# Machine learning foundations I

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### Learning goals

#### At the end of this lecture you will:

- Have an understanding of the goal of machine learning (ML) models.
- Have a good understanding of basic mathematical concepts used in ML and be able to apply them in the design and implementation of ML methods.

#### Overview

Topics covered in this lecture:

- 1. Linear algebra
- 2. Gradient-based optimization
- Two simple machine learning models Linear model Nearest-neighbours model
- 4. Probability theory

## Linear algebra

#### Materials:

- ► Chapter I.2 from Goodfellow et al., Deep Learning
- ► Kolter et al., "Linear Algebra Review and Reference"

#### **Scalars**

- ▶ A scalar is a single number (integer, real, rational, ...).
- Denoted by italics a, n, x

#### Vectors

▶ A vector is a 1-D array of numbers (integer, real, rational, ...)

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \dots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Example notation for type and size  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 

#### Matrices

► A matrix is a 2-D array of numbers

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

**E**xample notation for type and shape  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ 

#### **Tensors**

- A tensor is an array of numbers that may have
  - a zero dimensions and be a scalar,
  - one dimension and be a vector,
  - two dimensions and be a matrix,
  - more dimensions ...

**Side note**: One of the most popular frameworks for implementing deep machine learning models is called TensorFlow (https://www.tensorflow.org/).

### Transpose matrix

$$(\mathbf{A}^T)_{i,j} = \mathbf{A}_{j,i}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} \\ A_{3,1} & A_{3,2} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{2,1} & A_{3,1} \\ A_{1,2} & A_{2,2} & A_{3,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

The transpose matrix is a mirror image with regard to the main diagonal

$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B})^T = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T$$

# Identity matrix

▶ Identity matrix *I*<sub>3</sub>

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

► The identity matrices are neutral elements in matrix-matrix and matrix-vector multiplication, e.g.

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n : I_n x = x I_n = x$$

# Matrix (dot) product

$$C = AB$$

The matrices must be compatible: an  $m \times n$  matrix is multiplied with an  $n \times r$  matrix and as a result an  $m \times r$  matrix is obtained

$$C_{i,j} = \sum_{k} A_{i,k} B_{k,j}$$

$$\boldsymbol{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 10 & 11 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \times \boldsymbol{B} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\ 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{C} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \times 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{2,5} = A_{2,1}B_{1,5} + A_{2,2}B_{2,5} + A_{2,3}B_{3,5} = 4 \cdot 5 + 5 \cdot 10 + 6 \cdot 15 = 160$$

# Matrix (dot) product

- ▶ In general matrix multiplication is not commutative, i.e., most of the time  $AB \neq BA$ .
- ▶ Depending on the dimensions sometimes **AB** or **BA** are not possible.
- As a special case the matrix can be a (column or row) vector; an  $m \times n$  matrix is multiplied with a  $n \times 1$  vector to obtain a  $m \times 1$  vector.

# Systems of equations

 $\rightarrow$  Ax = b expands to

$$\mathbf{A}_{1,:}\mathbf{x}_1=\mathbf{b}_1\tag{1}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{2,:}\mathbf{x}_2=\mathbf{b}_2\tag{2}$$

$$\boldsymbol{A}_{m,:}\boldsymbol{x}_m = \boldsymbol{b}_m \tag{4}$$

## Solving systems of linear equations

- A linear system of equations can have
  - no solutions,
  - many solutions,
  - exactly one solution.
- ▶ Only one solution implies that multiplication by a matrix is an invertible operation.

#### Matrix inversion

Matrix inverse is defined with

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A}=\mathbf{I}_n$$

 A system of linear equations can be solved using inverse matrix

$$Ax = b$$

$$A^{-1}Ax = A^{-1}b$$

$$I_nx = A^{-1}b$$

$$x = A^{-1}b$$

- This is useful mostly for abstract analysis.
- From a numerical point of view there are much more efficient methods.



### Invertibility

#### A matrix cannot be inverted if

- ▶ the number of rows and columns is not the same, or
- some rows and columns are "redundant" ("linearly dependent", "low rank").

#### Norms

- ▶ Norms are functions that measure how "large" a vector is.
- Similar to a distance between zero and the point represented by the vector
  - $f(x) = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$
  - $f(x + y) \le f(x) + f(y)$  (the triangle inequality)
  - $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R} : f(\alpha \mathbf{x}) = \alpha f(\mathbf{x})$

### **Norms**

▶ *L<sup>p</sup>*- norm

$$\|\boldsymbol{x}\|_{p} = \left(\sum_{i} |x_{i}|^{p}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

- ▶ Most popular  $L^2$ -norm (for p = 2)
- ▶  $L_1$ -norm (for p = 1):  $||x||_1 = \sum_i |x_i|$
- ▶ Max norm (for infinite p):  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_{\infty} = \max_{i} |x_{i}|$

## Special vectors and matrices

- ▶ Unit vector  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_n = 1$
- Symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$
- Orthogonal matrix

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T = \mathbf{I} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$$

lacktriangle It follows that for orthogonal matrices  $oldsymbol{A}^{\mathcal{T}}=oldsymbol{A}^{-1}$ 

# Eigendecomposition

► Eigenvector and eigenvalue

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$$

► Eigendomdecomposition of a diagonazible matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} \operatorname{diag}(\lambda) \mathbf{A}^{-1}$$

where  $diag(\lambda)$  is a diagonal matrix having the (scalar) eigenvalues  $\lambda$  as diagonal elements.

## Eigendecomposition

 Every real symmetric matrix has a real orthogonal eigendecomposition

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{Q}^T$$

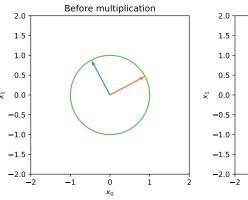
where Q is an orthogonal matrix composed of eigenvectors of  $\boldsymbol{A}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$  is a diagonal matrix.

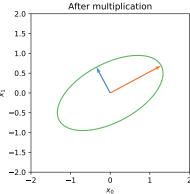
- ► The eigenvalue  $\Lambda_{ii}$  is associated with the eigenvector in column i of  $\mathbf{Q}$ , denoted as  $\mathbf{Q}_{:,i}$ .
- ▶ We can think of  $\boldsymbol{A}$  as scaling space by factor  $\lambda_i$  in the direction of its corresponding eigenvector  $\boldsymbol{v}^{(i)}$  (represented by  $\boldsymbol{Q}_{:,i}$ ).

## Eigendecomposition

- ► From the eigendecomposition we learn useful properties of the matrix.
- The eigendecomposition of a real symmetric matrix is used in optimization of quadratic expressions of the form  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$  under the constraint  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1$ .
- ▶ For instance, if  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}^{(i)}$ , then  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \lambda_i$ , when  $\mathbf{v}^{(i)}$  is an eigenvector of A and  $\lambda_i$  is its corresponding eigenvalue.
- ► The maximal (minimal) value of f within the constraint region is equal to the maximal (minimal) eigenvalue.

# Effect of eigenvalues





## Singular value decomposition

- Similar to eigenvalue decomposition
- ▶ More general: matrix need not be square

$$A = UDV^T$$

- ▶ U and V are square matrices and are both orthogonal, D is diagonal.
- ► The diagonal elements of D are called singular values of matrix A; the columns of U and V are left-singular and right-singular vectors of A, respectively.

### Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse

- ▶ Matrix inversion is not defined on matrices that are no square.
- ► The **Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse** is defined as

$$\mathbf{A}^+ = \lim_{\alpha \searrow 0} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} + \alpha \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T$$

### Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse

Now we can consider

$$x = A^+ y$$

- ▶ If the equation has
  - exactly one solution: this is the same as inverse,
  - ▶ no solution: gives the solution with the smallest error,  $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}\|_2$
  - ightharpoonup many solutions: gives the solution with the smallest norm of x.

### Computing the pseudoinverse

 Efficient implementations are based on the formula allowed by the singular decomposition

$$\mathbf{A}^+ = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{D}^+ \mathbf{U}^T$$

- ightharpoonup U, D, V are from the singular value decomposition.
- ► The pseudoinverse D<sup>+</sup> of D is obtained by taking the reciprocal non-zero elements and after that taking the transpose of the resulting matrix.

#### Trace

A trace of a matrix is defined as

$$Tr(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{i} \mathbf{A}_{i,i}$$

► Expressions in terms of the trace operators allow to exploit many useful identities, e.g.

$$Tr(ABC) = Tr(BCA) = Tr(CAB)$$

## Gradient-based optimization

#### Materials:

- ► Chapters I.4 and I.5 from Goodfellow et al., Deep Learning
- ► Kolter et al., "Linear Algebra Review and Reference"

#### Gradient

- ▶ Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  be a function that takes  $m \times n$  matrix  $\boldsymbol{A}$  as input and returns a real number (scalar).
- ▶ A **gradient** of *f* with respect to *A* is the matrix

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{A}}f(\mathbf{A}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{11}} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{12}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{1n}} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{21}} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{22}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{2n}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{m1}} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{m2}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{mn}} \end{bmatrix}$$

 $\blacktriangleright$  i.e. an  $m \times n$  matrix with

$$(\nabla_{\mathbf{A}}f(\mathbf{A}))_{ij}=\frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{ij}}$$

▶ The size of the gradient of **A** is the same as the size of A.

#### Gradient

▶ In the special case when A is a vector we obtain the (possibly more familiar) gradient

$$abla_{m{x}}f(m{x}) = egin{bmatrix} rac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \ rac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \ dots \ rac{\partial f}{\partial x_m} \ \end{pmatrix}$$

▶ In general to define a gradient we require that the function returns a **real** value.

#### **Jacobian**

- ► The Jacobian J<sub>f</sub> is a generalization of the gradient for vector valued functions.
- ▶ Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$  be a function that takes n-dimensional vector x as input and returns a m-dimensional vector as an output.
- ▶ The Jacobian  $J_f$  is defined as

$$\boldsymbol{J_f} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

► Note that for the special case of a scalar-valued function, the Jacobian is the transpose of the gradient.

### Optimization

- Most machine learning methods involve some kind of optimization.
  - ► One exception is the *k*-Nearest neighbour classifier introduced later.
- ▶ Optimization means minimizing or maximizing some function f(x), i.e. finding the values of x for which f(x) has a minimum or a maximum.
- ▶ Notation:  $\mathbf{x}^* = \operatorname{argmin} f(\mathbf{x})$

## Gradient-based optimization

- ▶ The derivative tells us how to change x in order to make a small improvement of f(x).
- ▶ Therefore, derivatives can be useful in optimization.

## Two simple machine learning models

#### Materials:

► Chapter 2.3 from Friedman et al., *The Elements of Statistical Learning* 

#### Some notations

- ▶ We denote an input variable with the symbol x (scalar) or x (vector).
- ▶ The *i*-th component of a vector input  $\mathbf{x}$  is denoted as  $x_i$ .
- Quantitative (numerical) outputs are denoted with y.
- ▶ Qualitative outputs are denoted with g (from group) and take values from a set  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- Matrices are denoted with bold and uppercase letters  $\boldsymbol{X}$  for instance, a set of N input p-vectors  $\boldsymbol{x}_i$   $(1 \le i \le N)$  is "packed" in a  $N \times p$  input matrix  $\boldsymbol{X}$ .
- Since by default vectors are assumed to be column vectors, the rows of  $\boldsymbol{X}$  are the transposes  $\boldsymbol{x}_i^T$ .

### The learning task

- ▶ Given a value of the input vector  $\mathbf{x}$  make a good prediction of the output y, denoted as  $\hat{y}$ .
- ▶ Both y and  $\hat{y}$  should take values from the same numerical set.
- ▶ Similarly, g and  $\hat{g}$  should both take values from the same set  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- We suppose that we have available a set of measurements  $(x_i, y_i)$  or  $(x_i, g_i)$   $(1 \le i \le N)$  called **training data** (in matrix form: (X, y) and/or (X, g)).
- Our task is to construct a prediction rule based on the training data.

### The learning task

#### Example:

- ▶ Variable values: Let g (and therefore also  $\hat{g}$ ) be two valued (categorical), e.g.  $\mathcal{G} = \{BLUE, ORANGE\}$ .
- ▶ Encoding of gs with ys: Then each class can be encoded binary, i.e., with  $y \in \{0,1\}$ , e.g., BLUE and ORANGE, would correspond to 0 and 1, respectively.
- ▶ **Predicted output values**:  $\hat{y}$  ranges over the interval  $[-\infty, +\infty]$  (of which  $\{0,1\}$  is a subset).
- ▶ **Prediction rule**:  $\hat{g}$  is assigned a (class label) BLUE if  $\hat{y} < 0.5$  and ORANGE, otherwise.

#### Two simple approaches to prediction

- Linear model fit
  - strong assumptions about the structure of the decision boundary
- k-nearest neighbours
  - weak assumptions about the structure of the decision boundary

- Despite relative simplicity one of the most important statistical tools
- Input vector  $\mathbf{x}^T = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)$
- Output y predicted using the model

$$\hat{y} = \hat{w_0} + \sum_{j=1}^p x_j \hat{w_j}$$

- $\hat{w}_i$   $(0 \le i \le p)$  are the parameters of the linear model
- In vector form

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\boldsymbol{w}}^T \boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{x}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{w}}$$

using the fact that the scalar (inner) product of two vectors is a commutative operation

- ▶ We assume that  $w_0$  is in **w** and 1 is included in **x**.
- $\hat{y}$  is a scalar, but in general can be a k-vector  $\hat{y}$ , in which case w becomes a  $p \times k$  matrix of coefficients.

#### Some hyper(space) terminology:

- ▶ Points x,  $\hat{y}$  form a **hyperplane** in the (p+1)-dimensional input-output hyperspace.
- ▶ If **x** is extended with constant 1 then the hyperplane includes the origin and it forms a **subspace**.
- ▶ If 1 is not included then the hyperplane is an **affine** set and it cuts the *y*-axis at the point  $(\mathbf{0}, \hat{w_0})$ , where the vector  $\mathbf{0}$  has all  $x_i$  coordinates equal to 0.
- ▶ Reminder: from now on we assume that 1 is included in x and  $\hat{w_0}$  in  $\hat{w}$
- ► The function f(x) = w<sup>T</sup>x defined on the p-dimensional (input) space is a linear function (we omit the hats over the ws since now we consider them as free variables)
- ▶ The gradient  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x})$  is a vector pointing along the direction of maximal change.



- There are many ways to fit a linear model to a training dataset.
- ► Least squares method
  - We need to find coefficients  $\hat{w_i}$  which minimize the error estimated with the **residual sum of squares**

$$RSS(\boldsymbol{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \boldsymbol{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{w})^2$$

assuming N input-output pairs.

- ▶ RSS(w) is a quadratic function.
- ▶ A minimum always exists though not necessarily a unique one.

- We look for the solution  $\hat{\boldsymbol{w}}$  using the matrix notation:
- ▶  $\mathbf{y} = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N]^T$  is the vector formed from the N output vectors and  $\mathbf{X}$  is an  $N \times p$  matrix

$$\mathsf{RSS}(\boldsymbol{w}) = (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{w})^T (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{w})$$

▶ To find the minimum we differentiate with respect to **w** which gives

$$(-\boldsymbol{X})^T(\boldsymbol{y}-\boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{w})+(\boldsymbol{y}-\boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{w})^T(-\boldsymbol{X})$$

using the rule  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$  this is equivalent to

$$-2\boldsymbol{X}^T(\boldsymbol{y}-\boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{w})$$

▶ To find the minimum our derivative must be **0**, hence:

$$X^{T}(y - Xw) = 0$$
  
 $X^{T}y - X^{T}Xw = 0$   
 $X^{T}y = X^{T}Xw$ 

ightharpoonup If  $oldsymbol{X}^Toldsymbol{X}$  is non-singular there exists a unique solution given by

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{w}} = (\boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{X})^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{y}$$

**Question**: Why not simply  $\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{X}^{-1}\mathbf{y}$ ?

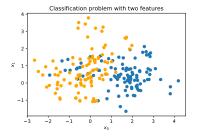
► For each input **x**<sub>i</sub> there corresponds the fitted output

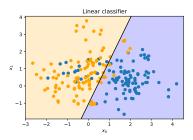
$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{y}_i(\mathbf{x}_i) = \hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{x}_i$$

- ▶ This is called "making a prediction" for  $x_i$ .
- ▶ The entire fitted surface (hyperplane) is fully characterized by the parameter vector  $\hat{\boldsymbol{w}}$ .
- ▶ After fitting the model, we can "discard" the training dataset.

- ▶ Scatter plot of training data on a pair of inputs  $x_1$  and  $x_2$
- ▶ Output class variable *g* has two values BLUE and ORANGE.
- Linear regression model fitted with the response variable y coded as 0 for BLUE and 1 for ORANGE.
- ▶ Fitted values  $\hat{y}$  converted to a fitted class variable  $\hat{g}$  as

$$\hat{g} = \begin{cases} \mathsf{BLUE} & \text{if } \hat{y} \le 0.5\\ \mathsf{ORANGE} & \text{if } \hat{y} > 0.5 \end{cases}$$





- ► Two classes separated in the plane ( $\mathbb{R}^2$ ) by the decision boundary  $\{x: w^T x = 0.5\}$
- $\{x : w^T x < 0.5\}$  set of BLUE points
- $\{x : w^T x \ge 0.5\}$  set of ORANGE points

- Wrong classifications on both sides of the boundary
- ▶ Are the errors caused by the model or are they unavoidable?
- ► Two possible scenarios
  - Scenario 1: data generated from bivariate Gaussian distribution
  - Scenario 2: data generated from 10 Gaussian distributions; the means of these distributions are also distributed as Gaussian
- ▶ In Scenario 1 the linear boundary is the best we can do since the overlap is inevitable.
- ▶ In Scenario 2 the linear boundary is unlikely to be optimal (in fact the boundary is non-linear and disjoint).

#### Nearest-neighbours model

- ▶ In nearest-neignbour methods  $\hat{y}(x)$  is determined based on the inputs (points) in the training set  $\mathcal{T}$  which are "closest" to the input x.
- k-nearest neighbour fit is defined as

$$\hat{y}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in N_k(\mathbf{x})} y_i$$

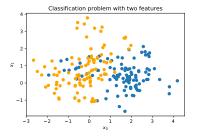
where  $N_k(x)$  is the neighbourhood of x consisting of the k "closest" points to x.

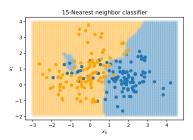
- "Closeness" requires a definition of metrics
- ▶ For the moment we assume Euclidian distance (each *x* is a point in the hyperspace).
- ▶ An average of the classes of the *k* closest points

### Back to the BLUE and ORANGE example

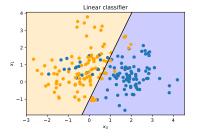
- We use the same training data as in the linear model example.
- ► New borderline between the classes generated with 15-nearest-neighbour model
- Since ORANGE is encoded as 1 ŷ is the proportion of ORANGE points in the 15-neighbourhood
- ► Class ORANGE assigned to x if  $\hat{y}(x) > 0.5$  (majority is ORANGE)

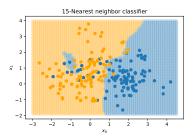
# 15-Nearest neighbour classifier



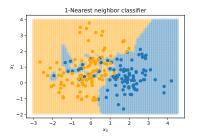


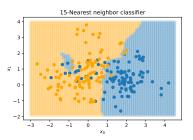
### Linear classifier vs. 15-Nearest neighbour





### 1-Nearest neighbour vs. 15-Nearest neighbour





### Comparison of the techniques

- ▶ 15-NN seems to work better than the linear classifier since fewer points are missclassified.
- ➤ On the other hand, **none** of the points in the 1-NN case was misclassified!?
- ► Actually with the 1-NN method the error on **training data** is always 0.
- ► An independent test set needed to obtain a better comparison of the methods.

### Comparison of techniques

- ► At first sight it looks like k-NN has only one parameter, k versus p parameters (number of weights w<sub>i</sub>) of the linear model.
- ▶ The **effective** number of parameters of k-NN is N/k which is in general bigger than p (N is the size of the training set).
- ► For instance, assume non-overlapping neighbourhoods
  - ▶ There will be N/k neighbourhoods.
  - ► To each neighbourhood there correspond one parameter (the mean of the elements of the neighbourhood).

#### Materials:

► Chapter I.3 from Goodfellow et al., Deep Learning

- Probability theory is a mathematical framework for dealing with uncertainty, i.e., modeling and analyzing uncertain events and statements
- ▶ In AI probability theory is used in two major ways:
  - ► To design AI systems, i.e., derive models and expressions and the corresponding algorithms.
  - ► To analyze the behaviour of the AI systems.

- A random variable is a variable that can take values randomly.
- ▶ We will denote random variables with plain (ordinary text) typeface and their values with standard math typeface for example, if the random variable is denoted as x its values can be x₁ and x₂
- A vector-valued random variable is denoted with bold typeface, e.g. x.
- ▶ On its own a random variable just denotes the set of its possible values; to get its full meaning in needs to be coupled with a distribution

- ► There are two types of random variables: **discrete** and **continuous**.
- Consequently there are two ways to describe probability distributions: probability mass functions and probability density functions.

### Probability mass function

- ► The domain of a probability mass function *P* is the set of all possible states of the random variable x.
- $\forall x \in x : 0 \le P((x) \le 1)$ 
  - An impossible event has probability 0 and no state can be less probable than that.
  - ▶ An event that is guaranteed to happen has probability 1 and no state can have a greater chance of occurring.
- - ▶ We say that x is **normalized**.
- ► Example: Uniform distribution:  $P(x = x_i) = \frac{1}{k}$ .

### Probability density function

- ▶ The domain of the probability density function *p* must be the set of all possible states of x.
- $\forall x \in \mathsf{x} : p(x) \geq 0.$

$$\int p(x)dx=1$$

► Example: uniform distribution  $u(x; a, b) = \frac{1}{b-a}$ , for  $x \in [a, b]$ 

### Conditional probability

- ► Conditional probability is the probability of some event provided that some other event has happened.
- Given two random variables x and y, the conditional probability that y has value y provided that we know that x has value x is given by

$$P(y = y \mid x = x) = \frac{P(x,y)}{P(x = x)}$$

Another way to see this formula is

$$P(x,y) = P(x = x)P(y = y \mid x = x)$$

i.e., the probability of x and y occurring together is equal to the probability of occurrence of x times the probability of y occurring provided x has occurred.

#### Expectation

▶ The **expectation** or **expected** value of a function f(x) with respect to a probability distribution P(x) is the average value of f over all values x assuming they are drawn from P

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathsf{x} \sim P}[f(\mathsf{x})] = \sum_{\mathsf{x}} P(\mathsf{x})f(\mathsf{x})$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim P}[f(\mathbf{x})] = \int p(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x}$$

Linarity of expectations:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathsf{x}}[\alpha f(\mathsf{x}) + \beta g(\mathsf{x})] = \alpha \mathbb{E}_{\mathsf{x}}[f(\mathsf{x})] + \beta \mathbb{E}_{\mathsf{x}}[g(\mathsf{x})]$$

#### Variance and covariance

► The variance gives a measure of variation of the values of a random variable x

$$Var(f(x)) = \mathbb{E}[(f(x) - E[f(x)])^2]$$

Square root of the variance is called **standard deviation**.

► The **covariance** is a measure of linear relation as well as scale between

$$Cov(f(x), g(x)) = \mathbb{E}[f(x) - E[(f(x)])(g(x) - E[g(x)])]$$



#### Covariance matrix

▶ The **covariance matrix** of a random vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix with elements

$$Cov(\mathbf{x})_{i,j} = Cov(x_i, x_j)$$

▶ The diagonal elements of the matrix give the variance

$$Cov(x_i, x_i) = Var(x_i)$$

#### Bernouli Distribution

- ► A distribution over a single binary random variable
- lacktriangle Controlled by a single parameter  $\phi \in [0,1]$  which corresponds to the probability of the random variable taking the value 1
- Properties:

$$P(x) = 1) = \phi$$

$$P(x = 0) = 1 - \phi$$

$$P(x = x) = \phi^{x} (1 - \phi)^{1-x}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{x}[x] = \phi$$

$$Var(x) = \phi(1 - \phi)$$

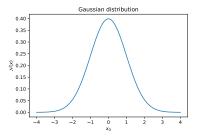
#### Gaussian distribution

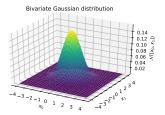
- The most commonly used distribution, also called normal distribution.
- ▶ Controlled by two parameters  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$  (the **mean**) and  $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$ , (the **standard deviation**)

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

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{(2\pi)^n \mathsf{det}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})}} \mathsf{exp}\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)$$

#### Gaussian distribution



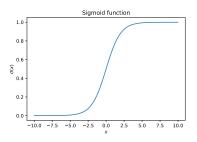


## Logistic sigmoid

▶ A useful function that we are going to consider

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(-x\right)}$$

► The Logistic (sigmoid) function is commonly used to parametrize Bernoulli distributions.



### Bayes' rule

Suppose know P(y | x), but we actually need P(x | y). If we know P(x) then we can compute

$$P(x \mid y) = \frac{P(y \mid x)P(x)}{P(y)}$$

Although it appears in the formula prior knowledge  $P(y \text{ is not needed since usually it can be computed as } \sum_{x} P(y \mid x) P(x)$ 

- It can be straightforwardly derived from the conditional probability formula.
- ▶ It could have be named also after Laplace who independently found it, generalized it, and introduced it in practice.

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The slides for this lecture were prepared by Mitko Veta and Dragan Bošnacki.

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