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Data Mining and Machine Learning
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Bayesian classifiers

- As before
  - Attributes $\{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k\}$ and
  - Classes $C = \{c_1, c_2, \ldots c_\ell\}$
- Each class c_i defines a probabilistic model for attributes
  - $Pr(A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k \mid C = c_i)$
- Given a data item $d = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_k)$, identify the best class c for d
- Maximize $Pr(C = c_i \mid A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k)$

Generative models

- To use probabilities, need to describe how data is randomly generated
  - Generative model
- Typically, assume a random instance is created as follows
  - Choose a class c_j with probability $Pr(c_j)$
  - Choose attributes $a_1, \ldots, a_k$ with probability $Pr(a_1, \ldots, a_k \mid c_j)$
- Generative model has associated parameters $\theta = (\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_m)$
  - Each class probability $Pr(c_j)$ is a parameter
  - Each conditional probability $Pr(a_1, \ldots, a_k \mid c_j)$ is a parameter
- We need to estimate these parameters

Maximum Likelihood Estimators

- Our goal is to estimate parameters (probabilities) $\theta = (\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_m)$
- Law of large numbers allows us to estimate probabilities by counting frequencies
- Example: Tossing a biased coin, single parameter $\theta = Pr(\text{heads})$
  - N coin tosses, H heads and T tails
  - Why is $\hat{\theta} = H/N$ the best estimate?
- Likelihood
  - Actual coin toss sequence is $\tau = t_1 t_2 \ldots t_N$
  - Given an estimate of θ, compute $Pr(\tau \mid \theta)$ — likelihood $L(\theta)$
- $\hat{\theta} = H/N$ maximizes this likelihood — $\arg\max_{\theta} L(\theta) = \hat{\theta} = H/N$
  - Maximum Likelihood Estimator (MLE)

Bayesian classification

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

$$Pr(C = c_i \mid A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k)$$

$$= \frac{Pr(A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k \mid C = c_i) \cdot Pr(C = c_i)}{Pr(A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k)}$$

$$= \frac{Pr(A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k \mid C = c_i) \cdot Pr(C = c_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{\ell} Pr(A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k \mid C = c_j) \cdot Pr(C = c_j)}$$

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

$$Pr(A_1 = a_1, \ldots, A_k = a_k \mid C = c_i) \cdot Pr(C = c_i)$$

Example

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

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

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

- 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
g	s	f
h	b	f
h	q	f
m	b	f

Example . . .

- What if we want to classify $A = m, B = q$?
- $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = t) = 0$
- Also $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = f) = 0$!
- To estimate joint probabilities across all combinations of attributes, we need a much larger set of training data

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

Naïve Bayes classifier

- Strong simplifying assumption: attributes are pairwise independent

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

  - $Pr(C = c_i)$ 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 $A_j = a_j$

- Final classification is

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

Naïve Bayes classifier . . .

- Conditional independence is not theoretically justified
- 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
- However, naive Bayes classifiers work well in practice, even for text classification!
  - Many spam filters are built using this model

Example revisited

- Want to classify $A = m, B = q$
- $Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = t) = Pr(A = m, B = q \mid C = f) = 0$
- $Pr(A = m \mid C = t) = 2/5$
- $Pr(B = q \mid C = t) = 2/5$
- $Pr(A = m \mid C = f) = 1/5$
- $Pr(B = q \mid C = f) = 2/5$
- $Pr(A = m \mid C = t) \cdot Pr(B = q \mid C = t) \cdot Pr(C = t) = 2/25$
- $Pr(A = m \mid C = f) \cdot Pr(B = q \mid C = f) \cdot Pr(C = f) = 1/25$
- 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
g	s	f
h	b	f
h	q	f
m	b	f