



The Dirichlet
Categorical
Model

Christoph
Teichmann,
Antoine
Venant

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Summary

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Christoph Teichmann Antoine Venant



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Summary

- Basic properties of Dirichlet Distribution
- Dirichlet Categorical Model
- Chinese Restaurant Process
- How to build a simple language model



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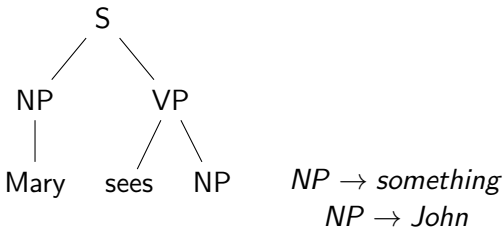
We want probabilities $P(\text{outcome}_1)$, $P(\text{outcome}_2)$, ... for
random variables with discrete outcomes:

- Next word given previous ones
- Children given parent in binary constituent tree
- Next part-of-speech tag given previous ones

Mary sees { the, something, John, . } ...

We want probabilities $P(\text{outcome}_1)$, $P(\text{outcome}_2)$, ... for random variables with discrete outcomes:

- Next word given previous ones
- Children given parent in binary constituent tree
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Summary

- Find a dataset relevant to your problem
- Reduce your problem to estimating a random quantity of interest
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate

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 - sentences from websites (tokenized) ✓
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Summary

- Find a dataset relevant to your problem
 - sentences from websites (tokenized) ✓
- Reduce your problem to estimating a random quantity of interest
 - Probabilities for next word in context ✓
 - We want a probability $P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = 0.4$,
 $P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = 0.5$, $P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = 0.6$
...
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate

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Summary

- Find a dataset relevant to your problem
 - sentences from websites (tokenized) ✓
- Reduce your problem to estimating a random quantity of interest
 - Probabilities for next word in context ✓
 - We want a probability $P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = 0.4$,
 $P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = 0.5$, $P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = 0.6$
...
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate
 - uh oh

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Summary

v - value of interesting variable, d - value of data, we are interesting in $P(v|d)$

$$P(v, d) = P(v|d)P(d)$$

$$P(v, d) = P(d|v)P(v)$$

$$P(v|d) = \frac{P(d|v)P(v)}{P(d)}$$

$$P(v|d) = \frac{\overbrace{P(d|v)}^{\text{likelihood}} \overbrace{P(v)}^{\text{prior}}}{\underbrace{\sum_{v'} P(v', d)}_{\text{normalizer}}}$$

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Summary

- $P(\text{text}|\text{probabilities})$
- $P(\text{probabilities})$

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- Text generated from n-Gram model

random variable for i-th word concrete value for word

$$P(\underbrace{W_i}_{\text{random variable for i-th word}} \mid \underbrace{w_{i-1}}_{\text{concrete value for word}}, \dots, w_0) = P(W_i \mid w_{i-1}, \dots, w_{i-(n-1)})$$

- Let us start with $n = 1$, i.e., Unigram Model:

$$P(W_i \mid w_{i-1}, \dots, w_0) = P(W)$$

- Text draw word by word from $P(W)$

We have model for data given word probabilities – need a model to give us probabilities for $P(W = \text{Mary}) = 0.01$ or $P(W = \text{Mary}) = 0.5?$

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Summary

- Assume finite lexicon L – possible outcomes
- Random variable over distributions P^X , P^X single outcome
 - P^X could be $P^X(\text{Mary}) = 0.1$, $P^X(\text{sees}) = 0.3 \dots$
- Probability word is “Mary” $P^X(W = \text{Mary})$
- **Full joint model $\mathbf{P}(P^X, W_1, \dots, W_n)$**

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- Let us start with an uniform model, i.e. $P(P^X = P^x) = \frac{1}{Z}$
- Z is a constant to ensure integration to 1
- We think $P^x(\text{the}) = 0.9$ is as likely as $P^x(\text{the}) = 0.2$ or $P^x(\text{the}) = 0.03$
- We think $P^x(\text{Mary}) = 0.9$ and $P^x(\text{the}) = 0.1$ is as likely as $P^x(\text{Mary}) = 0.2$ and $P^x(\text{the}) = 0.8$

Similar to model from last session

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- Lexicon: $L = \{\text{Mary, sees, ., something, John}\}$
- Dataset: $D = \text{"Mary sees something"}$

Relevant Questions:

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Summary

- Lexicon: $L = \{\text{Mary, sees, ., something, John}\}$
- Dataset: $D = \text{"Mary sees something"}$

Relevant Questions:

- What is the posterior, i.e., what is $P(P^x | \text{something, sees, Mary})$ for a given P^x ?

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Summary

- Lexicon: $L = \{\text{Mary, sees, ., something, John}\}$
- Dataset: $D = \text{"Mary sees something"}$

Relevant Questions:

- What is the posterior, i.e., what is $P(P^x | \text{something, sees, Mary})$ for a given P^x ?
- What is $P(W_{next} | \text{something, sees, Mary})$? - predictive distribution

The posterior is proportional to this (why?):

$$\overbrace{P(P^X = P^x | w_3, w_2, w_1)}^{P(\text{Posterior})} \propto \left(\overbrace{\prod_{i \in \{1,2,3\}} P^x(w_i)}^{P(\text{text|probs})} \right) \overbrace{\frac{1}{Z}}^{P(\text{probs})}$$

The posterior is proportional to this (why?):

$$\overbrace{P(P^X = P^x | w_3, w_2, w_1)}^{P(\text{Posterior})} \propto \left(\overbrace{\prod_{i \in \{1,2,3\}} P^x(w_i)}^{P(\text{text|probs})} \right) \overbrace{\frac{1}{Z}}^{P(\text{probs})}$$

- What is the normalizer?
- What is the mean?
- Where is the maximum of this posterior?

The posterior is proportional to this (why?):

$$\overbrace{P(P^X = P^X | w_3, w_2, w_1)}^{P(\text{Posterior})} \propto \left(\overbrace{\prod_{i \in \{1,2,3\}} P^X(w_i)}^{P(\text{text|probs})} \right) \overbrace{\frac{1}{Z}}^{P(\text{probs})}$$

- What is the normalizer?
- What is the mean?
- Where is the maximum of this posterior?
- Maybe map this to known distribution?



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The Dirichlet Distribution

Dirichlet Distribution – distribution over probability distributions P^x with different outcomes $w_1 \in L$:

$$P_{Dir}(P^x) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_i - 1}}{B(\alpha)}$$

- Here $\alpha_i > 0$ are parameters – there are lots of Dirichlet Distributions
- $B(\alpha)$ is a normalizer depending on all the a_i – look it up on Wikipedia

Dirichlet Distribution – distribution over probability distributions P^x with different outcomes $w_1 \in L$:

$$P_{Dir}(P^x) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_w - 1}}{B(\alpha)}$$

- Mean a probability distribution with $P^x(w) = \frac{\alpha_w}{\sum_{w' \in L} \alpha_{w'}}$
- Maximum = mean if α s all greater 1

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Let us work through this on the table:

$$P_{Dir}(P^x) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_i - 1}}{B(\alpha)}$$

$$P(P^x | w_3, w_2, w_1) \propto \left(\prod_{i \in \{1, 2, 3\}} P^x(w_i) \right) \frac{1}{Z}$$
$$\propto \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\sum_{i \in \{1, 2, 3\}} 1(w_i = w)}}{Z}$$

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Let us work through this on the table:

$$P_{Dir}(P^x) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_w - 1}}{B(\alpha)}$$

$$P(P^x | w_3, w_2, w_1) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\sum_{i \in [1,3]} 1(w_i=w)}}{B(\text{sums} + 1)}$$

α s correspond to frequency of each word +1



Visualizing a Dirichlet Distribution With Two Outcomes

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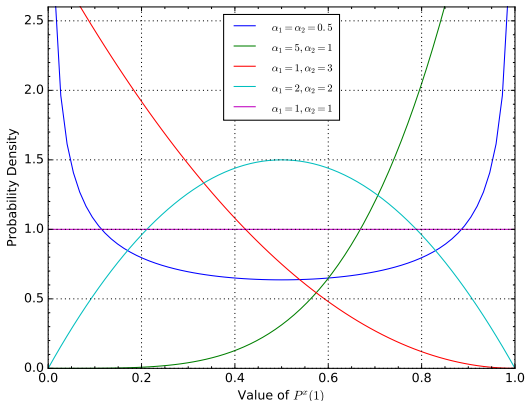
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Summary

Say we have $P^x(1)$ and $P^x(2)$



Generated with code based on code found at:

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beta_distribution_pdf.svg by user Horas

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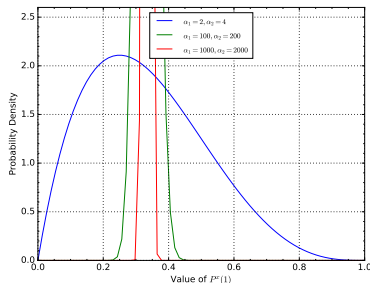
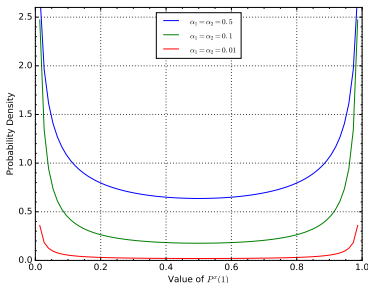
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Summary

- Increase α s \rightarrow concentrates at values proportional to α s
- If all α are less than 1, then we favour “sparse distributions” few outcomes likely



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For our example our posterior is (table):

$$P(P^x) = \frac{(\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_{w_i} - 1})}{B(\alpha)}$$

Where $\alpha_{\text{Mary}} = \alpha_{\text{sees}} = \alpha_{\text{something}} = 2$ and $\alpha_{\text{John}} = \alpha_{\cdot} = 1$



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Summary

- Have posterior probability for the different P^x
- Know it is a Dirichlet Distribution
- What are the probabilities for next word – what is predictive distribution?

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Summary

For a given P^x :

$$P(w_{next}, P^x | w_1, \dots, w_n) = \underbrace{P^x(w_{next})}_{P(\text{text}|\text{probs})} \underbrace{P(P^x | w_1, \dots, w_n)}_{\text{posterior for } P^x}$$

But we need to sum (actually integrate) over all possible P^x

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$$P(w_{next}) = \int_{P^x} \overbrace{P^x(w_{next})}^{\text{Categorical}} \frac{\overbrace{(\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_w - 1})}^{\text{Dirichlet}}}{B(\alpha)} dP^x$$

Combines a Categorical and Dirichlet Distribution – called a Dirichlet Categorical Model, well known

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$$P(w_{next}) = \int_{P^x} \overbrace{P^x(w_{next})}^{\text{Categorical}} \overbrace{\frac{(\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_w - 1})}{B(\alpha)}}^{\text{Dirichlet}} dP^x$$

Let us just look it up, e.g., the Dirichlet write up at
<https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~stephentu/>

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$$P(w_{\text{next}}) = \int_{P^X} P^X(w_{\text{next}}) \frac{(\prod_{w \in L} P^X(w)^{\alpha_w - 1})}{B(\alpha)} dP^X$$

$$P(w_{\text{next}}) = \frac{\alpha_{w_{\text{next}}}}{\sum_{w \in L} \alpha_w}$$

- Probability of outcome is α for that outcome divided by sum of α s for all outcomes (finish example on table)

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Summary

- Find a dataset relevant to your problem
 - sentences from websites (tokenized) ✓
- Reduce your problem to estimating a random quantity of interest
 - Probabilities for next word in context ✓
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate
 - Unigram model with uniform prior ✓

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Summary

- Find a dataset relevant to your problem
 - sentences from websites (tokenized) ✓
- Reduce your problem to estimating a random quantity of interest
 - Probabilities for next word in context ✓
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate
 - Unigram model with uniform prior ✓
- Get a posterior distribution
 - We get a Dirichlet Distribution posterior, which is well understood ✓
 - We can predict the next word using knowledge about Dirichlet Categorical Model ✓

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Summary

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 - Probabilities for next word in context ✓
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate
 - Unigram model with uniform prior ✓
- Get a posterior distribution
 - We get a Dirichlet Distribution posterior, which is well understood ✓
 - We can predict the next word using knowledge about Dirichlet Categorical Model ✓
- Check model quality and revise if necessary

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Summary

Predictive probabilities for any word position:

$$P(W_{\text{next}} = \cdot) = \frac{1}{8}$$
$$P(W_{\text{next}} = \text{Mary}) = \frac{2}{8}$$

Data may support this, but it seems unlikely given what we know about English

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Summary

- We assumed that we have unigram word probabilities – switch to e.g. a bigram model
- Instead of assuming uniform probability for different P^x we could use Dirichlet as prior with different α s

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Summary

- We will have a Dirichlet Prior with α s proportional to observed word frequencies in some corpus
- We now have to find probabilities $P^x(W_i = w_i | w_{i-1})$

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Summary

- We will have a Dirichlet Prior with α s proportional to observed word frequencies in some corpus
- We now have to find probabilities $P^x(W_i = w_i | w_{i-1})$
- Let us work through that for the data:
 - “Mary saw something .”
 - “John saw”

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Summary

What is the general posterior with the Dirichlet model after words w_1, \dots, w_n ?

$$P(P^x) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P^x(w)^{\alpha_w - 1 + \sum_{i \in [1, n]} 1(w_i = w)}}{Z}$$

- Another Dirichlet Distribution
- Prior and posterior same type \rightarrow conjugate model
- Dirichlet Distribution prior is conjugate for Categorical Distribution likelihood
- Understanding prior – understanding posterior

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Summary

- Find a dataset relevant to your problem
 - sentences from websites (tokenized) ✓
- Reduce your problem to estimating a random quantity of interest
 - Probabilities for next word in context ✓
- Build joint probabilistic model of the data and the quantity to estimate
 - unigram model with uniform prior ✓
- Get a posterior distribution
 - We get a Dirichlet Distribution posterior, which is well understood ✓
 - We can predict the next word using knowledge about Dirichlet Categorical model ✓
- Check model quality and revise if necessary
 - Larger n-grams with better prior ✓



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Summary

“Mary saw a cake .”

- More than 5 words in language
- Maybe even infinitely many words

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Summary

- $P(X)$ single outcome probability distribution
- $P(X_1, \dots, X_n) \rightarrow$ multiple outcome probability distribution
- $P(X_1, X_2, X_3 \dots) \rightarrow$ stochastic process / random function

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Summary

We need a prior for P^x when L is infinite \rightarrow infinitely many probabilities \rightarrow need a stochastic process

- Use what we know about Dirichlet Distribution
- How can we define an infinite list of α s?
- How to define a process?

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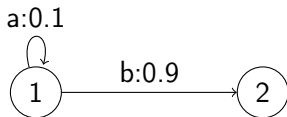
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Summary

- When you have a hammer ...
- Define a single concentration parameter α and a base probability distribution (measure) $P(X)$
- $\alpha_x = \alpha P(X = x)$
- different α s always sum to concentration parameter



If $\alpha = 10$ what is α_{ab} ?

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Summary

- How can we define an infinite list of α s?
 - Concentration parameter + probability distribution ✓
- How to define a process?

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Summary

- No need to define probability for a full outcome
 $P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots)$
- If we pick a few values for a few variables and do not care about all the others – what is the probability?
- Probability Distributions for any X^1, X^2, \dots, X^m follow a Dirichlet

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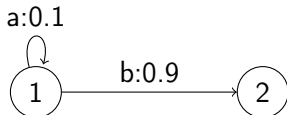
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$$P_{Dir}(P_X) = \frac{\prod_{w \in L} P_X(w)^{\alpha_w}}{B(\alpha)}$$

$$\alpha = 10$$

$$P(P^x(b) = 0.2, P^x(ab) = 0.5) = \frac{\overbrace{0.2^9}^b \times \overbrace{0.5^{0.9}}^{ab} \times \overbrace{0.3^{0.1}}^{\text{everything else}}}{B(\langle 9, 0.9, 0.1 \rangle)}$$

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Summary

- How can we define an infinite list of α s?
 - Concentration parameter + probability distribution ✓
- How to define a process?
 - Define probability distribution for any finite selection of variables ✓

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Summary

- Bigram Model
- Infinitely many possible words w_i
- Probabilities for each $P(W_i|w_{i-1})$ come from Dirichlet Process
- Pick some concentration parameter α
- use a Markov Chain over morphemes to define base probabilities $P(X)$

What is the predictive density / what is the posterior?

The Dirichlet Categorical Model

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Antoine
Venant

Goals

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A Simple
Approach

The Dirichlet
Distribution

**The Dirichlet
Process**

Chinese
Restaurant
Process

Summary

Still a Dirichlet Categorical Distribution!

$$P(W_0 = ab) = \frac{\alpha_{ab}}{\alpha}$$

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Summary

Still a Dirichlet Process! – table

Seen “ab” as first word - now $\alpha'_{ab} = \alpha_{ab} + 1$, $\alpha' = \alpha + 1$



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Chinese Restaurant Process

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Summary

- Chinese Restaurant Process – metaphor for Dirichlet Categorical Model
- Model just for words
- Every word is a table
- Number of people at table x is α_x
- People are likely to sit at popular tables

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Summary

- Usual presentation: tables created when first customer sits at them
- New table created with $\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \text{seen}}$
- New table label – according to base probability distribution
- Sitting at old table $\frac{\text{customers old table}}{\alpha + \text{seen}}$



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Summary

- Important for NLP: categorical probability distributions
- Handy prior: Dirichlet Distribution/Process
- Works for infinite choices as well
- Posterior is also Dirichlet Distribution/Process
- Predictive distribution easy to read off α
- Chinese Restaurant metaphor used frequently



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Questions!