

Discriminant Analysis

Here the approach is to model the distribution of X in each of the classes separately, and then use *Bayes theorem* to flip things around and obtain $\Pr(Y|X)$.

When we use normal (Gaussian) distributions for each class, this leads to linear or quadratic discriminant analysis.

However, this approach is quite general, and other distributions can be used as well. We will focus on normal distributions.

Bayes theorem for classification

Thomas Bayes was a famous mathematician whose name represents a big subfield of statistical and probabilistic modeling. Here we focus on a simple result, known as Bayes theorem:

$$\Pr(Y = k|X = x) = \frac{\Pr(X = x|Y = k) \cdot \Pr(Y = k)}{\Pr(X = x)}$$

Bayes theorem for classification

Thomas Bayes was a famous mathematician whose name represents a big subfield of statistical and probabilistic modeling. Here we focus on a simple result, known as Bayes theorem:

$$\Pr(Y = k|X = x) = \frac{\Pr(X = x|Y = k) \cdot \Pr(Y = k)}{\Pr(X = x)}$$

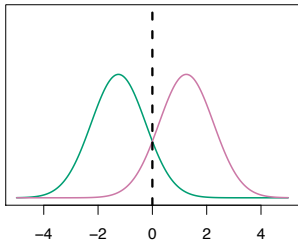
One writes this slightly differently for discriminant analysis:

$$\Pr(Y = k|X = x) = \frac{\pi_k f_k(x)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l f_l(x)}, \quad \text{where}$$

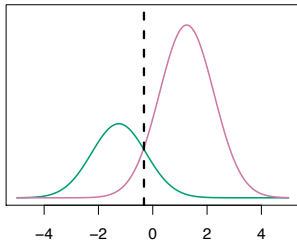
- $f_k(x) = \Pr(X = x|Y = k)$ is the *density* for X in class k . Here we will use normal densities for these, separately in each class.
- $\pi_k = \Pr(Y = k)$ is the marginal or *prior* probability for class k .

Classify to the highest density

$$\pi_1=.5, \pi_2=.5$$

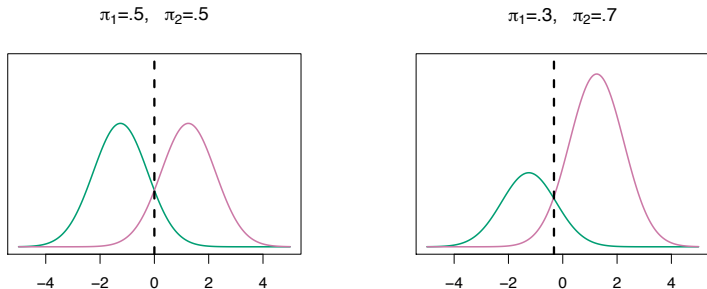


$$\pi_1=.3, \pi_2=.7$$



We classify a new point according to which density is highest.

Classify to the highest density



We classify a new point according to which density is highest.

When the priors are different, we take them into account as well, and compare $\pi_k f_k(x)$. On the right, we favor the pink class — the decision boundary has shifted to the left.

Why discriminant analysis?

- When the classes are well-separated, the parameter estimates for the logistic regression model are surprisingly unstable. Linear discriminant analysis does not suffer from this problem.
- If n is small and the distribution of the predictors X is approximately normal in each of the classes, the linear discriminant model is again more stable than the logistic regression model.
- Linear discriminant analysis is popular when we have more than two response classes, because it also provides low-dimensional views of the data.

Linear Discriminant Analysis when $p = 1$

The Gaussian density has the form

$$f_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_k} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_k}{\sigma_k}\right)^2}$$

Here μ_k is the mean, and σ_k^2 the variance (in class k). We will assume that all the $\sigma_k = \sigma$ are the same.

Linear Discriminant Analysis when $p = 1$

The Gaussian density has the form

$$f_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_k} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_k}{\sigma_k}\right)^2}$$

Here μ_k is the mean, and σ_k^2 the variance (in class k). We will assume that all the $\sigma_k = \sigma$ are the same.

Plugging this into Bayes formula, we get a rather complex expression for $p_k(x) = \Pr(Y = k|X = x)$:

$$p_k(x) = \frac{\pi_k \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_k}{\sigma}\right)^2}}{\sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_l}{\sigma}\right)^2}}$$

Happily, there are simplifications and cancellations.

Discriminant functions

To classify at the value $X = x$, we need to see which of the $p_k(x)$ is largest. Taking logs, and discarding terms that do not depend on k , we see that this is equivalent to assigning x to the class with the largest *discriminant score*:

$$\delta_k(x) = x \cdot \frac{\mu_k}{\sigma^2} - \frac{\mu_k^2}{2\sigma^2} + \log(\pi_k)$$

Note that $\delta_k(x)$ is a *linear* function of x .

Discriminant functions

To classify at the value $X = x$, we need to see which of the $p_k(x)$ is largest. Taking logs, and discarding terms that do not depend on k , we see that this is equivalent to assigning x to the class with the largest *discriminant score*:

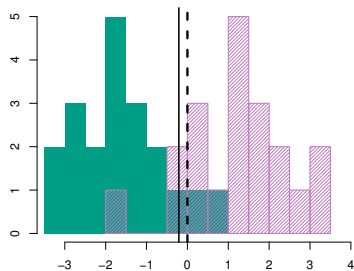
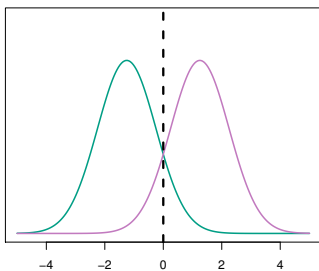
$$\delta_k(x) = x \cdot \frac{\mu_k}{\sigma^2} - \frac{\mu_k^2}{2\sigma^2} + \log(\pi_k)$$

Note that $\delta_k(x)$ is a *linear* function of x .

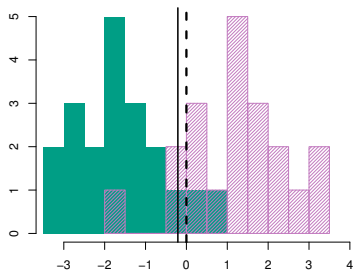
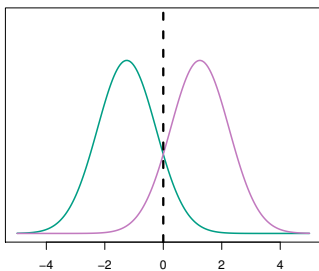
If there are $K = 2$ classes and $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = 0.5$, then one can see that the *decision boundary* is at

$$x = \frac{\mu_1 + \mu_2}{2}.$$

(See if you can show this)



Example with $\mu_1 = -1.5$, $\mu_2 = 1.5$, $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = 0.5$, and $\sigma^2 = 1$.



Example with $\mu_1 = -1.5$, $\mu_2 = 1.5$, $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = 0.5$, and $\sigma^2 = 1$.

Typically we don't know these parameters; we just have the training data. In that case we simply estimate the parameters and plug them into the rule.

Estimating the parameters

$$\hat{\pi}_k = \frac{n_k}{n}$$

$$\hat{\mu}_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i: y_i=k} x_i$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\sigma}^2 &= \frac{1}{n-K} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i: y_i=k} (x_i - \hat{\mu}_k)^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{n_k - 1}{n - K} \cdot \hat{\sigma}_k^2\end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{\sigma}_k^2 = \frac{1}{n_k-1} \sum_{i: y_i=k} (x_i - \hat{\mu}_k)^2$ is the usual formula for the estimated variance in the k th class.