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AD-A240 378

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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erson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE August 1991		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Professional paper	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE CONDITIONAL EVENT ALGEBRAS: TWO NEW CHARACTERIZATIONS AND THEIR RELATIONS TO BAYESIAN ANALYSIS				5. FUNDING NUMBERS PR: ZT52 PE: 0601152N WU: DN306225	
6. AUTHOR(S) I. R. Goodman				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Ocean Systems Center San Diego, CA 92152-5000					
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Office of Chief of Naval Research Independent Research Programs (IR) OCNR-10P Arlington, VA 22217-5000				10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.				12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) The standard approach in developing conditional probability is a numerically oriented one, although one notable exception has been efforts in the area of qualitative (comparative-preference ordering) probability theory, as developed by Suppes, Domotor, Fishburn, and others. However, the latter aspect of probability requires, in general, the preference ordering to be equivalent to the probability ordering. But, this is obviously too restrictive to be compatible with the basic monotonicity property of probability, relative to the usual partial subclass order for events. On the other hand, Koopman's approach to qualitative probability is not as restrictive and does yield a preference relation, which if suitably modified, is compatible with the natural subclass partial order. In the work here, it is shown that a qualitative concept of conditional probability can be established on a thoroughly rigorous algebraic basis which can be directly related to Koopman qualitative conditional probability. In addition, it is shown that conditional events - which <u>must</u> be certain principal ideal cosets of events from the initial boolean algebra of events - can be compared, contrasted, and combined by any boolean operations, even if the events have distinctly different antecedents. In addition, conditional events form a conditional event algebra which in structure is midway between a pseudocomplemented distributive lattice and a full boolean algebra. This richness of structure allows for the development of an associated sound and complete conditional probability logic of propositions; deep structural relations with three-valued logic and DeFinetti's previous concept of partial indicator functions; and a novel interpretation of bayesian analysis from a qualitative/syntactic viewpoint.					
Published in <i>Proceedings of the 28th Annual Bayesian Research Conference</i> , 1989.					
14. SUBJECT TERMS data fusion uncertainty measures combination of evidence game theory					
15. PRICE CODE					
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED		19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	
20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAME AS REPORT					

✓ UNCLASSIFIED

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CONDITIONAL EVENT ALGEBRAS: TWO NEW CHARACTERIZATIONS AND THEIR
RELATIONS TO BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

Invited presentation to the 27th Annual
Bayesian Research Conference, Sponsored
by the University of Southern California,
Los Angeles, CA, under the direction of
Prof. Ward Edwards, Feb. 16, 17, 1989.

Abstract

The standard approach in developing conditional probability is a numerically-oriented one, although one notable exception has been efforts in the area of qualitative (comparitive-preference ordering) probability theory, as developed by Suppes, Domotor, Fishburn, and others. However, the latter aspect of probability requires, in general, the preference ordering to be equivalent to the probability ordering. But, this is obviously too restrictive to be compatible with the basic monotonicity property of probability, relative to the usual partial subclass order for events. On the other hand, Koopman's approach to qualitative probability is not as restrictive and does yield a preference relation, which if suitably modified, is compatible with the natural subclass partial order.

In the work here, it is shown that a qualitative concept of conditional probability can be established on a thoroughly rigorous algebraic basis which can be directly related to Koopman qualitative conditional probability. In addition, it is shown that conditional events - which must be certain principal ideal cosets of events from the initial boolean algebra of events - can be compared, contrasted, and combined by any boolean operations, even if the events have distinctly different antecedents. In addition, conditional events form a conditional event algebra which in structure is midway between a pseudocomplemented distributive lattice and a full boolean algebra. This richness of structure allows for: the development of an associated sound and complete conditional probability logic of propositions; deep structural relations with three-valued logic and DeFinetti's previous concept of partial indicator functions; and a novel interpretation of bayesian analysis from a qualitative/syntactic viewpoint.



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