



UNC CHARLOTTE

---

*The WILLIAM STATES LEE COLLEGE of ENGINEERING*

# Introduction to ML

# Lecture 6: Naive Bayes Classifier

Hamed Tabkhi

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,  
University of North Carolina Charlotte (UNCC)

[htabkhiv@uncc.edu](mailto:htabkhiv@uncc.edu)

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---



Thomas Bayes  
1702 - 1761

English statistician

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

Some basics

The probability of two events A and B happening,  $P(A \cap B)$ , is the probability of A,  $P(A)$ , times the probability of B given that A has occurred,  $P(B|A)$ .

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A) \quad (1)$$

On the other hand, the probability of A and B is also equal to the probability of B times the probability of A given B.

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B)P(A|B) \quad (2)$$

Equating the two yields: **(1) = (2)**

$$P(B)P(A|B) = P(A)P(B|A) \quad (3)$$



Bayes Theorem or Bayes Rule

$$P(A|B) = P(A) \frac{P(B|A)}{P(B)}$$

# Naive Bayes Classifier

- Bayesian classifiers use **Bayes theorem**, which says

$$\frac{p(c_j | d)}{\text{posterior probability}} = \frac{p(d | c_j)}{\text{likelihood}} \frac{p(c_j)}{p(d)} \text{ prior}$$

$P(A|B) = P(A) \frac{P(B|A)}{P(B)}$

- $p(c_j | d)$  = probability of instance  $d$  being in class  $c_j$ ,  
This is what we are trying to compute
- $p(d | c_j)$  = probability of generating instance  $d$  given class  $c_j$ ,  
We can imagine that being in class  $c_j$ , causes you to have feature  $d$  with some probability
- $p(c_j)$  = probability of occurrence of class  $c_j$ ,  
This is just how frequent the class  $c_j$ , is in our database
- $p(d)$  = probability of instance  $d$  occurring

This can actually be ignored, since it is the same for all classes

Can be viewed as normalization factor

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

Using Bayes' theorem, the conditional probability can be decomposed as

$$p(C_k \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{p(C_k) p(\mathbf{x} \mid C_k)}{p(\mathbf{x})}$$

posterior =  $\frac{\text{prior} \times \text{likelihood}}{\text{evidence}}$

Assume that we have two classes

$c_1 = \text{male}$ , and  $c_2 = \text{female}$ .

We have a person whose sex we do not know, say “*drew*” or  $d$ .

Classifying *drew* as male or female is equivalent to asking is it more probable that *drew* is **male** or **female**, I.e which is greater  $p(\text{male} | \text{drew})$  or  $p(\text{female} | \text{drew})$

(Note: “Drew can be a male or female name”)



Drew Barrymore



Drew Carey

What is the probability of being called “*drew*” given that you are a **male**?

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$



What is the probability of being a **male**?

What is the probability of being named “*drew*”?  
(actually irrelevant, since it is that same for all classes)



# This is Officer Drew

## Is Officer Drew a Male or Female?

Luckily, we have a small database with names and sex.

Officer Drew

$$p(c_j | d) = \frac{p(d | c_j) p(c_j)}{p(d)}$$

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$

The probability of being a male

feature	label
Name	Sex
Drew	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male



**Officer Drew**

1. The probability of being a male

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$

$$p(\text{drew} | \text{male})$$

?

Name	Sex
Drew	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male



**Officer Drew**

1. The probability of being a male

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$

Name	Sex
Drew*	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male

A diagram showing the calculation of the probability. A blue arrow points from the fraction  $\frac{1}{3}$  to the row for Alberto. Another blue arrow points from the fraction  $\frac{1}{3}$  to the row for Sergio.

$$p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) = 1/3$$



**Officer Drew**

1. The probability of being a male

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$

$$p(\text{male}) = 3/8$$

Name	Sex
Drew	Male ✓
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male ✓
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male ✓



**Officer Drew**

1. The probability of being a male

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$

$$p(\text{drew}) = 3/8$$

Name	Sex
Drew	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male



**Officer Drew**

1. The probability of being a male

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{drew} | \text{male}) p(\text{male})}{p(\text{drew})}$$

Name	Sex
Drew	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{1/3 * 3/8}{3/8} = 0.125$$



## Officer Drew

We can follow the same procedure to compute the probability of “Drew” being a female.

Name	Sex
Drew	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male

$$p(\text{female} | \text{drew}) = \frac{p(\text{draw} | \text{female})}{\frac{3/8}{p(\text{female})}} = \frac{2/5 * 5/8}{3/8} = 0.250$$





## Officer Drew

$$p(\text{male} | \text{drew}) = \frac{1/3 * 3/8}{3/8} = 0.125$$

$$p(\text{female} | \text{drew}) = \frac{2/5 * 5/8}{3/8} = 0.250$$

Name	Sex
Drew	Male
Claudia	Female
Drew	Female
Drew	Female
Alberto	Male
Karin	Female
Nina	Female
Sergio	Male

Officer Drew is more likely to be a Female.



# Officer Drew IS a female!

## Officer Drew

$$p(\text{male} \mid \text{drew}) = \frac{1/3 * 3/8}{3/8} = \underline{\underline{0.125}}$$

$$p(\text{female} \mid \text{drew}) = \frac{2/5 * 5/8}{3/8} = \underline{\underline{0.250}}$$

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

So far we have only considered Bayes Classification when we have one attribute/feature (the “*name*”). But we may have many features.

How do we use all the features?

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

- "naive" conditional independence assumptions

## Independence

- Two events A, B are **independent**, if (the following are equivalent)
  - $P(A, B) = P(A) * P(B)$
  - $P(A | B) = P(A)$
  - $P(B | A) = P(B)$

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

- "naive" conditional independence assumptions

Assume that each feature  $x_i$  is conditionally independent of  
every other feature  $x_j$  for  $j \neq i$ , given the category  $C_k$

That means:

$$p(x_i \mid \cancel{x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n}, C_k) = p(x_i \mid C_k)$$

# Naive Bayes Classifier

- Thus, the joint model can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} p(C_k \mid x_1, \dots, x_n) &\underset{\text{red box}}{\propto} p(C_k, x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= p(C_k) p(x_1 \mid C_k) p(x_2 \mid C_k) p(x_3 \mid C_k) \dots \\ &= p(C_k) \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid C_k), \end{aligned}$$

Denote "proportional"

$$p(C_k \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{p(C_k) p(\mathbf{x} \mid C_k)}{p(\mathbf{x})}$$

# Naïve Bayes Classifier

---

## Using the Naïve Bayes Classifier

To classify a new point  $\mathbf{x}$

$$\hat{y} = \underset{k \in \{1, \dots, K\}}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(C_k) \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | C_k)$$

Find the maximum

Any potential problem ?

There could be cases where the classification could be multivariate.  
Therefore, we need to find the class  $\mathbf{y}$  with maximum probability.

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

## Using the Naïve Bayes Classifier

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_{k \in \{1, \dots, K\}} p(C_k) \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid C_k)$$

We are multiplying lots of small numbers  
Danger of underflow!

- $0.5^{57} = 7 \times 10^{-18}$

a number of smaller absolute value than the computer can actually represent in memory on its CPU.

Solution?

# Naive Bayes Classifier

---

We are multiplying lots of small numbers  
Danger of underflow!

- $0.5^{57} = 7 \times 10^{-18}$

Solution? Use logs and add!

- In practice, we use log-probabilities to prevent underflow

$$\arg \max_{y_k} \log P(Y = y_k) + \sum_{j=1}^n \log P(X_j = x_j \mid Y = y_k)$$

↓  
class label {1, ..., K}

# Problems with Naive Bayes Classifier

---

- Naive Bayes assumption
  - Usually, features are not conditionally independent:

$$P(X_1 \dots X_n | Y) \neq \prod_i P(X_i | Y)$$

- The naïve Bayes assumption is often violated, yet it performs surprisingly well in many cases.

.

More deeper investigation: Zhang, Harry. "The optimality of naive Bayes." AAAI (2004).

# Problems with Naive Bayes Classifier

---

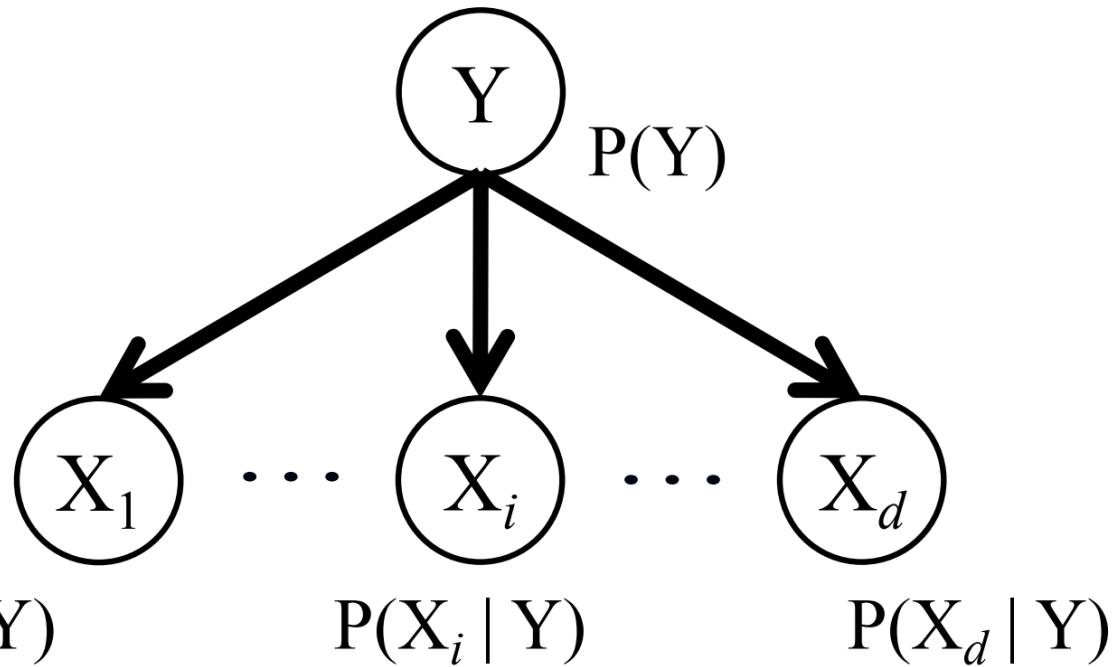
- Notice that some probabilities estimated by counting might be zero
- Fix by using Laplace smoothing:
  - Likelihood:

$$P(X_i = x|Y = y) = \frac{\text{Count}(X_i = x, Y = y) + 1}{\sum_{x'} \text{Count}(X_i = x', Y = y) + |\text{values}(X_i)|}$$

$|\text{values}(X_i)|$  is the number of values  $X_i$  can take on

# The Naïve Bayes Graphical Model

Labels (hypotheses)

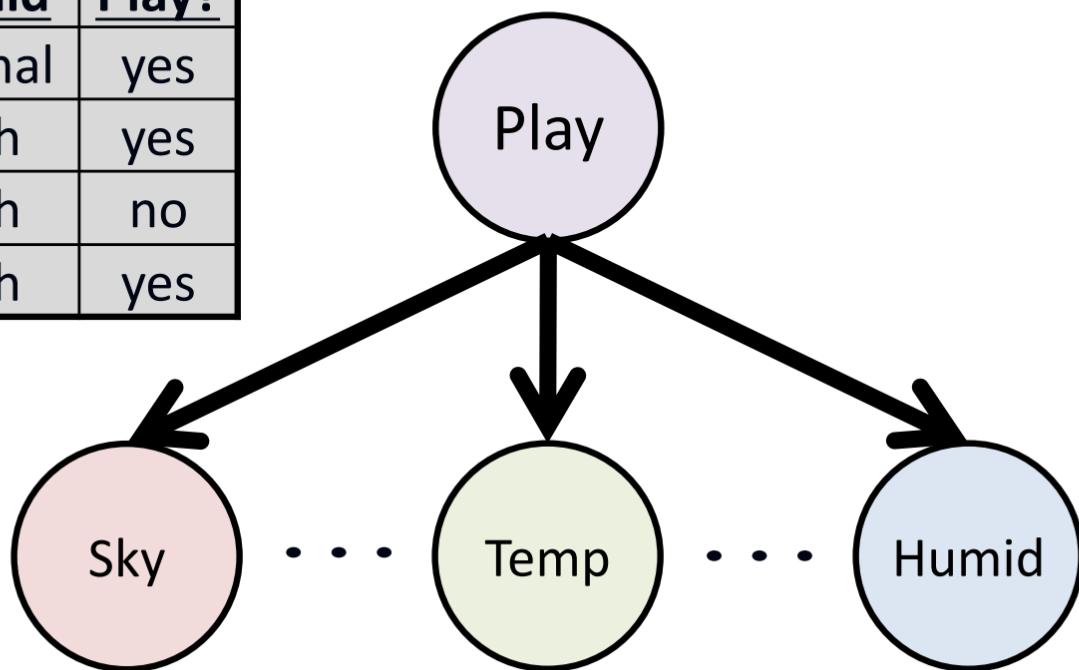


- Nodes denote random variables
- Edges denote dependency
- Each node has an associated conditional probability table (CPT), conditioned upon its parents

# Example NB Graphical Model

**Data:**

<u>Sky</u>	<u>Temp</u>	<u>Humid</u>	<u>Play?</u>
sunny	warm	normal	yes
sunny	warm	high	yes
rainy	cold	high	no
sunny	warm	high	yes

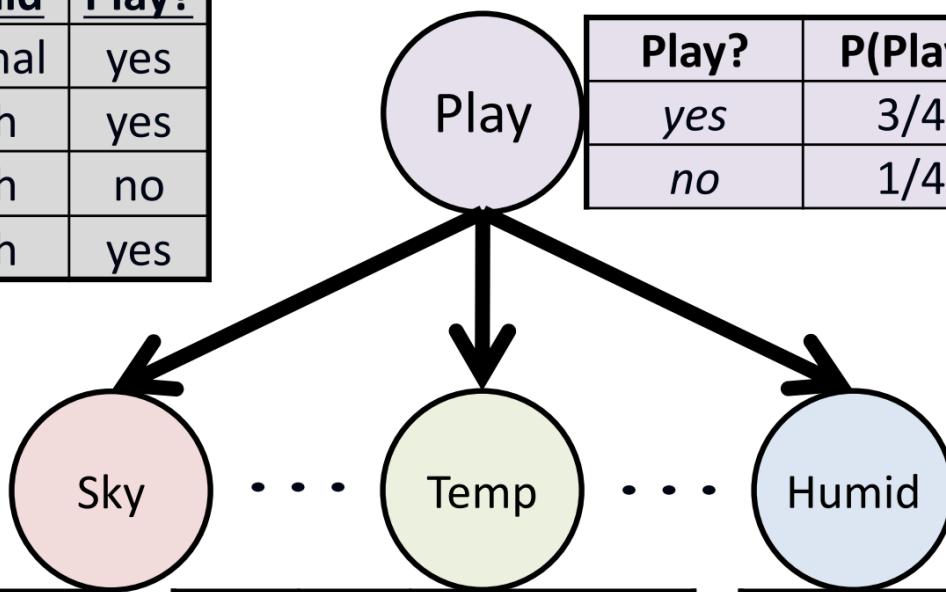


# Example NB Graphical Model

Data:

Sky	Temp	Humid	Play?
sunny	warm	normal	yes
sunny	warm	high	yes
rainy	cold	high	no
sunny	warm	high	yes

Play?	P(Play)
yes	3/4
no	1/4



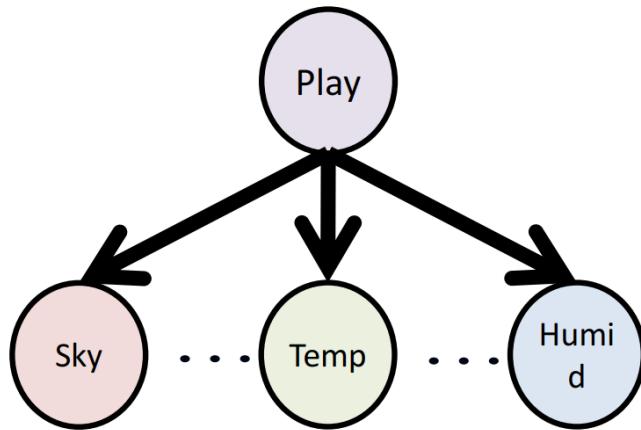
Laplace smoothing  
is applied

Sky	Play?	P(Sky   Play)
sunny	yes	4/5
rainy	yes	1/5
sunny	no	1/3
rainy	no	2/3

Temp	Play?	P(Temp   Play)
warm	yes	4/5
cold	yes	1/5
warm	no	1/3
cold	no	2/3

Humid	Play?	P(Humid   Play)
high	yes	3/5
norm	yes	2/5
high	no	2/3
norm	no	1/3

# Example Using NB for Classification



Play?	P(Play)
yes	3/4
no	1/4

Temp	Play?	P(Temp   Play)
warm	yes	4/5
cold	yes	1/5
warm	no	1/3
cold	no	2/3

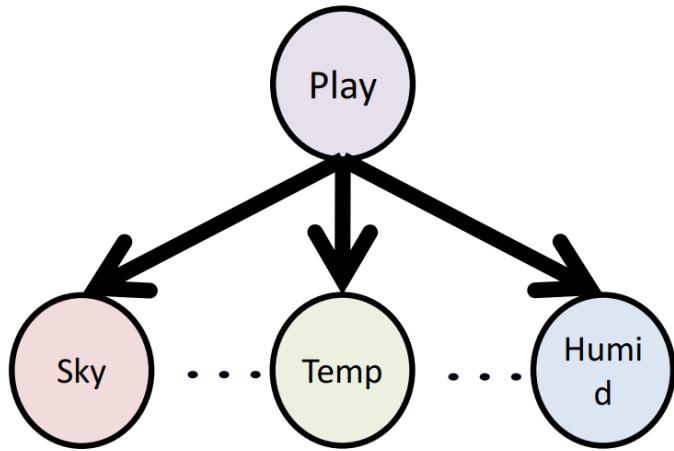
Sky	Play?	P(Sky   Play)
sunny	yes	4/5
rainy	yes	1/5
sunny	no	1/3
rainy	no	2/3

Humid	Play?	P(Humid   Play)
high	yes	3/5
norm	yes	2/5
high	no	2/3
norm	no	1/3

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \max_{y_k} \log P(Y = y_k) + \sum_{j=1}^d \log P(X_j = x_j \mid Y = y_k)$$

**Goal:** Predict label for  $\mathbf{x} = (\text{rainy}, \text{warm}, \text{normal})$

# Example Using NB for Classification



Predict label for:

$\mathbf{x} = (\text{rainy}, \text{warm}, \text{normal})$

Play?	P(Play)
yes	3/4
no	1/4

Temp	Play?	P(Temp   Play)
warm	yes	4/5
cold	yes	1/5
warm	no	1/3
cold	no	2/3

Sky	Play?	P(Sky   Play)
sunny	yes	4/5
rainy	yes	1/5
sunny	no	1/3
rainy	no	2/3

Humid	Play?	P(Humid   Play)
high	yes	3/5
norm	yes	2/5
high	no	2/3
norm	no	1/3

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\text{play} | \mathbf{x}) &\propto \log P(\text{play}) + \log P(\text{rainy} | \text{play}) + \log P(\text{warm} | \text{play}) + \log P(\text{normal} | \text{play}) \\
 &\propto \log 3/4 + \log 1/5 + \log 4/5 + \log 2/5 = -1.319 \quad \text{predict PLAY}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\neg\text{play} | \mathbf{x}) &\propto \log P(\neg\text{play}) + \log P(\text{rainy} | \neg\text{play}) + \log P(\text{warm} | \neg\text{play}) + \log P(\text{normal} | \neg\text{play}) \\
 &\propto \log 1/4 + \log 2/3 + \log 1/3 + \log 1/3 = -1.732
 \end{aligned}$$

# Continuous features (Gaussian Naive Bayes)

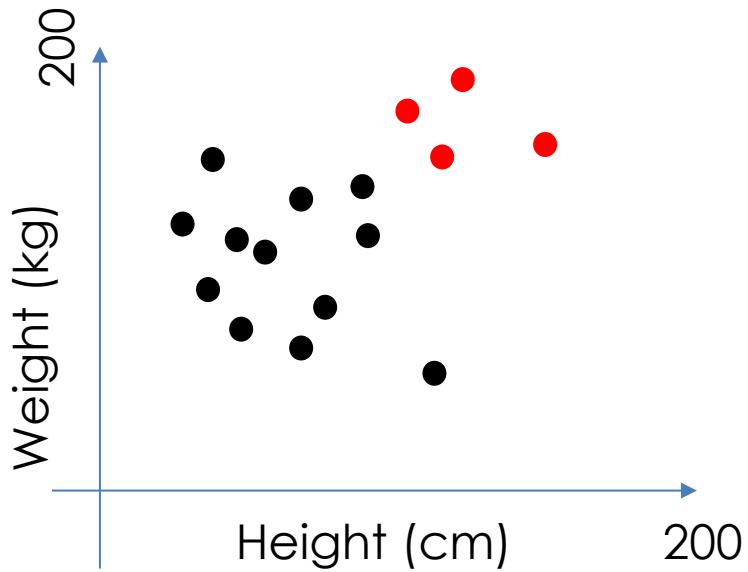
---

- Suppose the training data contains a continuous attribute  $x$
- We first segment the data by the class, and then compute the mean and variance of  $x$  in each class
- For each class, compute

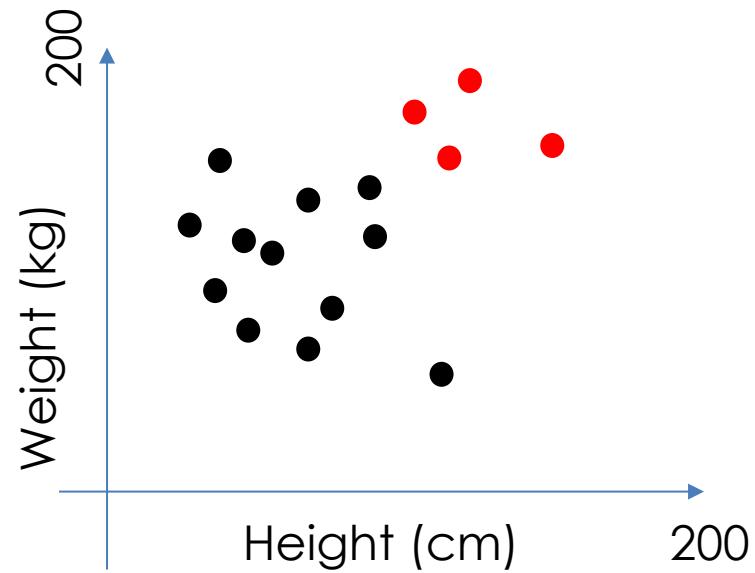
$\mu_k$  : the mean of  $x$  in class  $C_k$

$\sigma_k^2$  : the variance of  $x$  in class  $C_k$

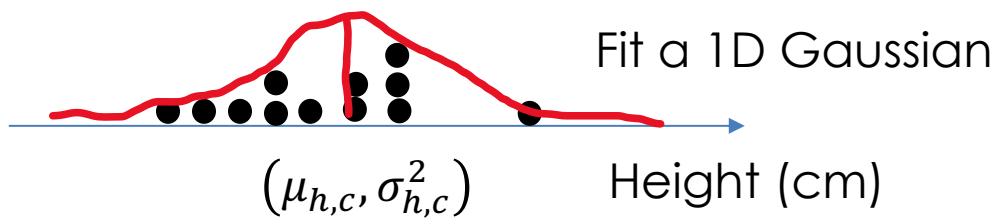
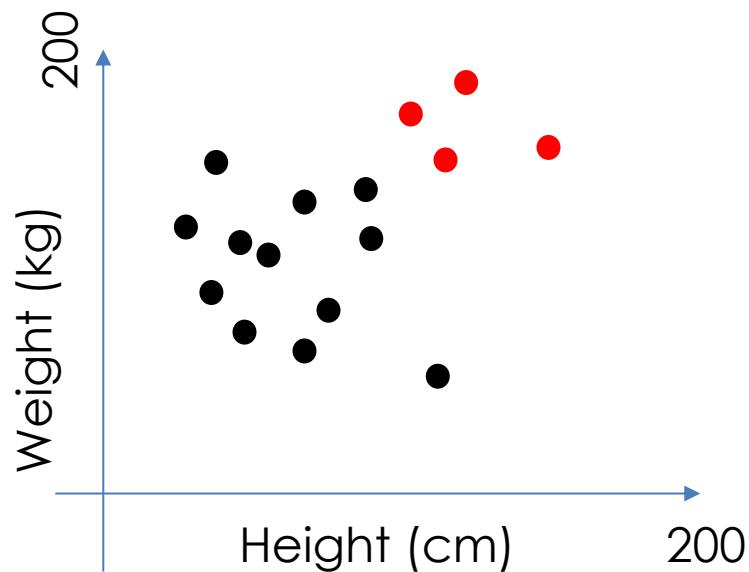
- 
- Data point for child class
  - Data point for adult class

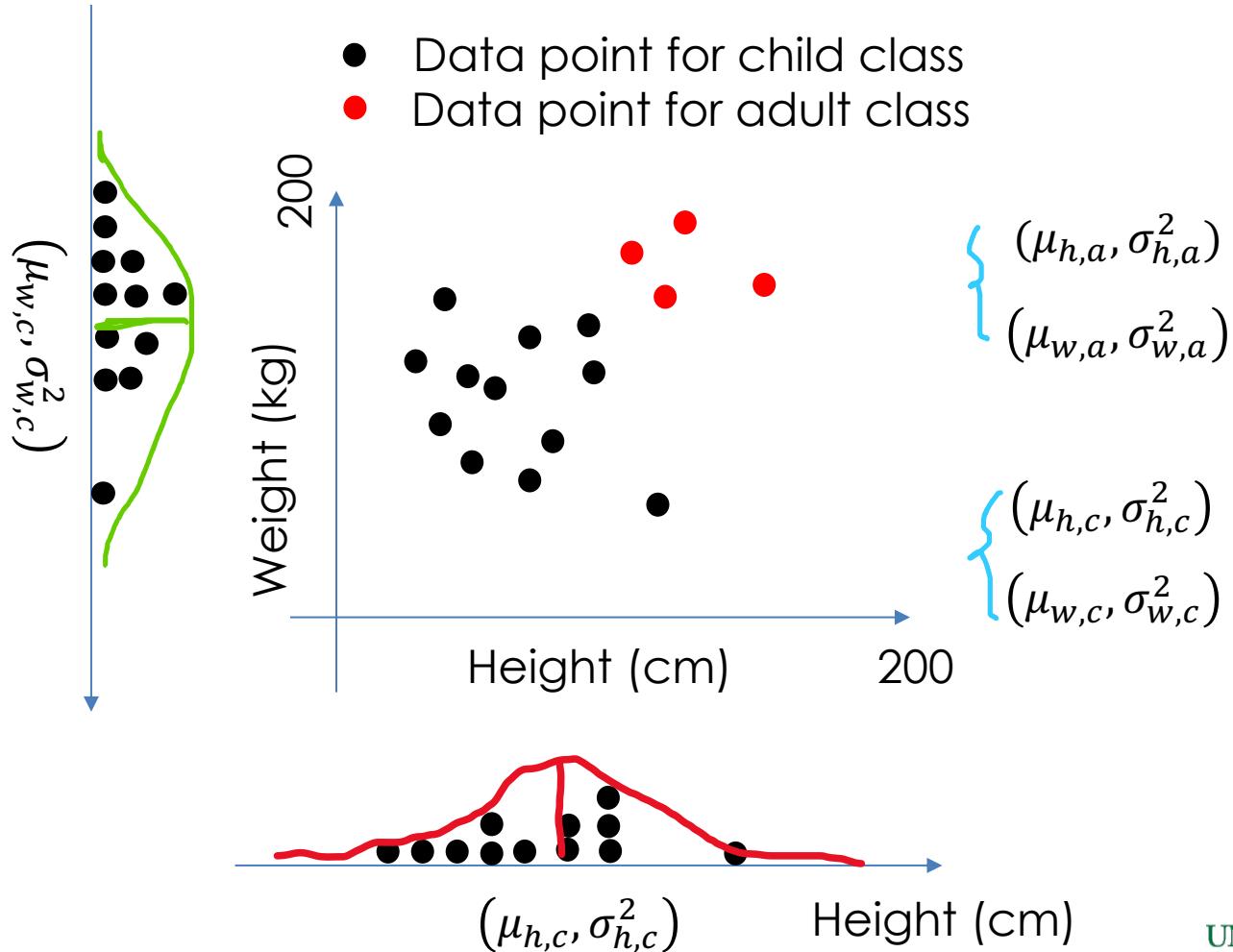


- 
- Data point for child class
  - Data point for adult class

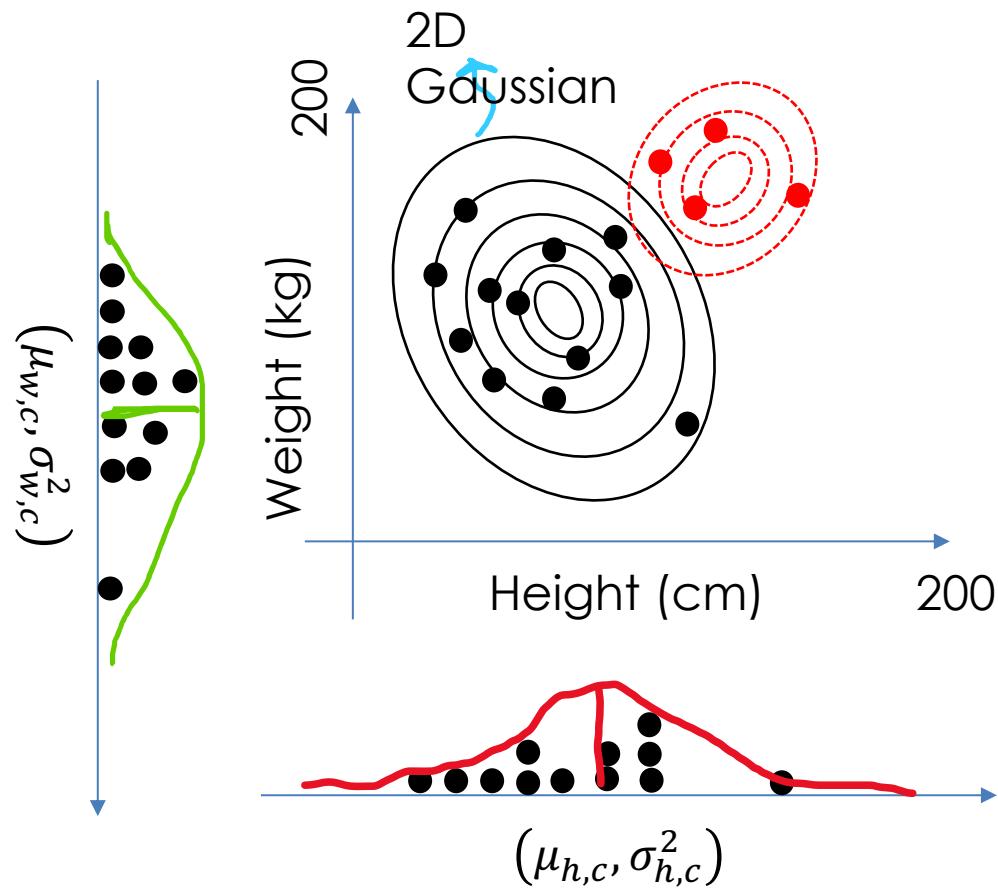


- 
- Data point for child class
  - Data point for adult class





- 
- Data point for child class
  - Data point for adult class



# Example

---

- Example

Problem: classify whether a given person is **a male or a female** based on the measured features. The features include height, weight, and foot size.

Person	height (feet)	weight (lbs)	foot size(inches)
male	6	180	12
male	5.92 (5'11")	190	11
male	5.58 (5'7")	170	12
male	5.92 (5'11")	165	10
female	5	100	6
female	5.5 (5'6")	150	8
female	5.42 (5'5")	130	7
female	5.75 (5'9")	150	9