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Advanced Programming

Probabilistic Programming in a Nuthshell

IT UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

SOFTWARE QUALITY RESEARCH

Probabilistic Programming

What and Why.

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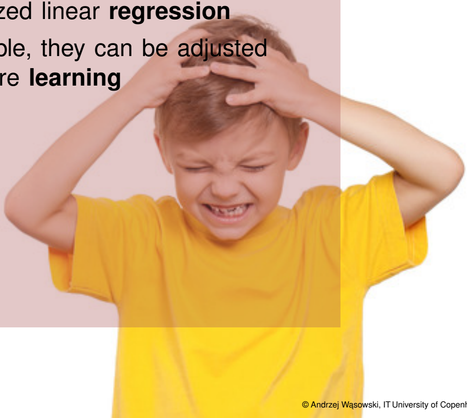

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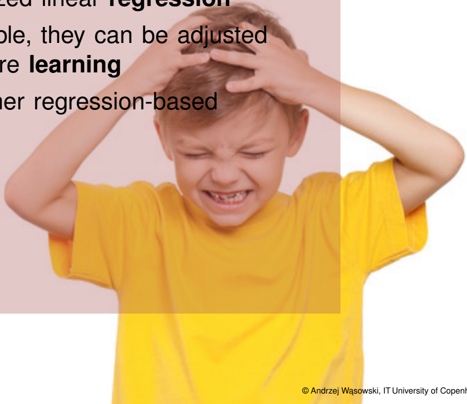

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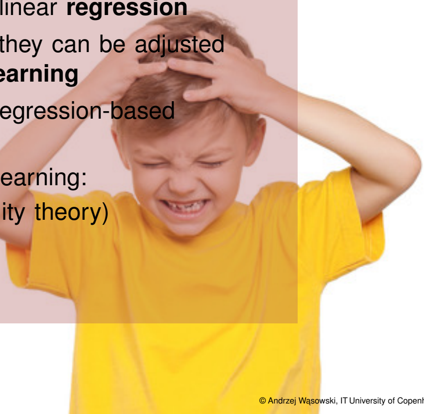

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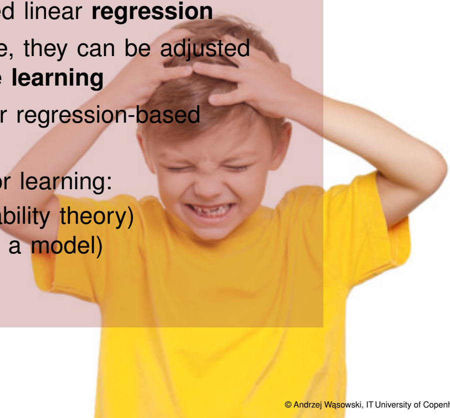

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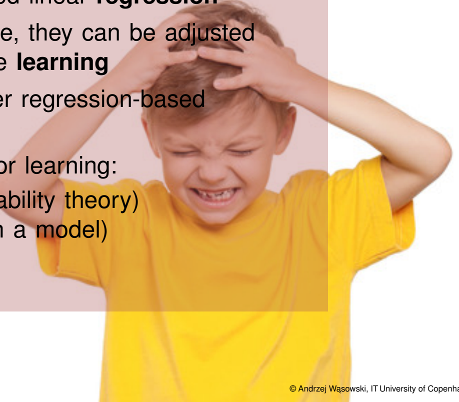
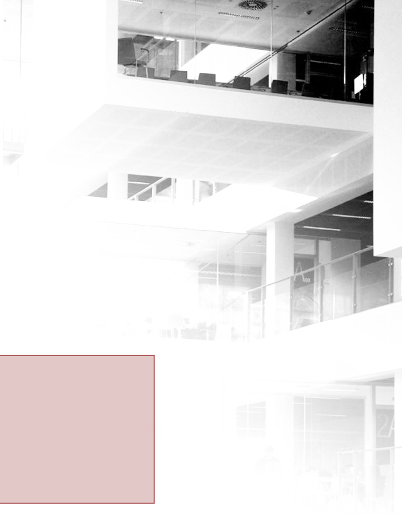
  - Bonus: it is monadic and functional!





- Probability
- Conditional probability
- Bayes theorem

AGENDA

General definition of probability function

Definition (Dekking et al. p. 16)

A **probability function** p on a **finite sample space** S assigns to each event E in S **a number** $p(E)$ **in** $[0, 1]$ such that

i. $p(S) = 1$, and

ii. $P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F)$ if E and F are **disjoint**.

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The additive property (ii) implies the following theorem.

Theorem

For a finite sample space S we have that

$$p(E) = \sum_{s \in E} p(\{s\})$$

Note: Rosen uses the shorthand notation $p(s) = p(\{s\})$ for $s \in S$.

Conditional probability

Definition (Rosen p. 442)

Let E and F be events with $p(F) > 0$. The conditional probability of E given F, denoted by $p(E|F)$, is defined as

$$p(E|F) = \frac{p(E \cap F)}{p(F)}$$

Example

What is the conditional probability of an odd number given that I rolled a prime number with a fair die?

Let $O = \{1, 3, 5\}$ and $P = \{2, 3, 5\}$. Since $O \cap P = \{3, 5\}$ we have

$$p(O|P) = \frac{2/6}{3/6} = \frac{2}{3}$$

Conditional probability

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Let the sample space be $S = \{\mathrm{BB}, \mathrm{BG}, \mathrm{GB}, \mathrm{GG}\}$ and assume that each possible outcome is equally likely.

Exercise

What is the probability of having two boys?

Conditional probability

Example

What is the conditional probability that a family with two children has two boys, given they have at least one boy?

Let the sample space be $S = \{\mathrm{BB}, \mathrm{BG}, \mathrm{GB}, \mathrm{GG}\}$ and assume that each possible outcome is equally likely.

Let E be the event that they have two boys, i.e. $E = \{\mathrm{BB}\}$.

Let F be the event that they have at least one boy, $F = \{\mathrm{BB}, \mathrm{BG}, \mathrm{GB}\}$

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Since the four possibilities are equally likely, we have that $p(E \cap F) = 1/4$ and $p(F) = 3/4$.

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Since the four possibilities are equally likely, we have that $p(E \cap F) = 1/4$ and $p(F) = 3/4$. Therefore we conclude that

$$p(E|F) = \frac{p(E \cap F)}{p(F)} = \frac{1/4}{3/4} = 1/3.$$

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Since $p(E)p(F) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{3}{4} = \frac{3}{16}$ we have that $p(E \cap F) \neq p(E)p(F)$ and therefore E and F are **not independent**.

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Exercise

For independent events E and F show that $p(E|F) = p(E)$.

Bayes' Theorem

Theorem (Rosen p. 455)

Let E and F be events from a sample space S such that $p(E) \neq 0$ and $p(F) \neq 0$. Then

$$p(F|E) = \frac{p(E|F)p(F)}{p(E)}$$

By showing that

$$p(E) = p(E|F)p(F) + p(E|\bar{F})p(\bar{F})$$

we can also express Bayes' theorem as

$$p(F|E) = \frac{p(E|F)p(F)}{p(E|F)p(F) + p(E|\bar{F})p(\bar{F})}$$

Proof: Black board…

Example with Bayes' Theorem (I)

Example (Rosen p.455)

We have **two boxes A and B**:

- Box A contains **2 green balls** and **7 red balls**.
- Box B contains **4 green balls** and **3 red balls**.

Bob selects a ball by

- first choosing one of the two **boxes** at random, and
- then selects one of the **balls** in this box at random.

If Bob has selected a red ball, what is the probability that he selected a ball from the first box?

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Let R be the event that Bob has chosen a red ball and $\bar{R}$ is the event that Bob has chosen a green ball.

Let A be the event that Bob has chosen a ball from box A and $\bar{A}$ is the event that Bob has chosen a ball from box B.

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We then want to find $p(A|R)$.

Example with Bayes' Theorem (II)

Example (Rosen p.455)

We then want to find $p(A|R)$ and have that

$$\begin{aligned} p(A) = p(\bar{A}) &= 1/2 \\ p(R|A) &= 7/9 \\ p(R|\bar{A}) &= 3/7. \end{aligned}$$

This means that

$$P(R) = p(R|A)p(A) + p(R|\bar{A})p(\bar{A}) = \frac{7}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{38}{63}.$$

Using Bayes' theorem we then get

$$p(A|R) = \frac{p(R|A)p(A)}{p(R)} = \frac{7/9 \cdot 1/2}{38/63} = \frac{49}{76} \approx 0.645$$

This means that the probability that Bob selected a ball from box A given that the selected ball was red is approximately 0.645*.*

Random variables

Definition (Rosen p. 446)

A random variable is a function $X : S \to \mathbb{R}$ from the sample space of an experiment to the set of real numbers. That is, a random variable assigns a real number to each possible outcome.

Note that a random variable is a function.
It is not a variable, and it is not random!

Definition

$p(X = r)$ is the probability that X takes the value r, that is

$$p(X = r) = p(\{s \in S : X(s) = r\}).$$

Bernoulli trial

Definition

A Bernoulli trial is a experiment that can only have two possible outcomes: **success** and **failure**.

Exercise

If $\theta \in [0, 1]$ is the probability of **success** in a Bernoulli trial, what is the probability of **failure**?

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Example

Coin flipping is an example of a Bernoulli trial.

For instance H could be **success** and T could be **failure**.

Expected value

Definition (Rosen p. 463)

The **expected value**, also called the *expectation* or *mean*, of the random variable X on the sample space S is equal to

$$E(X) = \sum_{s \in S} p(s)X(s)$$

Theorem

Suppose that X is a random variable with range $X(S)$, and let $p(X = r)$ be the probability that the random variable X takes the value r, then

$$E(X) = \sum_{r \in X(S)} p(X = r)r$$

You can think of $E(X)$ as the mean value of X if you perform the experiment many times.

Expected value

Example (Rosen p. 463)

Let X be the number that comes up when a fair die is rolled. What is the expected value of X?

As X takes values in $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ with equal probability $1/6$, we get

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 3 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 4 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 5 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 6 = \frac{7}{2}$$

Expected value

Theorem

The expected number of successes when n mutually independent Bernoulli trials are performed, where θ is the probability of success on each trial, is $n\theta$.