

Probability

1. Fair Coin

- $\Pr(H) = \Pr(T) = \frac{1}{2}$
- Coin flip can be “rigged” → the process is deterministic (person tossing the coin can use the knowledge of coin to predict the outcome with better probability)
- Tossing of coin is fair only and only if $\Pr(H) = \frac{1}{2}$
- Suppose we throw the fair coin ten times
 - What is the expected number of heads?
 $X_i = 1$ if the i th toss gives Head
 $= 0$ if it gives Tail
 $S_{10} = \text{number of heads in 10 tosses} = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_{10}$

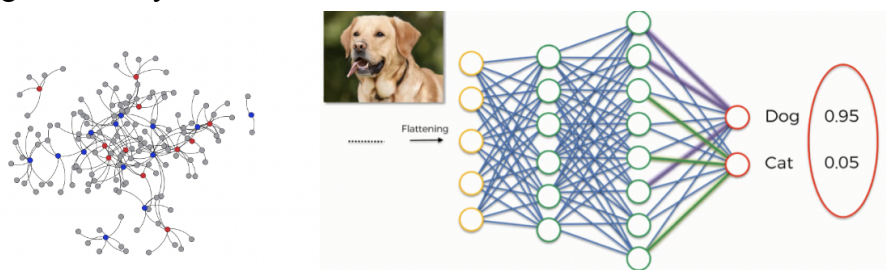
$$\begin{aligned} E[S_{10}] &= E[\sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{10} E[X_i] \end{aligned}$$

$$E[X_i] = 1 * \frac{1}{2} + 0 * \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{10} E[X_i] = 10 * \frac{1}{2} = 5$$

$$\begin{aligned} X_i &\rightarrow \text{Ber}(\frac{1}{2}) \\ S_{10} &\rightarrow \text{Binomial}(10, \frac{1}{2}) \end{aligned}$$

2. Modeling uncertainty



Disease spreading

- - Information theory, modeling the reliability of numerous complex systems, insurance companies, investments, etc.
- ### 3. Reminder
- Probability space (Ω, F, P) consists of three elements
 - Sample space (Ω) : set of all possible outcomes

- c. Event Space (F): a set of events, an event being a set of outcomes in the sample space
- d. Probability (P) : it is a function that assigns each event in the vent space a probability, which is a number between 0 and 1
- e. Example:

Example 2.29. Consider a sample space containing three elements $\Omega = \{\clubsuit, \heartsuit, \spadesuit\}$. The event space is then $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \emptyset, \{\clubsuit\}, \{\heartsuit\}, \{\spadesuit\}, \{\clubsuit, \heartsuit\}, \{\heartsuit, \spadesuit\}, \{\clubsuit, \spadesuit\}, \{\clubsuit, \heartsuit, \spadesuit\} \right\}$. One possible \mathbb{P} we could define would be

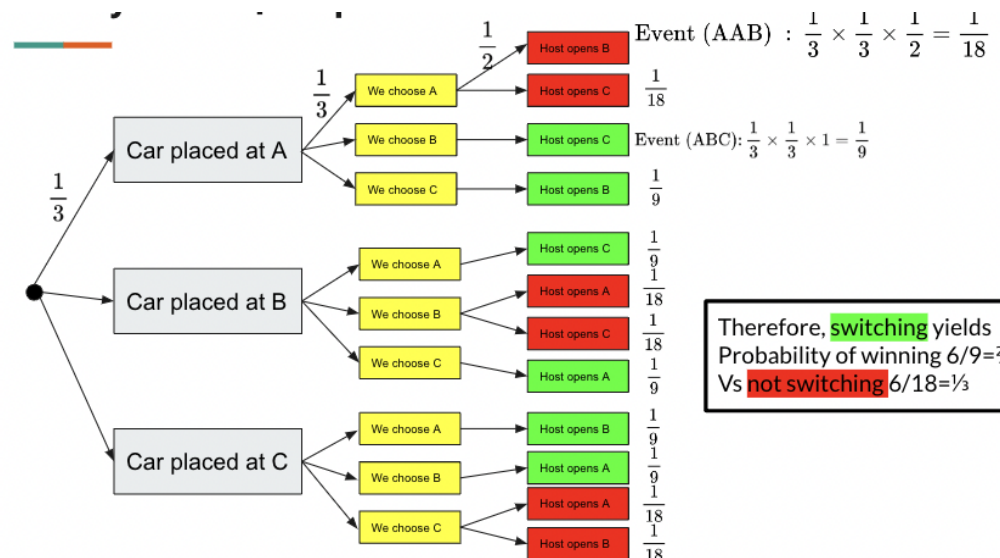
$$\mathbb{P}[\emptyset] = 0, \quad \mathbb{P}[\{\clubsuit\}] = \mathbb{P}[\{\heartsuit\}] = \mathbb{P}[\{\spadesuit\}] = \frac{1}{3},$$

$$\mathbb{P}[\{\clubsuit, \heartsuit\}] = \mathbb{P}[\{\clubsuit, \spadesuit\}] = \mathbb{P}[\{\heartsuit, \spadesuit\}] = \frac{2}{3}, \quad \mathbb{P}[\{\clubsuit, \heartsuit, \spadesuit\}] = 1.$$

- f. space a probability, which is a number between 0 and 1.

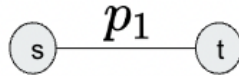
4. Monty-hall problem

- a. 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, goats
 - You pick a door, Say 1, and the host, who knows what's behind the doors, opens another door, say 3, which has a goat
 - He then says to you, "Do you want to pick door 2?" Is it to your advantage to switch your choice?
- b. Assumptions:
 - Car is placed uniformly at random (uar) behind a door
 - Out initial guess is also uar
 - The host opens a door with a goat. When there exist two such doors, i.e., our guess is the car, he chooses uar
- c. Steps



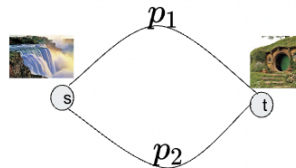
5. Transfer water

- Consider a water source s and a destination village t
- Each pipe i has probability of failure P_i , Pipes fail independently
- Question: What is the probability we cannot get water from s to t ? In other words, when is the village t not reachable from the water source s ?



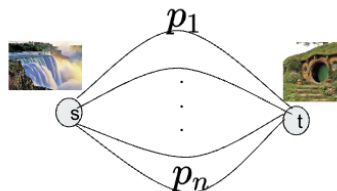
d.

e. Exercise 1:



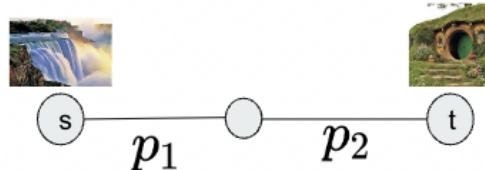
-
- Clearly, there is no path if both pipes fail
- Since they are independent, the probability of this event is the product of the probabilities of the individual events
- Thus, failure probability is $p_1 * p_2$

f. Exercise 2:



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- Clearly, there is no path if all pipes fail
- Since they are independent, the probability of this event is the product of the probabilities of the individual events
- Thus, failure probability is $p_1 * p_2 * \dots * p_n$
- E_i = pipe i fails
- $\Pr(E_1 \cap E_2 \cap \dots \cap E_n) = \prod \Pr(E_i)$
- **** De Morgan's Law ****
- $\Pr(\text{not } E_1 \cup \text{not } E_2 \cup \dots \cup \text{not } E_n) = 1 - p_1 * p_2 * \dots * p_n$

g. Exercise 3:



-
- Two events are independent: $\Pr(\text{not } E_1 \text{ n not } E_2) = \Pr(\text{not } E_1) * \Pr(\text{not } E_2)$
- $\Pr(\text{failure}) = \Pr(E_1 \cup E_2)$
 $= 1 - \Pr(\text{not } (E_1 \cup E_2))$
 $= 1 - \Pr(\text{not } E_1 \text{ n not } E_2) = 1 - (1-p_1) * (1-p_2)$
 $= 1 - (1 - p_1 - p_2 + p_1 * p_2)$
 $= p_1 + p_2 - p_1 * p_2$

OR

- Clearly, there is no path if at least one of the pipes fail
- We condition on whether the one of the two pipes (say the first) is broken or not
- Let A_i be the event that pipe i fails
- Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(A_1 \cup A_2) &= \Pr(A_1) + \Pr(A_2) - \Pr(A_1 \cap A_2) \\ &= p_1 + p_2 - \Pr(A_1) \Pr(A_2) \\ &= p_1 + p_2 - p_1 p_2\end{aligned}$$

h. Exercise 4



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- This is when all pipes are successful (if one pipe is unsuccessful, water will not go through)
- Instead of thinking of the probability that t will not be reachable from s , we think of the probability that it is. Reminder: $\Pr(\text{not } A) = 1 - \Pr(A)$
- The probability of not failing is

$$\Pr\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n \bar{A}_i\right) = \prod_{i=1}^n \Pr(\bar{A}_i) = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - p_i)$$

- Therefore, the right answer is

$$1 - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - p_i)$$

OR

- $\Pr(\text{sending water from } s \text{ to } t) = \Pr(\text{No Pipe fails})$
 $= \Pr(\text{not } E_1 \text{ n not } E_2 \text{ n } \dots \text{ n not } E_n)$
- $\prod \Pr(\text{not } E_i) = \prod (1 - \Pr(E_i))$

6. Reminders: independent events, conditional probability

- a. Intuitive two events A, B are dependent if A's occurrence or non-occurrence provides us with some information about event B
- b. Formally, A and B are independent events if and only iff

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

- c. By rearranging, we get

$$\Pr(A) = \frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)}$$

- d. Recall that by the law of conditional probability

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

- e. Therefore, when A and B are independent events $\Pr(A) = \Pr(A|B)$ and $\Pr(B) = \Pr(B|A)$

7. Reminders: Law of total probability

- a. Let Ω be a probability space. Let B_1, \dots, B_m be a partition of Ω . Then,

$$\Pr(A) = \sum_{i=1}^m \Pr(A \cap B_i) = \sum_{i=1}^m \Pr(B_i) \Pr(A|B_i)$$

8. Reminder: chain rule

- a. Chain rule:

$$\Pr(A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n) = \Pr(A_1) \Pr(A_2|A_1) \Pr(A_3|A_2 A_1) \dots \Pr(A_n|A_{n-1} \dots A_1)$$

- b. In our case the events are mutually independent, so this simplifies to the product of the individual probabilities of the events A_i

- c. Pairwise Independent

- Events A, B, C
- $P(A \cap B) = P(A \cap C) = P(B \cap C)$

- d. Mutually Independent

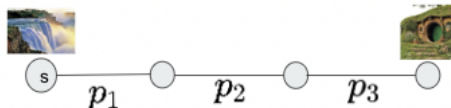
- Events A, B, C
- $P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(A) * P(B) * P(C)$

9. Reminder: conditional probability + Law of total probability \rightarrow Bayes rule

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

a.

10. Example $n = 3$



a.

$$1 - (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2)(1 - p_3) = 1 - (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2 - p_3 + p_2p_3)$$

$$= 1 - (1 - p_2 - p_3 + p_2p_3 - p_1 + p_1p_2 + p_1p_3 - p_1p_2p_3)$$

b. $= p_1 + p_2 + p_3 - p_1p_2 - p_1p_3 - p_2p_3 + p_1p_2p_3$

11. Example $n = 4$



a.

b. $1 - (1-p_1)(1-p_2)(1-p_3)(1-p_4)$
 $= 1 - (1-p_1-p_2+p_1p_2)(1-p_3-p_4+p_3p_4)$
 $= 1 - \dots$
 $= p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4$
 $- p_1p_2 - p_1p_3 - p_1p_4 - p_2p_3 - p_2p_4 - p_3p_4$
 $+ p_1p_2p_3 + p_1p_2p_4 + p_2p_3p_4$
 $- p_1p_2p_3p_4$

12. Reminder: Inclusion exclusion

a. Another convenient way to write the IE formula is the following

b. $\mathbf{P}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = S_1 - S_2 + S_3 - \dots + (-1)^{n-1} S_n$

where

$$S_k = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \mathbf{P}(A_{i_1} \cap A_{i_2} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k}).$$

c. In our setting, due to the independence of the events A_i , we can write the following expression:

$$\Pr(\cup A_i) = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k+1} \sum_{I \subseteq [n], |I|=k} \prod_{i \in I} \Pr(A_i)$$

let's write down some terms

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\cup A_i) &= p_1 + \dots + p_n \\ &\quad - (p_1p_2 + \dots + p_{n-1}p_n) \\ &\quad + (p_1p_2p_3 + \dots + p_{n-2}p_{n-1}p_n) \\ &\quad - \dots \end{aligned}$$