

# *Probability overview*

*Probabilistic Graphical Models*

Jerónimo Hernández-González

# Probability Overview

- ▶ Events

Discrete random variables, continuous random variables, compound events

- ▶ Axioms of probability

What defines a reasonable theory of uncertainty

- ▶ Conditional probabilities

- ▶ Chain rule

- ▶ Bayes rule

- ▶ Joint probability distribution

- ▶  $P(Y|X)$ : Facing practical problems

- ▶ Conditional independencies for model simplification
- ▶ Principles of parameter estimation

# Random Variables

- ▶ Informally,  $A$  is a random variable if
  - ▶  $A$  denotes something about which we are uncertain
  - ▶ perhaps the outcome of a randomized experiment
- ▶ Examples
  - ▶  $A$  : True if a randomly drawn person from our class is female
  - ▶  $A$  : The hometown of a randomly drawn person from our class
  - ▶  $A$  : True if two randomly drawn persons from our class have same birthday
- ▶ Define  $P(A)$  as “the fraction of possible worlds in which  $A$  is true” or “the fraction of times  $A$  holds, in repeated runs of the random experiment”
  - ▶ The set of possible worlds is called the sample space,  $S$
  - ▶ A random variable  $A$  is a function defined over  $S$

## *A bit of formalism*

More formally, we have:

- ▶ a sample space  $S$ , a.k.a. the set of possible worlds  
E.g., set of students in our class
- ▶ a random variable is a function defined over the sample space  
Gender:  $S \rightarrow \{m, f\}$   
Height:  $S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- ▶ an event is a subset of  $S$   
E.g., the subset of  $S$  for which Gender=f  
E.g., the subset of  $S$  for which (Gender=m) AND (eyeColor=blue)
- ▶ we are often interested in probabilities of specific events
- ▶ and of specific events conditioned on other specific events

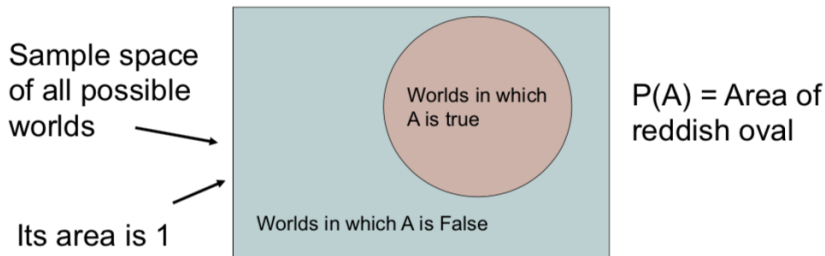
## *A bit of formalism*

- ▶  $X$ : random variable  
(UPPERCASE)
- ▶  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ : random vector  
(BOLD UPPERCASE)
- ▶  $\Omega_X$ : possible values of random variable  $X$ .
- ▶  $x \in \Omega_X$ : a possible value of random variable  $X$ :  $X = x$   
(lowercase)
- ▶  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ : a possible (tuple of) value of a random vector  $\mathbf{X}$ :  $(X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_n = x_n), \forall X_i : x_i \in \Omega_{X_i}$   
(bold lowercase)

## *A bit of formalism*

- ▶  $X$ : random variable  
(UPPERCASE)
  - ▶  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ : random vector  
(BOLD UPPERCASE)
  - ▶  $\Omega_X$ : possible values of random variable  $X$ .
  - ▶  $x \in \Omega_X$ : a possible value of random variable  $X$ :  $X = x$   
(lowercase)
  - ▶  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ : a possible (tuple of) value of a random vector  $\mathbf{X}$ :  $(X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_n = x_n), \forall X_i : x_i \in \Omega_{X_i}$   
(bold lowercase)
- \* Instantiation**

## Visualizing $A$



## *A bit of formalism*

The Axioms of Probability:

- ▶  $0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$
- ▶  $P(\text{True}) = 1$
- ▶  $P(\text{False}) = 0$
- ▶  $P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \text{ and } B)$

[di Finetti 1931]:

when gambling based on “uncertainty formalism A” you can be exploited by an opponent

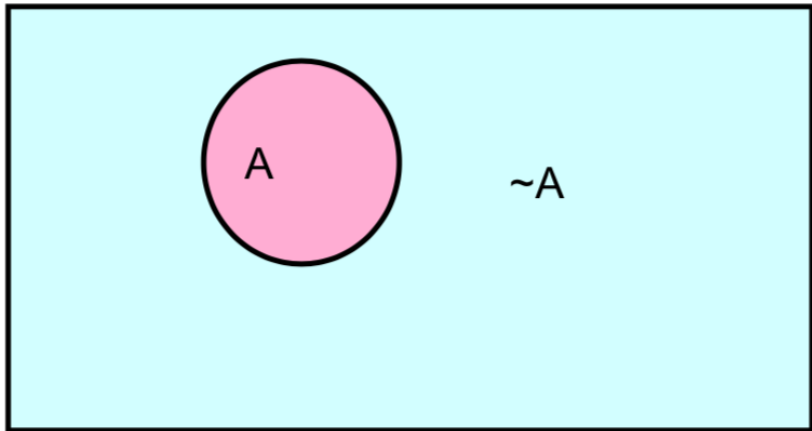
iff

your uncertainty formalism A violates these axioms



## *Elementary probability in pictures*

$$P(\neg A) + P(A) = 1$$



## *A useful theorem*

$$0 \leq P(A) \leq 1, P(\text{True}) = 1, P(\text{False}) = 0$$

$$P(X \text{ or } Y) = P(X) + P(Y) - P(X \text{ and } Y)$$

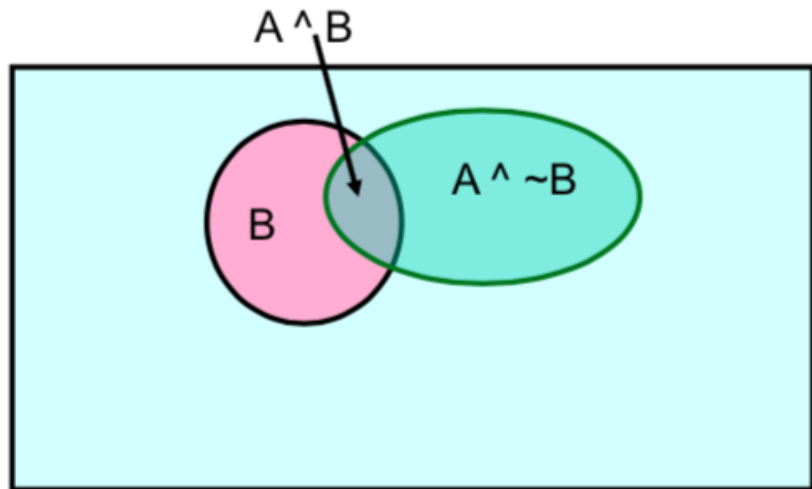
$$A = [A \text{ and } (B \text{ or } \neg B)] = [(A \text{ and } B) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } \neg B)]$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= P(A \text{ and } B) + P(A \text{ and } \neg B) - P((A \text{ and } B) \text{ and } (A \text{ and } \neg B)) \\ &= P(A \text{ and } B) + P(A \text{ and } \neg B) - P(A \text{ and } B \text{ and } A \text{ and } \neg B) \end{aligned}$$

$$P(A) = P(A \text{ and } B) + P(A \text{ and } \neg B)$$

## *Elementary probability in pictures*

$$P(A) = P(A \text{ and } B) + P(A \text{ and } \neg B) \quad [\text{and} \equiv \wedge]$$

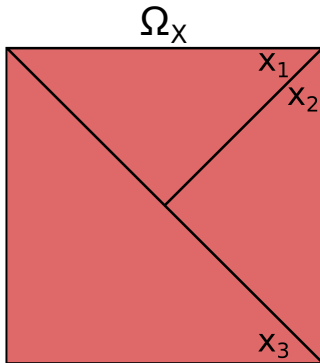


## Concepts of probability

$p(X)$ : marginal probabilities

$$0 \leq p(X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$\left( \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} p(X = x) \right) = 1$$



$$p(X = x_1) = 1/4$$

$$p(X = x_2) = 1/4$$

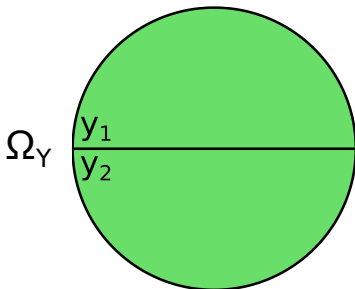
$$p(X = x_3) = 1/2$$

## Concepts of probability

$p(X)$ : marginal probabilities

$$0 \leq p(X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$\left( \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} p(X = x) \right) = 1$$



$$p(Y = y_1) = 1/2$$

$$p(Y = y_2) = 1/2$$

## Concepts of probability

$p(X)$ : marginal probabilities

$$0 \leq p(X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$\left( \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} p(X = x) \right) = 1$$

$p(\mathbf{X})$ : joint probabilities

$$0 \leq p(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) \leq 1, \forall \mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \Omega_{X_1} \times \dots \times \Omega_{X_n}$$

$$\left( \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{X_1} \times \dots \times \Omega_{X_n}} p(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) \right) = 1$$

$$p(\mathbf{X}) = p(X_1, \dots, X_n) = p(X_1 \cap \dots \cap X_n)$$

## Concepts of probability

$p(X)$ : marginal probabilities

$$0 \leq p(X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$\left( \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} p(X = x) \right) = 1$$

$p(\mathbf{X})$ : joint probabilities

$$0 \leq p(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) \leq 1, \forall \mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \Omega_{X_1} \times \dots \times \Omega_{X_n}$$

$$\left( \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{X_1} \times \dots \times \Omega_{X_n}} p(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) \right) = 1$$

$$p(\mathbf{X}) = p(X_1, \dots, X_n) = p(X_1 \cap \dots \cap X_n)$$

Marginalization

$$p(Y) = \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} p(Y|X = x) \cdot p(X = x)$$

## Concepts of probability

$p(X)$ : marginal probabilities

$$0 \leq p(X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$\left( \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} p(X = x) \right) = 1$$

$p(\mathbf{X})$ : joint probabilities

$$0 \leq p(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) \leq 1, \forall \mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \Omega_{X_1} \times \dots \times \Omega_{X_n}$$

$$\left( \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{X_1} \times \dots \times \Omega_{X_n}} p(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) \right) = 1$$

$$p(\mathbf{X}) = p(X_1, \dots, X_n) = p(X_1 \cap \dots \cap X_n)$$

$p(Y|X)$ : conditional probabilities

$$0 \leq p(Y = y|X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X \wedge y \in \Omega_Y$$

$$\left( \sum_{y \in \Omega_Y} p(Y = y|X = x) \right) = 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{p(X, Y)}{p(X)} \text{ with } p(X) \neq 0$$



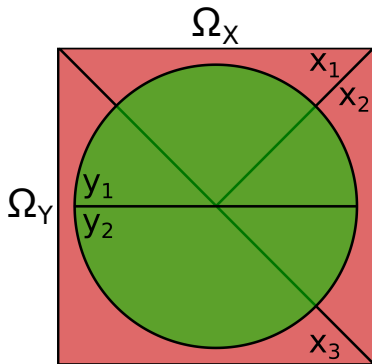
## Concepts of probability

$p(Y|X)$ : conditional probabilities

$$0 \leq p(Y = y|X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X \wedge y \in \Omega_Y$$

$$\left( \sum_{y \in \Omega_Y} p(Y = y|X = x) \right) = 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{p(X,Y)}{p(X)} \text{ with } p(X) \neq 0$$



$$\begin{aligned} p(Y = y_1|X = x_1) &= \\ p(Y = y_2|X = x_1) &= \\ p(Y = y_1|X = x_2) &= \\ p(Y = y_2|X = x_2) &= \\ p(Y = y_1|X = x_3) &= \\ p(Y = y_2|X = x_3) &= \end{aligned}$$

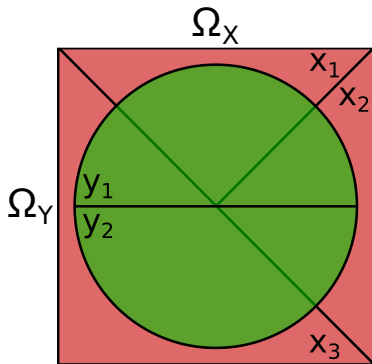
## Concepts of probability

$p(Y|X)$ : conditional probabilities

$$0 \leq p(Y = y|X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X \wedge y \in \Omega_Y$$

$$\left( \sum_{y \in \Omega_Y} p(Y = y|X = x) \right) = 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{p(X,Y)}{p(X)} \text{ with } p(X) \neq 0$$



$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_1) = 1$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_1) = 0$$

$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_2) =$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_2) =$$

$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_3) =$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_3) =$$

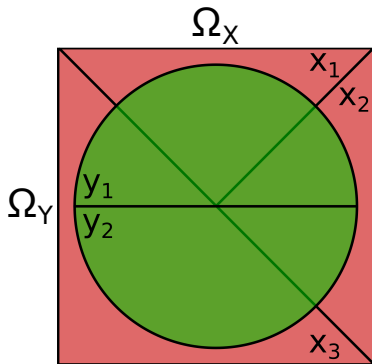
## Concepts of probability

$p(Y|X)$ : conditional probabilities

$$0 \leq p(Y = y|X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X \wedge y \in \Omega_Y$$

$$\left( \sum_{y \in \Omega_Y} p(Y = y|X = x) \right) = 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{p(X,Y)}{p(X)} \text{ with } p(X) \neq 0$$



$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_1) = 1$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_1) = 0$$

$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_2) = 1/2$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_2) = 1/2$$

$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_3) =$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_3) =$$

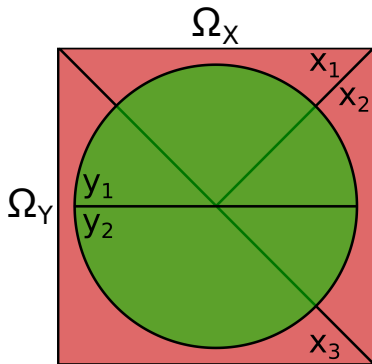
## Concepts of probability

$p(Y|X)$ : conditional probabilities

$$0 \leq p(Y = y|X = x) \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X \wedge y \in \Omega_Y$$

$$\left( \sum_{y \in \Omega_Y} p(Y = y|X = x) \right) = 1, \forall x \in \Omega_X$$

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{p(X,Y)}{p(X)} \text{ with } p(X) \neq 0$$



$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_1) = 1$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_1) = 0$$

$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_2) = 1/2$$

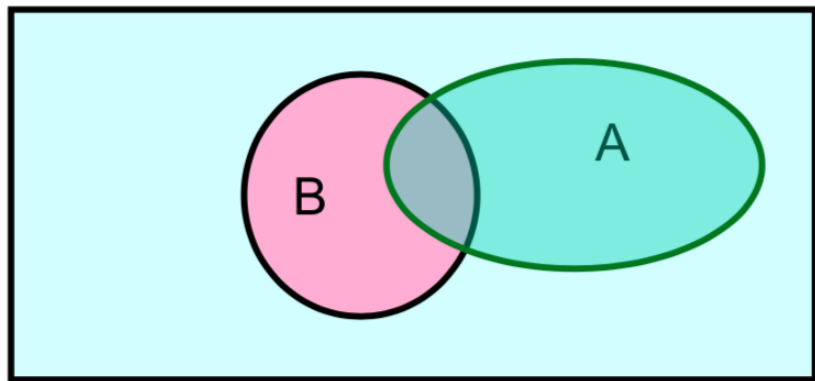
$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_2) = 1/2$$

$$p(Y = y_1|X = x_3) = 1/4$$

$$p(Y = y_2|X = x_3) = 3/4$$

## *Definition of Conditional Probability*

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A, B)}{P(B)}$$



## *Definition of Conditional Probability*

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A, B)}{P(B)}$$

### The Chain Rule

$$P(A, B) = P(A|B) \cdot P(B)$$

## Chain rule

### Chain rule

For all  $\mathbf{x}$  we have that

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

\*\* it holds for **any ordering** of  $X_1, \dots, X_n$

- ▶ Joint distribution as a **product of conditional probabilities**
- ▶ Example:

$$p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = p(x_1)p(x_2|x_1)p(x_3|x_1, x_2)p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

## Exercise

### Chain rule

Let be  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4)$ , show that for all  $\mathbf{x}$  we have that

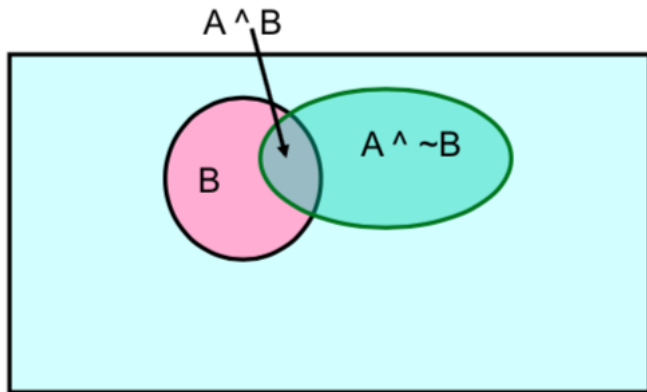
$$p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = p(x_1)p(x_2|x_1)p(x_3|x_1, x_2)p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

**\*\* Remember that**  $p(x_i|x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}) = \frac{p(x_1, \dots, x_i)}{p(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})}$



## Bayes rule

2 expressions for  $P(A, B)$



## Bayes rule

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B)}$$

We call  $P(A)$  the “prior”

and  $P(A|B)$  the “posterior”



**Bayes, Thomas (1763)** An essay towards solving a problem in the doctrine of chances. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, **53:370-418**

*This is also the Bayes rule*

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B|A) \cdot P(A) + P(B|\neg A) \cdot P(\neg A)}$$

$$P(A|B, C) = \frac{P(B|A, C) \cdot P(A, C)}{P(B, C)}$$

## Exercise

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B|A) \cdot P(A) + P(B|\neg A) \cdot P(\neg A)}$$

$A$  : you have a flu,  $B$  : you just coughed

Assume:

- ▶  $P(A) = 0,05$
- ▶  $P(B|A) = 0,80$
- ▶  $P(B|\neg A) = 0,2$

what is you have a flu given that you just coughed?

## Independent events

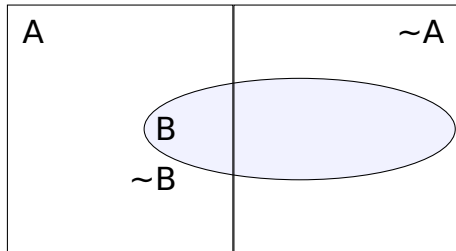
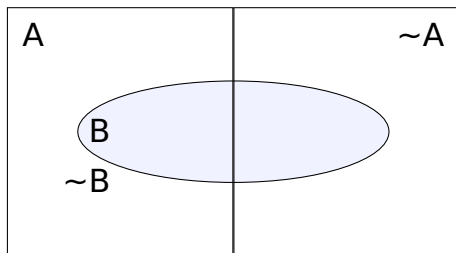
### Definition


Two events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent if

$$P(A, B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$$


**\*\* Intuition \*\***

Knowing  $A$  tells us nothing about the value of  $B$  (and vice versa)



**Gobierno de Canarias**

Portal de Noticias

**Datos COVID-19**

MENÚ

Actualidad sanitaria, Portada, Salud Pública, Sanidad 5 de noviembre de 2021

## El 84 por ciento de la población canaria de más de 12 años está ya inmunizado contra la COVID-19



SOCIEDAD


ED(+)

**El 57% de los ingresados por coronavirus en Canarias está sin vacunar y no sufre patologías previas**


Yanira Martín

- Can you tell which is the probability of ending up in the hospital if you get COVID19 and you are not vaccinated?

## Exercise

**Gobierno de Canarias**

Portal de Noticias

**Datos COVID-19**

MENÚ

Actualidad sanitaria, Portada, Salud Pública, Sanidad 5 de noviembre de 2021

### El 84 por ciento de la población canaria de más de 12 años está ya inmunizado contra la COVID-19



SOCIEDAD

ED(+)

**El 57% de los ingresados por coronavirus en Canarias está sin vacunar y no sufre patologías previas**

Yanira Martín

- ▶ Can you tell which is the probability of ending up in the hospital if you get COVID19 and you are not vaccinated?
- ▶ Can say anything?

What does all this have to do with  
function approximation?

instead of  $F : X \rightarrow Y$ ,

learn  $P(Y|X)$



## Joint distribution

Recipe for making a joint distribution of  $M$  variables:

1. Make a truth table listing all possible combinations of values  
( $M$  variables  $\rightarrow 2^M$  combinations)

A	B	C
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1

## Joint distribution

Recipe for making a joint distribution of  $M$  variables:

1. Make a truth table listing all possible combinations of values  
( $M$  variables  $\rightarrow 2^M$  combinations)
2. Say how probable each combination is

A	B	C	Prob
0	0	0	0.30
0	0	1	0.05
0	1	0	0.10
0	1	1	0.05
1	0	0	0.05
1	0	1	0.10
1	1	0	0.25
1	1	1	0.10

## Joint distribution

Recipe for making a joint distribution of  $M$  variables:

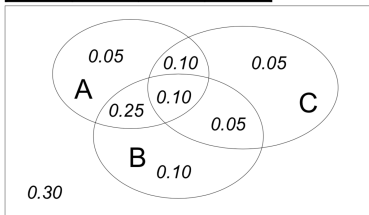
1. Make a truth table listing all possible combinations of values

( $M$  variables  $\rightarrow 2^M$  combinations)

2. Say how probable each combination is

Subscribed to the axioms of probability if sum to 1

A	B	C	Prob
0	0	0	0.30
0	0	1	0.05
0	1	0	0.10
0	1	1	0.05
1	0	0	0.05
1	0	1	0.10
1	1	0	0.25
1	1	1	0.10











# Exercise

Using the joint distribution

You can ask for the probability  
of any logical expression  
involving your attribute

$$P(E) = \sum_{r: \text{rows matching } E} P(r)$$









gender	hours_worked	wealth	
Female	v0:40.5-	poor	0.253122 
		rich	0.0245895 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.0421768 
		rich	0.0116293 
Male	v0:40.5-	poor	0.331313 
		rich	0.0971295 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.134106 
		rich	0.105933 

# Exercise

Using the joint distribution

$$P(E) = \sum_{r: \text{ rows matching } E} P(r)$$

$$P(\text{Poor} \wedge \text{Male}) = ?$$









gender	hours_worked	wealth	
Female	v0:40.5-	poor	0.253122 
		rich	0.0245895 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.0421768 
		rich	0.0116293 
Male	v0:40.5-	poor	0.331313 
		rich	0.0971295 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.134106 
		rich	0.105933 

# Exercise

Using the joint distribution

$$P(E) = \sum_{r: \text{ rows matching } E} P(r)$$









$$P(\text{Poor}) = ?$$

gender	hours_worked	wealth	
Female	v0:40.5-	poor	0.253122 
		rich	0.0245895 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.0421768 
		rich	0.0116293 
Male	v0:40.5-	poor	0.331313 
		rich	0.0971295 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.134106 
		rich	0.105933 

## *Inference with the joint distribution*

You can ask for the probability  
of any logical expression  
involving a subset of attributes  
given another expression  
involving other attributes

$$P(E_1|E_2) = \frac{P(E_1 \wedge E_2)}{P(E_2)}$$
$$= \frac{\sum_{r: \text{rows matching } E_1 \text{ \& } E_2} P(r)}{\sum_{o: \text{rows matching } E_2} P(o)}$$


gender	hours_worked	wealth	
Female	v0:40.5-	poor	0.253122 
		rich	0.0245895 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.0421768 
		rich	0.0116293 
Male	v0:40.5-	poor	0.331313 
		rich	0.0971295 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.134106 
		rich	0.105933 

## Exercise

### Inference with the joint distribution

You can ask for the probability  
of any logical expression  
involving a subset of attributes  
given another expression  
involving other attributes

$$P(E_1|E_2) = \frac{P(E_1 \wedge E_2)}{P(E_2)}$$
$$= \frac{\sum_{r: \text{rows matching } E_1 \text{ \& } E_2} P(r)}{\sum_{o: \text{rows matching } E_2} P(o)}$$

gender	hours_worked	wealth	
Female	v0:40.5-	poor	0.253122 
		rich	0.0245895 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.0421768 
		rich	0.0116293 
Male	v0:40.5-	poor	0.331313 
		rich	0.0971295 
	v1:40.5+	poor	0.134106 
		rich	0.105933 

$$P(\text{Male}|\text{Poor})=?$$



## Learning and the joint distribution

Suppose we want to learn the function  $f : \langle G, H \rangle \rightarrow W$

Equivalently,  $P(W|G, H)$

Solution:

- ▶ Learn joint distribution from train data
- ▶ Calculate  $P(W|G, H)$  for test data

E.g., given a *female* patient of 39 years old:

$$\arg \max_{w \in \{rich, poor\}} P(W = w | G = female, H = 39)$$

*Solution?*

$P(Y|X)$  sounds like a nice alternative solution to function  
 $F : X \rightarrow Y$

Are we done?

## *Solution?*

$P(Y|X)$  sounds like a nice alternative solution to function  
 $F : X \rightarrow Y$

# Are we done?

### Main problem

Learning  $P(Y|X)$  may require more data than we have

## *Solution?*

$P(Y|X)$  sounds like a nice alternative solution to function  
 $F : X \rightarrow Y$

# Are we done?

### Main problem

Learning  $P(Y|X)$  may require more data than we have

E.g., consider learning the joint distribution for 100 binary variables

- ▶ # of rows in this table?
- ▶ # of data samples to learn faithfully?
- ▶ # of rows never observed?

# *Facing practical problems*

## What to do?

1. Be smart about how to represent joint distributions
  - ▶ Bayesian networks, probabilistic graphical models
2. Be smart about how we estimate probabilities from *\*sparse\** data
  - ▶ maximum likelihood estimates
  - ▶ maximum a posteriori estimates

# *Facing practical problems*

## What to do?

1. **Be smart about how to represent joint distributions**
  - ▶ Bayesian networks, probabilistic graphical models
2. Be smart about how we estimate probabilities from *\*sparse\** data
  - ▶ maximum likelihood estimates
  - ▶ maximum a posteriori estimates

## *From definition to representation*

### Joint distribution

Let  $\mathbf{X}_V$  be a set of variable, then

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_V, p(\mathbf{x}_V) = p(x_1, \dots, x_v)$$

- ▶ A mapping:  $\mathbf{x}_V \mapsto [0, 1]$
- ▶  $\sum_{\mathbf{x}_V} p(\mathbf{x}_V) = 1$
- ▶ Number of **free parameters**:  $\prod_{i=1}^v r_i - 1 = r_V - 1$
- ▶ **Exponential in the number of variables,  $v$**

## *From definition to representation*

### Marginal distribution

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be a partition of  $V$ . Then,

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B, p(\mathbf{x}_A) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}_B} p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B)$$

- ▶ Number of **free parameters**:  $\prod_{i \in A} r_i - 1 = r_A - 1$



## From definition to representation

### Conditional distribution

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be a partition of  $V$

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_A, p(\mathbf{x}_A | \mathbf{x}_B) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B)}{p(\mathbf{x}_B)} = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B)}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}_A} p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B)}$$

- ▶ Family of distribution:

A marginal distribution for each value assignment  $\mathbf{X}_B = \mathbf{x}_B$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{x}_A} p(\mathbf{x}_A | \mathbf{x}_B) = 1$$

- ▶ Number of **free parameters**:

$$(\prod_{i \in A} r_i - 1) \cdot (\prod_{j \in B} r_j) = (r_A - 1) \cdot r_B$$

## Exercise

$X_1$	$X_2$	$p(X_1, X_2)$
-	banana	0.1
-	apple	0.3
-	pear	0.2
+	banana	0.1
+	apple	0.2
+	pear	0.1

- ▶ Determine the domains of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ .
- ▶ Obtain the marginal distributions  $p(X_1)$  y  $p(X_2)$
- ▶ Obtain the conditional distributions  $p(X_1|X_2 = \text{apple})$  y  $p(X_2|X_1 = +)$
- ▶ Compute the number of free parameters  $p(X_1)$ ,  $p(X_1|X_2)$  y  $p(X_1, X_2)$

# Conditional independence

## A qualitative relationship between random variables

Let  $A, B, C$  be disjoint subsets of  $V = \{1, \dots, v\}$ . We say that  $\mathbf{X}_A$  is independent from  $\mathbf{X}_B$  given  $\mathbf{X}_C$  if and only if for all  $(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B, \mathbf{x}_C)$  we have that  $p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_B, \mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)$ .

- ▶ Denoted by  $\mathbf{X}_A \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{X}_B | \mathbf{X}_C$
- ▶  $p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_B, \mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)$ : Knowing/observing/fixing  $\mathbf{x}_C$ , the value  $\mathbf{x}_B$  does not modify the probability of  $\mathbf{x}_A$
- ▶ Exercise: Prove that  $\mathbf{X}_A \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{X}_B | \mathbf{X}_C \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B | \mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A | \mathbf{x}_C) \cdot p(\mathbf{x}_B | \mathbf{x}_C)$

## Conditional independence

- ▶ Allow to **simplify** the factorization given by the **chain rule**
- ▶ Choose an appropriate **ordering** that allows to apply the **independence** over a **conditional distribution**

### Example

- ▶  $\mathbf{X} = X_1, \dots, X_5$
- ▶  $3 \perp\!\!\!\perp 4 | 1, 5$
- ▶ Ordering: 1, 4, 5, 3, 2

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{X}) &= p(\mathbf{X}_{1,4,5}) p(X_3 | \mathbf{X}_{1,4,5}) p(X_2 | \mathbf{X}_{1,3,4,5}) \\ &= p(\mathbf{X}_{1,4,5}) p(X_3 | \mathbf{X}_{1,5}) p(X_2 | \mathbf{X}_{1,3,4,5}) \end{aligned}$$

## Exercise

True or false:

- ▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_B) = p(\mathbf{x}_A)$
- ▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_B, \mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)$
- ▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B|\mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)$
- ▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B|X_C \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B|\mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)p(\mathbf{x}_B|\mathbf{x}_C)$
- ▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B|X_C \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_B, \mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)p(\mathbf{x}_B|\mathbf{x}_C)$
- ▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B|X_C \Rightarrow p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B|\mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A|\mathbf{x}_C)p(\mathbf{x}_B|\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_C)$

## Counting the parameters

Conditional independences reduce the number of (free) parameters

▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B$

▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}: p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B) = p(\mathbf{x}_A)p(\mathbf{x}_B)$

▶ From  $r_A \cdot r_B - 1$  to  $r_A - 1 + r_B - 1$

E.g.,  $r_A = 3, r_B = 4$

From  $3 \times 4 - 1$  to  $2 + 3$

▶  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B | X_C$

▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}: p(\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{x}_B | \mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_A | \mathbf{x}_C)p(\mathbf{x}_B | \mathbf{x}_C)$













▶ From  $(r_A \cdot r_B - 1) \cdot r_C$  to  $(r_A - 1 + r_B - 1) \cdot r_C$

E.g.,  $r_A = 3, r_B = 4, r_C = 3$

From  $(3 \times 4 - 1) \times 3$  to  $(2 + 3) \cdot 3$








## Counting the parameters, without independence

$p(A, B)$ : three parameters

	+	-	
+			 + 
-			 + 
	 + 	 + 	

## Counting the parameters, without independence













$p(A, B)$ : three parameters

	+	-	
+			 + 
-		$1 - (\text{red square} + \text{magenta square} + \text{cyan square})$	$1 - (\text{red square} + \text{cyan square})$
	 + 	$1 - (\text{red square} + \text{magenta square})$	















## Counting the parameters, with independence

$p(A, B)$ : two parameters

	+	-	
+	 x 	 x 	
-	 x 	 x 	
			

## Counting the parameters, with independence

$p(A, B)$ : two parameters

	+	-	
+	 $\times$ 	 $\times$ (1-  )	
-	 $\times$ (1-  )	(1-  ) $\times$ (1-  )	(1-  )
		(1-  )	

# Conditional independence

## Discarding parameters

The complexity of a statistical model can be understood as its **flexibility** for learning or its **requirement of memory**

Conditional independences:

- ▶ **Reduce the complexity** (i.e., # parameters) of the statistical model represented by the (simplified) chain rule
- ▶ Allow for **avoiding** to model (irrelevant) parameters associated to **soft conditional dependences**
- ▶ Help to deal with the **trade-off** between the **complexity** of the statistical model and amount of **train data**  
This has crucial implications in statistical models, e.g., **overfitting**

## Exercise

Let be  $r_A = 6, r_B = 4, r_C = 8$ .

- ▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}, p(\mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{X}_A, \mathbf{X}_B, \mathbf{X}_C)$
  - ▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}, p(\mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{X}_A)p(\mathbf{X}_B)p(\mathbf{X}_C)$
  - ▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}, p(\mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{X}_A|\mathbf{X}_B)p(\mathbf{X}_B)p(\mathbf{X}_C)$
  - ▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}, p(\mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{X}_A|\mathbf{X}_C)p(\mathbf{X}_B|\mathbf{X}_C)p(\mathbf{X}_C)$
  - ▶  $\forall \mathbf{x}, p(\mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{X}_A)p(\mathbf{X}_B|\mathbf{X}_A)p(\mathbf{X}_C|\mathbf{X}_A, \mathbf{X}_B)$
1. Calculate the number of free parameters
  2. Read conditional independences from factorizations

# *Facing practical problems*

## What to do?

1. Be smart about how to represent joint distributions
  - ▶ Bayesian networks, probabilistic graphical models
2. Be smart about how we estimate probabilities from *\*sparse\** data
  - ▶ maximum likelihood estimates
  - ▶ maximum a posteriori estimates

# *Facing practical problems*

## What to do?

1. Be smart about how to represent joint distributions
  - ▶ Bayesian networks, probabilistic graphical models
2. **Be smart about how we estimate probabilities from \*sparse\* data**
  - ▶ maximum likelihood estimates
  - ▶ maximum a posteriori estimates

## *You should know*

- ▶ Events

Discrete random variables, continuous random variables, compound events

- ▶ Axioms of probability

What defines a reasonable theory of uncertainty

- ▶ Conditional probabilities

- ▶ Chain rule

- ▶ Bayes rule

- ▶ Joint probability distribution

How to calculate other quantities from the joint distribution

- ▶  $P(Y|X)$ : Facing practical problems

- ▶ Conditional independencies for model simplification
- ▶ Principles of parameter estimation

## Notation

- ▶ Indices  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , subsets of indices  $A, B, C \subseteq V$
- ▶ Random variables  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_A = (X_i : i \in A)$
- ▶ Domain of  $X_i$ ,  $\Omega_i$  con  $|\Omega_i| = r_i$
- ▶ Instance/case/sample:  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_A = (X_i : i \in A)$
- ▶ Data set:  $D = \{\mathbf{x}^1, \dots, \mathbf{x}^N\}$
- ▶ Probability distribution:  $\mathbf{X}$  distributed according to  $p(\mathbf{X})$
- ▶ Probability of observing  $\mathbf{x}$ :  $p(\mathbf{x})$



# *Probability overview*

*Probabilistic Graphical Models*

Jerónimo Hernández-González