

LINEAR CLASSIFICATION MODELS

\triangleright Geometric classification models

- \triangleright Perceptron
- Winnow
- \triangleright Support Vector Machines
- \triangleright Probabilistic classification models
	- \triangleright Naïve Bayes
	- \triangleright Multinomial Naïve Bayes

Geometric classification models

- Basic linear classifier constructs a linear decision boundary $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} = t$
- \triangleright w is the vector from negative to positive center
- \triangleright x is an instance feature vector to be classified

► In the above model:
$$
t = \frac{(p-n)(p+n)}{2} = \frac{||p||^2 - ||n||^2}{2}
$$

Geometric models: Maximum-margin classifiers

- \triangleright Decision boundary maximizes the margin between negative and positive class
- \triangleright A geometric model is called translation invariant if it does not depend on the origin of the coordinate system is

 \triangleright General model (i.e., target function)

$$
f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1, & w_1 x_1 + \dots + w_k x_k \ge t \\ -1, & otherwise \end{cases}
$$

\n
$$
f(\mathbf{x}) = sign(\mathbf{w}' \cdot \mathbf{x}'),
$$

\n
$$
\mathbf{w}' \leftarrow (-t, w_1, \dots, w_k), \qquad \mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_k \end{pmatrix}
$$

- \triangleright Classes that are expressed as a disjunction of Boolean features i.e., $C = X_1 \vee \cdots \vee X_k$ can separated
- \triangleright Separation of Exclusive-Or or general DNF representations, e.g., $C = (X_1 \wedge \overline{X_2}) \vee (\overline{X_1} \wedge X_2)$, or $C = (X_1 \wedge X_2) \vee (X_3 \wedge X_4) \vee (X_2 \wedge X_3)$, is not possible

 \rightarrow Problem if data is not linearly separable \rightarrow 5

- \triangleright Invented by F. Rosenblatt in 1957
- For labeled data $(\mathbf{x}_1, l(\mathbf{x}_1)), ..., (\mathbf{x}_n, l(\mathbf{x}_n)), \quad \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^k, l(\mathbf{x}_i) \in \{-1, 1\}$
- \triangleright Learn **w'** for $f = sign(\mathbf{w}' \cdot \mathbf{x}')$ as follows
- 1. Initialize w' to $(0, ..., 0)$
- 2. For each x_i

If $l(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq sign(\mathbf{w}' \cdot \mathbf{x}_i')$ then //e.g., learning rate $r = 0.1$ $\mathbf{w}' \leftarrow \mathbf{w}' + r \cdot l(\mathbf{x}_i) \cdot {\mathbf{x}_i}'$

3. Repeat 2. until $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}\Big(l\big(\mathbf{x}_{j}\big)-sign\big(\mathbf{w}'\cdot\mathbf{x}_{j}^{\prime}\big)\Big)<\gamma$ //for user-set threshold γ

Example

\triangleright Theorem 1

 \triangleright If the data is not linearly separable, the algorithm may not finish

 \triangleright Theorem 2 (Novikoff 1962)

Exect $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ be chosen in such a way that for all labeled instances $\mathbf{w}' \cdot \mathbf{x}_i'$) $l(\mathbf{x}_i) > \gamma$ and let $R = \max(|x_1|, ..., |x_{k+1}|; \mathbf{x} \in Training)$.

The number of all possible updates to w' by the algorithm is bounded by $\frac{R^2}{n^2}$ γ^2

Expressiveness of the Perceptron Algorithm

\triangleright Theorem

- \triangleright Classes that can be represented by primitive Boolean combination of features, (AND, OR, NAND, NOR) can be represented by the Perceptron Algorithm (i.e., can be separated from their complement)
- \triangleright Classes represented by XOR feature combinations or more complex formulas (i.e., for which multiple NANDs or NORs are needed) cannot be represented by the Perceptron Algorithm
- Abstract representation of an XOR case (for: $x_1 \in \{a, -a\}, x_2 \in \{b, -b\}$)

$$
C^{+} = ((x_1 = -a) \land (x_2 = b)) \lor ((x_1 = a) \land (x_2 = -b))
$$

Basic linear classifier vs. Perceptron algorithm

Source: *Machine Learning* by P. Flach

$$
f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1, & w_1 x_1 + \dots + w_k x_k \ge t \\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases}
$$

For labeled data $(x_1, l(x_1)), ..., (x_n, l(x_n)), x_i \in \{0,1\}^k$, $l(x_i) \in \{0,1\}^k$ \triangleright Learn **w** for $f(x)$ as follows

1. Set all
$$
w_i \coloneqq 1
$$
, $t \coloneqq \frac{n}{2}$

//leads to good bounds on the number of possible updates 2. For each example x_i If $f(\mathbf{x}_i) = 0 \wedge l(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1$ //promote involved weights

> For each j with $x_i = 1$ set $w_i \leftarrow 2w_i$ If $f(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1 \wedge l(\mathbf{x}_i) = 0$ //demote involved weights

> > For each j with $x_j = 1$ set $w_j \leftarrow$ W_j 2

3. Repeat 2. until $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n} (l(\mathbf{x}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)) < \gamma$

A Initially $f(\mathbf{x}) = x_{i_1} \vee \cdots \vee x_{i_l}$ for certain $x_{i_j} \neq 0$ (i.e., a monotone Boolean function)

 \rightarrow We need to update $l \leq k$ weight components

- Also none of these weight components can get greater than t
- \triangleright The algorithm performs "binary search" in the range of each weight component, which is given by $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ 2]

 \rightarrow Bound on updates $O(k \log n)$

- \triangleright Winnow Algorithm is robust in the presence of label noise or feature noise (important because often training data does not represent well the class distributions)
- \triangleright Popular in natural language processing where many features are binary
- \triangleright There exist other robust variations
	- \triangleright Example: following updates can be used (balanced version)

2. For each example
$$
\mathbf{x}_i
$$

\nIf $(w_j^+ - w_j^-) \cdot \mathbf{x}_i < t \wedge l(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1$ //promote involved weights
\nFor each j with $x_j = 1$ set $w_j^+ \leftarrow 2w_j^+$, $w_j^- \leftarrow \frac{w_j^-}{2}$
\nIf $(w_j^+ - w_j^-) \cdot \mathbf{x}_i > t \wedge l(\mathbf{x}_i) = 0$ //denote involved weights
\nFor each j with $x_j = 1$ set $w_j^+ \leftarrow \frac{w_j^+}{2}$, $w_j^- \leftarrow 2w_j^-$

 \triangleright The offset (distance) of the hyperplane from the origin: W

Geometry of Support Vector Machines

Source: *Machine Learning* by P. Flach

- \triangleright $\|\mathbf{w}\|$ is difficult to minimize (it involves square root)
- $\geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\|\mathbf{w}\|^2$ is easier to minimize.

Optimization problem (1)

 \triangleright Quadratic programming optimization problem

argmin_{w,t} $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 \mathbf{w} ||² subject to $y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i - t) \ge 1$ for all trainings instances $x_1, ..., x_n$ and their true labels $y_1, ..., y_n$

Note: We are not interested in instances \mathbf{x}_i for which $y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i - t) - 1 \ge 0$, for these points α_i must be set to 0, in order to maximize the expression in α

Finding the optimal

$$
\Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n) = \left(\frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{w}||^2 - \sum_i \alpha_i (y_i (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i - t) - 1)\right)
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{w}||^2 - \sum_i \alpha_i y_i (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i) + \sum_i \alpha_i y_i t + \sum_i \alpha_i
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w} \left(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i\right) + t \left(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i\right) + \sum_i \alpha_i
$$

$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n)}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} = \sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i
$$

By plugging these values back into Λ

$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n)}{\partial t} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0
$$

Dual problem

$$
\Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w} \Big(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i \Big) + t \Big(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \Big) + \sum_i \alpha_i
$$

$$
\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w} \cdot \alpha_i, \alpha_i) \Big)
$$

$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n)}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} = \sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i
$$

$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n)}{\partial t} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0
$$

By plugging these values back into Λ we can get rid of **w** and t

 \triangleright Quadratic optimization problem

$$
\Lambda(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i \right) \left(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i \right) + \sum_i \alpha_i
$$

$$
\underset{\alpha \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i} \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i} \sum_{j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}_j \right)
$$

subject to $\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$ (and $\alpha_i \geq 0, 1 \leq i \leq n$)

Solving the SVM optimization problem

- \triangleright In general, the dual form of a quadratic optimization problem is only a lower bound of the primal formulation
- \triangleright Under certain conditions, known as Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions, which are satisfied by the dual form of the SVM optimization problem, the two solutions become equal
- \triangleright In practice the dual form is solved through quadratic programming optimization techniques
- \triangleright Once the α_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$ are known the SVM classifier is:

$$
\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + t = \left(\sum_{i} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i\right) \cdot \mathbf{x} + t \begin{cases} \geq 1 & \Rightarrow + \\ \leq -1 & \Rightarrow - \end{cases}
$$

 \triangleright What about t?

SVM vs. Perceptron or Winnow

 \triangleright Can the model be extended to handle data that is "almost" linearly separable?

\triangleright Primal form

argmin_{w,t,} $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{w}||^2 + C \sum_i \xi_i$ subject to $y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i - t) \ge 1 - \xi_i$, $\xi_i \ge 0$ for all trainings instances $x_1, ..., x_n$ and their true labels $y_1, ..., y_n$

- \triangleright C: is user-specified trade-off between margin width and error
- $\triangleright \xi_i$: slack variables representing real-valued errors

 $\tilde{\chi}_1$

 $+$

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-

-

-

-

+

+ +

+

+

-

+

+

 x_2

$$
\Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \xi, \alpha, \beta)
$$
\n
$$
= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w} \Big(\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} y_{i} \mathbf{x}_{i} \Big) + t \Big(\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} y_{i} \Big) + \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} + \sum_{i} (C - \alpha_{i} - \beta_{i}) \xi_{i}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \xi, \alpha, \beta)}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = 0 \iff \mathbf{w} = \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} y_{i} \mathbf{x}_{i}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \xi, \alpha, \beta)}{\partial t} = 0 \iff \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} y_{i} = 0
$$

$$
\frac{\partial \Lambda(\mathbf{w}, t, \xi, \alpha, \beta)}{\partial \xi_i} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \forall i: C - \alpha_i - \beta_i = 0 \Leftrightarrow_{\beta \ge 0} C \ge \alpha_i \ge 0
$$

 \triangleright Dual problem

$$
\underset{\alpha \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i} \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i} \sum_{j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}_j \right)
$$
\nsubject to $\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$ (and $C \geq \alpha_i \geq 0, 1 \leq i \leq n$)

- \triangleright Come in different variations (principle is the same)
- \triangleright Simultaneously minimize the empirical error and maximize the margin width
- \triangleright Same expressiveness as the perceptron algorithm
- \triangleright In general, quadratic training time (quadratic optimization)
	- \triangleright T. Joachims showed linear training time for linear SVMs (*www.joachims.org/publications/joachims_06a.pdf*)
- \triangleright Directly applicable only to two-class problems
- \triangleright Parameter values in a solution are difficult to interpret

Kernel Trick

- Apply non-linear transformation function $\phi \colon \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{d_2}, d_2 > d_1$ to input instances $x_1, ..., x_n$ and find hyperplane $\mathbf{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) = t$ that separates the classes
- \triangleright Same optimization problem as before:

$$
\underset{\alpha}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left(\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \alpha_{i} \alpha_{j} y_{i} y_{j} \kappa(\mathbf{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{j}) \right)
$$
\nsubject to $\alpha_{i} > 0$, $\forall \alpha_{i}$ and $\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} y_{i} = 0$

 \triangleright Classification through

$$
\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} - t = \sum_i \alpha_i y_i \kappa(\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}) - t \begin{cases} \geq 1 & \Rightarrow + \\ \leq -1 & \Rightarrow - \end{cases}
$$

\triangleright Typical kernel functions:

$$
\triangleright \kappa(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = (\mathbf{x}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2 + c)^d \text{ (polynomial Kernel)}
$$

\n
$$
\triangleright \kappa(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \text{ (Gaussian Kernel)}
$$

- Suppose that $\mathbf{n} = (0,0)$ and $\mathbf{p} = (0,1)$
- Let us further suppose that **p** has been derived from two positive examples, i.e., $p = \frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2)$ with $\mathbf{p}_1 = (-1,1)$ and $\mathbf{p}_2 = (1,1)$
- \triangleright For the basic linear classifier, the separation hyperplane was defined as $\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x} = t \Leftrightarrow$ 1 2 $\mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x}$ – $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x} = t$
- \triangleright Applying the kernel trick $\mathbf{x} = (x, y) \mapsto \mathbf{x}' = (x^2, y^2, \sqrt{2}xy)$ $++$ $\kappa(\mathbf{x}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2) = \mathbf{x}'_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}'_2$ $+$ $= x_1^2 x_2^2 + y_1^2 y_2^2 + 2x_1 y_1 x_2 y_2$ $+$ $x^2+y^2=1$ $= (\mathbf{x}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2)^2$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ **k**(**p**₁ · **x**) + $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\kappa}(\mathbf{p}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x}) - \boldsymbol{\kappa}(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x}) = t$ $^{+}$ $+$ $\Leftrightarrow x^2 + y^2 = t$ (separation function)

 $+$

Probabilistic classifiers from linear classifiers

 \triangleright We can define $\|\mathbf{w}\|$ as the unit length, then $d(\mathbf{x}_i) =$ $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + t$ W

 \triangleright We can learn a (Gaussian) mixture model based on the distances and use Bayes' theorem to derive

$$
P(+|d(\mathbf{x}_i)) = \frac{P(d(\mathbf{x}_i)| +)P(+)}{P(d(\mathbf{x}_i)| +)P(+) + P(d(\mathbf{x}_i)| -)P(-)}
$$

 $\mathcal{P} \quad \mathbf{D} = \{ \mathbf{d}_1, ..., \mathbf{d}_n \}$ a corpus of documents, where each document is seen as a set of words, and can be represented as a binary vector

$$
\mathbf{d}_i = (w_{i1}, \dots, w_{im}), w_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, w_j \in \mathbf{d}_i \\ 0, w_j \notin \mathbf{d}_i \end{cases}
$$

- \triangleright $c_1, ..., c_k$ topics/classes to which a document can belong
- $\triangleright \mathbf{V} = \{w \in \mathbf{d} | \mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{D}\} = \{w_1, ..., w_m\}$ vocabulary of all terms in the corpus
- \triangleright What is the most probable topic for a document?
- \triangleright We can compute the joint probability of a document \mathbf{d}_i and a topic c_i as $P(\mathbf{d}_i, c_j) = P(\mathbf{d}_i | c_j) P(c_j) = P(w_{i1}, ..., w_{im} | c_j) P(c_j)$
- Most probable topic for \mathbf{d}_i can be found by computing the maximum a posteriori (MAP)

$$
\underset{c_j}{\text{argmax}} \, \underset{p_i}{P(w_{i1}, \ldots, w_{im}|c_j)} P(c_j)
$$

Impossible to estimate!!! Curse of dimensionality

 \triangleright If we assume independence between the terms given the topic

argmax $P(w_{i1},...,w_{im}|c_j)P(c_j) = \text{argmax}$ c_i c_j $P(w_{i1}|c_j) \cdot ... \cdot P(w_{im}|c_j)P(c_j)$

 \triangleright Assuming that words follow a multivariate Bernoulli distribution (i.e., categorical distribution) for a given topic

$$
P(w|\mathbf{\Theta}_j) = \prod_{w' \in c_j} P(w'|c_j)^{\llbracket w = w' \rrbracket}
$$

the maximum likelihood estimation of $P\big(w_{il}|c_j\big)$ is given by

$$
P(w_{il}|c_j) = \frac{\#(w_{il}\wedge c_j)}{\sum_{w\in V}\#(w\wedge c_j)}
$$
, i.e., fraction of occurrences of w_{il} in c_j

 \triangleright Similar reasoning for topic distribution yields

$$
P(c_j) = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{D}} [c_j \land \mathbf{d}]}{\sum_{c} \sum_{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{D}} [c \land \mathbf{d}]} \text{, i.e., fraction of occurrences of } c_j \text{ in } \mathbf{D}
$$

argmax $P\big(w_{i1},...,w_{im}|c_j\big)P\big(c_j\big)=\text{argmax}$ c_i c_j $P(w_{i1}|c_j) \cdot ... \cdot P(w_{im}|c_j)P(c_j)$

- \triangleright What if w_{il} does not occur in topic c_i ?
- \triangleright Use smoothing
	- \triangleright Laplace smoothing

$$
P(w_{il}|c_j) = \frac{\#(w_{il}, c_j) + \alpha}{\sum_{w \in \mathbf{V}} (\#(w, c_j) + \alpha)}
$$

- \triangleright Jelinek-Mercer smoothing $P(w_{il}|c_i) = \lambda P(w_{il}|c_i) + (1 - \lambda) P(w_{il}|\mathbf{D})$
- \triangleright Dirichlet smoothing (the larger the topic the lower the smoothing) $P(w_{il}|c_j) =$ # $(w_{il}, c_j) + \mu P(w_{il} | \mathbf{D})$ $\mu + \sum_{w \in \mathbf{V}} \# \bigl(w, c_j$

Example: Parameter estimation for Naïve Bayes

Source: *Machine Learning* by P. Flach

 \triangleright Smoothed parameter estimation for positive class with Laplace smoothing with $\alpha = 1: \mathbf{\theta}^+ = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$ 9 $\frac{4}{2}$ 9 $\frac{2}{2}$ 9

Smoothed parameter estimation for the negative class: $\theta^- = \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2$ 8 $\frac{2}{2}$ 8 $\frac{2}{2}$ 8

Naïve Bayes as a generative model

- \triangleright Features are generates by some class
- \triangleright Every feature is independent of the other features given the class
- In such cases, the joint probability $P(f_1, ..., f_n, c)$ is of interest, because

$$
P(c|f_1, ..., f_n) = \frac{P(f_1, ..., f_n|c)P(c)}{P(f_1, ..., f_n)}
$$

This term is not defined
by the above model, we
only know $P(f_1, ..., f_n|c)P(c)$

 \triangleright In the previous model, we dismissed multiple occurrences of words

 \triangleright Assuming that documents follow a multinomial distribution

$$
P(\mathbf{d}_i|\mathbf{\theta}_j) = |\mathbf{d}_i|! \cdot \prod_{w_{il} \in \mathbf{d}_i} \frac{P(w_{il}|c_j)^{freq(w_{il};\mathbf{d}_i)}}{freq(w_{il};\mathbf{d}_i)!}
$$

we can estimate the maximum likelihood of $P(w_{il}|c_i)$ as

$$
P(w_{il}|c_j) = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{d} \in c_j} freq(w_{il}; \mathbf{d})}{\sum_{w \in V} freq(w; c_j)}
$$

(all previous smoothing strategies can be used)

Similarly to before we estimate $P(c_i)$ as the fraction of occurrences of c_i in D

Example: Prameters for the Multinomial Naïve Bayes

Source: *Machine Learning* by P. Flach

 \triangleright Smoothed parameter estimation for positive class with Laplace smoothing with $\alpha = 1: \mathbf{\theta}^+ = \left(\frac{6}{36}\right)$ 20 $\frac{10}{20}$ 20 $\frac{4}{2}$ 20

Smoothed parameter estimation for the negative class: $\theta^- = \left(\frac{12}{30}\right)^2$ 20 $\frac{4}{2}$ 20 $\frac{4}{2}$ 20

Naïve Bayes vs. Multinomial Naïve Bayes

- \triangleright Fairly good performance even when independence assumption does not hold
- Can easily handle the dimensionality problem
- \triangleright Needs relatively few training samples to estimate probabilities (misestimations do not hurt the final calculation of odds $\frac{P(f_1,...,f_n|c)P(c)}{P(f_1,...,f_n|c)P(c)}$ $P(f_1,...,f_n|\bar{c})P(\bar{c})$)
- \triangleright Performance (e.g. for text classification) is slightly worse than the performance of SVMs or neural networks, but NB methods are much simpler and more efficient
- \triangleright When features are highly dependent on each other, performance can degrade notably (due to independence assumption)
- \triangleright Multinomial Naïve Bayes shows empirically better performance than Naïve Bayes on large corpora with high variability in document lengths