**Machine Learning**

**Session 2**

1. **Probability Theory**: A branch of mathematics concerned with the analysis of random phenomena.

A probability space consists of three elements:

* 1. *Sample space* : set of all possible outcomes.
  2. *Event space* : an event being a set of outcomes in the sample space.
  3. *Probability function* : assigns each event in the event space a probability, which is a number between 0 and 1.

1. **Axioms of probability**:
   1. : The probability of an event happening is always more than or equal to zero.
   2. : The probability that at least one of all the possible outcomes of a process (such as rolling a die) will occur is 1.
   3. : If two events *A* and *B* are **mutually exclusive**, then the probability of either *A* or *B* occurring is the probability of *A* occurring plus the probability of *B* occurring. Mutually exclusive means that events A and B cannot both occur at once.
2. **Probability mathematics**:
   1. : The sum rule. The probability that an event in *A* *or* *B* will happen is the sum of the probability of an event in *A* and the probability of an event in *B*, minus the probability of an event that is in both *A* *and* *B*.
   2. : The vertical bar in , means "given," so this could also be read as "the probability that B occurs *given* that A has occurred."

This formula says that we can multiply the probabilities of two events, but we need to take the first event into account when considering the probability of the second event.

If the events are independent, one happening doesn't impact the probability of the other, and in that case, .

1. **Conditional probability**: A measure of the probability of an event occurring, given that another event has already occurred. The mathematical formula is given as the probability an event that is in both *A* *and* *B* divided by the probability of an event in *B*.  
   1. **Total probability law**: The rule states that if the probability of an event is unknown, it can be calculated using the known probabilities of several distinct events.  
        
      For example, there are three events: A, B, and C. Events B and C are distinct from each other while event A intersects with both events. We do not know the probability of event A. However, we know the probability of event A under condition B and the probability of event A under condition C.

The total probability rule states that by using the two conditional probabilities, we can find the probability of event A.

* 1. **Bayes Rule:** Bayes rule provides us with a way to update our beliefs based on the arrival of new, relevant pieces of evidence. For example, if we were trying to provide the probability that a given person has cancer, we would initially just say it is whatever percent of the population has cancer. However, given additional evidence such as the fact that the person is a smoker, we can update our probability, since the probability of having cancer is higher given that the person is a smoker. This allows us to utilize prior knowledge to improve our probability estimations.  
       
     In this formula, **A** is the event we want the probability of, and **B** is the new evidence that is related to A in some way.

is called the **posterior**; this is what we are trying to estimate. In the above example, this would be the “probability of having cancer given that the person is a smoker”.

 is called the**likelihood**; this is the probability of observing the new evidence, given our initial hypothesis. In the above example, this would be the “probability of being a smoker given that the person has cancer”.

 is called the **prior**; this is the probability of our hypothesis without any additional prior information. In the above example, this would be the “probability of having cancer”.

 is called the **marginal likelihood**; this is the total probability of observing the evidence. In the above example, this would be the “probability of being a smoker”. In many applications of Bayes Rule, this is ignored, as it mainly serves as normalization.  
  
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bayes-theorem.asp>

1. **Independence**: When one event has no influence on the probability of another.
2. **Cumulative Distribution Function (cdf)**:   
     
   A random variable (RV), , is a measurable function from a set of possible outcomes to a measurable space.  
     
   Discrete random variables take on a countable number of distinct values. Consider an experiment where a coin is tossed three times. If X represents the number of times that the coin comes up heads, then X is a discrete random variable that can only have the values 0, 1, 2, 3 (from no heads in three successive coin tosses to all heads). No other value is possible for X.  
     
   Continuous random variables can represent any value within a specified range or interval and can take on an infinite number of possible values (called cdf). An example of a continuous random variable would be an experiment that involves measuring the amount of rainfall in a city over a year or the average height of a random group of 25 people.
3. **Sample mean**: Measure of the average of all samples. Calculated by summing up the samples and dividing by no. of total samples.
4. **Expected value** : The expected value is calculated by multiplying each of the possible outcomes by the likelihood each outcome will occur and then summing all those values.   
     
   The EV of a random variable gives a measure of the centre of the distribution of the variable. Essentially, the EV is the long-term average value of the variable.
5. **Law of Large Numbers**: States that an observed sample average from a large sample will be close to the true population average and that it will get closer the larger the sample.

The law of large numbers does not guarantee that a given sample, especially a small sample, will reflect the true population characteristics or that a sample which does not reflect the true population will be balanced by a subsequent sample.

1. **Variance**: Variance is a measure of dispersion of data points from the mean. Low variance indicates that data points are generally similar and do not vary widely from the mean. High variance indicates that data values have greater variability and are more widely dispersed from the mean.  
     
   The formula for variance is the sum of the squared differences between each data point and the mean, divided by the number of data values.
2. **Standard deviation**: A measure of how spread-out numbers are.
3. **Gaussian Distribution**: Normal distribution, also known as the Gaussian distribution, is a probability distribution that is symmetric about the mean, showing that data near the mean are more frequent in occurrence than data far from the mean.
4. **Joint probability distribution**: See PDF in same folder.
5. **Marginal density**: See PDF in same folder.
6. **Covariance:** When two random variables, and , are defined on a probability space, it is useful to describe how they vary together. A common measure of the relationship between the two random variables is the covariance.
7. **Correlations**: refers to the degree to which a pair of variables are linearly related.  
     
   NOTE: Covariance and correlation will have the same sign (positive or negative).
8. **Covariance Matrix**: A multivariate generalization of the definition of variance for a scalar random variable. Variance and covariance are often displayed together in a variance-covariance matrix, (aka, a covariance matrix). The variances appear along the diagonal and covariances appear in the off-diagonal elements.