Lecture 3: Bayes Theorem and Inference

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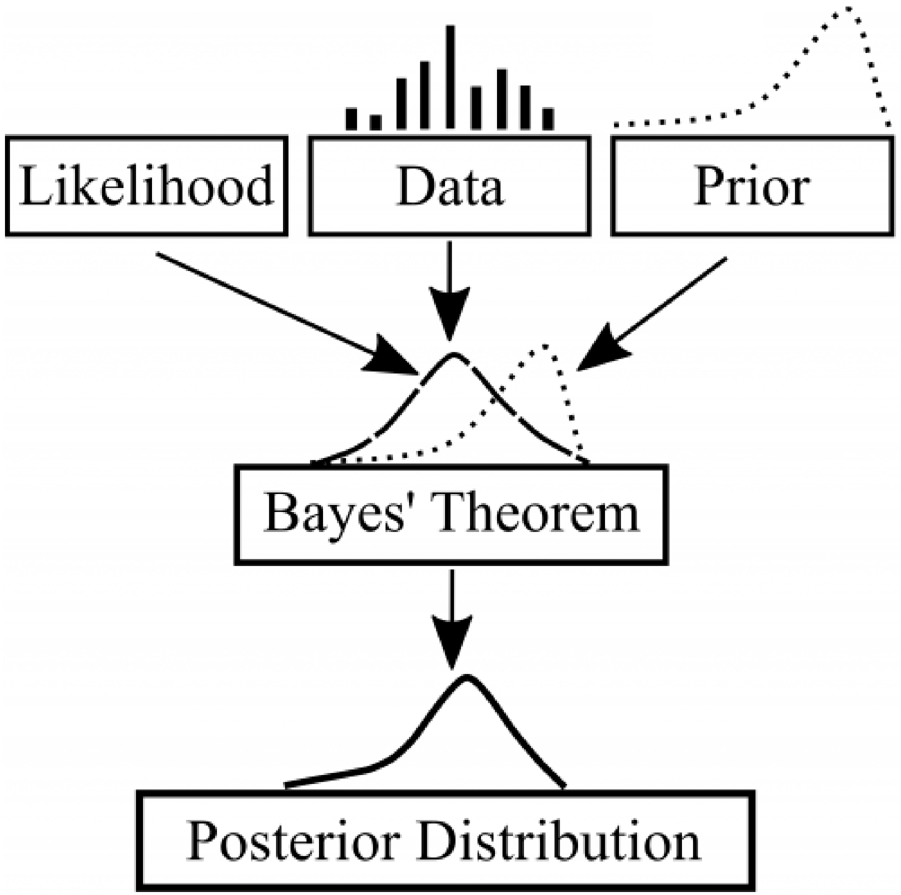
Outline

- Bayes Theorem
- Statistical Independence

Related applications

- **Disease Diagnosis**: • Detecting cancer based on medical imaging results. • Estimating the probability of infection based on symptoms and diagnostic test outcomes.
- **Spam Filtering**: Bayesian spam filters calculate the probability of an email being spam based on keywords and patterns.
- **Bayesian Neural Networks**: Incorporating uncertainty in predictions by treating weights as distributions instead of fixed values.
- **Sensor Fusion**: Combining data from multiple sensors (e.g., GPS and IMU) to improve state estimation.



A motivating problem

- A magician has two coins, one fair and one 2-headed coin. Consider the experiment where she picks one coin at random and flips it once, the output is a head, what is the probability that the coin is a fair coin?

- Initial belief $P(A_i)$ for possible cause of an observed event B.

  e.g. Both coins are equally likely —- a prior knowledge:

- probability of the observation under each A_i:

  e.g. Probability of a head under each coin.

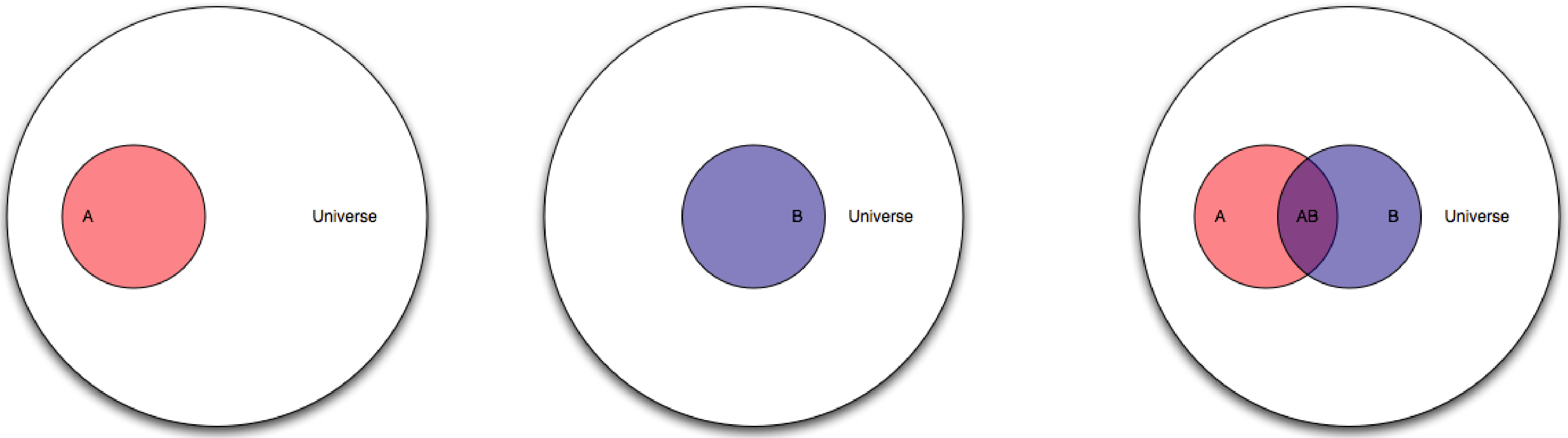
$$A_i \xrightarrow[\mathbf{P}(B \mid A_i)]{\text{model}} B$$

- Draw conclusion about the cause given the observed event.

  e.g. infer if the coin is fair or biased.

$$B \xrightarrow[\mathbf{P}(A_i \mid B)]{\text{inference}} A_i$$

Venn diagram visualization



$$A_i \xrightarrow[\mathbf{P}(B \mid A_i)]{\text{model}} B$$

Bayes Theorem

Consider two events A and B, by the chain rule:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A|B)P(B)$$

and

$$P(B \cap A) = P(B|A)P(A)$$

Note that

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B \cap A)$$

Bayes Theorem

If the set of events $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^n$ partitions the sample space Ω, and assuming $P(A_i) > 0$, for all i. Then, for any event B such that $P(B) > 0$, we have

$$P(A_i|B) = \frac{P(B|A_i)P(A_i)}{P(B)}$$

where $P(B)$ can be computed using the Law of Total Probability,

$$P(B) = P(B|A_1)P(A_1) + \cdots + P(B|A_n)P(A_n)$$

Example

- A magician has two coins, one fair and one 2-headed coin. Consider the experiment where she picks one coin at random and flips it once, the output is a head, what is the probability that the coin is a fair coin?

Example

- A magician has two coins, one fair and one 2-headed coin. Consider the experiment where she picks one coin at random and flips it once, the output is a head, what is the probability that the next second flip is a head?

Some terminologies

- $P(A_i|B)$ as the **posterior probability** of event A_i given the information
- $P(A_i)$ as the **prior probability**
- $P(B|A_i)$ as the **likelihood**
- $P(B)$ as the **evidence/effect probability**

Example

- Three types of players.
  - Type 1: 50%
  - Type 2: 25%
  - Type 3: 25%
- You winning probability with these players:
  - Against type 1: 0.3.
  - Against type 2: 0.4.
  - Against type 3: 0.5.
- Now you play a game with a randomly chosen player.
- *Question*: What's your winning probability?

Example

- Suppose that you win. What is the probability that you had an opponent of type 1?

Example

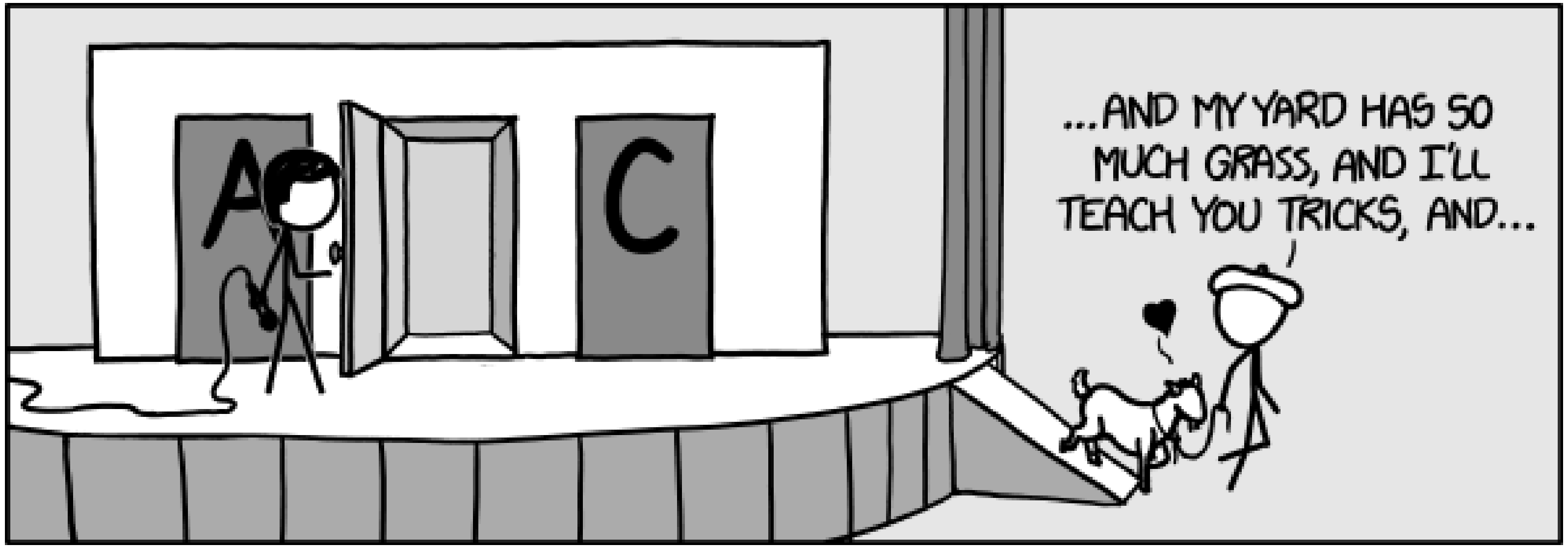
Example: Diagnosis

- A random person drawn from a certain population has probability 0.001 of having a certain disease.
- The test satisfies
  - $\Pr[\text{test positive} \mid \text{disease}] = 0.95$
  - $\Pr[\text{test negative} \mid \text{no disease}] = 0.95$
- *Question*: Given that the person just tested positive, what is the probability of having the disease?

Monty Hall Problem

- Suppose you're on a game show, and you're given the choice of three doors:
- behind one door is a car
- behind the other doors are goats

You pick a door, and the host, who knows what's behind the doors, opens another door, which he knows has a goat. The host then offers you the option to switch doors. Does it matter if you switch?



Monty hall problem

- Let W_i be the event of winning a car on the i-th choice.
- Consider three strategies:
  - Never switch.
  - Always switch.
  - Flip a coin, if heads, switch, if tail, no switch.

Independence

In general, for two events A and B, when $P(A|B) = P(A)$, we say that A is statistically independent (s.i.) of B, since the probabilities are not affected by knowledge of B having occurred.

* By the chain rule, if A is independent of B:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A|B)P(B) =$$

Events A and B are **statistically independent (s.i.)** if and only if (iff)

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

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Independence

- If A is independent of B, then B is also independent of A.
- Why?

If A and B are s.i. events, then the following pairs of events are also s.i.:
* A and $\overline{B}$
* $\overline{A}$ and B
* $\overline{A}$ and $\overline{B}$

Conditional independence

given an event C, the events A and B are called *conditionally independent* if

$$P(A \cap B|C) = P(A|C)P(B|C)$$

Consider two independent coin tosses. Let

$$H_1 := \{ \text{ 1st toss is a head}\}$$

$$H_2 := \{ \text{ 2nd toss is a head}\}$$

$$D := \{ \text{ two tosses have different results}\}$$

Compare $P(H_1 \cap H_2|D)$ and $P(H_1 \cap H_2)$

Example