A spam classifier based on Bayes network

Alberto Franzin, Fabio Palese

Sistemi Intelligenti

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Introduction

The Bayesian approach

- Bayes rule:

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

defines the *a posteriori* probability of event A, knowing the event B has already occurred.

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- This has led to two different interpretations of the theorem.

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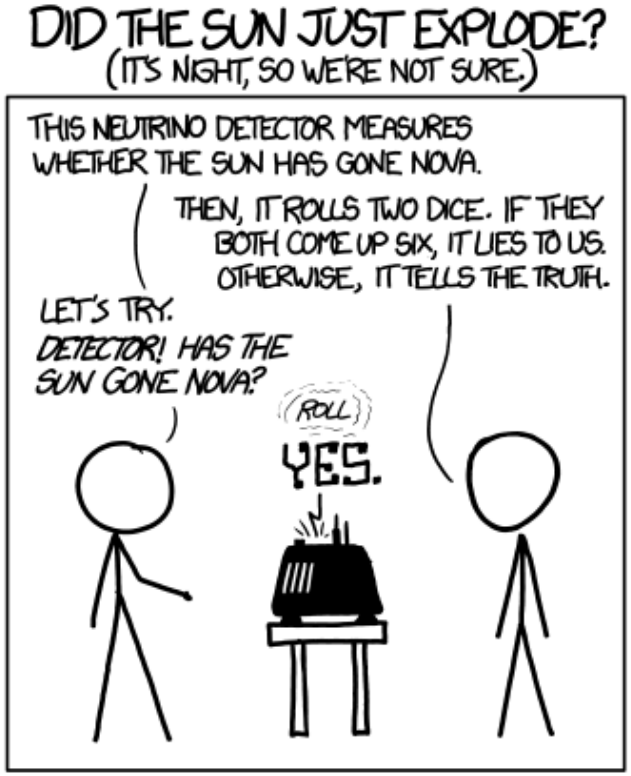
- $P(B) = \sum_{a \in A} P(B|A = a)P(A = a)$ is the *total* probability

The Bayesian approach

Frequentists vs. Bayesians



from http://xkcd.com/1132, see also
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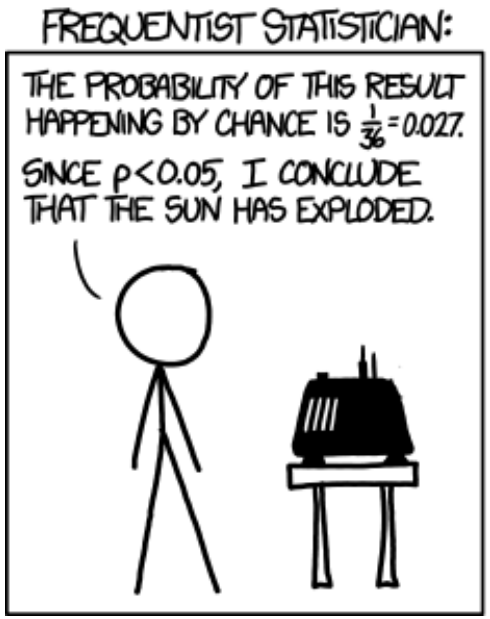

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The frequentist relies on the theoretical probability of the events.

The Bayesian approach

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The bayesian observes the past events occurred, and adapts the probability accordingly.

What it is

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- Nodes = events
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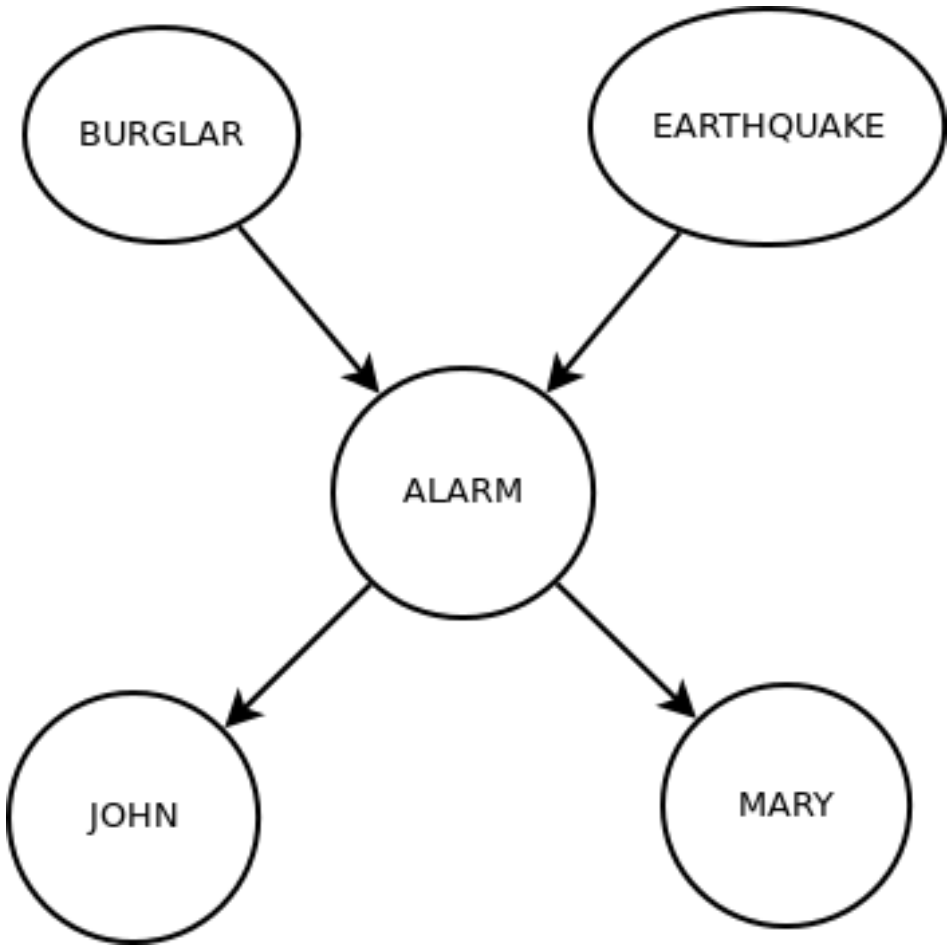
- Nodes = events
- (Directed) Edges = causal relationship
- Two nodes are connected by an edge: the child of an arc is influenced by its ancestor in a probabilistic way

An example



Conditional independence

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then we say that B and C are *conditionally independent*.
- Note that *conditional independence* $\neq$ *independence*
- Explaining away: if we know that one possible cause of the event has happened, this may *explain away* the event, being all the other causes less probable once we know the one that happened.

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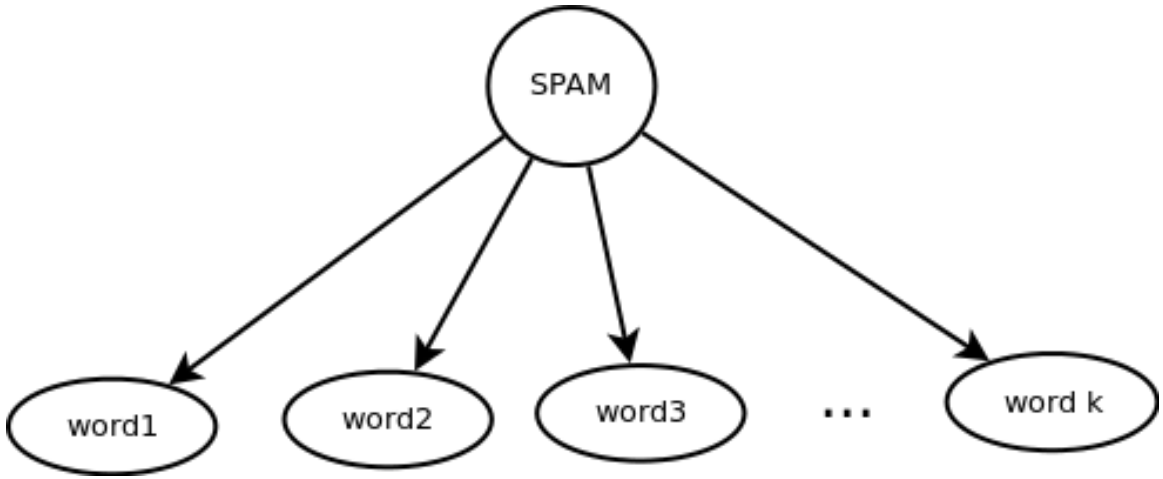
- In spam classification:



Naive Bayes for spam classification

We want to build a classifier that distinguishes good mails from undesired mails:

- good mails: *ham*
- undesired mails: *spam*

Algorithm

Algorithm:

- Training

Algorithm

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- Validation

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Formulas:

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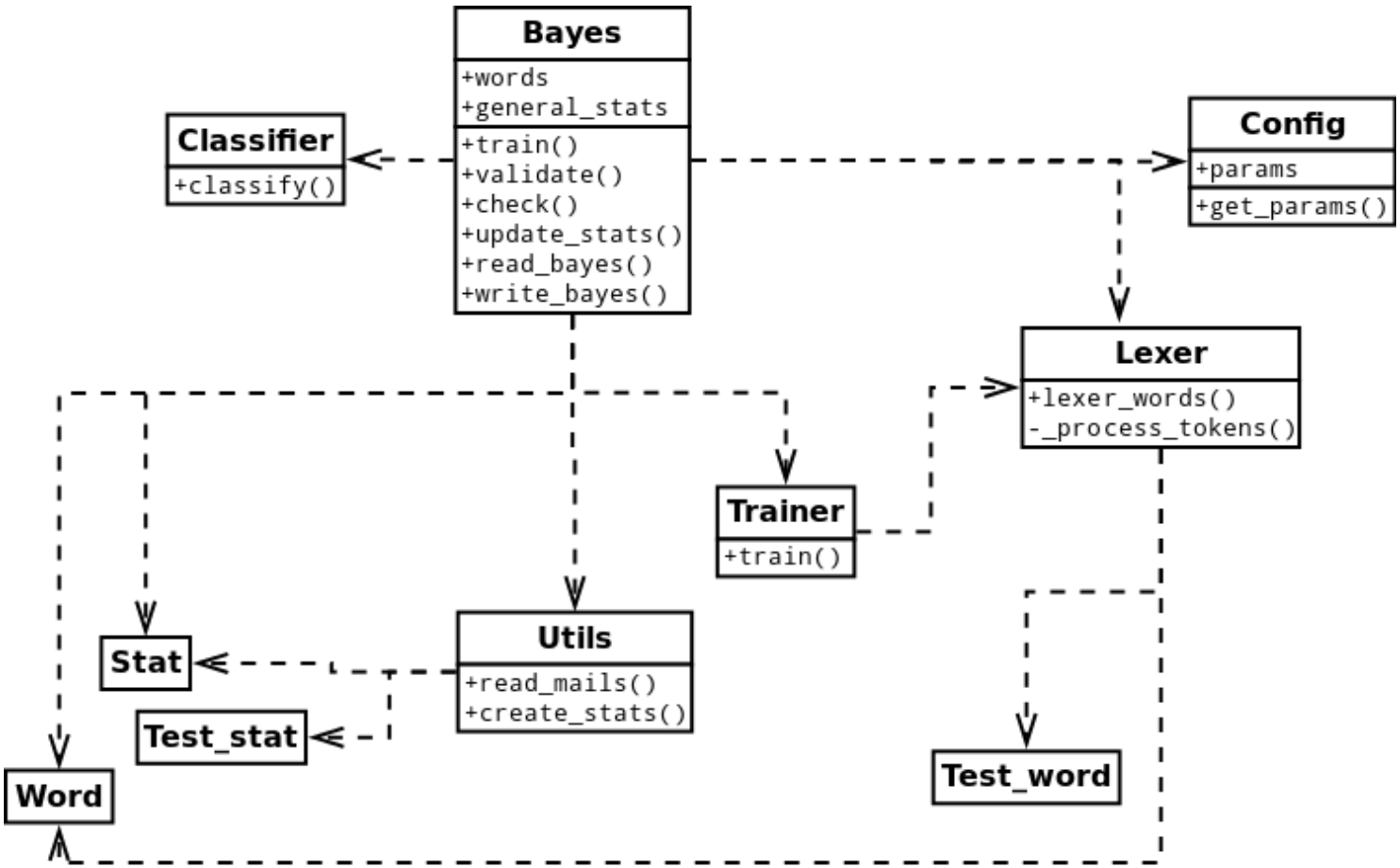
- Outcome is the class that maximizes the probability of belonging to that class.

SPAMBAYES

- SpamBayes: applying Naive Bayes to spam classification
- Python with Ply and BeautifulSoup
- dataset: SpamAssassin archive
- Code and documentation available at `http://code.google.com/p/sist-int-2012project/`

SpamBayes


Bayes
+words
+general_stats
+train()
+validate()
+check()
+update_stats()
+read_bayes()
+write_bayes()
Classifier
+classify()
Config
+params
+get_params()
Lexer
+lexer_words()
-_process_tokens()
Trainer
+train()
Utils
+read_mails()
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Stat
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Notes on implementation

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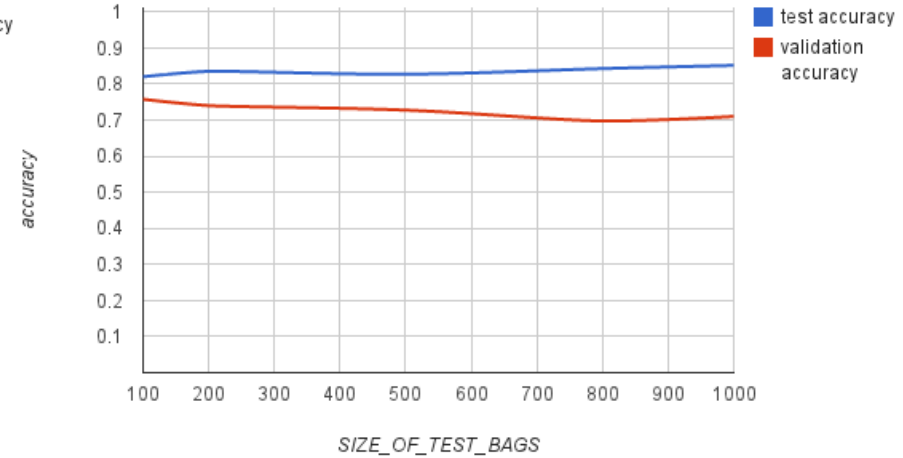
- Several parameters to be tuned: we describe the more relevant ones

PARAMETERS

Size of training/validation/test sets:



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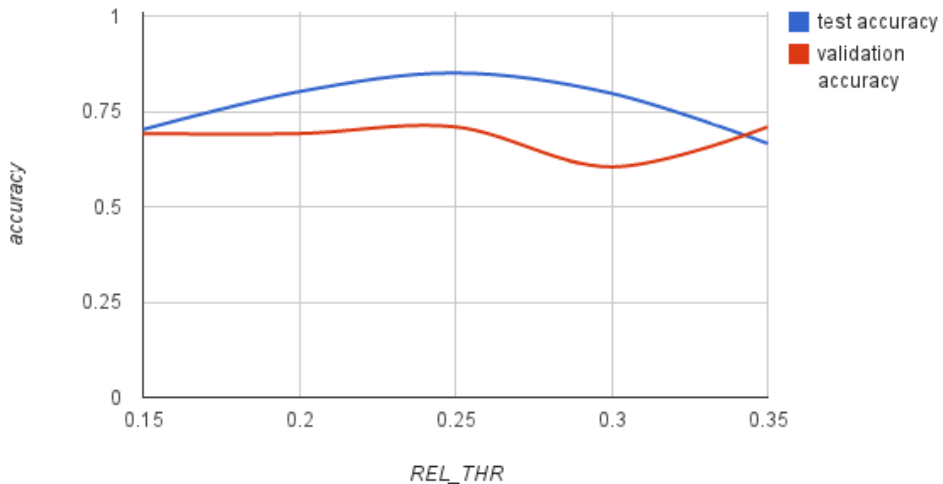
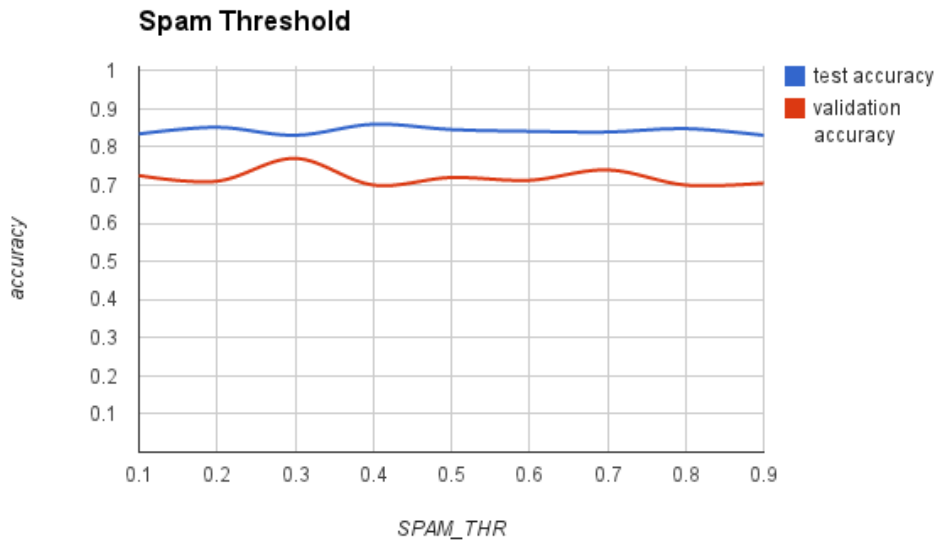
Relevance threshold:



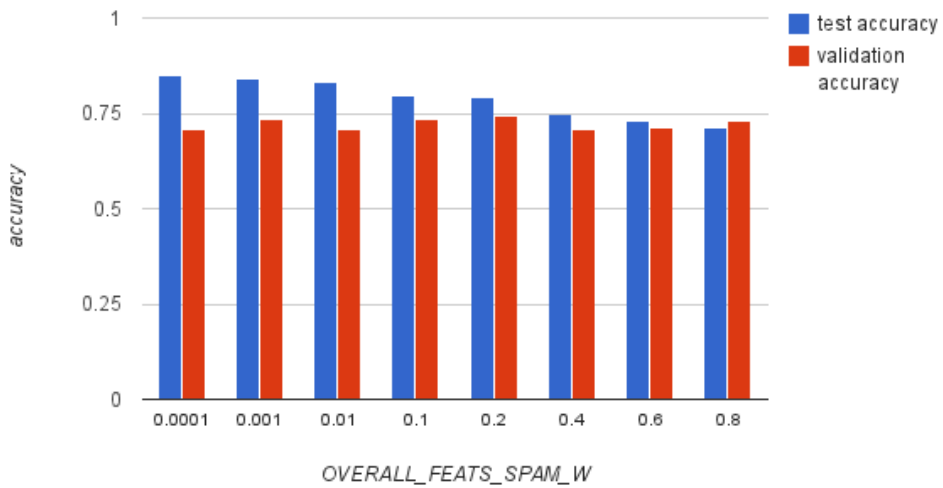
PARAMETERS

"Spamicity" threshold:



PARAMETERS

Feature statistic threshold:



Results

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  - How to improve?