[A_N]Pr[B|A_N].$$

Is your coin loaded?

Your coin is fair w.p. $1/2$ or such that $Pr[H] = 0.6$, otherwise.

You flip your coin and it yields heads.

What is the probability that it is fair?

Analysis:

$A =$ 'coin is fair', $B =$ 'outcome is heads'

We want to calculate $Pr[A|B]$.

We know $Pr[B|A] = 1/2, Pr[B|\bar{A}] = 0.6, Pr[A] = 1/2 = Pr[\bar{A}]$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[B] &= Pr[A \cap B] + Pr[\bar{A} \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B|A] + Pr[\bar{A}]Pr[B|\bar{A}] \\ &= (1/2)(1/2) + (1/2)0.6 = 0.55. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A]Pr[B|A]}{Pr[B]} = \frac{(1/2)(1/2)}{(1/2)(1/2) + (1/2)0.6} \approx 0.45.$$

Independence and conditional probability

Fact: Two events A and B are **independent** if and only if

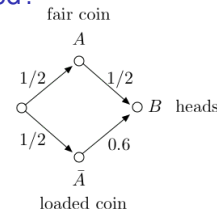
$$Pr[A|B] = Pr[A].$$

Indeed: $Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]}$, so that

$$Pr[A|B] = Pr[A] \Leftrightarrow \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]} = Pr[A] \Leftrightarrow Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B].$$

Is your coin loaded?

A picture:



Imagine 100 situations, among which

$m := 100(1/2)(1/2)$ are such that A and B occur and

$n := 100(1/2)(0.6)$ are such that \bar{A} and B occur.

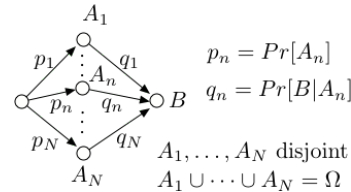
Thus, among the $m+n$ situations where B occurred, there are m where A occurred.

Hence,

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{m}{m+n} = \frac{(1/2)(1/2)}{(1/2)(1/2) + (1/2)0.6}$$

Bayes Rule

Another picture: We imagine that there are N possible causes A_1, \dots, A_N .



Imagine 100 situations, among which $100p_nq_n$ are such that A_n and B occur, for $n = 1, \dots, N$.

Thus, among the $100 \sum_m p_m q_m$ situations where B occurred, there are $100p_nq_n$ where A_n occurred.

Hence,

$$Pr[A_n|B] = \frac{p_n q_n}{\sum_m p_m q_m}.$$

Independence

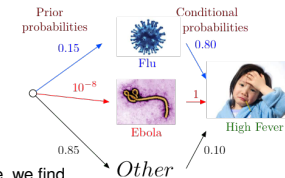
Definition: Two events A and B are **independent** if

$$Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B].$$

Examples:

- ▶ When rolling two dice, $A =$ sum is 7 and $B =$ red die is 1 are independent;
- ▶ When rolling two dice, $A =$ sum is 4 and $B =$ red die is 1 are **not** independent;
- ▶ When flipping coins, $A =$ coin 1 yields heads and $B =$ coin 2 yields tails are independent;
- ▶ When throwing 3 balls into 3 bins, $A =$ bin 1 is empty and $B =$ bin 2 is empty are **not** independent;

Why do you have a fever?



Using Bayes' rule, we find

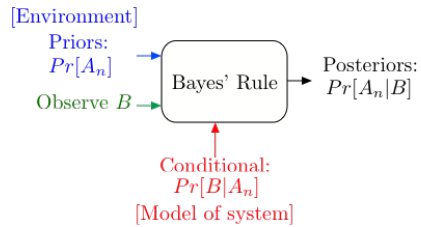
$$Pr[\text{Flu}|\text{High Fever}] = \frac{0.15 \times 0.80}{0.15 \times 0.80 + 10^{-8} \times 1 + 0.85 \times 0.1} \approx 0.58$$

$$Pr[\text{Ebola}|\text{High Fever}] = \frac{10^{-8} \times 1}{0.15 \times 0.80 + 10^{-8} \times 1 + 0.85 \times 0.1} \approx 5 \times 10^{-8}$$

$$Pr[\text{Other}|\text{High Fever}] = \frac{0.85 \times 0.1}{0.15 \times 0.80 + 10^{-8} \times 1 + 0.85 \times 0.1} \approx 0.42$$

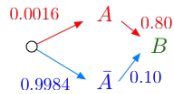
These are the **posterior probabilities**. One says that 'Flu' is the **Most Likely a Posteriori** (MAP) cause of the high fever.

Bayes' Rule Operations



Bayes' Rule is the canonical example of how information changes our opinions.

Bayes Rule.



Using Bayes' rule, we find

$$P[A|B] = \frac{0.0016 \times 0.80}{0.0016 \times 0.80 + 0.9984 \times 0.10} = .013.$$

A 1.3% chance of prostate cancer with a positive PSA test.

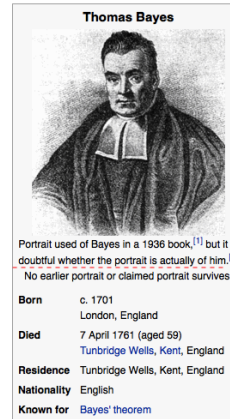
Surgery anyone?

Impotence...

Incontinence..

Death.

Thomas Bayes



Source: Wikipedia.

Summary

Conditional Probability, Independence, Bayes' Rule

Key Ideas:

- ▶ Conditional Probability:

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]}$$

- ▶ Independence: $Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B]$.

- ▶ Bayes' Rule:

$$Pr[A_n|B] = \frac{Pr[A_n]Pr[B|A_n]}{\sum_m Pr[A_m]Pr[B|A_m]}$$

$Pr[A_n|B]$ = posterior probability; $Pr[A_n]$ = prior probability .

- ▶ All these are possible:

$$Pr[A|B] < Pr[A]; Pr[A|B] > Pr[A]; Pr[A|B] = Pr[A].$$

Testing for disease.

Random Experiment: Pick a random male.

Outcomes: (*test, disease*)

A - prostate cancer.

B - positive PSA test.

- ▶ $Pr[A] = 0.0016$, (.16 % of the male population is affected.)
- ▶ $Pr[B|A] = 0.80$ (80% chance of positive test with disease.)
- ▶ $Pr[B|\bar{A}] = 0.10$ (10% chance of positive test without disease.)

From http://www.cpcn.org/01_psa_tests.htm and <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/prost.html> (10/12/2011.)

Positive PSA test (B). Do I have disease?

$$Pr[A|B]???$$