# Parameter Estimation and Inference

## Recap

- Probability Distributions
  - Bernoulli
  - Multinomial
  - Poisson
  - Gaussian
- Parameter Estimation
  - Maximum Likelihood

## Today

- Probability Distributions
  - Bernoulli
  - Multinomial
  - Poisson
  - Gaussian
- Parameter Estimation
  - Maximum Likelihood

In common ?

Can they all be represented in a common framework?

## Today

- Probability Distributions
  - Bernoulli
  - Multinomial
  - Poisson
  - Gaussian
- Parameter Estimation
  - Maximum Likelihood

Do they have something in common?

What are the properties of MLE?
Does it have some disadvantage?
Does there exist other estimates?

## **Exponential Family**

#### Bernoulli distribution

$$p(x|\mu) = \text{Bern}(x|\mu) = \mu^x (1-\mu)^{1-x}$$
.

$$p(x|\mu) = \exp\left\{x\ln\mu + (1-x)\ln(1-\mu)\right\}$$
$$= (1-\mu)\exp\left\{\ln\left(\frac{\mu}{1-\mu}\right)x\right\}.$$

Can Bernoulli distribution be represented in exponential form?

$$p(x|\eta) = \sigma(-\eta) \exp(\eta x)$$

$$\eta = \ln\left(\frac{\mu}{1-\mu}\right) \qquad \sigma(\eta) = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-\eta)}$$

Exponential form





## Exponential







Family

## **Exponential Family**

• Bernoulli distribution :  $p(x|\eta) = \sigma(-\eta) \exp(\eta x)$ 

• Exponential family of distributions over  $\mathbf{x}$ , given parameters  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ ,

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = h(\mathbf{x})g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \exp \left\{ \boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$$

 $\eta$  are called the *natural parameters* of the distribution, and  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})$  is some function of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

$$g(\eta) \int h(\mathbf{x}) \exp \left\{ \eta^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \right\} d\mathbf{x} = 1$$
 // ensures that the distribution is normalized

## **Exponential Family**

Exponential family of distributions over  $\mathbf{x}$ , given parameters  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ 

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = h(\mathbf{x})g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \exp \left\{ \boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$$

#### Bernoulli distribution is exponential Family!

$$p(x|\eta) = \sigma(-\eta) \exp(\eta x) \qquad u(x) = x$$

$$h(x) = 1$$

$$g(\eta) = \sigma(-\eta).$$



## Gaussians as exponential family



$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = h(\mathbf{x})g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \exp\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\right\}$$

$$p(x|\mu,\sigma^2) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2\right\}$$

Expectation parameters

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}x^2 + \frac{\mu}{\sigma^2}x - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\mu^2\right\}$$

$$\eta = \begin{pmatrix} \mu/\sigma^2 \\ -1/2\sigma^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ x^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = (2\pi)^{-1/2}$$

$$g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = (-2\eta_2)^{1/2} \exp\left(\frac{\eta_1^2}{4\eta_2}\right).$$

Natural parameters

## Maximum likelihood estimation in exponential family

• Estimating the parameter vector  $\eta$  using maximum likelihood

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = h(\mathbf{x})g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \exp\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\right\}$$
  $g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \int h(\mathbf{x}) \exp\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\right\} d\mathbf{x} = 1$ 

• Taking derivative wrt **n** 

$$\nabla g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \int h(\mathbf{x}) \exp\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\right\} d\mathbf{x}$$

$$+ g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \int h(\mathbf{x}) \exp\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\right\} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = 0.$$

$$-\frac{1}{g(\boldsymbol{\eta})}\nabla g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \int h(\mathbf{x}) \exp\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\right\} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})]$$
$$-\nabla \ln g(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})].$$

### Maximum likelihood and sufficient statistics

$$-\nabla \ln g(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{\mathrm{ML}}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_n)$$

- Maximum likelihood estimate of  $\eta$  can be estimated based on sum of u(x) over data points which is called the *sufficient statistic* of distribution.
- No not need to store the entire data set itself but only the value of the sufficient statistic
- For the Gaussian  $\mathbf{u}(x) = (x, x^2)$ , and so we should keep both the sum of  $\{xn\}$  and the sum of  $\{xn^2\}$ .

- Method of moments is a method of estimation of population parameters.
- Moments of a random variable

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E[X] First Moment (Mean)
E[X^2] Second moment
E[X^n] nth moment of X
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 Parameters of distribution can be expressed in terms of moments (i.e., the expected values of powers of the random variable under consideration.
 Those expressions are then set equal to the sample moments computed from data.

• Example 1 [Bernoulli] Let X1, . . . , Xn  $\sim$  Bernoulli(p). p represents expected value of random variable. Hence p = E[X]

$$\alpha_1 = \mathbb{E}_p(X) = p$$

$$\widehat{\alpha}_1 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

Moment as a function of parameters

sample moment

$$\widehat{p}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

Estimate of p

• Example 2 [Gaussian] Let X1, . . . , Xn  $\sim$  Normal( $\mu$ ,  $\sigma$ 2).

$$\alpha_1 = \mathbb{E}_{\theta}(X_1) = \mu$$

$$\alpha_2 = \mathbb{E}_{\theta}(X_1^2) = \mathbb{V}_{\theta}(X_1) + (\mathbb{E}_{\theta}(X_1))^2 = \sigma^2 + \mu^2.$$

Moment as a function of parameters

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Moment as a function of parameters

sample moments

$$\widehat{\alpha}_1 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = \widehat{\mu}$$

$$\widehat{\alpha}_2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2. = \widehat{\sigma}^2 + \widehat{\mu}^2$$

Estimate of  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma$ 2 by solving the system of equations

• Example 2 [Gaussian] Let X1, . . . , Xn  $\sim$  Normal( $\mu$ ,  $\sigma$ 2).

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Estimate of  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma$ 2 by solving the system of equations

$$\widehat{\mu} = \overline{X}_n \qquad \widehat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \overline{X}_n)^2.$$

The method of moments estimator  $\widehat{\theta}_n$  is defined to be

 $\widehat{\alpha}_j = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^j.$ 

the value of  $\theta$  such that

$$\alpha_1(\widehat{\theta}_n) = \widehat{\alpha}_1$$

$$\alpha_2(\widehat{\theta}_n) = \widehat{\alpha}_2$$

$$\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots$$

$$\widehat{\alpha}_n = \widehat{\alpha}_n$$

defines a system of k equations with k unknowns.

#### EVALUATING A POINT ESTIMATOR

- let d = d(X) be an estimator of  $\theta$ .
- Mean square error of the estimator d

$$r(d, \theta) = E[(d(\mathbf{X}) - \theta)^2]$$

- bias of d as an estimator of  $\theta$ .  $b_{\theta}(d) = E[d(\mathbf{X})] \theta$
- $b\theta(d) = 0$  for all  $\theta$ , then we say that d is an unbiased estimator of  $\theta$ .
- An estimator is unbiased if its expected value always equals the value of the parameter

#### Bias of an estimator

Consider estimator of population mean

$$d_2(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

$$E\left[\frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}\right] = \theta$$

$$d_3(X_1, X_2, ..., X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i X_i \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1.$$

$$E\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i X_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} E[\lambda_i X_i] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i E(X_i) = \theta \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i$$

How about estimator of population variance

$$S^2 = rac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( X_i - \overline{X} \, 
ight)^2 \qquad \qquad \overline{X} = rac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

$$\mathrm{E}[S^2] = \left(1 - rac{1}{n}
ight)\sigma^2 < \sigma^2.$$

## Mean square error, Bias, Variance

Mean square error of unbiased estimator

$$r(d,\theta) = E[(d(\mathbf{X}) - \theta)^2] = E[(d(\mathbf{X}) - E[d(\mathbf{X})])^2] = \operatorname{Var}(d(\mathbf{X}))$$

• mean square error of any estimator is equal to its variance plus the square of its bias.

$$r(d, \theta) = Var(d) + b_{\theta}^{2}(d)$$

MSE Variance Bias

$$r(d,\theta) = E[(d(\mathbf{X}) - \theta)^{2}]$$

$$= E[(d - E[d] + E[d] - \theta)^{2}]$$

$$= E[(d - E[d])^{2} + (E[d] - \theta)^{2} + 2(E[d] - \theta)(d - E[d])]$$

$$= E[(d - E[d])^{2}] + E[(E[d] - \theta)^{2}]$$

$$+ 2E[(E[d] - \theta)(d - E[d])]$$

$$= E[(d - E[d])^{2}] + (E[d] - \theta)^{2} + 2(E[d] - \theta)E[d - E[d]]$$

$$\text{since } E[d] - \theta \text{ is constant} \qquad E[d - E[d]] = 0$$

$$= E[(d - E[d])^{2}] + (E[d] - \theta)^{2}$$

 $r(d, \theta) = Var(d) + b_{\theta}^{2}(d)$ 

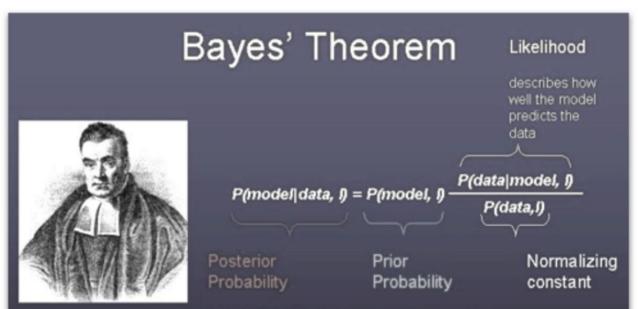
#### Maximum Likelihood Estimate

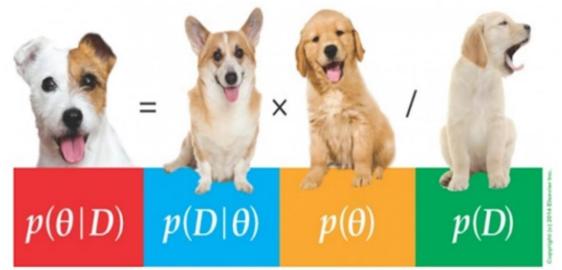
- Rain prediction
- Observed data [1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1]
- What's the probability that it will rain in some day in future ?

## Bayes estimator

- Assume its summer, and you have collected past 10 days data where it didn't rain a single day. Whats the MLE of  $\theta$ , the probability that it rains some day ?
- we have some information (prior)about the value of  $\theta$ , treat  $\theta$  as a random variable and express prior information as a probability distribution.
- $\theta$  is equally likely to be near any value in the interval (0, 1),  $\theta$  is chosen from a uniform distribution on (0, 1).
- $f(x|\theta)$  represents the likelihood that observed data value is equal to x when  $\theta$  is the value of the parameter.
- How will you combine the prior information about  $\theta$  with the observed information in X?

#### Bayes Theorem





#### Rain prediction: ML estimation

$$X = [1,0,0,0,1,0,...]$$

Model?

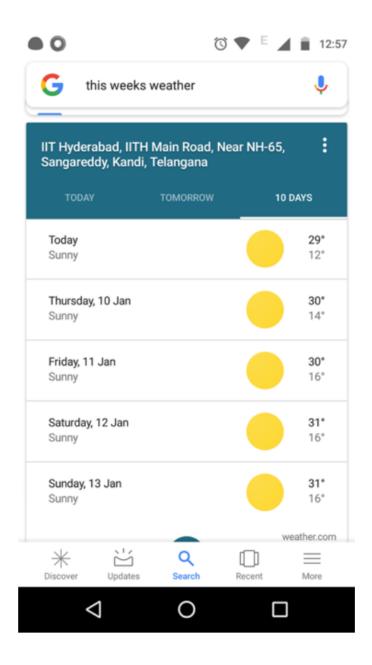
Likelihood: p(X I model)

Learn model parameters: maximum

likelihood (ML) estimation

$$\widehat{\Theta}_{ML} = \underset{\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_i \in \mathcal{X}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathcal{L}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{X}} log \ prob(\mathbf{x}_i | \Theta)$$



#### **Rain prediction: MAP estimation**

Maximum A-Posteriori (MAP) estimation

$$prob(\Theta|\mathcal{X}) = \frac{prob(\mathcal{X}|\Theta) \cdot prob(\Theta)}{prob(\mathcal{X})}$$

$$\widehat{\Theta}_{MAP} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\Theta} \prod_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{X}} prob(\mathbf{x}_i | \Theta) \cdot prob(\Theta) \underset{\text{intriday, 12 Jan}}{\text{it riday, 13 Jan}} \qquad \underbrace{\mathbf{31^*}_{16^*}}_{\text{Sunny}}$$

$$\widehat{\Theta}_{MAP} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\Theta} \left( \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{X}} log \ prob(\mathbf{x}_i | \Theta) \ + \ log \ prob(\Theta) \right) \overset{\text{Sunny}}{\longrightarrow} \underbrace{\mathbf{Q}}_{\text{polates}} \overset{\text{weather.com}}{\longrightarrow} \underbrace{\mathbf{Q}}_{\text{Recent}} \overset{\text{weather.com}}{\longrightarrow} \underbrace{\mathbf{Q}}_{\text{Nore}} \overset{\text{weather.com}}{\longrightarrow} \underbrace{\mathbf{Q}}_{\text{Nore}} \overset{\text{weather.com}}{\longrightarrow} \underbrace{\mathbf{Q}}_{\text{Nore}} \overset{\text{meanther.com}}{\longrightarrow} \underbrace{\mathbf{Q}}_{\text{Nore}} \overset{\text{mea$$

this weeks weather

Sangareddy, Kandi, Telangana

TODAY

Thursday, 10 Jan

Friday, 11 Jan

Today

Sunny

IIT Hyderabad, IITH Main Road, Near NH-65,

TOMORROW

10 DAYS

12°

14°

Seek that value for  $\theta$  which maximizes the posterior prob( $\theta \mid X$ ).

## What Does the MAP Estimate Get Us That the ML Estimate Does NOT

- MAP estimate allows us to inject into the estimation calculation our prior beliefs regarding the parameters values in  $\theta$
- MAP estimation "pulls" the estimate toward the prior. The more focused our prior belief, the larger the pull toward the prior.
- "smoothing" role (Laplace smoothing) for parameter estimation.

## MAP Estimation Example [US Election]

- Consider a survey where voters were asked if they will vote for NDA or UPA in the next election. Let p be the probability that an individual will vote NDA.
- xi is either NDA or UPA,
- nd is the number of individuals who a  $_{\mathcal{X}}=\left\{ x_{i}=\left| \begin{array}{c} Democratic \\ Republican \end{array} \right.,\quad i=1...N \right\}$

$$\hat{p}_{ML} = \frac{n_d}{N}$$

If N = 20 and if 12 out of 20 said that they were going to vote NDA, we get the following the ML estimate for p: pML = 0.6.

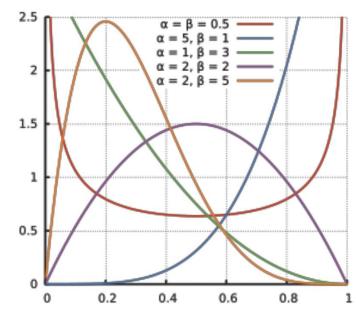
## MAP Estimate: Prior Belief on p

- The prior for p must be zero outside the [0, 1] interval.
- In most cases, we would want to choose a distribution for the prior beliefs that peaks somewhere in the [0, 1] interval.
- beta distribution that is parameterized by two "shape" constants  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  does the job nicely for expressing our prior beliefs concerning p:

$$prob(p|\alpha,\beta) = \frac{1}{B(\alpha,\beta)} p^{\alpha-1} (1-p)^{\beta-1}$$

$$B = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}$$

$$\mod \frac{\alpha-1}{\alpha+\beta-2}$$



## Example [Indian Election]

- The state of Kerala has traditionally voted UPA. However, on account of the prevailing conditions, the voters are more likely to vote NDA in the election in question.
- a prior distribution for p that has a peak at 0.5. Setting  $\alpha = \beta = 5$  gives us a distribution for p that has a peak in the middle of the [0, 1] interval.

$$\widehat{p}_{MAP} = \underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} log \ prob(x|p) \ + \ log \ prob(p) \right)$$

## MAP Estimation [Indian Election]

$$\widehat{p}_{MAP} = \underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \begin{array}{c} n_d \cdot \log p \\ + (N - n_d) \cdot \log \left( 1 - p \right) \end{array} + \underset{p}{\log prob(p)} \right)$$

$$\frac{n_d}{p} - \frac{(N - n_d)}{(1 - p)} + \frac{\alpha - 1}{p} - \frac{\beta - 1}{1 - p} = 0$$

$$\hat{p}_{MAP} = \frac{n_d + \alpha - 1}{N + \alpha + \beta - 2}$$

$$= \frac{n_d + 4}{N + 8}$$

With N = 20 and with 12 of the 20 saying they would vote Democratic, the MAP estimate for p is 0.571 with  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  both set to 5.

#### **Rain prediction: Bayesian estimation**

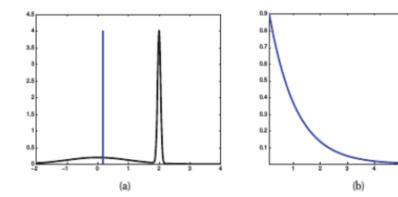
Both ML and MAP return only single and specific values for the parameter  $\Theta$ .

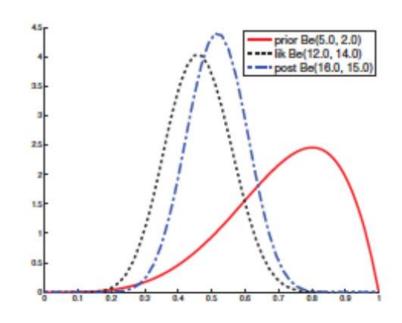
$$prob(\Theta|\mathcal{X}) = \frac{prob(\mathcal{X}|\Theta) \cdot prob(\Theta)}{prob(\mathcal{X})}$$

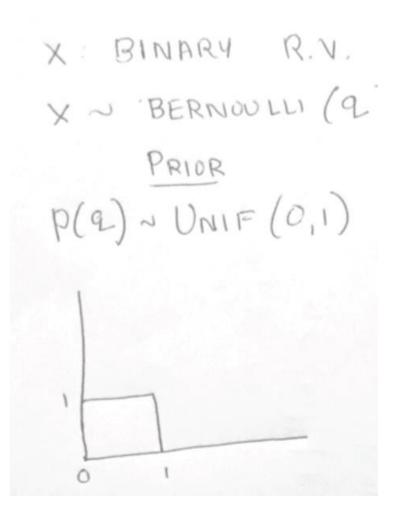
$$prob(\mathcal{X}) = \int_{\Theta} prob(\mathcal{X}|\Theta) \cdot prob(\Theta) \ d\Theta$$

$$prob(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathcal{X}) = \int_{\Theta} prob(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\Theta) \cdot prob(\Theta|\mathcal{X}) \ d\Theta$$

Posterior is a "compromise" between the prior and likelihood. posterior mean is convex combination of the prior mean and the MLE  $\lambda m_1 + (1 - \lambda)\hat{\theta}_{MLE}$ 







X BINARY R.V 
$$P(X|Q) = Q^{X} (1-Q)^{-X}$$

X ~ BERNOULU (Q LIKELIHOOD

PRIOR

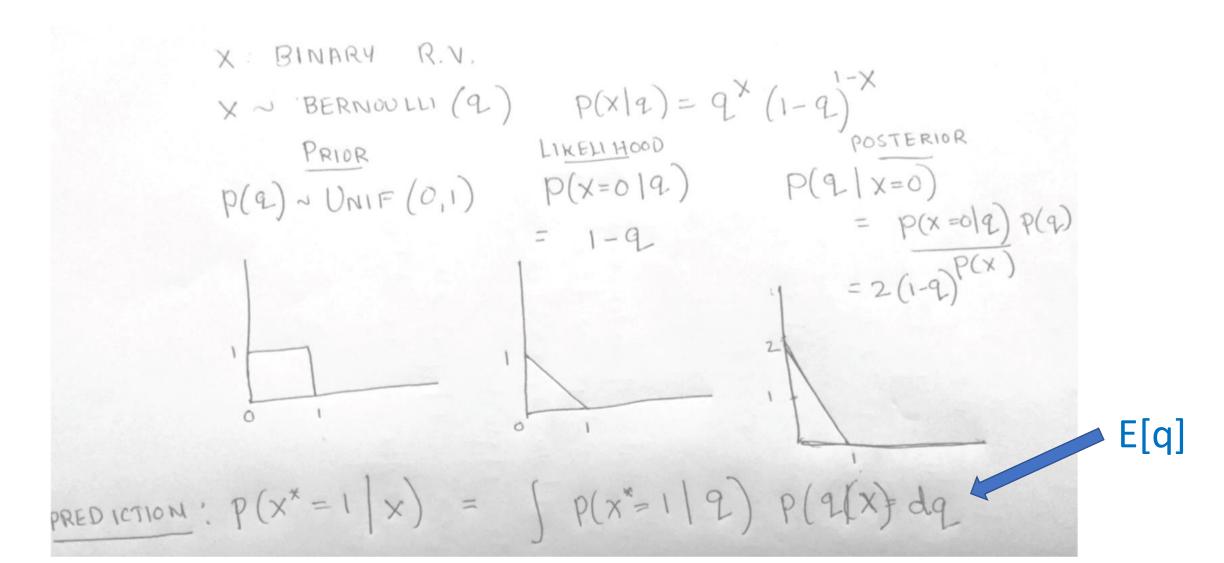
 $P(Q) \sim UNIF(O,1) = 1-Q$ 

X BINARY R.V 
$$P(X|Q) = Q^{X} (1-Q)^{-X}$$

X ~ BERNOULLI (Q LIKELIHOOD

PRIOR

 $P(X=0|Q)$ 
 $P(Q) \sim UNIF(0,1) = 1-Q$ 
 $P(Q) \sim UNIF(0,1) = 1-Q$ 



## Bayes Estimator

• Bayes Estimator : best estimate of  $\theta$ , given the data values mean of the posterior distribution f ( $\theta \mid x1, \ldots, xn$ ).

$$E[\theta|X_1=x_1,\ldots,X_n=x_n]=\int \theta f(\theta|x_1,\ldots,x_n)\,d\theta$$

• Mean of posterior over  $\theta$ , the best estimate of the value of that random variable, in the sense of minimizing the expected squared error

## Bayes Estimator

- Suppose that the value of a random variable X is to be predicted.
- If we predict that X will equal c, then the square of the "error" involved will be (X c)^2.

$$E[(X - c)^{2}] = E[(X - \mu + \mu - c)^{2}]$$

$$= E[(X - \mu)^{2} + 2(\mu - c)(X - \mu) + (\mu - c)^{2}]$$

$$= E[(X - \mu)^{2}] + 2(\mu - c)E[X - \mu] + (\mu - c)^{2}$$

$$= E[(X - \mu)^{2}] + (\mu - c^{2}) \text{ since } E[X - \mu] = E[X] - \mu = 0$$

$$\geq E[(X - \mu)^{2}]$$

average squared error is minimized when we predict that X will equal its mean  $\mu$ .

#### **Bayesian Machine Learning**

Everything follows from two simple rules:

Sum rule:  $P(x) = \sum_{y} P(x, y)$ 

**Product rule:** P(x,y) = P(x)P(y|x)

$$P(\theta|\mathcal{D}) = \frac{P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)P(\theta)}{P(\mathcal{D})} \qquad \begin{array}{c} P(\mathcal{D}|\theta) & \text{likelihood of } \theta \\ P(\theta) & \text{prior probability of } \theta \\ P(\theta|\mathcal{D}) & \text{posterior of } \theta \text{ given } \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

#### Prediction:

$$P(x|D, m) = \int P(x|\theta, D, m)P(\theta|D, m)d\theta$$