

Probability theory 1

5/10/2021

· Last day we completed the proof of inclusion-exclusion principle.

· We proved the following inequalities:

$$P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$$

is called Boole's inequality (or Bonferroni's inequality)

$$P(A \cup B) \geq P(A) + P(B) - 1$$

$$P(A) + P(B) - 1 \leq P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$$

• We had an introduction to conditional probability.

• Recall: Theorem:

If $A_1, \dots, A_n$ are mutually exclusive and exhaustive events with

positive probabilities, then for any event E , we have,

$$P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n \underline{P(E|A_i)} P(A_i) \quad (\text{positive probabilities needed})$$

Rough:

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{j+1} \sum_{\substack{i_1 < \dots < i_j \\ i_1, \dots, i_j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}}} P(\underbrace{A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_j}}_{= S_j})$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{j+1} \sum S_j$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{If } n \text{ is even} & \\ P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) & \geq \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j+1} \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_j} S_j \quad 1 \leq k \leq n \\ \\ \text{If } n \text{ is odd} & \\ P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) & \leq \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j+1} \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_j} S_j \quad 1 \leq k \leq n \end{array} \right.$$

• We saw in the final example on the last day that the probability of picking a ball in the second time was same as picking a ball in the first time. This phenomenon is called Polya urn scheme.

• Consider an urn containing W white balls and B black balls with $W+B \geq 2$. Pick k ($1 \leq k \leq W+B$) balls from the urn, without replacement. We want to calculate the

probability that the k^{th} ball drawn is white.

Theorem: If balls are drawn at random from an urn containing W white and B black balls (for any choice of W, B s.t. $W+B \geq 2$), then for all $1 \leq k \leq W+B$

$$P(\text{the } k\text{-th ball drawn is white}) = \frac{W}{W+B}$$

Pf: We shall prove this by the method of induction.

$$P(\text{the 1-st ball drawn is white}) = \frac{W}{W+B}$$

Suppose $P(\text{the } k\text{-th ball drawn is white}) = \frac{W}{W+B}$

for all $1 \leq k \leq n < W+B$ and for all W, B s.t. $W+B \geq 2$.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & P(\text{the } n+1\text{th ball drawn is white}) \quad \left[W_k = \{ \text{the } k\text{th draw is white} \} \right] \\
 &= P(\text{the } n+1\text{th ball drawn is white} \mid \text{the 1st draw is white}) P(\text{the 1st draw is white}) \\
 &\quad + P(\text{the } n+1\text{th draw is white} \mid \text{the 1st draw is black}) P(\text{the 1st draw is black}) \\
 &= \frac{W-1}{W+B-1} \frac{W}{W+B} + \frac{W}{W+B-1} \frac{B}{W+B} \quad \text{--- } (*) \quad \left[\frac{W-1}{B} \right]_{\text{1st case}} \quad \left[\frac{W}{B-1} \right]_{\text{2nd case}}
 \end{aligned}$$

rough:

$$\frac{P(h+1^{\text{th}} W \mid 1^{\text{st}} W)}{\lfloor W/B \rfloor} = \frac{P(n^{\text{th}} W)}{\lfloor \frac{W-1}{B} \rfloor}$$

for any n it is true that
 "for any integer its square is
 an integer"

$$(*) = \frac{W^2 - W + WB}{(W+B-1)(W+B)} = \frac{W(W+B-1)}{(W+B)(W+B-1)} = \frac{W}{W+B} \quad \square$$

$\downarrow$
 $(W+B \geq 2)$

Rough $\underbrace{A}_{\text{"}} \Rightarrow \checkmark A \text{ is true for } \underline{n=1}$
 Assume $A \text{ is true for } \underline{n=k} \text{ --- } \textcircled{1}$
 prove that $A \text{ is true for } \underline{n=k+1}$ assuming $\textcircled{1}$.] $A \text{ is true } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Bayes' theorem:

Suppose $A, B_1, \dots, B_n$ are events such that

$P(A) > 0$ and $P(B_i) > 0$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Assume that $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$'s are mutually exclusive and exhaustive.

Then,

$$P(B_i | A) = \frac{P(A | B_i) P(B_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n P(A | B_j) P(B_j)}$$

Pf: LHS = $P(B_i | A) = \frac{P(B_i \cap A)}{P(A)}$ (by definition)

$$= \frac{\frac{P(B_i \cap A)}{P(B_i)} P(B_i)}{P(A \cap \Omega)} = \frac{P(A|B_i) P(B_i)}{P(A \cap (\bigcup_{j=1}^n B_j))}$$

$$= \frac{P(A|B_i) P(B_i)}{P(\bigcup_{j=1}^n (A \cap B_j))} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{(distributive prop.)} \\ (A \cap B_i \text{'s are mutually exclusive).} \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{P(A|B_i) P(B_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n P(A \cap B_j)}$$

$$= \frac{P(A|B_i) P(B_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n P(A|B_j) P(B_j)}$$

□

Example: Two balls are drawn from an urn containing W white balls and B black balls. Given the second ball is black what is the conditional probability that the first drawn ball is white?

• Let us define the following events:

$W_i = \{ \text{the } i\text{th drawn ball is white} \}$ for $i=1, 2$.

$B_i = \{ \text{the } i\text{th drawn ball is black} \}$ for $i=1, 2$.

We need
$$P(W_1 | B_2) = \frac{P(B_2 | W_1) P(W_1)}{P(B_2 | W_1) P(W_1) + P(B_2 | B_1) P(B_1)}$$

$$\frac{BW}{BW + B^2 - B}$$

$$= \frac{W}{W + B - 1}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{B}{W+B-1} \cdot \frac{W}{W+B}}{\frac{B}{W+B-1} \cdot \frac{W}{W+B} + \frac{B-1}{W+B-1} \cdot \frac{B}{W+B}}$$

$$= \frac{BW}{(W+B)(W+B-1)} \cdot \frac{W+B}{B}$$

$$= \frac{W}{W+B-1} \quad \square$$