

Unit 2, Lecture 2

Numerical Methods and Statistics

1 Working with Marginals, Conditionals, and Joints

1.0.1 Seasons Example

The sample space is a product space of the seasons T (Winter (0), Spring (1), Summer (2), Fall (3)) and W if the weather is nice or not (N=nice, S=not nice). We know that

$$\begin{aligned} P(W = N|T = 0) &= 0 & P(W = N|T = 1) &= 0.4 \\ P(W = N|T = 2) &= 0.8 & P(W = N|T = 3) &= 0.7 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(T = t) = \frac{1}{4}$$

What is the probability that the weather is not nice? Use marginalization of conditional:

$$P(W = S) = \sum_T P(W = S|T)P(T) = 0.25(1 - 0) + 0.25(1 - 0.4) + 0.25(1 - 0.8) + 0.25(1 - 0.7)$$

$$P(W = S) = 0.525$$

What is the probability that it is fall given that it is nice? Start with definition of conditional :

$$P(T = 3|W = N) = \frac{P(T = 3, W = N)}{P(W = N)}$$

We know that $P(T = 3, W = N) = P(W = N|T = 3)P(T = 3)$ due to definition of conditional:

$$P(T = 3|W = N) = \frac{P(W = N|T = 3)P(T = 3)}{P(W = N)}$$

Finally, we can use $P(W = N) = 1 - P(W = S)$, the **NOT** rule:

$$P(T = 3|W = N) = \frac{0.7 \times 0.25}{1 - 0.525} = 0.368$$

1.1 Bayes' Theorem

We derived a well-known equation in that example called Bayes' Theorem:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)} \tag{1}$$

This is useful to swap the order of conditionals

1.2 Independence

Finally, we are ready to define independence. If the random variables X and Y are independent, then

$$P(x|y) = P(x) \quad (2)$$

This implies via Bayes' Theorem

$$P(y|x) = P(y) \quad (3)$$

And also implies via CPF definition

$$P(x, y) = P(x)P(y) \quad (4)$$

which was our **AND** rule from last lecture.

In our weather example, is the season and weather independent?

$$P(W = N|T = 0) \neq P(W = N|T = 1)$$

so no.

1.3 Compound Conditionals

When writing conditionals, this is a common short-hand:

$$P(x = 2 | Y = A, Z = 0)$$

for

$$P([x = 2] | [Y = A, Z = 0])$$

The conditional is always evaluated last, for example:

$$P(x = 2, Y = A | Z = 0)$$

is also possible and means the probability of the joint $(x = 2, Y = A)$ given that $Z = 0$

1.4 Conditional Independence

X_0 and X_1 are conditionally independent given Z if

$$P(X_0|Z, X_1) = P(X_0|Z) \quad (5)$$

which is equivalent to

$$P(X_0, X_1|Z) = P(X_0|Z)P(X_1|Z) \quad (6)$$

To use conditional independence, you must condition on Z . For example, if I want to calculate $P(X_0, X_1)$, I'll need to condition it. Marginalizing a conditional is one way to get that quantity, using a compound conditional:

$$P(X_0, X_1) = \sum_Z P(X_0, X_1|Z)P(Z)$$

Now it is in a form where the conditional independence applies:

$$P(X_0, X_1) = \sum_Z P(X_0|Z)P(X_1|Z)P(Z)$$

This is common for sequential trials, where the trials are independent when conditioned on some underlying property, but dependent if we do not know the property. For example, let's say I have two dice, one that is

fair and one that follows the biased die model we saw in class. Let's further assume that $P(D = 0) = 0.1$, where D indicates the chosen die.

$$P(X = x|D = 0) = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$P(X = x|D = 1) = \frac{x}{21}$$

If I know which die I'm rolling, then every roll is independent as expected:

$$P(X_0 = 6, X_1 = 1|D) = P(X_0 = 6|D)P(X_1 = 1|D)$$

however, consider

$$P(X_1 = 1|X_0 = 6) = \frac{P(X_1 = 1, X_0 = 6)}{P(X_0 = 6)}$$

As above, we'll try to condition it to exploit conditional independence.

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_0 = 6) = P(X_1 = 1|D = 0)P(X_0 = 6|D = 0)P(D = 0) +$$

$$P(X_1 = 1|D = 1)P(X_0 = 6|D = 1)P(D = 1)$$

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_0 = 6) = \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{21} \frac{6}{21} \frac{9}{10} = 0.0150$$

$$P(X_0 = 6) = \sum_{X_1} P(X_1, X_0 = 6) = \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{10} \underbrace{\sum_x \frac{1}{6}}_{=1} + \frac{6}{21} \frac{9}{10} \underbrace{\sum_x \frac{x}{21}}_{=1}$$

$$P(X_0 = 6) = 0.274$$

$$P(X_1 = 1|X_0 = 6) = \frac{0.0150}{0.274} = 0.0549$$

Finally, to show they are not independent:

$$P(X_1 = 1) = \sum_{X_0} P(X_1 = 1, X_0) = \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{10} \underbrace{\sum_x \frac{1}{6}}_{=1} + \frac{1}{21} \frac{9}{10} \underbrace{\sum_x \frac{x}{21}}_{=1} = 0.0595$$

The intuition here is that the marginal of $X_1 = 1$ considers both die according to the die marginals. However, knowing that $X_0 = 6$ shifts it so that the biased die is more likely. This can be seen with Bayes theorem to:

$$P(D = 1|X_0 = 6) \neq P(D = 1)$$

and thus $P(X_1|X_0 = 6)$ changes from $P(X_1)$.

1.5 Table of Equations

$P(x) = \sum_y P(x, y)$	Definition of Marginal
$P(x y) = \frac{P(x, y)}{P(y)}$	Definition of Conditional
$P(x, y) = P(x y)P(y)$	Definition of Conditional
$\sum_x P(x y) = 1$	Law of Total Probability/Normalization
$\sum_y P(x y)P(y) = P(x)$	Marginilzation of Conditional
$P(x y) = \frac{P(y x)P(x)}{P(y)}$	Bayes' Theorem
$P(x, y) = P(x)P(y)$	Definition of Independence
$P(x y) = P(x)$	Independence Property (x,y independent)
$P(x, y z) = P(x z)P(y z)$	Conditional Independence

2 Expected Values

Consider a random variable Y . Recall that Y is a function that takes elements in the sample space and outputs a number. For example, squaring the roll of a die. The expected value of Y is

$$E[Y] = \sum_{\mathcal{X}} P(x)Y(x) \quad (7)$$

where $P(x)$ is the probability for the element in the sample space. Recall, however, that we also can write $P(Y = y)$. That means the probability that Y is equal to a particular value. In that notation, it would be:

$$E[Y] = \sum_y P(Y = y)y \quad (8)$$

These are equivalent! Let's see an example.

2.1 Die Roll Example

Consider the random variable being the roll of a die, D . That would be

$$E[D] = \frac{1}{6} \times 1 + \frac{1}{6} \times 2 + \frac{1}{6} \times 3 \dots$$

$$E[D] = \frac{1}{6} \times 21 = 3.5$$

2.2 2 Die Example

Now, consider the square of a roll of a die, Y . We could use the first equation, so that we have:

$$E[Y] = \sum_{\mathcal{D}} P(d)Y(d) = \sum_{d=1,2,3,4,5,6} \frac{1}{6}d^2$$

or using the second equation for expected value:

$$E[Y] = \sum_y P(Y = y)y = \sum_{y=1^2,2^2,3^2,4^2,5^2,6^2} \frac{1}{6}y$$

Expanding both gives:

$$E[D] = \frac{1}{6} \times 1 + \frac{1}{6} \times 5 + \frac{1}{6} \times 9 \dots$$

2.3 Continuous Expected Value

$$E[X] = \int_{\mathcal{X}} xp(x) dx \quad (9)$$

2.4 Continuous Example

$$p'(x) \propto x, \quad Q = [0, 5]$$

First, we must normalize it:

$$\int_0^5 x \, dx = \frac{25}{2}$$

$$p(x) = \frac{2x}{25}$$

$$\int_0^5 x \times \frac{2x}{25} = \frac{2 \times 125}{25 \times 3} = \frac{10}{3}$$