

ECE368: Probabilistic Reasoning

Lab 1: Naïve Bayes Classifier

You can complete this lab in a group of two. Please provide the name and student number of both members.

Name:	Student Number:
Name:	Student Number:

You should hand in: 1) A scanned .pdf version of this sheet with your answers (file size should be under 2 MB); 2) one figure for Question 2.(c); and 3) A Python file `classifier.py` that contains your code. All these files should be uploaded to Quercus.

1 Naïve Bayes Classifier for Spam Filtering

- (a) Write down the estimators for p_d and q_d as functions of the training data $\{\mathbf{x}_n, y_n\}, n = 1, 2, \dots, N$ using the technique of “Laplace smoothing”. (1 **pt**)

- (b) Complete function `learn_distributions` in python file `classifier.py` based on the expressions you derived in part (a). (1 **pt**)

- (a) Write down the MAP rule to decide whether $y = 1$ or $y = 0$ based on its feature vector \mathbf{x} for a new email $\{\mathbf{x}, y\}$. The d -th entry of \mathbf{x} is denoted by x_d . Please incorporate p_d and q_d in your expression. Please assume that $\pi = 0.5$. (1 **pt**)

- (b) Complete function `classify_new_email` in `classifier.py`, and test the classifier on the testing set. The number of Type 1 errors is , and the number of Type 2 errors is . (1 pt)
- (c) Write down the modified decision rule in the classifier such that these two types of error can be traded off. Please introduce a new parameter to achieve such a trade-off. (0.5 pt)

Write your code in file `classifier.py` to implement your modified decision rule. Test it on the testing set and plot a figure to show the trade-off between Type 1 error and Type 2 error. In the figure, the x -axis should be the number of Type 1 errors and the y -axis should be the number of Type 2 errors. Plot at least 10 points corresponding to different pairs of these two types of error in your figure. The two end points of the plot should be: 1) the point with zero Type 1 error; and 2) the point with zero Type 2 error. Please save the figure with name **`nbc.pdf`**. (1 pt)

3. Why do we need Laplace smoothing? Briefly explain what would go wrong if we do use the maximum likelihood estimators in the training process. (0.5 pt)