

# Bayes Theorem

## CS5056 Data Analytics

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# Probability Theory

- Probability theory is the study of uncertainty
  - Concepts from probability theory are used for deriving machine learning algorithms.
  - The mathematical theory of probability delves into a branch of analysis known as Measure Theory
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# Sample Space

- Sample space  $\Omega$ : The set of all the outcomes of a random experiment. Here, each outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$  can be thought of as a complete description of the state of the real world at the end of the experiment.
  - Set of events (or event space)  $F$ : A set whose elements  $A \in F$  (called events) are subsets of  $\Omega$  (i.e.,  $A \subseteq \Omega$  is a collection of possible outcomes of an experiment)<sup>1</sup>
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# Probability Axioms

**Probability measure:** A function  $P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that satisfies the following properties,

- $P(A) \geq 0$ , for all  $A \in \mathcal{F}$
- $P(\Omega) = 1$
- If  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  are disjoint events (i.e.,  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  whenever  $i \neq j$ ), then

$$P(\cup_i A_i) = \sum_i P(A_i)$$

# Axioms of Probability Functions

- If  $A \subseteq B \implies P(A) \leq P(B)$ .
- $P(A \cap B) \leq \min(P(A), P(B))$ .
- (Union Bound)  $P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$ .
- $P(\Omega \setminus A) = 1 - P(A)$ .
- (Law of Total Probability) If  $A_1, \dots, A_k$  are a set of disjoint events such that  $\cup_{i=1}^k A_i = \Omega$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^k P(A_i) = 1$ .

# Conditional Probability


Let  $B$  be an event with non-zero probability. The conditional probability of any event  $A$  given  $B$  is defined as,

$$P(A|B) \triangleq \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

- $P(A|B)$  is the probability measure of the event  $A$  after observing the occurrence of event  $B$
- Two events are called independent if and only if  $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$  (or equivalently,  $P(A|B) = P(A)$ )
- Independence is equivalent to saying that observing  $B$  does not have any effect on the probability of  $A$ .



## Random Variable

- Thus, A random variable  $X$  is a function  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
  - Typically, we will denote random variables using upper case letters  $X(\omega)$  or more simply  $X$  (where the dependence on the random outcome  $\omega$  is implied)
  - We will denote the value that a random variable may take on using lower case letters  $x$ .
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## Discrete Random Variable

- Suppose that  $X(\omega)$  is the number of heads which occur in the sequence of tosses  $\omega$
- Given that only 10 coins are tossed,  $X(\omega)$  can take only a finite number of values, so it is known as a **discrete random variable**
- The probability of the set associated with a random variable  $X$  taking on some specific value  $k$  is:


$$P(X = k) := P(\{\omega : X(\omega) = k\}).$$





## Continuous Random Variable

- Suppose that  $X(\omega)$  is a random variable indicating the amount of time it takes for a radioactive particle to decay
- In this case,  $X(\omega)$  takes on an infinite number of possible values, so it is called a **continuous random variable**.
- We denote the probability that  $X$  takes on a value between two real constants  $a$  and  $b$  (where  $a < b$ ) as

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) := P(\{\omega : a \leq X(\omega) \leq b\}).$$


## Cumulative Distribution Function

- In order to specify the probability measures used when dealing with random variables, it is often convenient to specify alternative functions from which the probability measure governing an experiment immediately follows.
- These include Cumulative Distribution Functions (CDF), Probability Density Functions (PDF), and Probability Mass Functions (PMF).
- **A Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)** is a function  $F_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  which specifies a probability measure as:

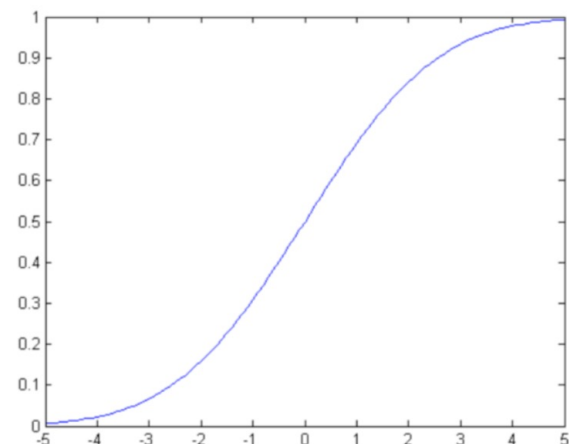
$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x)$$

- By using this function one can calculate the probability of any event in  $F$

# Cumulative Distribution Function

## Properties

- $0 \leq F_X(x) \leq 1$ .
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F_X(x) = 0$ .
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F_X(x) = 1$ .
- $x \leq y \implies F_X(x) \leq F_X(y)$ .



## Probability Mass Function

- When a random variable  $X$  takes on a finite set of possible values (i.e.,  $X$  is a discrete random variable), a simpler way to represent the probability measure associated with a random variable is to directly specify the probability of each value that the random variable can assume
- In particular, a *probability mass function (PMF)* is a function  $p_X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that :

$$p_X(x) = P(X = x)$$

- In the case of discrete random variable, we use the notation  $\text{Val}(X)$  for the set of possible values that the random variable  $X$  may assume. For example, if  $X(\omega)$  is a random variable indicating the number of heads out of ten tosses of coin, then  $\text{Val}(X) = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 10\}$ .

## Probability Mass Function

Properties


- $0 \leq p_X(x) \leq 1.$
- $\sum_{x \in \text{Val}(X)} p_X(x) = 1.$
- $\sum_{x \in A} p_X(x) = P(X \in A).$



## Probability Density Function

- For some continuous random variables, the cumulative distribution function  $F_X(x)$  is differentiable everywhere. In these cases, we define the **Probability Density Function** (PDF) as the derivative of the CDF, i.e.,

$$f_X(x) \triangleq \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$$

- The PDF for a continuous random variable may not always exist (i.e., if  $F_X(x)$  is not differentiable everywhere)
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# Probability Density Function

Properties

- $f_X(x) \geq 0$  .
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) = 1$ .
- $\int_{x \in A} f_X(x) dx = P(X \in A)$ .

- Suppose that  $X$  is a discrete random variable with Probability Mass Function  $p_X(x)$  and  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an arbitrary function
- $g(X)$  is a random variable, and we define the expectation or **expected value** of  $g(X)$  as:

$$E[g(X)] \triangleq \sum_{x \in \text{Val}(X)} g(x)p_X(x)$$

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- If  $X$  is a continuous random variable with PDF  $f_X(x)$ , then the **expected value** of  $g(X)$  is defined as:

$$E[g(X)] \triangleq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f_X(x)dx$$

## Expected Value

- Intuitively, the expectation of  $g(X)$  can be thought of as a “weighted average” of the values that  $g(x)$  can take on for different values of  $x$ , where the weights are given by  $p_X(x)$  or  $f_X(x)$
- As a special case of the above, note that the expectation,  $E[X]$  of a random variable itself is found by letting  $g(x) = x$ ; this is also known as the mean of the random variable  $X$ .



# Expected Value

## Properties

- $E[a] = a$  for any constant  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- $E[af(X)] = aE[f(X)]$  for any constant  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (Linearity of Expectation)  $E[f(X) + g(X)] = E[f(X)] + E[g(X)]$ .
- For a discrete random variable  $X$ ,  $E[1\{X = k\}] = P(X = k)$ .

## Variance

- The variance of a random variable  $X$  is a measure of how concentrated the distribution of a random variable  $X$  is around its mean.
- Formally, the variance of a random variable  $X$  is defined as:

$$\text{Var}[X] \triangleq E[(X - E(X))^2]$$

- Using the properties Expected Value, we can derive an alternate expression for the variance:


$$\begin{aligned} E[(X - E[X])^2] &= E[X^2 - 2E[X]X + E[X]^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - 2E[X]E[X] + E[X]^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - E[X]^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality follows from linearity of expectations and the fact that  $E[X]$  is actually a constant with respect to the outer expectation.



# Variance

## Properties

- $Var[a] = 0$  for any constant  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .
  - $Var[af(X)] = a^2 Var[f(X)]$  for any constant  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .
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## Summary of PMF or PDF

Distribution	PDF or PMF	Mean	Variance
<i>Bernoulli</i> ( $p$ )	$\begin{cases} p, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 1 - p, & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases}$	$p$	$p(1 - p)$
<i>Binomial</i> ( $n, p$ )	$\binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$ for $0 \leq k \leq n$	$np$	$npq$
<i>Geometric</i> ( $p$ )	$p(1 - p)^{k-1}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$
<i>Poisson</i> ( $\lambda$ )	$e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x / x!$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$	$\lambda$	$\lambda$
<i>Uniform</i> ( $a, b$ )	$\frac{1}{b-a} \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
<i>Gaussian</i> ( $\mu, \sigma^2$ )	$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$
<i>Exponential</i> ( $\lambda$ )	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x} \quad x \geq 0, \lambda > 0$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

# Bayes Theorem

$$P(A \mid B) = \frac{P(B \mid A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are **events** and  $P(B) \neq 0$ .

- $P(A \mid B)$  is a **conditional probability**: the likelihood of event  $A$  occurring given that  $B$  is true.
- $P(B \mid A)$  is also a conditional probability: the likelihood of event  $B$  occurring given that  $A$  is true.
- $P(A)$  and  $P(B)$  are the probabilities of observing  $A$  and  $B$  respectively; they are known as the **marginal probability**.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayes%27\\_theorem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayes%27_theorem)

# Bayes Theorem

- Derive Bayes Theorem:

# Likelihood Function

- Measures the goodness of fit of a statistical model to a sample of data for given values of the unknown parameters.
- It is formed from the joint probability distribution of the sample, but viewed and used as a function of the parameters only, thus treating the random variables as fixed at the observed values
- The procedure for obtaining these arguments of the maximum of the likelihood function is known as **maximum likelihood estimation**, which for computational convenience is usually done using the natural logarithm of the likelihood, known as the log-likelihood function

# Likelihood Function



Let  $X$  be a discrete **random variable** with **probability mass function**  $p$  depending on a parameter  $\theta$ . Then the function

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta \mid x) = p_{\theta}(x) = P_{\theta}(X = x),$$

considered as a function of  $\theta$ , is the *likelihood function*, given the **outcome**  $x$  of the random variable  $X$ .



# Example

Consider a simple statistical model of a coin flip: a single parameter  $p_H$  that expresses the "fairness" of the coin. The parameter is the probability that a coin lands heads up ("H") when tossed.  $p_H$  can take on any value within the range 0.0 to 1.0. For a perfectly [fair coin](#),  $p_H = 0.5$ .

Imagine flipping a fair coin twice, and observing the following data: two heads in two tosses ("HH"). Assuming that each successive coin flip is [i.i.d.](#), then the probability of observing HH is

$$P(\text{HH} \mid p_H = 0.5) = 0.5^2 = 0.25.$$

Hence, given the observed data HH, the *likelihood* that the model parameter  $p_H$  equals 0.5 is 0.25. Mathematically, this is written as

$$\mathcal{L}(p_H = 0.5 \mid \text{HH}) = 0.25.$$

This is not the same as saying that the probability that  $p_H = 0.5$ , given the observation HH, is 0.25. (For that, we could apply [Bayes' theorem](#), which implies that the posterior probability is proportional to the likelihood times the prior probability.)

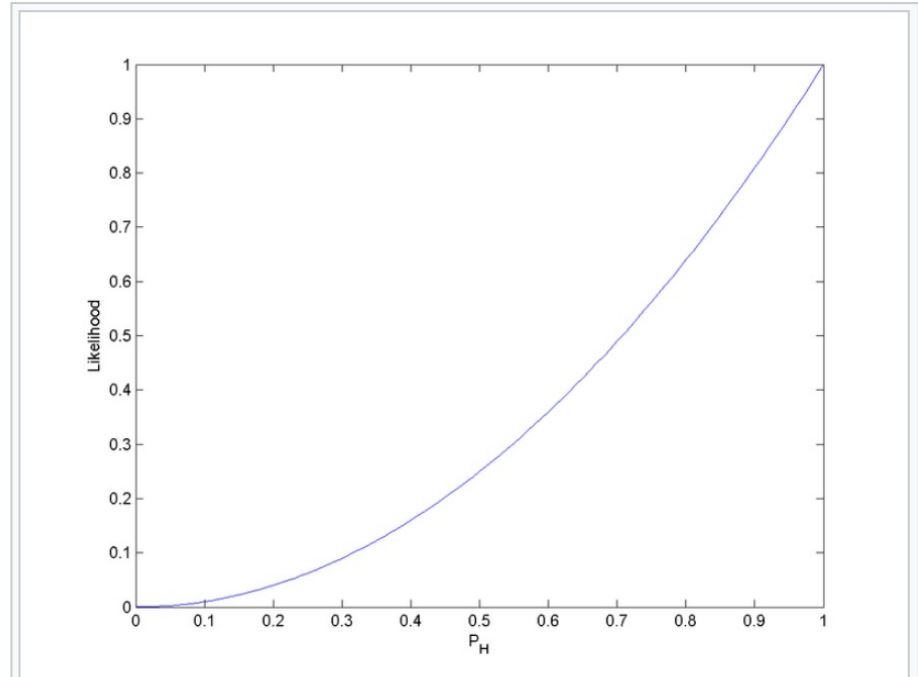
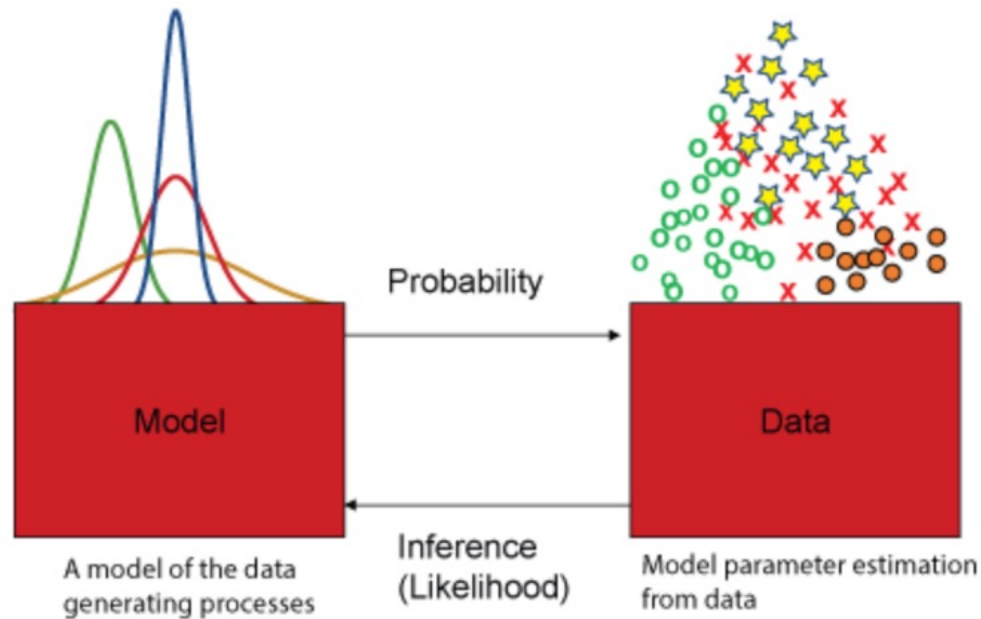


Figure 1. The likelihood function ( $p_H^2$ ) for the probability of a coin landing heads-up (without prior knowledge of the coin's fairness), given that we have observed HH. □

# Likelihood Function

The Likelihood Function finds the *best* model given the data.

$$P(\text{Model}|\text{Data}) = \frac{P(\text{Data}|\text{Model})P(\text{Model})}{P(\text{Data})}$$



# Expectation Maximization

- Maximum likelihood estimation is an approach to density estimation for a dataset by searching across probability distributions and their parameters.
- It is a general and effective approach that underlies many machine learning algorithms, although it requires that the training dataset is complete, e.g. all relevant interacting random variables are present.
- Maximum likelihood becomes intractable if there are variables that interact with those in the dataset but were hidden or not observed, so-called latent variables.

<https://machinelearningmastery.com/expectation-maximization-em-algorithm/>

# Expectation Maximization

- The expectation-maximization algorithm is an approach for performing maximum likelihood estimation in the presence of latent variables.
- It does this by first estimating the values for the latent variables, then optimizing the model, then repeating these two steps until convergence.
- It is an effective and general approach and is most commonly used for density estimation with missing data, such as clustering algorithms like the Gaussian Mixture Model.

# Expectation Maximization

- Maximum likelihood estimation is challenging on data in the presence of latent variables.
- Expectation maximization provides an iterative solution to maximum likelihood estimation with latent variables.
- Gaussian mixture models are an approach to density estimation where the parameters of the distributions are fit using the expectation-maximization algorithm.

# Parameter Learning

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## **Score-based Metrics Approach**

Maximize the likelihood of a set of observed data , which can be computed as the product of the probability of each observation

- Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)
- Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC)
- Chow-Liu Algorithm
- Search Algorithms: Greedy, Hill-climbing, Local search, Simulated Annealing, Tabu search, Genetic Algorithms

## **Constraint-based Approach**

Reflect the dependence and independence relations in the data that match the empirical distribution

- PC Algorithm
- Incremental Association Markov Blanket Algorithm

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