

Exercise 4.1.

Prove that if

$$P(D_1, \dots, D_m | H_i) = \prod_j P(D_j | H_i), \quad 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad (1)$$

and

$$P(D_1, \dots, D_m | \overline{H_i}) = \prod_j P(D_j | \overline{H_i}), \quad 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad (2)$$

hold with $n > 2$, then at most one of the factors

$$\frac{P(D_1 | H_i)}{P(D_1 | \overline{H_i})}, \dots, \frac{P(D_m | H_i)}{P(D_m | \overline{H_i})} \quad (3)$$

is different from unity, therefore at most one of the data sets D_j can produce any updating of the probability for H_i .

Solution

Let's consider the case for three hypotheses H_1, H_2, H_3 and two events D_1, D_2 . We use the relation for mutually exclusive B, C :

$$P(A | B + C) = \frac{P(B)P(A | B) + P(C)P(A | C)}{P(B) + P(C)} \quad (4)$$

$\overline{H_3} = H_1 + H_2$, so (2) becomes

$$P(D_1 D_2 | H_1 + H_2) = P(D_1 | H_1 + H_2)P(D_2 | H_1 + H_2)$$

Using the formula (4), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{P(H_1)P(D_1 D_2 | H_1) + P(H_2)P(D_1 D_2 | H_2)}{P(H_1) + P(H_2)} = \\ & \frac{P(H_1)P(D_1 | H_1) + P(H_2)P(D_1 | H_2)}{P(H_1) + P(H_2)} \cdot \frac{P(H_1)P(D_2 | H_1) + P(H_2)P(D_2 | H_2)}{P(H_1) + P(H_2)} \end{aligned}$$

Or, after using (1), cancelling denominators and rearranging terms:

$$\begin{aligned} & (P(H_1) + P(H_2))(P(H_1)P(D_1 | H_1)P(D_2 | H_1) + P(H_2)P(D_1 | H_2)P(D_2 | H_2)) = \\ & (P(H_1)P(D_1 | H_1) + P(H_2)P(D_1 | H_2))(P(H_1)P(D_2 | H_1) + P(H_2)P(D_2 | H_2)) \end{aligned}$$

Expanding and cancelling terms (we can assume that $P(H_i) > 0$) gives:

$$P(D_1 | H_1)P(D_2 | H_1) + P(D_1 | H_2)P(D_2 | H_2) = P(D_1 | H_1)P(D_2 | H_2) + P(D_1 | H_2)P(D_2 | H_1)$$

This equation is of the form $ab + cd = ac + bd$, which implies $a = c \vee b = d$, so

$$P(D_1 | H_1) = P(D_1 | H_2) \vee P(D_2 | H_1) = P(D_2 | H_2)$$

This is implied by (2) for $i = 3$, but it must be true for any i . There are three possible values of i , so there must be a $j \in \{1, 2\}$ such that the above equation is satisfied for D_j for two different values of i . WLOG let it be $j = 1$; then we have

$$P(D_1|H_1) = P(D_1|H_2) = P(D_1|H_3)$$

This in turn implies, using (4):

$$P(D_1|\overline{H_3}) = P(D_1|H_1 + H_2) = P(D_1|H_3)$$