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Laplacian Smoothing

We usually compute the probability of a word given a class as follows:

$$P(w_i | class) = \frac{freq(w_i, class)}{N_{class}} \quad class \in \{ Positive, Negative \}$$

However, if a word does not appear in the training, then it automatically gets a probability of 0, to fix this we add smoothing as follows

$$P(w_i | class) = \frac{freq(w_i, class) + 1}{(N_{class} + V)}$$

Note that we added a 1 in the numerator, and since there are V words to normalize, we add V in the denominator.

N_{class} : frequency of all words in class

V : number of unique words in vocabulary

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