Probabilistic decisions

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(Re-)introduction uncertainty/probability

- ► Markov Decision Processes (MDP)/RL uncertainty about outcome of actions
 - \triangleright Sequential decisions (robot/agent goes from s_0 to s_G)
 - \blacksquare $\pi: \mathcal{S} \to \mathcal{A}$
 - Policy (Strategy): knowing what to do for all possible states.
- Now: uncertainty associated with states
 - Different states may have different prior probabilities
 - ightharpoonup The states $s \in \mathcal{S}$ are not directly observable
 - lacktriangle They need to be inferred from features (observations, measurements) $x \in \mathcal{X}$
 - ▶ Single (repeated) decision $\delta: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{D}$ ($\delta: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{S}$ if $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{S}$);
 - Strategy: knowing how to decide for all possible measurements.
- Decision example, crossing street
 - \triangleright x= camera image; $\mathcal X$ is the space of all possible images
 - \triangleright $S = \{car, bus, bicycle, truck\}$ approaching
 - ightharpoonup I decide to: $\mathcal{D} = \{ go, wait \}$

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Known: HIV test falsely positive only in 1 case out of 1000 tests of healthy people. A doctor calls: "Your HIV test is positive, 999/1000 you will die in 10 years. I'm sorry ...". Insurance company does not want to insure a married couple.

- Was the doctor right?
- Was the insurance company rational?
- $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathsf{healthy}, \mathsf{infected}\}, \ \mathcal{X} = \{\mathsf{positive_test}, \mathsf{negative_test}\}$

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 $S = \{\text{healthy}, \text{infected}\}, \ \mathcal{X} = \{\text{positive_test}, \text{negative_test}\}\$ What is the probability the man is infected?

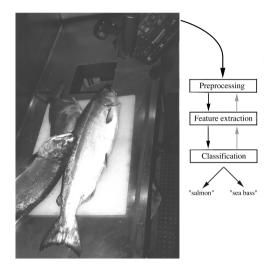
A: $\frac{1}{1000}$

B: $\frac{999}{1000}$

C: Don't know yet, more info needed, but less than $\frac{1}{2}$

D: Don't know yet, more info needed, but more than $\frac{1}{2}$

Classification example: What's the fish?



- ► Factory for fish processing
- \triangleright 2 classes $s_{1,2}$:
 - salmon
 - sea bass
- Features \vec{x} : length, width, lightness etc. from a camera

Fish – classification using probability

$$posterior = \frac{\textit{likelihood} \times \textit{prior}}{\textit{evidence}}$$

- Notation for classification problem
 - ▶ Classes $s_j \in \mathcal{S}$ (e.g., salmon, sea bass)
 - ▶ Features $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$ or feature vectors $(\vec{x_i})$ (also called attributes)
- ightharpoonup Optimal classification of \vec{x}

$$\delta^*(\vec{x}) = \arg\max_i P(s_i|\vec{x})$$

- ▶ We thus choose the most probable class for a given feature vector result.
- Both likelihood and prior are taken into account recall Bayes rule

$$P(s_j|\vec{x}) = \frac{P(\vec{x}|s_j)P(s_j)}{P(\vec{x})}$$

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Can we do (classify) better?

- ► An important feature of intelligent systems
 - make the best possible decision
 - in uncertain conditions
- **Example**: Take a tram OR subway from A to B?
 - Tram: timetables imply a quicker route, but adherence uncertain.
 - Subway: longer route, but adherence almost certain.
- **Example**: where to route a letter with this ZIP?

- ► 15700? 15706? 15200? 15206?
- ▶ What is the optimal decision ?
- ▶ What is the cost of the decision? What is the associated loss ?
- What is the relation between loss and utility ?

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Introducing decision loss: Coin recognition





- $s \in \{1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50\}$ state the true value
- $\triangleright x \in \{0.0, 0.1, \dots, 9.9\}[g]$ measurement, observation
- ightharpoonup P(s,x) joint probability
- ▶ $d \in \{1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50\}$ decision, result of the algorithm

How many strategies?

A 100

B 100^{6}

C 600

D 6100



Loss function $\ell(?)$ s a function of:

A s

Bs, d

Cs, x, d

D d

Strategy $d = \delta(?)$ s a function of:

A X

Bs

C s, x

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- A 100
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Loss function $\ell(?)$ is a function of:

- A *s*
- B s, d
- C s, x, d
- D a

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Loss function $\ell(?)$ is a function of:

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- B s, d
- $\mathsf{C} \mathsf{s}, \mathsf{x}, \mathsf{d}$
 - D d

Strategy $d = \delta(?)$ is a function of:

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What is the best strategy?

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- Wife is coming back from work. Husband: what to cook for dinner?
- 3 dishes (decisions) in his repertoire:
 - nothing ... don't bother cooking => no work but makes wife upset
 - pizza ... microwave a frozen pizza ⇒ not much work but won't impress
 - $ightharpoonup g.T.c.\dots$ general Tso's chicken \Rightarrow will make her day, but very laborious
- "Hassle" incurred by the individual options depends on wife's mood.
- For each of the 9 possible situations (3 possible decisions \times 3 possible states), the cost is quantified by a loss function $\ell(d,s)$:

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- Husband's experiment. He tells her he accidentally overtaped their wedding video and observes her reaction.
- Anticipates 4 possible reactions:
 - mild . . . all right, we keep our memories.
 - irritated . . . how many times do I have to tell you...
 - upset . . . Why did I marry this guy?
 - alarming . . . silence
- The reaction is a measurable attribute/symptom ("feature") of the mind state
- From experience, the husband knows how probable individual reactions are in each state of mind; this is captured by the joint distribution P(x,s).

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P(x,s)	x = mild	x = irritated	x = upset	x = alarming
s = good	0.35	0.28	0.07	0.00
s = average	0.04	0.10	0.04	0.02
s = bad	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.03

Decision strategy

- Decision strategy : a rule selecting a decision for any given value of the measured attribute(s).
- ▶ i.e. function $d = \delta(x)$.
- Example of husband's possible strategies

- How many strategies?
- ▶ How to define which strategy is the best? How to sort them by quality?
- Define the risk of a strategy as a mean (expected) loss value

$$r(\delta) = \sum_{x} \sum_{s} \ell(s, \delta(x)) P(x, s)$$

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$\delta_1(x) =$	nothing	nothing	pizza	g.T.c.
$\delta_2(x) =$	nothing	pizza	g.T.c.	g.T.c.
$\delta_3(x) =$	g.T.c.	g.T.c.	g.T.c.	g.T.c.
$\delta_4(x) =$	nothing	nothing	nothing	nothing

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Calculating $r(\delta) = \sum_{x} \sum_{s} \ell(s, \delta(x)) P(x, s)$

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Do we need to evaluate all possible strategies? P(x,s) = P(s|x)P(x)

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Bayes optimal strategy

► The Bayes optimal strategy : one minimizing mean risk.

$$\delta^* = \arg\min_{\delta} r(\delta)$$

From P(x,s) = P(s|x)P(x) (Bayes rule), we have

$$r(\delta) = \sum_{x} \sum_{s} \ell(s, \delta(x)) P(x, s) = \sum_{s} \sum_{x} \ell(s, \delta(x)) P(s|x) P(x)$$

$$= \sum_{x} P(x) \underbrace{\sum_{s} \ell(s, \delta(x)) P(s|x)}_{\text{Conditional risk}}$$

▶ The optimal strategy is obtained by minimizing the conditional risk separately for each x:

$$\delta^*(x) = \arg\min_{d} \sum \ell(s, d) P(s|x)$$

Optimal strategy: $\delta^*(x) = \arg\min_d \sum_s \ell(s, d) P(s|x)$

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$$\frac{\delta(x) \mid x = mild \quad x = irritated \quad x = upset \quad x = alarming}{\delta^*(x) = \qquad ?? \qquad ?? \qquad ??}$$

Statistical decision making: wrapping up

- Given:
 - ightharpoonup A set of possible states : S
 - ightharpoonup A set of possible decisions : \mathcal{D}
 - ▶ A loss function $\ell: \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{S} \to \Re$
 - ightharpoonup The range \mathcal{X} of the attribute
 - ▶ Distribution P(x, s), $x \in \mathcal{X}$, $s \in \mathcal{S}$.
- ► Define:
 - ► Strategy : function $\delta: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{D}$
 - **Proof** Risk of strategy δ : $r(\delta) = \sum_{x} \sum_{s} \ell(s, \delta(x)) P(x, s)$
- Bayes problem:
 - ▶ Goal: find the optimal strategy $\delta^* = \arg \min_{\delta} r(\delta)$
 - ► Solution: $\delta^*(x) = \arg\min_d \sum_s \ell(s, d) P(s|x)$ (for each x)

- ▶ Bayesian classification is a special case of statistical decision theory:
 - Attribute vector $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, ...)$: pixels 1, 2,
 - ▶ State set S = decision set $D = \{0, 1, \dots 9\}$.
 - ► State = actual class, Decision = recognized class
 - Loss function:

$$\ell(s,d) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0, & d = s \\ 1, & d \neq s \end{array} \right.$$

$$\delta^*(\vec{x}) = \arg\min_{d} \sum_{s} \underbrace{\ell(s, d)}_{0 \text{ if } d=s} P(s|\vec{x}) = \arg\min_{d} \sum_{s \neq d} P(s|\vec{x})$$

Obviously $\sum_s P(s|ec{x}) = 1$, then:

$$P(d|\vec{x}) + \sum_{s \neq d} P(s|\vec{x}) = 1$$

Inserting into above:

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References I

Further reading: Chapter 13 and 14 of [6] (Chapters 12 and 13 in [7]). Books [1] (for this lecture, read Chapter 1) and [2] are classical textbooks in the field of pattern recognition and machine learning. Interesting insights into how people think and interact with probabilities are presented in [4] (in Czech as [5]).

[1] Christopher M. Bishop.

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[2] Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork.

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[3] Zdeněk Kotek, Petr Vysoký, and Zdeněk Zdráhal. Kybernetika. SNTL, 1990.

[4] Leonard Mlodinow.

The Drunkard's Walk. How Randomness Rules Our Lives.

Vintage Books, 2008.

[5] Leonard Mlodinow.

Život je jen náhoda. Jak náhoda ovlivňuje naše životy.

Slovart, 2009.

[6] Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig.

Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach.

Prentice Hall, 3rd edition, 2010.

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References III

[7] Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig.

Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach.

Prentice Hall, 4th edition, 2021.

Additional material for thinking

- ▶ Robbery, LA 1964, fuzzy evidence of the offenders:
 - ► female, around 65 kg
 - wearing something dark
 - hair of light color, between light and dark blond, in a ponytail
- At the same time, additional evidence close to the crime scene:
 - loud scream, yelling, looking at the this direction
 - . . .
 - ▶ a woman sitting into a yellow car
 - car starts immediately and passes close to the additional witness
 - ▶ a black man with beard and moustache was driving
- No more evidence
- Testimony of both the victim and the witness not unambiguous (didn't recognize suspects)
- ▶ Still, the suspects were sentenced to jail.

```
P(\text{yellow car}) = 1/10
P(\text{man with moustache}) = 1/4
P(\text{black man with beard}) = 1/10
P(\text{woman with pony tail}) = 1/10
P(\text{woman blond hair}) = 1/3
P(\text{mix race pair in a car}) = 1/1000
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Assume (wrong!) mutual indepedence

$$P(?) = \frac{1}{12,000,000}$$

What probability

A Convicted pair not guilty

B A randomly selected pair matches characteristics

C Some other.

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Computed (wrongly):

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Judge needs:

$$P(a pair matching characteristics is guilty) = ?$$

P(randomly selected pair does not match) = $1 - P_r$ possible/existing pairs in California ... N $P(\text{pair will never appear in } N) = P(NA) = <math>(1 - P_r)^N$ $P(\text{pair will appear at least once in } N) = P(ALO) = <math>1 - P(NA) = 1 - (1 - P_r)^N$ $P(\text{pair will appear exactly once in } N) = P(EO) = NP_r(1 - P_r)^{N-1}$ P(pair will appear more than once in N) = P(MTO) = P(ALO) - P(EO) $P(MTO|ALO) = \frac{P(MTO,ALO)}{P(ALO)} = \frac{P(MTO)}{P(ALO)}$

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possible/existing pairs in California . . .

$$P(\text{pair will never appear in } N) = P(NA) = (1 - P_r)^N$$

$$P(\mathsf{pair} \; \mathsf{will} \; \mathsf{appear} \; \mathsf{at} \; \mathsf{least} \; \mathsf{once} \; \mathsf{in} \; N) = P(ALO) = 1 - P(NA) = 1 - (1 - P_r)^N$$

$$P(\text{pair will appear exactly once in } N) = P(EO) = NP_r(1 - P_r)^{N-1}$$

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P(MTO|ALO) = f(N); people of CA vs Collins, 1968

