

Please submit your solutions via Ilias. The submission is not a formal requirement for passing the exam but doing the exercises will be very helpful to do so. Submissions should be a single PDF document (note that Jupyter notebooks can and should also be downloaded as PDFs, and not only submitted as .ipynb files).

1. **Theory Question 1** You want to estimate the room temperature and buy three thermometers. These three thermometers measure the room temperature at different accuracies; the manufacturers specify accuracy as the standard deviation of the measurements (in degrees):

T1: $\sigma_1 = 5.0$, T2: $\sigma_2 = 1.0$, T3: $\sigma_3 = 0.1$

Upfront, you assume an improper (i.e. unnormalized) uniform prior across all temperatures.

- (a) (a) You measure the temperature with T1 and the measured value is 32 degrees. What is the posterior distribution over the room temperature?
 - (b) (b) T2 measures a distribution of 31 degrees. Given measurements of T1 and T2, what is the posterior distribution over the room temperature?
 - (c) (c) T3 measures a temperature of 22 degrees. Given measurements of T1, T2, and T3, what is the posterior distribution over the room temperature?
 - (d) (d) Do you trust the inference result? Do you believe that the accuracies reported by the manufacturers are accurate?
2. **Theory Question 2** Consider the Gaussian random variable $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^F$ with probability density function $p(\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$ where $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^F$ and symmetric positive definite $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{F \times F}$. You have access to data $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ assumed to be generated from \mathbf{w} through a linear map $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{F \times N}$ according to the likelihood

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}; \Phi^T \mathbf{w}, \Lambda),$$

where $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is symmetric positive definite.

Consider the special case $\Lambda = \sigma^2 I$ with $\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$ (that is, iid. observation noise).

- (a) Show that the **maximum likelihood estimator** for \mathbf{w} is given by the **ordinary least-squares** estimate

$$\mathbf{w}_{ML} = (\Phi \Phi^T)^{-1} \Phi \mathbf{y}.$$

- (b) Show that the **maximum a-posteriori estimator** is identical to the posterior mean, $\mathbf{w}_{MAP} = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y})}(\mathbf{w})$ (you can use the fact that the posterior is Gaussian).
- (c) There exists an important relationship between the regularization of least squares estimates and the choice of the prior in probabilistic linear regression. Given the Gaussian prior $p(\mathbf{w})$ for the particular choice $\boldsymbol{\mu} = 0$, $\Sigma = I_F$, $\Lambda = \sigma^2 I$, show that the MAP estimator calculated in part (b) is equivalent to the **l_2 -regularized least-squares** estimator (aka ridge regression)

$$\mathbf{w}_{l_2} = (\Phi \Phi^T + \alpha I)^{-1} \Phi \mathbf{y},$$

and give the corresponding value of the regularization parameter α .

- (d) Which choice of prior would a LASSO (l_1) regularization correspond to?

3. **Coding Question** See `Exercise_03.ipynb`.