15: Anomaly Detection

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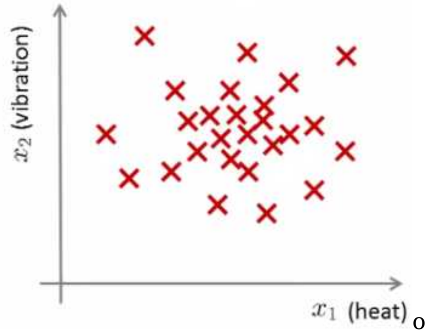
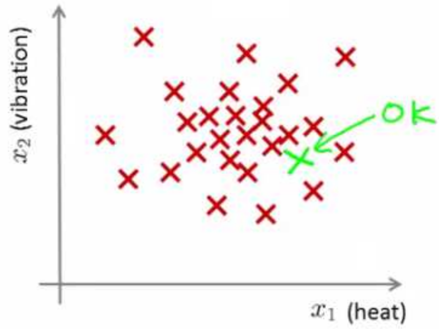
Anomaly detection - problem motivation

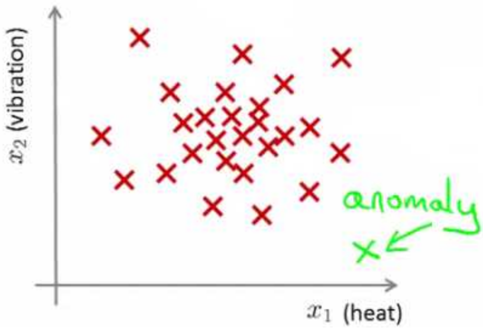
- Anomaly detection is a reasonably commonly used type of machine learning application
  - Can be thought of as a solution to an unsupervised learning problem
  - But, has aspects of supervised learning
- What is anomaly detection?
  - Imagine you're an aircraft engine manufacturer
  - As engines roll off your assembly line you're doing QA
    - Measure some features from engines (e.g. heat generated and vibration)
  - You now have a dataset of x^1 to x^m (i.e. *m* engines were tested)
  - Say we plot that dataset



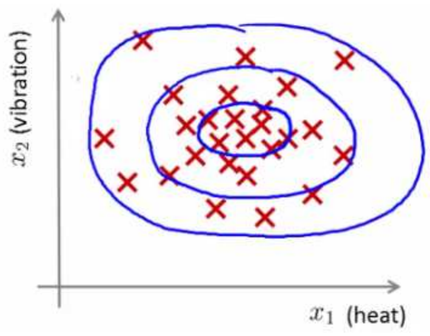
  - Next day you have a new engine
    - An anomaly detection method is used to see if the new engine is anomalous (when compared to the previous engines)
  - If the new engine looks like this;



    - Probably OK - looks like the ones we've seen before
  - But if the engine looks like this



    - Uh oh! - this looks like an **anomalous data-point**
- More formally
  - We have a dataset which contains **normal** (data)
    - How we ensure they're normal is up to us
    - In reality it's OK if there are a few which aren't actually normal
  - Using that dataset as a reference point we can see if other examples are **anomalous**
- How do we do this?
  - First, using our training dataset we build a model
    - We can access this model using **p(x)**
      - This asks, "What is the probability that example x is normal"
  - Having built a model
    - if $p(x_{test}) < \varepsilon$ --> flag this as an anomaly
    - if $p(x_{test}) >= \varepsilon$ --> this is OK
    - ε is some threshold probability value which we define, depending on how sure we need/want to be
  - We expect our model to (graphically) look something like this;



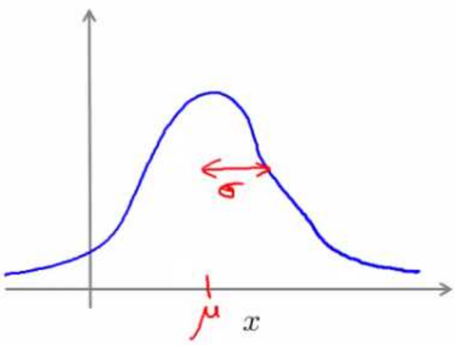
- i.e. this would be our model if we had 2D data

Applications

- Fraud detection
  - Users have activity associated with them, such as
    - Length on time on-line
    - Location of login
    - Spending frequency
  - Using this data we can build a model of what normal users' activity is like
  - What is the probability of "normal" behavior?
  - Identify unusual users by sending their data through the model
    - Flag up anything that looks a bit weird
    - Automatically block cards/transactions
- Manufacturing
  - Already spoke about aircraft engine example
- Monitoring computers in data center
  - If you have many machines in a cluster
  - Computer features of machine
    - x_1 = memory use
    - x_2 = number of disk accesses/sec
    - x_3 = CPU load
  - In addition to the measurable features you can also define your own complex features
    - x_4 = CPU load/network traffic
  - If you see an anomalous machine
    - Maybe about to fail
    - Look at replacing bits from it

The Gaussian distribution (optional)

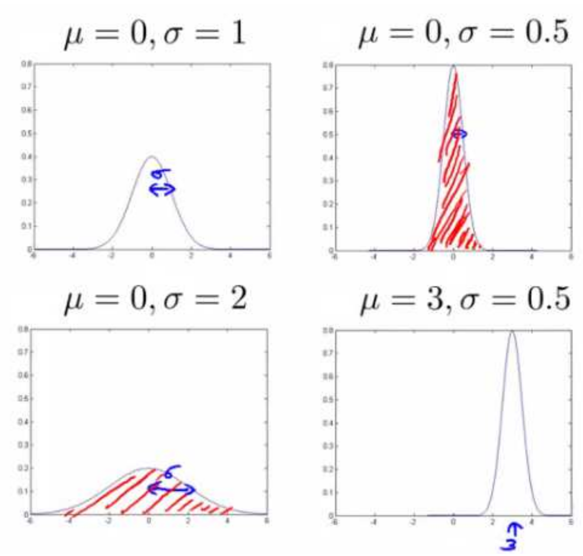
- Also called the **normal distribution**
- Example
  - Say x (data set) is made up of real numbers
    - Mean is μ
    - Variance is σ^2
      - σ is also called the **standard deviation** - specifies the width of the Gaussian probability
    - The data has a Gaussian distribution
  - Then we can write this ~ $N(\mu,\sigma^2)$
    - ~ means = is distributed as
    - *N* (should really be "script" N (even curlier!) -> means normal distribution
    - μ, σ^2 represent the mean and variance, respectively
      - These are the two parameters a Gaussian means
  - Looks like this;



  - This specifies the probability of x taking a value
    - As you move away from μ
- Gaussian equation is
  - $P(x : \mu , \sigma^2)$ (probability of x, parameterized by the mean and squared variance)

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\,\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

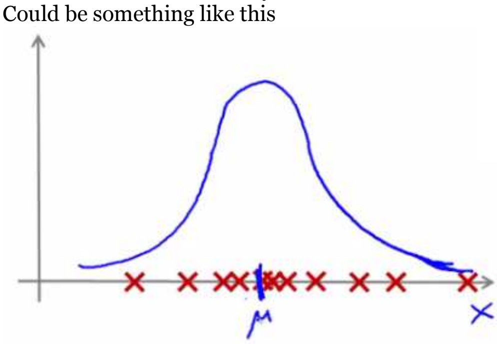
- Some examples of Gaussians below
  - Area is always the same (must = 1)
  - But width changes as standard deviation changes



Parameter estimation problem

- What is it?
  - Say we have a data set of m examples
  - Give each example is a real number - we can plot the data on the x axis as shown below

  - Problem is - say you suspect these examples come from a Gaussian
    - Given the dataset can you estimate the distribution?
  - Could be something like this



  - Seems like a reasonable fit - data seems like a higher probability of being in the central region, lower probability of being further away
- Estimating μ and σ^2
  - μ = average of examples
  - σ^2 = standard deviation squared

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (x^{(i)} - \mu)^2$$

  - As a side comment
    - These parameters are the maximum likelihood estimation values for μ and σ^2
    - You can also do 1/(m) or 1/(m-1) doesn't make too much difference
      - Slightly different mathematical problems, but in practice it makes little difference

Anomaly detection algorithm

- Unlabeled training set of m examples
  - Data = $\{x^1, x^2, ..., x^m\}$
    - Each example is an n-dimensional vector (i.e. a feature vector)
    - We have n features!
  - Model P(x) from the data set
    - What are high probability features and low probability features
    - x is a vector
    - So model p(x) as
      - $= p(x_1; \mu_1, \sigma_1^2) * p(x_2; \mu_2, \sigma_2^2) * ... p(x_n; \mu_n, \sigma_n^2)$
    - Multiply the probability of each features by each feature
      - We model each of the features by assuming each feature is distributed according to a Gaussian distribution
      - $p(x_i; \mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$
        - The probability of feature x_i given μ_i and σ_i^2, using a Gaussian distribution
  - As a side comment
    - Turns out this equation makes an **independence assumption** for the features, although algorithm works if features are independent or not
      - Don't worry too much about this, although if you're features are tightly linked you should be able to do some dimensionality reduction anyway!
  - We can write this chain of multiplication more compactly as follows;

$$= \prod_{j=1}^{n} p(x_j; \mu_j, \sigma_j^2)$$

    - Capital PI (Π) is the product of a set of values
  - The problem of estimation this distribution is sometimes call the problem of **density estimation**

Algorithm

1. Choose features x_i that you think might be indicative of anomalous examples.
2. Fit parameters $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_n, \sigma_1^2, \ldots, \sigma_n^2$

$$\mu_j = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_j^{(i)}$$

$$\sigma_j^2 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (x_j^{(i)} - \mu_j)^2$$

3. Given new example x, compute $p(x)$:

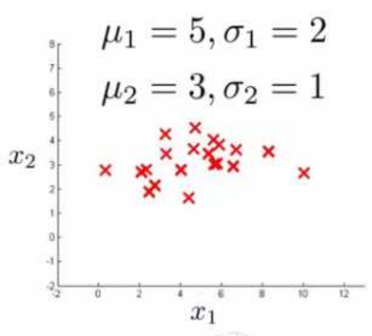
$$p(x) = \prod_{j=1}^{n} p(x_j; \mu_j, \sigma_j^2) = \prod_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_j} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_j - \mu_j)^2}{2\sigma_j^2}\right)$$

Anomaly if $p(x) < \varepsilon$

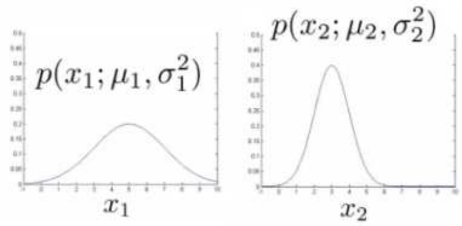
- **1 - Chose features**
  - Try to come up with features which might help identify something anomalous - may be unusually large or small values
  - More generally, chose features which describe the general properties
  - This is nothing unique to anomaly detection - it's just the idea of building a sensible feature vector
- **2 - Fit parameters**
  - Determine parameters for each of your examples μ_i and σ_i^2
    - Fit is a bit misleading, really should just be "Calculate parameters for 1 to n"
  - So you're calculating standard deviation and mean for each feature
  - You should of course used some vectorized implementation rather than a loop probably
- **3 - compute p(x)**
  - You compute the formula shown (i.e. the formula for the Gaussian probability)
  - If the number is very small, very low chance of it being "normal"

Anomaly detection example

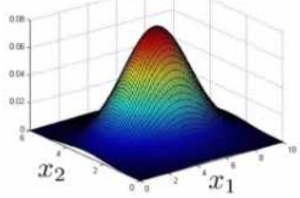
- x_1
  - Mean is about 5
  - Standard deviation looks to be about 2
- x_2
  - Mean is about 3
  - Standard deviation about 1
- So we have the following system



- If we plot the Gaussian for x_1 and x_2 we get something like this



- If you plot the product of these things you get a surface plot like this



  - With this surface plot, the height of the surface is the probability - p(x)
  - We can't always do surface plots, but for this example it's quite a nice way to show the probability of a 2D feature vector
- Check if a value is anomalous
  - Set epsilon as some value
  - Say we have two new data points new data-point has the values
    - x^1_{test}
    - x^2_{test}
  - We compute
    - $p(x^1_{test})$ = 0.436 >= epsilon (~40% chance it's normal)
      - Normal
    - $p(x^2_{test})$ = 0.0021 < epsilon (~0.2% chance it's normal)
      - Anomalous
  - What this is saying is if you look at the surface plot, all values above a certain height are normal, all the values below that threshold are probably anomalous

Developing and evaluating and anomaly detection system

- Here talk about developing a system for anomaly detection
  - How to evaluate an algorithm
- Previously we spoke about the importance of real-number evaluation
  - Often need to make a lot of choices (e.g. features to use)
    - Easier to evaluate your algorithm if it returns a **single number** to show if changes you made improved or worsened an algorithm's performance
  - To develop an anomaly detection system quickly, would be helpful to have a way to evaluate your algorithm
- Assume we have some labeled data
  - So far we've been treating anomalous detection with unlabeled data
  - If you have labeled data allows evaluation
    - i.e. if you think something iss anomalous you can be sure if it is or not
- So, taking our engine example
  - You have some labeled data
    - Data for engines which were non-anomalous -> y = 0
    - Data for engines which were anomalous -> y = 1
  - Training set is the collection of normal examples
    - OK even if we have a few anomalous data examples
  - Next define
    - Cross validation set
    - Test set
    - For both assume you can include a few examples which have anomalous examples
  - Specific example
    - Engines
      - Have 10 000 good engines
        - OK even if a few bad ones are here...
        - LOTS of y = 0
      - 20 flawed engines

            - Typically when y = 1 have 2-50
        - Split into
            - Training set: 6000 good engines (y = 0)
            - CV set: 2000 good engines, 10 anomalous
            - Test set: 2000 good engines, 10 anomalous
            - Ratio is 3:1:1
        - Sometimes we see a different way of splitting
            - Take 6000 good in training
            - Same CV and test set (4000 good in each) different 10 anomalous,
            - Or even 20 anomalous (same ones)
            - This is bad practice - should use different data in CV and test set
    - Algorithm evaluation
        - Take trainings set { $x^1, x^2, ..., x^m$ }
            - Fit model p(x)
        - On cross validation and test set, test the example x
            - y = 1 if p(x) < epsilon (anomalous)
            - y = 0 if p(x) >= epsilon (normal)
        - Think of algorithm a trying to predict if something is anomalous
            - But you have a label so can check!
            - Makes it look like a supervised learning algorithm
- What's a good metric to use for evaluation
    - y = 0 is very common
        - So classification would be bad
    - Compute fraction of true positives/false positive/false negative/true negative
    - Compute precision/recall
    - Compute F1-score
- Earlier, also had **epsilon** (the threshold value)

    - Threshold to show when something is anomalous
    - If you have CV set you can see how varying epsilon effects various evaluation metrics
        - Then pick the value of epsilon which maximizes the score on your CV set
    - Evaluate algorithm using cross validation
    - Do final algorithm evaluation on the test set

Anomaly detection vs. supervised learning

- If we have labeled data, we not use a supervised learning algorithm?
    - Here we'll try and understand when you should use supervised learning and when anomaly detection would be better

Anomaly detection

- **Very small number of positive examples**
    - Save positive examples just for CV and test set
    - Consider using an anomaly detection algorithm
    - Not enough data to "learn" positive examples
- **Have a very large number of negative examples**
    - Use these negative examples for p(x) fitting
    - Only need negative examples for this
- **Many "types" of anomalies**
    - Hard for an algorithm to learn from positive examples when anomalies may look nothing like one another
        - So anomaly detection doesn't know what they look like, but knows what they *don't* look like
    - When we looked at SPAM email,
        - Many types of SPAM
        - For the spam problem, usually enough positive examples
        - So this is why we usually think of SPAM as supervised learning
- Application and why they're anomaly detection
    - **Fraud detection**
        - Many ways you may do fraud
        - If you're a major on line retailer/very subject to attacks, sometimes might shift to supervised learning
    - **Manufacturing**
        - If you make HUGE volumes maybe have enough positive data -> make supervised
            - Means you make an assumption about the kinds of errors you're going to see
            - It's the unknown unknowns we don't like!
    - **Monitoring machines in data**

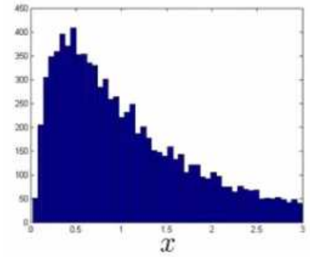
Supervised learning

- **Reasonably large number of positive and negative examples**
- Have enough positive examples to give your algorithm the opportunity to see what they look like
    - If you expect anomalies to look anomalous in the same way
- Application
    - Email/SPAM classification
    - Weather prediction
    - Cancer classification

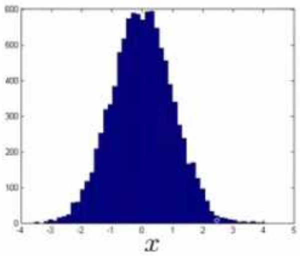
Choosing features to use

- One of the things which has a huge effect is which features are used
- **Non-Gaussian features**
    - Plot a histogram of data to check it has a Gaussian description - nice sanity check
        - Often still works if data is non-Gaussian

- Use **hist** command to plot histogram
- Non-Gaussian data might look like this



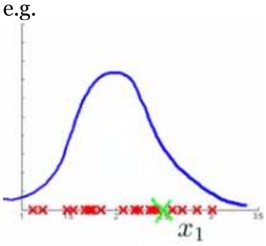
- Can play with different transformations of the data to make it look more Gaussian
- Might take a log transformation of the data
  - i.e. if you have some feature x_1, replace it with $\log(x_1)$



    - This looks much more Gaussian
  - Or do $\log(x_1+c)$
    - Play with c to make it look as Gaussian as possible
  - Or do $x^{1/2}$
  - Or do $x^{1/3}$

Error analysis for anomaly detection

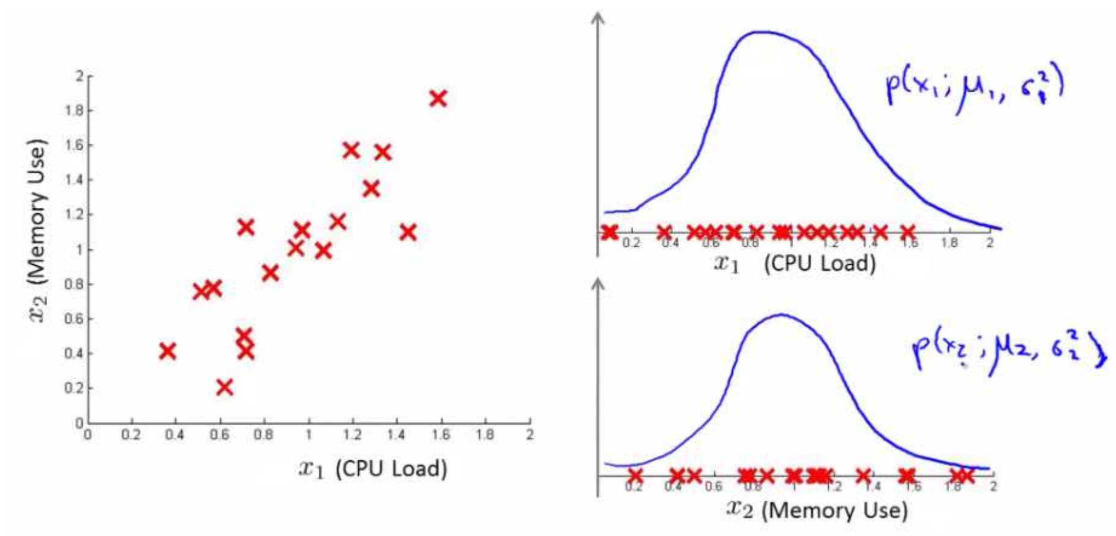
- Good way of coming up with features
- Like supervised learning error analysis procedure
  - Run algorithm on CV set
  - See which one it got wrong
  - Develop new features based on trying to understand *why* the algorithm got those examples wrong
- Example
  - p(x) large for normal, p(x) small for abnormal
  - e.g.



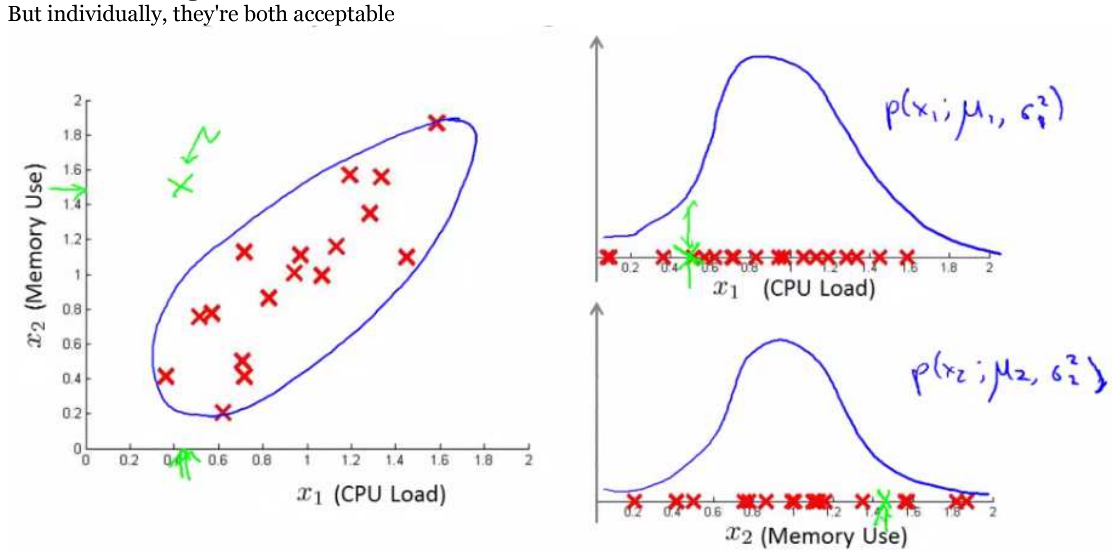
  - Here we have one dimension, and our anomalous value is sort of buried in it (in green - Gaussian superimposed in blue)
    - Look at data - see what went wrong
    - Can looking at that example help develop a new feature (x2) which can help distinguish further anomalous
- Example - data center monitoring
  - Features
    - x_1 = memory use
    - x_2 = number of disk access/sec
    - x_3 = CPU load
    - x_4 = network traffic
  - We suspect CPU load and network traffic grow linearly with one another
    - If server is serving many users, CPU is high and network is high
    - Fail case is infinite loop, so CPU load grows but network traffic is low
      - New feature - CPU load/network traffic
      - May need to do feature scaling

Multivariate Gaussian distribution

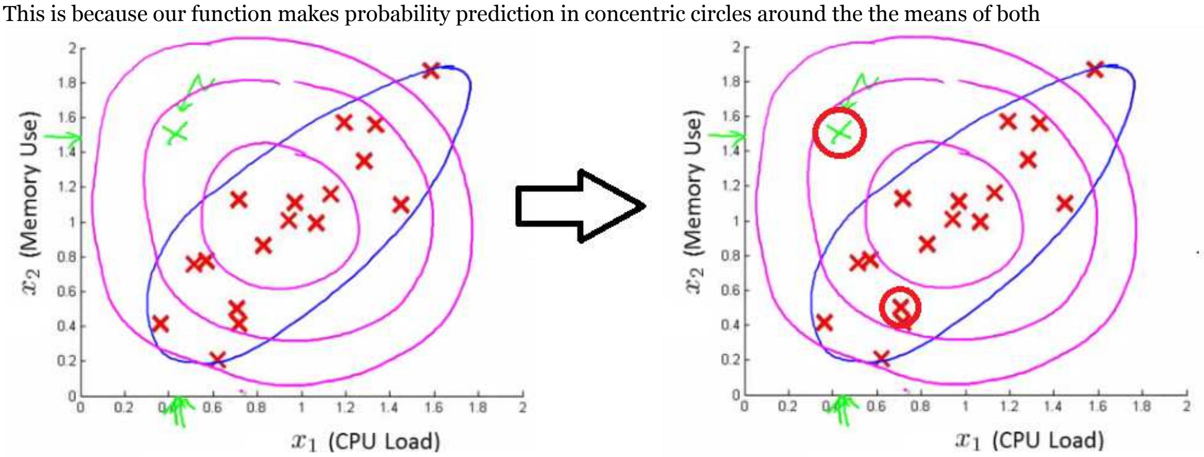
- Is a slightly different technique which can sometimes catch some anomalies which non-multivariate Gaussian distribution anomaly detection fails to
  - Unlabeled data looks like this



- Say you can fit a Gaussian distribution to CPU load and memory use
- Lets say in the test set we have an example which looks like an anomaly (e.g. $x_1 = 0.4$, $x_2 = 1.5$)
  - Looks like most of data lies in a region far away from this example
    - Here memory use is high and CPU load is low (if we plot x_1 vs. x_2 our green example looks miles away from the others)
- Problem is, if we look at each feature individually they may fall within acceptable limits - the issue is we know we shouldn't don't get those kinds of values **together**
  - But individually, they're both acceptable



- This is because our function makes probability prediction in concentric circles around the the means of both



  - Probability of the two red circled examples is basically the same, even though we can clearly see the green one as an outlier
    - Doesn't understand the meaning

Multivariate Gaussian distribution model

- To get around this we develop the **multivariate Gaussian distribution**
  - Model p(x) all in one go, instead of each feature separately
    - What are the parameters for this new model?
      - μ - which is an *n* dimensional vector (where n is number of features)
      - Σ - which is an [n x n] matrix - the **covariance matrix**
- For the sake of completeness, the formula for the multivariate Gaussian distribution is as follows

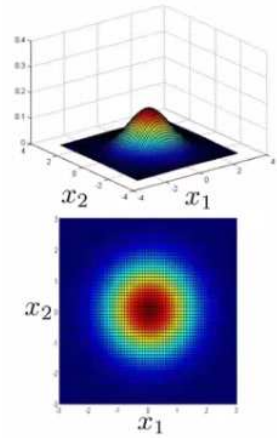
$$p(x;\mu,\Sigma) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2}\,|\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x-\mu)\right)$$

- NB don't memorize this - you can always look it up
- What does this mean?
    - $|\Sigma|$ = absolute value of Σ (determinant of sigma)
        - This is a mathematic function of a matrix
        - You can compute it in MATLAB using `det(sigma)`

- More importantly, what does this p(x) look like?
    - 2D example

      $$\mu = \begin{bmatrix}0\\0\end{bmatrix} \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix}1 & 0\\0 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

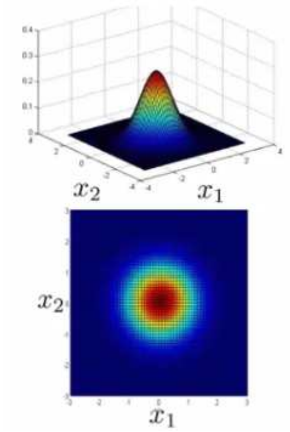
        - Sigma is sometimes call the identity matrix

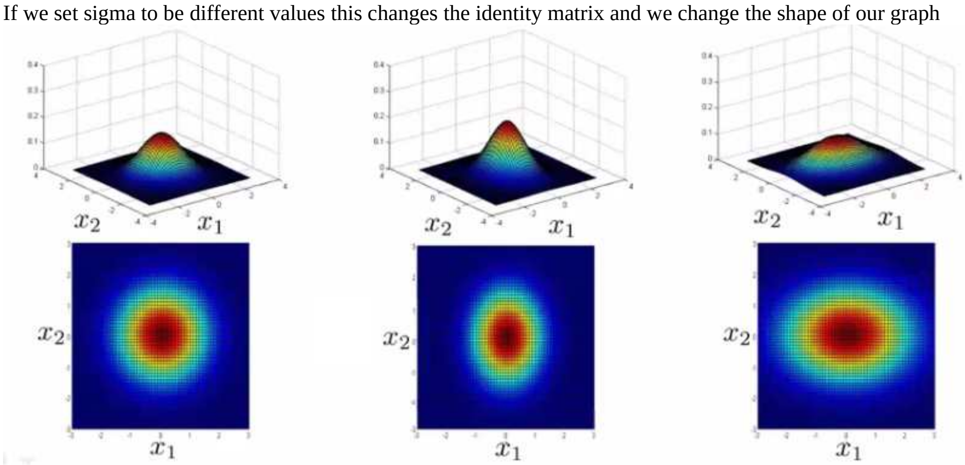
            - p(x) looks like this
                - For inputs of x_1 and x_2 the height of the surface gives the value of p(x)
    - What happens if we change Sigma?

      $$\mu = \begin{bmatrix}0\\0\end{bmatrix} \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix}0.6 & 0\\0 & 0.6\end{bmatrix}$$

    - So now we change the plot to

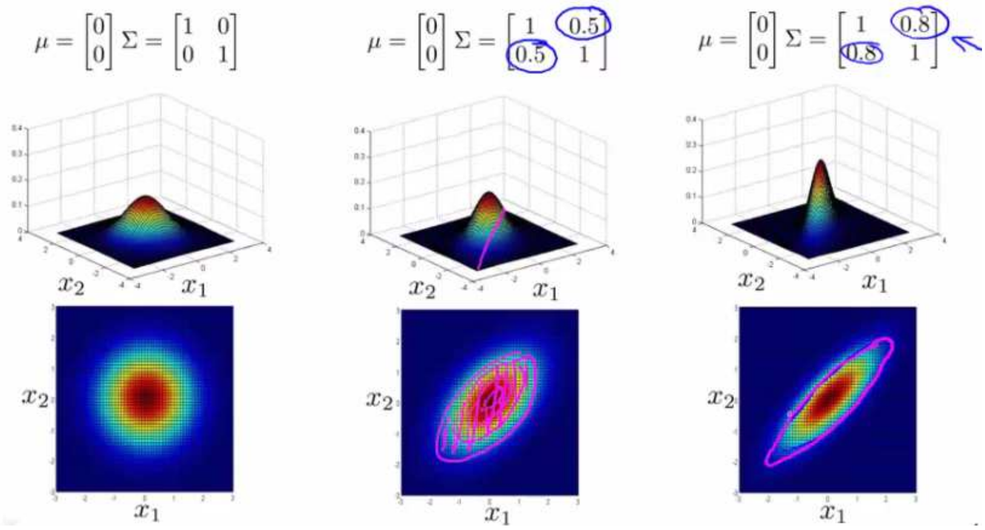
      

        - Now the width of the bump decreases and the height increases
    - If we set sigma to be different values this changes the identity matrix and we change the shape of our graph

    - Using these values we can, therefore, define the shape of this to better fit the data, rather than assuming symmetry in every dimension

- One of the cool things is you can use it to model correlation between data
    - If you start to change the off-diagonal values in the covariance matrix you can control how well the various dimensions correlation



        - So we see here the final example gives a very tall thin distribution, shows a strong positive correlation
        - We can also make the off-diagonal values negative to show a negative correlation
- Hopefully this shows an example of the kinds of distribution you can get by varying sigma
    - We can, of course, also move the mean (μ) which varies the peak of the distribution

Applying multivariate Gaussian distribution to anomaly detection

- Saw some examples of the kinds of distributions you can model
    - Now let's take those ideas and look at applying them to different anomaly detection algorithms
- As mentioned, multivariate Gaussian modeling uses the following equation;

$$p(x;\mu,\Sigma) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}}|\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^T\Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\right)$$

- Which comes with the parameters μ and Σ
    - Where
        - μ - the mean (n-dimenisonal vector)
        - Σ - covariance matrix ([nxn] matrix)
- Parameter fitting/estimation problem
    - If you have a set of examples
        - $\{x^1, x^2, ..., x^m\}$
    - The formula for estimating the parameters is

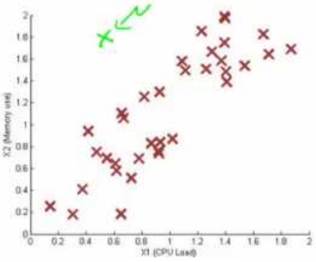
$$\mu = \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m} x^{(i)}$$

$$\Sigma = \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}(x^{(i)}-\mu)(x^{(i)}-\mu)^T$$

    - Using these two formulas you get the parameters

Anomaly detection algorithm with multivariate Gaussian distribution

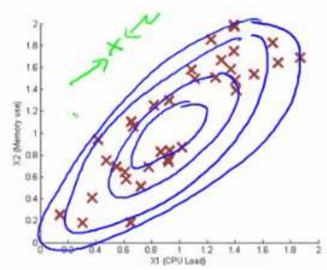
- **1)** Fit model - take data set and calculate μ and Σ using the formula above
- **2)** We're next given a new example (x_{test}) - see below



    - For it compute p(x) using the following formula for multivariate distribution

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}}|\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^T\Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\right)$$

- **3)** Compare the value with ε (threshold probability value)
    - if $p(x_{test}) < \varepsilon$ --> flag this as an anomaly
    - if $p(x_{test}) >= \varepsilon$ --> this is OK
- If you fit a multivariate Gaussian model to our data we build something like this



- Which means it's likely to identify the green value as anomalous
- Finally, we should mention how multivariate Gaussian relates to our original simple Gaussian model (where each feature is looked at individually)
  - Original model corresponds to multivariate Gaussian where the Gaussians' contours are axis aligned
  - i.e. the normal Gaussian model is a special case of multivariate Gaussian distribution
    - This can be shown mathematically
    - Has this constraint that the covariance matrix sigma as ZEROs on the non-diagonal values

$$p(x;\mu,\Sigma) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}}|\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^T\Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\right)$$

where $\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & & 0 \\ & \sigma_2^2 & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & \sigma_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$

    - If you plug your variance values into the covariance matrix the models are actually identical

Original model vs. Multivariate Gaussian

<u>Original Gaussian model</u>

- Probably used more often
- There is a need to manually create features to capture anomalies where x_1 and x_2 take unusual combinations of values
  - So **need to make extra features**
  - Might not be obvious what they should be
    - This is always a risk - where you're using your own expectation of a problem to "predict" future anomalies
    - Typically, the things that catch you out aren't going to be the things you though of
      - If you thought of them they'd probably be avoided in the first place
    - Obviously this is a bigger issue, and one which may or may not be relevant depending on your problem space
- Much **cheaper computationally**
- **Scales much better** to very large feature vectors
  - Even if n = 100 000 the original model works fine
- **Works well even with a small training set**
  - e.g. 50, 100
- Because of these factors it's used more often because it really represents a optimized but axis-symmetric specialization of the general model

<u>Multivariate Gaussian model</u>

- Used less frequently
- **Can capture feature correlation**
  - So no need to create extra values
- **Less computationally efficient**
  - Must compute inverse of matrix which is [n x n]
  - So lots of features is bad - makes this calculation very expensive
  - So if n = 100 000 not very good
- **Needs for m > n**
  - i.e. number of examples must be greater than number of features
  - If this is not true then we have a singular matrix (non-invertible)
  - So should be used only in m >> n
- If you find the matrix is non-invertible, could be for one of two main reasons
  - m < n
    - So use original simple model
  - Redundant features (i.e. linearly dependent)
    - i.e. two features that are the same
    - If this is the case you could use PCA or sanity check your data