



Introduction: Acting under Uncertainty

- Agents need to handle **uncertainty**, due to partial observability, non-determinism or adversaries.
- > In previous lectures, the logical agents handled uncertainty by
 - Belief state—a representation of the set of all possible world states
 - Contingency plan that handles every possible eventuality
- > Drawbacks of this **deterministic approach**
 - Every logically possible explanation lead to large belief-state representations
 - A correct contingent plan can grow arbitrarily large
 - There might be no plan to guarantee to achieve a goal
- ➤ In this lecture, we study methods for handling uncertainty with degrees of belief. This requires quantifying uncertainty and using probability theory and probabilistic reasoning methods.
 - > Decision-theoretic agents
 - > Utility-based agents

Uncertainty and Probability

Uncertainty

- Let action A_t = leave for airport t minutes before flight. Will A_t get me there on time? $S = (A_{25} \text{ will get me there on time})$
- > Problems:
 - Partial observability (road state, other drivers' plans, etc.)
 - Noisy sensors (TBS traffic reports)
 - Uncertainty in action outcomes (flat tire, etc.)

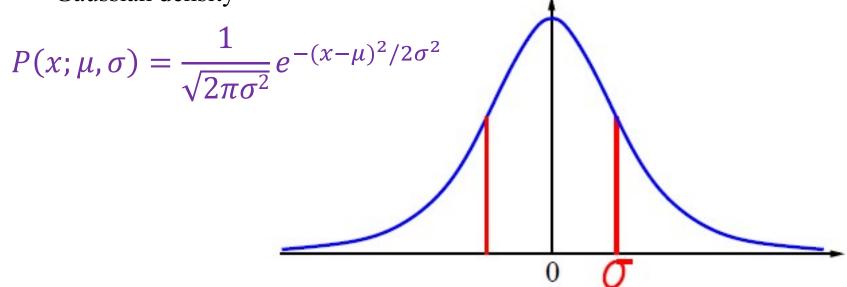
Probability

- Given the available evidence, $S = (A_{25} \text{ will get me there on time})$ $A_{25} \text{ will get me there on time with probability } 0.04$ P(S = true) = 0.04
- > Probabilistic assertions summarize effects of
 - Laziness: failure to enumerate exceptions, qualifications, etc.
 - Ignorance: lack of relevant facts, initial conditions, etc.

Probability Distribution

Probability for continuous variables

Gaussian density



Bayesian Probability

Subjective or Bayesian probability

- Probabilities relate propositions to one's own state of knowledge $P(A_{25}|no\ reported\ accidents) = 0.06$
- Probabilities of propositions change with new evidence:

$$P(A_{25}|no\ reported\ accidents, 5\ a.m.) = 0.15$$

> Bayes' rule

$$P(a|b) = \frac{P(b|a)P(a)}{P(b)} = \alpha P(b|a)P(a)$$

- > Useful for assessing diagnostic probability from causal probability
 - $P(cause | effect) = \frac{P(effect | cause)P(cause)}{P(effect)}$

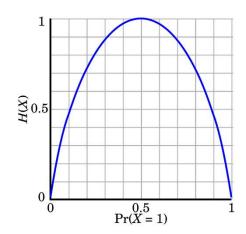
Information Theory

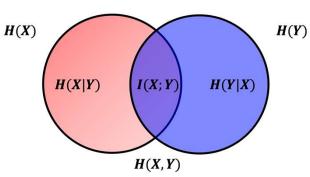
- Information: $I(x) = \log_2 \frac{1}{P_X(x)}$
- Entropy: $H(X) = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}}[I(x)] = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P_X(x) \log_2 P_X(x)$
- Mutual information:

$$I(X;Y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}} P_{X,Y}(x,y) \log_2 \frac{P_{X,Y}(x,y)}{P_{X}(x)P_{Y}(y)}$$

• Relative entropy (KL divergence):

$$D_{\mathrm{KL}}(P_X||P_Y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P_X(x) \log_2 \frac{P_X(x)}{P_Y(x)}$$





Outline (Lecture 10)

10.1 Acting under Uncertainty	9
10.2 Basic Probability Notation	15
10.3 Inference Using Full Joint Distribution	26
10.4 Independence and Bayes' Rule	30
10.5 Information Theory	36
Additional Materials	43
Summary	47



10.1 Acting under Uncertainty (1/5)

1) Uncertainty

- Let action A_t = leave for airport t minutes before flight. Will A_t get me there on time?
- > Problems:
 - Partial observability (road state, other drivers' plans, etc.)
 - Noisy sensors (TBS traffic reports)
 - Uncertainty in action outcomes (flat tire, etc.)
 - Immense complexity of modelling and predicting traffic

10.1 Acting under Uncertainty (2/5)

2) Methods for handling uncertainty

- ➤ Default or nonmonotonic logic
 - Assume A_{25} works unless contradicted by evidence
- > Rules with fudge factors
 - $A_{25} \mapsto_{0.3} AtAirportOnTime$
 - Sprinkler $\mapsto_{0.99}$ WetGrass
 - $WetGrass \mapsto_{0.7} Rain$
- > Probability

 $S = (A_{25} \text{ will get me there on time})$

• Given the available evidence, A_{25} will get me there on time with probability 0.04 P(S = true) = 0.04

10.1 Acting under Uncertainty (3/5)

3) Summarizing uncertainty

> Example: medical diagnosis

```
Toothache \implies Cavity
```

 $Toothache \Rightarrow Cavity \lor GumProblem \lor Abscess ...$

```
Cavity \Rightarrow Toothache
```

- ➤ Logic fails to deal with this for three main reasons:
 - Laziness: hard to list a complete set of rules
 - Theoretical ignorance: no complete theory
 - Practical ignorance: not all necessary tests
- ➤ Probability provides a way of summarizing the uncertainty that comes from our laziness and ignorance, thereby solving the qualification problems.

10.1 Acting under Uncertainty (4/5)

4) Uncertainty and rational decisions

- > Utility theory
 - An agent must first have preferences between the different possible outcomes of the various plans. We use utility theory to represent and reason with preferences.
 - utility being "the quality of being useful"
- **Decision theory**
 - Preferences, as expressed by utilities, are combined with probabilities in the general theory of rational decisions called decision theory:

Decision theory = probability theory + utility theory

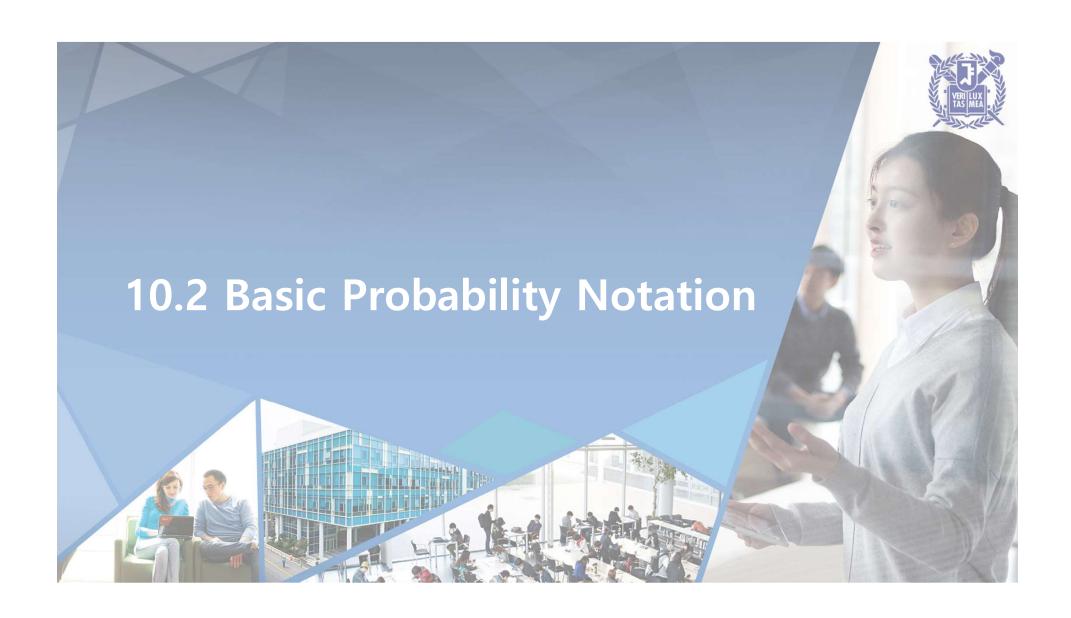
- Maximum expected utility (MEU)
 - The fundamental idea of decision theory is that an agent is rational if and only if it chooses the action that yields the highest expected utility, averaged over all the possible outcomes of the action. This is the principle of maximum expected utility (MEU).

10.1 Acting under Uncertainty (5/5)

A decision-theoretic agent that selects rational actions

update belief_state based on action and percept calculate outcome probabilities for actions, given action descriptions and current belief_state select action with highest expected utility given probabilities of outcomes and utility information return action

Figure 12.1 A decision-theoretic agent that selects rational actions.



10.2 Basic Probability Notation (1/10)

1) Probability

- > Probabilistic assertions summarize effects of
 - Laziness: failure to enumerate exceptions, qualifications, etc.
 - Ignorance: lack of relevant facts, initial conditions, etc.
- > Subjective or Bayesian probability:
 - Probabilities relate propositions to one's own state of knowledge

$$P(A_{25}|no\ reported\ accidents) = 0.06$$

• Probabilities of propositions change with new evidence:

$$P(A_{25}|no\ reported\ accidents, 5\ a.\ m.)=0.15$$

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (2/10)

2) Probability basics

- \triangleright Begin with a set Ω the sample space
 - e.g., 6 possible rolls of a die.
 - $\omega \in \Omega$ is a sample point / possible world / atomic event
- \triangleright A probability space or probability model is a sample space with an assignment $P(\omega)$ for every $\omega \in \Omega$ s. t.

$$0 \le P(\omega) \le 1$$
, $\sum_{\omega} P(\omega) = 1$

$$P(A) = \sum_{\{\omega \in A\}} P(\omega)$$

 \triangleright An event A is any subset of Ω

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (3/10)

3) Random variables

- A random variable is a function from sample points to some range, e.g., the reals or Booleans
 - e.g., Odd(1) = true.
- > P induces a probability distribution for any r.v. X:

$$P(X = x_i) = \sum_{\{\omega: X(\omega) = x_i\}} P(\omega)$$

• e.g.,
$$P(Odd = true) = P(1) + P(3) + P(5) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (4/10)

4) Propositions

- ➤ Given Boolean random variables A and B:
 - event $a = \text{set of sample points where } A(\omega) = true$
 - event $\neg a$ = set of sample points where $A(\omega) = false$
 - event $a \wedge b$ = points where $A(\omega) = true$ and $B(\omega) = true$
- ➤ With Boolean variables, sample point = propositional logic model
 - e.g., $A(\omega) = true$, B = false, or $a \land \neg b$.
- **Proposition** = disjunction of atomic events in which it is true
 - e.g., $(a \lor b) \equiv (\neg a \land b) \lor (a \land \neg b) \lor (a \land b)$ $\Rightarrow P(a \lor b) = P(\neg a \land b) + P(a \land \neg b) + P(a \land b)$

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (5/10)

5) Syntax for propositions

- > Propositional or Boolean random variables
 - e.g., *Cavity* (do I have a cavity?)
 - *Cavity* = *true* is a proposition, also written *cavity*
- > Discrete random variables (finite or infinite)
 - e.g., Weather is one of ⟨sunny, rain, cloudy, snow⟩
 - *Weather=rain* is a proposition
 - Values must be exhaustive and mutually exclusive
- Continuous random variables (bounded or unbounded)
 - e.g., *Temp* = 21.6; also allow, e.g., *Temp* < 22.0.

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (6/10)

6) Prior probability

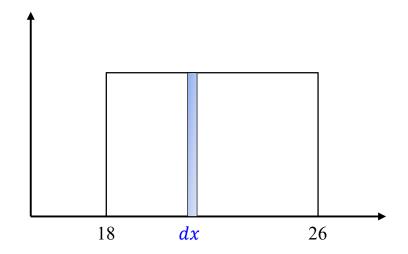
- > Prior or unconditional probabilities of propositions
 - e.g., P(Cavity = true) = 0.1 and P(Weather = sunny) = 0.72
- ➤ Probability distribution gives values for all possible assignments:
 - e.g., P(Weather) = (0.72, 0.1, 0.08, 0.1) (normalized, i.e., sums to 1)
- ➤ Joint probability distribution for a set of r.v.s gives the probability of every atomic event on those r.v.s (i.e., every sample point)

Weather =	sunny	rain	cloudy	snow
Cavity = true	0.144	0.02	0.016	0.02
Cavity = false	0.576	0.08	0.064	80.0

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (7/10)

7) Probability for continuous variables

- > Express distribution as a parameterized function of value:
 - P(X = x) = U[18, 26](x) = uniform density between 18 and 26



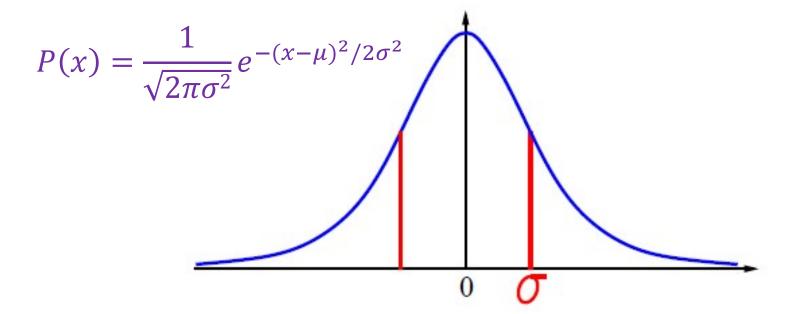
Here *P* is a *density*; integrates to 1.

$$P(X = 20.5) = 0.125$$
 really means
 $\lim_{dx\to 0} P(20.5 \le X \le 20.5 + dx)/dx = 0.125$

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (8/10)

8) Probability for continuous variables, contd.

➤ Gaussian density



10.2 Basic Probability Notation (9/10)

9) Conditional probability

- ➤ Conditional or posterior probabilities
 - \rightarrow e.g., P(cavity|toothache) = 0.8
 - i.e., given that toothache is all I know
 - ▶ **NOT** "if *toothache* then 80% chance of *cavity*"
 - If we know more, e.g., *cavity* is also given, then we have

10.2 Basic Probability Notation (10/10)

10) Conditional probability, contd.

- Definition
 - $P(a|b) = \frac{P(a \land b)}{P(b)}$ if $P(b) \neq 0$
- > Product rule
 - $P(a \wedge b) = P(a|b)P(b) = P(b|a)P(a)$
- > Chain rule
 - $P(X_1, ..., X_n) = P(X_1, ..., X_{n-1})P(X_n|X_1, ..., X_{n-1})$ = $P(X_1, ..., X_{n-2})P(X_{n-1}|X_1, ..., X_{n-2})P(X_n|X_1, ..., X_{n-1})$ = ...= $\Pi_{i=1}^n P(X_i|X_1, ..., X_{i-1})$



10.3 Inference Using Full Joint Distributions (1/3)

1) Inference by enumeration

	toothache		$\neg toothache$	
	catch	$\neg catch$	catch	$\neg catch$
cavity ¬cavity	0.108 0.016	0.012 0.064	0.072 0.144	0.008 0.576

$$P(toothache) = 0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064 = 0.2$$

$$P(cavity \lor toothache) = 0.108 + 0.012 + 0.072 + 0.008 + 0.016 + 0.064 = 0.28$$

$$P(\neg cavity | toothache) = \frac{P(\neg cavity \land toothache)}{P(toothache)}$$

$$= \frac{0.016 + 0.064}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064} = 0.4$$

10.3 Inference Using Full Joint Distributions (2/3)

2) Normalization

 \triangleright Denominator can be viewed as a normalization constant α

	toothache		¬toothache	
	catch	$\neg catch$	catch	$\neg catch$
cavity ¬cavity	0.108 0.016	0.012 0.064	0.072 0.144	0.008 0.576

```
P(cavity|toothache) = \alpha P(Cavity, toochache)
= \alpha [P(Cavity, toochache, catch) + P(Cavity, toothache, \neg catch)]
= \alpha [\langle 0.108, 0.016 \rangle + \langle 0.012, 0.064 \rangle]
= \alpha \langle 0.12, 0.08 \rangle + \langle 0.6, 0.4 \rangle
```

10.3 Inference Using Full Joint Distributions (3/3)

3) Inference by enumeration, contd.

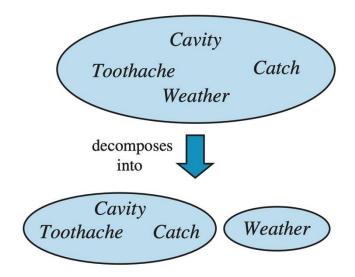
- Let X be all the variables. Typically, we want
 - the posterior joint distribution of the query variables Y
 - given specific values e for the evidence variables E
- \triangleright Let the hidden variables be $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{X} \mathbf{Y} \mathbf{E}$
- ➤ Then the required summation of joint entries is done by summing out the hidden variables:
 - $P(Y|e) = \alpha P(Y,e) = \alpha \sum_{h} P(Y,e,h)$
- The terms in the summation are joint entries because Y, E, and H together exhaust the set of random variables



10.4 Independence and Bayes' Rule (1/5)

1) Independence

- \triangleright A and B are **independent** if
 - P(A|B) = P(A) or P(B|A) = P(B) or P(A,B) = P(A)P(B)



➤ (Toothache, Catch, Cavity, Weather) = P(Toothache, Catch, Cavity) P(Weather)

10.4 Independence and Bayes' Rule (2/5)

2) Conditional independence

- ightharpoonup P(Toothache, Cavity, Catch) has $2^3 1 = 7$ independent entries
- ➤ If I have a cavity, the probability that the probability that the probe catches in it doesn't depend on whether I have a toothache:
 - (1) P(catch|toothache, cavity) = P(catch|cavity)
- ➤ The same independence holds if I haven't got a cavity:
 - (2) $P(catch|toothache, \neg cavity) = P(catch|\neg cavity)$
- > Catch is conditionally independent of Toothache given Cavity:
 - P(Catch|Toothache, Cavity) = P(Catch|Cavity)

10.4 Independence and Bayes' Rule (3/5)

3) Conditional independence, contd.

- ➤ Write out full joint distribution using chain rule:
 - **P**(*Toothache*, *Catch*, *Cavity*)
 - $= \mathbf{P}(Toothache | Catch, Cavity) \mathbf{P}(Catch, Cavity)$
 - $= \mathbf{P}(Toothache|Catch,Cavity)\mathbf{P}(Catch|Cavity)\mathbf{P}(Cavity)$
 - $= \mathbf{P}(Toothache|Cavity)\mathbf{P}(Catch|Cavity)\mathbf{P}(Cavity)$
 - i.e., 2 + 2 + 1 = 5 independent numbers (equations 1 and 2 remove 2)
 - In most cases, the use of conditional independence reduces the size of the representation of the joint distribution from exponential in n to linear in n.
 - Conditional independence is our most basic and robust form of knowledge about uncertain environments.

10.4 Independence and Bayes' Rule (4/5)

4) Bayes' rule

- > Product rule
 - $P(a \wedge b) = P(a|b)P(b) = P(b|a)P(a)$
- > Bayes' rule

•
$$P(a|b) = \frac{P(b|a)P(a)}{P(b)}$$
 or in distribution form $P(Y|X) = \frac{P(X|Y)P(Y)}{P(X)} = \alpha P(X|Y)P(Y)$

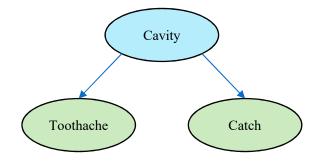
> Useful for assessing diagnostic probability from causal probability

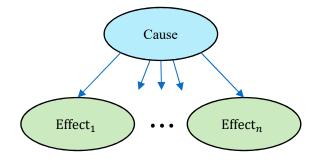
•
$$P(cause|effect) = \frac{P(effect|cause)P(cause)}{P(effect)}$$

10.4 Independence and Bayes' Rule (5/5)

5) Bayes' rule and conditional independence

- \triangleright **P**(*Cavity*|*toothache* \land *catch*)
 - $= \alpha \mathbf{P}(toothache \wedge catch | Cavity) \mathbf{P}(Cavity)$
 - = $\alpha \mathbf{P}(toothache|Cavity)\mathbf{P}(catch|Cavity)\mathbf{P}(Cavity)$
- ➤ An example of a **naive Bayes model**:
 - $P(Cause, Effect_1, ..., Effect_n) = P(Cause) \Pi_i P(Effect_i | Cause)$







10.5 Information Theory (1/6)

➤ What is information? How to quantify the information?



Small information content



Large information content



Claude Elwood Shannon (1916-2001)

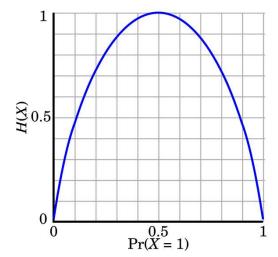
- ➤ Shannon's information theory deals with limits on data compression (source coding) and reliable data transmission (channel coding)
 - How much can data can be compressed?
 - How fast can data be reliably transmitted over a noisy channel?



10.5 Information Theory (2/6)

> Notation

- Random variable: *X*
- Sample value of a random variable: *x*
- Set of possible sample values x of X: X
- Probability mass function (PMF) of discrete $X: P_X(x)$
- Probability density function (PDF) of continuous $X: p_X(x)$



> Information and Entropy

- Information (Uncertainty): $I(x) = \log_2 \frac{1}{P_X(x)}$
- Entropy: $H(X) = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}}[I(x)] = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P_X(x) \log_2 P_X(x)$ bits
 - A measure of the average uncertainty associated with a random variable
 - → always non-negative!

Entropy is a lower bound on the number of bits need to represent a random variable

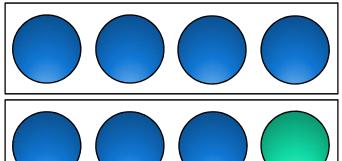
38 / 47

10.5 Information Theory (3/6)

> A simple example of entropy

High entropy means high disorder and low energy! $H(X) = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}}[I(x)] = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P_X(x) \log_2 P_X(x)$

When a random variable has a uniform distribution, the system has the highest entropy!





P(blue): 1, P(green): 0

Entropy: $H(X) = (-\log_2 1) \times 4 = 0$

P(blue): 0.75, P(green): 0.25

Entropy: $H(X) = (-\log_2 0.75) \times 3 - \log_2 0.25 = 3$.

245

P(blue): 0.5, P(green): 0.5

Entropy: $H(X) = (-\log_2 0.5) \times 4 = 4$

39 / 47

10.5 Information Theory (4/6)

> Joint entropy

• The entropy of two discrete random variables X, Y with joint PMF $P_{X,Y}(x,y)$

$$H(X,Y) = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}} P_{X,Y}(x,y) \log_2 P_{X,Y}(x,y)$$

■ Property: $H(X,Y) \le H(X) + H(Y)$

> Conditional entropy

- Entropy of a random variable given another random variable
- There are various ways of writing this equation

$$H(Y|X) = -\sum_{x \in X, y \in Y} P_{X,Y}(x, y) \log_2 P_{Y|X}(y|x)$$

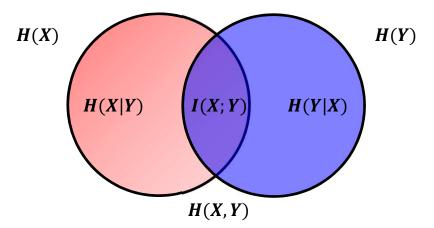
10.5 Information Theory (5/6)

> Mutual Information

 Measure of the amount of information that one random variable contains about another random variable

$$I(X;Y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}} P_{X,Y}(x,y) \log_2 \frac{P_{X,Y}(x,y)}{P_X(x)P_Y(y)}$$

• Useful expression: I(X;Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y) = H(Y) - H(Y|X)



41 / 47

10.5 Information Theory (6/6)

Cross Entropy

• Measure of the distribution P_Y relative to a distribution P_X over a given set

$$H(P_X, P_Y) = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}}[\log_2 P_Y(x)] = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P_X(x) \log_2 P_Y(x)$$

> Relative Entropy (Kullback-Leibler divergence)

• Measure of divergence between two distributions $P_X(x)$ and $P_Y(y)$

$$D_{\mathrm{KL}}(P_X||P_Y) = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \left[\log_2 \frac{P_X(x)}{P_Y(x)} \right] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P_X(x) \log_2 \frac{P_X(x)}{P_Y(x)}$$

- Property 1. Non-negativity: $D_{KL}(P_X||P_Y) \ge 0$ (if $P_X = P_Y$, $D_{KL}(P_X||P_Y) = 0$)
- Property 2. Non-symmetricity: $D_{KL}(P_X||P_Y) \neq D_{KL}(P_Y||P_X)$



Probability Distribution & Statistical Mechanics

 p_i : probability of occurrence of state i of a stochastic system

$$p_i \ge 0$$
 (for all i) and $\sum_i p_i = 1$

 E_i : energy of the system when it is in state i

In thermal equilibrium, the probability of state i is

(Canonical distribution / Gibbs distribution)

$$p_i = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(-\frac{E_i}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$Z = \sum_{i} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{i}}{k_{R}T}\right)$$

 $\exp(-E/k_{_B}T)$: Boltzmann factor

Z : sum over states (partition function)

We set $k_{\scriptscriptstyle R} = 1$ and view $-\log p_{\scriptscriptstyle I}$ as "energy"

- 1. States of low energy have a higher probability of occurrence than the states of high energy.
- 2. As the temperature *T* is reduced, the probability is concentrated on a smaller subset of low-energy states.

Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC), Metropolis Algorithm

Metropolis Algorithm

A stochastic algorithm for simulating the evolution of a physical system to thermal equilibrium. A modified Monte Carlo method.

Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method

Algorithm Metropolis

```
1. X_n = x_i. Randomly generate a new state x_j.

2. \Delta E = E(x_j) - E(x_i)

3. If \Delta E < 0, then X_{n+1} = x_j

else if \Delta E \ge 0, then

{ Select a random number \xi \square U[0,1].

If \xi < \exp(-\Delta E/T), then X_{n+1} = x_j, (accept)

else X_{n+1} = x_i. (reject)
```

Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC), Gibbs Sampling

Gibbs sampling

An iterative adaptive scheme that generates a single value for the conditional distribution for each component of the random vector X, rather than all values of the variables at the same time.

$$\mathbf{X} = X_1, X_2, ..., X_K$$
: a random vector of K components

Assume we know
$$P(X_k | \mathbf{X}_{-k})$$
, where $\mathbf{X}_{-k} = X_1, X_2, ..., X_{k-1}, X_{k+1}, ..., X_K$

Gibbs sampling algorithm (Gibbs sampler)

- 1. Initialize $x_1(0), x_2(0), ..., x_K(0)$.
- $2. i \leftarrow 1$

$$x_1(1) \sim P(X_1 | x_2(0), x_3(0), x_4(0), ..., x_K(0))$$

$$x_2(1) \sim P(X_2 | x_1(1), x_2(0), x_4(0), ..., x_K(0))$$

$$x_3(1) \sim P(X_3 | x_1(1), x_2(1), x_3(0), ..., x_K(0))$$

• • •

$$x_k(1) \sim P(X_k | x_1(1), x_2(1), ..., x_{k-1}(1), x_{k+1}(0), x_K(0))$$

• •

$$x_K(1) \sim P(X_K | x_1(1), x_2(1), ..., x_{K-1}(1))$$

3. If (termination condition not met), then $i \leftarrow i+1$ and go to step 2.

Summary

- 1. Uncertainty arises because of both laziness and ignorance. It is inescapable in nondeterministic, or partially observable environments.
- 2. Probabilities express the agent's inability to reach a definite decision regarding the truth of a sentence. Probabilities summarize the agent's beliefs relative to the evidence.
- 3. Basic probability statements include **prior probabilities** and **conditional probabilities** over simple and complex propositions.
- 4. The **full joint probability distribution** specifies the probability of each complete assignment of values to random variables.
- **5. Bayes' rule** allows unknown probabilities to be computed from known conditional probabilities, usually in the causal direction.
- **6.** Conditional independence brought about by direct causal relationships in the domain might allow the full joint distribution to be factored into smaller, conditional distributions.
- 7. **Information theory:** information, entropy, joint entropy, conditional entropy, mutual information, cross, entropy, relative entropy (KL divergence)