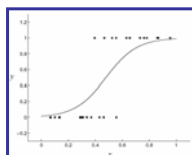


# Advanced Machine Learning

## Generative versus discriminative classifier

Eric Xing

Lecture 4, August 10, 2009



Reading:

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## Discussion: Generative and discriminative classifiers

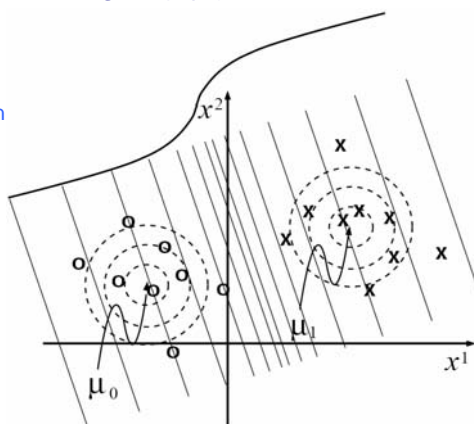
- Goal: Wish to learn  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , e.g.,  $P(Y|X)$

- Generative:

- Modeling the joint distribution of all data

- Discriminative:

- Modeling only points at the boundary



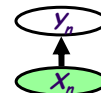
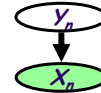
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# Generative vs. Discriminative Classifiers



- Goal: Wish to learn  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , e.g.,  $P(Y|X)$
- Generative classifiers (e.g., Naïve Bayes):
  - Assume some functional form for  $P(X|Y)$ ,  $P(Y)$   
This is a '**generative**' model of the data!
  - Estimate parameters of  $P(X|Y)$ ,  $P(Y)$  directly from training data
  - Use Bayes rule to calculate  $P(Y|X=x)$
- Discriminative classifiers (e.g., logistic regression)
  - Directly assume some functional form for  $P(Y|X)$   
This is a '**discriminative**' model of the data!
  - Estimate parameters of  $P(Y|X)$  directly from training data



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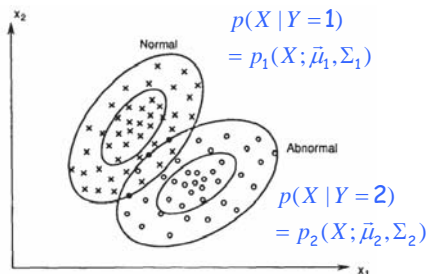
3

## Suppose you know the following



...

- Class-specific Dist.:  $P(X|Y)$



Bayes classifier:

$$P(Y|X) = \frac{P(X|Y)P(Y)}{P(X)}$$

- Class prior (i.e., "weight"):  $P(Y)$
- This is a **generative model** of the data!

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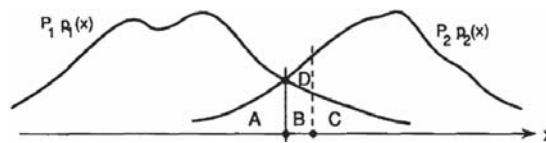
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# Optimal classification

- **Theorem:** Bayes classifier is optimal!

- That is

$$error_{true}(h_{Bayes}) \leq error_{true}(h), \forall h(\mathbf{x})$$



- How to learn a Bayes classifier?

- Recall density estimation. We need to estimate  $P(X|y=k)$ , and  $P(y=k)$  for all  $k$

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# Gaussian Discriminative Analysis

- learning  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , where

- $X$  is a vector of real-valued features,  $\mathbf{X}_n = \langle X_{n,1} \dots X_{n,m} \rangle$
- $Y$  is an indicator vector

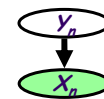
- What does that imply about the form of  $P(Y|X)$ ?

- The joint probability of a datum and its label is:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}_n, y_n^k = 1 | \mu, \sigma) &= p(y_n^k = 1) \times p(\mathbf{x}_n | y_n^k = 1, \mu, \sigma) \\ &= \pi_k \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k)^2\right\} \end{aligned}$$

- Given a datum  $\mathbf{x}_n$ , we predict its label using the conditional probability of the label given the datum:

$$p(y_n^k = 1 | \mathbf{x}_n, \mu, \sigma) = \frac{\pi_k \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k)^2\right\}}{\sum_{k'} \pi_{k'} \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_{k'})^2\right\}}$$



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# Conditional Independence



- X is **conditionally independent** of Y given Z, if the probability distribution governing X is independent of the value of Y, given the value of Z

$$(\forall i, j, k) P(X = i | Y = j, Z = k) = P(X = i | Z = k)$$

Which we often write

$$P(X | Y, Z) = P(X | Z)$$

- e.g.,

$$P(\text{Thunder} | \text{Rain}, \text{Lightning}) = P(\text{Thunder} | \text{Lightning})$$

- Equivalent to:

$$P(X, Y | Z) = P(X | Z)P(Y | Z)$$

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# Naïve Bayes Classifier



- When X is multivariate-Gaussian vector:

- The joint probability of a datum and its label is:

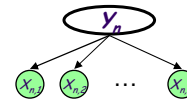
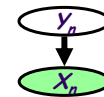
$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}_n, y_n^k | \tilde{\mu}, \Sigma) &= p(y_n^k = 1) \times p(\mathbf{x}_n | y_n^k = 1, \tilde{\mu}, \Sigma) \\ &= \pi_k \frac{1}{(2\pi|\Sigma|)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}_n - \tilde{\mu}_k)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_n - \tilde{\mu}_k)\right\} \end{aligned}$$

- The naïve Bayes simplification

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}_n, y_n^k | \mu, \sigma) &= p(y_n^k = 1) \times \prod_j p(x_{n,j} | y_n^k = 1, \mu_{k,j}, \sigma_{k,j}) \\ &= \pi_k \prod_j \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_{k,j}^2)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma_{k,j}^2}(x_{n,j} - \mu_{k,j})^2\right\} \end{aligned}$$

- More generally:  $p(\mathbf{x}_n, y_n | \eta, \pi) = p(y_n | \pi) \times \prod_{j=1}^m p(x_{n,j} | y_n, \eta)$

- Where  $p(\cdot | \cdot)$  is an arbitrary conditional (discrete or continuous) 1-D density



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## The predictive distribution



- Understanding the predictive distribution

$$p(y_n^k = 1 | x_n, \bar{\mu}, \Sigma, \pi) = \frac{p(y_n^k = 1, x_n | \bar{\mu}, \Sigma, \pi)}{p(x_n | \bar{\mu}, \Sigma)} = \frac{\pi_k N(x_n | \mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_k \pi_k N(x_n | \mu_k, \Sigma_k)} *$$

- Under naïve Bayes assumption:

$$p(y_n^k = 1 | x_n, \bar{\mu}, \Sigma, \pi) = \frac{\pi_k \exp \left\{ -\sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2\sigma_{k,j}^2} (x_n^j - \mu_k^j)^2 - \log \sigma_{k,j} - C \right) \right\}}{\sum_k \pi_k \exp \left\{ -\sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2\sigma_{k,j}^2} (x_n^j - \mu_k^j)^2 - \log \sigma_{k,j} - C \right) \right\}} **$$

- For two class (i.e.,  $K=2$ ), and when the two classes have the same variance, \*\* turns out to be a **logistic function**

$$p(y_n^1 = 1 | x_n) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\pi_2 \exp \left\{ -\sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2\sigma_j^2} (x_n^j - \mu_2^j)^2 - \log \sigma_j - C \right) \right\}}{\pi_1 \exp \left\{ -\sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2\sigma_j^2} (x_n^j - \mu_1^j)^2 - \log \sigma_j - C \right) \right\}}} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp \left\{ -\sum_j \left( x_n^j \frac{1}{\sigma_j^2} (\mu_1^j - \mu_2^j) + \frac{1}{\sigma_j^2} ((\mu_1^j)^2 - (\mu_2^j)^2) + \log \frac{(1-\pi_1)}{\pi_1} \right) \right\}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x_n}}$$

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## The decision boundary

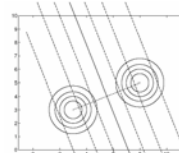


- The predictive distribution

$$p(y_n^1 = 1 | x_n) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp \left\{ -\sum_{j=1}^M \theta_j x_n^j - \theta_0 \right\}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x_n}}$$

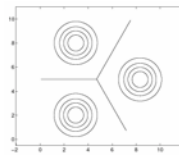
- The Bayes decision rule:

$$\ln \frac{p(y_n^1 = 1 | x_n)}{p(y_n^2 = 1 | x_n)} = \ln \left( \frac{\frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x_n}}}{\frac{e^{-\theta^T x_n}}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x_n}}} \right) = \theta^T x_n$$



- For multiple class (i.e.,  $K>2$ ), \* correspond to a **softmax function**

$$p(y_n^k = 1 | x_n) = \frac{e^{-\theta_k^T x_n}}{\sum_j e^{-\theta_j^T x_n}}$$



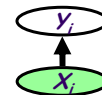
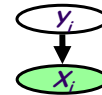
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# Generative vs. Discriminative Classifiers



- Goal: Wish to learn  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , e.g.,  $P(Y|X)$
- Generative classifiers (e.g., Naïve Bayes):
  - Assume some functional form for  $P(X|Y)$ ,  $P(Y)$   
This is a '**generative**' model of the data!
  - Estimate parameters of  $P(X|Y)$ ,  $P(Y)$  directly from training data
  - Use Bayes rule to calculate  $P(Y|X=x)$
- Discriminative classifiers:
  - Directly assume some functional form for  $P(Y|X)$   
This is a '**discriminative**' model of the data!
  - Estimate parameters of  $P(Y|X)$  directly from training data



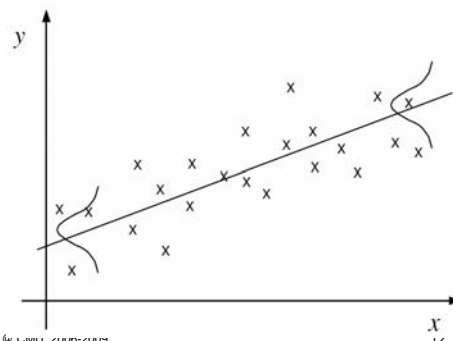
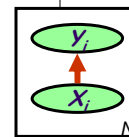
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# Linear Regression



- The data:
 
$$\{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), (x_3, y_3), \dots, (x_N, y_N)\}$$
- Both nodes are observed:
  - $X$  is an input vector
  - $Y$  is a response vector  
(we first consider  $y$  as a generic continuous response vector, then we consider the special case of classification where  $y$  is a discrete indicator)
- A regression scheme can be used to model  $p(y|x)$  directly, rather than  $p(x,y)$



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# Linear Regression



- Assume that  $Y$  (target) is a linear function of  $X$  (features):

- e.g.:

$$\hat{y} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2$$

- let's assume a vacuous "feature"  $x^0=1$  (this is the **intercept** term, why?), and define the feature vector to be:

$$\mathbf{x} = [1, x_1, x_2]$$

- then we have the following general representation of the linear function:

$$\hat{y} = \mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\theta}$$

- Our goal is to pick the optimal  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ . How!

- We seek  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  that minimize the following **cost function**:

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i) - y_i)^2$$

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# The Least-Mean-Square (LMS) method



- Consider a **gradient descent** algorithm:

$$\theta_j^{t+1} = \theta_j^t - \alpha \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right|_t$$

- Now we have the following descent rule:

$$\theta_j^{t+1} = \theta_j^t + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \boldsymbol{\theta}^t) x_i^j$$

- For a single training point, we have:

$$\theta_j^{t+1} = \theta_j^t + \alpha (y_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \boldsymbol{\theta}^t) x_i^j$$

- This is known as the LMS update rule, or the Widrow-Hoff learning rule
- This is actually a "**stochastic**", "**coordinate**" descent algorithm
- This can be used as a **on-line** algorithm

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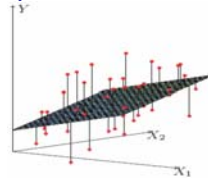
## Probabilistic Interpretation of LMS



- Let us assume that the target variable and the inputs are related by the equation:

$$y_i = \theta^T \mathbf{x}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is an error term of unmodeled effects or random noise



- Now assume that  $\varepsilon$  follows a Gaussian  $N(0, \sigma)$ , then we have:

$$p(y_i | x_i; \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - \theta^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

- By independence assumption:

$$L(\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i | x_i; \theta) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma}\right)^n \exp\left(-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

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## Probabilistic Interpretation of LMS, cont.



- Hence the log-likelihood is:

$$l(\theta) = n \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2$$

- Do you recognize the last term?

Yes it is:  $J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_i^T \theta - y_i)^2$

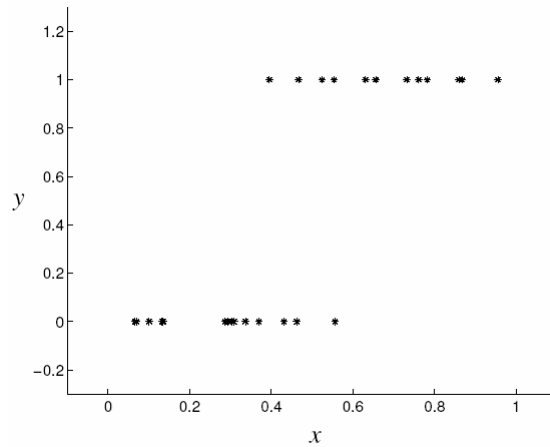
- Thus under independence assumption, LMS is equivalent to MLE of  $\theta$ !

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# Classification and logistic regression



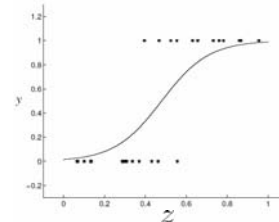
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## The logistic function



$$g(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$



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# Logistic regression (sigmoid classifier)

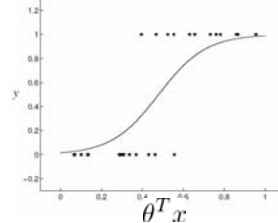


- The condition distribution: a Bernoulli

$$p(y|x) = \mu(x)^y (1 - \mu(x))^{1-y}$$

where  $\mu$  is a logistic function

$$\mu(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x}}$$



- We can use the brute-force gradient method as in LR
- But we can also apply generic laws by observing the  $p(y|x)$  is an **exponential family function**, more specifically, a **generalized linear model** (see future lectures ...)

# Training Logistic Regression: MCLE



- Estimate parameters  $\theta = \langle \theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_m \rangle$  to maximize the **conditional likelihood** of training data

- Training data  $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)\}$

- Data likelihood  $= \prod_{i=1}^N P(x_i, y_i; \theta)$

- Data conditional likelihood  $= \prod_{i=1}^N P(x_i | y_i; \theta)$

$$\theta = \arg \max_{\theta} \ln \prod_i P(y_i | x_i; \theta)$$

## Expressing Conditional Log Likelihood



$$l(\theta) \equiv \ln \prod_i P(y_i | x_i; \theta) = \sum_i \ln P(y_i | x_i; \theta)$$

- Recall the logistic function:  $\mu = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x}}$

and conditional likelihood:  $P(y|x) = \mu(x)^y (1 - \mu(x))^{1-y}$

$$\begin{aligned} l(\theta) = \sum_i \ln P(y_i | x_i; \theta) &= \sum_i y_i \ln \mu(x_i) + (1 - y_i) \ln (1 - \mu(x_i)) \\ &= \sum_i y_i \ln \frac{e^{\theta^T x_i}}{1 + e^{\theta^T x_i}} + \ln (1 - \mu(x_i)) \\ &= \sum_i y_i \theta^T x_i - \theta^T x_i + \ln (1 + e^{-\theta^T x_i}) \\ &= \sum_i (y_i - 1) \theta^T x_i + \ln (1 + e^{-\theta^T x_i}) \end{aligned}$$

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## Maximizing Conditional Log Likelihood



- The objective:

$$\begin{aligned} l(\theta) &= \ln \prod_i P(y_i | x_i; \theta) \\ &= \sum_i (y_i - 1) \theta^T x_i + \ln (1 + e^{-\theta^T x_i}) \end{aligned}$$

- Good news:  $l(\theta)$  is concave function of  $\theta$
- Bad news: no closed-form solution to maximize  $l(\theta)$

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## The Newton's method



- Finding a zero of a function

$$\theta^{t+1} := \theta^t - \frac{f(\theta^t)}{f'(\theta^t)}$$

## The Newton's method (con'd)



- To maximize the conditional likelihood  $l(\theta)$ :

$$l(\theta) = \sum_i (y_i - 1)\theta^T x_i + \ln(1 + e^{-\theta^T x_i})$$

since  $l$  is convex, we need to find  $\theta^*$  where  $l'(\theta^*)=0$  !

- So we can perform the following iteration:

$$\theta^{t+1} := \theta^t + \frac{l'(\theta^t)}{l''(\theta^t)}$$

## The Newton-Raphson method



- In LR the  $\theta$  is vector-valued, thus we need the following generalization:

$$\theta^{t+1} := \theta^t + H^{-1} \nabla_{\theta^t} l(\theta^t)$$

- $\nabla$  is the gradient operator over the function
- $H$  is known as the Hessian of the function

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## The Newton-Raphson method



- In LR the  $\theta$  is vector-valued, thus we need the following generalization:

$$\theta^{t+1} := \theta^t + H^{-1} \nabla_{\theta^t} l(\theta^t)$$

- $\nabla$  is the gradient operator over the function

$$\nabla_{\theta} l(\theta) = \sum_i (y_i - u_i) x_i = \mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{u})$$

- $H$  is known as the Hessian of the function

$$H = \nabla_{\theta} \nabla_{\theta} l(\theta) = \sum_i u_i (1 - u_i) x_i x_i^T = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{X}$$

where  $R_{ii} = u_i (1 - u_i)$

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## Iterative reweighed least squares (IRLS)



- Recall in the least square est. in linear regression, we have:

$$\theta = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

which can also derived from Newton-Raphson

- Now for logistic regression:

$$\begin{aligned}\theta^{t+1} &= \theta^t + H^{-1} \nabla_{\theta^t} l(\theta^t) \\ &= \theta^t - (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{y}) \\ &= (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \{ \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{X} \theta^t - \mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{y}) \} \\ &= (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{z}\end{aligned}$$

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## Logistic regression: practical issues



- NR (IRLS) takes  $O(N+d^3)$  per iteration, where  $N$ = number of training cases and  $d$ = dimension of input  $x$ , but converge in fewer iterations
- Quasi-Newton methods, that approximate the Hessian, work faster.
- Conjugate gradient takes  $O(Nd)$  per iteration, and usually works best in practice.
- Stochastic gradient descent can also be used if  $N$  is large c.f. perceptron rule:

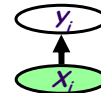
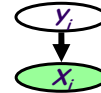
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# Generative vs. Discriminative Classifiers



- Goal: Wish to learn  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , e.g.,  $P(Y|X)$
- Generative classifiers (e.g., Naïve Bayes):
  - Assume some functional form for  $P(X|Y)$ ,  $P(Y)$   
This is a '**generative**' model of the data!
  - Estimate parameters of  $P(X|Y)$ ,  $P(Y)$  directly from training data
  - Use Bayes rule to calculate  $P(Y|X=x)$
- Discriminative classifiers:
  - Directly assume some functional form for  $P(Y|X)$   
This is a '**discriminative**' model of the data!
  - Estimate parameters of  $P(Y|X)$  directly from training data



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# Naïve Bayes vs Logistic Regression



- Consider  $Y$  boolean,  $X$  continuous,  $X = \langle X^1 \dots X^m \rangle$
- Number of parameters to estimate:

$$\text{NB: } p(y | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\pi_k \exp \left\{ - \sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2\sigma_{k,j}^2} (x_j - \mu_{k,j})^2 - \log \sigma_{k,j} - C \right) \right\}}{\sum_k \pi_k \exp \left\{ - \sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2\sigma_{k,j}^2} (x_j - \mu_{k,j})^2 - \log \sigma_{k,j} - C \right) \right\}} \quad **$$

$$\text{LR: } \mu(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x}}$$

- Estimation method:
  - NB parameter estimates are uncoupled
  - LR parameter estimates are coupled

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## Naïve Bayes vs Logistic Regression



- Asymptotic comparison (# training examples  $\rightarrow$  infinity)
- when model assumptions correct
  - NB, LR produce identical classifiers
- when model assumptions incorrect
  - LR is less biased – does not assume conditional independence
  - therefore expected to outperform NB

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## Naïve Bayes vs Logistic Regression



- Non-asymptotic analysis (see [Ng & Jordan, 2002] )
- convergence rate of parameter estimates – how many training examples needed to assure good estimates?  
  
NB order  $\log m$  (where  $m$  = # of attributes in  $X$ )  
LR order  $m$
- NB converges more quickly to its (perhaps less helpful) asymptotic estimates

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## Rate of convergence: logistic regression



- Let  $h_{Dis,m}$  be logistic regression trained on  $n$  examples in  $m$  dimensions. Then with high probability:

$$\epsilon(h_{Dis,n}) \leq \epsilon(h_{Dis,\infty}) + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}} \log \frac{n}{m}\right)$$

- Implication: if we want  $\epsilon(h_{Dis,m}) \leq \epsilon(h_{Dis,\infty}) + \epsilon_0$  for some small constant  $\epsilon_0$ , it suffices to pick order  $m$  examples

→ Converges to its asymptotic classifier, in order  $m$  examples

- result follows from Vapnik's structural risk bound, plus fact that the "VC Dimension" of an  $m$ -dimensional linear separators is  $m$

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## Rate of convergence: naïve Bayes parameters



- Let any  $\epsilon_1, \delta > 0$ , and any  $n \geq 0$  be fixed.

Assume that for some fixed  $\rho_0 > 0$ ,

we have that  $\rho_0 \leq p(y = T) \leq 1 - \rho_0$

- Let  $n = O((1/\epsilon_1^2) \log(m/\delta))$

- Then with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , after  $n$  examples:

- For discrete input, 
$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{p}(x_i|y=b) - p(x_i|y=b)| &\leq \epsilon_1 && \text{for all } i \text{ and } b \\ |\hat{p}(y=b) - p(y=b)| &\leq \epsilon_1 \end{aligned}$$

- For continuous inputs, 
$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{\mu}_{i|y=b} - \mu_{i|y=b}| &\leq \epsilon_1 && \text{for all } i \text{ and } b \\ |\hat{\sigma}_{i|y=b}^2 - \sigma_{i|y=b}^2| &\leq \epsilon_1 \end{aligned}$$

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## Some experiments from UCI data sets

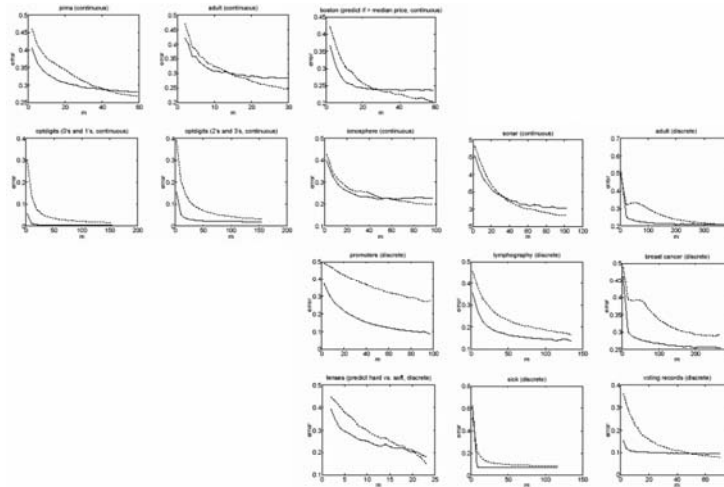
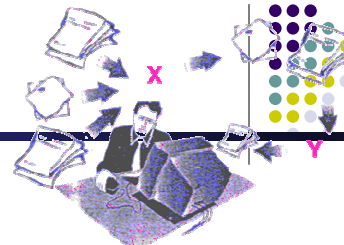


Figure 1: Results of 15 experiments on datasets from the UCI Machine Learning repository. Plots are of generalization error vs.  $m$  (averaged over 1000 random train/test splits). Dashed line is logistic regression; solid line is naive Bayes.

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## Case study



### • Dataset

- 20 News Groups (20 classes)
- 61,118 words, 18,774 documents

comp.graphics	rec.autos	sci.crypt
comp.os.ms-windows.misc	rec.motorcycles	sci.electronics
comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware	rec.sport.baseball	sci.med
comp.sys.mac.hardware	rec.sport.hockey	sci.space
comp.windows.x		
misc.forsale	talk.politics.misc	talk.religion.misc
	talk.politics.guns	alt.atheism
	talk.politics.mideast	soc.religion.christian

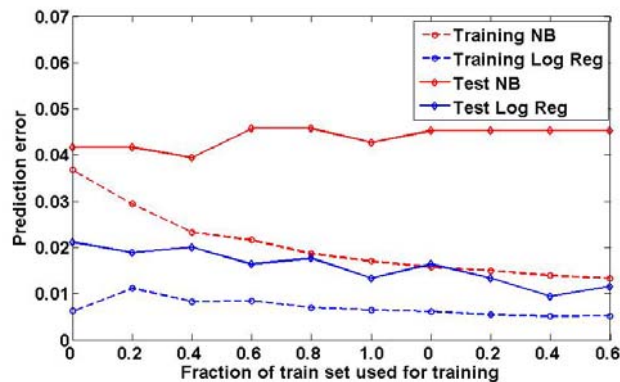
### • Experiment:

- Solve only a two-class subset: 1 vs 2.
- 1768 instances, 61188 features.
- Use dimensionality reduction on the data (SVD).
- Use 90% as training set, 10% as test set.
- Test prediction error used as accuracy measure.

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## Generalization error (1)

- Versus training size



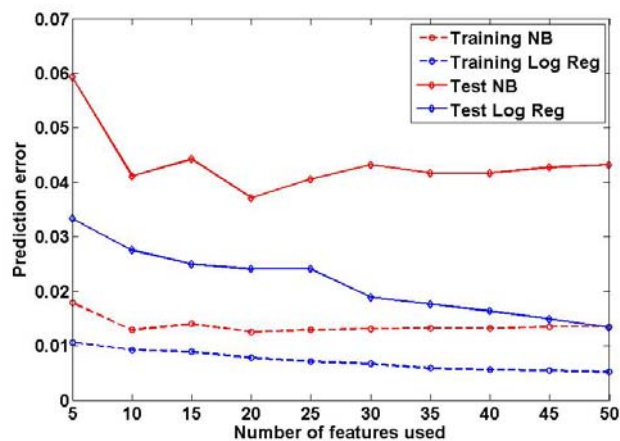
- 30 features.
- A fixed test set
- Training set varied from 10% to 100% of the training set

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## Generalization error (2)

- Versus model size



Number of dimensions of the data varied from 5 to 50 in steps of 5

The features were chosen in decreasing order of their singular values

90% versus 10% split on training and test

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# Summary



- Naïve Bayes classifier
  - What's the assumption
  - Why we use it
  - How do we learn it
- Logistic regression
  - Functional form follows from Naïve Bayes assumptions
  - For Gaussian Naïve Bayes assuming variance
  - For discrete-valued Naïve Bayes too
  - But training procedure picks parameters without the conditional independence assumption
- Gradient ascent/descent
  - – General approach when closed-form solutions unavailable
- Generative vs. Discriminative classifiers
  - – Bias vs. variance tradeoff