



[Unit 4 Unsupervised Learning \(2](#)

[Course](#) > [weeks](#))

> [Lecture 15. Generative Models](#) >

8. Prior, Posterior and Likelihood

### Audit Access Expires May 11, 2020

You lose all access to this course, including your progress, on May 11, 2020.

## 8. Prior, Posterior and Likelihood

### Prior, Posterior and Likelihood



### Video

[Download video file](#)

### Transcripts

[Download SubRip \(.srt\) file](#)

[Download Text \(.txt\) file](#)

## Prior, Posterior and Likelihood

1/1 point (graded)

Consider a binary classification task with two labels '+' (positive) and '-' (negative).

Let  $y$  denote the classification label assigned to a document  $D$  by a multinomial generative model  $M$  with parameters  $\theta^+$  for the positive class and  $\theta^-$  for the negative class.

Which of the following option(s) is/are true about the prior, posterior or likelihood distributions for this classifier? Choose the correct notations from the statements below:

☒  $P(y = +|D)$  is the posterior distribution

☐  $P(y = +|D)$  is the prior distribution

☐  $P(y = +)$  is the posterior distribution

☒  $P(y = +)$  is the prior distribution



### Solution:


Recall from the lecture that from bayesian rule we have,

$$P(y = +|D) = \frac{P(D|\theta^+) \times P(y = +)}{P(D)}$$

where  $P(y = +|D)$  is the posterior distribution and  $P(y = +)$  is the prior distribution while  $P(D|\theta^+)$  is the likelihood of document  $D$  given parameter  $\theta^+$

Submit

You have used 1 of 1 attempt

 Answers are displayed within the problem

## A Numerical Example

2/2 points (graded)

Let's say that the prior for the positive class takes the following value:

$$P(y = +) = 0.3$$

Also, say that  $P(D|\theta^+) = .3$  and  $P(D|\theta^-) = .6$

From the above values of prior and likelihood, calculate the value of  $P(D)$ , the probability of generating document  $D$ . Enter the value below:

✓ Answer: 0.51

From  $P(D)$  also estimate the posterior probability  $P(y = +|D)$ . Enter your answer as a numerical expression or round it off to two decimal places.

✓ Answer: 0.1764705882352941

### Solution:

From the total probability law, we have that

$$P(D) = P(D|y = +) P(y = +) + P(D|y = -) P(y = -)$$

Also probability values must sum to 1 across all classes,

$$P(y = +) + P(y = -) = 1$$

Therefore,

$$P(D) = P(D|y = +) \times .3 + P(D|y = -) \times .7$$

$$P(D) = .3 \times .3 + .6 \times .7 = 0.51$$

From  $P(D)$ , we can calculate the posterior value  $P(y = +|D)$  using bayes rule as follows:

$$P(y = +|D) = \frac{P(D|\theta^+) P(y = +)}{P(D)}$$

$$P(y = +|D) = \frac{.3 \times .3}{0.51} = 0.1764705882352941$$

Submit

You have used 1 of 3 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

## Discussion



Hide Discussion

**Topic:** Unit 4 Unsupervised Learning (2 weeks) :Lecture 15.  
Generative Models / 8. Prior, Posterior and Likelihood

Add a Post

Show all posts

by recent activity

-  Did she just say?!?! 2  
 "this is just a Bayesian rule - there's nothing very special about it" Blasphemy! It's like she just...
-  Thanks for such a clear articulation of offset concept 1  
 Thanks Professor i am also taking the other course in this micro master series the 6.36x and...

? How to interpret  $P(D|\theta_+)$ ?

6

I understand  $P(\theta_+|D)$  as the probability that the document is generated by model  $\theta_+$ , as in: gi...

© All Rights Reserved