

By the formula given on slide 7 of Lesson 4, “Linear Discriminant Analysis and Bayes’ Rule”:

$$P(Y = k|X = x) = p_k(x) = \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_k}{\sigma}\right)^2} \pi_k}{\sum_{m=1}^K \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_m}{\sigma}\right)^2} \pi_m}$$

For this problem:

- K = 2 categories
- $\pi_0 = 0.2$ and $\pi_1 = 0.8$, because 80% of companies issue dividends (category 1).
- $\sigma = 6$, the joint standard deviation
- $\mu_0 = 0$ and $\mu_1 = 10$, the mean of X for companies that don’t and do issue dividends.

So we can write

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y = 0|X = x) = p_0(x) &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_0}{\sigma}\right)^2} \pi_0}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_0}{\sigma}\right)^2} \pi_0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_1}{\sigma}\right)^2} \pi_1} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot 6} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-0}{6}\right)^2} 0.2}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot 6} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-0}{6}\right)^2} \cdot 0.2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot 6} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2} \cdot 0.8} \end{aligned}$$

We can factor $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot 6}$ out of the numerator and denominator and cancel it to get

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-0}{6}\right)^2} 0.2}{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-0}{6}\right)^2} \cdot 0.2 + e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2} \cdot 0.8} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2} 0.2}{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2} \cdot 0.2 + e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2} \cdot 0.8} \end{aligned}$$

Then factor 0.2 out of the numerator and denominator to get

$$= \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2}}{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2} + 4e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2}}$$

Then factor $e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2}$ out of the numerator and denominator to get

$$= \frac{1}{1 + 4e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2 - \left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2\right]}}$$

(Recall that dividing e^a/e^b is the same as e^{a-b} .)

Now, let's simplify the exponent of $e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2 - \left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2\right]}$.

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2 - \left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2\right] &= -\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-10}{6}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{6}\right)^2 \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x^2 - 2 \cdot 10x + 100}{6^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x^2}{6^2}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x^2}{6^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x^2 - 2 \cdot 10x + 100}{6^2}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2 \cdot 36}(x^2 - (x^2 - 20x + 100)) = \end{aligned}$$

So our original conditional probability becomes

$$P(Y = 0|X = x) = \frac{1}{1 + 4e^{\frac{1}{72}(20x-100)}}$$

The derivation for $P(Y = 1|X = x)$ is similar.