

Probabilistic Modelling

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Probability review

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$$P(\bigcup_i A_i) = \sum_i P(A_i)$$
 - $P(\Omega) = 1$

Example

Consider the event of tossing a six-sided die. The sample space is $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$. We can define the simplest event space $F = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$. Another event space is the set of all subsets of Ω .

For the first event space, the probability measure is given by $P(\emptyset) = 0$, $P(\Omega) = 1$.

For the second event space, one valid probability measure is to assign the probability of each set in the event space to be $\frac{i}{6}$ where i is the number of elements of that set; for example, $P(\{1, 2, 3, 4\}) = \frac{4}{6}$ and $P(\{1, 2, 3\}) = \frac{3}{6}$

Conditional probability

- Let B be an event with non-zero probability.

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- $P(A | B)$ is the probability measure of the event A after observing the occurrence of event B .

Chain rule

- Let S_1, \dots, S_k be events, $P(S_i) > 0$. Then the chain rule:

$$\begin{aligned} &P(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k) \\ &= P(S_1)P(S_2|S_1)P(S_3|S_2, S_1) \cdot P(S_k|S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{k-1}) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

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- In general, the chain rule is derived by applying the definition of conditional probability multiple times, for example:

$$\begin{aligned} &P(S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4) \\ &= P(S_1, S_2, S_3)P(S_4 | S_1, S_2, S_3) \\ &= P(S_1, S_2)P(S_3 | S_1, S_2)P(S_4 | S_1, S_2, S_3) \\ &= P(S_1)P(S_2 | S_1)P(S_3 | S_1, S_2)P(S_4 | S_1, S_2, S_3) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Independence

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- Thus, independence is equivalent to saying that observing B does not have any effect on the probability of A

Random variables

- We flip 10 coins, and we want to know the number of coins that come up heads.

The sample space Ω are 10-length sequences of heads and tails. For example, we might have $\omega_0 = \langle H, H, T, H, T, H, H, T, T, T \rangle \in \Omega$.

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- We will denote the value that a random variable may take on using lower case letters x .

Thus, $X = x$ means that we are assigning the value $x \in \mathbb{R}$ to the random variable X

Cumulative distribution functions

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- A cumulative distribution function (CDF) is a function $F_X : \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ which specifies a probability measure as,

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) \tag{5}$$

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$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) \quad (5)$$

- Properties:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq F_X(x) \leq 1 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F_X(x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} F_X(x) &= 1 \\ x \leq y &\leftarrow F_X(x) \leq F_X(y) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Probability mass functions

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- A way to represent the probability measure associated with a random variable is to directly specify the probability of each value that the random variable can assume a probability mass function **PMF** is a function
- $p_X : \Omega \rightarrow \Re$ such that $p_X(x) = P(X = x)$
- Properties:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq p_X(x) \leq 1 \\ \sum_{x \in \text{Val}(X)} p_X(x) &= 1 \\ \sum_{x \in A} p_X(x) &= P(X \in A) \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Probability density functions

- For some continuous random variables, the cumulative distribution function $F_X(x)$ is differentiable everywhere. In these cases, we define the Probability Density Function or PDF as the derivative of the CDF

$$f_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx} \quad (8)$$

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- Properties:

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &\geq 0 \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) &= 1 \\ \int_{x \in A} f_X(x) dx &= P(X \in A) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Expectation

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- In this case, $g(X)$ can be considered a random variable, and we define the expectation of $g(X)$ as

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$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \sum_{x \in \text{Val}(X)} g(x)p_X(x) \quad (10)$$

- If X is a continuous random variable with PDF $f_X(x)$, then the expected value of $g(X)$ is defined as:

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f_X(x)dx \quad (11)$$

Expectation

- Intuitively, the expectation of $g(X)$ can be thought of as a **weighted average** of the values that $g(x)$ can take on for different values of x , where the weights are given by $p_X(x)$

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$$\mathbb{E}[a] = a \text{ for any constant } a \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[af(X)] = a \mathbb{E}[f(X)] \text{ for any constant } a \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{Linearity of Expectation } \mathbb{E}[f(X) + g(X)] = \mathbb{E}[f(X)] + \mathbb{E}[g(X)] \quad (12)$$

Discrete random variables

- $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ (where $0 \leq p \leq 1$):
one if a coin with heads probability p comes up heads, zero otherwise

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} p, & \text{if } x = 1. \\ 1 - p, & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

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- $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$ (where $0 \leq p \leq 1$):
the number of heads in n independent flips of a coin with heads probability p

$$p = \binom{n}{x} \cdot p^x (1 - p)^{n-x} \quad (14)$$

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- $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ (where $\lambda > 0$):
a probability distribution over the non-negative integers used for modelling the frequency of rare events.

$$p(x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \quad (16)$$

Continuous random variables

- $X \sim \text{Uniform}(a, b)$ (where $a < b$):
equal probability density to every value between a and b on the real line

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a}, & \text{if } a \leq x \leq b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

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- $X \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$ (where $\lambda > 0$):
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- $X \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$: also known as the Gaussian distribution

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (19)$$

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- We denote the sum rule as (also known as the marginalization property):

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_{y \in Y} p(x, y), & \text{if } y \text{ is discrete} \\ \int_Y p(x, y) dy, & \text{if } y \text{ is continuous} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

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- We sum out (or integrate out) the set of states y of the random variable Y .

Bayes' rule

- To derive expressions for conditional probability **Bayes' rule**

$$\underbrace{p(y | x)}_{\text{posterior}} = \frac{\overbrace{p(x | y)}^{\text{likelihood}} \overbrace{p(y)}^{\text{prior}}}{\underbrace{p(x)}_{\text{evidence}}} \quad (21)$$

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- If the random variables X and Y are continuous

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Given a probabilistic model, how do we obtain answers to relevant questions about the world?

Querying the marginal or conditional probabilities of certain events of interest.

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- Learning

Goal of fitting a model given a dataset. The model can be then use to make predictions about the future.

Bayesian networks

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- By the chain rule we can write any probability as:

$$p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = p(x_1)p(x_2 \mid x_1) \cdots p(x_n \mid x_{n-1}, \dots, x_2, x_1). \quad (24)$$

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- A Bayesian network is a distribution in which each factor on the right hand side depends only on a small number of ancestor variables x_{A_i} :

$$p(x_i \mid x_{i-1}, \dots, x_1) = p(x_i \mid x_{A_i}) \quad (25)$$

Bayesian networks

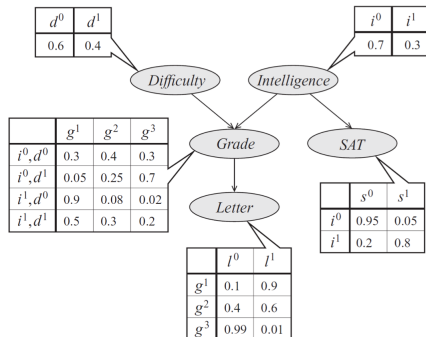
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Model of a student's grade g on an exam. This grade depends on the exam's difficulty d and the student's intelligence i it also affects the quality l of the reference letter from the professor who taught the course. The student's intelligence i affects his SAT score s in addition to g . Each variable is binary, except for g , which takes 3 possible values.

Bayesian networks



$$p(l, g, i, d, s) = p(l \mid g)p(g \mid i, d)p(i)p(d)p(s \mid i) \quad (26)$$

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- probability p factorizes over a DAG G if it can be decomposed into a product of factors

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- We will learn the model from data, and use it to predict the existence of the missing word alignments

Word alignment

- The notation to refer to each word.
Let a French sentence f be represented by an array of m words,
 $\langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle$,
and English sentence e be represented by an array of l words,
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- IBM models decompose the joint probability of a sentence pair with the chain rule as:

$$p(e_1^l, f_1^m) = \underbrace{p(e_1^l)}_{\text{language model}} \times \underbrace{p(f_1^m | e_1^l)}_{\text{translation model}} \quad (27)$$

Word Alignment

-



Questions?

References I