

*It is remarkable that a science which began with the consideration of games of chance should become the most important object of human knowledge . . . The most important questions of life are, for the most part, really only problems of probability . . .*

*The theory of probabilities is at bottom nothing but common sense reduced to calculus.*

*– Pierre Simon de Laplace [1812]*

At the end of the class you should be able to:

- justify the use and semantics of probability
- know how to compute marginals and apply Bayes' theorem
- identify conditional independence
- build a belief network for a domain

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- An agent needs to reason about its uncertainty.

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- Acting is gambling: agents who don't use probabilities will lose to those who do — Dutch books.
- Probabilities can be learned from data.  
Bayes' rule specifies how to combine data and prior knowledge.

# Numerical Measures of Belief

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  - ▶ The probability  $f$  is 0 means that  $f$  is believed to be definitely false.
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- Using 0 and 1 is purely a convention.
- $f$  has a probability between 0 and 1, means the agent is ignorant of its truth value.
- Probability is a measure of an agent's ignorance.
- Probability is *not* a measure of degree of truth.

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- Logical connectives have their standard meaning:
  - $\omega \models \alpha \wedge \beta$  if  $\omega \models \alpha$  and  $\omega \models \beta$
  - $\omega \models \alpha \vee \beta$  if  $\omega \models \alpha$  or  $\omega \models \beta$
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(Sometimes the range of a random variable is called its **domain** – it is the domain of a function on random variables.)

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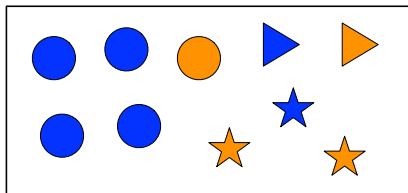
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- $P(\alpha) = \mu(\{\omega \mid \omega \models \alpha\})$ .

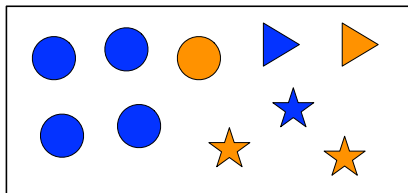
Possible Worlds:



Suppose the measure of each singleton world is 0.1.



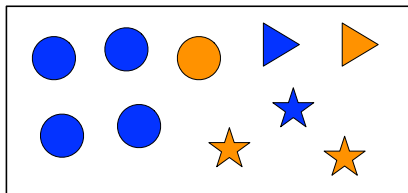
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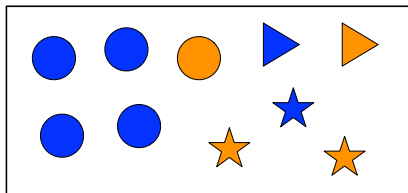
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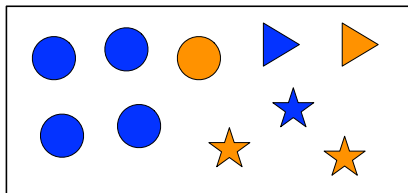
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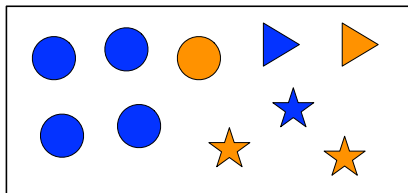
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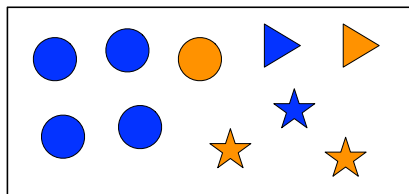
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Note that  $P(\alpha \wedge \beta)$  is **not** a function of  $P(\alpha)$  and  $P(\beta)$ .

- The **expected value** of numerical random variable  $X$  with respect to probability  $P$  is

$$\mathbb{E}_P(X) = \sum_{v \in \text{domain}(X)} v * P(X=v)$$

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- When the domain is continuous, the sum becomes an integral.
- If  $\alpha$  is a proposition, treating *true* as 1 and *false* as 0:

$$\mathbb{E}_P(\alpha) = P(\alpha)$$

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- All other information must be conditioned on.
- If **evidence**  $e$  is the all of the information obtained subsequently, the **conditional probability**  $P(h \mid e)$  of  $h$  given  $e$  is the **posterior probability** of  $h$ .

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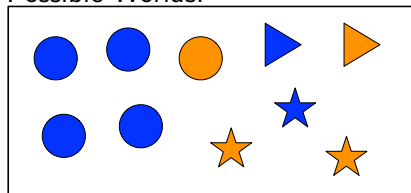
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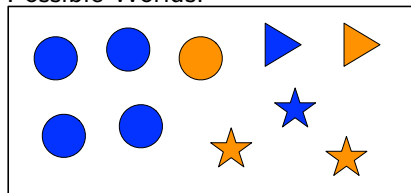


$$P(\text{Shape}=\text{star}) = 0.3$$

$$P(\text{Shape}=\text{circle}) = 0.5$$

# Conditioning

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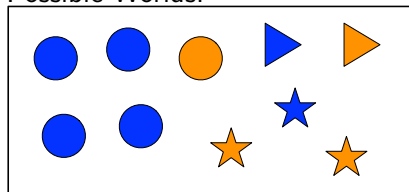
Observe  $Color=orange$ :

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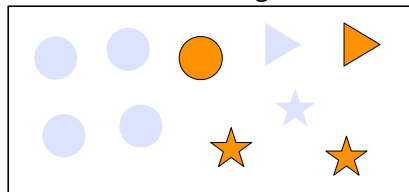
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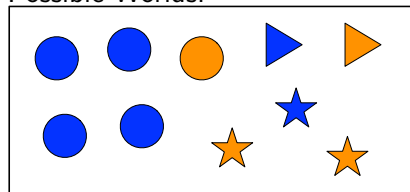
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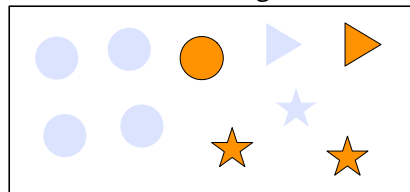
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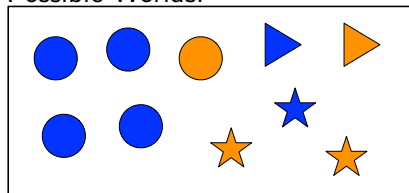
Observe  $\text{Color}=\text{orange}$ :



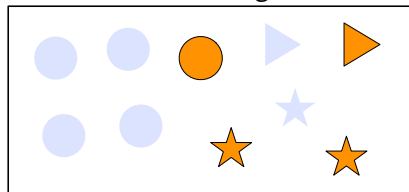
$$P(\text{Shape}=\text{star} \mid \\ \text{Color}=\text{orange}) = 0.5$$

# Conditioning

Possible Worlds:



Observe  $Color=orange$ :



$$P(\text{Shape}=\textit{star}) = 0.3$$

$$P(\text{Shape}=\textit{circle}) = 0.5$$

$$P(\text{Shape}=\textit{star} \mid \\ \text{Color}=\textit{orange}) = 0.5$$

$$P(\text{Shape}=\textit{circle} \mid \\ \text{Color}=\textit{orange}) = 0.25$$



# Clicker Question

<i>Flu</i>	<i>Sneeze</i>	<i>Snore</i>	$\mu$
true	true	true	0.064
true	true	false	0.096
true	false	true	0.016
true	false	false	0.024
false	true	true	0.096
false	true	false	0.144
false	false	true	0.224
false	false	false	0.336

What is:

(a)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \text{sneeze})$

A: 0.04

B: 0.16

C: 0.24

D: 0.4

E: 0.8

# Clicker Question

<i>Flu</i>	<i>Sneeze</i>	<i>Snore</i>	$\mu$
true	true	true	0.064
true	true	false	0.096
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false	true	false	0.144
false	false	true	0.224
false	false	false	0.336

What is:

(a)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \text{sneeze})$  0.16

- A: 0.04
- B: 0.16
- C: 0.24
- D: 0.4
- E: 0.8

# Clicker Question

<i>Flu</i>	<i>Sneeze</i>	<i>Snore</i>	$\mu$
true	true	true	0.064
true	true	false	0.096
true	false	true	0.016
true	false	false	0.024
false	true	true	0.096
false	true	false	0.144
false	false	true	0.224
false	false	false	0.336

What is:

(a)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \text{sneeze})$  0.16

(b)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \neg \text{sneeze})$

A: 0.04

B: 0.16

C: 0.24

D: 0.4

E: 0.8

# Clicker Question

<i>Flu</i>	<i>Sneeze</i>	<i>Snore</i>	$\mu$
true	true	true	0.064
true	true	false	0.096
true	false	true	0.016
true	false	false	0.024
false	true	true	0.096
false	true	false	0.144
false	false	true	0.224
false	false	false	0.336

What is:

(a)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \text{sneeze})$  0.16

(b)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \neg \text{sneeze})$  0.04

A: 0.04

B: 0.16

C: 0.24

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# Clicker Question

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What is:

- (a)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \text{sneeze})$  0.16
- (b)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \neg \text{sneeze})$  0.04
- (c)  $P(\text{flu})$  (not clicker)

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true	true	true	0.064
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What is:

- (a)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \text{sneeze})$  0.16
- (b)  $P(\text{flu} \wedge \neg \text{sneeze})$  0.04
- (c)  $P(\text{flu})$  (not clicker) 0.2

# Clicker Question

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true	true	true	0.064
true	true	false	0.096
true	false	true	0.016
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# Chain Rule: probability of conjunctions

$$P(h \mid e) = \frac{P(h \wedge e)}{P(e)}$$

Therefore

$$P(h \wedge e) =$$

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$$P(h | e) = \frac{P(h \wedge e)}{P(e)}$$

Therefore

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The chain rule and commutativity of conjunction ( $h \wedge e$  is equivalent to  $e \wedge h$ ) gives us:

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$$\begin{aligned} P(h \wedge e) &= P(h \mid e) * P(e) \\ &= P(e \mid h) * P(h). \end{aligned}$$

# Bayes' theorem

The chain rule and commutativity of conjunction ( $h \wedge e$  is equivalent to  $e \wedge h$ ) gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} P(h \wedge e) &= P(h | e) * P(e) \\ &= P(e | h) * P(h). \end{aligned}$$

If  $P(e) \neq 0$ , divide the right hand sides by  $P(e)$ :

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$$P(h | e) = \frac{P(e | h) * P(h)}{P(e)}.$$

This is **Bayes' theorem**.

# Why is Bayes' theorem interesting?

- Often you have causal knowledge:  
 $P(\textit{symptom} \mid \textit{disease})$



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- Often you have causal knowledge:

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$$P(\textit{image looks like } \img alt="tree icon" data-bbox="378 438 415 495" \mid \textit{a tree is in front of a car})$$

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# Why is Bayes' theorem interesting?

- Often you have causal knowledge:

$$P(\textit{symptom} \mid \textit{disease})$$

$$P(\textit{light is off} \mid \textit{status of switches and switch positions})$$

$$P(\textit{alarm} \mid \textit{fire})$$

$$P(\textit{image looks like } \img alt="tree icon" data-bbox="378 438 415 495" \mid \textit{a tree is in front of a car})$$

- and want to do evidential reasoning:

$$P(\textit{disease} \mid \textit{symptom})$$

$$P(\textit{status of switches} \mid \textit{light is off and switch positions})$$

$$P(\textit{fire} \mid \textit{alarm})$$

$$P(\textit{a tree is in front of a car} \mid \textit{image looks like } \img alt="tree icon" data-bbox="735 712 772 769" )$$



A cab was involved in a hit-and-run accident at night. Two cab companies, the Green and the Blue, operate in the city. You are given the following data:

- 85% of the cabs in the city are Green and 15% are Blue.
- A witness identified the cab as Blue. The court tested the reliability of the witness in the circumstances that existed on the night of the accident and concluded that the witness correctly identifies each one of the two colors 80% of the time and failed 20% of the time.

What is the probability that the cab involved in the accident was Blue?

[From D. Kahneman, *Thinking Fast and Slow*, 2011, p. 166.]