



# Chapter 5

# Optimal Estimation

## Part 4

### 5.4 Bayesian Estimation

# Outline

- 5.4 Bayesian Estimation
  - 5.4.1 Definitions
  - 5.4.2 Bayes' Rule
  - 5.4.3 Bayes' Filters
  - 5.4.4 Bayesian Mapping
  - 5.4.5 Bayesian Localization
  - Summary

# Outline

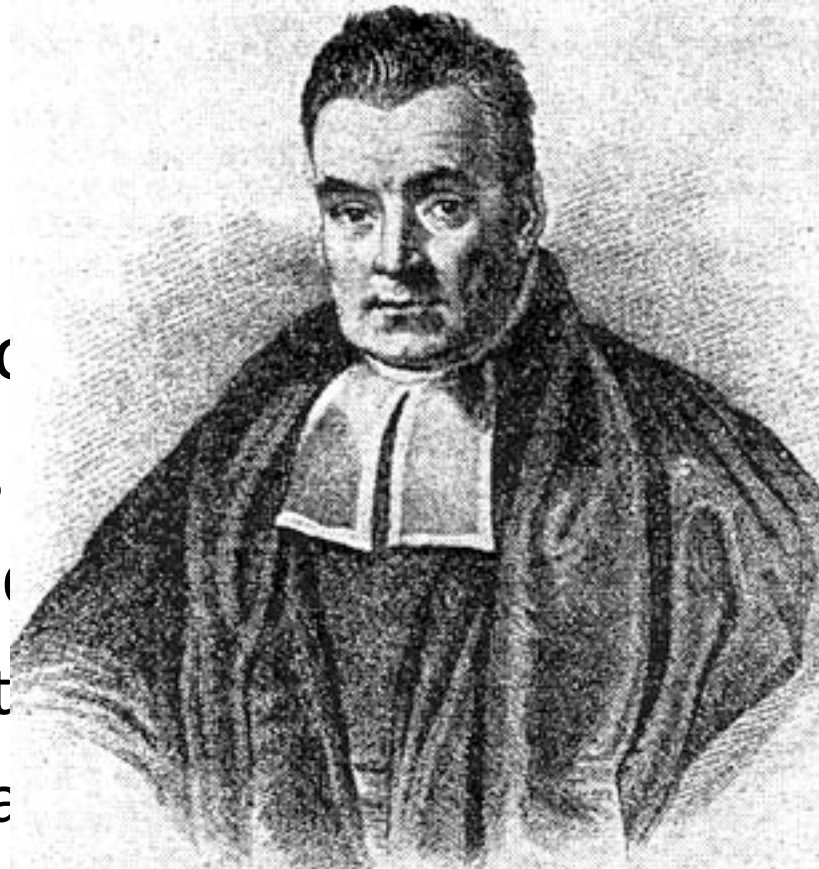
- 5.4 Bayesian Estimation
  - 5.4.1 Definitions
  - 5.4.2 Bayes' Rule
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# Whats The Big Deal

- Can handle arbitrary (non Gaussian) distributions,
- Produces an arbitrary distribution as a result.
- Hence, computes the probability the robot is in every place. Solves the “kidnapped robot” problem.

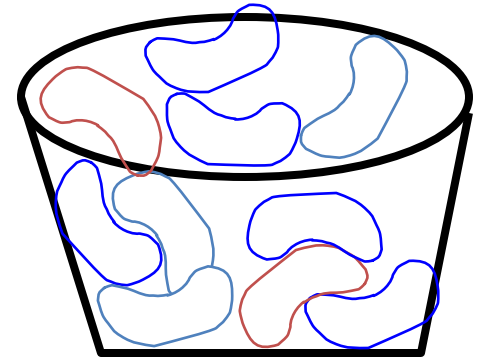
# Thomas Bayes

- Born London 1719
- Educated Edinburgh
  - Logic / Theology
- Known for tutorial on Newton
- Posthumously (1764) published "An Essay on Solving a Problem in the Doctrine of Probabilities"
  - Addresses “inverse probability”
  - Given some observations of a parameter, what can be said about the distribution.



# Probability

- Let  $A$  and  $B$  be discrete random variables.
- So long as  $A$  is a variable,  $P(A)$  is a function:  $P(A) : A \rightarrow [0,1]$ .
- For a specific value of  $A$ , like “red”,  $P(\text{red})$  is a number. By  $P(A=\text{red})$  we mean
  - the probability that
  - the proposition that a red jelly bean was selected
  - is true.



# Notation

- If  $f(x) = x^2$ ,  $f(y)$  usually means  $y^2$ .
- Not so for probability.
- $P(A)$  means an unspecified function over the domain of  $A$  and  $P(B)$  means a different function over the domain of  $B$ .
  - Concentrate on what's inside the ( ).
  - The  $A$  in  $P(A)$  determines the form of the function  $P$ .
- Could have  $P(A) = 1-A$  and  $P(B) = B^2$  {not  $1-B$ }.

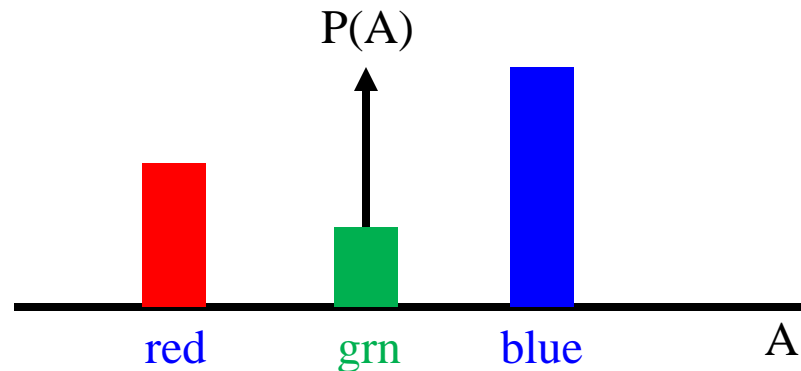
# Variables and Events

- If  $A$  is a random variable, then an event is some statement about its value, like  $A=\text{red}$ .
- The variable  $A$  has a probability mass function or distribution like  $e^{-x^2}$ .
- The event  $A=\text{red}$  has a probability like 0.3.
- Sometimes we talk about several:
  - events (statements about values of variables)
  - variables (different random processes)



# Predicates and Functions

- Sometimes  $P(A)$  means the probability that  $A$  takes a particular assumed value (like “true” if  $A$  is binary).
- Then, its best to write  $P(A=\text{true})$ .
- Other times  $P(A)$  means the entire distribution of probabilities for each possible value of  $A$ .



# Negation

- $\overline{P(\text{red})}$  or  $P(\neg A)$  is often used for the probability that the proposition a nonred bean was selected is true.
- Always:
  - $P(\text{red}) = 1 - P(\neg \text{red})$

# Odds

- Odds of event A:

$$O(A) = \frac{P(A)}{P(\bar{A})} = \frac{P(A)}{1 - P(A)} = \frac{1 - P(\bar{A})}{P(\bar{A})}$$

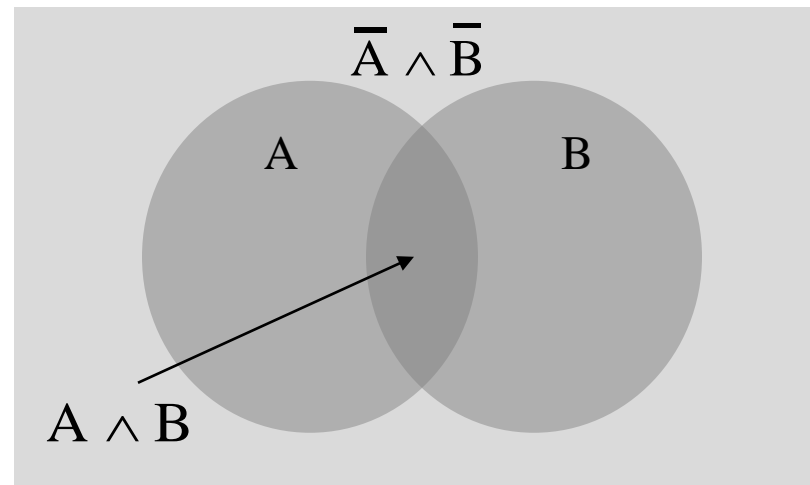
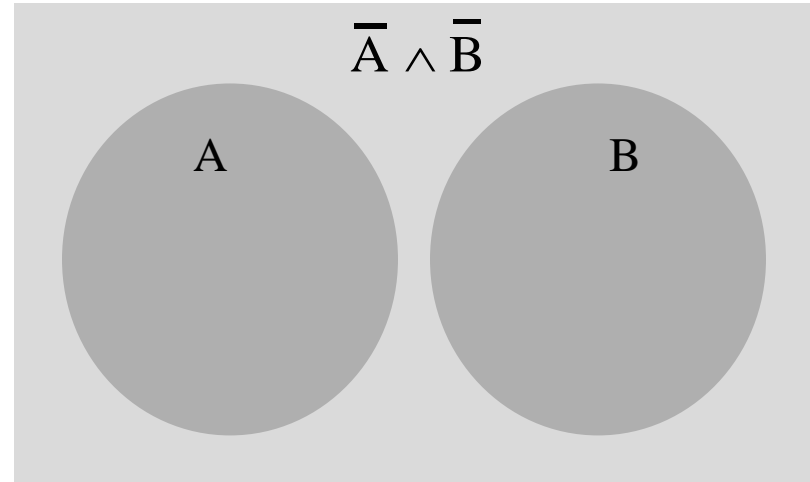
- Knowing any one of  $P(A)$ ,  $P(\bar{A})$ ,  $O(A)$  determines the other two.

One equation  
3 unknowns. Hmmmm

- Odds formulations and “log odds” =  $\log[O(A)]$  can be very computationally efficient.

# Venn Diagrams

- Imagine a process that selects one point in space with uniform probability.
- Label some regions.
  - The event “A” occurs when the point ends up in circle A etc.
- A point can only be in one place, so.....
- How many “disjoint” events can you list.
  - When the circles do not overlap, there are 3 elemental possibilities.
  - When the circles do overlap, there are 4 elemental possibilities.



# Disjunction (OR)

- Probability of either A or B:

$$P(A \vee B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \wedge B)$$

- When A and B are mutually exclusive (disjoint):

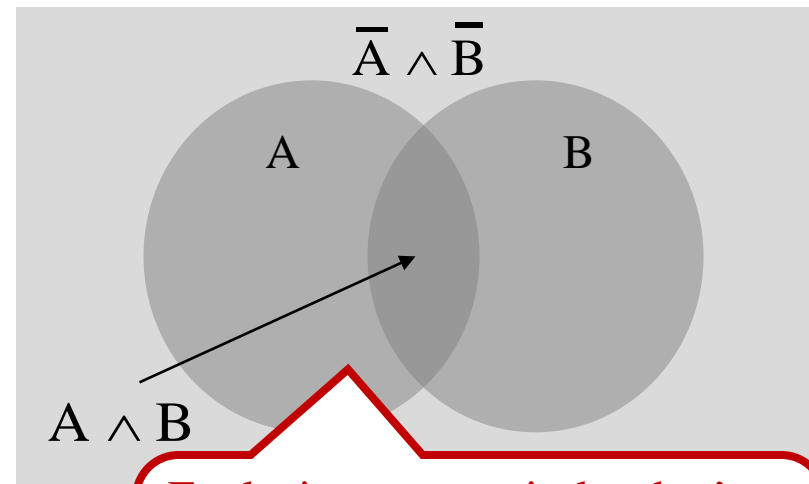
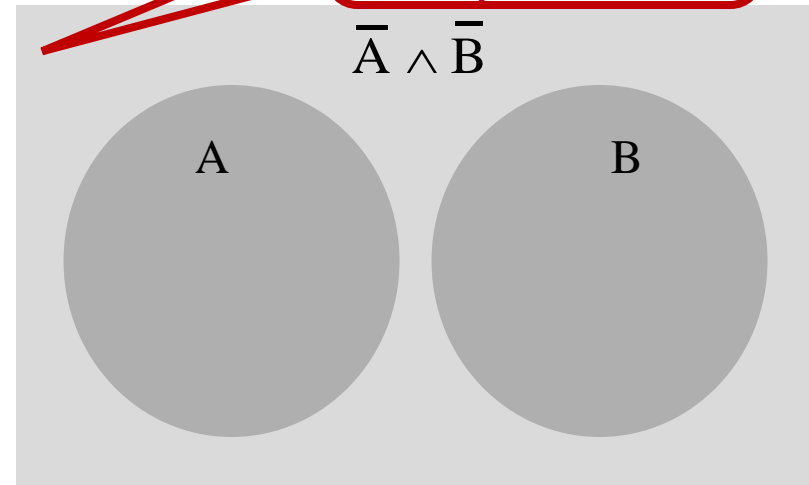
$$P(A \vee B) = P(A) + P(B)$$

- Because:

$$P(A \wedge B) = 0$$

- Consider  $P(\neg \text{grn} \vee \neg \text{blu})$   
 $- 2/3 + 2/3 - 1/3 = 1.$

Prevents double counting any overlap



Exclusive means circles don't overlap, so it's impossible for both A and B to occur at the same time for one point.

# Conjunction (AND)

- When A and B are independent, the probability of both occurring is:

$$P(A \wedge B) = P(A) \times P(B)$$

- Which gives:  $P(A) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(B)}$

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

# Dependence / Conditional

- $P(A | B)$  means prob of A occurring “given that” B has occurred.
- Still talking about one point.
- When the circles overlap, the two events are dependent.
- If you know B is true, there is a slightly higher probability that A is true and vice versa.
- Dependence means...

$$P(A|B) \neq P(A)$$

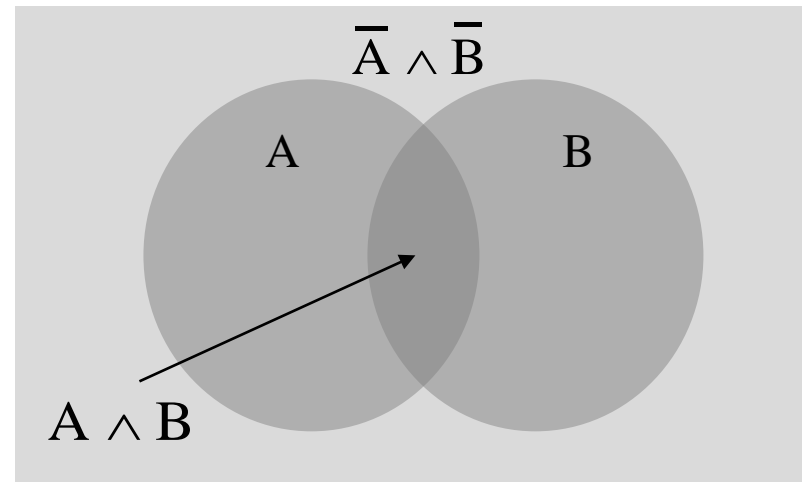
- Independence means

$$P(A | B) = P(A)$$

- Disjoint/Exclusive means:

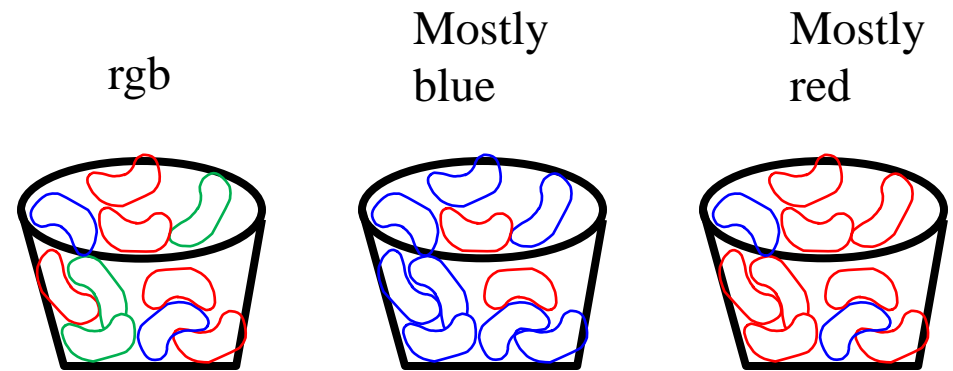
$$P(A|B) = 0$$

Its not about whether one point falls in A after another falls in B.



# Interpretation as a Staged Experiment

- $P(A=\text{red})$  means the prob a red bean is selected from any barrel.
- Stage 1:
  - $P(B)$  means prob of selecting each barrel of jelly beans.
- Stage 2:
  - $P(A=\text{red} | B)$  means prob of selecting a red bean from a specific barrel.



Three conditional prob functions

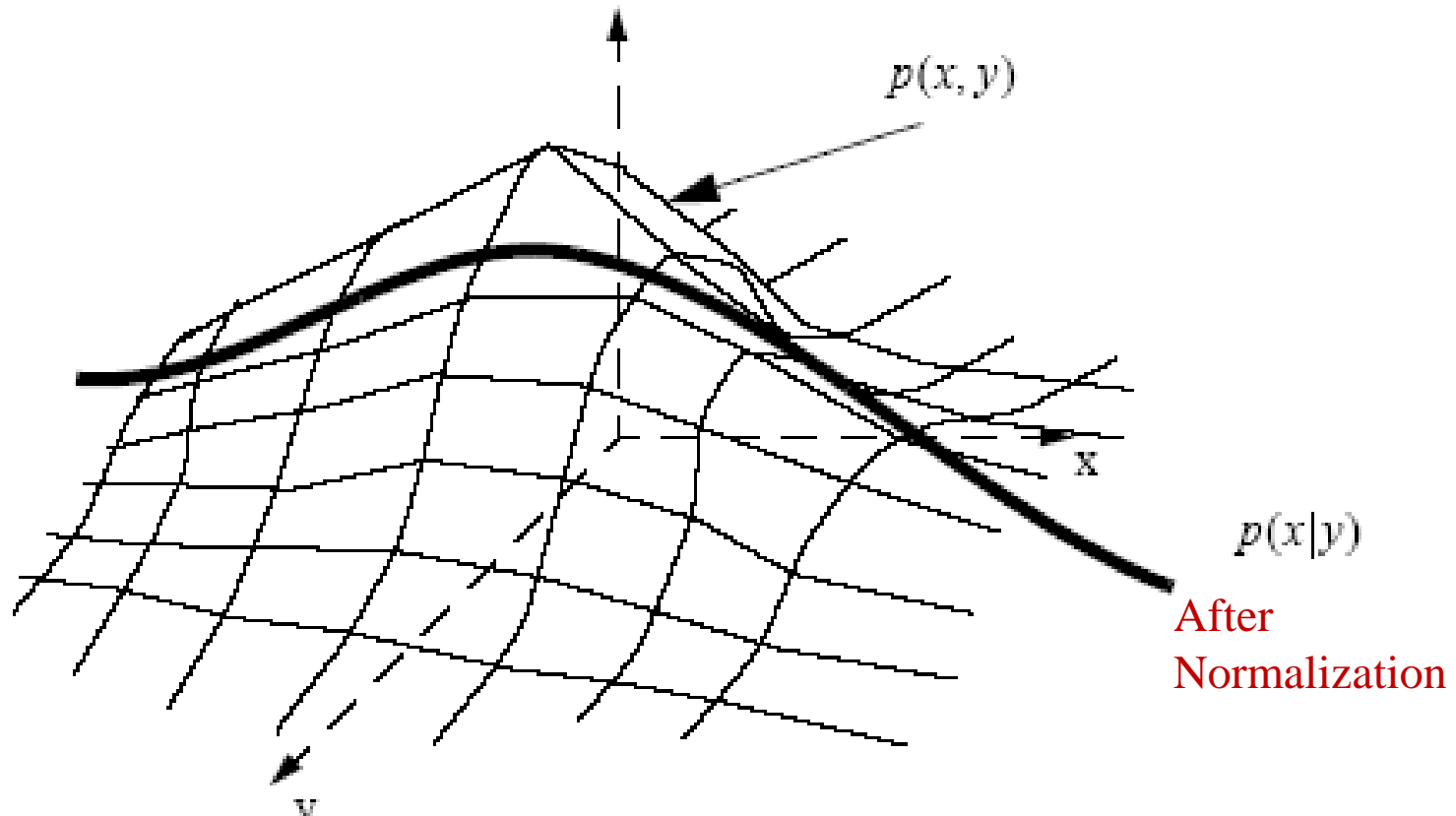
$P(A|\text{rgb})$

$P(A|\text{mostly blue})$

$P(A|\text{mostly red})$



# Interpretation as a Slice



- Variable  $y$  ceases to be random once its known.
- Then  $p(x)$  depends on it deterministically.

# Interpretation as an Estimation Process

- Let  $A$  be the state of a system denoted  $x$  and let  $B$  be a measurement denoted  $z$ .
- Then:
  - $p(x)$  means the likelihood of the system being in state  $x$ .
  - $p(z)$  means the likelihood that a particular measurement is observed.
  - $p(x|z)$  means the likelihood of the system being in the state  $x$  if the measurement  $z$  is observed.
  - $p(z|x)$  means the likelihood of a measurement  $z$  being observed if the state is  $x$
  - $p(x,z)$  means the likelihood of the system being in a state  $x$  and measurement  $z$  is observed.
- Every one of these is a different number  $0 < n < 1$ .

# Total Probability and Marginalization

- Suppose  $n$  mutually exclusive events (like  $n$  different values of the variable  $B$ ).

$$B_1 \dots B_n$$

- If we know one (unknown) of these events  $B_i$  has occurred, then the probability of  $A$  is:

$$P(A|B_1 \dots B_n) = P(A|B_1)P(B_1) + P(A|B_2)P(B_2) + \dots + P(A|B_n)P(B_n)$$

- Consider: one of grn...blu has occurred..

$$P(\neg \text{red}|\text{grn}\dots\text{blue}) = P(\neg \text{red}|\text{grn})P(\text{grn}) + P(\neg \text{red}|\text{blue})P(\text{blue})$$

$$P(\neg \text{red}|\text{grn}\dots\text{blue}) = (1)(1/2) + (1)(1/2) = 1$$

Not 1/3  
Only grn or blu  
were possible

- Integrates out a dimension in the PDF.

# Marginalization

4 Mutually  
Exclusive Events  
All 4 add to 1

$P(A,B)$	A	$\neg A$
B	A&B 0.1	$\neg A$ &B 0.2
$\neg B$	A& $\neg B$ 0.2	$\neg A$ & $\neg B$ 0.5

← This row is  $0.3P(A|B)$   
 $P(B) = 0.3$

← This row is  $0.7P(A|\neg B)$   
 $P(\neg B) = 0.7$

↑ This col is  $0.3P(B|A)$   
 $P(A) = 0.3$

↑ This col is  $0.7P(B|\neg A)$   
 $P(\neg A) = 0.7$

# Different Views

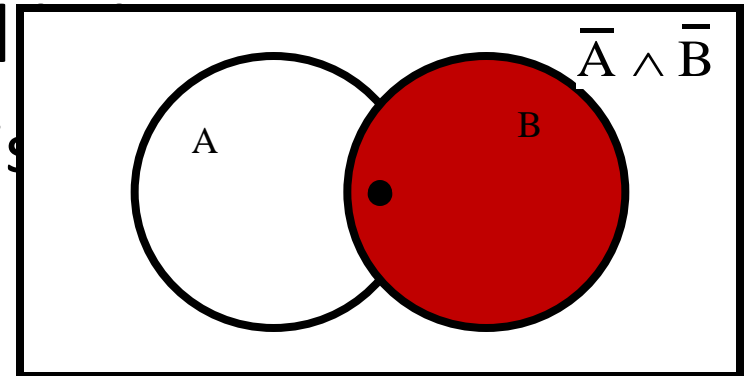
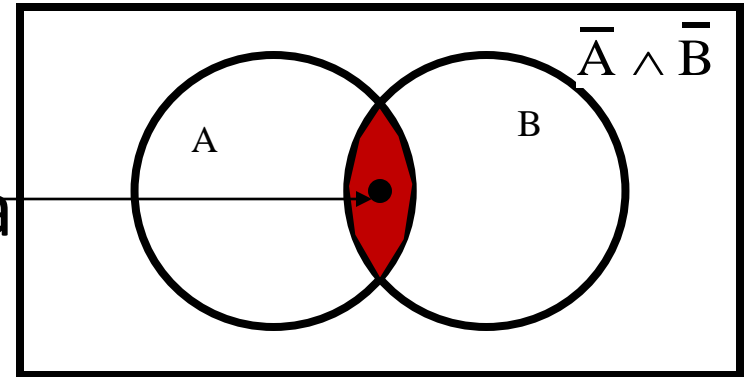
- $P(A|B)$  – conditional, A variable, B fixed
  - I happen to know B
  - Based on B's value, how likely is each value of A.
- $P(A,B)$  – joint, A,B variable
  - Probability of each different pair of values (a,b)
- $P(A)$  – prior, A variable, B irrelevant
  - Probability of each value (a) if we knew nothing (“prior” to knowing something) about B.

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# Bayes Rule

- We can compute  $P(A|B)$ .
- Given B has occurred, the probability of A is the ratio of the area of the overlap to the area of B.
- If all points in B are equally likely, the probability of falling in the overlap is the ratio of the area of the overlap to the area of B.



$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

# Other Forms

- Recall:

Relates “Inverse” Probabilities

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(B)}$$

- By symmetry:

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(A)}$$

- Eliminate common expression:

$$P(A) \times P(B|A) = P(B) \times P(A|B)$$

“Prior” prob of A

- Rearrange:

“Posterior” prob of A

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)}{P(B)} \times P(A) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(B)}$$

- Computes  $P(X|Y)$  from  $P(Y|X)$ .
- We care about:
  - $P(x|z) \rightarrow P(\text{state} | \text{measurements})$



# Normalization

- In estimator notation:

$$P(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Z}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X})}{P(\mathbf{Z})} \times P(\mathbf{X})$$

- Can compute  $P(\mathbf{Z})$  using the total probability theorem.

$$P(\mathbf{Z}) = \sum_{\text{all } \mathbf{x}} P(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X})P(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_{\text{all } \mathbf{x}} P(\mathbf{X} \wedge \mathbf{Z})$$

- Common notation is:

$$\eta(\mathbf{Z}) = \frac{1}{P(\mathbf{Z})} \quad \text{“Normalizer”}$$

- Note that knowing  $P(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X})$  and  $P(\mathbf{X})$  **completely determines**  $P(\mathbf{Z})$ .

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# Example Museum Tour Guide Robot

- Robot has sonar sensors.
- Sits idle until it detects someone in the room.
- Room has noisy fan nearby which corrupts sonar readings.
- Some visitors stand still for long periods.

# Notation

- Use values of variables to imply the variables themselves.

$$P(X = \text{visitor}) \leftrightarrow P(\text{vis})$$

$$P(X = \neg \text{visitor}) \leftrightarrow P(\neg \text{vis})$$

$$P(Z = \text{motion}) \leftrightarrow P(\text{mot})$$

$$P(Z = \neg \text{motion}) \leftrightarrow P(\neg \text{mot})$$

# Prior on X

- Room is empty 90% of the time.

X	P(X)
vis	0.1
$\neg$ vis	0.9

# Sensor Model $P(Z|X)$

- Fan noise makes the sensor barely effective.

$P(Z X)$			
		$Z$	
		mot	$\neg$ mot
$X$	vis	0.7	0.3
	$\neg$ vis	0.6	0.4

0.7 only slightly higher than 0.6

0.3 only slightly lower than 0.4

# Process First Measurement

- Bayes Rule:

$$P(X | Z_1) = \frac{P(Z_1 | X)}{P(Z_1)} \times P(X)$$

		Z	
		mot	¬ mot
X	vis	(0.7)(0.1)	(0.3)(0.1)
	¬ vis	(0.6)(0.9)	(0.4)(0.9)

		Z	
		mot	¬ mot
X	vis	0.7	0.3
	¬ vis	0.6	0.4

X	P(X)
vis	0.1
¬ vis	0.9

Vector dot product !

Normally, only one column needs to be computed. The one for the Z you measured.

# Normalizer

- Normalizer:

$$P(Z_1) = \sum_{\text{all } x} P(Z_1 | X) P(X)$$

$Z_1$	$P(Z_1)$
mot	0.61
$\neg$ mot	0.39

		$P(X Z_1)*P(Z_1)$ or $P(Z_1 X)*P(X)$	
		Z	
X		mot	$\neg$ mot
		vis	(0.07)
$\neg$ vis	(0.54)	(0.36)	

Add up  
the  
columns

- Represents the prior likelihood of each sensor reading. What you would get if you:
  - measured continuously for a month,
  - paid no attention to whether there were visitors in the room or not, and
  - computed averages.



# Normalize First Measurement

- Bayes Rule:  $P(X | Z_1) = \frac{P(Z_1 | X)}{P(Z_1)} \times P(X)$
- Divide by normalizer:

		Z	
		mot	¬ mot
X	vis	0.11	0.08
	¬ vis	0.89	0.92

P(X Z <sub>1</sub> )*P(Z <sub>1</sub> ) or P(Z <sub>1</sub>  X)*P(X)			
		Z	
		mot	¬ mot
X	vis	(0.07)	(0.03)
	¬ vis	(0.54)	(0.36)

Z <sub>1</sub>	P(Z <sub>1</sub> )
mot	0.61
¬ mot	0.39

- Normally only one column is computed

Prior on X is bumped up or down slightly to get P(X|Z<sub>1</sub>).

# Recursive Bayesian Update

- First measurement is processed with:

$$P(\mathbf{X} | Z_1) = \frac{P(Z_1 | \mathbf{X})}{P(Z_1)} \times P(\mathbf{X})$$

- Suppose there is another measurement.  $P(\mathbf{X} | Z_1)$  (old posterior) becomes the new prior:

$$P(\mathbf{X} | Z_1, Z_2) = \frac{P(Z_2 | \mathbf{X}, Z_1)}{P(Z_2 | Z_1)} P(\mathbf{X} | Z_1)$$

Baye's Rule for second measurement

- Put a  $Z_1$  after the  $|$  everywhere.

# Markov Assumption

- Last slide had:  $P(X | Z_1, Z_2) = \frac{P(Z_2 | X, Z_1)}{P(Z_2 | Z_1)} P(X | Z_1)$
- Assume  $Z_2$  is independent of  $Z_1$  when  $X$  is known (for any particular value of  $X$ ).

$$P(Z_2 | X, \cancel{Z_1}) = P(Z_2 | X)$$

The Famous  
Markov  
Assumption

– Intuitively,  $Z_2$  depends on  $X$ , but not on  $Z_1$ .

- Baye's Rule becomes:

$$P(X | Z_1, Z_2) = \frac{P(Z_2 | X)}{P(Z_2 | Z_1)} P(X | Z_1)$$

Now, we don't need a  
different table for every  
possible sensor measurement  
sequence.

# Process Second Measurement

- Bayes Rule:  $P(X|Z_1, Z_2) = \frac{P(Z_2|X)}{P(Z_2|Z_1)} P(X|Z_1)$
- Consider only case of  $Z_2=Z_1$  to avoid a 3D table.

$P(X Z_1, Z_2) * P(Z_2 Z_1)$ or $P(Z_2 X) * P(X Z_1)$			
		$Z_1, Z_2$	
		mot <sup>2</sup>	$\neg$ mot <sup>2</sup>
X	vis	(0.7)(0.11)	(0.3)(0.08)
	$\neg$ vis	(0.6)(0.89)	(0.4)(0.92)

Normally, only one column needs to be computed. The one for the Z you measured.

$P(Z_2 X) = P(Z_1 X)$ (same)			
		$Z_2$	
		mot	$\neg$ mot
X	vis	0.7	0.3
	$\neg$ vis	0.6	0.4

$P(X Z_1)$ (last result)			
		$Z_1$	
		mot	$\neg$ mot
X	vis	0.11	0.08
	$\neg$ vis	0.89	0.92

Multiply these two element by element

# Normalizer

- Normalizer:

$$P(Z_2|Z_1) = \sum_{\text{all } x} P(Z_2|X)P(X|Z_1)$$

$Z_1, Z_2$	$P(Z_2 Z_1)$
mot <sup>2</sup>	0.61
¬ mot <sup>2</sup>	0.39

		$Z_1, Z_2$	
		mot <sup>2</sup>	¬ mot <sup>2</sup>
X	vis	0.08	0.02
	¬ vis	0.53	0.37

Add up the columns

- Unchanged to 2 sig figs from last normalizer but different in general.

# Normalize Second Measurement

- Bayes Rule: 
$$P(X|Z_1, Z_2) = \frac{[P(Z_2|X) \times P(X|Z_1)]}{P(Z_2|Z_1)}$$

- Divide by normalizer:

		Z	
		mot <sup>2</sup>	¬ mot <sup>2</sup>
X	vis	0.13	0.06
	¬ vis	0.87	0.94

Red arrows indicate adjustments: 0.1 from 0.13 to 0.06, and 0.9 from 0.87 to 0.94.

		Z	
		mot <sup>2</sup>	¬ mot <sup>2</sup>
X	vis	0.08	0.02
	¬ vis	0.53	0.37

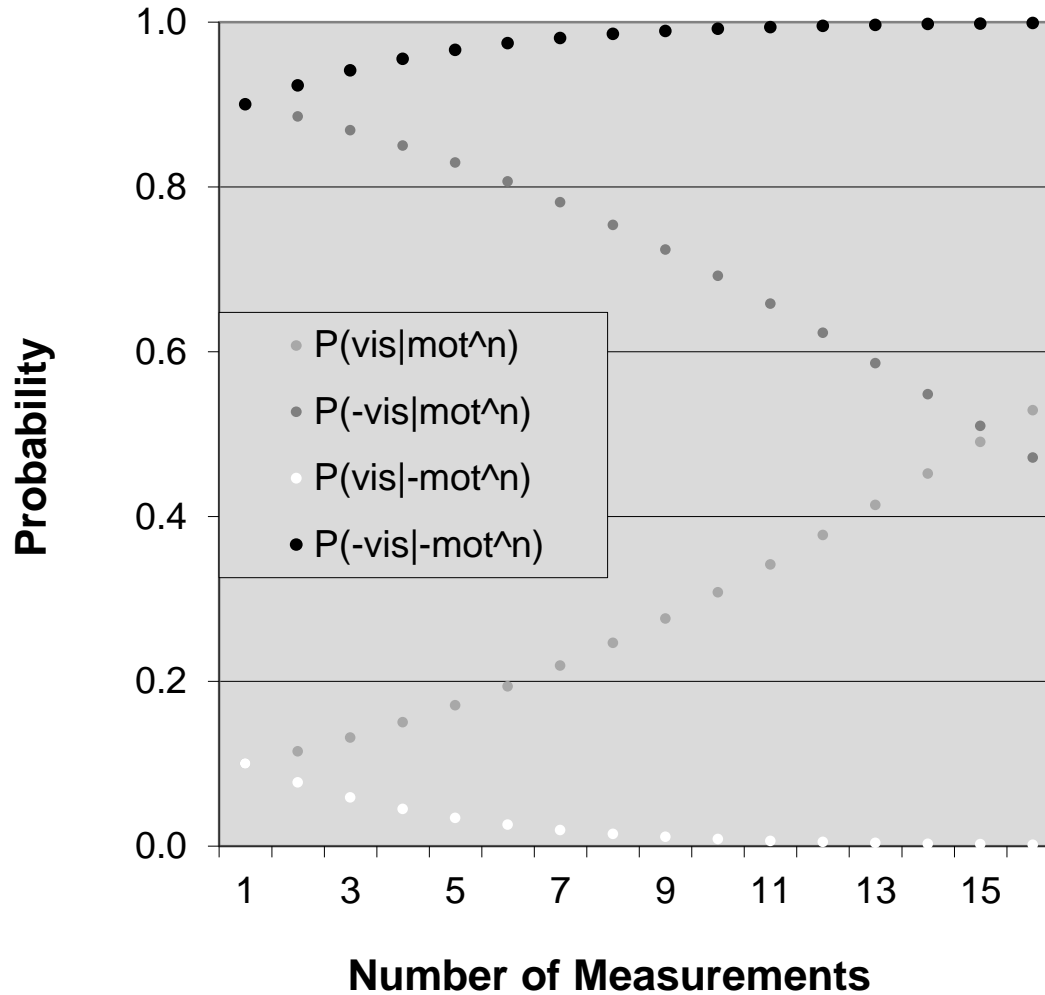
Z <sub>1</sub> , Z <sub>2</sub>	P(Z <sub>2</sub>  Z <sub>1</sub> )
mot <sup>2</sup>	0.61
¬ mot <sup>2</sup>	0.39

- Normally only one column is computed.

Prior on X is bumped up or down slightly MORE.

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# Ad Infinitum



# Multiple Measurements

- Last result is easy to generalize
  - Move all measurements so far after the |
- Denote all measurements so far as:

$$Z_{1,n} = Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n$$

- Bayes Rule in the multiple measurement form:

$$P(X|Z_{1,n}) = \frac{P(Z_n|X, Z_{1,n-1})}{P(Z_n|Z_{1,n-1})}P(X|Z_{1,n-1})$$

- With Markov assumption:

$$P(X|Z_{1,n}) = \left[ \frac{P(Z_n|X)}{P(Z_n|Z_{1,n-1})} \right] P(X|Z_{1,n-1})$$



# Multiple Measurement Normalizer

- Prior on Z is:

$$P(Z_n | Z_{1,n-1}) = \sum_{\text{all } x} P(Z_n | X, Z_{1,n-1}) P(X | Z_{1,n-1})$$

- Used in this form with Markov Assumption:

$$P(Z_n | Z_{1,n-1}) = \sum_{\text{all } x} P(Z_n | X) P(X | Z_{1,n-1})$$

- Can unwind the recursion to get this impressive result:

$$P(X | Z_{1,n}) = \left\{ \prod_{k=1}^n \left[ \frac{P(Z_k | X)}{\sum_{\text{all } x} P(Z_n | X) P(X | Z_{1,n-1})} \right] \right\} P(X)$$

**Π means Product**

# Bayesian Filters

- Define the “belief” function as the distribution over  $X$  given all evidence so far:

$$\text{Bel}(X_n) = P(X|Z_{1,n})$$

- Then the normalizer is:

$$\eta(Z_{1,n}) = \{P(Z_n|Z_{1,n-1})\}^{-1}$$

- The normalizer is a constant scalar and the belief function is a distribution over  $X$  (a vector).

# Bayesian Filter Algorithm

- Bayes\_filter(Bel(X),Z):
- $\eta^{-1} = 0$
- For all  $x$  do
- $Bel'(X) = P(Z_n|X) \times Bel(X)$
- $\eta^{-1} = \eta^{-1} + Bel'(X)$  *Accumulate normalizer*
- For all  $x$  do
- $Bel'(X) = \eta^{-1} \times Bel'(X)$  *Normalize*
- return Bel'(x)

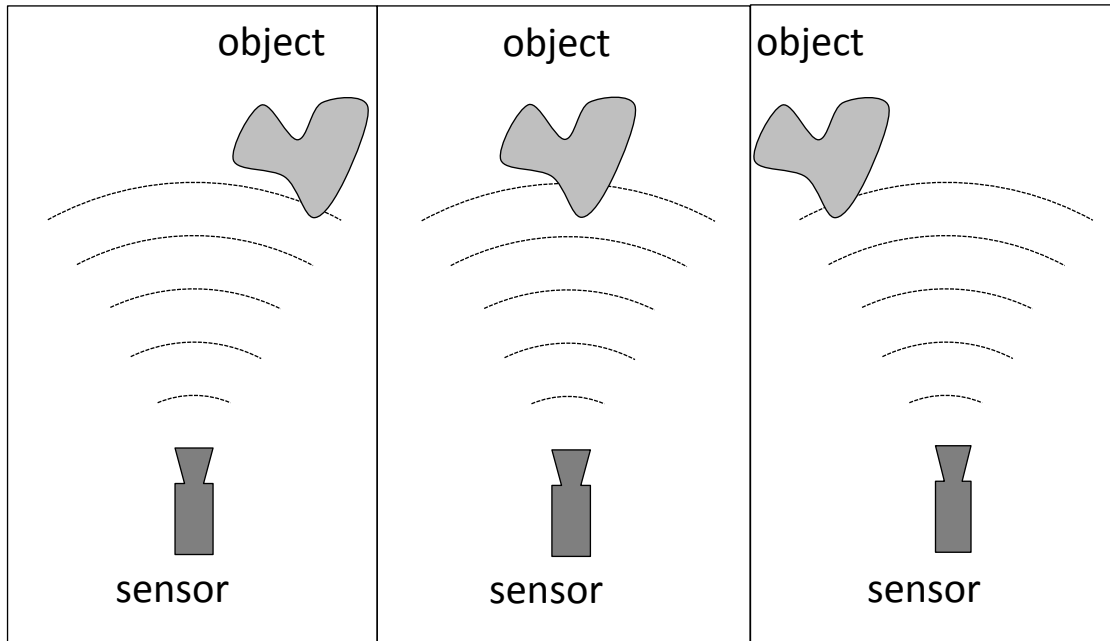
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# Certainty Grids

- Recursive Localizer:
  - Given sensor ranges and map, compute position
- Certainty Grid Mapper:
  - Given sensor ranges and position, compute map
- Originally proposed as a mechanism to deal with the poor angular resolution of sonar.

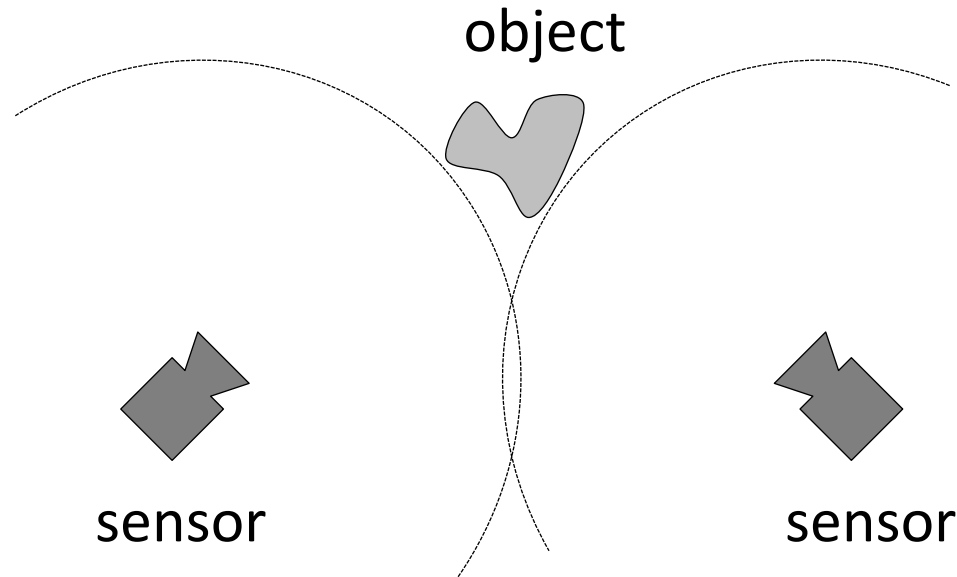
# Sonar Angular Resolution



- The range to the object is known but either of the above three positions could generate the same range reading:
  - Angular resolution of a 30 degree sonar beam is poor.

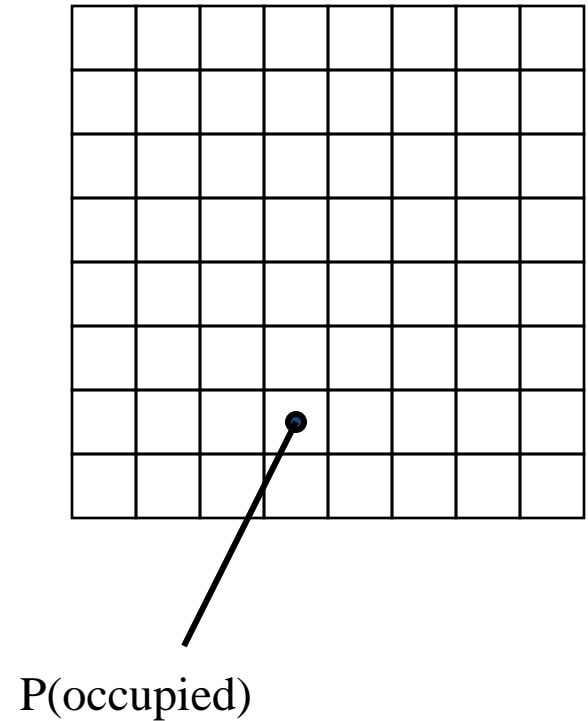
# Synthetic Aperture

- Use of sensor motion (and accurate position) to achieve the improved angular resolution of a larger aperture (antenna radius).



# Occupancy Grids

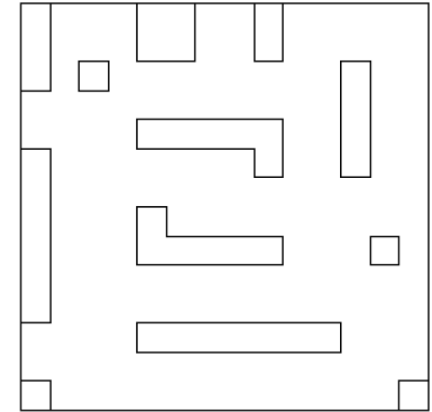
- Each cell encodes probability cell is occupied (by an obstacle).
- Really, a discrete approximation to a random field.



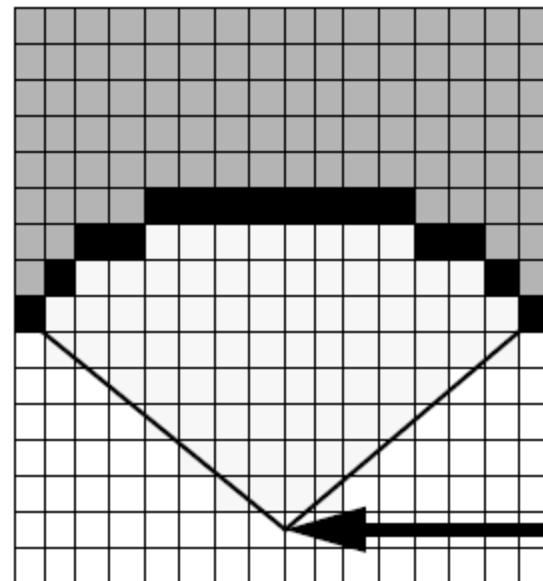


# Incorporating (Range) Measurements

- Simplest case is to count hits (maybe and
- Range reading  $R$  is evidence of:
  - Occupancy at  $R$
  - No occupancy  $< R$
- Tells you nothing beyond  $R$ .



Ground Truth



- increment
- decrement
- unchanged

sensor  
position

# Bayesian Update

- Assume Independence:

$$P(\text{occ}[x_i, y_i] | \text{occ}[x_j, y_j]) = P(\text{occ}[x_i, y_i]) \quad i \neq j$$

- Now can imagine a **bank** of Bayesian filters.
- $P(X)$  for two values of  $X$  is just  $P(\text{occ})$ .

- Bayes Rule is:

$$P(\text{occ} | \mathbf{R}_{1, k}) = \left[ \frac{P(r_k | \text{occ})}{P(r_k | \mathbf{R}_{1, k-1})} \right] P(\text{occ} | \mathbf{R}_{1, k-1})$$

Range  
Reading



- Also, for the other value of  $X$ .

$$P(\overline{\text{occ}} | \mathbf{R}_{1, k}) = \left[ \frac{P(r_k | \overline{\text{occ}})}{P(r_k | \mathbf{R}_{1, k-1})} \right] P(\overline{\text{occ}} | \mathbf{R}_{1, k-1})$$

# Odds Update Formulation

- Take the ratio of the last two results:

$$\frac{P(\text{occ} | R_{1,k})}{P(\overline{\text{occ}} | R_{1,k})} = \left[ \frac{P(r_k | \text{occ})}{P(r_k | \overline{\text{occ}})} \right] \frac{P(\text{occ} | R_{1,k-1})}{P(\overline{\text{occ}} | R_{1,k-1})}$$

- Recall the definition of odds:

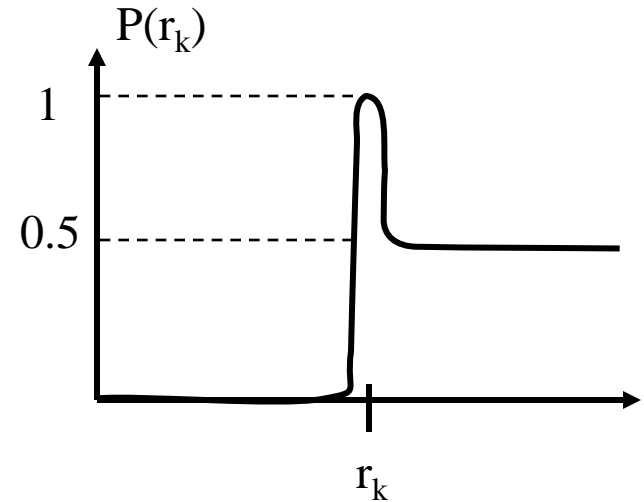
very  
computationally  
efficient

$$O(\text{occ} | R_{1,k}) = O(r_k | \text{occ}) \cdot O(\text{occ} | R_{1,k-1})$$

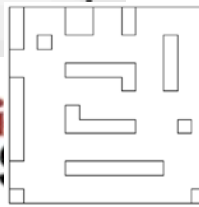
- Fill map initially with  $O(\text{occ})$  prior and then multiply each cell by  $O(r_k | \text{occ})$  continuously.

# Ideal Sensor Model

$$p(r_k | \text{occ}) = \begin{cases} 0.5, & \text{range}(\text{cell}) > r_k \\ 1.0, & \text{range}(\text{cell}) = r_k \\ 0.0, & \text{range}(\text{cell}) < r_k \end{cases}$$

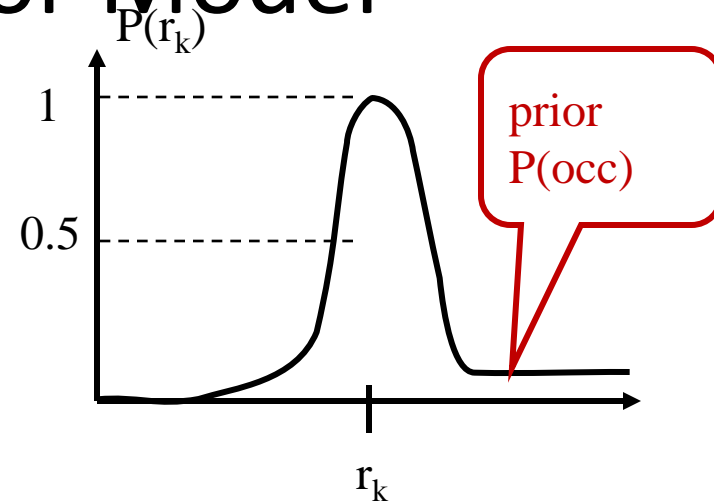


- Nothing can be said beyond the range.
- Trouble resolving corners.

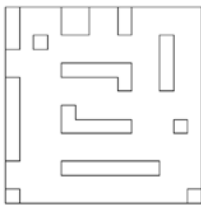


# More Realistic Sensor Model

$$p(r_k | o) = \begin{cases} 0.5, & \rho > r_k \\ 0.99 \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\theta}{\sigma_r}\right)^2\right], & (\rho - r_k) < \sigma_r \\ 0.05, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



- Allows for (models) sensor error.
- Models prior  $P(\text{occ})$ .
- Trouble resolving corners.



# Modelling Dependence

- To capture dependence, use a sensor “map” of the inverse form.

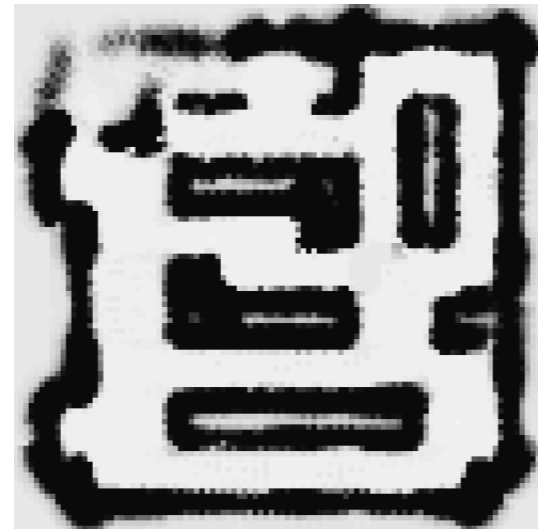
$$p(o | \mathbf{R}_{k-1} \wedge r_k) = p(o | \mathbf{R}_{k-1}) \times p(o | r_k) / p(o)$$

- Sensor model is sum of these two terms:

$$p_1 = \begin{cases} 0.05 \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\rho - r_k}{\sigma_r}\right)^2\right] - 0.05, & \rho < r_k \\ 0.0, & \rho > r_k \end{cases}$$

$$p_2 = 0.95 \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\rho - r_k}{\sigma_r}\right)^2\right]$$

- Better results.



# Outline

- 5.4 Bayesian Estimation
  - 5.4.1 Definitions
  - 5.4.2 Bayes' Rule
  - 5.4.3 Bayes' Filters
  - 5.4.4 Bayesian Mapping
  - 5.4.5 Bayesian Localization
  - Summary

# NOTE

- Get the sonar processing stuff from the text.



# Bayesian Localization

- Sensor Model

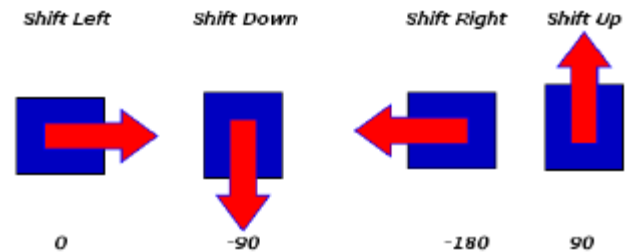
$P(Z|X)$

- Probability of every range image given every state

$$P(Z_1 | X) = 1 - \left( \frac{1}{N \cdot r_{\max}} \left( \sum_{i=0}^N (r_i - \hat{r}_i)^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

- Action Model

$$P(X_k | X_{k-1}, U_{k-1})$$



# Bayesian Action Models

- Unlike measurements, actions tend to increase uncertainty.
  - None are executed perfectly
- Seek a pmf over state conditioned on the controls. Something like:

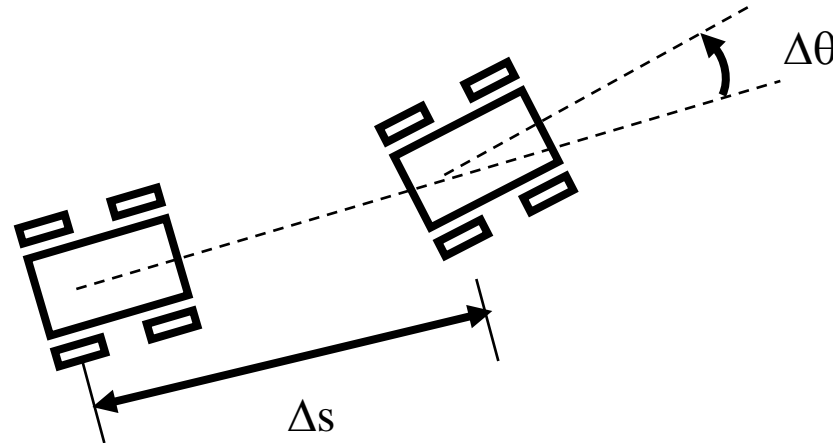
$$P(X_k | X_{k-1}, U_{k-1})$$

- This means the probability of
  - ending up in state  $X_k$  given that
  - the state was  $X_{k-1}$  and
  - the control that was executed was  $U_{k-1}$ .

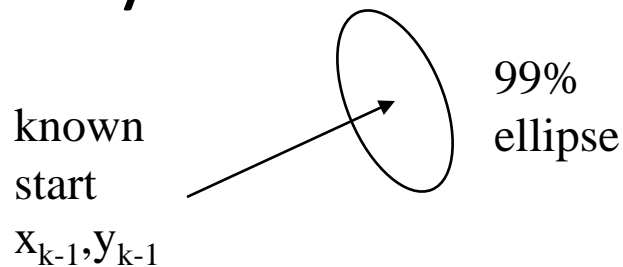
INPUTS FUNCTION JUST LIKE CONTROLS

# Action Uncertainty

- Suppose the actions are of the form:

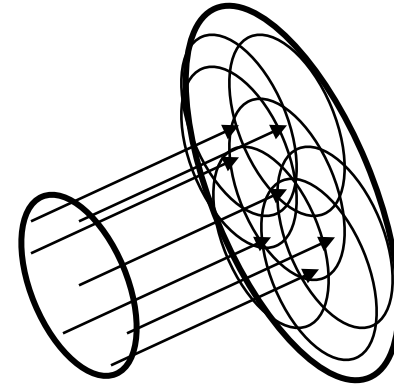


- If the start were known, the position part of the transition pmf may look like so:



# Action Uncertainty

- If the start is unknown, project every possibility forward in time via marginalization over the previous state:



$$P(\mathbf{X}_n | \mathbf{U}_{1,n}) = \sum_{\text{all } \mathbf{X}_{n-1}} P(\mathbf{X}_n | \mathbf{X}_{n-1}, \mathbf{U}_{1,n-1}) P(\mathbf{X}_{n-1})$$

- Under Markov assumption:

$$P(\mathbf{X}_n | \mathbf{U}_{1,n}) = \sum_{\text{all } \mathbf{X}_{n-1}} P(\mathbf{X}_n | \mathbf{X}_{n-1}, \mathbf{U}_{n-1}) P(\mathbf{X}_{n-1})$$

# Action Uncertainty

- Output is a weighted smoothing operation on the input:

$$P(X_n | U_{1,n}) = \sum_{\text{all } X_{n-1}} P(X_n | X_{n-1}, U_n) P(X_{n-1})$$

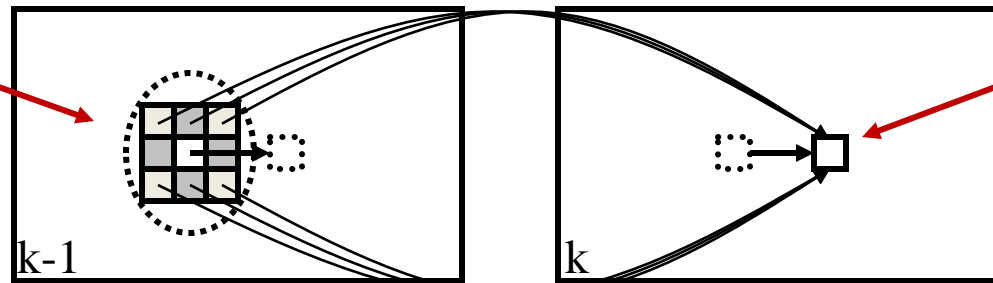
3: Compute likelihood of the transition given the input

4: Weighted by likelihood of former state

1: For each possible output state

2: For each possible former state

“All” possible input states



One possible Output state

- Intuition is shift-and-smooth where shift means shift the distribution by the nominal motion.

# Bayesian Filter With Actions

- Algorithm Bayes\_filter(Bel(X),D):
- $\eta^{-1} = 0$
- if D is a **perceptual data item** then:
  - for all x do
  - $Bel'(X) = P(Z_n|X) \times Bel(X)$
  - $\eta^{-1} = \eta^{-1} + Bel'(X)$  Observe
  - for all x do
  - $Bel'(X) = \eta^{-1} \times Bel'(X)$
- else if is an **action data item** then:
  - for all x do
  - $Bel'(X) = \sum_{\text{all } x_{n-1}} P(X_n|X_{n-1}, U_n)P(X_{n-1})$  Predict
- return Bel'(x)

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# Summary

- Bayesian estimation is more powerful than Kalman Filters
  - Can model arbitrary distributions.
- This generality comes at a computational cost.
- Can achieve impressive disambiguation through evidence accumulation.
  - Kidnapped robot problem
  - Localization in ambiguous, nearly repetitive environments.
- Still end up making assumptions in many cases.
  - Markov ( $z_k$  independent of  $z_{k-1}$ )
  - Spatial independence [ $P(x)$  independent of neighbors].