

Remarks

Material in this chapter is covered in most introductory textbooks to probability. The early classical texts by DeGroot (1975), Subrahmaniam (1979), and other highly accessible introductions into this material. More advanced treatments include (e.g.) Jorner 1968; Casella and Berger 1990; Tanner 1996), and in (Devroye et al. 1996). The robot environment interaction paradigm is common in robotics. It is also covered from a different perspective by Russell and Norvig (2002).

A sensor that can measure ranges from 0m and 3m. For what actual ranges are distributed uniformly in this interval. The sensor can be faulty. When the sensor is faulty, it reports a range below 1m, regardless of the actual range in the environment. We know that the prior probability for a sensor to be faulty is $p = 0.01$.

Suppose the sensor is queried N times, and every single time the reported range is below 1m. What is the posterior probability of a sensor being faulty for $N = 1, 2, \dots, 10$. Formulate the corresponding probability.

Suppose the weather in a place where days are either sunny, cloudy, or rainy. The weather function is a Markov chain with the following transition matrix:

	tomorrow will be...		
	sunny	cloudy	rainy
sunny	.8	.2	0
cloudy	.4	.4	.2
rainy	.2	.6	.2

Suppose the weather on Day 1 is sunny. What is the probability of the following sequence of weather: Day 2 = cloudy, Day 3 = cloudy, Day 4 = rainy?

Suppose the weather can randomly generate sequences of "weathers" using the transition function.

How can we determine the stationary distribution of this Markov chain? The stationary distribution measures the probability that the weather will be sunny, cloudy, or rainy.

Formulate a solution to calculating the stationary distribution using the transition matrix above?

- What is the entropy of the stationary distribution?
 - Using Bayes rule, compute the probability table of yesterday's weather given today's weather. (It is okay to provide the probabilities numerically, and it is also okay to rely on results from previous questions in this exercise.)
 - Suppose we added seasons to our model. The state transition function above would only apply to the Summer, whereas different ones would apply to Winter, Spring, and Fall. Would this violate the Markov property of this process? Explain your answer.
3. Suppose that we cannot observe the weather directly, but instead rely on a sensor. The problem is that our sensor is noisy. Its measurements are governed by the following measurement model:

		our sensor tells us...		
		sunny	cloudy	rainy
the actual weather is...	sunny	.6	.4	0
	cloudy	.3	.7	0
	rainy	0	0	1

- Suppose Day 1 is sunny (this is known for a fact), and in the subsequent four days our sensor observes *cloudy, cloudy, rainy, sunny*. What is the probability that Day 5 is indeed sunny as predicted by our sensor?
 - Once again, suppose Day 1 is known to be sunny. At Days 2 through 4, the sensor measures *sunny, sunny, rainy*. For each of the Days 2 through 4, what is the most likely weather on that day? Answer the question in two ways: one in which only the data available to the day in question is used, and one in hindsight, where data from future days is also available.
 - Consider the same situation (Day 1 is sunny, the measurements for Days 2, 3, and 4 are *sunny, sunny, rainy*). What is the most likely sequence of weather for Days 2 through 4? What is the probability of this most likely sequence?
4. In this exercise we will apply Bayes rule to Gaussians. Suppose we are a mobile robot who lives on a long straight road. Our location x will simply be the position along this road. Now suppose that initially, we believe to be at location $x_{\text{init}} = 1,000m$, but we happen to know that this estimate

2.7 Bibliographical Remarks

The basic statistical material in this chapter is covered in most introductory textbooks to probability and statistics. Some early classical texts by DeGroot (1975), Subrahmaniam (1979), and Thorp (1966) provide highly accessible introductions into this material. More advanced treatments can be found in (Feller 1968; Casella and Berger 1990; Tanner 1996), and in (Devroye et al. 1996; Duda et al. 2000). The robot environment interaction paradigm is common in robotics. It is discussed from the AI perspective by Russell and Norvig (2002).

2.8 Exercises

1. A robot uses a range sensor that can measure ranges from $0m$ and $3m$. For simplicity, assume that actual ranges are distributed uniformly in this interval. Unfortunately, the sensor can be faulty. When the sensor is faulty, it constantly outputs a range below $1m$, regardless of the actual range in the sensor's measurement cone. We know that the prior probability for a sensor to be faulty is $p = 0.01$.

Suppose the robot queried its sensor N times, and every single time the measurement value is below $1m$. What is the posterior probability of a sensor fault, for $N = 1, 2, \dots, 10$. Formulate the corresponding probabilistic model.

2. Suppose we live at a place where days are either sunny, cloudy, or rainy. The weather transition function is a Markov chain with the following transition table:

		tomorrow will be...		
		sunny	cloudy	rainy
today it's...	sunny	.8	.2	0
	cloudy	.4	.4	.2
	rainy	.2	.6	.2

- (a) Suppose Day 1 is a sunny day. What is the probability of the following sequence of days: Day2 = *cloudy*, Day3 = *cloudy*, Day4 = *rainy*?
- (b) Write a simulator that can randomly generate sequences of "weathers" from this state transition function.
- (c) Use your simulator to determine the stationary distribution of this Markov chain. The stationary distribution measures the probability that a random day will be sunny, cloudy, or rainy.
- (d) Can you devise a closed-form solution to calculating the stationary distribution based on the state transition matrix above?

- (e) What is the entropy of this process?
 - (f) Using Bayes rule, what is the probability that the sensor is faulty, given today's weather is sunny, and it is also sunny tomorrow? (You may assume that the sensor is not faulty, and it is also sunny tomorrow.)
 - (g) Suppose we add a second sensor, which is only faulty when the first sensor is faulty. What is the probability that the second sensor is faulty, given today's weather is sunny, and it is also sunny tomorrow? (You may assume that the first sensor is not faulty, and it is also sunny tomorrow.)
3. Suppose that we can use a sensor to measure the position of a robot. The probability of a sensor being faulty is $p = 0.01$. The sensor is governed by the following transition table:

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- (a) Suppose Day 1 is sunny. What is the probability that the sensor is faulty, given that the sensor measured sunny for four days our sensor is not faulty? What is the probability that the sensor is faulty, given that the sensor measured sunny for four days and the sensor is not faulty?
 - (b) Once again, suppose the sensor is not faulty. What is the probability that the sensor measured sunny for four days, what is the most likely sequence of weathers in two ways: one using the sensor and one using the transition table. The sensor is used, and the sensor is not available.
 - (c) Consider the same scenario as in (b). What is the probability that the sensor measured sunny for four days, what is the most likely sequence of weathers in two ways: one using the sensor and one using the transition table. The sensor is used, and the sensor is not available.
4. In this exercise we will consider a mobile robot who lives in a 1D world. The robot can be at any position along the x-axis. The robot starts at location x_{init} and moves to location x_{final} .