

## Homework 1: Probability and Bayes' Rule

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**Instructions:** Your answers are due **at 11:50pm** submitted on canvas. You **must turn in a pdf through** canvas. I recommend using latex (<http://www.cs.utah.edu/~jeffp/teaching/latex/>, see also <http://overleaf.com>) for producing the assignment answers. If the answers are too hard to read you will lose points, entire questions may be given a 0 (e.g. **sloppy pictures with your phone's camera are not ok, but very careful ones are**)

Please make sure your name appears at the top of the page.

You may discuss the concepts with your classmates, but write up the answers entirely on your own. **Be sure to show all the work involved in deriving your answers! If you just give a final answer without explanation, you may not receive credit for that question.**

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- [20 points] Using the probability table below for the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , derive the following values
  - $\Pr(X \neq 0)$
  - $\Pr(X = 0 \cup Y = 0)$
  - $\Pr(Y = 1 \mid X = 1)$
  - Are  $X$  and  $Y$  independent? and explain why.

	$X = 0$	$X = 1$
$Y = 0$	1/10	2/10
$Y = 1$	4/10	3/10

- [25 points] An “adventurous” track athlete has the following running routine every morning: He takes a bus to a random stop, then hitches a ride, and then runs all the way home. The bus, described by a random variable  $B$ , has four stops where the stops are at a distance of 5, 8, 11, and 12 miles from his house – the first three stops have probability  $1/6$  of occurring. The 12 mile stop has probability  $1/2$  of occurring. Then the random hitchhiking takes him further from his house a uniformly distributed number of miles on the distances  $-4$  to  $5$ ; that is it is represented as a random variable  $H$  with pdf described

$$f(H = x) = \begin{cases} 1/9 & \text{if } x \in [-4, 5] \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin [-4, 5] \end{cases}$$

**Note that a negative distance means that the runner is taken closer to his house. For example, if  $H = -1$ , then the runner is taken 1 mile *closer* to his home.**

What is the expected distance he jogs each morning?

- [30 points] Consider a data set  $D$  with three data points  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ . Assume the data has Laplacian noise defined with location  $M$  and scale 1, so from a model  $M$  a data point's

probability distribution is described by  $f_M(x) = \frac{1}{2} \exp(-|M - x|)$ . We want to choose  $M$  from the space  $\Omega = \{-3, -1, 7\}$ . Also assume we have a prior knowledge assumption on the model that  $\Pr(M = -3) = 0.75$ ,  $\Pr(M = -1) = 0.1$ , and  $\Pr(M = 7) = 0.15$ . Assuming all data points in  $D$  are independent, which model is most likely?

4. **[25 points]** The Laplace Distribution, indexed by location parameter  $\mu$  and scale parameter  $\sigma$  has probability density function given by  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2\sigma} \exp(-\frac{|x-\mu|}{\sigma})$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\sigma > 0$ . Plot the pdf and cdf of a Laplace random variable with  $\mu = 3$  and  $\sigma = 1$  for values of  $x$  is range  $[-3, 9]$ . The function `scipy.stats.laplace` may be useful.