

**BAYES` THEOREM AND ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

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Annotation: Bayes` theorem is a fundamental concept in probability theory that provides a framework for updating probabilities based on new evidence. This article explores the mathematical foundation of Bayes` theorem, its formula, and real-life applications in various domains, including spam filtering, medical diagnostics, artificial intelligence, finance, and weather forecasting. Several practical examples are presented to illustrate its utility in decision-making. The theorem plays a crucial role in Bayesian inference, enabling accurate predictions and informed decisions in diverse fields.

Keywords: Bayes` theorem, Bayesian inference, probability theory, machine learning, artificial intelligence, medical diagnostics, spam filtering, finance, risk assessment, classification problems, decision-making.

Introduction

Bayes theorem is a fundamental concept in probability theory and statistics that describes how to update the probabilities of hypotheses when given evidence. It



serves as the basis for a broad range of statistical techniques, including Bayesian inference and machine learning algorithms. In this article, we aim to unpack the mathematics behind Bayes theorem, helping you understand its underlying logic and potential applications.

Bayes' Theorem Formula

Bayes theorem was formulated by Reverend Thomas Bayes, an 18th-century British statistician and Presbyterian minister. The theorem provides a mathematical framework for adjusting initial beliefs in light of new evidence.

Bayes' theorem is expressed as:

$$P(A/B) = \frac{P(A)P(B/A)}{P(B)}$$

Where:

- $P(A/B)$ – Posterior probability (the probability of event A given that event B has occurred),
- $P(B/A)$ – Likelihood (the probability of event B given that event A has occurred),
- $P(A)$ – Prior probability of event A,
- $P(B)$ – Total probability of event B.

Real- Life Applications of Bayes` Theorem

Bayes` Theorem provides a way to update the probability, of a hypothesis, event, or condition A being true after taking into account new evidence or information B. It calculates the revised probability of A given B by relating the probability of B given A, the initial probability of A, and the probability of B. Bayesian inference is very important and has found application in various activities, including medicine, science, philosophy, engineering, sports, law, ect. Some of thr most common applications of Bayes` Theorem in real life are:

- ❖ Spam Filtering
- ❖ Weather Forecasting
- ❖ DNA Testing
- ❖ Financial Forecasting



- ❖ Fault Diagnosis in Engineering
- ❖ Drug Testing

Applications of Bayes` Theorem in Spam Filtering

Spam filters in email systems use Bayes`Theorem to distinguish between legitimate emails and spam. By analyzing the frequency of certain words or phrases in both spam and non-spam emails, the filter can assign probabilities to incoming messages being spam.

➤ For example, if an email contains words commonly found in spam messages, such as “free” or “discount” the filter will calculate the likelihood that it is spam and then route it accordingly.

Bayes' Theorem in Medical Diagnostics

One of the most significant applications of Bayes' theorem is in medical diagnostics, where it helps determine the probability of a disease given a positive test result. Consider the following example:

Condition	Probability
General prevalence of disease $P(A)$	1%(0,01)
Sensitivity of test $P(B/A)$	90%(0,9)
False positive rate $P(B/A)$	5%(0,05)

Using Bayes' theorem, the probability of actually having the disease given a positive test result is computed as follows:

This calculation helps doctors and patients understand the real likelihood of a disease, reducing unnecessary anxiety and improving decision-making.

Bayes' Theorem in Artificial Intelligence

Bayes' theorem is widely used in machine learning and artificial intelligence, particularly in classification problems. A well-known application is the **Naïve Bayes classifier**, which is used in:

- Spam detection
- Image recognition
- Natural language processing (NLP)



For example, in spam filtering, the probability of an email being spam is calculated using word frequencies. Consider a scenario where the presence of the word “free” in an email affects its classification:

Word in Email	Probability of Spam	Probability of Not Spam
“Free” appears	80%	20%
“Offer” appears	70%	30%

Using Bayes' theorem, an email containing multiple suspicious words can be assigned a probability score to classify it as spam or not spam.

Bayes' Theorem in Finance

In finance, Bayes' theorem is used for risk assessment and stock market predictions. Investors update their beliefs about stock prices based on new market information. Consider an example where an investor predicts a stock's price increase based on financial reports:

Market Condition	Probability of Stock Increase
Positive earnings report	85%
Negative earnings report	20%

By incorporating new information using Bayes' theorem, investors can make data-driven decisions and optimize their portfolios.

Example 1

What is the probability of a patient having liver disease if they are alcoholic?

Here, “being an alcoholic” is the “test” (type of litmus test) for liver disease.

➤ A is the event i. e “patient has liver disease”.

As per earlier records of the clinic, it states that 10% of the patient's entering the clinic are suffering from liver disease.

There fore, $P(A)=0,10$.

➤ B is the litmus test that “Patient is an alcoholic”.

Earlier records of the clinic showed that 5% of the patients entering the clinic are alcoholic.

There fore, $P(B)=0,05$.



➤ Also, 7% out of the patient's that are diagnosed with liver disease, are alcoholics. This defines the $P(B|A)$: probability of a patient being alcoholic, given that they have a liver disease is 7%.

As, per Bayes theorem formula:

$$P(A|B) = (0,07 * 0,1) / 0,05 = 0,14.$$

Therefore, for a patient being alcoholic, the chances of having a liver disease are 0,14 (14%).

Example 2:

- Dangerous fires are rare (1%)
- But smoke is fairly common (10%) due to barbecues
- And 90% of dangerous fires make smoke.

What is the probability of dangerous Fire when there is Smoke?

Calculation

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Fire}|\text{Smoke}) &= P(\text{Fire})P(\text{Smoke}|\text{Fire})/P(\text{Smoke}). \\ &= 1\% * 90\% / 10\% = 9\%. \end{aligned}$$

Example 3

What is the chance of rain during the day? Where, Rain means rain during the day, and Cloud means cloudy morning.

- ◆ The change of Rain given Cloud is written $P(\text{Rain}|\text{Cloud})$
- ◆ $P(\text{Rain}|\text{Cloud}) = P(\text{Rain})P(\text{Cloud}|\text{Rain})/P(\text{Cloud})$
- ◆ $P(\text{Rain})$ is Probability of Rain = 10%
- ◆ $P(\text{Cloud}|\text{Rain})$ is Probability of Cloud, given that Rain happens = 50%
- ◆ $P(\text{Cloud})$ is Probability of Cloud = 40%
- ◆ $P(\text{Rain}|\text{Cloud}) = (0,1 * 0,5) / 0,4 = 0,125.$

Therefore, a 12,5% chance of rain.

Conclusion

Bayes' theorem is a powerful tool for probability-based decision-making and analysis. It finds applications in medicine for disease diagnosis, in artificial intelligence for classification problems, and in finance for risk assessment. By



incorporating new data into prior beliefs, Bayes' theorem enables more accurate predictions and better decision-making across various fields.

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