

Alex Psomas: Lecture 15.

Bayes' Rule, Mutual Independence, Collisions and Collecting

1. Conditional Probability
2. Independence
3. Bayes' Rule
4. Balls and Bins
5. Coupons

Conditional Probability: Review

Recall:

- ▶ $Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[B]}.$
- ▶ Hence, $Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[B]Pr[A|B] = Pr[A]Pr[B|A].$
- ▶ A and B are *positively correlated* if $Pr[A|B] > Pr[A]$,
i.e., if $Pr[A \cap B] > Pr[A]Pr[B].$
- ▶ A and B are *negatively correlated* if $Pr[A|B] < Pr[A]$,
i.e., if $Pr[A \cap B] < Pr[A]Pr[B].$
- ▶ A and B are *independent* if $Pr[A|B] = Pr[A]$,
i.e., if $Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B].$
- ▶ Note: $B \subset A$, and $Pr[A] \neq 1$, $Pr[B] \neq 0$, $\Rightarrow A$ and B are positively correlated. ($Pr[A|B] = 1 > Pr[A]$)
- ▶ Note: $A \cap B = \emptyset$, $Pr[A], Pr[B] \neq 0$, $\Rightarrow A$ and B are negatively correlated. ($Pr[A|B] = 0 < Pr[A]$)

Monty Hall

3 closed doors. Behind one of the doors there is a prize (car).
The others have goats.

You pick a door. Say door number 1

I open door 2 or door 3. One of the two that I **know** doesn't
have the prize. Say it was door 2

I ask: **Would you like to change your door to number 3?**

Question: What should you do in order to maximize the
probability of winning?

Monty Hall

Change!!!!

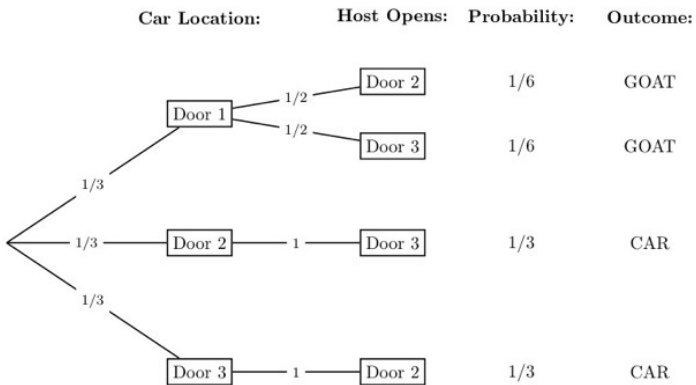
What is the probability that the prize is in door 3? $\frac{2}{3}$!

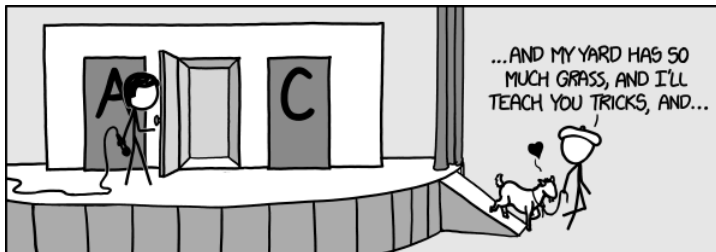
How does that make any sense????

Say the original door where the prize is random. So each door has probability $\frac{1}{3}$.

You pick door 1. What's the probability that it's in either 2 or 3?
 $\frac{2}{3}$

The door I opened wasn't random! I knew it didn't have a prize!!
Therefore, switching, is like getting to pick two doors at the beginning!





...AND MY YARD HAS SO
MUCH GRASS, AND I'LL
TEACH YOU TRICKS, AND...



Balls in bins

I throw 5 (indistinguishable) balls in two bins. What is the probability that the first bin is empty?

1. Approach 1: There are 6 outcomes: (5, 0), (4, 1), (3, 2), (2, 3), (1, 4), (0, 5). Probability that the first bin is empty is $\frac{1}{6}$
2. Approach 2: I pretend I can tell the balls apart. There are 2^5 outcomes: (1, 1, 1, 1, 1), (1, 1, 1, 1, 2), ... (2, 2, 2, 2, 2). (x, 1, x, x, x) means that the second ball I threw landed in the first bin.
Probability that the first bin is empty is $\frac{1}{2^5}$. The fact that I can tell them apart shouldn't change the probability.

Well... I guess probability is wrong...

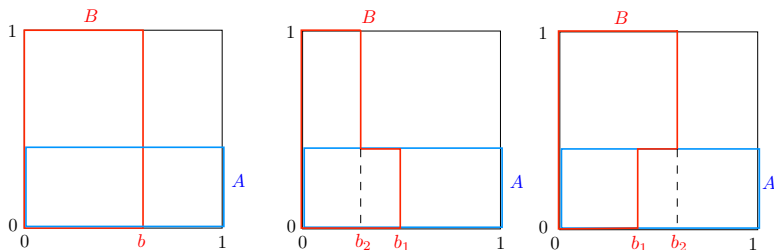
Or..... Could one of the approaches be wrong???

Approach 1 is **WRONG!** Why did we divide by $|\Omega|$???

Why??????? Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

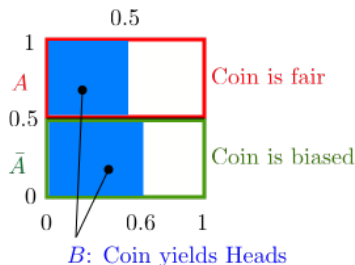
Conditional Probability: Pictures

Illustrations: Pick a point uniformly in the unit square



- ▶ Left: A and B are independent. $Pr[B] = b$; $Pr[B|A] = b$.
- ▶ Middle: A and B are positively correlated.
 $Pr[B|A] = b_1 > Pr[B|\bar{A}] = b_2$. Note: $Pr[B] \in (b_2, b_1)$.
- ▶ Right: A and B are negatively correlated.
 $Pr[B|A] = b_1 < Pr[B|\bar{A}] = b_2$. Note: $Pr[B] \in (b_1, b_2)$.

Bayes and Biased Coin



Pick a point uniformly at random in the unit square. Then

$$Pr[A] = 0.5; Pr[\bar{A}] = 0.5$$

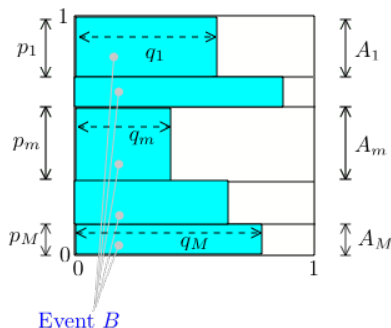
$$Pr[B|A] = 0.5; Pr[B|\bar{A}] = 0.6; Pr[A \cap B] = 0.5 \times 0.5$$

$$Pr[B] = 0.5 \times 0.5 + 0.5 \times 0.6 = Pr[A]Pr[B|A] + Pr[\bar{A}]Pr[B|\bar{A}]$$

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{0.5 \times 0.5}{0.5 \times 0.5 + 0.5 \times 0.6} = \frac{Pr[A]Pr[B|A]}{Pr[A]Pr[B|A] + Pr[\bar{A}]Pr[B|\bar{A}]}$$

$\approx 0.46 = \text{fraction of } B \text{ that is inside } A$

Bayes: General Case



Pick a point uniformly at random in the unit square. Then

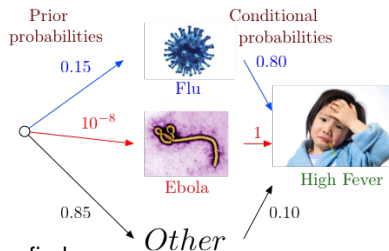
$$Pr[A_m] = p_m, m = 1, \dots, M$$

$$Pr[B|A_m] = q_m, m = 1, \dots, M; Pr[A_m \cap B] = p_m q_m$$

$$Pr[B] = p_1 q_1 + \dots + p_M q_M$$

$$Pr[A_m|B] = \frac{p_m q_m}{p_1 q_1 + \dots + p_M q_M} = \text{fraction of } B \text{ inside } A_m.$$

Why do you have a fever?



Using Bayes' rule, we find

$$Pr[\text{Flu}|\text{High Fever}] = \frac{0.15 \times 0.80}{0.15 \times 0.80 + 10^{-8} \times 1 + 0.85 \times 0.1} \approx 0.58$$

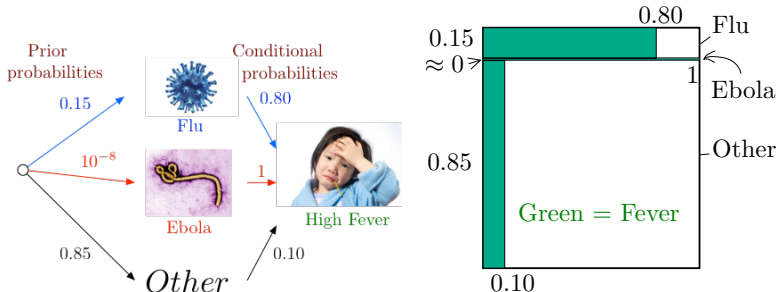
$$Pr[\text{Ebola}|\text{High Fever}] = \frac{10^{-8} \times 1}{0.15 \times 0.80 + 10^{-8} \times 1 + 0.85 \times 0.1} \approx 5 \times 10^{-8}$$

$$Pr[\text{Other}|\text{High Fever}] = \frac{0.85 \times 0.1}{0.15 \times 0.80 + 10^{-8} \times 1 + 0.85 \times 0.1} \approx 0.42$$

The values $0.58, 5 \times 10^{-8}, 0.42$ are the **posterior probabilities**.

Why do you have a fever?

Our “Bayes’ Square” picture:



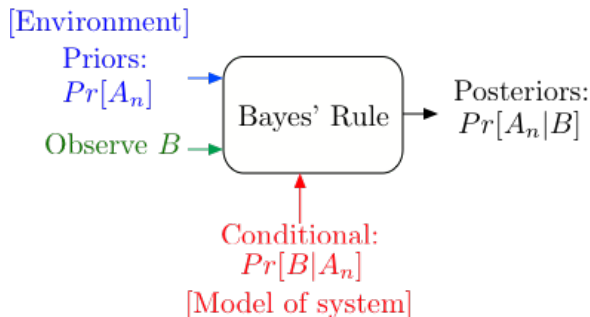
58% of Fever = Flu
 $\approx 0\%$ of Fever = Ebola
42% of Fever = Other

Note that even though $Pr[\text{Fever}|\text{Ebola}] = 1$, one has

$$Pr[\text{Ebola}|\text{Fever}] \approx 0.$$

This example shows the importance of the prior probabilities.

Bayes' Rule Operations



Bayes' Rule is the canonical example of how information changes our opinions.

Independence

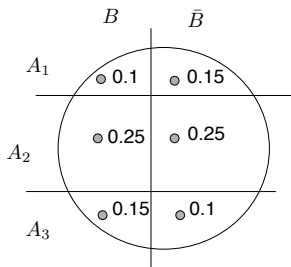
Recall :

A and B are independent

$$\Leftrightarrow Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A]Pr[B]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow Pr[A|B] = Pr[A].$$

Consider the example below:



(A_2, B) are independent: $Pr[A_2|B] = 0.5 = Pr[A_2]$.

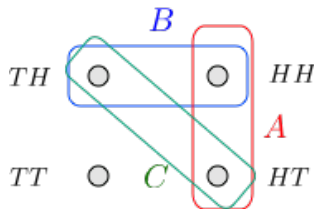
(A_2, \bar{B}) are independent: $Pr[A_2|\bar{B}] = 0.5 = Pr[A_2]$.

(A_1, B) are not independent: $Pr[A_1|B] = \frac{0.1}{0.5} = 0.2 \neq Pr[A_1] = 0.25$.

Pairwise Independence

Flip two fair coins. Let

- ▶ $A = \text{'first coin is H'} = \{HT, HH\}$;
- ▶ $B = \text{'second coin is H'} = \{TH, HH\}$;
- ▶ $C = \text{'the two coins are different'} = \{TH, HT\}$.



A, C are independent; B, C are independent;

$A \cap B, C$ are **not** independent. ($Pr[A \cap B \cap C] = 0 \neq Pr[A \cap B]Pr[C]$.)

A did not say anything about C and B did not say anything about C , but $A \cap B$ said something about C !

Example 2

Flip a fair coin 5 times. Let A_n = 'coin n is H', for $n = 1, \dots, 5$.

Then,

A_m, A_n are independent for all $m \neq n$.

Also,

A_1 and $A_3 \cap A_5$ are independent.

Indeed,

$$Pr[A_1 \cap (A_3 \cap A_5)] = \frac{1}{8} = Pr[A_1]Pr[A_3 \cap A_5]$$

. Similarly,

$A_1 \cap A_2$ and $A_3 \cap A_4 \cap A_5$ are independent.

This leads to a definition

Mutual Independence

Definition Mutual Independence

(a) The events A_1, \dots, A_5 are **mutually independent** if

$$Pr[\cap_{k \in K} A_k] = \prod_{k \in K} Pr[A_k], \text{ for all } K \subseteq \{1, \dots, 5\}.$$

(b) More generally, the events $\{A_j, j \in J\}$ are **mutually independent** if

$$Pr[\cap_{k \in K} A_k] = \prod_{k \in K} Pr[A_k], \text{ for all finite } K \subseteq J.$$

Example: Flip a fair coin forever. Let $A_n =$ 'coin n is H.' Then the events A_n are mutually independent.

Mutual Independence

Theorem

(a) If the events $\{A_j, j \in J\}$ are mutually independent and if K_1 and K_2 are disjoint finite subsets of J , then

$\cap_{k \in K_1} A_k$ and $\cap_{k \in K_2} A_k$ are independent.

(b) More generally, if the K_n are pairwise disjoint finite subsets of J , then the events

$\cap_{k \in K_n} A_k$ are mutually independent.

(c) Also, the same is true if we replace some of the A_k by \bar{A}_k .

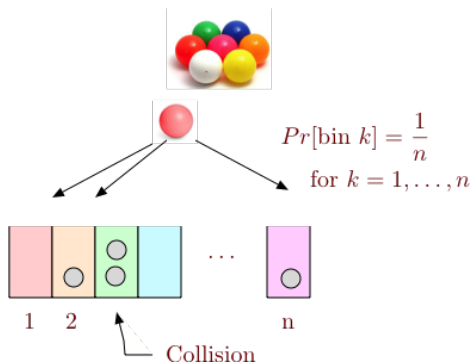
Balls in bins

One throws m balls into $n > m$ bins.



Balls in bins

One throws m balls into $n > m$ bins.



Theorem:

$Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx \exp\left\{-\frac{m^2}{2n}\right\}$, for large enough n .

The Calculation.

A_i = no collision when i th ball is placed in a bin.

$$Pr[A_1] = 1$$

$$Pr[A_2|A_1] = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$$

$$Pr[A_3|A_1, A_2] = 1 - \frac{2}{n}$$

$$Pr[A_i|A_{i-1} \cap \dots \cap A_1] = \left(1 - \frac{i-1}{n}\right).$$

$$\text{no collision} = A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_m.$$

Product rule:

$$Pr[A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_m] = Pr[A_1]Pr[A_2|A_1] \dots Pr[A_m|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_{m-1}]$$

$$\Rightarrow Pr[\text{no collision}] = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{m-1}{n}\right).$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr[\text{no collision}] = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{m-1}{n}\right).$$

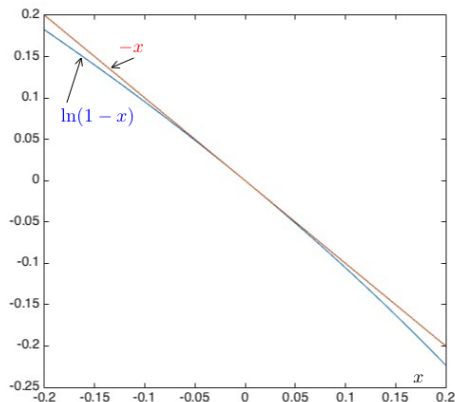
Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(\Pr[\text{no collision}]) &= \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \ln\left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \left(-\frac{k}{n}\right) (*) \\ &= -\frac{1}{n} \frac{m(m-1)}{2} (\dagger) \approx -\frac{m^2}{2n} \end{aligned}$$

(*) We used $\ln(1 - \varepsilon) \approx -\varepsilon$ for $|\varepsilon| \ll 1$.

(†) $1 + 2 + \cdots + m - 1 = (m - 1)m/2$.

Approximation



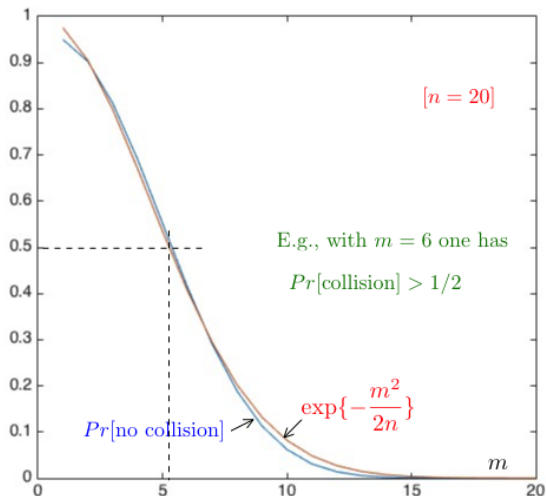
$$\exp\{-x\} = 1 - x + \frac{1}{2!}x^2 + \cdots \approx 1 - x, \text{ for } |x| \ll 1.$$

Hence, $-x \approx \ln(1-x)$ for $|x| \ll 1$.

Balls in bins

Theorem:

$Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx \exp\{-\frac{m^2}{2n}\}$, for large enough n .



Balls in bins

Theorem:

$Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx \exp\{-\frac{m^2}{2n}\}$, for large enough n .

In particular, $Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx 1/2$ for $m^2/(2n) \approx \ln(2)$, i.e.,

$$m \approx \sqrt{2\ln(2)n} \approx 1.2\sqrt{n}.$$

E.g., $1.2\sqrt{20} \approx 5.4$.

Roughly, $Pr[\text{collision}] \approx 1/2$ for $m = \sqrt{n}$. ($e^{-0.5} \approx 0.6$.)

The birthday paradox

Today's your birthday, it's my birthday too..

Probability that m people all have different birthdays?

With $n = 365$, one finds

$Pr[\text{collision}] \approx 1/2$ if $m \approx 1.2\sqrt{365} \approx 23$.

If $m = 60$, we find that

$$Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx \exp\left\{-\frac{m^2}{2n}\right\} = \exp\left\{-\frac{60^2}{2 \times 365}\right\} \approx 0.007.$$

If $m = 366$, then $Pr[\text{no collision}] = 0$. (No approximation here!)

The birthday paradox

n	$p(n)$
1	0.0%
5	2.7%
10	11.7%
20	41.1%
23	50.7%
30	70.6%
40	89.1%
50	97.0%
60	99.4%
70	99.9%
100	99.99997%
200	99.999999999999999999999999999998%
300	$(100 - (6 \times 10^{-80}))\%$
350	$(100 - (3 \times 10^{-129}))\%$
365	$(100 - (1.45 \times 10^{-155}))\%$
366	100%
367	100%

Checksums!

Consider a set of m files.

Each file has a checksum of b bits.

How large should b be for $Pr[\text{share a checksum}] \leq 10^{-3}$?

Claim: $b \geq 2.9\ln(m) + 9$.

Proof:

Let $n = 2^b$ be the number of checksums.

We know $Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx \exp\{-m^2/(2n)\} \approx 1 - m^2/(2n)$.

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[\text{no collision}] \approx 1 - 10^{-3} &\Leftrightarrow m^2/(2n) \approx 10^{-3} \\ &\Leftrightarrow 2n \approx m^2 10^3 \Leftrightarrow 2^{b+1} \approx m^2 2^{10} \\ &\Leftrightarrow b + 1 \approx 10 + 2\log_2(m) \approx 10 + 2.9\ln(m). \end{aligned}$$

Note: $\log_2(x) = \log_2(e)\ln(x) \approx 1.44\ln(x)$.

Coupon Collector Problem.

There are n different baseball cards.

(Brian Wilson, Jackie Robinson, Roger Hornsby, ...)

One random baseball card in each cereal box.



Theorem: If you buy m boxes,

(a) $Pr[\text{miss one specific item}] \approx e^{-\frac{m}{n}}$

(b) $Pr[\text{miss any one of the items}] \leq ne^{-\frac{m}{n}}.$

Coupon Collector Problem: Analysis.

Event A_m = 'fail to get Brian Wilson in m cereal boxes'

Fail the first time: $(1 - \frac{1}{n})$

Fail the second time: $(1 - \frac{1}{n})$

And so on ... for m times. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}Pr[A_m] &= (1 - \frac{1}{n}) \times \cdots \times (1 - \frac{1}{n}) \\&= (1 - \frac{1}{n})^m\end{aligned}$$

$$\ln(Pr[A_m]) = m \ln(1 - \frac{1}{n}) \approx m \times (-\frac{1}{n})$$

$$Pr[A_m] \approx \exp\{-\frac{m}{n}\}.$$

For $p_m = \frac{1}{2}$, we need around $n \ln 2 \approx 0.69n$ boxes.

Collect all cards?

Experiment: Choose m cards at random with replacement.

Events: $E_k = \text{'fail to get player k'}$, for $k = 1, \dots, n$

Probability of failing to get at least one of these n players:

$$p := \Pr[E_1 \cup E_2 \cdots \cup E_n]$$

How does one estimate p ? **Union Bound:**

$$p = \Pr[E_1 \cup E_2 \cdots \cup E_n] \leq \Pr[E_1] + \Pr[E_2] \cdots \Pr[E_n].$$

$$\Pr[E_k] \approx e^{-\frac{m}{n}}, k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Plug in and get

$$p \leq ne^{-\frac{m}{n}}.$$

Collect all cards?

Thus,

$$\Pr[\text{missing at least one card}] \leq ne^{-\frac{m}{n}}.$$

Hence,

$$\Pr[\text{missing at least one card}] \leq p \text{ when } m \geq n \ln\left(\frac{n}{p}\right).$$

To get $p = 1/2$, set $m = n \ln(2n)$.

E.g., $n = 10^2 \Rightarrow m = 530$; $n = 10^3 \Rightarrow m = 7600$.

Summary.

Bayes' Rule, Mutual Independence, Collisions and Collecting

Main results:

- ▶ **Bayes' Rule:** $Pr[A_m|B] = p_m q_m / (p_1 q_1 + \dots + p_M q_M)$.
- ▶ **Product Rule:**
 $Pr[A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n] = Pr[A_1] Pr[A_2|A_1] \dots Pr[A_n|A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_{n-1}]$.
- ▶ **Balls in bins:** m balls into $n > m$ bins.

$$Pr[\text{no collisions}] \approx \exp\left\{-\frac{m^2}{2n}\right\}$$

- ▶ **Coupon Collection:** n items. Buy m cereal boxes.

$$Pr[\text{miss one specific item}] \approx e^{-\frac{m}{n}}; \quad Pr[\text{miss any one of the items}] \leq n e^{-\frac{m}{n}}.$$

Key Mathematical Fact: $\ln(1 - \varepsilon) \approx -\varepsilon$.