

Motivation

* Modeling Uncertainty

- 1) inherent randomness in world
- 2) gross statistical description of world, which is complex & deterministic
- 3) probability: guardian of common sense reasoning

Review of Probability

- Discrete random variable X (capitalized)
Domain of possible values $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ (lower case)
Ex: month M , $\{m_1 = \text{JAN}, m_2 = \text{FEB}, \dots, m_{12} = \text{DEC}\}$
- "Unconditional" or "prior" probabilities $P(X=x)$

Basic axioms:

(i) $P(X=x) \geq 0$ probability that the event $X=x$ is true

(ii) $\sum_{i=1}^n P(X=x_i) = 1$

(iii) $P(X=x_i \text{ or } X=x_j) = P(X=x_i) + P(X=x_j)$ if $x_i \neq x_j$

Probabilities add for union of mutually exclusive events

- "Conditional" or "posterior" probabilities
 $P(X=x_i | Y=y_j)$ probability that $X=x_i$ given $Y=y_j$

In general: $P(X=x_i | Y=y_j) \neq P(X=x_i)$

Ex: conditional dependence

weather W , $\{w_1 = \text{sunny}, w_2 = \text{rainy}\}$

$P(W = \text{sunny}) = 0.9$

$P(W = \text{sunny} | M = \text{jan}) = 0.8$

$P(W = \text{sunny} | M = \text{aug}) = 0.98$

probability can change
in either direction

Ex: conditional independence

Day of week D , $\{d_1 = \text{sun}, d_2 = \text{mon}, \dots\}$

$$P(W = \text{rain} | D = \text{tues}) = P(W = \text{rain})$$

Also true:

$$(i) P(X = x_i | Y = y_j) \geq 0$$

$$(ii) \sum_i P(X = x_i | Y = y_j) = 1 \quad \text{note: sum is over } i, \text{ not over } j!!!$$

• "Joint" probabilities

$$P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \text{prob that } X = x_i \text{ and } Y = y_j$$

• Product Rule: from conditional probabilities to joint

$$\text{For all } i, j: P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = P(X = x_i | Y = y_j) P(Y = y_j)$$

$$\text{also: } P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = P(Y = y_j | X = x_i) P(X = x_i)$$

• Generalized Product Rule

$$P(A = a_i, B = b_j, C = c_k, D = d_\ell, \dots) = P(A = a_i) P(B = b_j | A = a_i) P(C = c_k | A = a_i, B = b_j) \dots \\ \times P(D = d_\ell | A = a_i, B = b_j, C = c_k) \dots$$

• Easier to assess conditional probabilities (RHS)
than joint probabilities (LHS)

Ex: $A = \text{wake up on time}$

$B = \text{eat breakfast}$

$C = \text{hit traffic}$

$D = \text{arrive on time at UCSD}$

• Marginalization: from ~~the~~ joint distribution to marginal distribution

$$P(X = x_i) = \sum_j P(X = x_i, Y = y_j)$$

$$P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \sum_k P(X = x_i, Y = y_j, Z = z_k)$$

Probs on ~~the~~ LHS (over some subset of variables)

are called "marginal" probabilities.

* Shorthand Notation

(i) implied universality

$$P(X, Y) = P(X|Y)P(Y) = P(Y|X)P(X)$$

implies that equalities hold for all possible assignments $X=x_i, Y=y_j$

(ii) implied assignment

$$P(x, y, z) = P(X=x, Y=y, Z=z) \quad \text{omit assignment when context is unambiguous}$$

Ex: product rule $P(a, b, c, d, \dots) = P(a)P(b|a)P(c|a, b)P(d|a, b, c) \dots$

* **Bayes Rule** relates conditional probabilities to other " "

$$P(X|Y) = \frac{P(Y|X)P(X)}{P(Y)}$$

if you observe an effect, you can infer the cause
X \nearrow Y

Ex: cancer diagnosis

Given: 1% population has cancer

Test has 10% false negative rate

Test has 20% false positive rate

You test positive. Do you have cancer?

* Random Variables

DIAGNOSIS $\in \{\text{cancer}, \text{healthy}\}$

TEST $\in \{\text{pos}, \text{neg}\}$

* Probabilities

$$P(\text{cancer}) = 0.01 \quad P(\text{healthy}) = 0.99 = 1 - 0.01$$

$$P(\text{pos} | \text{cancer}) = 0.9 \quad P(\text{neg} | \text{cancer}) = 0.1$$

$$P(\text{pos} | \text{healthy}) = 0.2 \quad P(\text{neg} | \text{healthy}) = 0.8$$

We want to find: (0.90) (0.01)

$$P(\text{cancer} | \text{pos}) = \frac{P(\text{pos} | \text{cancer}) P(\text{cancer})}{P(\text{pos})} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{need marginalization to} \\ \text{find this} \end{array}$$

(0.207)

marginalization:

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{pos}) &= \sum_{\text{Diagnosis} \in \{\text{cancer}, \text{healthy}\}} P(\text{Test} = \text{pos}, \text{Diagnosis}) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\text{cancer}, \\ \text{healthy}}} P(\text{pos} | \text{Diagnosis}) P(\text{Diagnosis}) \quad \text{product rule} \\ &= P(\text{pos} | \text{cancer}) P(\text{cancer}) + P(\text{pos} | \text{healthy}) P(\text{healthy}) \\ &= (0.90)(0.01) + (0.20)(0.99) = 0.207 \end{aligned}$$

Bayes Rule:

$$P(\text{cancer} | \text{pos}) = \frac{P(\text{pos} | \text{cancer}) P(\text{cancer})}{P(\text{pos})} = \frac{0.9 \times 0.01}{0.207} = \underline{0.043}$$

before test: $P(\text{cancer}) = 0.01$, 1%

after test: $P(\text{cancer} | \text{pos}) = 0.043$, 4.3%

Note: $P(\text{cancer} | \text{pos}) \ll P(\text{pos} | \text{cancer})$

* Conditioning on Background Evidence

often useful to reason in context of background knowledge.
Consider events X and Y , and background evidence E .

(i) conditionalized version of product rule

$$\begin{aligned} P(X, Y | E) &= \frac{P(X, Y, E)}{P(E)} = \frac{P(X, Y, E)}{P(X, E)} \cdot \frac{P(X, E)}{P(E)} \\ &\quad \uparrow \text{ordinary product rule} \\ &\quad \downarrow \\ &= P(X | Y, E) P(Y | E) \end{aligned}$$

(ii) conditionalized version of Bayes rule

ordinary Bayes rule
$$P(X|Y) = \frac{P(Y|X)P(X)}{P(Y)}$$

with background evidence
$$P(X|Y,E) = \frac{P(Y|X,E)P(X|E)}{P(Y|E)}$$

* Conditional independence statements

The following three statements are equivalent:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{(i)} \quad P(X,Y|E) = P(X|E)P(Y|E) \\ \text{(ii)} \quad P(X|Y,E) = P(X|E) \\ \text{(iii)} \quad P(Y|X,E) = P(Y|E) \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{any one of these statements} \\ \text{implies the other two (HW)} \end{array}$$

* Kullback - Leibler Divergence (KL)

How to measure difference between two distributions?

Let $p_i = P(X=x_i|E)$
 $q_i = P(X=x_i|E')$ conditioned on different evidence $E \neq E'$

Define: $KL(p,q) = \sum_i p_i \log(p_i/q_i)$

Properties of KL "distance"

- (i) $KL(p,q) \geq 0$, ~~with equality~~ vanishing only if $p_i = q_i$ for all i
- (ii) $KL(p,q) \neq KL(q,p)$ in general

