



# Foundations: Probability Theory

Statistical Relational Artificial Intelligence  
(StaRAI)

$R_1$	$R_2$	$P(R_1, R_2)$
1	1	$P(\{2\}) = \frac{1}{6}$
1	0	$P(\{3, 5\}) = \frac{2}{6}$
0	1	$P(\{4, 6\}) = \frac{2}{6}$
0	0	$P(\{1\}) = \frac{1}{6}$

$$P(R_1, R_2) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2 | R_1)$$

$$P(R_1) = \sum_{r_2 \in \text{Val}(R_2)} P(R_1, R_2 = r_2)$$

$$P(R_1 | R_2) = \frac{P(R_2 | R_1) \cdot P(R_1)}{P(R_2)}$$

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- Agent framework
- StaRAI: context, motivation

## 2. Foundations

- Logic
- Probability theory
- Probabilistic graphical models (PGMs)

## 3. Probabilistic Relational Models (PRMs)

- Parfactor models, Markov logic networks
- Semantics, inference tasks

## 4. Lifted Inference

- Exact inference
- Approximate inference, specifically sampling

## 5. Lifted Learning

- Parameter learning
- Relation learning
- Approximating symmetries

## 6. Lifted Sequential Models and Inference

- Parameterised models
- Semantics, inference tasks, algorithm

## 7. Lifted Decision Making

- Preferences, utility
- Decision-theoretic models, tasks, algorithm

## 8. Continuous Space and Lifting

- Lifted Gaussian Bayesian networks (BNs)
- Probabilistic soft logic (PSL)

## Overview: 2. Foundations

### A. *Logic*

- Propositional logic: alphabet, grammar, normal forms, rules
- First-order logic: introducing quantifiers, domain constraints

### B. ***Probability theory***

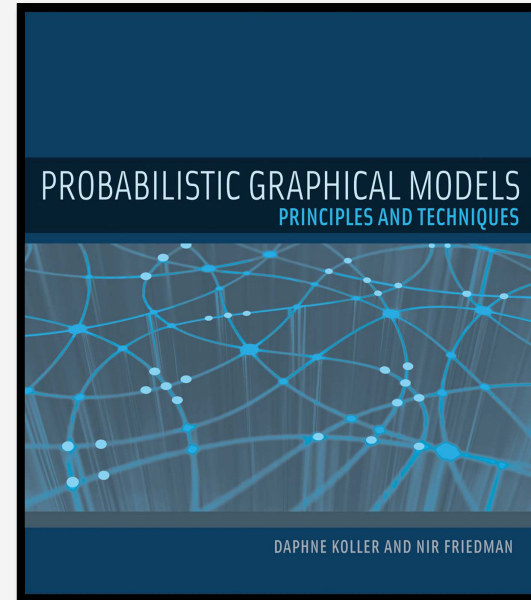
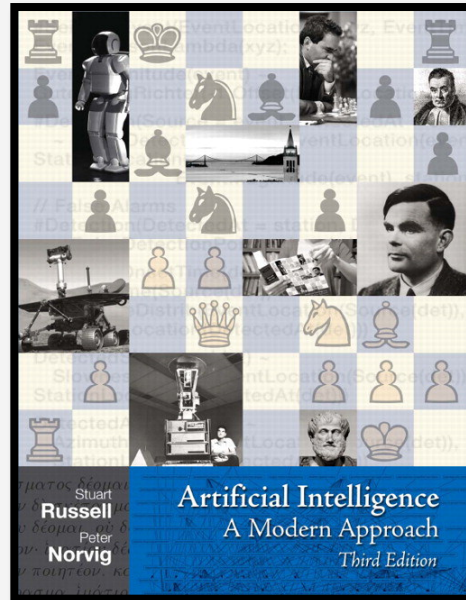
- Modelling: (conditional) probability distributions, random variables, marginal and joint distributions
- Inference: axioms and basic rules, Bayes theorem, independence

### C. *Probabilistic graphical models*

- Syntax, semantics
- Inference problems

## Sources

- Content of the slides mainly based on the following books:



## Motivation

- Acting & Making decisions in environments with uncertainty
  - e.g., partially observable environment
- Reasoning under uncertainty
- Knowledge required about what is possible and what is probable
- Framework of probability theory:
  - Defines possible outcomes and events
  - Assigns probabilities to them
  - Allows for calculating specific probabilities
  - Allows for including observations and „updating“ probabilities

# Sample & Event Space

- Sample Space
  - Set of **possible outcomes**, denoted by  $\Omega$
  - Arbitrary, non-empty set
- Event Space
  - Set of **measurable events**  $S$  with  $\alpha \subseteq \Omega, \alpha \in S$ 
    - $\alpha$  called **event**
    - Set of subsets of  $\Omega$
    - Probabilities will be assigned to the elements of  $S$
  - Properties:
    - $\emptyset \in S, \Omega \in S$
    - $\alpha, \beta \in S \Rightarrow \alpha \cup \beta \in S$  (closed under union)
    - $\alpha \in S \Rightarrow \Omega \setminus \alpha \in S$  (closed under complementation)
  - Discrete Case: Often  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ , the power set of  $\Omega$

# Probability Distribution

- For a sample space  $\Omega$  and a corresponding event space  $S$ :
  - A **probability distribution**  $P$  over  $(\Omega, S)$  is a function  $P: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying the following conditions:
    - $\forall \alpha \in S: P(\alpha) \geq 0$
    - $P(\Omega) = 1$
    - $\alpha, \beta \in S$  and  $\alpha \cap \beta = \emptyset \Rightarrow P(\alpha \cup \beta) = P(\alpha) + P(\beta)$
  - Each value represents the **probability** for the corresponding event
  - If each possible outcome in  $\Omega$  has the same probability:
    - $\forall \alpha \in S: P(\alpha) = |\alpha| \cdot \frac{1}{|\Omega|} = \frac{|\alpha|}{|\Omega|}$

$$\sum_{\omega \in \Omega} P(\{\omega\}) = 1$$

## Example - (Fair) Dice Roll

- Sample space  $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
- Event space  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{P}(\Omega) = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \dots, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}\}$
- Probability for an even number:
  - $P(\text{even}) = P(\{2, 4, 6\}) = P(\{2\}) + P(\{4\}) + P(\{6\}) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{6}$
- Probability for a number greater than 1:
  - $P(\text{greaterOne}) = P(\{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}) = 1 - P(\{1\}) = 1 - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$
- Probability for a number greater than 1 **and** prime:
  - $P(\text{greaterOne} \wedge \text{prime}) = P(\{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} \cap \{2, 3, 5\}) = P(\{2, 3, 5\}) = \frac{3}{6}$
- Probability for a number greater than 3 **or** prime:
  - $P(\text{greaterThree} \vee \text{prime}) = P(\{4, 5, 6\} \cup \{2, 3, 5\}) = P(\{4, 5, 6\}) + P(\{2, 3, 5\}) - P(\{5\})$

$$\forall \omega \in \Omega: P(\{\omega\}) = \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{|\Omega|}$$



## Conditional Probability Distribution

- For two events  $\alpha, \beta \in S$ , the **conditional probability** of  $\beta$  given  $\alpha$  is defined as:
  - $P(\beta | \alpha) = \frac{P(\alpha \cap \beta)}{P(\alpha)}$
  - Requires  $P(\alpha) > 0$
- Note:  $P(\beta | \alpha) \neq P(\alpha | \beta)$ 
  - $P(\beta | \alpha) = \frac{P(\alpha \cap \beta)}{P(\alpha)} \neq \frac{P(\alpha \cap \beta)}{P(\beta)} = P(\alpha | \beta)$
- The probabilities are getting “updated” according to the observations
  - Still satisfies the properties of a probability distribution
- Conditioning Operation: Takes a probability distribution, returns a probability distribution

## Example - (Fair) Dice Roll

- Observation: An even number was rolled
  - But we don't know the actual number
- What is the probability for an odd number? What is the probability for a number less than 5?
- $\alpha = \{2, 4, 6\}$
- $\beta_1 = \{1, 3, 5\}$
- $\beta_2 = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- $P(\text{odd} \mid \text{even}) = P(\beta_1 \mid \alpha) = \frac{P(\emptyset)}{P(\alpha)} = 0$
- $P(\text{lessFive} \mid \text{even}) = P(\beta_2 \mid \alpha) = \frac{P(\{2, 4\})}{P(\alpha)} = \frac{2}{3}$

## Chain Rule & Bayes Theorem

- From the definition of the conditional probability we can derive the **product rule**
  - $P(\alpha \cap \beta) = P(\alpha) \cdot P(\beta \mid \alpha)$  for two events  $\alpha, \beta \in S$
- The generalisation for  $k$  events is known as the **chain rule**
  - $P(\alpha_1 \cap \dots \cap \alpha_k) = P(\alpha_1) \cdot P(\alpha_2 \mid \alpha_1) \cdots P(\alpha_k \mid \alpha_1 \cap \dots \cap \alpha_{k-1})$  for events  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \in S$
  - Order of events does not change the result
- The chain rule allows for expressing a probability by means of a product of multiple (conditional) probabilities
- Another rule we can derive is the **Bayes theorem**
  - $P(\alpha \mid \beta) = \frac{P(\beta \mid \alpha) \cdot P(\alpha)}{P(\beta)}$  for  $\alpha, \beta \in S$
  - Allows for calculating  $P(\alpha \mid \beta)$  using the „inverse“ conditional probability  $P(\beta \mid \alpha)$

## (Discrete) Random Variable

- A **random variable** is a function  $R: \Omega \rightarrow D$ 
  - $D$  is the **domain** of the random variable  $R$  which we will denote by  $Val(R)$
  - Represents attributes of the elements in the sample space
- Example: Rolling two (fair) dice and considering the **sum** of the numbers
  - $\Omega = \{(1,1), (1,2), \dots, (6,5), (6,6)\}$  with  $P(\omega) = \frac{1}{36}$
  - Possible Sums:  $D = \{2, 3, \dots, 12\}$
  - We define a random variable  $R: \Omega \rightarrow D$  with  $(a, b) \mapsto a + b, (a, b) \in \Omega$
  - Each  $r \in Val(R)$  represents an event in the underlying event space
    - E.g.,  $P(R = 3) = P(\{(1,2), (2,1)\}) = P(\{(1,2)\}) + P(\{(2,1)\}) = \frac{2}{36}$
    - The distribution of a random variable satisfies the properties of a probability distribution
    - If context is known, we use the shorthand notation  $P(r)$  for  $P(R = r), r \in Val(R)$

## (Full) Joint Distribution

- Given a set of  $n$  random variables  $\mathbf{R} = \{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$
- A (full) joint distribution  $P(\mathbf{R})$  over the random variables  $\mathbf{R}$  is a probability distribution which assigns a probability  $P(R_1 = r_1, \dots, R_n = r_n)$  to every possible assignment to the random variables in  $\mathbf{R}$ 
  - Each possible assignment to the random variables  $\mathbf{R}$  represents an event

$$\text{Val}(R_1) = \text{Val}(R_2) = \{0, 1\}$$

- Example: (Fair) Dice Roll
  - We define two random variables  $R_1, R_2$ 
    - $R_1$ : Rolling a prime number
    - $R_2$ : Rolling an even number

$R_1$	$R_2$	$P(R_1, R_2)$
1	1	$P(\{2\}) = \frac{1}{6}$
1	0	$P(\{3, 5\}) = \frac{2}{6}$
0	1	$P(\{4, 6\}) = \frac{2}{6}$
0	0	$P(\{1\}) = \frac{1}{6}$

## Marginal Distribution

- Given a full joint distribution  $P(\mathbf{R})$  over random variables  $\mathbf{R}$ , it is possible to obtain the distribution for a subset of random variables  $\mathbf{R}' \subset \mathbf{R}$  by summing over the possible assignments  $\mathbf{r}' \in \text{Val}(\mathbf{R}')$  to the random variables  $\mathbf{R}'$
- Example for  $\mathbf{R} = \{R_1, R_2\}$ :
  - $P(R_1) = \sum_{r_2 \in \text{Val}(R_2)} P(R_1, R_2 = r_2)$ 
    - Summing out  $R_2$
    - Also called **marginalisation**
  - $P(R_1)$  is called the **marginal distribution** of  $R_1$

$R_1$	$R_2$	$P(R_1, R_2)$
1	1	$\frac{1}{6}$
1	0	$\frac{2}{6}$
0	1	$\frac{2}{6}$
0	0	$\frac{1}{6}$

$R_1$	$P(R_1)$
1	$\frac{1}{2}$
0	$\frac{1}{2}$

## Conditional Distributions over Random Variables

- Similar to conditional distributions over events, it is possible to define the conditional distribution over random variables:
  - $P(R_1 | R_2) = \frac{P(R_1, R_2)}{P(R_2)}$ 
    - Represents a set of conditional probability distributions
    - Each assignment  $r_2 \in \text{Val}(R_2)$  to the random variable  $R_2$  yields a conditional probability distribution  $P(R_1 | R_2 = r_2)$
    - An additional assignment  $r_1 \in \text{Val}(R_1)$  to the random variable  $R_1$  yields the probability  $P(R_1 = r_1 | R_2 = r_2)$  for a specific event in the underlying event space
  - $P(R_1, R_2) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2 | R_1)$  (product rule)
  - $P(R_1, \dots, R_k) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2 | R_1) \cdots P(R_k | R_1, \dots, R_{k-1})$  (chain rule)
  - $P(R_1 | R_2) = \frac{P(R_2 | R_1) \cdot P(R_1)}{P(R_2)}$  (Bayes theorem)

## Example – Multiplying (Conditional) Distributions

- $P(R_1, R_2) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2 | R_1)$  (product rule)
  - Multiply corresponding entries

$R_1$	$R_2$	$P(R_1, R_2)$
1	1	$\frac{1}{6}$
1	0	$\frac{2}{6}$
0	1	$\frac{2}{6}$
0	0	$\frac{1}{6}$

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$R_1$	$P(R_1)$
1	$\frac{1}{2}$
0	$\frac{1}{2}$

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$R_1$	$R_2$	$P(R_2   R_1)$
1	1	$\frac{P(R_1 = 1, R_2 = 1)}{P(R_1 = 1)} = \frac{1}{3}$
1	0	$\frac{P(R_1 = 1, R_2 = 0)}{P(R_1 = 1)} = \frac{2}{3}$
0	1	$\frac{P(R_1 = 0, R_2 = 1)}{P(R_1 = 0)} = \frac{2}{3}$
0	0	$\frac{P(R_1 = 0, R_2 = 0)}{P(R_1 = 0)} = \frac{1}{3}$

$P(R_2 | R_1 = 1)$

$P(R_2 | R_1 = 0)$



# Independence

- Two events  $\alpha, \beta \in S$  are **independent** if
  - $P(\alpha \cap \beta) = P(\alpha) \cdot P(\beta)$  **Implies  $P(\alpha | \beta) = P(\alpha)$**
- Two events  $\alpha, \beta \in S$  are **conditionally independent** given a third event  $\gamma \in S$  if
  - $P(\alpha | \beta \cap \gamma) = P(\alpha | \gamma)$
  - (or equivalent)  $P(\alpha \cap \beta | \gamma) = P(\alpha | \gamma) \cdot P(\beta | \gamma)$
- Two random variables  $R_1, R_2$  are **independent** if
  - $P(R_1, R_2) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2)$  **Implies  $P(R_1 | R_2) = P(R_1)$**
- Two random variables  $R_1, R_2$  are **conditionally independent** given a third one  $R_3$  if
  - $P(R_1 | R_2, R_3) = P(R_1 | R_3)$
  - (or equivalent)  $P(R_1, R_2 | R_3) = P(R_1 | R_3) \cdot P(R_2 | R_3)$
- Conditional independence is a generalisation of independence

Independence denoted by  $\perp$ :

- Events:  $\alpha \perp \beta$
- RVs:  $R_1 \perp R_2$

## Example - Independence

- Assume the following joint distribution  $P(R_1, R_2)$  over random variables  $R_1, R_2$ 
  - Product rule without independence:  $P(R_1, R_2) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2 | R_1)$
  - Product rule with independence:  $P(R_1, R_2) = P(R_1) \cdot P(R_2)$

$R_1$	$R_2$	$P(R_1, R_2)$
1	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
1	0	$\frac{1}{4}$
0	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
0	0	$\frac{1}{4}$

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$R_1$	$P(R_1)$
1	$\frac{1}{2}$
0	$\frac{1}{2}$

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$R_2$	$P(R_2)$
1	$\frac{1}{2}$
0	$\frac{1}{2}$

- $P(R_2 | R_1)$  has  $2 \cdot 2 = 4$  entries
- $P(R_2)$  has 2 entries
- More efficiency through independence

## Probability Query

- **Inference**: Use joint distribution  $P(\mathbf{R})$  over a set random variables  $\mathbf{R}$  to answer queries of interest
- Probability queries:
  - $P(\mathbf{R}')$  for  $\mathbf{R}' \subseteq \mathbf{R}$  (marginal probability distribution)
    - or  $P(\mathbf{R}' = \mathbf{r}')$  for  $\mathbf{r}' \in \text{Val}(\mathbf{R}')$  (marginal probability)
  - $P(\mathbf{R}' | \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{e})$  for  $\mathbf{R}' \subseteq \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{E} \subseteq \mathbf{R} \setminus \mathbf{R}', \mathbf{e} \in \text{Val}(\mathbf{E})$  (conditional marginal probability distribution)
    - or  $P(\mathbf{R}' = \mathbf{r}' | \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{e})$  for  $\mathbf{r}' \in \text{Val}(\mathbf{R}'), \mathbf{e} \in \text{Val}(\mathbf{E})$  (conditional marginal probability)
  - $\mathbf{R}'$  called **query variables**,  $\mathbf{e}$  called **evidence**
- There are also other types of queries
  - MPE queries
  - MAP queries
  - ...

## Probability Query

- Given joint distribution  $P(\mathbf{R})$  over a set random variables  $\mathbf{R}$
- Query answering: Sum out all random variables which are **not** in the query
- Example:  $P(R_1, R_2, R_3)$ 
  - Query:  $P(R_3)$
  - Remaining random variables:  $\{R_1, R_2\}$
  - Summing out remaining random variables:  $P(R_3) = \sum_{r_1 \in Val(R_1)} \sum_{r_2 \in Val(R_2)} P(R_1 = r_1, R_2 = r_2, R_3)$
- In general: Size of a joint distribution is exponential in the number of random variables
  - e.g., for  $n$  random variables  $R_1, \dots, R_n$  with  $|Val(R_i)| = 2$ ,  $P(R_1, \dots, R_n)$  contains  $2^n$  probabilities
    - For  $n = 30$  we have  $2^{30} = 1.073.741.824$  probabilities
- Due to the exponential growth: Explicit representation of  $P(\mathbf{R})$  too large for query answering
- Outlook probabilistic graphical models: exploit factorisation (represent  $P(\mathbf{R})$  as a product of multiple distributions) and independencies for (more) efficient query answering

## Interim Summary

- Modelling:
  - Sample space and event space
  - Probability distribution: assign probabilities to events
  - Conditional probability distribution: incorporating observations
  - Random variables, joint and marginal distributions
    - Assignments of random variables correspond to events in the underlying event space
- Inference and query answering:
  - Product rule, chain rule, Bayes theorem
  - Marginalisation / Sum out of random variables
  - (Conditional) independence
  - Probability query: Sum out non-query random variables

## Overview: 2. Foundations

### A. *Logic*

- Propositional logic: alphabet, grammar, normal forms, rules
- First-order logic: introducing quantifiers, domain constraints

### B. *Probability theory*

- Modelling: (conditional) probability distributions, random variables, marginal and joint distributions
- Inference: axioms and basic rules, Bayes theorem, independence

### C. ***Probabilistic graphical models***

- Syntax, semantics
- Inference problems