

Mathematics and numerics for data assimilation and state estimation – Lecture 3



Summer semester 2020

Summary of lecture 2

- Random vectors $(X, Y) : \Omega \rightarrow A \times B$ and joint distributions

$$\mathbb{P}_{(X,Y)}((a, b)) = \mathbb{P}(X = a, Y = b).$$

- Independence of rv

$$\mathbb{P}(X = a, Y = b) = \mathbb{P}(X = a)\mathbb{P}(Y = b), \quad \forall a \in A \quad b \in B$$

and of events

$$\mathbb{P}(H_1 \cap H_2) = \mathbb{P}(H_1)\mathbb{P}(H_2)$$

- Expectation of $X : \Omega \rightarrow A$,

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}[X] := \int_{\Omega} X(\omega)\mathbb{P}(d\omega) = \sum_{a \in A} a\mathbb{P}(X = a)$$

Summary of lecture 2

- Variance of X . Defined for a scalar-valued rv (meaning $X : \Omega \rightarrow A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ with $d = 1$),

$$\text{Var}(X) := \mathbb{E} [(X - \mu)^2].$$

- Property: μ is the best constant-value approximation of X in the following sense

$$\mathbb{E} [(X - \mu)^2] \leq \mathbb{E} [(X - k)^2] \quad \text{for all } k \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} [|X - \mu|^2] \leq \mathbb{E} [|X - k|^2] \\ & (\mu \in \mathbb{R}^d) \qquad \qquad \forall k \in \mathbb{R}^d \end{aligned}$$

Plan for this lecture

- Conditional probabilities and expectations
- Conditioning on events: “probability of X given H ”

$$\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid H) \quad H \in \mathcal{F},$$

- Conditioning on rv: “probability of X given rv Y ”:

$$\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid Y)$$

Interesting property

$$\mathbb{E} [|X - \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]|^2] \leq \mathbb{E} [|X - f(Y)|^2]$$

for any mapping $f(Y) \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Conditional probability

Definition 1

For two events $G, H \in \mathcal{F}$ where $\mathbb{P}(H) > 0$, the conditional probability of G given H is given by

$$\mathbb{P}(G | H) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(G \cap H)}{\mathbb{P}(H)}$$

Whenever $\mathbb{P}(H) > 0$, the mapping $\mathbb{P}(\cdot | H) : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a probability measure.¹

Verification: $\mathbb{P}(\emptyset | H) = 0$, $\mathbb{P}(\Omega | H) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(\Omega \cap H)}{\mathbb{P}(H)} = 1$

Need to verify for $H_i \in \mathcal{F}$ which are pairwise disjoint, then

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_i H_i | H\right) = \sum_i \mathbb{P}(H_i | H)$$

¹And it remains to define $\mathbb{P}(\cdot | H)$ for zero-probability events H .

Observe that

$$\text{if } H_i \cap H_j = \emptyset \text{ for all } i \neq j$$

then

$$(H_i \cap H) \cap (H_j \cap H) = \emptyset \quad \forall i \neq j$$

$$\text{and } \left(\bigcup_i H_i \right) \cap H = \bigcup_i (H_i \cap H)$$

$$\text{consequently } P\left(\left(\bigcup_i H_i\right) \cap H\right) \\ P\left(\bigcup_i H_i \mid H\right) = \frac{P\left(\left(\bigcup_i H_i\right) \cap H\right)}{P(H)}$$

$$= \frac{P\left(\bigcup_i (H_i \cap H)\right)}{P(H)}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_i P(H_i \cap H)}{P(H)}$$

$$= \sum_i P(H_i | H)$$

Simplification in some settings (direct use of conditioning):

For X, Y and $f(X, Y)$ discrete rv,

$$\mathbb{P}(f(X, Y) = c \mid Y = b) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(f(X, b) = c)}{\mathbb{P}(Y = b)}, \quad \text{if } \mathbb{P}(Y = b) > 0. \quad (1)$$

$\mathbb{P}(f(X, b) = c \mid Y = b)$

Example 2

Let $X_1, X_2, X_3 \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ and independent rv. Let $Z = X_1 + X_2 + X_3$.
Compute

$$\mathbb{P}(Z \geq 1 \mid X_1 = 0)$$

Solution:

$$Z = f(X_1, X_2, X_3) = X_1 + X_2 + X_3$$

$$\mathbb{P}(f(X_1, X_2, X_3) \geq 1 \mid X_1 = 0) = \mathbb{P}(f(0, X_2, X_3) \geq 1 \mid X_1 = 0)$$

$$= \mathbb{P}(X_2 + X_3 \geq 1 \mid X_1 = 0)$$

$$= \frac{P(\{X_2 + X_3 \geq 1\} \cap \{X_1 = 0\})}{P(X_1 = 0)}$$

$$= \frac{P((X_1, X_2, X_3) \in \{(0, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0), (0, 1, 1)\})}{1 - P}$$

$$= \frac{2(1 - P)^2 P + (1 - P) P^2}{1 - P}$$

Example 3 (Example where conditioning information is used "implicitly")

Let $X_1, X_2, X_3 \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ and independent rv. Let $Z = X_1 + X_2 + X_3$. Compute

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1 \mid Z = 2)$$

Solution:

$$\{Z = 2\} \cap \{X_1 = 1\} = \{(X_1, X_2, X_3) \in \{(1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 0)\}\}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1 \mid Z = 2) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(\{Z = 2\} \cap \{X_1 = 1\})}{\mathbb{P}(Z = 2)}$$

$$\{z=2\} = \{(X_1, X_2, X_3) \in \{(0,1,1), (1,0,1), (1,1,0)\}\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow P(X_1=1 | z=2) &= \frac{2p^2(1-p)}{3p^2(1-p)} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Definition 4 (Conditional expectation)

For a discrete rv $X : \Omega \rightarrow A$ and an event $H \in \mathcal{F}$ with $\mathbb{P}(H) > 0$, we define the conditional expectation of X given H as

$$\mathbb{E}[X | H] := \int_{\Omega} X(\omega) \mathbb{P}(d\omega | H) = \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | H)$$

■ Property:

$$\mathbb{E}[X | H] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_H] / \mathbb{P}(H) \quad (2)$$

Verification:

Recall that for any $G \in \mathcal{F}$

$\mathbb{P}(G) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_G]$ and for any $G_1, G_2 \in \mathcal{F}$

$\mathbb{1}_{G_1 \cap G_2} = \mathbb{1}_{G_1} \mathbb{1}_{G_2} \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(G_1 \cap G_2) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_{G_1} \mathbb{1}_{G_2}]$

■ Implication: $\mathbb{E}[|X| | H] \leq \mathbb{E}[|X|] / \mathbb{P}(H)$.

$$E[X | H] = \sum_{a \in A} a P(X=a | H)$$

$$= \sum_{a \in A} a \frac{P(\{X=a\} \cap H)}{P(H)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{P(H)} \sum_{a \in A} a (E[\mathbb{1}_{\{X=a\}} \cap H])$$

$$= \frac{1}{P(H)} \sum_{a \in A} (E[a \mathbb{1}_{\{X=a\}} \mathbb{1}_H])$$

$$= E \left[\underbrace{\sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{1}_{\{X=a\}}}_{=X} \mathbb{1}_H \right] / P(H)$$

Example 5

Let X be a three-sided fair die, meaning

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \frac{1}{3} \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, 3.$$

Compute $\mathbb{E}[X \mid X \geq 2]$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X \mid X \geq 2] &= \sum_{k=1}^3 k \mathbb{P}(X = k \mid X \geq 2) \\ &= 2 \mathbb{P}(X = 2 \mid X \geq 2) + 3 \mathbb{P}(X = 3 \mid X \geq 2) \\ &= \frac{5}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Conditioning on zero-probability events

For events $G, H \in \mathcal{F}$, it is not clear how interpret the definition

$$\mathbb{P}(G | H) := \frac{\mathbb{P}(G \cap H)}{\mathbb{P}(H)}$$

when $\mathbb{P}(H) = 0$.

Is an extension of the definition needed? May not seem needed as zero-probability events “never” happen anyway, but often it is convenient to use the same co-domain for all rv studied, say for example

$$X_k : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

with $X_k(\Omega) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{k\}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$

Also any event $\{Y = y\}$ is a zero-probability event for a continuous rv!

Conditioning on zero-probability events 2

Definition 6 (Division-by-zero convention)

For any $c \in \mathbb{R}$ we will, in all of this course, make use of the following convention

$$\frac{c}{0} := 0.$$

Motivation: Then $\frac{a}{b}$ is defined for any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, but it gives algebra a quirk

$$b(a/b) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } b \neq 0 \text{ or } a = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } b = 0. \end{cases}$$

Definition 7 (Generalization of Definition 1)

For **any** pair of events $G, H \in \mathcal{F}$, we define

$$\mathbb{P}(G | H) := \frac{\mathbb{P}(G \cap H)}{\mathbb{P}(H)}$$

where we note that by the division-by-zero convention

$$\mathbb{P}(G | H) = 0 \quad \text{if } \mathbb{P}(H) = 0.$$

Implications:

- The definition of conditional expectation “naturally” extends to any zero-probability events $H \in \mathcal{F}$:

$$\mathbb{E}[X|H] := \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | H) = 0.$$

- Direct use of conditioning, cf. equation (1), extends. Meaning,

$$\mathbb{P}(f(X, Y) = c | Y = b) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(f(X, b) = c)}{\mathbb{P}(Y = b)}, \quad \text{also if } \mathbb{P}(Y = b) = 0.$$

Conditioning on random variables

- We have defined the conditional probability $\mathbb{P}(G | H)$ for any pair events G, H .
- So for rv $X : \Omega \rightarrow A$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow B$, the following quantities are all defined

$$\mathbb{P}(X = a | Y = b) \quad \text{for any } a \in A, b \in B.$$

- Fixing the event $\{X = a\}$, we may introduce the function $\psi : B \rightarrow [0, 1]$

$$\psi(b) = \mathbb{P}(X = a | \{Y = b\})$$

here $\{X = a\}$

- and the function $\phi : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1]$ by

$$\phi(\omega) := \mathbb{P}(X = a | \{Y = Y(\omega)\})$$

(curly brackets in the $\{Y = Y(\omega)\}$ notation here is only used to emphasize that we have events and is not really needed).

Conditioning on random variables 2

- The mapping $\phi(\omega)$ was introduced to clarify that $\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid \{Y = Y(\omega)\})$ is a function of ω .
- The customary notation for these conditional probabilities is as follows:

Definition 8 (Probability of X given Y)

Consider the discrete rv X and Y on the previous slide. Then for each $a \in A$, the mapping $\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid Y) : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the discrete rv defined by

$$\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid Y)(\omega) = \mathbb{P}(X = a \mid \{Y = Y(\omega)\}).$$

Verification that $\phi(\omega) = \mathbb{P}(X = a | Y)(\omega)$ is a discrete rv:

- The set of outcomes/ image space

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(\Omega) &= \cup_{\omega \in \Omega} \{\mathbb{P}(X = a | Y = Y(\omega))\} \\ &= \cup_{b \in B} \{\mathbb{P}(X = a | Y = b)\} =: C \subset [0, 1]\end{aligned}$$

is countable since B is countable.

- For each $c \in C$, there exists a $b(c) \in B$ such that

$$c = \mathbb{P}(X = a | Y = b(c))$$

and

$$\phi^{-1}(c) = \{\omega \in \Omega | Y(\omega) = b(c)\} \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Example 9

Consider the a coin toss $X : \Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ and a die roll $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$, on sample space $\Omega = \{Heads, Nose, Tails\}$ with

$$X^{-1}(1) = \{Heads, Nose\} \quad \text{and} \quad X^{-1}(0) = \{Tails\}$$

$$Y^{-1}(1) = \{Heads\}, \quad Y^{-1}(2) = \{Nose\} \quad \text{and} \quad Y^{-1}(3) = \{Tails\}.$$

and

$$\mathbb{P}(Heads) = \mathbb{P}(Nose) = 1/4, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(Tails) = 1/2.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X = 0 \mid Y)(Heads) &= \mathbb{P}(Tails \mid \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}(Heads)) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(Tails \mid \mathcal{Y} = 1) = \mathbb{P}(Tails \mid Heads) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid X)(Nose) &= \mathbb{P}(Heads \mid \mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}(Nose)) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(Heads \mid \mathcal{X} = 1) = \mathbb{P}(Heads \mid \{Heads, Nose\}) \\ &= \frac{1/4}{1/2} = \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 10 (Expectation of X given Y)

For discrete rv $X : \Omega \rightarrow A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow B \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ with $|\mathbb{E}[X]| < \infty$, the mapping $\mathbb{E}[X | Y] : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is defined

$$\mathbb{E}[X | Y](\omega) := \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | Y)(\omega) = \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | \{Y = Y(\omega)\}).$$

Note, $\mathbb{E}[X | Y]$ is a discrete rv.

Example 11

Consider the Bernoulli rv X, Y with joint probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}(X = i, Y = j) = \begin{bmatrix} 1/8 & 1/4 \\ 1/2 & 1/8 \end{bmatrix} \quad i, j \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega &= \{\text{Heads}, \text{Tails}\} \\ \mathcal{X}(\text{Heads}) &= 1 \\ \mathcal{X}(\text{Tails}) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[Y | X](\text{Heads}) = \sum_{j \in \{0, 1\}} j \mathbb{P}(Y = j | X = \mathcal{X}(\text{Heads}))$$

$$= \mathbb{P}(Y = 1 | X = 1) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = 1, Y = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(X = 1)} \quad \bullet$$

Definition 10 (Expectation of X given Y)

For discrete rv $X : \Omega \rightarrow A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow B \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ with $|\mathbb{E}[X]| < \infty$, the mapping $\mathbb{E}[X | Y] : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is defined

$$\mathbb{E}[X | Y](\omega) := \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | Y)(\omega) = \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | \{Y = Y(\omega)\}).$$

Note, $\mathbb{E}[X | Y]$ is a discrete rv.

Note that,

$$\mathbb{E}[X | Y](\omega) = \mathbb{E}[X | \{Y = Y(\omega)\}]$$

and that it can be associated to a deterministic mapping $g : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ as follows

$$g(Y(\omega)) = \mathbb{E}[X | Y = Y(\omega)]. \quad (3)$$

Motivation for $\mathbb{E}[X | Y]$

Say you have an observation $Y(\omega)$ (i.e., you know $Y(\omega)$ but not ω), and that what you really seek is the value of $X(\omega)$. Then what is the best function $g(Y(\omega))$ to approximate $X(\omega)$?

Theorem 11 (Mean-square sense best approximation)

For discrete rv $X : \Omega \rightarrow A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow B \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ with $\mathbb{E}[X^2] < \infty$, it holds that

$$\mathbb{E}[|X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y]|^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[|X - f(Y)|^2]$$

for all $f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $\mathbb{E}[|f(Y)|^2] < \infty$.

Interpretation Since the constant function $f(Y) = \mathbb{E}[X]$ is one possible mapping, we conclude that

$$\mathbb{E}[|X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y]|^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[|X - \mathbb{E}[X]|^2].$$

To prove Theorem 11, we will need a few intermediary results.

$$g(\mathcal{Y}(\omega)) = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}(\omega)]}_{\mathbb{E}[g(\mathcal{Y})]} = \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} g(b) \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{Y} = b)$$

Lemma 12 (The tower property)

For discrete rv $X : \Omega \rightarrow A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow B \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ with $|\mathbb{E}[X]| < \infty$, it holds that

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | Y]] = \mathbb{E}[X].$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | Y]] &= \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} \mathbb{E}[X | Y = b] \mathbb{P}(Y = b) \\ &= \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a | Y = b) \mathbb{P}(Y = b) \\ &= \sum_{a \in A} a \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} \mathbb{P}(X = a, Y = b) = \sum_{a \in A} a \mathbb{P}(X = a) = \mathbb{E}[X] \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 13 (The Direct conditioning of expectations)

For the setting in Lemma 12, it holds for any mapping $f : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $|\mathbb{E}[f(X, Y)]| < \infty$ that

$$\mathbb{E}[f(X, Y) | Y = b] = \mathbb{E}[f(X, b) | Y = b] \quad \forall b \in B.$$

Special case: $f(x, y) = g(x)h(y)$ yields

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)h(Y) | Y = b] = h(b)\mathbb{E}[g(X) | Y = b] \quad \forall b \in B$$

Since this holds for all b ,

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)h(Y) | Y = b] = h(Y)\mathbb{E}[g(X) | Y]. \quad (*)$$

And tower property 2: $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X|Y]] = \mathbb{E}[X]$

$$(*) \quad \mathbb{E}[h(Y)\mathbb{E}[g(X) | Y]] = \mathbb{E}[h(Y)g(X)] \quad (4)$$

$\leftarrow \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[g(X)h(Y) | Y]] = \mathbb{E}[g(X)h(Y)]$

Using (4), let us prove Theorem 11 in the 1D setting, i.e., that

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y])^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[(X - f(Y))^2]$$

for all $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $\mathbb{E}[(f(Y))^2] < \infty$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(X - f(Y))^2] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\left((X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y]) + (\mathbb{E}[X | Y] - f(Y)) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[(X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y])^2 \right] \\ &\quad + 2 \mathbb{E} \left[(X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y]) (\mathbb{E}[X | Y] - f(Y)) \right] \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E} \left[(\mathbb{E}[X | Y] - f(Y))^2 \right] = \text{I} + \text{II} + \text{III} \end{aligned}$$

Use tower property (4)
to verify that $\underline{\Pi} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow E[(X - f(Y))^2] &= E[(X - E[X|Y])^2] \\ &\quad + E[(E[X|Y] - f(Y))^2] \\ &\geq E[(X - E[X|Y])^2] \end{aligned}$$

For $X : \Omega \rightarrow A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow B$, the mapping

$$g(b) := \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y = b]$$

satisfies

$$g(Y(\omega)) := \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y = Y(\omega)].$$

Conclusion: $\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]$ is an rv induced from the rv Y through the mapping g .

Question: Is $\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]$ in some sense unique?

Question: Given a candidate mapping $g : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$, is there a way to verify whether $g(Y) = \mathbb{E}[Y \mid X]$?

Definition 14 (\mathbb{P} -almost surely equal)

Two rv X, Y are said to be \mathbb{P} -almost surely equal provided

$$\mathbb{P}(\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) = Y(\omega)\}) = 1.$$

We write

$$X = Y \quad \mathbb{P} - a.s.$$

(or just “a.s.” whenever it is clear which probability measure \mathbb{P} is considered).

Motivation:

Example 15

$X : \Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ and $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2\}$ with

$$\mathbb{P}(X = Y) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \{Y = 2\} \neq \emptyset.$$

Then $X(\omega) \neq Y(\omega)$ for any $\omega \in \{Y = 2\}$, but $X = Y$ a.s.

Theorem 16

Consider the setting in Lemma 12.

If $g : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is a mapping such that for every bounded mapping $f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\mathbb{E}[f(Y)g(Y)] = \mathbb{E}[f(Y)X] \quad (5)$$

then

$$g(Y) = \mathbb{E}[X | Y] \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Interpretation: $\mathbb{E}[X | Y]$ is ^{the} ~~the~~ a.s. unique rv of form $g(Y)$ satisfying (5).

Usage: If a mapping $B \ni b \mapsto g(b) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfies (5), i.e.,

$$\sum_{b \in B} f(b)g(b)P(Y = b) = \sum_{a \in A, b \in B} f(b)aP(X = a, Y = b) \quad \forall f : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

then $g(Y(\omega)) = \mathbb{E}[X|Y](\omega)$ for \mathbb{P} -almost all $\omega \in \Omega$.

Next time

- Convergence of random variables
- Random walks and discrete time Markov Chains