

Conditional probability

How can we calculate the result in a case where two events are not independent. It means that, if one event occurs it will directly affect the probability for the other event?

If event A and B are those kind of complex events which will not exclude each other. In this case we have a so-called conditional probability (event A affects event B).

Notation: $(p(A | B))$

In this case we mean the relative frequency which compares the sum of all probability to the probability of event B (probability of its occurrence).

$$p(A|B) = \frac{k_{AB}}{k_B} = \frac{\frac{k_{AB}}{k}}{\frac{k_B}{k}} = \frac{p(A \cap B)}{p(B)}$$

So we can get to the conclusion:

$$p(A \cap B) = p(A|B) p(B)$$

1.) $(p(A \cap B))$: This represents the probability that both events A and B occur simultaneously. It is also known as the probability of the intersection of A and B.

2.) $(p(A|B))$: This is the conditional probability of event A occurring given that event B has already occurred. It tells us how likely A is to happen under the condition that B has happened.

What the Formula Says?

The formula states that the probability of both events A and B occurring together, is equal to the probability of B occurring multiplied by the probability of A occurring given that B has already occurred.

Example:

A manufacturer needs to produce a shaft with two critical dimensions: length (L) and diameter (D). Tolerances of $(L \pm \Delta)$ and $(D \pm \Delta)$ is allowed. After inspecting 180 components, the results are as follows:

Measurement Result	Quantity
Faultless $((H))$	162
The length \square is faulty $((A))$	10
The diameter \square is faulty $((B))$	12
Both dimensions are faulty $((A \cap B))$	4
Only the length \square is faulty $((C))$	6
Only the diameter \square is faulty $((D))$	8

Question 1: What are the probabilities of events (A) and (B) ?

The probability of the event "length" is faulty $((A))$ is:

$$p(A) = \frac{10}{180} = 0.05555$$

The probability of the event “diameter” is faulty” (B) is:

$$p(B) = \frac{12}{180} = 0.06666$$

Question 2: What is the probability that both dimensions are faulty?

$$p(A \cap B) = \frac{4}{180} = 0.0222$$

Question 3: What is the probability that a shaft's length is faulty, given that its diameter is already faulty?

The conditional probability of both events occurring can be calculated using the definition:

$$p(A \mid B) = \frac{\text{both dimensions are faulty}}{\text{diameter is faulty}} = \frac{4}{12} = 0.3333$$

Since this does not match with the product $(p(A) p(B))$, we can conclude that the two events are **not independent!**

Thus, the joint probability can also be calculated differently:

$$p(A \cap B) = p(A \mid B) \cdot p(B) = 0.333 \cdot 0.0666 = 0.02222$$

The probability of event (C) is:

$$p(C) = \frac{6}{180} = 0.0333$$

The probability of event (D) is:

$$p(D) = \frac{8}{180} = 0.0444$$

The probability of defective production is:

$$p(H) = \frac{180 - 162}{180} = \frac{18}{180} = 0.1$$

Alternatively, we can calculate it as:

$$p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B) - p(A \cap B) = 0.0555 + 0.0666 - 0.0222 = 0.1$$

or

$$p(A \cup B \cup E) = 0.0333 + 0.0444 + 0.0222 = 0.1$$

where $(E = A \cap B)$

From: <https://edu.iit.uni-miskolc.hu/> - Institute of Information Science - University of Miskolc

Permanent link: https://edu.iit.uni-miskolc.hu/tanszek:oktatas:techcomm:conditional_probability?rev=1724696659

Last update: 2024/08/26 18:24

