



Chapter 2

Conditional Probability

Exercises

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EX1-a. A box contains 5 coins. $\Pr(H|C_i)$: the probability of a head when the i th coin is tossed.

$$\Pr(H|C_1) = 0, \Pr(H|C_2) = 1/4, \Pr(H|C_3) = 1/2, \Pr(H|C_4) = 3/4, \Pr(H|C_5) = 1.$$

Suppose that one coin is selected at random from the box and it is tossed once, a head is obtained. What is the posterior probability that the 3rd coin was selected.

A 0.1

☒ C 0.2

B 0.3

D 0.4

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Ex1 (Book Section 2.3 Exercise 7)

A box contains 5 coins.

$P(H|C_i)$: the probability of a head when the i th coin is tossed

$$P(H|C_1) = 0, P(H|C_2) = 1/4, P(H|C_3) = 1/2,$$

$$P(H|C_4) = 3/4, P(H|C_5) = 1.$$

a. Suppose that one coin is selected at random from the box and when it is tossed once, a head is obtained. What is the posterior probability that the i th coin was selected ($i = 1, \dots, 5$).

Sol:

a: Using Bayes' Theorem. Since coin is selected at random, the prior probability of each coin $\Pr(C_i) = 1/5$.

$$\Pr(C_i|H) = \frac{\Pr(C_i)\Pr(H|C_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^5 \Pr(C_j)\Pr(H|C_j)}$$

$$\Pr(C_1|H) = 0, \Pr(C_2|H) = 0.1, \Pr(C_3|H) = 0.2,$$

$$\Pr(C_4|H) = 0.3, \Pr(C_5|H) = 0.4.$$



EX1-b. A box contains 5 coins. $\Pr(H|C_i)$: the probability of a head when the i th coin is tossed.

$\Pr(H|C_1) = 0$, $\Pr(H|C_2) = 1/4$, $\Pr(H|C_3) = 1/2$,
 $\Pr(H|C_4) = 3/4$, $\Pr(H|C_5) = 1$.

Suppose that one coin is selected at random from the box and it is tossed once, a head is obtained. If the same coin were tossed again, what would be the probability of obtaining another head?

A $1/4$

B $1/2$

☒ C $3/4$

D 1

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Ex1 (Book Section 2.3 Exercise 7)

A box contains 5 coins.

$P(H|C_i)$: the probability of a head when the i th coin is tossed

$$P(H|C_1) = 0, P(H|C_2) = 1/4, P(H|C_3) = 1/2,$$

$$P(H|C_4) = 3/4, P(H|C_5) = 1.$$

b. If the same coin were tossed again, what would be the probability of obtaining another head?

Sol: B_i : the first time a head was obtained, i th coin was selected.

$$P(B_i) = P(C_i|H).$$

H_2 : the second time a head was obtained

Since tossing a coin is an independent event, $P(H_2|B_i) = P(H|C_i)$

$$b: P(H_2) = \sum_{i=1}^5 P(B_i)P(H_2|B_i) = \sum_{i=1}^5 P(C_i|H)P(H|C_i) = 3/4$$

Computation of Probabilities in More Than One Stage



EX2. A box contains 2 coins. One is fair, the other with a head on each side. One coin is selected randomly and is tossed, a head is obtained. Then, the same coin is tossed and a head is obtained again. What's the prob. that this coin is fair?

- ☐ A $1/2$
- ☐ B $1/3$
- ☐ C $1/4$
- ☒ D $1/5$

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Ex2 (Book Section 2.3 Exercise 7)

A box contains 2 coins. One is fair, the other with a head on each side. One coin is selected randomly and is tossed, a head is obtained. Then, the same coin is tossed and a head is obtained again. What's the prob. that this coin is fair?

Sol: Let B_1 be the event that the coin is fair, and B_2 be the event that the coin has two heads. Let H_i be the event that a head is obtained after tossing the coin i th time, $i=1,2$. We want

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(B_1|H_1 \cap H_2) &= \frac{\Pr(B_1)\Pr(H_1 \cap H_2|B_1)}{\Pr(B_1)\Pr(H_1 \cap H_2|B_1) + \Pr(B_2)\Pr(H_1 \cap H_2|B_2)} \\ &= \frac{\Pr(B_1)\Pr(H_1|B_1)\Pr(H_2|B_1)}{\Pr(B_1)\Pr(H_1|B_1)\Pr(H_2|B_1) + \Pr(B_2)\Pr(H_1|B_2)\Pr(H_2|B_2)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times 1} = \frac{1}{5}\end{aligned}$$

Computation of Posterior
Probabilities in More
Than One Stage





Ex2 (Book Section 2.3 Exercise 7)

Conditional version of Bayes' Theorem:

$$\Pr(B_i | A \cap C) = \frac{\Pr(B_i | C) \Pr(A | B_i \cap C)}{\sum_{j=1}^k \Pr(B_j | C) \Pr(A | B_j \cap C)}.$$

Sol2: Let B_1 be the event that the coin is fair, and B_2 be the event that the coin has two heads. Let H_i be the event that a head is obtained after tossing the coin i th time, $i=1,2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(B_1 | H_1 \cap H_2) &= \frac{\Pr(B_1 | H_1) \Pr(H_2 | B_1 \cap H_1)}{\Pr(B_1 | H_1) \Pr(H_2 | B_1 \cap H_1) + \Pr(B_2 | H_1) \Pr(H_2 | B_2 \cap H_1)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3} \times 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \end{aligned}$$



EX3. Three cards are drawn in succession without replacement from a thoroughly shuffled the deck of 52 cards. Find the prob. that the first card is a red ace, the second card is a 10 or a jack, and the third card is greater than 3 but less than 7.

作答

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Ex3

Three cards are drawn in succession without replacement from a thoroughly shuffled the deck of 52 cards. Find the prob. that the first card is a red ace, the second card is a 10 or a jack, and the third card is greater than 3 but less than 7.

Sol:

Let A_1 be the event that the first card is a red ace.

Let A_2 be the event that second card is a 10 or a jack.

Let A_3 be the event the third card is greater than 3 but less than 7.

We will determine

$$\Pr(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = \Pr(A_1) \Pr(A_2 | A_1) \Pr(A_3 | A_1 \cap A_2)$$

$$= \left(\frac{2}{52}\right) \left(\frac{8}{51}\right) \left(\frac{12}{50}\right)$$

$$= \frac{8}{5525}$$



You know that a certain letter is equally like to be in any one of three different folders. Let α_i be the prob. that you will find your letter upon making a quick examination of folder i of the letters, $i=1,2,3$. Suppose you look in folder 1 and do not find the letter. 1)What's the prob. that the letter is in folder 1? 2)What's the prob. that the letter is in folder 3?

☒ A $\frac{1-\alpha_1}{3-\alpha_1}, \frac{1}{3-\alpha_1}$

☐ C $\frac{\alpha_1}{3-\alpha_1}, \frac{1-\alpha_1}{3-\alpha_1}$

☐ B $\frac{1}{3-\alpha_1}, \frac{1-\alpha_1}{3-\alpha_1}$

☐ D $\frac{1-\alpha_1}{3-\alpha_1}, \frac{\alpha_1}{3-\alpha_1}$

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Ex4

You know that a certain letter is equally like to be in any one of three different folders. Let α_i be the prob. that you will find your letter upon making a quick examination of folder i of the letters, $i=1,2,3$. Suppose you look in folder 1 and do not find the letter.

1) What's the prob. that the letter is in folder 1?

Sol: Let F_i , $i=1,2,3$ be the event that the letter is in folder i . Let E be the event that a search of folder 1 does not come up with the letter.

We desire $\Pr(F_1|E)$.
$$\Pr(F_1 | E) = \frac{\Pr(F_1) \Pr(E | F_1)}{\sum_{j=1}^3 \Pr(F_j) \Pr(E | F_j)}$$
$$= \frac{(1 - \alpha_1) \frac{1}{3}}{(1 - \alpha_1) \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1 - \alpha_1}{3 - \alpha_1}$$

2) What's the prob. that the letter is in folder 3?

$$\Pr(F_3 | E) = \frac{\Pr(F_3) \Pr(E | F_3)}{\sum_{j=1}^3 \Pr(F_j) \Pr(E | F_j)} = \frac{\frac{1}{3} \times 1}{\frac{1}{3} \times (1 - \alpha_1) + \frac{1}{3} \times 1 + \frac{1}{3} \times 1} = \frac{1}{3 - \alpha_1}$$



How about the complexity of our homework?

- A Very difficult
- B Some questions are easy, but most of them are difficult
- C Some questions are difficult, but most of them are easy
- D Very easy

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How about the amount of our homework?

- ☐ A Too much
- ☐ B A little bit more than my expectation
- ☐ C Moderate
- ☐ D Not enough

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