# Shapley values

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#### Incentive!

Now all of you know enough basic ML to start contributing material to the class.

At the start of each class, any student may choose to present anything for 4-5mins to the class.

For eg: prepare 2-3 slides on something interesting (1hr prep time?):

- a) a "better" variant of an algorithm taught in class
- b) a simulation that is "revealing"
- c) behavior on real data that is "funky"
- d) a theorem that is "insightful"

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#### **Outline**

- 1. Shapley values (2/3 class)
- 2. Variable and datapoint importance (1/3 class)

# Cooperative game theory



Theory introduced: 1951, Nobel prize: 2012

#### Problem setup

N players cooperate to produce something of "value". Value function  $v: 2^N \to \mathbb{R}, v(\emptyset) = 0$ . v([N]) is the (dollar, say) value actually obtained. v(S) is the (hypothetical, assumed known) value obtained when subset S work together

How should v([N]) be split up amongst the N players? i.e. how much money  $\phi_i(v)$  should player i get?

How about everybody gets 0 dollars? How about  $\phi_1(v)=v(N), \phi_j(v)=0$  for j>1? How about  $\phi_i(v)=v(N)/N$ ?

### Desiderata ("axioms")

$$\sum_{i \in N} \varphi_i(v) = v(N)$$

If i and j are two actors who are equivalent in the sense that

$$v(S \cup \{i\}) = v(S \cup \{j\})$$

for every subset S of N which contains neither i nor j, then  $arphi_i(v)=arphi_j(v).$ 

This property is also called equal treatment of equals.

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"Symmetry"

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This property is also called equal treatment of equals.

$$arphi_i(v+w)=arphi_i(v)+arphi_i(w)$$

for every i in N. Also, for any real number a,

$$arphi_i(av) = aarphi_i(v)$$

for every i in N.

"Null player" (freeloader)

Player i is "null" if  $\forall S$  with  $i \notin S$ ,  $v(S \cup i) = v(S)$ 

 $\varphi_i(v)$  of a null player i in a game v is zero.

### The Shapley value

There is a unique function satisfying all four axioms.

$$arphi_i(v) = rac{1}{n} \sum_{S \subseteq N \setminus \{i\}} inom{n-1}{|S|}^{-1} (v(S \cup \{i\}) - v(S))$$

$$\varphi_i(v) = \frac{1}{\text{number of players}} \sum_{\text{coalitions excluding } i} \frac{\text{marginal contribution of } i \text{ to coalition}}{\text{number of coalitions excluding } i \text{ of this size}}$$

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An alternative equivalent formula for the Shapley value is:

$$arphi_i(v) = rac{1}{n!} \sum_R \left[ v(P_i^R \cup \{i\}) - v(P_i^R) 
ight]$$

where the sum ranges over all n! orders R of the players and  $P_i^R$  is the set of players in N which precede i in the order R.

# Eg: the "business game"

Owner provides initial capital, workspace, vision, etc.

Each worker provides additional profit of p.

The value function for this coalitional game is

$$v(S) = \left\{ egin{aligned} mp, & ext{if } o \in S \ 0, & ext{otherwise} \end{aligned} 
ight.$$

where m is the cardinality of  $S \setminus \{o\}$ .

# Eg: the "glove game"

Player I and 2 have left-hand gloves, player 3 has right-hand glove A coalition has value one if they have a complete pair, else zero

The value function for this coalitional game is

$$v(S) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } S \in \{\{1,3\},\{2,3\},\{1,2,3\}\}; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

#### More properties

#### "Negative externality"

If v is a subadditive set function, i.e.,  $v(S \sqcup T) \leq v(S) + v(T),$  then for each agent i:  $\varphi_i(v) \leq v(\{i\}).$ 

"Positive externality"

if v is a superadditive set function, i.e.,  $v(S \sqcup T) \geq v(S) + v(T)$ , then for each agent  $i: \varphi_i(v) \geq v(\{i\})$ .

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Relabeling the indices of the players leaves their Shapley value unchanged.

"Anonymity"

$$arphi_C(v) = \sum_{T \subseteq N \setminus C} rac{(n - |T| - |C|)! \; |T|!}{(n - |C| + 1)!} \sum_{S \subseteq C} (-1)^{|C| - |S|} v(S \cup T) \; .$$

"Coalitions"

#### Variable importance

How would you define v(S)?

### Datapoint importance

How would you define v(S)? (regression vs classification)

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