

Probability theory I

8/10/21

- Last day we saw the definition of independence for two events and saw some examples. We continue with another example.
- Example: Consider the six permutations of the letters a, b, and c as well as the three triples aaa, bbb and ccc i.e. the sample space is

$$\Omega = \{ \overset{\uparrow}{a} \overset{\uparrow}{b} c, \overset{\uparrow}{a} c \overset{\uparrow}{b}, b a c, b c a, c a b, c b a, \overset{\uparrow}{a} a a, b b b, c c c \}.$$

We pick a member of Ω with probability $\frac{1}{9}$.

We define, $A_k = \{ \text{the picked word has } a \text{ in the } k^{\text{th}} \text{ place} \}$
for $k=1, 2, 3$.

$$\text{Then, } P(A_1) = \frac{3}{9} = \frac{1}{3} = P(A_2) = P(A_3).$$

$$\text{Also, } P(A_1 \cap A_2) = \frac{1}{9} = P(A_1 \cap A_3) = P(A_2 \cap A_3)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \parallel \\ P(A_1) P(A_2) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \parallel \\ P(A_1) P(A_3) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \parallel \\ P(A_2) P(A_3) \end{array}$$

Thus we have A_i and A_j are independent for $i \neq j$ and $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$.

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = \frac{1}{9} \neq \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3 = P(A_1) P(A_2) P(A_3)$$

We shall say in this case that A_1 , A_2 , and A_3 are not independent but they are pairwise independent.

• We want to define independence for more than two events.

Definition:

The events $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ are called independent / mutually

independent if for all combinations $1 \leq i < j < k < \dots \leq n$ the multiplication rules

$$P(A_i \cap A_j) = P(A_i) P(A_j)$$

$$- P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) = P(A_i) P(A_j) P(A_k)$$

...

...

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_n) = P(A_1) P(A_2) \dots P(A_n)$$

⊗

holds true.

The first line contains $\binom{n}{2}$ equations, the second line contains $\binom{n}{3}$ equations and so on. So there are

$$\binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{3} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} = (1+1)^n - \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} = 2^n - n - 1$$

Conditions which needs to be satisfied. Observe that the first $\binom{n}{2}$ conditions suffices to ensure that the events $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ are pairwise independent.

$$(*) \begin{cases} \emptyset \neq A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \\ p\left(\bigcap_{i \in A} A_i\right) = \prod_{i \in A} p(A_i) \end{cases}$$

short form

Theorem: If $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ are independent then

$A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_k}$ are also independent for distinct choices of the indices

$i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

pfi This follows from the definition of independence.

Example: A fair coin is tossed twice. Define the events

$A = \{ \text{The first toss is a Head} \}$

$B = \{ \text{The second toss is a Head} \}$

$C = \{ \text{Exactly one of the tosses is a Head} \}$

Then, A , B , and C are pairwise independent but not independent.

Observe that $C = A \Delta B = (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$.

Example: A number is chosen at random from $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, 10^n - 1\}$. For $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, let A_i be the event that the i^{th} digit from the

right is even. Then the events $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ are independent.

$$\Rightarrow P(A_1) = \frac{5}{10} = \frac{1}{2} = P(A_i) \quad \forall i \in \{2, \dots, n\}$$

$$P(A_i \cap A_j) = \frac{5 \times 5}{10 \times 10} = \frac{5}{10} \times \frac{5}{10} = P(A_i)P(A_j).$$

...

For any $2 \leq k \leq n$

$$P(A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k}) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k = P(A_{i_1}) \dots P(A_{i_k}).$$

$$\Omega = \{0, \dots, 10^n - 1\}$$

$a_0 a_1 a_2 \dots a_{n-1} a_n$ $\rightarrow$ 2nd place.
 $a_i \in \{0, \dots, 9\}$
 7 6 2 ... 5
 0 0 0 0 1 0 $\nwarrow$ 1st place

$$\overset{\text{rough}}{P(A_1)} = \frac{4 \times 10^{n-1}}{10^n - 1}$$

if 0 is excluded.

$$\text{if } \Omega = \{1, \dots, 10^n - 1\}$$

$$\frac{5 \times 10^{n-1}}{10^n}$$

Theorem: Suppose that $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ are independent events. If

$i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k, j_1, j_2, \dots, j_l \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ are distinct, then

$$P(A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k} \cap A_{j_1}^c \cap A_{j_2}^c \cap \dots \cap A_{j_l}^c) = P(A_{i_1}) \dots P(A_{i_k}) P(A_{j_1}^c) P(A_{j_2}^c) \dots P(A_{j_l}^c)$$

Pf: Understanding the statement:

Suppose A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_5 are independent. $\Rightarrow A_1, A_2, A_3$ are independent

The theorem implies $P(A_4 \cap A_2 \cap A_5^c \cap A_1^c) = P(A_4) P(A_2) P(A_5^c) P(A_1^c)$

$$\underline{P(A_1 \cap A_2^c \cap A_3^c) = P(A_1) P(A_2^c) P(A_3^c)} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} A, B \text{ ind.} \\ \Rightarrow A, B^c \text{ ind.} \end{array} \right.$$

It is enough to prove that $P(A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_k \cap A_{k+1}^c \cap \dots \cap A_{k+l}^c)$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} &= P(A_1) \cdots P(A_k) P(A_{k+1}^c) \cdots P(A_{k+l}^c) \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} k+l \leq n \\ k, l \geq 1 \end{array} \right) \end{aligned} \right.$$

because we may rename the A_{i_r}' 's and A_{j_s}' 's by $A_1, \dots, A_k$ and $A_{k+1}, \dots, A_{k+l}$.

We shall prove this by induction.

Fix a $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. We shall do the induction on l .

For $l=1$, we need to show

$$P(A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_k \cap A_{k+1}^c) = P(B) P(A_{k+1}^c) \quad (\text{where } B = A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_k)$$

The above is true because $A_1, \dots, A_{k+1}$ are independent

and therefore $(A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_k)$ and A_{k+1} are independent

and therefore $(A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_k)$ and A_{k+1}^c are independent.
(by previous day's theorem)

$$\overset{\text{rough}}{P(B \cap A_{k+1})} \stackrel{?}{=} P(B) P(A_{k+1})$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(B \cap A_{k+1}) &= P(A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_k \cap A_{k+1}) \\ &= P(A_1) \cdots P(A_{k+1}) \\ &= P(A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_k) P(A_{k+1}) \\ &= P(B) P(A_{k+1}) \end{aligned}$$

Suppose the statement is true for $l=q$.

Now we have $\underbrace{p(A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_k \cap A_{k+1}^c \cap \dots \cap A_{k+q}^c)} = p(A_1) \dots p(A_k) p(A_{k+1}^c) \dots p(A_{k+q}^c)$

$$\underbrace{p(A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_k \cap A_{k+1}^c \cap \dots \cap A_{k+q}^c \cap A_{k+q+1}^c)} = \\ \approx B_1$$

• postpone for now.

Example: Consider the polya urn scheme with w white balls and b black balls. Suppose that after each draw, a total of c balls having the same colour of the drawn ball are added to the urn. Calculate the probability that the n -th drawn ball is white.

⇒ Let $W_i = \{ \text{The } i\text{th draw is white} \} \quad \forall i \geq 1$
 $B_i = \{ \text{The } i\text{th draw is black} \} \quad \forall i \geq 1$

$$P(W_1) = \frac{w}{w+b}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(W_2) &= p(W_2 | B_1) p(B_1) + p(W_2 | W_1) p(W_1) \\
 &= \frac{w}{\underbrace{w+b+c-1}} \frac{b}{w+b} + \frac{w+c-1}{b+w+c-1} \frac{w}{w+b}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{w(b+w+c-1)}{(w+b)(w+b+c-1)} = \frac{w}{w+b} . \quad \text{This is the induction step for } n=2.$$

Finish the induction step by conditioning on the first draw.

Problem! Suppose that A and B are events with $0 < p(B) < 1$

and $P(A|B) = P(A|B^c)$. Show that A and B are independent.

Ans: $P(A|B)$
||
LHS $\frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$

$P(A|B^c)$
= $\frac{P(A \cap B^c)}{P(B^c)} = \frac{P(A \cap B^c)}{1 - P(B)}$

$\frac{P(A \cap B), A \setminus (A \cap B)}{A}$
= $\frac{P(A \setminus (A \cap B))}{1 - P(B)} = \frac{P(A) - P(A \cap B)}{1 - P(B)}$

$$\underbrace{P(A \cap B)} - \cancel{P(A \cap B)} P(B) \stackrel{?}{=} \underbrace{P(A)P(B)} - P(B) \cancel{P(A \cap B)}.$$

⇓
 $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B).$

Another soln.

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A|B)P(B)}{P(A|B)P(B) + P(A|B^c)P(B^c)} \quad (\text{Bayes' theorem})$$

If $P(A) \neq 0$.

$$= \frac{P(A|B)P(B)}{P(A|B)P(B) + P(A|B)(1-P(B))} \quad \left(\because P(A|B^c) = P(A|B) \text{ given} \right)$$

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

$$= P(B). \quad \Rightarrow A \text{ and } B \text{ are independent.} \quad \square$$

$$\Rightarrow P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B) \quad \nearrow \quad (\text{If } P(A) = 0 \text{ then } A, B \text{ are independent trivially}).$$

Next class 20/10/21 (Wednesday) (by Arijit sir).