Computer Science

CSC380: Principles of Data Science

Probability 2

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Rules of probability

- To recap and summarize:

Rules of Probability

1. **Non-negativity:** All probabilities are between 0 and 1 (inclusive)
2. **Unity of the sample space:** $P(S) = 1$
3. **Complement Rule:** $P(E^C) = 1 - P(E)$
4. **Probability of Unions:**
   (a) *In general,* $P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F) - P(E \cap F)$
   (b) If E and F are disjoint, then $P(E \cup F) = P(E) + P(F)$

Summary: calculating probabilities

- If we know that all outcomes are equally likely, we can use

We will use combinatorics to do counting

$$P(E) = \frac{|E|}{|S|}$$

Number of elements in event set

Number of possible outcomes (e.g. 36)

- If |E| is hard to calculate directly, we can try
  - the rules of probability
  - the Law of Total Probability, using an appropriate partition of sample space S

Overview

- Conditional probability
- Probabilistic reasoning
    - contingency table
    - probability trees

Conditional Probability

Example: Seat Belts

		Child Buck.	Child Unbuck.	Marginal
Parent	Buck.	0.48	0.12	0.60
	Unbuck.	0.10	0.30	0.40
	Marginal	0.58	0.42	1.00

Table: Probability Estimates for Seat Belt Status

Suppose we pick a family from US at random:

- What is the probability of the event "Child is Buckled"?
- What should our new estimate be if we know that "Parent is Buckled"?

Example: blood types

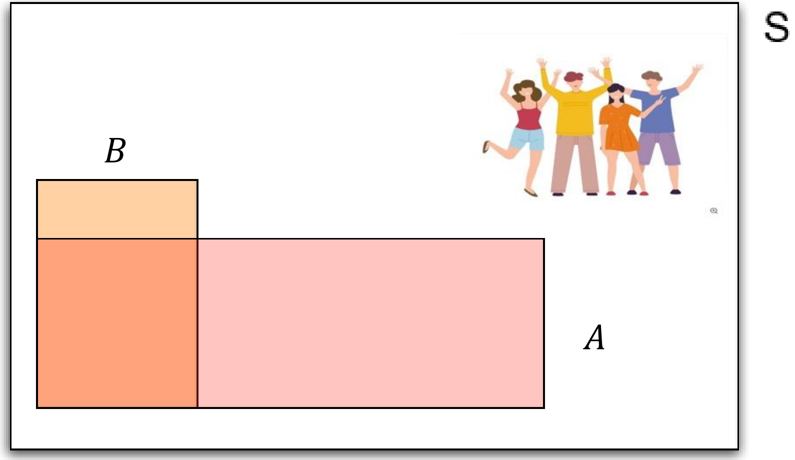
		Antigen B Absent	Antigen B Present	Marginal
Antigen A	Absent	0.44	0.10	0.54
	Present	0.42	0.04	0.46
	Marginal	0.86	0.14	1.00

Table: Probability Estimates for U.S. Blood Types

- A: “presence of antigen A”, B: “presence of antigen B”
- Suppose someone of an unknown blood type gets a test that reveals the presence of antigen A. What is the chance that:
  - event A happens to them?
  - event B happens to them?

Relative area

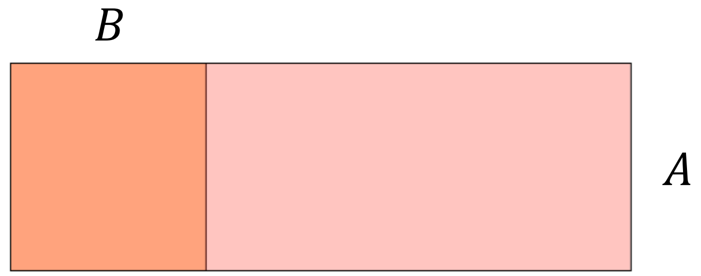
- A: antigen A present $\quad\quad$ B: antigen B present
- Given that A happens, what is the chance of B happening?



- Restricted to people with antigen A present, what is the fraction of those people with antigen B?

Relative area

- Let’s zoom into people with antigen A present.

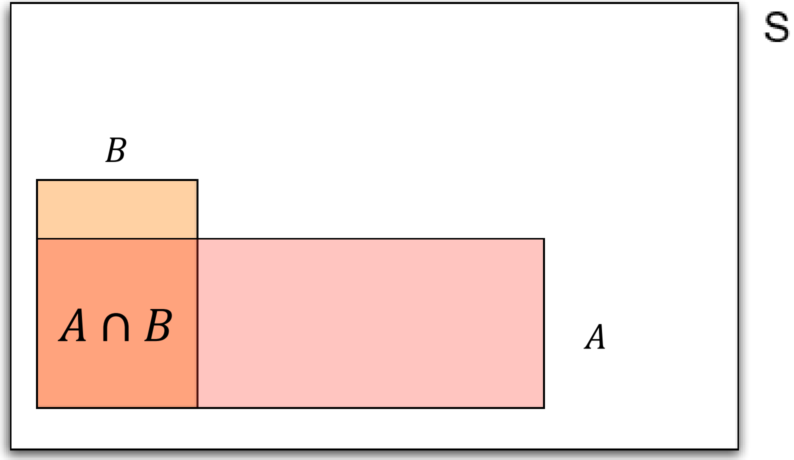


- It’s just as if the sample space had shrunk to include only A
- Now, probabilities correspond to proportions of A
- What does the orange square represent?
  - $A \cap B$
- How would we find the probability of B given A?

Conditional Probability

- To find the conditional probability of B given A, consider the ways B can occur in the context of A (i.e., $A \cap B$), out of all the ways A can occur:

$$P(B \mid A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}$$



Conditioning changes the sample space

- Before we knew anything, anything in sample space S could occur.
- After we know A happened, we are only choosing from within A.
- The set A becomes our new sample space
- Instead of asking "In what proportion of S is B true?", we now ask "In what proportion of A is B true?"

For example, rolling a fair die, define A: even numbers, B: get a 2.

- Before knew anything, P(B) is 1/6
- After knowing A, P(B) is (1/6) / (1/2) = 1/3

Every Probability is a Conditional Probability

- We can consider the original probabilities to be conditioned on the event S: at first what we know is that "something in S" occurs.

$$P(B) = P(B|S)$$

$$P(B \cap C) = P(B \cap C|S)$$

$$P(\,B \mid S\,) = \frac{P(B \cap S)}{P(S)} = P(B)$$

- $P(B|S)$ in words: what proportion of S does B happen?
- If we then learn that A occurs, A becomes our restricted sample space.
- $P(B|A)$ in words: what proportion of A does B happen?

Joint Probability and Conditional Probability

- We can rearrange $P(B \mid A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}$ and derive:

The "Chain Rule" of Probability

For any events, A and B, the joint probability $P(A \cap B)$ can be computed as

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B|A) \times P(A)$$

Or, since $P(A \cap B) = P(B \cap A)$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A|B) \times P(B)$$

Terminology

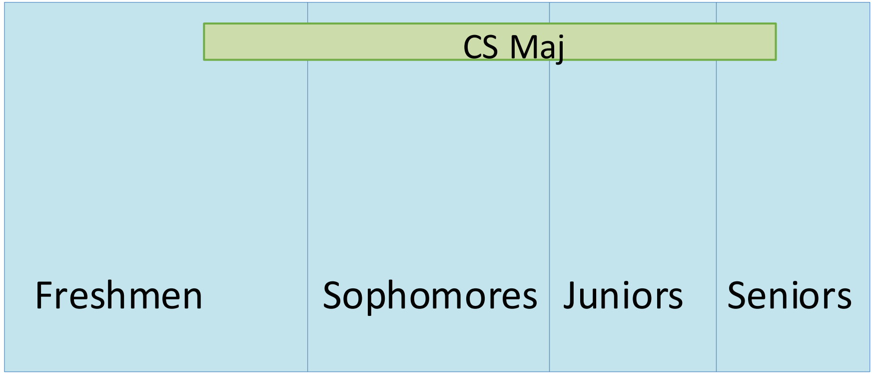
When we have two events A and B…

- Conditional probability: $P(A|B), P(A^c|B), P(B|A)$ etc.
- Joint probability: $P(A, B)$ or $P(A^c, B)$ or ...
- Marginal probability: $P(A)$ or $P(A^c)$

Law of Total Probability, revisited

Law of Total Probability Suppose $B_1, \ldots, B_n$ *form a partition* of the sample space S. Then,

$$P(A) = P(A, B_1) + \cdots + P(A, B_n)$$



Law of Total Probability, revisited

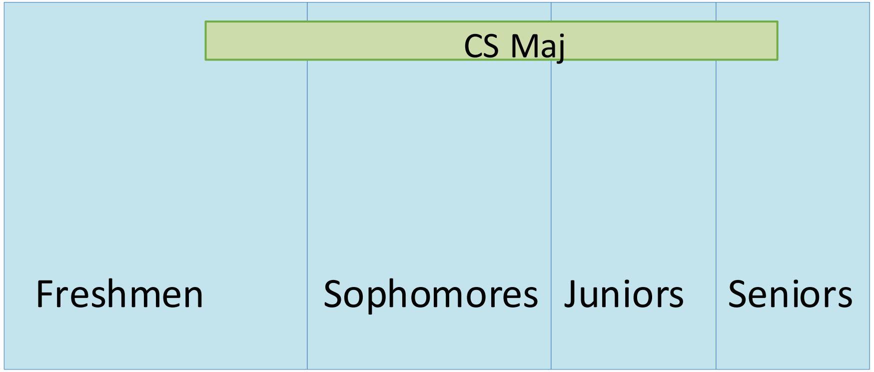
Expanding each $P(A, B_i) = P(A \mid B_i)P(B_i)$, we have:

$$P(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} P(A \mid B_i)P(B_i)$$

A: student in CS major

B_i : student in class year i

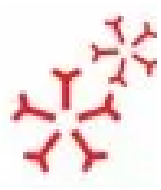
$P(A \mid B_i)$ The fraction of CS major in class year i



Probabilistic reasoning

Probabilistic reasoning

- We have some prior belief of an event A happening
  - $P(A)$, prior probability
  - e.g. me infected by COVID



- We see some new evidence B
  - e.g. I test COVID positive

- How does seeing B affect our belief about A?
  - $P(A \mid B)$, posterior probability

Another example: detector

A store owner discovers that some of her employees have taken cash. She decides to use a detector to discover who they are.

- Suppose that 10% of employees stole.
- The detector buzzes 80% of the time that someone stole, and 20% of the time that someone not stole
- Is the detector reliable? In other words, if the detector buzzes, what's the probability that the person did stole?

H: employee not stole

B: lie detector buzzes