


Knowledge-based systems in Bioinformatics, IMB602


Lecture 8: Probabilistic Approaches



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Lecture overview


- Elementary probability theory
- Frequentist vs. Bayesian philosophy
- Machine learning
- Bayesian networks
- Markov processes
- Hidden Markov Models



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Role of probability theory in AI


- A problem with an agent based on first-order logic is that the agent almost never have access to the whole truth about its environment
- Many aspects are either unknown or not precisely known
- The agent must therefore act under **uncertainty**



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Probability and decision


- Probability
 - A way of summarizing uncertainty (0 to 1)
- Probability theory
 - Our main tool for dealing with degrees of belief
- Decision theory
 - Probability theory + utility theory
 - Utility theory: all states have a degree of usefulness (utility) to the agent, and the agent will prefer states with high utility
 - Rational agent: chooses the action that yields the highest expected utility, averaged over all the possible outcomes of the action (i.e. we weight the utility of a particular outcome by the probability that it occurs)



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Probability as frequency


- Drawing cards from a standard deck
 - $P(\text{card is jack of hearts} | \text{standard deck}) = 1/52$
 - $P(\text{card is of color hearts} | \text{standard deck}) = 13/52$
- Probability of drawing a pair in 5-card poker
 - $P(\text{hand contains a pair} | \text{standard deck}) = \frac{\text{\# of hands with pairs}}{\text{total \# of hands}}$
 - Use combinatorics to calculate the answer
- General probability of event given some conditions (conditional probability)
 - $P(\text{event} | \text{conditions})$



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Joint probability vs conditional probability

- Flipping a 'non-biased' coin
- Probability of four consecutive flips resulting in four heads
 - $P(F_1=\text{head}, F_2=\text{head}, F_3=\text{head}, F_4=\text{head}) = P(F_1=\text{head}) * P(F_2=\text{head}) * P(F_3=\text{head}) * P(F_4=\text{head}) = 1/2 * 1/2 * 1/2 * 1/2 = 0.0625$
 - Independent events: joint probability
- Probability of taking four American coins from a bag of 10 American and 10 British coins
 - $P(C_1=\text{amer}, C_2=\text{amer}, C_3=\text{amer}, C_4=\text{amer}) = P(C_1=\text{amer}) * P(C_2=\text{amer} | C_1=\text{amer}) * P(C_3=\text{amer} | C_1=\text{amer}, C_2=\text{amer}) * P(C_4=\text{amer} | C_1=\text{amer}, C_2=\text{amer}, C_3=\text{amer}) = 10/20 * 9/19 * 8/18 * 7/17 = 0.0625$
 - Each event **dependent** on previous events: conditional probability



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Bayes' Theorem

Posterior
Likelihood
Prior

$$P(H|E) = \frac{P(E|H) * P(H)}{P(E)}$$

Normalization constant

- The posterior (a posteriori) probability of an hypothesis (H) after considering the evidence (E) is the likelihood of the evidence given the hypothesis times the prior (a priori) probability of the hypothesis scaled by a normalization constant

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Bayes' theorem and reasoning under uncertainty

- Allows us to reason about a prior event H if a subsequent event has occurred
 - We need not know whether event H has occurred
- Example (10 British, 5 American coins)
 - H=first coin American, E=second coin American
 - $P(H|E) = \frac{P(E|H) * P(H)}{P(E)}$

$P(H|E) \approx \frac{0.29 * 0.33}{P(E)}$

How to calculate P(E)?

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Bayes' theorem and reasoning under uncertainty

- H=first coin American, E=second coin American

$$P(H|E) = \frac{P(E|H)P(H)}{P(E)}$$

$$\approx \frac{0.29 \cdot 0.33}{P(E)}$$

$$= \frac{0.29 \cdot 0.33}{P(E|H)P(H) + P(E|-H)P(-H)}$$

$$\approx \frac{0.29 \cdot 0.33}{(0.29 \cdot 0.33) + (0.36 \cdot 0.66)}$$

$$\approx 0.31$$

$$P(H|E) = \frac{P(E|H)P(H)}{P(E)}$$

$$P(-H|E) = \frac{P(E|-H)P(-H)}{P(E)}$$

$$P(H|E) + P(-H|E) = 1$$

$$P(E) = P(E|H)P(H) + P(E|-H)P(-H)$$

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Machine learning

- A learning agent can be divided into two main conceptual components
 - The learning element: responsible for making improvements
 - The performance element: responsible for selecting external actions
- The learning element takes some knowledge from the performance element and some feedback on how the agent is doing
 - Based on this it determines how the performance element should be modified to (hopefully) do better in the future.
- The feedback generally tells the agent what the correct outcome is

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Supervised learning

- Any situation in which both the inputs and the outputs can be perceived by the agent is called supervised learning
- In supervised learning the learning element is given the (approximately) correct value of the function for particular inputs
 - Based on this value it changes its representation of the function to try to match the information provided by the feedback
- Formally: an example is a pair $(x, f(x))$, where x is the input and $f(x)$ the output
- Pure inductive learning:
 - Given a collection of examples of f , return a function b that approximates f
 - b is called a hypothesis

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Choosing hypotheses

- Generally we want the most probable hypothesis given the training data

$$P(h|D) = \frac{P(D|h)P(h)}{P(D)}$$
- Maximum a posteriori hypothesis h_{MAP}

$$h_{MAP} = \arg \max_{h \in H} P(h|D)$$

$$= \arg \max_{h \in H} \frac{P(D|h)P(h)}{P(D)}$$

$$= \arg \max_{h \in H} P(D|h)P(h)$$
- If $P(h) = P(h)$, then we can choose the Maximum likelihood hypothesis h_{ML}

$$h_{ML} = \arg \max_{h \in H} P(D|h)$$

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Brute force MAP hypothesis learner

- For each hypothesis h in the hypothesis space H , calculate the posterior probability:

$$P(h|D) = \frac{P(D|h)P(h)}{P(D)}$$

- Output the hypothesis h_{MAP} with the highest posterior probability:

$$h_{MAP} = \arg \max_{h \in H} P(h|D)$$



A discrete model example

- Assume data set D is n independent draws from a binomial distribution with unknown parameter θ
- Eg., n flips of a coin that can either show head or tail

$$P(D|\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^n P(d_j|\theta) = \theta^c (1-\theta)^l$$

– c instances are heads and $l = (n - c)$ instance are tail

- How can we estimate the parameter θ given the data?

Binomial distribution: probability distribution of the number of successes in a sequence of n independent yes/no experiments, each of which yields success with probability p .

Maximum-likelihood parameter learning

- If the prior over hypotheses is uniform, then there is a standard method for maximum likelihood parameter learning:
 - Define the likelihood of the data as a function of the parameter(s)
 - Identify the derivative of the log likelihood with respect to each parameter
 - Find the parameter values such that the derivatives are 0
- By taking logarithms we reduce the product to a sum over the data (easier to maximize)



Flipping of a coin

$$P(D|\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^n P(d_j|\theta) = \theta^c (1-\theta)^l$$

- Define the likelihood of the data as a function of the parameter (θ)
- Identify the derivative of the log likelihood with respect to each parameter

$$\log P(D|\theta) = \sum_{j=1}^n \log P(d_j|\theta) = c \log \theta + l \log(1-\theta)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log P(D|\theta) = \frac{c}{\theta} - \frac{l}{1-\theta}$$

- Find the parameter values such that the derivatives are 0

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log P(D|\theta) = 0 \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{c}{c+l} = \frac{c}{n}$$



Most probable classification of new instances

- So far we've sought the most probable hypothesis given the data D
- Given a new instance x , what is the most probable classification?
- It is not $h_{MAP}(x)$...
 - Suppose $H = \{h_1, h_2, h_3\}$ and $P(h_1) = 0.4$, $P(h_2) = P(h_3) = 0.3$
 - Let $V = \{C_1, C_2\}$ be the set of possible classifications
 - Suppose a new example is classified C_1 by h_1 and C_2 by h_2 and h_3
 - The $h_{MAP}(x)$ hypothesis is C_1
 - The most probable classification is C_2 ($0.3 + 0.3 > 0.4$)



Bayes optimal classifier

- If V is the space of possible classifications, then the probability of a classification $v \in V$ being correct is:

$$P(v|D) = \sum_{h_i \in H} P(v|h_i)P(h_i|D)$$

- The optimal classification is:

$$\hat{v} = \arg \max_{v \in V} P(v|D) = \arg \max_{v \in V} \sum_{h_i \in H} P(v|h_i)P(h_i|D)$$



Gibbs classifier

- Why can't we just use the Bayes optimal classifier every time?
 - Can be expensive if many hypotheses
- An alternative to the Bayes optimal classifier is a slightly less optimal procedure known as the Gibbs classifier
 - Choose a hypothesis h from H at random according to the posterior distribution (i.e. $P(h|D)$)
 - Use h to predict the classification of the next instance x
- The misclassification error for the Gibbs algorithm is at most twice the expected error of the Bayes optimal classifier!

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Bayesian (belief) networks

- X is conditionally independent of Y given Z if the probability distribution governing X is independent of the value of Y given the value of Z ;
 - $(\forall x_i, y_j, z_k) P(X=x_i | Y=y_j, Z=z_k) = P(X=x_i | Z=z_k)$
 - $P(X, Y | Z) = P(X | Z)$
- A Bayesian network represents a set of conditional independence assertions:
 - Each node is asserted to be conditionally independent of its nondescendants, given its immediate predecessors

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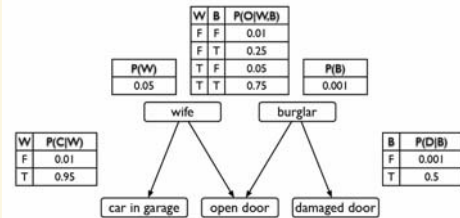
Bayesian networks

- A Bayesian network is a directed, acyclic graph
 - Nodes represent features or attributes
 - Arcs denote dependencies
 - Root node is the start node with no dependencies
- A node X is linked to another node Y provided that there is direct influence of X on Y

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A burglar network

- How to compute the probability of a burglar given that we see that the door is open?



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Inference in Bayesian networks

- Inferences in Bayesian networks consist of computing $P(X|E)$, the posterior probability of the query (e.g. burglar) given the evidence (e.g. open door):

$$p(x|e) = \frac{p(x, e)}{p(e)} = \alpha p(x, e) = \alpha \sum_y p(x, e, y)$$

- y are non-evidence variables (wife, car in garage, door broken)
- Summation is done over all non-evidence variables
- A joint distribution is defined by the product of the conditional probabilities:

$$p(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(z_i | \text{parents}(z_i))$$

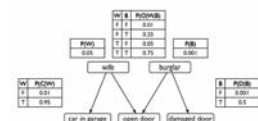
- The product is taken over all variables in the network

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Burglar network

- Probability of a burglar given an open door
- Straight summation:

$$p(b|o) = \alpha \sum_{w,c,d} p(o|w, b) p(c|w) p(d|b) p(w) p(b)$$
- The number of terms in the sum is exponential in the non-evidence variables!
- Variable elimination could be used



Variable elimination

$$p(b|o) = \alpha \sum_{w,c,d} p(o|w,b)p(c|w)p(d|b)p(w)p(b)$$

- When we've pulled out all the redundant terms we get:

$$p(b|o) = \alpha p(b) \sum_d p(d|b) \sum_w p(w)p(o|w,b) \sum_c p(c|w)$$

- We can also note the last term sums to one.
- In fact, every variable that is not an ancestor of a query variable or evidence variable is irrelevant to the query, so we get

$$p(b|o) = \alpha p(b) \sum_d p(d|b) \sum_w p(w)p(o|w,b)$$



Example: Pathfinder

- Pathfinder system (Heckerman et al., 1992).
 - Diagnostic system for lymph-node diseases
 - 60 diseases and 100 symptoms and test-results
 - 14,000 probabilities
 - Experts consulted to make net
 - 8 hours to determine variables
 - 35 hours for net topology
 - 40 hours for probability table values
- Pathfinder is said to outperform the world experts in diagnosis
- Being extended to several dozen other medical domains



Markov chains

- Desire: being able to deal with probabilistic sequences
- A Markov chain is described by the following:
 - a set of states $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$
 - a set of transition probabilities $T(s_i, s_j) = P(s_j | s_i)$
 - an initial state $s_0 \in S$
- The Markov assumption
 - The state at time t , s_t , depends only on the previous state s_{t-1} and not the previous history, i.e.:

$$p(s_t | s_{t-1}, s_{t-2}, s_{t-3}, s_0) = p(s_t | s_{t-1})$$



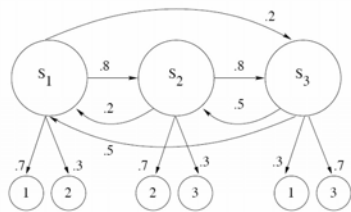
Hidden Markov Models

- Extension of Markov chains to partially observable worlds
- A HMM is described by the following:
 - a set of states $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$
 - a set of observations $Z = \{z_1, \dots, z_t\}$
 - a set of transition probabilities $T(s_i, s_j) = P(s_j | s_i)$
 - a set of emission probabilities $O(z_t, s_t) = P(z_t | s_t)$
 - an initial state distribution $P_0(s)$
- We never know the true state of the system
- At each point in time, we get some observation z



Discrete HMM example

- Three states $\{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$
- Three possible observations $\{1, 2, 3\}$



Rabiner's 3 famous questions

- Given the observation sequence Z and a model $\lambda = (T, O, p_0)$, how do we efficiently compute $P(Z | \lambda)$?
- Given the observation sequence Z and a model $\lambda = (T, O, p_0)$, how do we find the most probable state sequence (path in the HMM) $Q = s_1, \dots, s_t$ (the sequence that best "explains" the observations)?
- How do we adjust the model parameters $\lambda = (T, O, p_0)$ to maximize $P(Z | \lambda)$?



Problem 1: Forward algorithm

- The probability of a sequence Z given λ is the probability of Z over all possible state sequences Q

$$p(Z|\lambda) = \sum_Q p(Z|Q, \lambda)p(Q|\lambda)$$

$$= \sum_{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots} p_0(s_1)p(z_1|s_1)p(s_2|s_1)p(z_2|s_2)p(s_3|s_2) \dots$$

- Summing over all state sequences is not needed
- Forward algorithm (dynamic programming):
 - Initialize $\alpha(s_i) = p_0(s_i)p(z_i|s_i)$
 - Induction: repeat for $\tau=1:t$

$$\alpha_{\tau+1}(s_i) = \left[\sum_{j=1}^{|S|} \alpha_{\tau}(s_j)p(s_i|s_j) \right] p(z_{\tau+1}|s_i)$$

- Termination:

$$p(Z|\lambda) = \sum_{j=1}^{|S|} \alpha_t(s_j)$$



Problem 2: Viterbi algorithm

- Finding the most probable state sequence given a set of observation Z and a model $\lambda=(T,O,p_0)$
- Same principle as forward algorithm, one extra term
- Algorithm:

- Initialize:
 $\alpha_1(s_i) = p_0(s_i)p(z_1|s_i) \psi_1(s_i) = 0$
- Induction: Repeat for $\tau = 1 : t$

$$\alpha_{\tau+1}(s_i) = \left[\max_{s_j} \alpha_{\tau}(s_j)p(s_i|s_j) \right] p(z_{\tau+1}|s_i)$$

$$\psi_{\tau+1}(s_i) = \left[\max_{s_j} \alpha_{\tau}(s_j)p(s_i|s_j) \right]$$

- Termination: $p(Z|\lambda) = [\max_{s_j} \alpha_{\tau}(s_j)p(s_i|s_j)]$
 $s_i^* = \psi_{\tau+1}(s_{i+1}^*)$



References

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