

Conditional Probability

DEFINITION 1 (CONDITIONAL PROBABILITY)

For any two events A and B with $P(A) > 0$, the conditional probability of B given that A has occurred is defined by

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

The Multiplication Rule

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

or

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

Independence

DEFINITION 1 (INDEPENDENCE)

Two events A and B are independent if and only if

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

Two events A and B that are not independent are said to be dependent.

CHECK FOR INDEPENDENCE

The properties of independence, unlike the mutually exclusive property, cannot be shown on a Venn diagram. This means you can't trust your intuition.

In general, the only way to check for independence for events A and B is by checking if

$$P(AB) = P(A)P(B).$$

Rule of Total Probability

THEOREM 2 (RULE OF TOTAL PROBABILITY OR BAYES FORMULA 1)

If B_1, \dots, B_n is a partition of S , then for any A ,

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= \sum_{i=1}^n P(B_i A) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(B_i) P(A|B_i) \\ &= P(B_1)P(A|B_1) + \cdots + P(B_n)P(A|B_n). \end{aligned}$$

Bayes' Theorem

THEOREM 8 (BAYES' THEOREM)

Let B_1, \dots, B_n be a partition of S . For any event A , and any $k \in 1, \dots, n$

$$P(B_k|A) = \frac{P(B_k)P(A|B_k)}{P(B_1)P(A|B_1) + \dots + P(B_n)P(A|B_n)} = \frac{P(B_k)P(A|B_k)}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(B_i)P(A|B_i)}.$$