



Bioinformatics

## Brief refresher on conditional probabilities and the Bayesian theorem

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#### **Brief probability reminder ... but first a little game!**





## **Brief probability reminder**



Events: *E* = our player picked a red ball

 $P(E) = \frac{1}{10} = 0.1$ 



## **Brief probability reminder**





- Η = our player picked a red ball S

  - = our player picked the 's' urn



conditional probability (assuming our player picked the 's' urn)



- = our player picked a red ball
  - = our player picked the 's' urn
- T = our player picked the 't' urn P(T) =  $rac{1}{2}$ P(E|T) =  $rac{5}{10} = rac{1}{2} = 0.5$

Η,

S



# P(E) = (Our player picked urn 's' and picked a red ball) + (Our player picked urn 't' and picked a red ball)

## P(E) = P(S)P(E|S) + P(T)P(E|T)



#### P(E) = P(S)P(E|S) + P(T)P(E|T) $\mathbf{5}$ P(E)=2 9 10 $\frac{5}{20}$ (E) $\overline{20}$ $\frac{6}{20}$ $H_{i}$



## $P(E) = \frac{6}{20}$

There is a 30% chance of getting a red ball





- E = T =
  - = our player picked a red ball

= our player picked the 't' urn

We seek:





- $E \ T$
- = our player picked a red ball
- = our player picked the 't' urn





Thomas Bayes (1701 - 1761)

P(T)P(E|T)P(T|E) =(E)



E = our player picked a red ball T = our player picked the 't' urn



What is the **prior** probability

of picking urn 't'?



= our player picked a red ball

 $E \ T$ 



What is the **prior** probability

of selecting urn 't'?



 $E \ T$ 

= our player picked a red ball

= our player picked the 't' urn

What is the probability of sampling a red ball given than I selected the urn 't'?

# $P(T|E) = rac{1}{2} rac{P(E|T)}{P(E)}$



 $E \ T$ 



= our player picked the 't' urn

What is the probability of sampling a red ball given than I selected the urn 't'?

 $P(T|E) = rac{1}{2} rac{5}{10} P(E)$ 



- = our player picked a red ball
  - = our player picked the 't' urn





- = our player picked a red ball
  - = our player picked the 't' urn





- = our player picked a red ball
  - = our player picked the 't' urn





= our player picked a red ball

= our player picked the 't' urn

# $P(T|E)=~rac{5}{6}pprox 83\%$



- = our player picked a red ball
- = our player picked the 't' urn

Let us think about Bayes' theorem a bit more...

- The color of the ball is an observation
- The urn that was selected is a piece of information I cannot have access to, a mental model
- I made a prediction about the probability of a model being correct given an observation

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



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- The urn that was selected is a piece of information I cannot have access to, a mental model
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$$P(M|D) = \frac{P(M)P(D|M)}{P(D)}$$



Let us think about Bayes' theorem a bit more...

- Say our player:
  - selects an urn at random
  - $\circ$  picks a ball
  - $\circ$  records it
  - picks a ball again the **same** urn
- Our player does this 5 times
- When he leaves, he reports his observations

Observations 1:





Let us think about Bayes' theorem a bit more...

- Say our player:
  - selects an urn at random
  - $\circ$  picks a ball
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Observations 1:



What is the probability that urn 't' was selected? ~97%



key ideas:

- Additional independent observations can give us more confidence in a model being the correct one
- Confidence is never absolute

Observations 1:



What is the probability that urn 't' was selected? ~97%