

Foundations of Machine Learning

AI2000 and AI5000

FoML-11
Bayesian Regression

FoML-12

Decision Theory

Dr. Konda Reddy Mopuri

Department of AI, IIT Hyderabad

July-Nov 2025



So far in FoML

- What is ML and the learning paradigms
- Probability refresher
- MLE, MAP, and fully Bayesian treatment
- Linear Regression with basis functions - and regularization
- Model selection
- Bias-Variance Decomposition/Tradeoff (Bayesian Regression)

Decision Theory

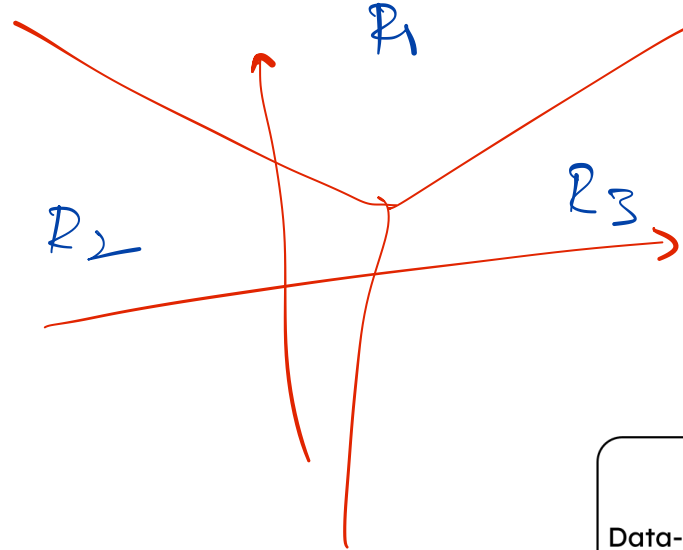


భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Decision Theory

- Dataset: i/p vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D$, ground truth $t \in \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_K\}$
- Divide the i/p space \mathbb{R}^D into K decision regions R_k , $k = \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$
- For every data point
 - Ground truth t_n
 - Prediction $y(\underline{x}_n, \underline{w}) = \hat{t}_n$



Decision Theory

- Confusion Matrix

GT

P₁ P₂ ... P_K prediction (By the model)

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C ₁ | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C ₂ | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| C _K | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |

Diagonal elements -

correct predictions

Off-diagonal elements -

incorrect predictions



Decision Theory - Misclassification Rate

- Goal of classification - Minimize the misclassification rate
- Assume the data are drawn independently from the joint distribution
- Probability of a misclassification: $p(\text{mistake}) = \sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{k \neq i} p(\mathbf{x} \in R_i, C_k)$

$$\begin{aligned} p(\text{mistake}) &= 1 - P(\text{Correct classification}) \\ &= 1 - \sum_{k=1}^K P(\mathbf{x} \in R_k, C_k) \end{aligned}$$

Decision Theory - Misclassification Rate

- Minimizing the misclassification rate *(how to ensure this?)*
 - Assign x to class C_k if $p(\mathbf{x}, t = C_k) > p(\mathbf{x}, t = C_j), \forall j \neq k$

- We know that

$$p(\underline{x}, C_k) = \underbrace{p(C_k | \underline{x})} \cdot p(\underline{x})$$

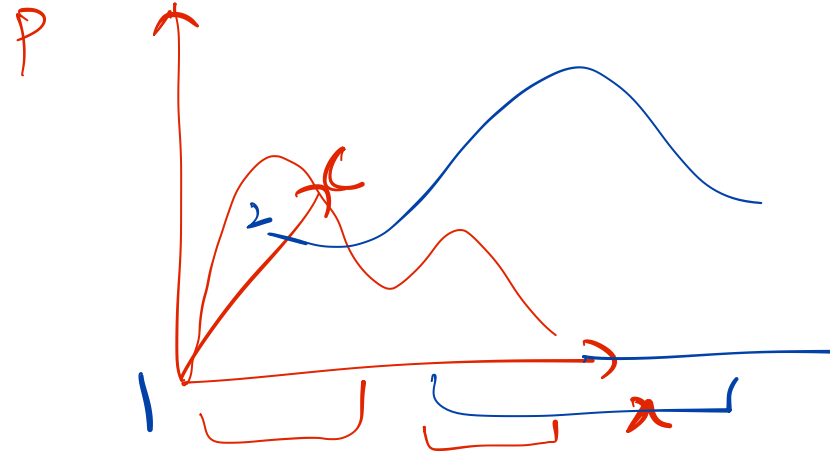
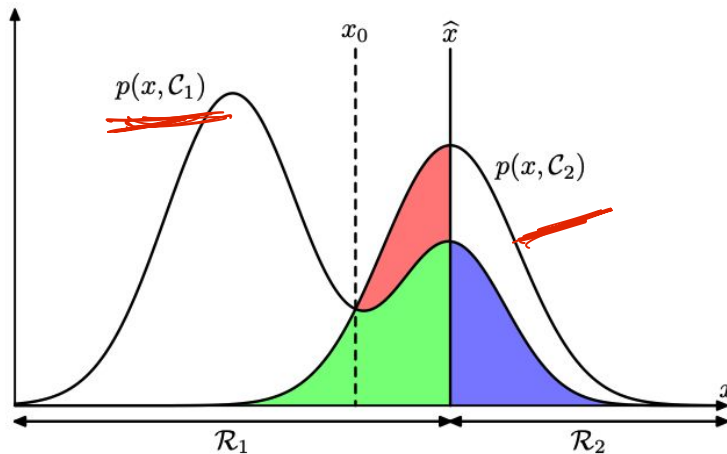
look for the largest
posterior prob $p(C_k | \underline{x})$

$$p(\underline{x}, C_j) \\ j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$$

Decision Theory - Misclassification Rate

$$P(x, C_k)$$

$k=1,2$



Minimizing the Misclassification Rate - Issues

- Not all errors have the same impact!

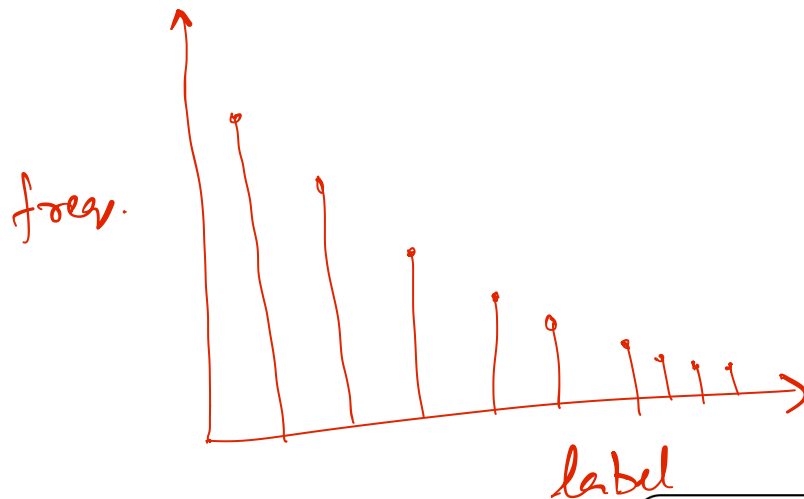
- E.g. medical diagnosis
 - E1: $P(\underline{X}, \hat{t} = D) > P(\underline{X}, \hat{t} = H)$ when $t = H$ ✓
 - E2: ✓ $P(\underline{X}, \hat{t} = H) > P(\underline{X}, \hat{t} = D)$ when $t = D$ ✓



Minimizing the Misclassification Rate - Issues

- Class imbalance
 - May lead to skewed view of the classifier's performance

1%



Expected Loss

- Possible solution: use different weights for different error types

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1000 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} C \\ H \end{matrix} \downarrow \text{G.T.}$$

pred →

$$\mathbb{E}[L] = \sum_{k,j} L_{k,j} \int_{\mathcal{R}_j} p(x, C_k) dx$$

$\sum_k \sum_j \int_{\mathcal{R}_j} L_{k,j} p(x, C_k) dx$
 ↑ another way to write

Minimize the expected loss: (assign x to C_k if)

$$\sum_{j=1}^K L_{k,j} P(C_k/x) \text{ is minimal}$$

Classification Strategies

- Discriminant functions
 - Direct functions of i/p to target $t = y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w})$
- Probabilistic Discriminant models
 - Posterior class probabilities $p(C_k/\mathbf{x})$
- Probabilistic generative models
 - Class-conditional models $p(\mathbf{x}/C_k)$
 - Prior class probabilities $p(C_k)$



Next Probabilistic Generative Models

