

Assigned: Tuesday 25 October 2011

Due: Monday 31 October 2011, 11:59 p.m.

Objective: Practice applying and identifying relevant rules of probability.

Collaboration: This laboratory will be completed in pairs assigned by the instructor.

Problem 1: Marginalization and Conditioning

Use the joint distribution $\mathbf{P}(Toothache, Cavity, Catch)$ of AIMA Figure 13.3 to determine the following

- $P(cavity)$
- $\mathbf{P}(Toothache)$
- $\mathbf{P}(Cavity \mid toothache)$
- $\mathbf{P}(Toothache \mid cavity \vee \neg catch)$

Show at least one step of intermediate probability expressions before reducing to numerical calculations.

Problem 2: Plausible Reasoning

The same way the inference rule *modus ponens*

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B, A}{B}$$

has an analog converse that shows how A seems more believable when B is known, B seems somehow less believable when $\neg A$ is known. Use the rules of probability to prove this fact. That is, compared to being given $A \Rightarrow B$ alone,

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B, \neg A}{B \text{ becomes less plausible.}}$$

Problem 3: Bayes Rule

¹

See <http://dilbert.com/strips/comic/2001-10-25>.

You are given bag containing n coins and are told that $n - 1$ of these coins are normal, unbiased coins. However, the last coin looks (and feels to you) just like the rest, but it is biased and always comes up heads.

- a. Suppose you reach into the bag and pick one of the coins, flip it, and get a head. Given all the background information and this observation, what is the probability that the coin you chose is biased?

Clearly include all the relevant intermediate probability expressions and justify their symbolic values, before performing any algebraic simplification.

- b. Plot a graph of this probability for values of n from 2 up to 20 coins. Be sure to clearly label your axes and title your graph.

¹Adapted from Russell and Norvig (2010), Exercise 13.18.

- c. Comment on and/or explain what the graph shows and why it seems reasonable.
- d. Suppose you continue flipping that same coin a total of k times after picking it and get k heads. Given this updated information, what is the probability the coin you are flipping is biased?
Clearly include all the relevant intermediate probability expressions and justify their symbolic values (if not already done), before performing any algebraic simplification.
- e. Plot a graph of this probability for a wide range of n and several values of k , plotting the probabilities for different k on the same axes (for ease of comparability). Be sure to clearly label your axes, include a legend identifying the different values of k , and title your graph.
- f. Comment on and/or explain what the graph shows and why it seems reasonable.
- g. Given that uncertainty doesn't preclude you from needing to act, your friend suggests you decide whether the coin is fake by flipping it k times, deciding it is fake if all k flips come up heads and unbiased otherwise. What is the probability that this procedure will cause you to err?
Clearly include all the relevant intermediate probability expressions and justify their symbolic values, before performing any algebraic simplification.
- h. Plot a graph of this probability for a wide range of n and several values of k , plotting the probabilities for different k on the same axes (for ease of comparability). Be sure to clearly label your axes, include a legend identifying the different values of k , and title your graph.
- i. Comment on and/or explain what the graph shows and why it seems reasonable.
- j. Suppose there are $n = 10$ coins in the bag. What value of k would make you at least 99% certain you've avoided making an error?

What to turn in

Your submission should be a PDF with your answers to the problems above.

