

# Statistical Natural Language Processing

## Classification

Çağrı Çöltekin

University of Tübingen  
Seminar für Sprachwissenschaft

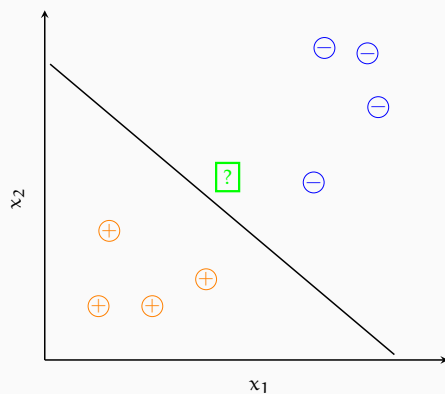
Summer Semester 2018

## When/why do we do classification

- Is a given email spam or not?
- What is the gender of the author of a document?
- Is a product review positive or negative?
- Who is the author of a document?
- What is the subject of an article?
- ...

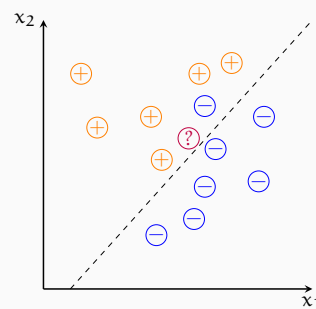
As opposed to regression the outcome is a 'category'.

## The task



## A quick survey of some solutions

(Linear) discriminant functions

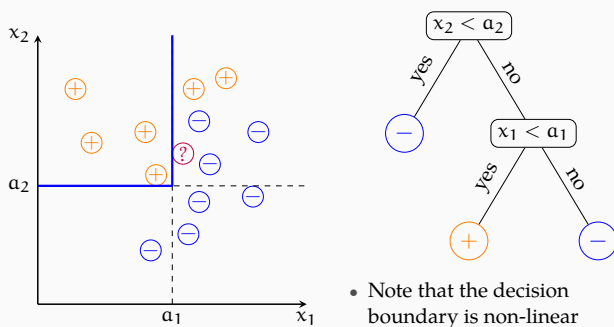


- Find a **discriminant** function ( $f$ ) that separates the training instance best (for a definition of 'best')
- Use the discriminant to predict the label of unknown instances

$$\hat{y} = \begin{cases} \oplus & f(\mathbf{x}) > 0 \\ \ominus & f(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \end{cases}$$

## A quick survey of some solutions

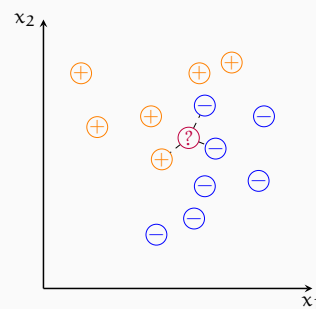
Decision trees



- Note that the decision boundary is non-linear

## A quick survey of some solutions

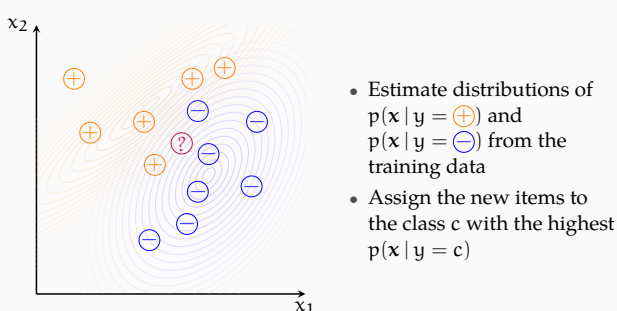
Instance/memory based methods



- No training: just memorize the instances
- During test time, decide based on the  $k$  nearest neighbors
- Like decision trees, **kNN** is non-linear
- It can also be used for regression

## A quick survey of some solutions

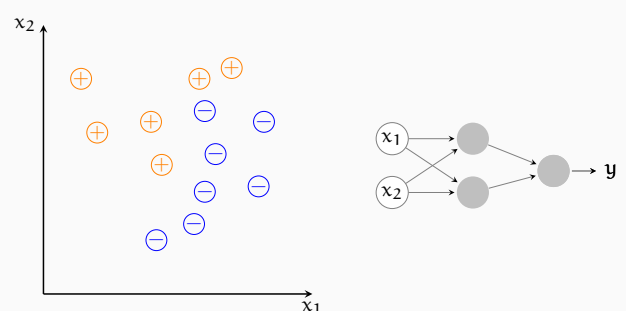
Probability-based solutions



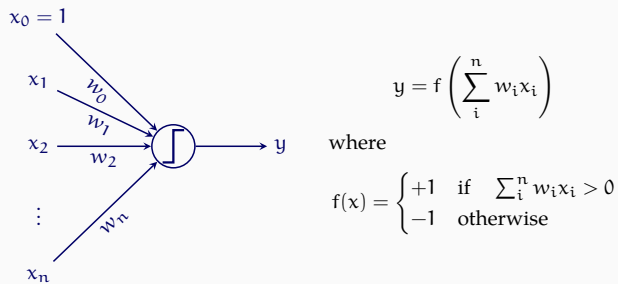
- Estimate distributions of  $p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \oplus)$  and  $p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \ominus)$  from the training data
- Assign the new items to the class  $c$  with the highest  $p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = c)$

## A quick survey of some solutions

Artificial neural networks

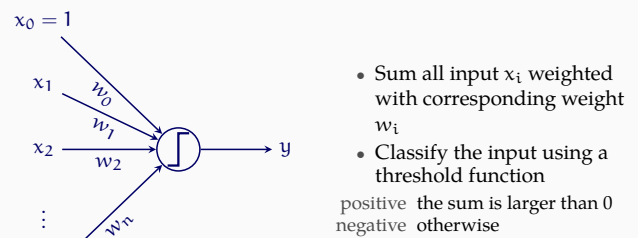


## The perceptron



Similar to the *intercept* in linear models, an additional input  $x_0$  which is always set to one is often used (called *bias* in ANN literature.)

## The perceptron: in plain words



## Learning with perceptron

- We do not update the parameters if classification is correct
- For misclassified examples, we try to minimize

$$E(w) = -\sum_i w x_i y_i$$

where  $i$  ranges over all misclassified examples

- Perceptron algorithm updates the weights such that

$$w \leftarrow w - \eta \nabla E(w)$$

$$w \leftarrow w + \eta x_i y_i$$

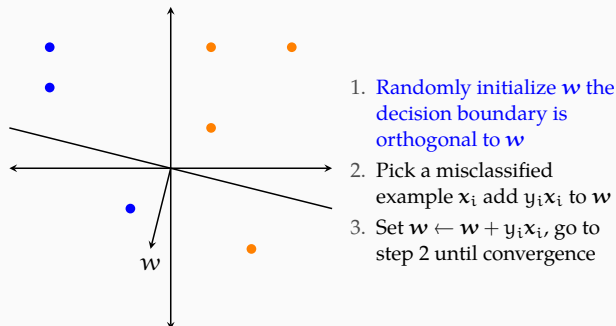
for a misclassified example ( $\eta$  is the learning rate)

## The perceptron algorithm

- The perceptron algorithm can be
  - online update weights for a single misclassified example
  - batch updates weights for all misclassified examples at once
- The perceptron algorithm converges to the global minimum if the classes are *linearly separable*
- If the classes are not linearly separable, the perceptron algorithm will not stop
- We do not know whether the classes are linearly separable or not before the algorithm converges

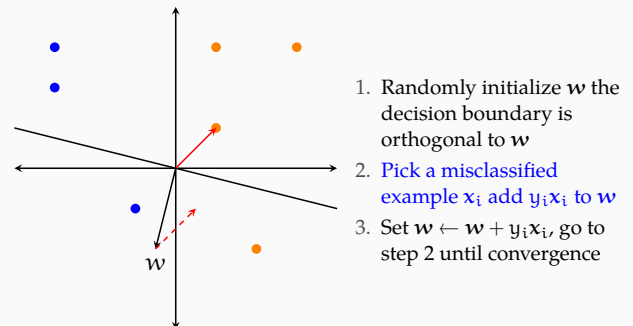
## Perceptron algorithm (online)

demonstration



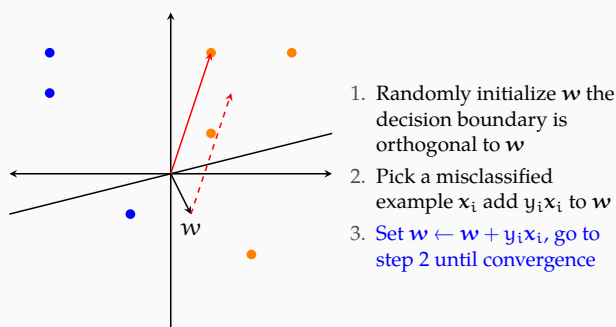
## Perceptron algorithm (online)

demonstration



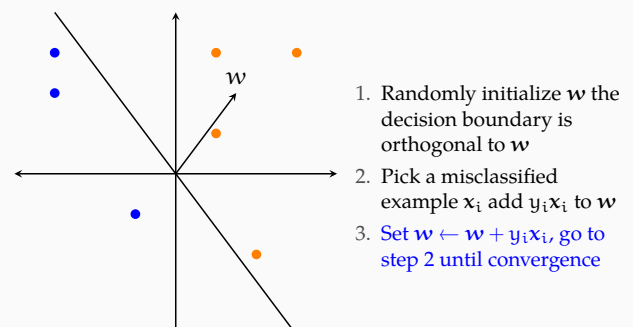
## Perceptron algorithm (online)

demonstration



## Perceptron algorithm (online)

demonstration



Note that with every update the set of misclassified examples change

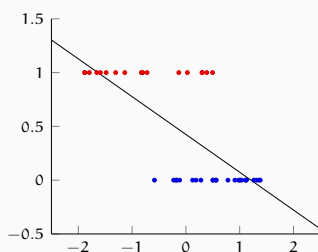
## Perceptron: a bit of history

- The perceptron was developed in late 1950's and early 1960's (Rosenblatt 1958)
- It caused excitement in many fields including computer science, artificial intelligence, cognitive science
- The excitement (and funding) died away in early 1970's (after the criticism by Minsky and Papert 1969)
- The main issue was the fact that the perceptron algorithm cannot handle problems that are not linearly separable

## Logistic regression

- Logistic *regression* is a *classification* method
- In logistic regression, we fit a model that predicts  $P(y | x)$
- Logistic regression is an extension of linear regression
  - it is a member of the family of models called **generalized linear models**
- Typically formulated for binary classification, but it has a natural extension to multiple classes
- The multi-class logistic regression is often called *maximum-entropy model* (or max-ent) in the NLP literature

## Why not linear regression?



- What is  $P(y | x = 2)$ ?
- Is RMS error appropriate?

## Fixing the outcome: transforming the output variable

Instead of predicting the probability  $p$ , we predict **logit(p)**

$$\hat{y} = \text{logit}(p) = \log \frac{p}{1-p} = w_0 + w_1 x$$

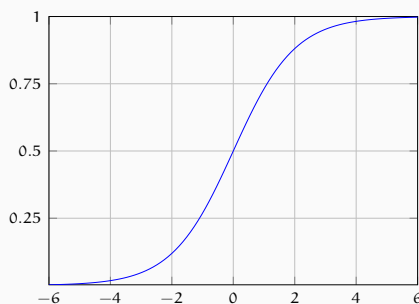
- $\frac{p}{1-p}$  (odds) is bounded between 0 and  $\infty$
- $\log \frac{p}{1-p}$  (log odds) is bounded between  $-\infty$  and  $\infty$
- we can estimate  $\text{logit}(p)$  with regression, and convert it to a probability using the inverse of logit

$$\hat{p} = \frac{e^{w_0 + w_1 x}}{1 + e^{w_0 + w_1 x}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w_0 - w_1 x}}$$

which is called **logistic** function (or sometimes **sigmoid** function, with some ambiguity).

## Logistic function

$$\text{logistic}(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$



## How to fit a logistic regression model

with maximum-likelihood estimation

$$P(y = 1 | x) = p = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-wx}} \quad P(y = 0 | x) = 1 - p = \frac{e^{-wx}}{1 + e^{-wx}}$$

The likelihood of the training set is,

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}) = \prod_i p^{y_i} (1 - p)^{1 - y_i}$$

In practice, we maximize log likelihood, or minimize  $-\log$  likelihood:

$$-\log \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}) = -\sum_i y_i \log p + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - p)$$

## How to fit a logistic regression model (2)

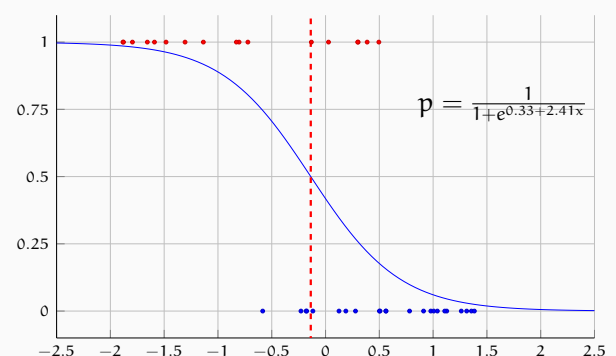
- Bad news: there is no analytic solution
- Good news: the (negative) log likelihood is a convex function
- We can use iterative methods such as *gradient descent* to find parameters that maximize the (log) likelihood
- Using gradient descent, we repeat

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \alpha \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$$

until convergence,  $\alpha$  is called the *learning rate*

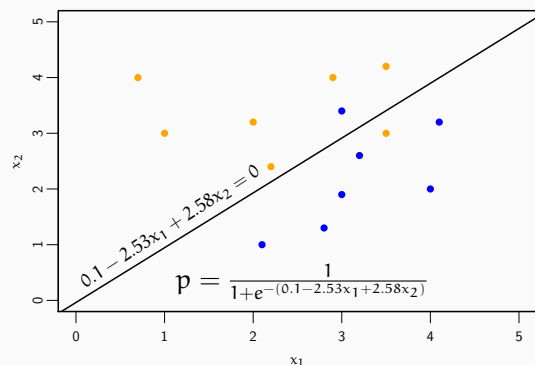
## Example logistic-regression

with single predictor



## Another example

two predictors



## Logistic regression as a generalized linear model

Short divergence to statistics

Logistic regression is a special case of *generalized linear models* (GLM). GLMs are expressed with,

$$g(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} + \epsilon$$

- The function  $g()$  is called the *link function*
- $\epsilon$  is distributed according to a distribution from *exponential family*
- For logistic regression,  $g()$  is the logit function,  $\epsilon$  is distributed binomially

## Naive Bayes classifier

- Naive Bayes (NB) classifier is a well-known simple classifier
- It was found to be effective on a number tasks, primarily in *document classification*
- Popularized by practical spam detection applications
- Naive* part comes from the strong independent assumption
- Bayes* part comes from use of Bayes' formula for inverting conditional probabilities
- However, learning is (typically) 'not really' Bayesian

## Naive Bayes: estimation

- Given a set of features  $\mathbf{x}$ , we want to know whether the class  $c$  of the object we want to classify
- During prediction time we pick the class,  $\hat{c}$

$$\hat{c} = \arg \max_c P(c | \mathbf{x})$$

- Instead of directly estimating the conditional probability, we invert it using the Bayes' formula

$$\hat{c} = \arg \max_c \frac{p(\mathbf{x} | c)p(c)}{p(\mathbf{x})} = \arg \max_c p(\mathbf{x} | c)p(c)$$

- Now the task becomes estimating  $p(\mathbf{x} | c)$  and  $p(c)$

## Naive Bayes: estimation (cont.)

- Class distribution,  $p(c)$ , is estimated using the MLE on the training set
- With many features,  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $p(\mathbf{x} | c)$  is difficult to estimate
- Naive Bayes estimator makes a conditional independence assumption: given the class, we assume that the features are independent of each other

$$p(\mathbf{x} | c) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n | c) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | c)$$

## Naive Bayes: estimation (cont.)

- The probability distributions  $p(x_i | c)$  and  $p(c)$  are typically estimated using MLE (count and divide)
- A *smoothing* technique may be used for unknown features (e.g., words)
- Note that  $p(x_i | c)$  can be

binomial e.g., whether a word occurs in the document or not  
 categorical e.g., estimated using relative frequency of words  
 continuous assuming the data is distributed according to a known distribution

## a simple example: spam detection

Training set:

document	label
$w_1 w_2 w_3 w_4$	not spam
$w_1 w_2 w_5$	spam
$w_1 w_4 w_1$	not spam
$w_3 w_4 w_5$	not spam
$w_2 w_4 w_5 w_6$	spam

Test on:

$w_1 w_4 w_5$	not spam
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How about:

$w_1 w_5 w_7$	not spam
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## Classifying classification methods

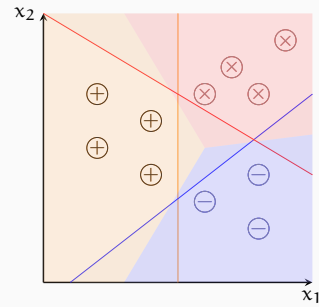
another short digression

- Some classification algorithms are non-probabilistic, discriminative: they return a label for a given input. Examples: perceptron, SVMs, decision trees
- Some classification algorithms are discriminative, probabilistic: they estimate the conditional probability distribution  $p(c | \mathbf{x})$  directly. Examples: logistic regression, (most) neural networks
- Some classification algorithms are generative: they estimate the joint distribution  $p(c, \mathbf{x})$ . Examples: naive Bayes, Hidden Markov Models, (some) neural models

## More than two classes

- Some algorithms can naturally be extended to multiple labels
- Others tend to work well in binary classification
- Any binary classifier can be turned into a k-way classifier by
  - training k **one-vs.-rest** (OvR) or **one-vs.-all** (OvA) classifiers. Decisions are made based on the class with the highest confidence score.
  - This approach is feasible for classifiers that assign a weight or probability to the individual classes
  - training  $\frac{k(k-1)}{2}$  **one-vs.-one** (OvO) classifiers. Decisions are made based on majority voting

## One vs. Rest



- For 3 classes we fit 3 classifiers separating one class from the rest
- Some regions of the feature space will be ambiguous
- We can assign labels based on probability or weight value, if classifier returns one
- One-vs.-one and majority voting is another option

## Multi-class logistic regression

- Generalizing logistic regression to more than two classes is straightforward
- We estimate,

$$P(C_k | x) = \frac{e^{w_k x}}{\sum_j e^{w_j x}}$$

Where  $C_k$  is the  $k^{\text{th}}$  class.  $j$  iterates over all classes.

- The function is also known as the *softmax* function, used frequently in neural network models as well
- This model is also known as a *log-linear model*, *Maximum entropy model*, *Boltzmann machine*

## Summary

- We discussed two basic classification techniques: perceptron, logistic regression, naive Bayes
- We left out many others: SVMs, decision trees, ...
- We will discuss some (non-linear) classification methods later

Next

Wed practical session: solutions/discussion of assignment 1

Fri ML evaluation, quick summary so far

Mon Break

## Additional reading, references, credits

- Hastie, Tibshirani, and Friedman (2009) covers logistic regression in section 4.4 and perceptron in section 4.5
- Jurafsky and Martin (2009) explains it in section 6.6, and it is moved to its own chapter (7) in the draft third edition



Hastie, Trevor, Robert Tibshirani, and Jerome Friedman (2009). *The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction*. Second. Springer series in statistics. Springer-Verlag New York. isbn: 9780387848567. URL: <http://web.stanford.edu/~hastie/ElemStatLearn/>.



Jurafsky, Daniel and James H. Martin (2009). *Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition*. second. Pearson Prentice Hall. isbn: 978-0-13-504196-3.



Minsky, Marvin and Seymour Papert (1969). *Perceptrons: An introduction to computational geometry*. MIT Press.



Rosenblatt, Frank (1958). "The perceptron: a probabilistic model for information storage and organization in the brain." In: *Psychological review* 65.6, pp. 386–408.