

Actual Bayesian compute:

Let's now introduce a prior $P(\theta)$, i.e. a guess about our idea of what is θ .

Recall: MLE: $\underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} (P(X|\theta)) \equiv \theta_{MLE}^*$
likelihood of the data \hookrightarrow leads to the usual $\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$, etc

Now MAP: Maximum a Posteriori:

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{MAP}^* &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(\theta|X) \quad \text{likelihood of the parameters} \\ &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left(\frac{\overbrace{P(X|\theta)}^{\text{likelihood of data}} \underbrace{P(\theta)}_{\text{prior}}}{\underbrace{P(X)}_{\text{evidence (unreachable)}}}} \right) \\ &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left(\underbrace{\log P(X|\theta)}_{\text{as before}} + \underbrace{\log P(\theta)}_{\text{prior}} \right)\end{aligned}$$

Example (simple): $X \sim (x_1, \dots, x_N)$, $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$
N examples. Prior: $\mu \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau)$.

$$\hookrightarrow P(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\tau} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu^2}{\tau^2}}$$
$$\theta_{MAP}^* = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left(\log \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2}} \right) + \log \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\tau} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu^2}{\tau^2}} \right) \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial \ell}{\partial \mu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[\log \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \right] + \text{cte} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu^2}{\tau^2}$$

$$= 0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i - \mu}{\sigma^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \frac{\mu^2}{2\tau^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i}{\sigma^2} = N \frac{\mu}{\sigma^2} + \frac{\mu}{\tau^2} \Leftrightarrow \mu \left(1 + \frac{\sigma^2}{N\tau^2} \right) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$$

So we find:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{MAP} = \hat{\sigma}_{MLE} \text{ (here)}$$

$$\hat{\mu}_{MAP} = \hat{\mu}_{MLE} \times \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sigma^2}{N\tau^2}} \quad (\text{this is just 1 example})$$

Remarks: $\tau = \infty \Rightarrow$ flat prior \Rightarrow no change

$N \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \infty$ data \Rightarrow prior becomes irrelevant.

$\sigma \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$ data little spread \Rightarrow prior irrelevant.

We see that the prior acts as a regularizer.

Many interpretations of "regul." as Bayesian priors.

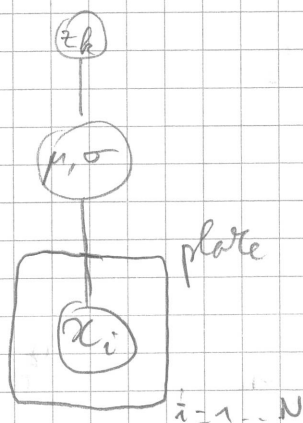
When sparse distrib^o (eg words), need a prior to avoid singularities

[N is small \rightarrow try to use your knowledge (put it in the prior)]

Words distrib^o = Many words \rightarrow Not all appear in the train set (corpus): $\hat{\mu}_{\text{word}} \neq \dots = 0$

But, we expect they can appear (eg test set):

So, need a prior with $p(\text{word} = \text{"[some infrequent word]"} > 0$



prior on the prior: assume $\tau \sim \mathcal{U}(m, B)$