DSC 140A

Probabilistic Modeling & Machine Learning

Lecture 8 | Part 1

Probabilistic Modeling

Probabilistic Modeling

- Where does data come from?
- We might imagine that "Nature" generates it using some random (i.e., **probabilistic**) process.
- Maybe modeling this probabilistic process will suggest new ways of making predictions?

Example: Flowers

- Suppose there are two species of flower.
- One species tends to have more petals.
- **Goal**: Given a new flower with $X = x$ petals predict its species, Y.

Example: Flowers

- **Idea:** The number of petals, X, and the species, Y, are **random variables**.
- **Assumption**: When Nature generates a new flower, it picks X and Y from some **probability distribution**.
- Let's imagine (for now) that we know this distribution.

The Joint Distribution

- The **joint distribution** $\mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)$ gives us full information.

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

Observation

- The entries of the joint distribution table sum to 100%.
- Mathematically: $\sum_{x \in \{0,1,\ldots,6\}} \sum_{y \in \{0,1\}} \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) = 1.$

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

Marginal Distributions

- What is the probability that a new flower has $X = 4$ petals (regardless of species)?

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

Marginal Distributions

- The **marginal distribution** for X is found by summing over values of Y.
- That is: $\mathbb{P}(X = x) = \sum_{y \in \{0,1\}} P(X = x, Y = y)$

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

joint

$X = 0$	0%
$X = 1$	5%
$X = 2$	15%
$X = 3$	30%
$X = 4$	25%
$X = 5$	15%
$X = 6$	10%

marginal in X

Marginal Distributions

- What is the probability that a new flower is species 1 (regardless of number of petals)?

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

Marginal Distributions

- The **marginal distribution** for Y is found by summing over values of X.
- That is: $\mathbb{P}(Y = y) = \sum_{x \in \{0,\ldots,6\}} P(X = x, Y = y)$

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

joint

$Y = 0$	35%
$Y = 1$	65%

marginal in Y

Observation

- The probabilities in the marginal distributions also sum to 1.

Exercise

Suppose flower A has 4 petals. What do you predict its species to be?

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

Intuition

- It seems **more likely** that a petal with 4 flowers is from species 1.

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

Conditional Probabilities

- This is captured by the **conditional probability** $\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)/\mathbb{P}(X = x)$.

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

joint

$\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = 1)$

$Y = 0$	100%
$Y = 1$	0%

$\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = 2)$

$Y = 0$	66.5%
$Y = 1$	33.3%

$\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = 4)$

$Y = 0$	20%
$Y = 1$	80%

Conditional Probabilities

- The **conditional probability** $\mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) / \mathbb{P}(Y = y)$.

	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0%	0%
$X = 1$	5%	0%
$X = 2$	10%	5%
$X = 3$	15%	15%
$X = 4$	5%	20%
$X = 5$	0%	15%
$X = 6$	0%	10%

joint

	$\mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = 0)$
$X = 0$	0%
$X = 1$	14.2%
$X = 2$	28.5%
$X = 3$	42.8%
$X = 4$	14.2%
$X = 5$	0%
$X = 6$	0%

Observation

- Conditional probabilities sum to 1 as well.
- For any fixed x:

$$\sum_{y} \mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x) = 1$$

- For any fixed y:

$$\sum_{x} \mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = y) = 1$$

Five Distributions

- We've seen five distributions:
  - **Joint**: $\mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)$
  - **Marginal in X**: $\mathbb{P}(X = x)$
  - **Marginal in Y**: $\mathbb{P}(Y = y)$
  - **Conditional on X**: $\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x)$
  - **Conditional on Y**: $\mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = y)$

- If we know the **joint** distribution, we can compute any of the others.

Bayes' Theorem

- **Bayes' Theorem** relates conditional probabilities and provides another way of computing them:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = y)\mathbb{P}(Y = y)}{\mathbb{P}(X = x)}$$

Bayes' Theorem

- Derivation:

Bayes Decision Theory

- **Goal**: Given a new flower with $X = x$ petals, predict its species, Y.
- **Idea**: Predict species 1 if $\mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid X = x) > \mathbb{P}(Y = 0 \mid X = x)$; otherwise predict species 0.
- That is, pick whichever species is more likely.

Bayes Classification Rule

- This is the **Bayes classification rule**:
  - Predict class 1 if $\mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid X = x) > \mathbb{P}(Y = 0 \mid X = x)$;
  - Otherwise, predict class 0.

Bayes Decision Theory

- Using Bayes' rule,
  $\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = y)\mathbb{P}(Y = y) / \mathbb{P}(X = x)$

- **Bayes classification rule** (original form):
  - Predict class 1 if $\mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid X = x) > \mathbb{P}(Y = 0 \mid X = x)$;
  - Otherwise, predict class 0.

- **Bayes classification rule** (alternative form):
  - Predict class 1 if
    $\mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = 1)\mathbb{P}(Y = 1) > \mathbb{P}(X = x \mid Y = 0)\mathbb{P}(Y = 0)$
  - Otherwise, predict class 0.

Main Idea

If we know the conditional probability of the label Y given feature X, the Bayes classification rule is a natural way to make predictions.

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Probabilistic Modeling & Machine Learning

Lecture 8 | Part 2

Continuous Distributions

Example: Penguins

- Suppose there are two species of penguin.
- One species tends to have longer flippers.
- **Goal:** given a new penguin with flipper length $X = x$, predict its species, Y.

Five Distributions

- In this situation, what do the five distributions look like?
  - Joint distribution of X and Y
  - Marginal distribution in X
  - Marginal distribution in Y
  - Conditional on X
  - Conditional on Y

Marginal in Y

- What is the probability that Nature generates a penguin from species Y?
  - Marginal distribution: $\mathbb{P}(Y = y)$.

- This is a **discrete** distribution, as before.

- Example:

$Y = 0$	30%
$Y = 1$	70%

Marginal in X

- What is the probability that Nature generates a flipper length of x, without regard to species?
- Flipper length is a **continuous** random variable.
- Distribution is described by a **probability density function (pdf)**, $p : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^+$.

Recall: Density Functions

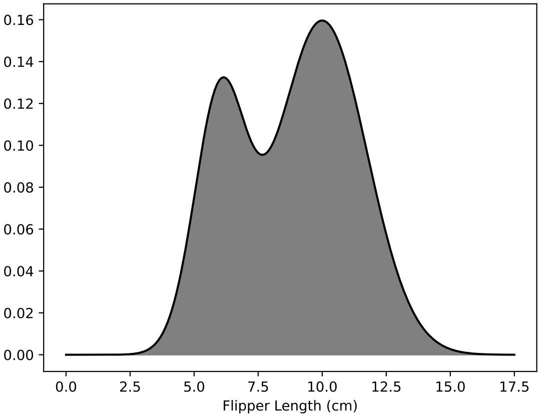
- A **probability density function (pdf)** for a random variable X is a function $p : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^+$ satisfying:

$$\mathbb{P}(a < X < b) = \int_a^b p_X(x)\, dx$$

- That is, the pdf p describes how likely it is to get a value of X in any interval $[a, b]$.
- Note: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_X(x)\, dx = 1$, but $p(x)$ can be larger than one.

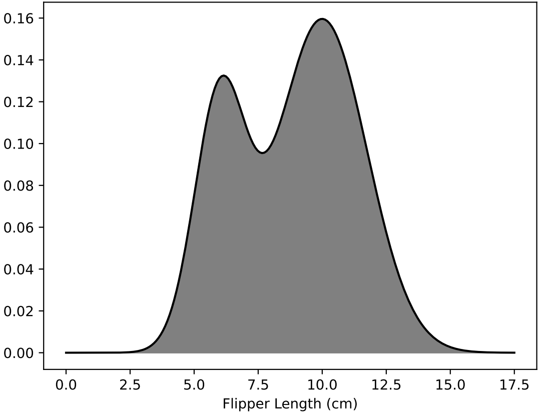
Marginal in X

- The distribution of flipper lengths is described by a density function, $p_X(x)$.



Exercise

What is the probability that Nature generates a penguin with flipper length equal to 10 cm?

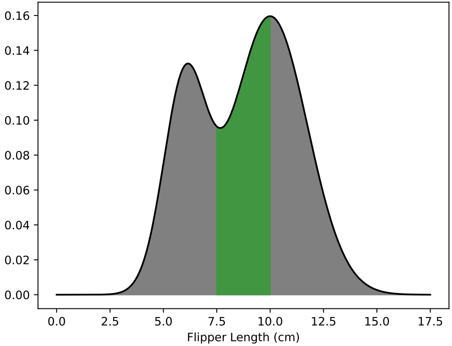


Solution

- **Zero!**
- $p_X(x)$ is **not** the probability that $X = x$.
- Instead, $\mathbb{P}(X = x) = \mathbb{P}(x < X < x) = \int_x^x p_X(x)\, dx = 0$
- The **probability** of a continuous random variable being *exactly* a certain value is zero.

Example

- What is the probability that Nature generates a penguin whose flipper length is between 7.5 and 10 cm?

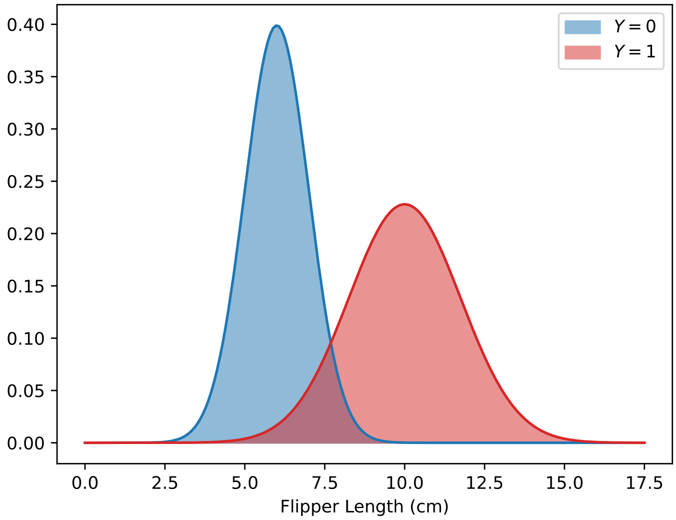


$$\mathbb{P}(7.5 < X < 10) = \int_{7.5}^{10} p_X(x)\,dx$$

Conditional on Y

- What is the probability of a certain flipper length, given that the species is y?
- Also a continuous distribution, described by **conditional density** $p(x \mid Y = y)$.
- Two conditional density functions: one for $Y = 0$ and one for $Y = 1$.
  - Each integrates to one.

Conditional on Y



Conditional on X

- What is the probability that the species is y given a flipper length of x?
- The conditional distribution of Y given X.

Exercise

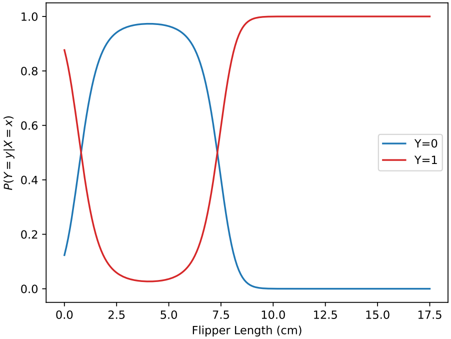
Is this distribution **continuous** or **discrete**?

Conditional on X

- Answer: **discrete**, because Y is discrete.
- One distribution $P(Y = y \mid X = x)$ for each possible value of X (infinitely many).

Conditional on X

- Although for any fixed x, $\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x)$ is discrete, we can plot the functions $f_0(x) = \mathbb{P}(Y = 0 \mid X = x)$ and $f_1(x) = \mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid X = x)$



Bayes' Rule

- Bayes' Rule applies to densities, too:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y = y \mid X = x) = \frac{p(x \mid Y = y)\mathbb{P}(Y = y)}{p_X(x)}$$

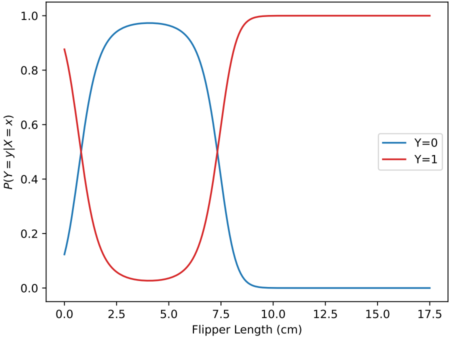
Bayes Decision Theory

- **Bayes classification rule**:
  - Predict class 1 if $\mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid X = x) > \mathbb{P}(Y = 0 \mid X = x)$;
  - Otherwise, predict class 0.

- **Bayes classification rule** (alternative form):
  - Predict class 1 if
    $p(x \mid Y = 1)\mathbb{P}(Y = 1) > p(X = x \mid Y = 0)\mathbb{P}(Y = 0)$
  - Otherwise, predict class 0.

Exercise

Penguins with flippers of length 0, 3, and 12 are observed. What are their predicted species according to the Bayes' classification rule?



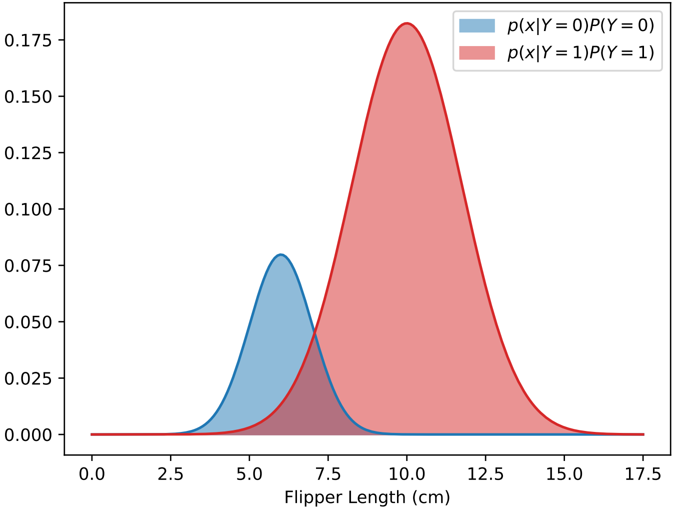
Joint

- The **joint** distribution in this case is neither totally continuous nor totally discrete.

- From Bayes' rule:

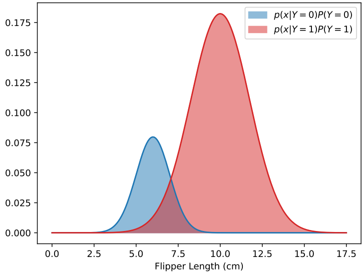
$$p(x, 0) = p(x \mid Y = 0)\mathbb{P}(Y = 0)$$
$$p(x, 1) = p(x \mid Y = 1)\mathbb{P}(Y = 1)$$

Joint Distribution



Exercise

Where does the Bayes decision rule make a prediction for class 1?



- Predict class 1 if $p(x \mid Y = 1)\mathbb{P}(Y = 1) > p(X = x \mid Y = 0)\mathbb{P}(Y = 0)$
- Otherwise, predict class 0.

Multivariate Distributions

- In binary classification, $y \in \{0, 1\}$.
- But we usually deal with feature vectors, $\vec{x}$.
- The previous applies with straightforward changes.

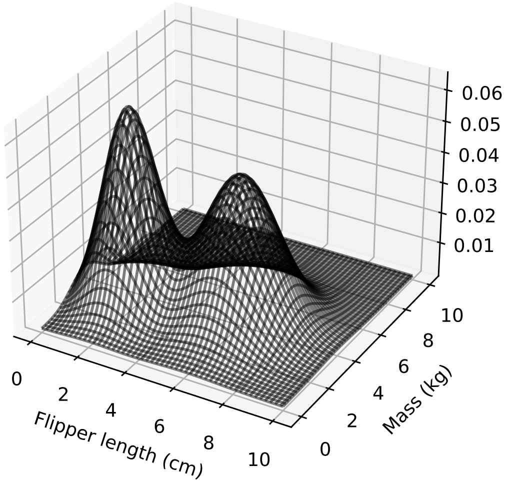
Example: Penguins

- Again consider penguins of two species, but now consider both flipper length and body mass.

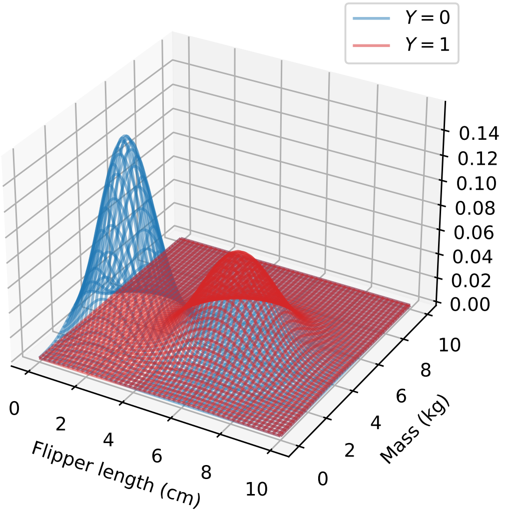
- Each penguin's measurements are a **random vector**: $\vec{X}$.

- Densities are now functions of a vector.
  - E.g., marginal: $p_X(\vec{x}) : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^+$

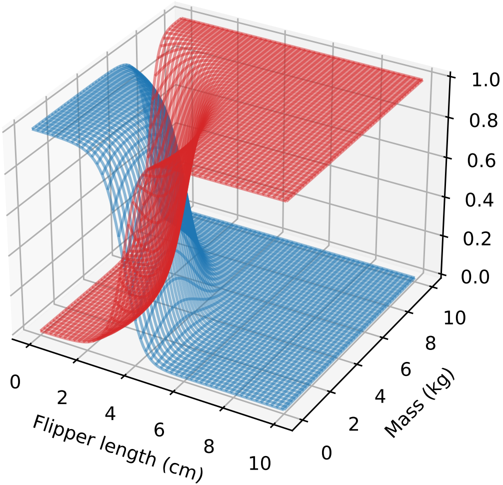
Marginal in $\vec{X}$



Conditional on Y



Conditional on X



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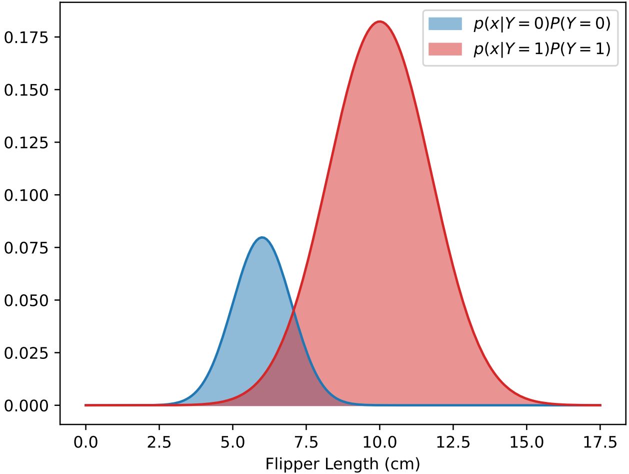
Lecture 8 | Part 3

Bayes Error

Bayes Error

- If we know the joint distribution, the **Bayes classification rule** is a natural approach to making predictions.
- It is also the **best you can do**, in a sense.

Intuition



$p(x|Y=0)P(Y=0)$
$p(x|Y=1)P(Y=1)$
0.175
0.150
0.125
0.100
0.075
0.050
0.025
0.000
0.0
2.5
5.0
7.5
10.0
12.5
15.0
17.5
Flipper Length (cm)

Error Probability

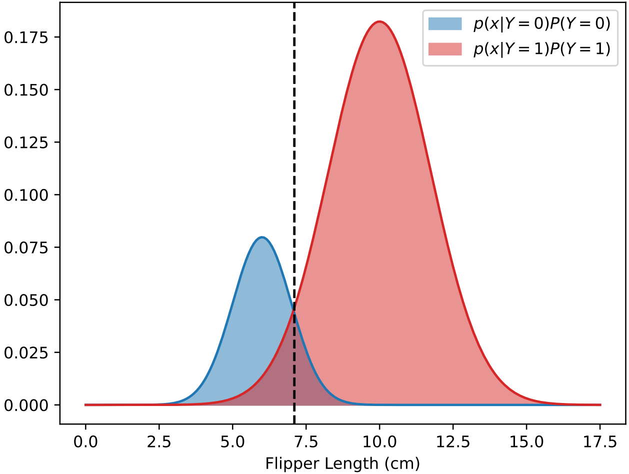
- In binary classification, there are two kinds of errors:
  - Predicted 0, but the right answer is 1 (Case 1).
  - Predicted 1, but the right answer is 0 (Case 2).

- The probability of an error is:

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{error}) = \mathbb{P}(\text{Case 1}) + \mathbb{P}(\text{Case 2})$$

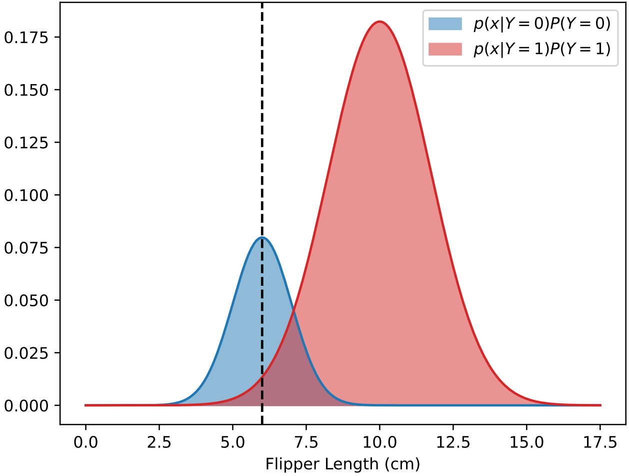
Example

- Case 1: Predicted 0, but the right answer is 1.
- Case 2: Predicted 1, but the right answer is 0.



Example

- Case 1: Predicted 0, but the right answer is 1.
- Case 2: Predicted 1, but the right answer is 0.



Optimality

- The Bayes decision rule achieves the **minimum possible** error probability.
  - Sometimes called the **Bayes classifier**.

- In most cases, the minimum possible error probability is >0.

What’s next?

- The Bayes classifier is optimal.
- But it requires knowing the joint distribution; we almost never know this.
- Next time: **estimating** probability distributions from data.