

Lecture 9: 5 February, 2026

Madhavan Mukund

<https://www.cmi.ac.in/~madhavan>

Data Mining and Machine Learning
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Bayesian classifiers

- As before
 - Attributes $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k\}$ and
 - Classes $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_l\}$

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- Given a data item $d = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$, identify the best class c for d
- Maximize $Pr(C = c_i \mid A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k)$

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- Generative model has associated parameters $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m)$
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- We need to estimate these parameters

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- $\hat{\theta} = H/N$ maximizes this likelihood — $\arg \max_{\theta} L(\theta) = \hat{\theta} = H/N$
 - Maximum Likelihood Estimator (MLE)

Bayesian classification

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- Maximize $Pr(C = c_i | A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k)$
- By Bayes' rule,

$$\frac{Pr(C = c_i | A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k)}{Pr(A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k)} = \frac{Pr(A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k | C = c_i) Pr(C = c_i)}{Pr(A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k)}$$

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- Denominator is the same for all c_i , so sufficient to maximize

$$Pr(A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k | C = c_i) \cdot Pr(C = c_i)$$

Example

- To classify $A = g, B = q$

Output ↓

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>h</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>h</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>h</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>f</i>
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Example

- To classify $A = g, B = q$
- $Pr(C = t) = 5/10 = 1/2$
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A	B	C
m	b	t
m	s	t
g	q	t
h	s	t
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- $Pr(C = f) = 5/10 = 1/2$
- $Pr(A = g, B = q | C = f) = 1/5$

A	B	C
m	b	t
m	s	t
g	q	t
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- $Pr(C = f) = 5/10 = 1/2$
- $Pr(A = g, B = q \mid C = f) = 1/5$
- $Pr(A = g, B = q \mid C = f) \cdot Pr(C = f) = 1/10$

A	B	C
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m	s	t
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- $Pr(A = g, B = q \mid C = t) = 2/5$
- $Pr(A = g, B = q \mid C = t) \cdot Pr(C = t) = 1/5$
- $Pr(C = f) = 5/10 = 1/2$
- $Pr(A = g, B = q \mid C = f) = 1/5$
- $Pr(A = g, B = q \mid C = f) \cdot Pr(C = f) = 1/10$
- Hence, predict $C = t$

A	B	C
m	b	t
m	s	t
g	q	t
h	s	t
g	q	t
g	q	f
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Example . . .

- What if we want to classify $A = m, B = q$?

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Example ...

- What if we want to classify $A = m, B = q$?
- $Pr(A = m, B = q | C = t) = 0$

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- What if we want to classify $A = m, B = q$?
- $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = t) = 0$
- Also $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = f) = 0!$

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- $Pr(A = m, B = q | C = t) = 0$
- Also $Pr(A = m, B = q | C = f) = 0!$
- To estimate joint probabilities across all combinations of attributes, we need a much larger set of training data

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>t</i>
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Naïve Bayes classifier

- Strong simplifying assumption: attributes are pairwise independent

$$Pr(A_1 = a_1, \dots, A_k = a_k \mid C = c_i) = \prod_{j=1}^k Pr(A_j = a_j \mid C = c_i)$$

- $Pr(C = c_i)$ is fraction of training data with class c_i
- $Pr(A_j = a_j \mid C = c_i)$ is fraction of training data labelled c_i for which $A_j = a_j$

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 - $Pr(A_j = a_j \mid C = c_i)$ is fraction of training data labelled c_i for which $A_j = a_j$
- Final classification is

$$\arg \max_{c_i} Pr(C = c_i) \prod_{j=1}^k Pr(A_j = a_j \mid C = c_i)$$

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Naïve Bayes classifier . . .

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- For instance, text classification
 - Items are documents, attributes are words (absent or present)
 - Classes are topics
 - Conditional independence says that a document is a set of words: ignores sequence of words
 - Meaning of words is clearly affected by relative position, ordering

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- For instance, text classification
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 - Meaning of words is clearly affected by relative position, ordering
- However, naive Bayes classifiers work well in practice, even for text classification!
 - Many spam filters are built using this model

Example revisited

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- $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = t) = Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = f) = 0$

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- $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = t) = Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = f) = 0$
- $Pr(A = m \mid C = t) = 2/5$
- $Pr(B = q \mid C = t) = 2/5$

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- $Pr(A = m \mid C = f) = 1/5$
- $Pr(B = q \mid C = f) = 2/5$
- $Pr(A = m \mid C = t) \cdot Pr(B = q \mid C = t) \cdot Pr(C = t) = 2/25$

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