Machine Learning Probabilistic Modeling

Mostafa S. Ibrahim
Teaching, Training and Coaching for more than a decade!

Artificial Intelligence & Computer Vision Researcher PhD from Simon Fraser University - Canada Bachelor / MSc from Cairo University - Egypt Ex-(Software Engineer / ICPC World Finalist)

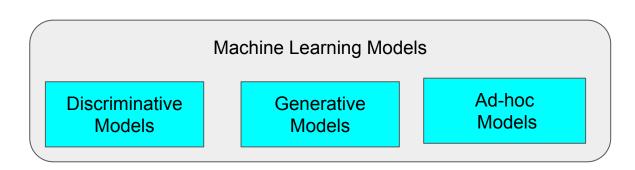


© 2023 All rights reserved.

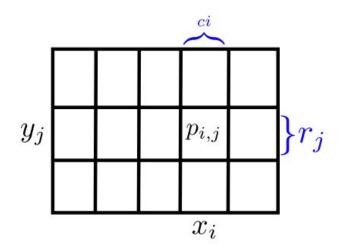
Please do not reproduce or redistribute this work without permission from the author

Keep in mind

- This is a high level lecture to show you another perspective in ML
 - No intention to dig in any of these details
 - It will be part of your later journey
- Most of ML models are either Discriminative (this course) or Generative Models (probabilistic nature).
 - A few models are neither (e.g. K-means, learning policy in reinforcement learning and some anomaly detection algorithms, etc)



Recall: Probability



Joint Probability

$$P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \frac{n_{i,j}}{N}$$

Marginal Probability

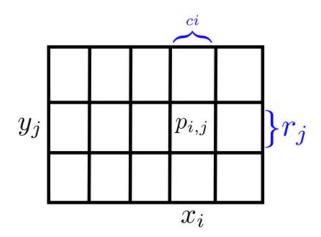
$$P(X = x_i) = \frac{c_i}{N}$$

Conditional Probability

$$P(Y = y_j \mid X = x_i) = \frac{n_{i,j}}{c_i}$$

Src: Bishop

Recall: Probability



Product Rule

$$P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \frac{n_{i,j}}{N} = \frac{n_{i,j}}{c_i} \cdot \frac{c_i}{N}$$

= $P(Y = y_j | X = x_i)P(X = x_i)$

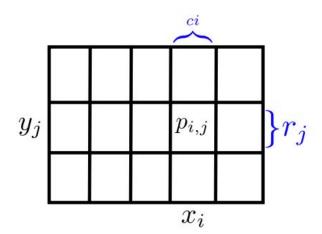
Marginal Probability

$$P(X = x_i) = \frac{c_i}{N}$$

Conditional Probability

$$P(Y = y_j \mid X = x_i) = \frac{n_{i,j}}{c_i}$$

Recall: Probability



Product Rule

$$P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \frac{n_{i,j}}{N} = \frac{n_{i,j}}{c_i} \cdot \frac{c_i}{N}$$

= $P(Y = y_j | X = x_i)P(X = x_i)$

Marginal Probability

$$P(X = x_i) = \frac{c_i}{N}$$

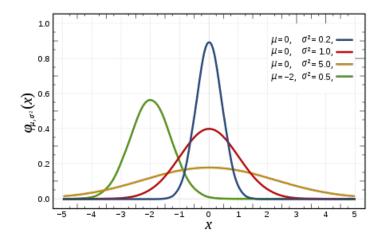
Conditional Probability

$$P(Y = y_j \mid X = x_i) = \frac{n_{i,j}}{c_i}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Sum Rule} & p(x) = \sum_y p(x,y) \\ \text{Product Rule} & p(x,y) = p(y\,|\,x)p(x) \end{array}$$

Recall: Probability Density Function

- A probability density function of continuous random variable, is a function
 whose value at any given sample in the sample space can be interpreted as
 providing a relative likelihood that the value of the random variable would be
 equal to that sample
- Below the Gaussian PDF



$$f(x)=rac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-rac{1}{2}(rac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2}$$

Question!

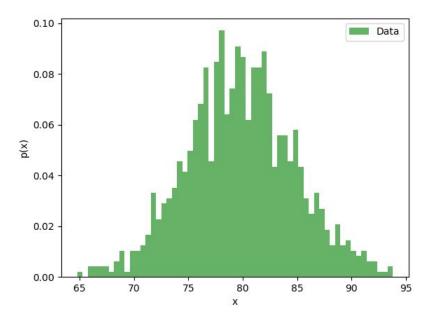
- Given a Gaussian distribution with mean 1 and sigma 0.5 and a sample x =
 0.25. How likely that sample belongs to (sampled from) this distribution?
- Simply evaluate the pdf N(x=0.25 | mean=1, std=0.5²) ≈0.0841
 - This is not a probability, but a density.
 - The higher the density, the more likely it is that x=0.25 was sampled from this Gaussian distribution.

$$f(0.25|1,0.5^2) = rac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi(0.5)^2}} \exp\left(-rac{(0.25-1)^2}{2(0.5)^2}
ight)$$

Question!

- Below is a gaussian $p(x|\theta)$ of students weights
 - \circ where θ is gaussian mean and sigma
- Given 3 independent samples, x1, x2, x3
- How likely all of them cam from this distribution?

• $p(x1|\theta) * p(x2|\theta) * p(x3|\theta)$



Likelihood

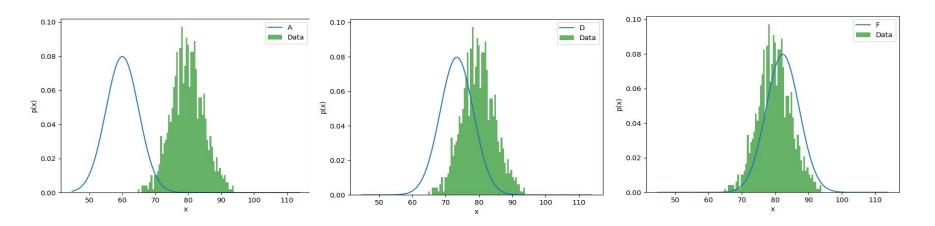
- Assume we have a dataset of N independent examples: X1, X2,, Xn
 - We know the data comes from some distribution, e.g. gaussian
- Given **parameters** (weights) θ of a distribution, what is the probability of observing the dataset?
 - Θ is fixed. Evaluate the data [reasoning context]
 - Intuitively, just multiply p(x) of all the values!

$$\mathcal{L}(heta|X) = P(X| heta) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i| heta)$$

- Another perspective L(θ|Data) Optimization context
 - \circ Given a dataset, how "likely" are different values of θ?
 - \blacksquare Likelihood of the parameters θ , given the observed data
 - \circ Data is fixed. Try different θ to pick the best θ using MLE (Optimization context)
 - \circ Not a probability function: integrate over different $\theta != 1$

Question!

- We have a dataset of 1000 samples below in green from unknown gaussian
- Which gaussian seems the one that used to sample them? A, D or F
- F. When we multiply all p(x), it will be higher than the others!
 - We expect most of the data to be at the mean + symmetry
 - \circ Little problem. Some value might be p(x) = 0! Hence likelihood = 0!

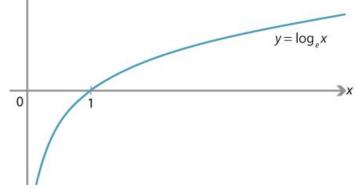


From Likelihood to Log-Likelihood

- Logarithm is monotonic, hence we can replace the multiplication of probabilities with the sum of logs of probabilities
 - We don't care about the exact values. Only relative value to compare

$$P(X| heta) = \prod_{i=1}^n ig(p(x_i|\mu,\sigma^2)ig)$$
 $\ell(\mu,\sigma^2) = \sum_{i=1}^n \logig(p(x_i|\mu,\sigma^2)ig)$

• Recall: log(a*b) = log(a) + log(b)



From Likelihood to Log-Likelihood

- We can use the log-likelihood score as an indicator for the likelihood data given a distribution
 - Below X is a an array

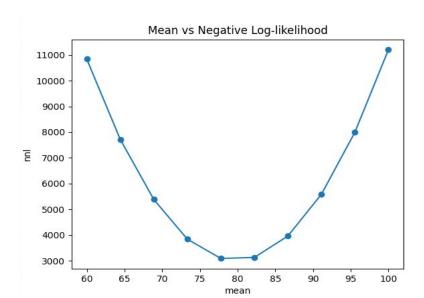
```
def gaussian(x, mu, sigma):
    return (1 / (np.sqrt(2 * np.pi * sigma ** 2))) * \
           np.exp(-0.5 * ((x - mu) / sigma) ** 2)
def likelihood gaussian(data, mu, sigma):
    return np.prod(gaussian(data, mu, sigma))
def log likelihood gaussian(data, mu, sigma):
    return np.sum(np.log(gaussian(data, mu, sigma)))
```

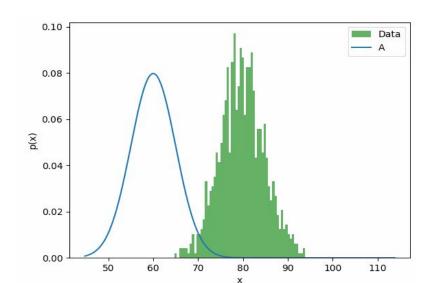
$$\prod_{i=1}^n \left(p(x_i|\mu,\sigma^2)\right)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(p(x_i | \mu, \sigma^2) \right)$$

Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

- The best gaussian representing the data is the one with the maximum likelihood. Let's try means in range [60-100] with fixed sigma=5
 - o Maximum likelihood is the same indicator as maximum log-likelihood
 - This is also the same as the minimum negative log-likelihood, as Max F = Min F





Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

- MLE is the most common approach to find the optimal parameters (weights) to fit a distribution (e.g. a gaussian) to a given data coming from unknown distribution
 - MLE find the parameter values that maximize the likelihood function
- How to implement
 - First decide the probability function P
 - E.g. bernoulli or gaussian
 - Second, apply F = -log(P)
 - Write down the derivative of F
 - Now, you have a function and its derivative, just apply gradient descent to find the minimum
 - The minimum represents the **best parameter estimation**
 - Play in the homework

$$\mathcal{L}(heta|X) = P(X| heta) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i| heta)$$

Why prefer log probabilities?!

- Numerical Stability
 - very small numbers ⇒ underflow / very large numbers ⇒ overflow
- Simplification
 - Multiplication to Addition: log(a*b) = log(a) + log(b)
 - Easier to model and compute, e.g. in likelihood
 - Division to Subtraction
- Differentiability: Gradient Descent friendly
- Interpretability
 - Exponential Families: Log probabilities yield simpler forms for these distributions
 - o Log-odds e.g. in logistic regression
 - Information Theory: Logarithms are the basis for entropy and information measures

MLE for Univariate Gaussian

- Given a dataset of a univariate X coming from a Gaussian distribution, the MLE is just the sample mean and variance of X
 - We can compute that analytically [see homework]
 - Maximum likelihood ignores parameter uncertainty (think of a single example)
- Biased sample variance issue
 - The finite sample mean is biased to the sample. But we know **population mean** is different
 - The bigger problem, the dataset variance is based on the biased dataset mean
 - There are approaches to reduce this bias due to finite sample size (e.g. **Bessel's correction**)
 - Divide by n-1 instead of n to convert biased variance to **unbiased** sample variance

Unbiased sample variance

$$s^2 = rac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - ar{x})^2 \quad \sigma^2 = rac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - ar{x})^2 \qquad s^2 = \left(rac{n}{n-1}
ight) \sigma^2$$

MLE variance (biased)

$$\sigma^2=rac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n(x_i-ar{x})^2$$

Convert MLE to unbiased

$$s^2 = \left(rac{n}{n-1}
ight)\sigma^2$$

Equivalence

- We can prove that minimizing the cross-entropy is equivalent to:
 - Minimizing KL divergence [homework]
 - Maximizing the likelihood = Maximizing the log likelihood
 - Why? the logarithm is monotonic
 - Maximizing the log likelihood = Minimizing the negative log-likelihood
 - Why? maximizing F = minimizing -F

Equivalence

- Assume a dataset of N examples over C classes for a multi-classifier
 - The likelihood function of **observing** the given set of **labels** given the **predictions**
 - Labels y are typically one-hot-encoding
 - Apply the -log
 - Switch 2 multiplications into 2 sums
 - Convert internal to yi log yi'
 - Add negative

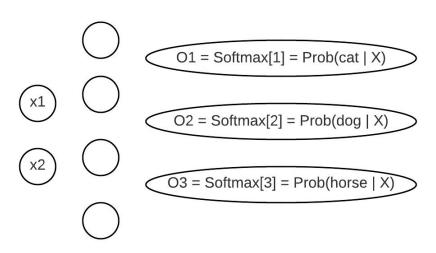
$$-\log(\mathcal{L}) = -\sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^C y_{ni} \log(\hat{y}_{ni})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{n=1}^N \prod_{i=1}^C \hat{y}_{ni}^{y_{ni}}$$

 This is the same as cross-entropy but over the whole N examples and move the negative to inside after the first sum!

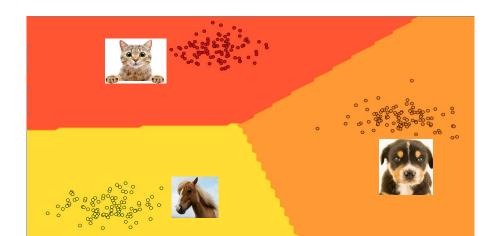
Probabilistic Formulation

- It is common to view the output of NN for classification as a conditional probability P(Y | X)
- **Probability (class=cat | img)** can modeled as a **function** (e.g. NN, logistic reg) that transforms **input** X into the output **probability** of being e.g. a cat



Discriminative Model

- A discriminative model discriminate (distinguish) between the values of the outcome
 - In classification (mainly) discriminate classes by finding their decision boundaries
- Examples
 - o Classifiers: logistic regression, NN, SVM, KNN, etc
 - Regressors: Linear regression, NN, SVR, KNN, etc.
- Modeled with P(Y|X)
 - X is the input
 - E.g. image, house features, etc
 - Y is a class for classification and continuous output variable for regression
 - Learns input vs output relationship



Generation

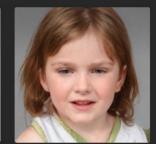
- What if I want the model to <u>generate</u> a new cat image not classify it?!
- What if a designer wants to describe a fancy scene and get an image?
- What if I have a text and wants to hear it with Trump voice?
- What if I want to chat with QA service like chatgpt or support services?
- What about code generation?
- This all requires the ability to generate!

Child joy person with blue eyes













Generative Examples





DALLE 2

Midjourney





concerned teen with depression sitting on a bench inside a tunnel 8k ultra high quality, realistic, detailed, clear lines --ar 4:5 --v 5 --q 2 --s 750

Generative Models

- Approaches that explicitly or implicitly model the distribution of (input, output)
 - Learn the joint probability distribution P(X,Y) or the data distribution P(X) itself
- Then, we can use it to generate new **synthetic** samples
 - In chat, like Chatgpt, we can generate (predict) the next word in a sequence
 - LLM: Large Language models
 - LaMDA: Language Model for Dialogue Applications
 - Generative AI (GenAI): learns to generate a content (e.g. image, audio, language).
 - Pretrained (Foundation) models are fine-tuned for more apps
 - You may give a prompt / <u>hallucination</u> is a big challenge
- Compared to discriminative models: Requires more data, more computationally expensive but can be used for more than discrimination
 - many old models can be very hard to compute or get a weak model due to strong assumptions
 - Outliers negatively affects the resulting model

Generative Models

- Assume we have input example X of n features
- And we have C labels
- We want to model P(C, X), which can be expressed with the <u>chain rule</u> as
 - Chain rule: P(A, B) = P(B|A) P(A) = P(A|B) P(B)

$$egin{aligned} p(C_k, x_1, \dots, x_n) &= p(x_1, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ &= p(x_1 \mid x_2, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ p(x_2, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ &= p(x_1 \mid x_2, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ p(x_2 \mid x_3, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ p(x_3, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ &= \dots \ &= p(x_1 \mid x_2, \dots, x_n, C_k) \ p(x_2 \mid x_3, \dots, x_n, C_k) \cdots p(x_{n-1} \mid x_n, C_k) \ p(x_n \mid C_k) \ p(C_k) \end{aligned}$$

Generative Models Approaches

- Gaussian Mixture Models
- Naive Bayes
- Hidden Markov Models
- Deep Learning
 - Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
 - Variational Autoencoders (VAEs)
 - <u>Diffusion</u> models (e.g. Stable Diffusion)
 - Autoregressive models (e.g. GPT: Generative Pre-trained Transformers)

Question!

- You just enrolled in the CS department at Cairo University
- What might be the percentages of girls?
- In the morning in the first class, there were 39 man and 1 girl!
- One of the class students is coming from 200 meters far toward the class
- What is the probability of being a girl based on the data you have now?
- At 100 meters, seems the person is dressing a skirt ...maybe!
- Is the the probability of being a girl the same? Increasing? decreasing?
- At 50 meters, seems the person has a very long hair
- Is the the probability of being a girl the same? Increasing? decreasing?

Prior, Likelihood and Posterior

- Tip: ignore below beta calculations:)
- Prior: Your belief before data.
 - So we assumed girls are very close to 50% as we see in many classes
 - o It is our **prior** belief about the data without seeing the data e.g. Beta(50, 50)
- Likelihood: How the available data changes your belief.
 - Now, we realized current data is 1/40 = 0.025 of being a girl
 - But we feel skeptical being that far from what we think about the percentages
- Posterior: Your updated belief after considering the data.
 - o To avoid data **extreme** conclusions, use your prior to update your belief
 - E.g. $\underline{\text{Beta}}(50+1,50+39) \Rightarrow E[\text{Beta}()] = (50+1)/(50+1+50+39) = 0.364$
 - Update the belief when you saw a skirt ⇒ 0.70
 - Update the belief when you saw a long hair ⇒ 0.85

Bayes' Theorem

- Bayes' Theorem: Update the probability estimate with more data (evidence)
- If X is the input, Y is the output, K is one of the classes

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Posterior Probability} &= \frac{\text{Likelihood} \times \text{Prior Probability}}{\text{Evidence}} \end{aligned}$$

$$P(y = k | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{x} | y = k)P(y = k)}{P(\mathbf{x})}$$

$$P(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k} P(\mathbf{x}|y=k)P(y=k)$$

Bayes' Theorem: Simple example

- We have an email that has the word "X = Free". We want to know to what degree the email can be a "Y= Spam" because of this word
 - o Prior Probability P(Y): Our initial belief that 20% of emails are spam
 - **Likelihood P(X|Y)**: We got new information: email's text with **word free** \Rightarrow P(free | spam).
 - How probable the observed data is, given a set of parameters in the model: P(X|θ)
 - If the email is really spam, what is the probability to see word free?
 - Observe It is P(Input | Output) flipped
 - Evidence P(X): The overall probability of observing word "free", regardless spam or not
 - We loop on all possible classes to marginalize
 - Posterior Probability P(Y|X): The updated probability of being spam with word "free"
 - P(Output | Input): is what we want for the conditional distribution
- Prior Probability (Spam) = 0.2 / Prior Probability (Not Spam) = 0.8
 - Sums to 1. For example our dataset has 200 spam emails and 800 non-spam emails
- Likelihood ("free" | Spam) = 0.7 / Likelihood ("free" | Not Spam) = 0.1

Bayes' Theorem: Simple example

- Evidence (Marginal distribution / denominator)
 - o Iterate on possible classes: spam / !spam
 - \circ P(X) = (0.2×0.7) + (0.8×0.1) = 0.14 + 0.08 = 0.22

$$P(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k} P(\mathbf{x}|y=k)P(y=k)$$

Posterior Probability (Spam | "free")

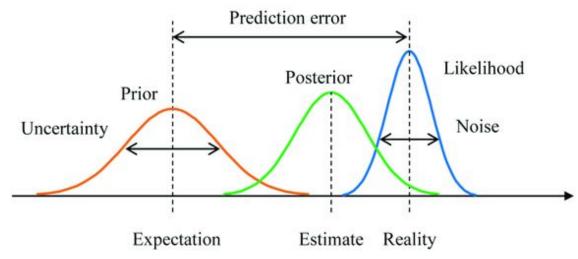
$$\circ$$
 0.7 x 0.2 / 0.22 = 0.64

$$P(y = k|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{x}|y = k)P(y = k)}{P(\mathbf{x})}$$

- Overall
 - Before we see a new email: priority probability of spam is 0.2
 - When we saw a an email with word "free", the updated probability jumped to 0.64
- Generative Models
 - $P(X, Y) = P(X \mid Y) P(Y) \Rightarrow$ Likelihood x Prior \Rightarrow computed in Bayes' theorem from data
 - o Parameter Estimation of the distribution may be done with Maximum Likelihood Estimation
 - Bayesian Inference: parameters and predictions are treated as probability distributions

From Discriminative to Generative

- Generative models model P(X,Y) or P(X|Y) + P(Y).
 - o In the Bayesian framework, these prior probabilities play a crucial role
- Discriminative models focus primarily on the likelihood, in the form P(Y | X),
 while bayes rule enhance the likelihood with the prior



Naive Bayes Classifier: A Generative Model

 Naive Bayes classifier is a classification algorithm: it has a naive assumption that all features are mutually independent, conditional on the kth category

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

Thus, the joint model can be expressed as

$$egin{aligned} p(C_k \mid x_1, \dots, x_n) &= \propto p(C_k, x_1, \dots, x_n) \ &\propto p(C_k) \; p(x_1 \mid C_k) \; p(x_2 \mid C_k) \; p(x_3 \mid C_k) \; \cdots \ &\propto p(C_k) \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid C_k) \; , \ &p(C_k \mid x_1, \dots, x_n) &= rac{1}{Z} p(C_k) \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid C_k) & Z &= p(\mathbf{x}) &= \sum_{i=1}^n p(C_k) \; p(\mathbf{x} \mid C_k) \end{aligned}$$

Naive Bayes Classifier: Implementation

- Assume we have data
 - X: (300, 5): 300 examples, each of 5 features
 - Y: 3 classes 0, 1, 2

- $P(y = k | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{x} | y = k)P(y = k)}{P(\mathbf{x})}$
- Prior Probability P(Y): Let's use the frequency of each class
- Assume the underlying probability is gaussian
 - For each feature, compute its mean and std. This is its pdf (using MLE)
- Likelihood P(X[i]|θ): Given a sample x, we can use gaussian pdf to evaluate
 - How probable this X[i] in this gaussian distribution
- P(X): it is just a constant for a classifier
 - So, if we ignored, we have unscaled probabilities. We just needs the maximum
- Posterior Probability P(Y|X): likelihood x prior

```
def gaussian pdf(x, mean, std):
    return (1 / (np.sqrt(2 * np.pi * std ** 2))) * \
            np.exp(-((x - mean) ** 2) / (2 * std ** 2))
def get data():
    # Generate data that represents 3 classes
    # for each class, generate 100 examples each of 5 features
    # all data follows gaussian (mean, sgima) are provided
    X0 = np.random.normal(2, 1, (100, 5))
    X1 = np.random.normal(4, 1, (100, 5))
    X2 = np.random.normal(6, 1, (100, 5))
    # Combine into one dataset
    X = np.vstack([X0, X1, X2]) # 300 x 5
    y = np.array([0] * 100 + [1] * 100 + [2] * 100) # classes
    # y: 100 0, then 100 1, then 100 2 for ground truth
    # Create some test data
    X \text{ test} = \text{np.array}([[1.5, 2, 2.2, 1.9, 2.1],
                       [4.2, 3.8, 4.5, 3.9, 4.0],
                       [6.1, 5.9, 6.0, 6.2, 6.1]
```

return X, y, X_test

Gaussian Probability Density Function

X, y, X_test = get_data()
gnb = GNB()
gnb.train(X, y)
print(gnb.predict(X_test))

 $f(x)=rac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-rac{1}{2}(rac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2}$

```
def train(self, X, y):
    self.classes = np.unique(y) # [0, 1, 2]
    self.means, self.stds, self.priors = {}, {}, {}

    for c in self.classes:
        X_c = X[y == c]
        self.means[c] = np.mean(X_c, axis=0)
        self.stds[c] = np.std(X_c, axis=0)
        self.priors[c] = len(X c) / len(X) # frequency
```

- Notice, we collect all the data of cth class
- This represents the conditional dependency on the class P(x | c)
 - Recall: conditional implies cut only those examples

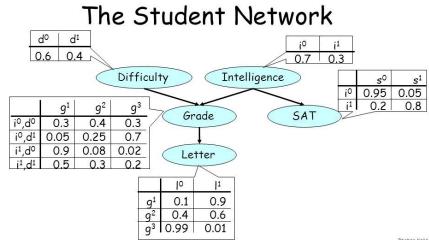
```
def predict(self, X):
              num samples = X.shape[0]
24
              preds = np.zeros(num samples)
25
26
               for i in range(num samples):
                   posteriors = {}
28
29
                   for c in self.classes:
30
                       # compute probability of each independent feature
31
                       props = gaussian pdf(X[i, :], self.means[c], self.stds[c])
32
                       # multiply 5 props to get likelihood
33
                       likelihood = np.prod(props)
34
                       # compute posteriors, without constant Z
35
                       posteriors[c] = likelihood * self.priors[c]
36
37
                   # return the index of the max class value
38
                   preds[i] = max(posteriors, key=lambda k: posteriors[k])
39
40
               return preds
```

Frequentist vs. Bayesian inference

- Frequentist and Bayesian are two different approaches to statistical inference, and both have their merits and disadvantages.
 - o used for making predictions, estimating parameters, and testing hypotheses
- Frequentist Inference
 - Views probability as the long-term frequency of events
 - Considers parameters to be fixed but unknown
 - MLE is common for estimating the parameters from the sampled data
 - MLE provides a point estimate without directly giving a measure of uncertainty
- Bayesian Inference
 - Views probability as a measure of belief.
 - Treats data as fixed once observed. Considers parameters to be random variables.
 - Allows for the inclusion of **prior** information.
- Good <u>article</u>

Graphical Models

- Graphical models are a visual framework to represent complex systems and their probabilistic relationships using graphs
 - nodes represent random variables
 - edges represent probabilistic relationships between them
- Key professor Daphne Koller course



Probabilistic Modeling

- Why?
 - Uncertainty Quantification: Data (input/label), parameters P(θ|D), Model!
 - Flexibility ([un]supervised), Interpretability, Bayesian Updating
- Key Components: Random Variables, Parameters, Likelihood, Prior, Posterior Distribution
- Models
 - \circ **Bayesian** Models: typically generative models, but can be discriminative $P(\theta|D) = \frac{P(D|\theta) \times P(\theta)}{P(D)}$
 - Graphical Models: both generative and discriminative
 - Bayesian Networks, Markov Random Fields (MRFs), Factor Graphs, DBNs, Conditional Random Fields (CRFs)
 - o **Time Series** Models: typically discriminative models (forecasting), but can be generative
 - Statistical (ARIMA, STL, ETS), Bayesian (BSTS, Gaussian Processes), Hidden Markov Models, State Space Models, Kalman Filters, Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, LSTM, Transformers (not all are probabilistic)

Relevant Materials

- Likelihood
 - <u>Link</u> <u>link</u> <u>link</u> <u>link</u> <u>video</u>
- Probabilistic modeling
 - o <u>Link</u>
- Bayesian or Frequentist
 - Bayesian or Frequentist, Which Are You? By Michael I. Jordan (Part 1 of 2)
 - <u>Frequentism and Bayesianism</u>: A Practical Introduction
 - Understanding <u>frequentist vs. Bayesian</u> inference

"Acquire knowledge and impart it to the people."

"Seek knowledge from the Cradle to the Grave."