

# Reasoning with Uncertainty



# Probability Review

# Why we need probability

## Probabilistic Reasoning vs. Logic

how much  
degree

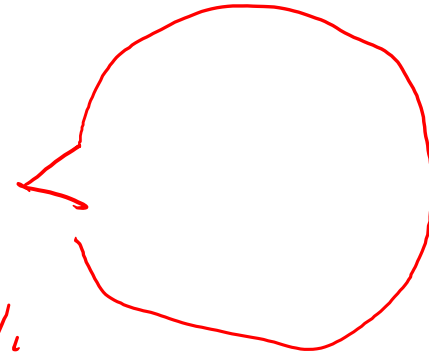
Cause and effect

Toothpain  $\Rightarrow$  Cavity 80%.

implies

$\Downarrow$   $\Downarrow$  Gum Disease 15%.

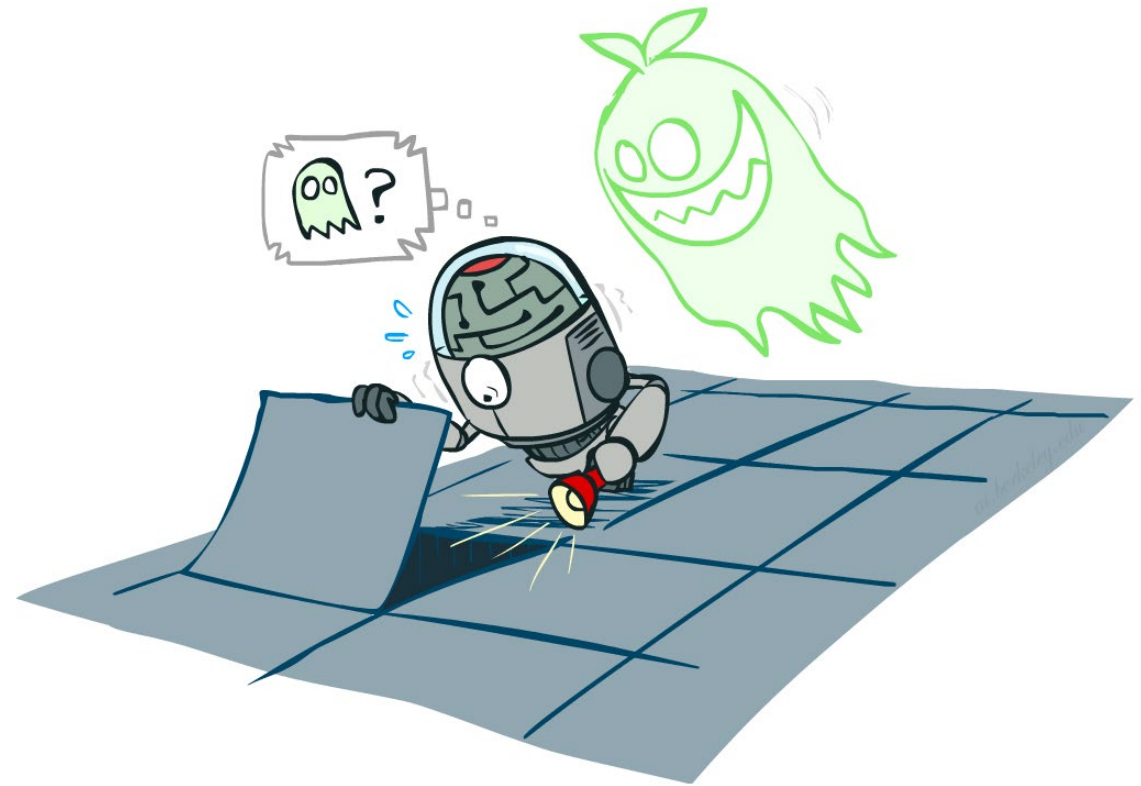
fractures, cracks 5%.



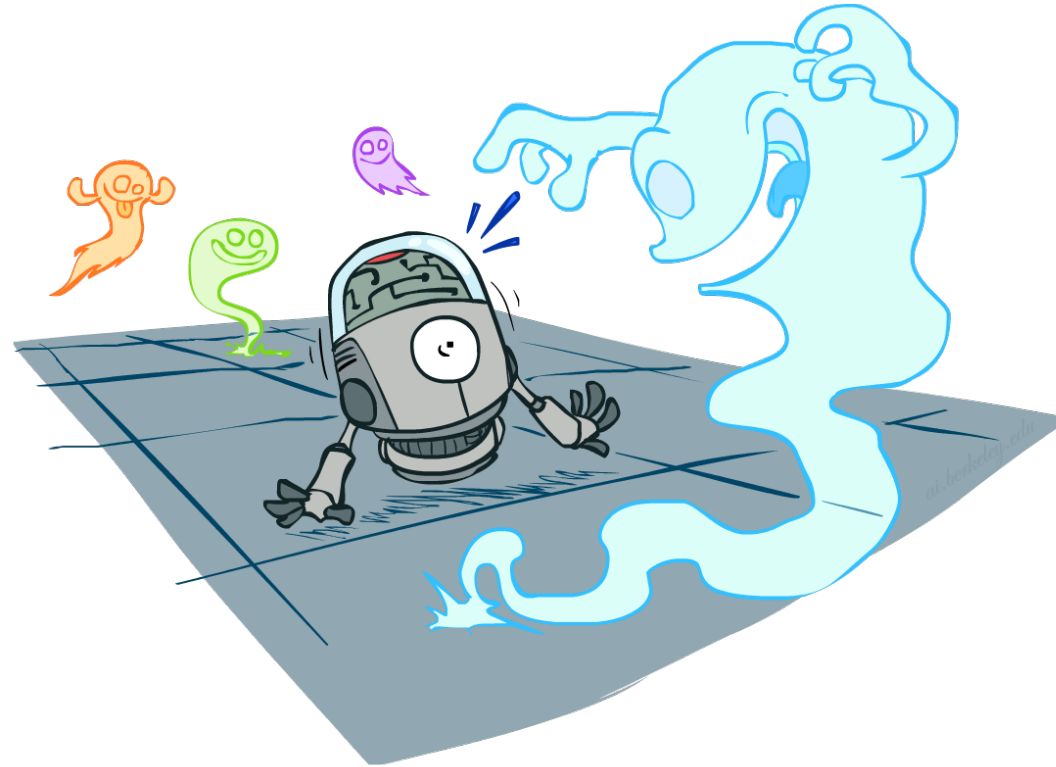
# Why we need probability

## Probabilistic Reasoning

- Diagnosis
- Speech recognition
- Tracking objects
- Robot mapping
- Genetics
- Error correcting codes
- ... lots more!

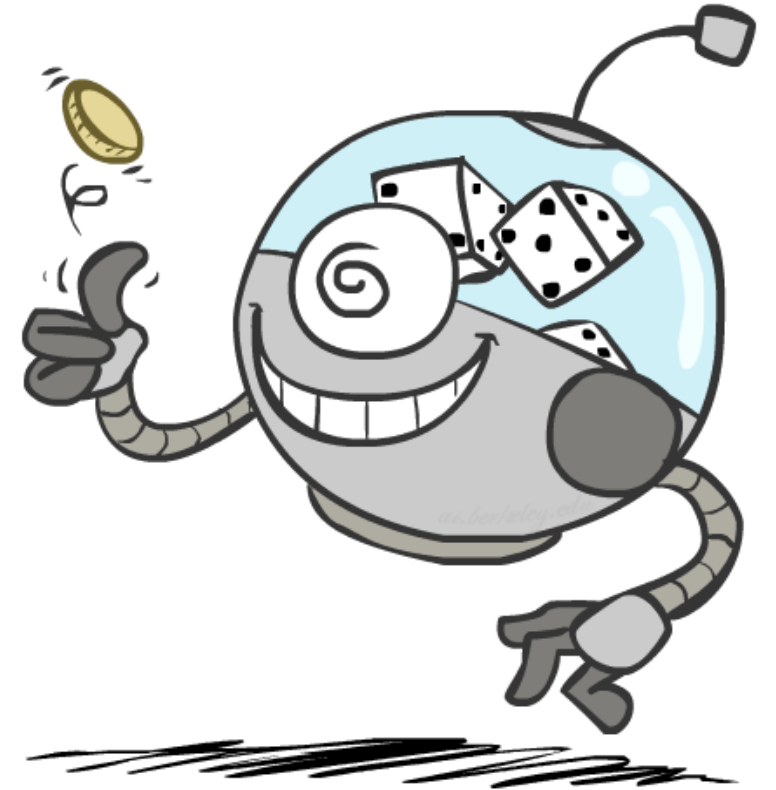


# Probability



# Random Variables

- A random variable is some aspect of the world about which we (may) have uncertainty
  - R = Is it raining?
  - T = Is it hot or cold?
  - D = How long will it take to drive to work?
  - L = Where is the ghost? →
- We denote random variables with capital letters
- Like variables in a CSP, random variables have domains
  - R in {true, false} (often write as {+r, -r})
  - T in {hot, cold}
  - D in  $[0, \infty)$
  - L in possible locations, maybe  $\{(0,0), (0,1), \dots\}$

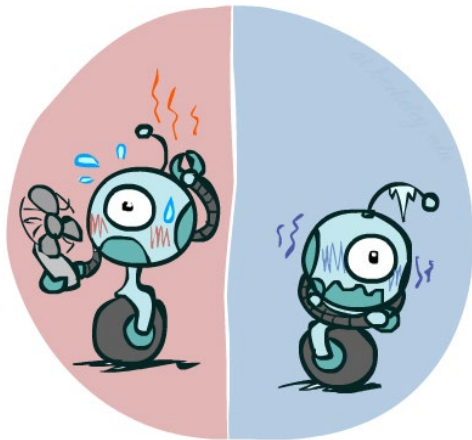


# Probability Distributions

- Associate a probability with each value

- Temperature:

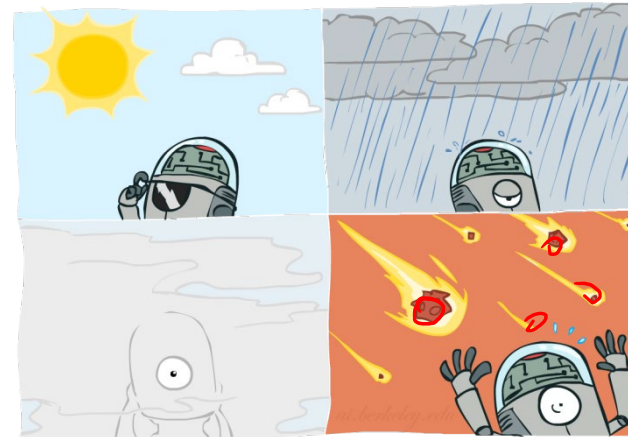
$$(P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4) = 1$$



$P(T)$

T	P
hot	0.5
cold	0.5

- Weather:



$P(W)$

W	P
sun	0.6
rain	0.1
<del>snow</del>	<del>0.29</del>
<del>meteor</del>	<del>0.01</del>

hail

# Probability Distributions

- Unobserved random variables have distributions

$P(T)$		$P(W)$	
T	P	W	P
hot	0.5	sun	0.6
cold	0.5	rain	0.1
		fog	0.3
		meteor	0.0

Shorthand notation:

$$P(\text{hot}) = P(T = \text{hot}),$$

$$P(\text{cold}) = P(T = \text{cold}),$$

$$P(\text{rain}) = P(W = \text{rain}),$$

...

OK if all domain entries are unique

- A distribution is a TABLE of probabilities of values
- A probability (lower case value) is a single number
- Must have:  $P(W = \text{rain}) = 0.1$  and

$$\forall x \ P(X = x) \geq 0$$

$$\sum_x P(X = x) = 1$$



# Joint Distributions

- A *joint distribution* over a set of random variables:  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  specifies a real number for each assignment (or *outcome*):

$$\underline{P(X_1 = a, X_2 = b)}$$

$$P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_n = x_n)$$

$$\rightarrow P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

- Must obey:

$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \geq 0$$

$$\sum_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)} P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 1$$

- Size of distribution if  $n$  variables with domain sizes  $d$ ?
  - For all but the smallest distributions, impractical to write out!

$$P(T, W)$$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4 ✓
hot	rain	0.1 ✓
cold	sun	0.2 ✓
cold	rain	0.3 ✓

$d^n$

# Events

- An *event* is a set  $E$  of outcomes

$$P(E) = \sum_{(x_1 \dots x_n) \in E} P(\underline{x_1 \dots x_n})$$

- From a joint distribution, we can calculate the probability of any event

- Probability that it's hot AND sunny?
- Probability that it's hot?
- Probability that it's hot OR sunny?

$P(H, S)$

$P(H \cup S)$

- Typically, the events we care about are *partial assignments*, like  $P(T=\text{hot})$

$P(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

# Quiz: Events

•  $P(+x, +y)$  ? 0.2

•  $P(\underline{+x})$  ? 0.5

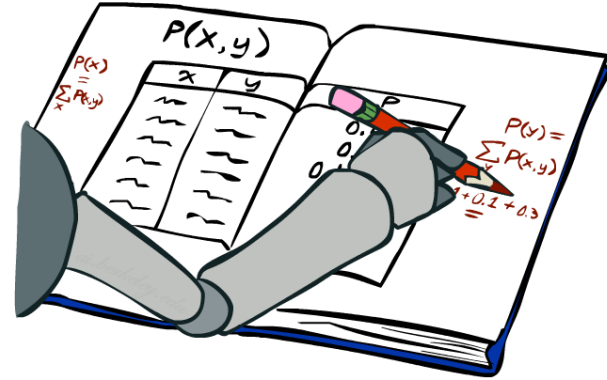
•  $P(-y \text{ OR } +x)$  ? 0.6

$P(X, Y)$

X	Y	P
+x	+y	0.2
+x	-y	0.3
-x	+y	0.4
-x	-y	0.1

# Marginal Distributions

- Marginal distributions are sub-tables which eliminate variables
- Marginalization (summing out): Combine collapsed rows by adding



$P(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

$$P(t) = \sum_s P(t, s)$$

$P(T)$

T	P
hot	0.5
cold	0.5

$P(W)$

W	P
sun	0.6
rain	0.4

$$P(s) = \sum_t P(t, s)$$

$$P(X_1 = x_1) = \sum_{x_2} P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2)$$

# Quiz: Marginal Distributions

$P(X, Y)$

X	Y	P
+x	+y	0.2
+x	-y	0.3
-x	+y	0.4
-x	-y	0.1



$$P(x) = \sum_y P(x, y)$$



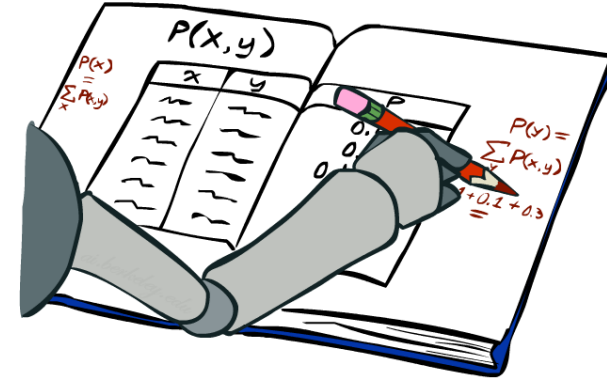
$$P(y) = \sum_x P(x, y)$$

$P(X)$

X	P
+x	0.5
-x	0.5

$P(Y)$

Y	P
+y	0.6
-y	0.4



# Conditional Probabilities

- A simple relation between joint and conditional probabilities

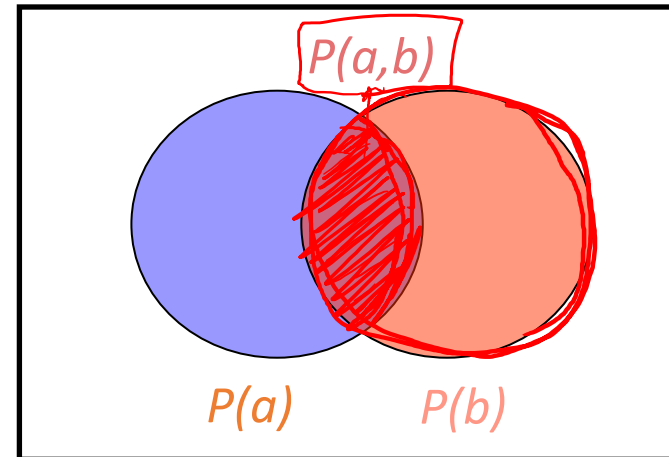
- In fact, this is taken as the *definition* of a conditional probability

$$P(a, b) = P(a \cap b)$$

outcome  $\rightarrow$  evidence (know)

$$P(a|b) = \frac{P(a, b)}{P(b)}$$

not know  $\leftarrow$



$s/t =$

$P(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

$$P(W = s | T = c) = \frac{P(W = s, T = c)}{P(T = c)} = \frac{0.2}{0.5} = 0.4$$

$$= P(W = s, T = c) + P(W = r, T = c)$$

$$= 0.2 + 0.3 = 0.5$$

# Quiz: Conditional Probabilities

$P(X, Y)$

X	Y	P
+x	+y	0.2
+x	-y	0.3
-x	+y	0.4
-x	-y	0.1

•  $P(+x \mid +y) ?$   $\frac{0.2}{0.2+0.4} = \frac{1}{3}$

•  $P(-x \mid +y) ?$   $1 - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$

•  $P(-y \mid +x) ?$   $\frac{0.3}{0.5} = 0.6$

# Conditional Distributions

- Conditional distributions are probability distributions over some variables given fixed values of others

Conditional Distributions

$P(W|T)$

$P(W T = \text{hot})$	
W	P
sun	0.8
rain	0.2

$P(W T = \text{cold})$	
W	P
sun	0.4
rain	0.6

Joint Distribution

$P(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3



# Normalization Trick

$P(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

$$\begin{aligned}P(W = s|T = c) &= \frac{P(W = s, T = c)}{P(T = c)} \\&= \frac{P(W = s, T = c)}{P(W = s, T = c) + P(W = r, T = c)} \\&= \frac{0.2}{0.2 + 0.3} = 0.4\end{aligned}$$

$P(W|T = c)$

W	P
sun	0.4
rain	0.6

$$\begin{aligned}P(W = r|T = c) &= \frac{P(W = r, T = c)}{P(T = c)} \\&= \frac{P(W = r, T = c)}{P(W = s, T = c) + P(W = r, T = c)} \\&= \frac{0.3}{0.2 + 0.3} = 0.6\end{aligned}$$

# Normalization Trick

$$P(T, W)$$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

**SELECT** the joint probabilities matching the evidence



$$P(c, W)$$

T	W	P
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

**NORMALIZE** the selection  
(make it sum to one)



$$P(W|T = c)$$

W	P
sun	0.4
rain	0.6

# Normalization Trick

$P(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

**SELECT** the joint probabilities matching the evidence



$P(c, W)$

T	W	P
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

**NORMALIZE** the selection (make it sum to one)



$P(W|T=c)$

W	P
sun	0.4
rain	0.6

- Why does this work? Sum of selection is  $P(\text{evidence})!$  ( $P(T=c)$ , here)

$$P(x_1|x_2) = \frac{P(x_1, x_2)}{P(x_2)} = \frac{P(x_1, x_2)}{\sum_{x_1} P(x_1, x_2)}$$

# Quiz: Normalization Trick

- $P(X \mid \underline{Y=-y})$  ?

$P(X, Y)$

X	Y	P
+x	+y	0.2
+x	-y	0.3
-x	+y	0.4
-x	-y	0.1

**SELECT** the joint probabilities matching the evidence



+x, -y 0.3 / 0.4  
-x, -y 0.1 / 0.4  
↳ 1

**NORMALIZE** the selection  
(make it sum to one)



X	Y	P
+x	-y	0.75
-x	-y	0.25

# Probabilistic Inference

- Probabilistic inference: compute a desired probability from other known probabilities (e.g. conditional from joint)
- We generally compute conditional probabilities
  - $P(\text{on time} \mid \text{no reported accidents}) = 0.90$
  - These represent the agent's *beliefs* given the evidence
- Probabilities change with new evidence:
  - $P(\text{on time} \mid \text{no accidents, 5 a.m.}) = 0.95$
  - $P(\text{on time} \mid \text{no accidents, 5 a.m., raining}) = 0.80$
  - Observing new evidence causes *beliefs to be updated*




# Inference by Enumeration

- General case:


- Evidence variables:  $E_1 \dots E_k = \underbrace{e_1 \dots e_k}_{\text{known.}}$
  - Query\* variable:  $Q$
  - Hidden variables:  $H_1 \dots H_r$  ↙ unobserved
- $\left. \begin{array}{l} E_1 \dots E_k = e_1 \dots e_k \\ Q \\ H_1 \dots H_r \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \\ \text{All variables} \end{array}$

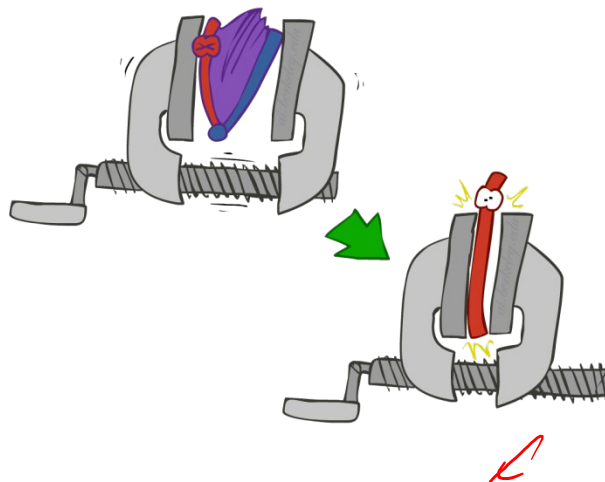
- Step 1: Select the entries consistent with the evidence

- Step 2: Sum out H to get joint of Query and evidence



x	P(x)
-3	0.05
-1	0.25
0	0.07
1	0.2
5	0.01





$$P(Q, e_1 \dots e_k) = \sum_{h_1 \dots h_r} P(\underbrace{Q, h_1 \dots h_r, e_1 \dots e_k}_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n})$$

- We want:

\* Works fine with multiple query variables, too

$$P(Q|e_1 \dots e_k)$$

- Step 3: Normalize

$$\times \frac{1}{Z}$$

$$Z = \sum_q P(Q, e_1 \dots e_k)$$

$$P(Q|e_1 \dots e_k) = \frac{1}{Z} P(Q, e_1 \dots e_k)$$

# Inference by Enumeration

- P(W)?  
Q → weather  $\begin{cases} \text{sun} & 0.3 + 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.15 = 0.65 \\ \text{rain} & = 1 - 0.65 = 0.35 \end{cases}$   
E → None  
H → S, T

- P(W | winter)?  
"  $\leq 0.5$   
r 0.5  
 $\frac{0.25}{0.5} = 0.5$

- P(W | winter, hot)?  
s | w, h =  $\frac{0.1}{0.15} = 2/3$   
r | w, h =  $1 - 2/3 = \frac{0.05}{0.15} = 1/3$

S	T	W	P
summer	hot	sun	0.30
summer	hot	rain	0.05
summer	cold	sun	0.10
summer	cold	rain	0.05
winter	hot	sun	0.10
winter	hot	rain	0.05
winter	cold	sun	0.15
winter	cold	rain	0.20

# Inference by Enumeration

- Obvious problems:

- Worst-case time complexity  $O(d^n)$
- Space complexity  $O(d^n)$  to store the joint distribution



# The Product Rule

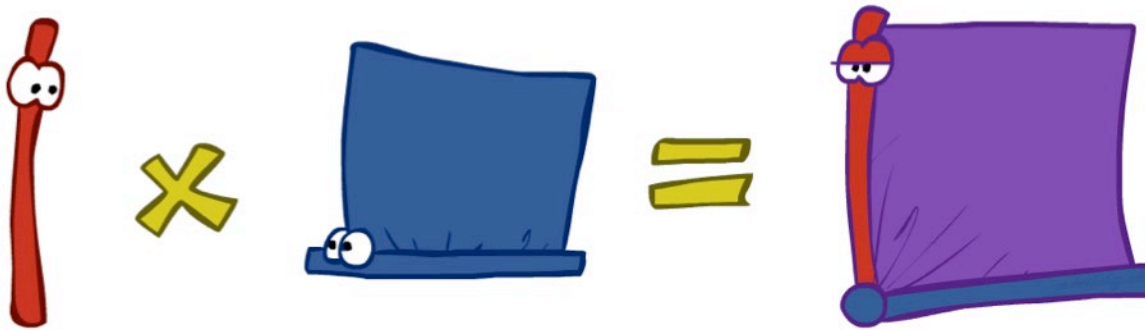
- Sometimes have conditional distributions but want the joint

$$P(y)P(x|y) = P(x, y) \quad \longleftrightarrow$$

*conditional* *Joint*

$$P(x|y) = \frac{P(x, y)}{P(y)}$$

*posterior*  
*prior*  
*known*



# The Product Rule

$$P(y)P(x|y) = P(x, y)$$

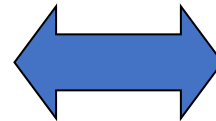
- Example:

$P(W)$

R	P
sun	0.8
rain	0.2

$P(D|W)$

D	W	P
wet	sun	0.1
dry	sun	0.9
wet	rain	0.7
dry	rain	0.3



$P(D, W)$

D	W	P
wet	sun	$0.1 \times 0.8$
dry	sun	$0.9 \times 0.8$
wet	rain	
dry	rain	

# The Chain Rule

- More generally, can always write any joint distribution as an incremental product of conditional distributions

$$\underline{P(x_1, x_2, x_3)} = P(x_1)P(x_2|x_1)P(x_3|x_1, x_2)$$

$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i | x_1 \dots x_{i-1})$$

- Why is this always true?

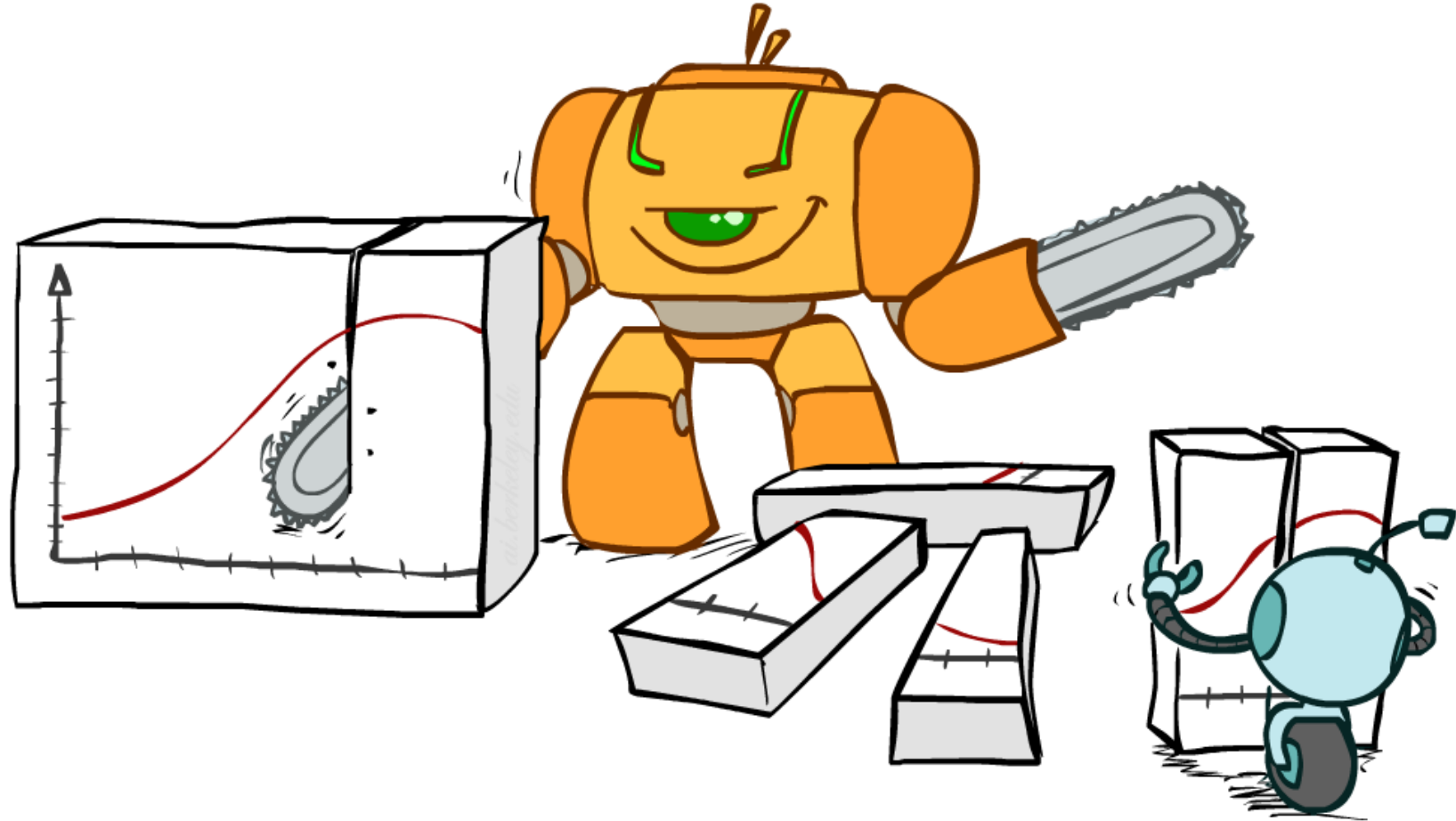
$$\underline{P(x, y) = P(x|y) \cdot P(y)}$$

$$P(x_1, x_2, x_3) = P(x_1) \cdot \underline{P(x_2, x_3 | x_1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &P(x_2, x_3 | x_1) \\ &\rightarrow \underline{P(x_2 | x_1)} \cdot P(x_3 | x_2, x_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$= P(x_1) \cdot P(x_2 | x_1) \cdot P(x_3 | x_1, x_2)$$

# Bayes Rule



# Bayes' Rule

- Two ways to factor a joint distribution over two variables:

$$P(x, y) = P(x|y)P(y) = P(y|x)P(x)$$

- Dividing, we get:

$$P(x|y) = \frac{P(y|x)P(x)}{P(y)}$$

- Why is this at all helpful?
  - Lets us build one conditional from its reverse
  - Often one conditional is tricky but the other one is simple
- In the running for most important AI equation!

# Inference with Bayes' Rule

- Example: Diagnostic probability from causal probability:

$$P(\text{cause}|\text{effect}) = \frac{P(\text{effect}|\text{cause})P(\text{cause})}{P(\text{effect})}$$

- Example:

- M: meningitis, S: stiff neck

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P(+m) &= 0.0001 \\ P(+s|+m) &= 0.8 \\ P(+s|-m) &= 0.01 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Example gives}$$

$$P(+m|+s) = \frac{P(+s|+m)P(+m)}{P(+s)} = \frac{P(+s|+m)P(+m)}{P(+s|+m)P(+m) + P(+s|-m)P(-m)} = \frac{0.8 \times 0.0001}{0.8 \times 0.0001 + 0.01 \times 0.999}$$

- Note: posterior probability of meningitis still very small
- Note: you should still get stiff necks checked out! Why?

+s	-m
+s	+m

$$\approx 0.0079$$

0.8%

# Quiz: Bayes' Rule

- Given:

$P(W)$

R	P
sun	0.8
rain	0.2

$P(D|W)$

D	W	P
wet	sun	0.1
dry	sun	0.9
wet	rain	0.7
dry	rain	0.3

Handwritten notes: A red arrow points to the title  $P(D|W)$ . A red checkmark is next to the 'dry' row under 'sun'. A red checkmark is next to the 'dry' row under 'rain'. A red circle is around the value 0.3, with  $\times 0.2$  written next to it. A red  $\times 0.8$  is written next to the value 0.9.

- What is  $P(W \mid \text{dry})$ ?

$P(W = s \mid \text{dry}) =$

$$\frac{P(\text{dry} \mid \text{sun}) \cdot P(\text{sun})}{P(\text{dry})} = \frac{0.9 \cdot 0.8}{0.72 + 0.06} \rightarrow$$

$P(W = r \mid \text{dry}) =$

$$\frac{P(\text{dry} \mid \text{rain}) \cdot P(\text{rain})}{P(\text{dry})} = \frac{0.3 \cdot 0.2}{0.72 + 0.06} \rightarrow$$

# Inference with Bayes' Rule

- Example: Breast Cancer Diagnosis from Mammogram Screening

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{P(C|+)}{P(+)} \\
 &= \frac{P(+|C) \cdot P(C)}{P(+|C) \cdot P(C) + P(+|NC) \cdot P(NC)} \\
 &= \frac{0.009}{0.009 + 0.05 \times 0.99} \\
 &= 0.15 \\
 & \quad 15\%
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(C) = 1\% \quad 40-50$$

$$TPR = 90\% \rightarrow P(+|C) = 0.9$$

$$FPR = 5\% \rightarrow P(+|NC) = 0.05$$

C/NC	+/-	P(+)	Joint prob
C	+	0.009	$P(C) \cdot P(+ C)$ $0.01 \times 0.9$
C	-	0.001	$P(C) \cdot (1 - P(+ C)) = 0.001$
NC	+		$P(+ NC) \cdot P(NC) = 0.05 \times 0.99$
NC	-		$0.95 \times 0.99$



# Probabilistic Models

- Models describe how (a portion of) the world works
- **Models are always simplifications**
  - May not account for every variable
  - May not account for all interactions between variables
  - “All models are wrong; but some are useful.”
    - George E. P. Box
- What do we do with probabilistic models?
  - We (or our agents) need to reason about unknown variables, given evidence
  - Example: explanation (diagnostic reasoning) ✓
  - Example: prediction (causal reasoning) ✓
  - Example: value of information ✓



# Independence

- Two variables are *independent* if:

$$\forall x, y : P(x, y) = P(x)P(y) \quad \checkmark$$

- This says that their joint distribution *factors* into a product two simpler distributions

- Another form:  $\forall x, y : P(x|y) = P(x)$

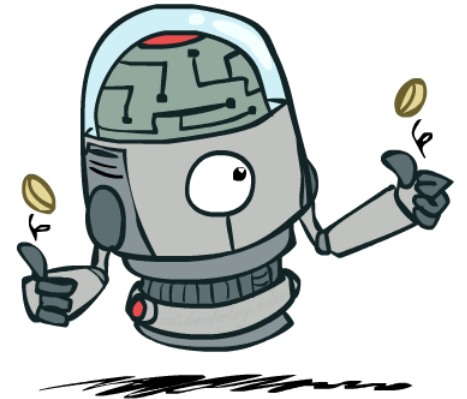
- We write:

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$$

- Independence is a simplifying *modeling assumption*

- Empirical* joint distributions: at best “close” to independent

- What could we assume for {Weather, Traffic, Cavity, Toothache}?



# Example: Independence?

$P_1(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.4
hot	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

$P(T)$

T	P
hot	0.5
cold	0.5

$P_2(T, W)$

T	W	P
hot	sun	0.3
hot	rain	0.2
cold	sun	0.3
cold	rain	0.2

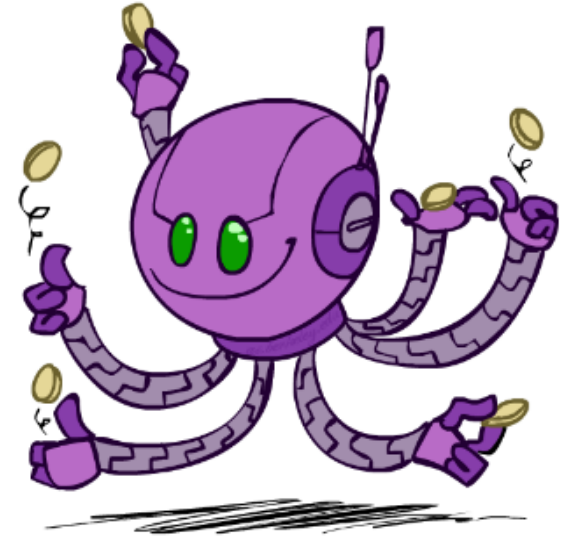
$P(W)$

W	P
sun	0.6
rain	0.4

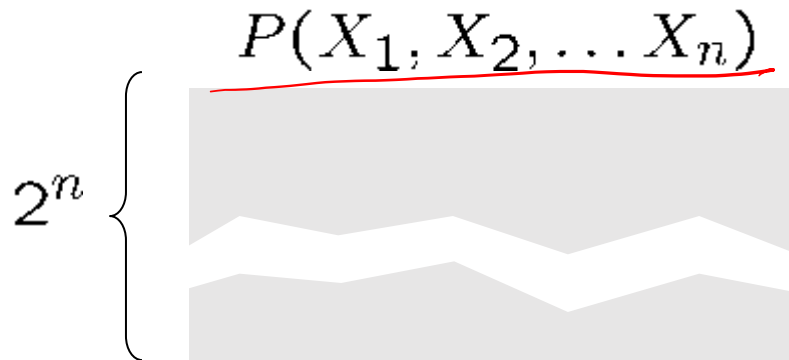
# Example: Independence

- N fair, independent coin flips:

$P(X_1)$			$P(X_2)$				$P(X_n)$	
H	0.5	×	H	0.5	×	⋮	H	0.5
T	0.5		T	0.5			T	0.5



$P(X_1=H \dots)$



# Conditional Independence

- $P(\text{Toothache}, \text{Cavity}, \text{Catch})$

+ / -    + / -    + / -

- If I have a cavity, the probability that the probe catches in it doesn't depend on whether I have a toothache:

- $P(+\text{catch} \mid +\text{toothache}, +\text{cavity}) = P(+\text{catch} \mid +\text{cavity})$

- The same independence holds if I don't have a cavity:

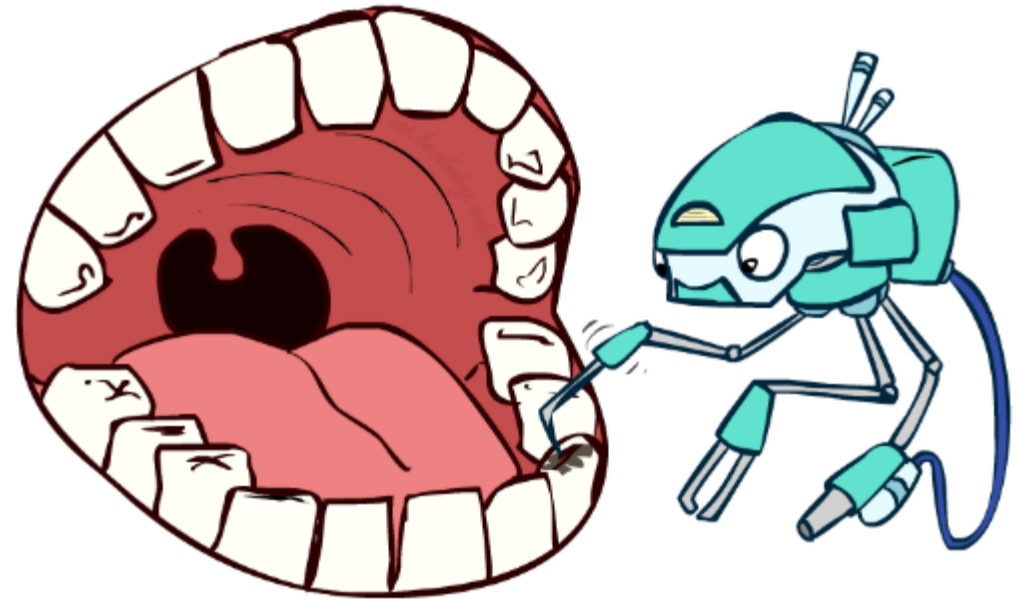
- $P(+\text{catch} \mid +\text{toothache}, -\text{cavity}) = P(+\text{catch} \mid -\text{cavity})$

- Catch is *conditionally independent* of Toothache given Cavity:

- $P(\text{Catch} \mid \text{Toothache}, \text{Cavity}) = P(\text{Catch} \mid \text{Cavity})$

- **Equivalent statements:**

- $P(\text{Toothache} \mid \text{Catch}, \text{Cavity}) = P(\text{Toothache} \mid \text{Cavity})$
- $P(\text{Toothache}, \text{Catch} \mid \text{Cavity}) = P(\text{Toothache} \mid \text{Cavity}) P(\text{Catch} \mid \text{Cavity})$
- One can be derived from the other easily



# Conditional Independence

- Unconditional (absolute) independence very rare (why?) ✓
- *Conditional independence* is our most basic and robust form of knowledge about uncertain environments.
- X is conditionally independent of Y given Z

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z$$

if and only if:

$$\forall x, y, z : P(x, y|z) = P(x|z)P(y|z)$$

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

or, equivalently, if and only if

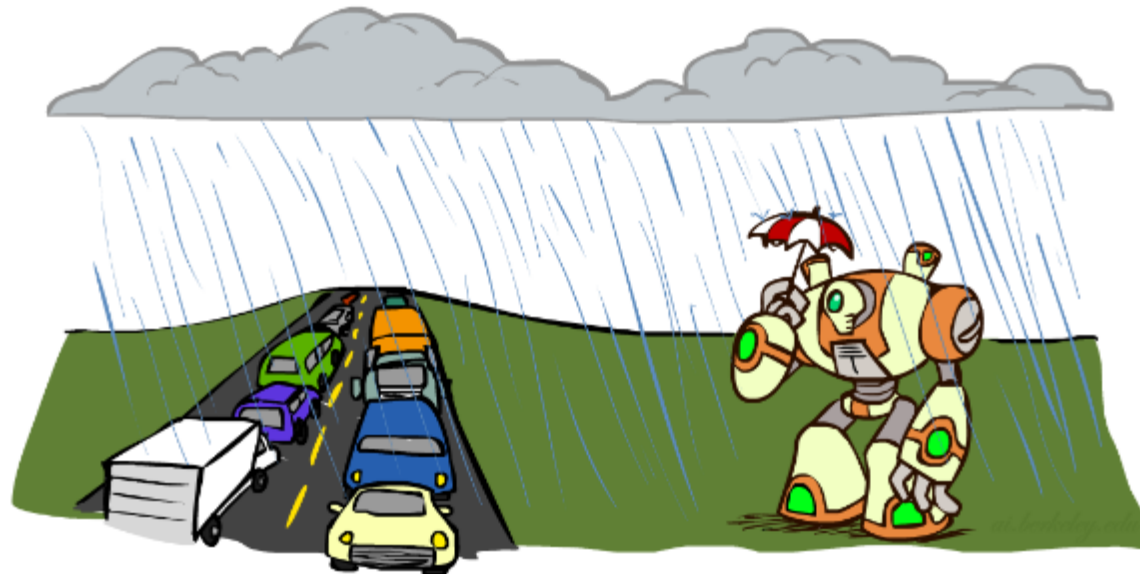
$$\forall x, y, z : P(x|z, y) = P(x|z)$$

# Conditional Independence

- What about this domain:

- Traffic
- Umbrella
- Raining

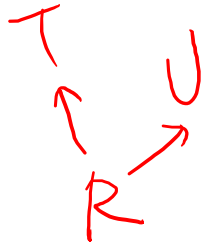
$R \rightarrow T \checkmark$   
 $R \rightarrow U \checkmark$        $T \perp U | R$



# Conditional Independence

- What about this domain:

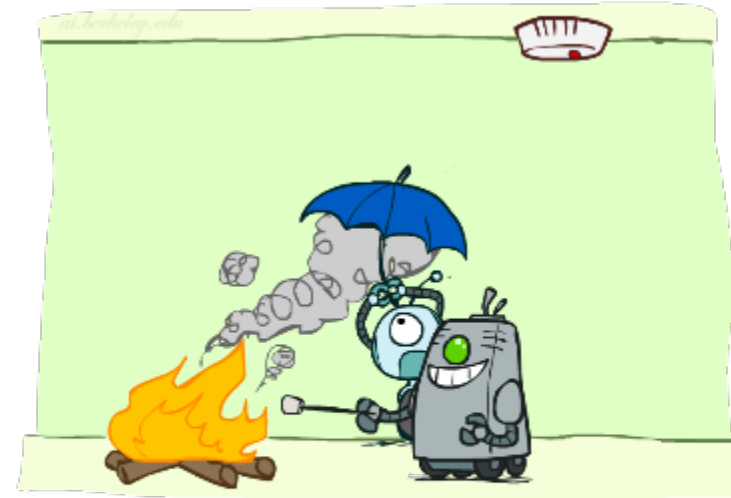
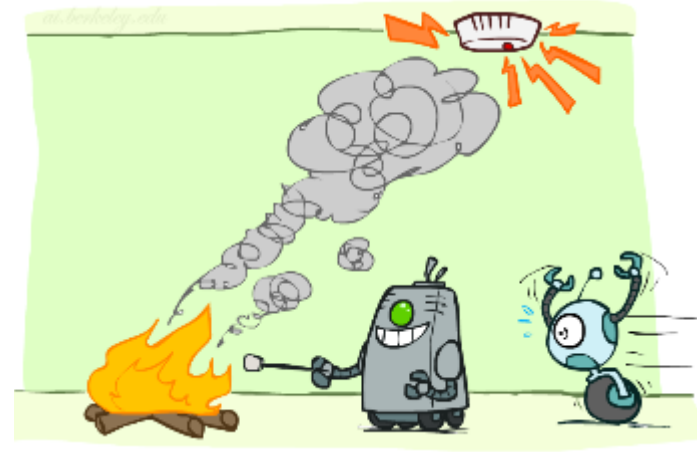
- Fire
- Smoke
- Alarm



Handwritten causal chain:  $F \rightarrow S \rightarrow A$

Handwritten causal chain with a crossed-out middle node:  $F \rightarrow \cancel{S} \rightarrow A$

Handwritten expression:  $F \perp\!\!\!\perp A \mid S$





# Conditional Independence and the Chain Rule

- Chain rule:

$$P(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = P(X_1)P(X_2|X_1)P(X_3|X_1, X_2)\dots$$

- Trivial decomposition:

$$P(\text{Traffic}, \text{Rain}, \text{Umbrella}) = P(\text{Rain})P(\text{Traffic}|\text{Rain})P(\text{Umbrella}|\text{Rain}, \text{Traffic})$$

- With assumption of conditional independence:

$$P(\text{Traffic}, \text{Rain}, \text{Umbrella}) = P(\text{Rain})P(\text{Traffic}|\text{Rain})P(\text{Umbrella}|\text{Rain})$$

- Bayes' nets / graphical models help us express conditional independence assumptions

