FROM CONDITIONAL PROBABILITY TO BAYES' FORMULA

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The fundamental problem of probability and statistics teaching is to handle the contradiction of necessity and contingency. 'Conditional probability' is a basic concept of probability and statistics. An important idea related to conditional probability is the concept of independence of events. Bayes' formula is a synthetic formula and it has varied applications both in theory and practice. Foregoing three contents are closely related.

In learning the se contents may students have difficulty. Especially it is hard for them to understand the difference of concepts, such as $P(A)$ and $P(A/B)$, $P(AB)$ and $P(A/B)$, $P(A/B)$, and so on. To overcome these difficulties, we should pay more attention to developing the thinking activity of students. When we teach the contents, we concentrate on the following points:

(a) Explaining the concepts of employing typical and distinct probability models;

(b) Highlighting audio-visual senses;

(c) Stating internal contact and clarifying essential difference;

(d) Summarising main points of formula.

As mastering the way of teaching, cultivating students' independent thinking ability and self-taught ability, we have achieved good results.