

Independent Events (and Bayes Theorem).

Two events are independent if the occurrence of one event does not change the probability of the other occurring.

Intuitively, we expect

$$P(A|B) = P(A)$$

and

$$P(B|A) = P(B)$$

when A & B are independent.

If this is the case, then by the multiplication rule,

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

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B) \cdot P(A|B) = P(B) \cdot P(A).$$

Definition Two events A & B are independent iff $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$. Otherwise they are dependent.

Remark: If A & B are indep., and $P(B) > 0$, then

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A) \cdot P(B)}{P(B)} = P(A) \text{ as expected.}$$

(2)

Example Roll ~~an 8-sided~~ a fair 8-sided die.

What are two events?

Are they independent?

Iterate.

$A = \text{odd}$
 $B = \geq 5$ } indep.

Prop If A & B are independent, then so are

(a) A & B'

(b) A' & B

(c) A' & B'

Proof (different from book) of (a):

$$A = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap B')$$

$$P(A) = P(A \cap B) + P(A \cap B')$$

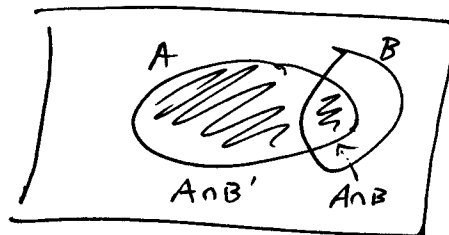
$$\Rightarrow P(A \cap B') = P(A) - P(A \cap B)$$

$$= P(A) - P(A) \cdot P(B)$$

$$= P(A) (1 - P(B))$$

$$= P(A) \cdot P(B')$$

QED



(b) & (c) = exercises.

Independence of multiple events

Definition : Three events $A, B \in \mathcal{C}$ are (mutually)
dependent iff

(a) Each pair of events is indep.

(b) $P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(A) \cdot P(B) \cdot P(C)$

More generally, for >3 events ~~to be~~ to be indep., they must ~~also~~ satisfy the multiplication rule for each pair, triplet, quartet, etc.

Example Suppose a fair coin is tossed n times.
What is the ~~the~~ probability of at least 1 head turning up?

A_1 : 1st toss is heads

A_2 : 2nd " " "

⋮

A_n

$$B = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n$$

(4)

Then

$$P(B) = 1 - P(B')$$

$$\begin{aligned} B' &= (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n)' \\ &= A_1' \cap A_2' \cap \dots \cap A_n' \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} P(B') &= P(A_1' \cap A_2' \cap \dots \cap A_n') \\ &= P(A_1') \cdot P(A_2') \cdot \dots \cdot P(A_n') \quad (\text{by independence}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(B) = 1 - \frac{1}{2^n}$$

Note: this is somewhat easier than the direct way of enumerating all outcomes in B .

Example Draw two cards w/o replacement from a deck of 52

$A = \{\text{first card is a spade}\}$

$B = \{\text{second card is a diamond}\}$

$C = \{\text{second card is a K}\}$

• Are A & B independent?

Intuitively, no. Formally,

$$P(A) = \frac{1}{4}, \quad P(B) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B|A) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{13}{51} \neq \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{4}$$

$$B = (B \cap A) \cup (B \cap A') \quad (\text{disjoint})$$

$$P(B) = P(B \cap A) + P(B \cap A')$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{13}{51} + P(A) \cdot P(B|A')$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{13}{51} + \frac{3}{4}$$

How to compute $P(B)$?

• A & C are indep.

• B & C are indep.

• Are A, B & C mutually indep.? No, need all pairs to be.

⑥

Example: ~~what is~~ A fair die is rolled 5 times.
What is the prob. of getting exactly 3 2's?

Previously we say $P = \frac{\binom{5}{3} \cdot 5^2}{6^5} = .064 = \frac{500}{7776}$

Alternate derivation.

Consider the outcome

2 | ~~2~~ | 2 | 2 | ~~2~~

By independence, this event has probability

$$\frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{5}{6} = \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^2$$

There are $\binom{5}{3}$ distinguishable permutations of the 2's, each with prob $\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^2$.

These $\binom{5}{3}$ events are disjoint so the overall event

has prob

$$\binom{5}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^2 = \frac{\binom{5}{3} 5^2}{6^5} = 0.064$$

as before.

Bayes' Theorem

Let A & B be two events

with $P(A) > 0$ & $P(B) > 0$.

Now

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

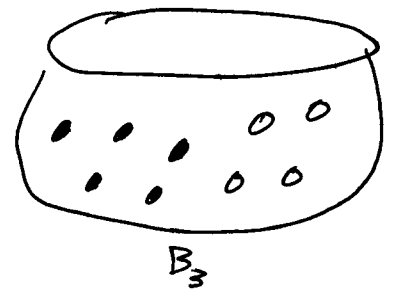
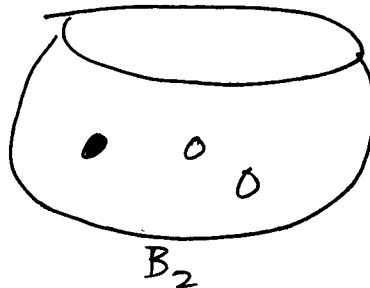
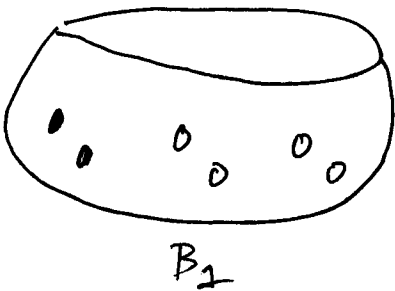
$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(A) \cdot P(B|A) = P(A \cap B) = P(B) P(A|B)$$

$$\Rightarrow P(B|A) = \frac{P(B) \cdot P(A|B)}{P(A)}$$

Bayes' rule

Example ~~book p. 103~~



Experiment: choose bowl at random, then
choose ball at random

8

Suppose a red chip is drawn. How likely are each of the bowls to have been selected?

R : red ball selected.

What are $P(B_1|R)$, $P(B_2|R)$ and $P(B_3|R)$?

$$P(B_1|R) = \frac{P(B_1) \cdot P(R|B_1)}{P(R)}$$

$$P(B_1) = \frac{1}{3}, \quad P(R|B_1) = \frac{2}{6}$$

Side calculation

$$P(R) = ?$$

$$\begin{aligned} R &= R \cap S = R \cap (B_1 \cup B_2 \cup B_3) \\ &= (R \cap B_1) \cup (R \cap B_2) \cup (R \cap B_3) \end{aligned}$$

(disjoint)

$$\Rightarrow P(R) = P(R \cap B_1) + P(R \cap B_2) + P(R \cap B_3)$$

$$= P(B_1) \cdot P(R|B_1) + P(B_2) \cdot P(R|B_2) + P(B_3) \cdot P(R|B_3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{6} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{5}{9} = \frac{3 + 3 + 5}{27}$$

$$= \frac{11}{27}$$

So

$$P(B_1 | R) = \frac{\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{6}}{\frac{11}{27}} = \frac{3}{11} = .273$$

Similarly,

$$P(B_2 | R) = \frac{P(B_2) \cdot P(R|B_2)}{P(R)} = \frac{\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{11}{27}} = \frac{3}{11}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(B_3 | R) = \frac{5}{11} = 0.455$$

(10)
More generally, if $B_1, \dots, B_m$ form a partition of S ,
meaning

$$(a) \bigcup_{i=1}^m B_i = S$$

$$(b) B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset \text{ if } i \neq j$$

Then for any event A we have

$$A = (B_1 \cap A) \cup \dots \cup (B_m \cap A)$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= \sum_{i=1}^m P(B_i \cap A) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m P(B_i) \cdot P(A|B_i) \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with Bayes' rule, we have

Bayes Theorem :

$$P(B_k|A) = \frac{P(B_k) \cdot P(A|B_k)}{\sum_{i=1}^m P(B_i) \cdot P(A|B_i)}$$

Terminology :

$P(B_k) =$ prior probability of B_k

$P(B_k|A) =$ posterior " " " given A