





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, \ldots, A_n are pairwise disjoint, i.e., $A_k \cap A_m = \emptyset, \forall k \neq m$, then

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

Proof:

Obvious.

Total probability

Assume that Ω is the union of the disjoint sets A_1, \ldots, 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 $n = 1, \dots, N$. In "math": $\omega \in B$ is in exactly one of $A_i \cap B$. Adding up probability of them, get $Pr[\omega]$ in sum. ..Did I say... Add it up.

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 $\bigcup_{m=1}^N A_m = \Omega$, then $Pr[B] = Pr[B \cap A_1] + \dots + Pr[B \cap A_N].$ (law of total probability)

Proof:

(b) is obvious. Proofs for (a) and (c)? Next...











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

Hence.

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

Consequently,

$$Pr[A \cap B \cap C] = Pr[(A \cap B) \cap C]$$

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

Three Card Problem

Three cards: Red/Red, Red/Black, Black/Black. Pick one at random and place on the table. The upturned side is a Red. What is the probability that the other side is Black? Can't be the BB card, so...prob should be 0.5, right? R: upturned card is Red; RB: the Red/Black card was selected. Want P(RB|R). What's wrong with the reasoning that leads to $\frac{1}{2}$? $P(RB|R) = \frac{P(RB \cap R)}{P(R)}$ $= \frac{\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{3}(1) + \frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}(0)}$ $= \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{\frac{1}{1}} = \frac{1}{2}$ Once you are given R: it is twice as likely that the RR card was picked. **Product Rule** Theorem Product Rule Let A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n be events. Then $Pr[A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_n] = Pr[A_1]Pr[A_2|A_1] \cdots Pr[A_n|A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_{n-1}].$ **Proof:** By induction. Assume the result is true for *n*. (It holds for n = 2.) Then, $Pr[A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_n \cap A_{n+1}]$ $= \Pr[A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_n] \Pr[A_{n+1} | A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_n]$ $= \Pr[A_1]\Pr[A_2|A_1]\cdots\Pr[A_n|A_1\cap\cdots\cap A_{n-1}]\Pr[A_{n+1}|A_1\cap\cdots\cap A_n],$ so that the result holds for n+1. П

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.

Total probability





Then,

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

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

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

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

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

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, \ldots, 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?

Is your coin loaded?

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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 = \text{ 'coin is fair', } B = \text{ 'outcome is heads'}
We want to calculate P[A|B].
We know P[B|A] = 1/2, P[B|\overline{A}] = 0.6, Pr[A] = 1/2 = Pr[\overline{A}]
Now,
Pr[B] = Pr[A \cap B] + Pr[\overline{A} \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B|A] + Pr[\overline{A}]Pr[B|\overline{A}]
= (1/2)(1/2) + (1/2)0.6 = 0.55.
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.
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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

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

Bayes' Rule Operations







A Bayesian picture of Thomas Bayes.

Summary

Events, 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: $Pr[A_n|B] = \frac{Pr[A_n]Pr[B|A_n]}{\sum_m Pr[A_m]Pr[B|A_m]}$. $Pr[A_n|B] = \text{posterior probability}; Pr[A_n] = \text{prior probability}$. • All these are possible: Pr[A|B] < Pr[A]; Pr[A|B] > Pr[A]; Pr[A|B] = Pr[A].

Testing for disease.

Let's watch TV!! 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.) • $Pr[B|\overline{A}] = 0.10$ (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*]???