

Bayesian Probability

NOTE

The goal of this lab is to use/implement/understand Bayes theorem .

Problem

Suppose you live at a place where days are either sunny, cloudy, or rainy (a place like Le Creusot). 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

1. Suppose Day 1 is a sunny day. What is the probability of the following sequence of days:
Day 2 = *cloudy*, Day 3 = *cloudy*, Day 4 = *rainy*?
2. Write a simulator (Matlab) that can randomly generate sequences of “weather” from this transition function.
3. 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.
4. Can you devise a closed-form solution to calculate the stationary distribution based on the state transition matrix above?
5. What is the entropy of the stationary distribution?
6. 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).
7. 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.