

Project 1 Report

2. The Gaussian naïve Bayes classifier assumes that numeric attributes come from a Gaussian distribution. Is this assumption always true for the numeric attributes in this dataset? Identify some cases where the Gaussian assumption is violated and describe any evidence (or lack thereof) that this has some effect on the NB classifier's predictions.

The assumption is not always true. There are some cases that the assumption is violated:

- The calculation of likelihood is attribute-wised which I did in the project. However, if the prediction needs to be based on instances, we should not assume the points over an instance are normally distributed because they are positions of body parts, which does not have specific meaning in the math sense.
- We use the coordinate system to support the calculation. However, if the unit or quadrant is not consistent between instances, we cannot assume the normality.
- For Normal distribution, minor missing values will not affect the overall pattern as long as the sample size is huge enough. However, for our dataset, because the sample size is relatively small, and the missing value is not always meaningless (might be body part overlapped) which can affect the model learning. Therefore, when there are too many missing values and with small samples, we cannot assume normality.

5. Naïve Bayes ignores missing values, but in pose recognition tasks the missing values can be informative. Missing values indicate that some part of the body was obscured and sometimes this is relevant to the pose (e.g., holding one hand behind the back). Are missing values useful for this task? Implement a method that incorporates information about missing values and demonstrate whether it changes the classification results.

In some cases, missing values are useful. For example, if an instance is missing two values, it might represent the hands and legs are overlapped. However, if there are too many of the missing values such as instance 38 in Figure 1 (all values are missing, infact), then the instance is useless because we cannot get any information out of it.

