Conditional probability

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Here's a simple explanation with an example:

Suppose you have a bag containing 3 red balls and 2 green balls. You randomly pick one ball from the bag. Let's define two events:

- Event A: Selecting a red ball.
- Event B: Selecting a green ball.

Now, let's calculate the conditional probability of selecting a red ball given that a green ball was not chosen:

1. Calculating Individual Probabilities:

- The probability of selecting a red ball (Event A) without any condition is the proportion of red balls in the bag, which is $\left(P(A) = \frac{3}{5}\right)$.
- The probability of not selecting a green ball (Event B') is the complement of selecting a green ball, which is $\left(P(B')=1-P(B)=1-\frac{2}{5}=\frac{3}{5}\right)$.

2. Calculating Conditional Probability:

 The conditional probability of selecting a red ball given that a green ball was not chosen (Event B') is calculated using the formula for conditional probability:

$$\left[P(A \lor B') = \frac{P(A \cap B')}{P(B')}\right)$$

– Here, $(P(A \cap B'))$ represents the probability of selecting a red ball and not selecting a green ball, which is the same as the probability of selecting a red ball ((P(A))) since the two events are mutually exclusive.

- Thus,
$$P(A \lor B') = \frac{P(A)}{P(B')} = \frac{\frac{3}{5}}{\frac{3}{5}} = 1$$
.

So, the conditional probability of selecting a red ball given that a green ball was not chosen is 1, meaning that if a green ball was not chosen, then the probability of selecting a red ball is certain.

In summary, conditional probability helps us understand how the occurrence or non-occurrence of one event affects the probability of another event. In this example, knowing that a green ball was not chosen (Event B') increases the certainty of selecting a red ball (Event A).



