

Bayes Rule and Bayes Classifier

Liang Liang

Classification and Bayes Rule

- We can use Bayes Rule for classification.
- We will use simple examples to show how to apply Bayes decision rule for Binary Classification (two classes)
- Bayes rule can be applied for multiclass classification.
- Bayes decision rule will help us explain/understand classification using the language of probability and statistics.

Binary Classification: two classes

- We have a set of data points $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_N\}$ and $x_n \in \mathcal{R}^M$
- We have a set of labels $\{y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_N\}$ and $y_n \in \{0, 1\}$
- The data points are from two classes. y_n is the class label of x_n
- One data point belongs to only one class
- Each class has a probability density function (PDF), from which the data points are “generated”
 - $p(x|y = 0)$ is the PDF of class-0, x refers to a data point, y is the label
 - $p(x|y = 1)$ is the PDF of class-1
- Each class has a prior probability: $\pi_0 = p(y = 0)$ and $\pi_1 = p(y = 1)$

Example: each class has a M-D Gaussian PDF

- Each class has a M-D Gaussian PDF

PDF of class-0: $p(x|y = 0) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_0, \Sigma_0)$, parameters: μ_0 and Σ_0

PDF of class-1: $p(x|y = 1) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_1, \Sigma_1)$, parameters: μ_1 and Σ_1

- Each class has a prior probability: $\pi_0 = p(y = 0)$ and $\pi_1 = p(y = 1)$

$$\pi_0 + \pi_1 = 1$$

Example: each class has a 1-D Gaussian PDF

- Each class has a 1D Gaussian PDF

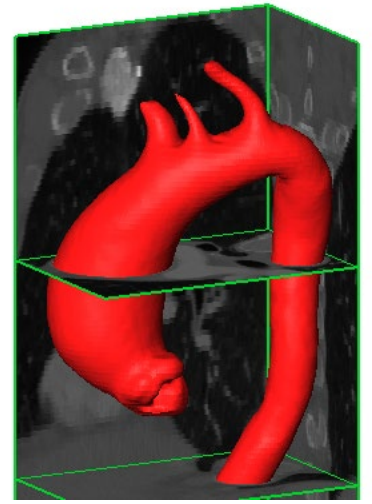
$$p(x|y = 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_0} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}}, \text{ parameters: } \mu_0 \text{ and } \sigma_0$$

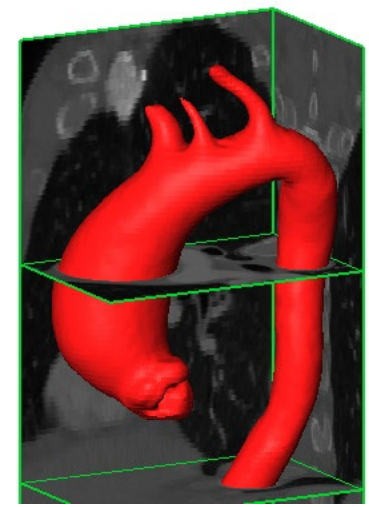
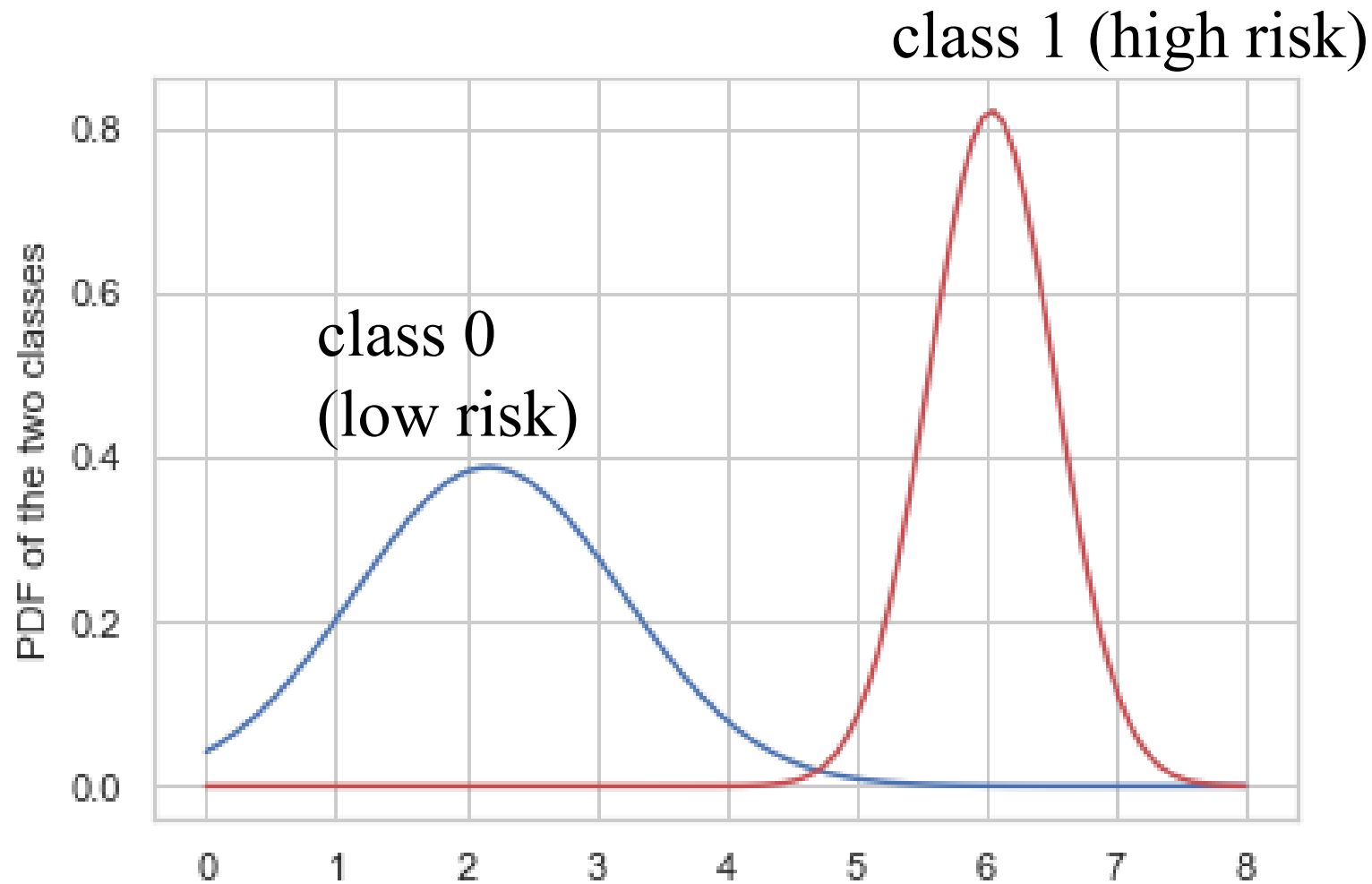
$$p(x|y = 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_1} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2}}, \text{ parameters: } \mu_1 \text{ and } \sigma_1$$

- Each class has a prior probability: $\pi_0 = p(y = 0)$ and $\pi_1 = p(y = 1)$
 $\pi_0 + \pi_1 = 1$

Example: aortic aneurysm

- Millions of people have aortic aneurysms.
- If an aortic aneurysm of a patient ruptures, the patient will die very soon if left untreated.
- The rupture risk is measured by using aneurysm diameter.
- x_n is aneurysm diameter of a patient (indexed by n).
- The current clinical decision rule:
 - perform surgery (cut aneurysm) if $x_n > t$
- To find the best threshold t , assume we can collect some data:
 - (class-0) aneurysm diameters of the patients whose aneurysms did not rupture in the last ten years.
 - (class-1) aneurysm diameters of the patients whose aneurysms did rupture in the last ten years.





x_n is the aortic aneurysm diameter of a patient.

Decision Rule: whether to cut the aneurysm or not, based on a threshold t

if $x > t$, then x belongs to class 1 (cut)

if $x < t$, then x belongs to class 0 (not cut).

What is the “optimal” value of t ?

Notations

X is a random variable (vector), and Y is a random variable (class label)

x is a data point – an observation of X

y is a class label – an observation of Y (0 or 1 for binary classification)

For simplicity:

we use $p(x|y)$ to represent $p(X = x|Y = y)$

we use $p(y|x)$ to represent $p(Y = y|X = x)$

Notations

x is a data point

y is a class label (0 or 1 for binary classification)

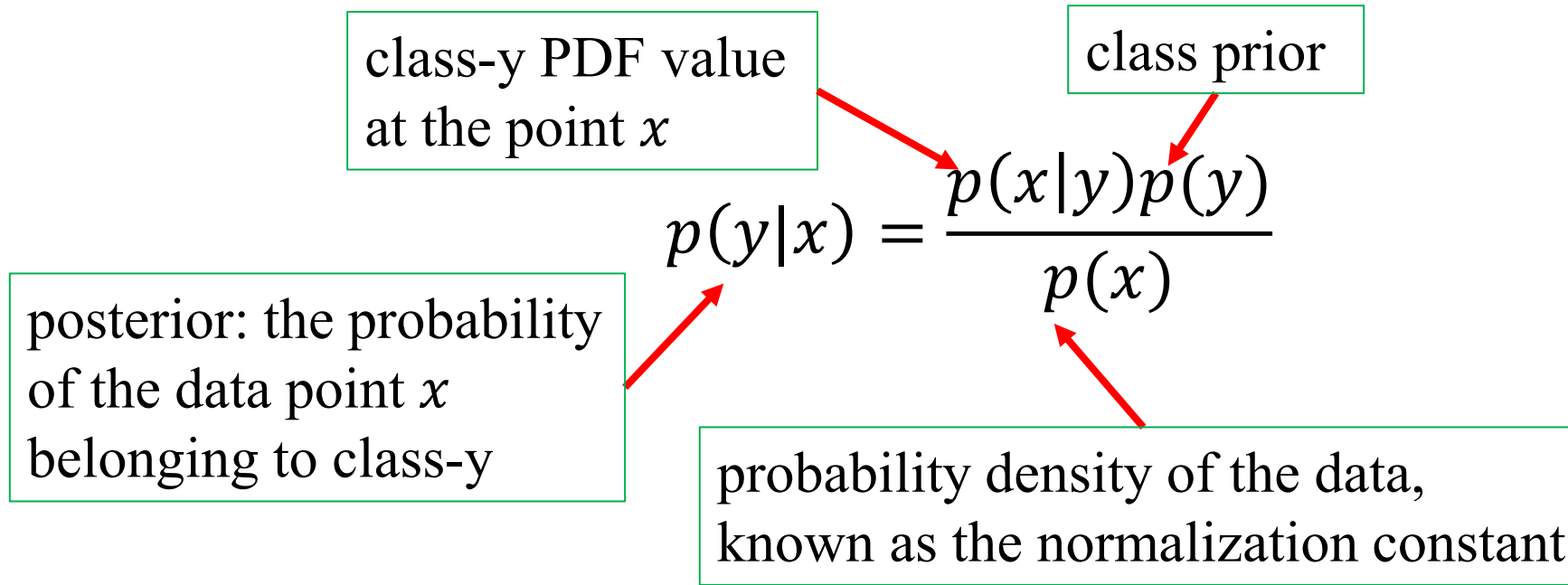
$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y})$ is the prob. density function (PDF) of the class y (class- y PDF)

- the distribution of the data points (e.g., x) in a given class (e.g., y)

$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$ is the posterior probability that is used for classification

- prob. of a data point x belonging to the class y
- if $p(y = 0|x) > p(y = 1|x)$ then x is classified into the class 0

Bayes Rule/Theorem



Law of total probability

$$p(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K \underbrace{p(y = k)}_{\text{prior probability of the class } y, \text{ where } y=k} \underbrace{p(x|y = k)}_{\text{probability density of the data in one single class } y, \text{ where } y=k}$$

probability density of the data
from all the classes

prior probability
of the class y ,
where $y = k$

probability density of the data in
one single class y , where $y = k$

Bayes Rule: when $p(x|y) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)$, $p(y) = \pi_y$

Diagram illustrating the Bayes Rule equation with labels for its components:

- class-y PDF value at the point x (points to $p(x|y)$)
- class prior (points to $p(y)$)
- posterior: the probability of the data point x belonging to class- y (points to $p(y|x)$)
- prob. density of the data (points to $p(x)$)

$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)} = \frac{\mathcal{N}(x; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)\pi_y}{\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_k, \Sigma_k)}$$

$K=2$ for binary classification

$$p(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K p(y = k)p(x|y = k) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_k, \Sigma_k)$$

Bayes Rule

$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)}$$

for binary classification

- compute $p(y)$: $p(y = 0)$ and $p(y = 1)$

$$p(y = 1)$$



What is the probability that an aneurysm ruptures ($y = 1$) in a patient ?
note: we do not have any diameter measurement of the aneurysm

Bayes Rule

$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)}$$

for binary classification

- compute $p(y)$: $p(y = 0)$ and $p(y = 1)$
- compute $p(x|y)$: $p(x|y = 0)$ and $p(x|y = 1)$

$$p(x|y = 0)$$

compute the probability density at the data point x using the PDF of the class 0

given $y = 0$: under the condition that the class label is 0

Bayes Rule

$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)}$$

for binary classification

- compute $p(y)$: $p(y = 0)$ and $p(y = 1)$
- compute $p(x|y)$: $p(x|y = 0)$ and $p(x|y = 1)$
- compute $p(x)$: use law of total probability

$$p(x) = p(y = 0)p(x|y = 0) + p(y = 1)p(x|y = 1)$$

Bayes Rule

$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)}$$

for binary classification

- compute $p(y)$: $p(y = 0)$ and $p(y = 1)$
- compute $p(x|y)$: $p(x|y = 0)$ and $p(x|y = 1)$
- compute $p(x)$: use law of total probability
- compute $p(y|x)$: $p(y = 0|x)$ and $p(y = 1|x)$

y is the class label of x

compute the probability that
the class label of x is 0

$$p(y = 0|x)$$

given x : we have obtained a data point x

Bayes Classifier for binary classification

$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)} = \frac{\mathcal{N}(x; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)\pi_y}{\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_k, \Sigma_k)}$$

- Classification Rule of a Bayes Binary Classifier
 - if $p(y = 0|x) > p(y = 1|x)$ then x is classified into the class 0
 - if $p(y = 0|x) < p(y = 1|x)$ then x is classified into the class 1
 - if $p(y = 0|x) = p(y = 1|x)$ then x is on the decision boundary
- The internal parameters of $p(y|x)$ will be determined using training data

Training/Learning a Bayes classifier for binary classification (fit model to data to get the best parameters of the PDFs)

- We have a set of training data points $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_N\}$ and $x_n \in \mathcal{R}^M$
- We have a set of class labels $\{y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_N\}$ and $y_n \in \{0, 1\}$
- Assume the data points are observations of i.i.d. random variables
- The optimal parameters of the classifier can be obtained by minimizing negative log likelihood loss (NLL)

$$\begin{aligned} loss &= -\log\left(\prod_{n=1}^N p(x_n, y_n)\right) \\ &= -\sum_{n=1}^N \log(p(x_n, y_n)) \\ &= -\sum_{n=1}^N \log(p(y_n)p(x_n|y_n)) \end{aligned}$$

Training/Learning the Bayes classifier

(Assuming $p(x|y) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)$, $p(y) = \pi_y$)

- Assuming class PDF $p(x|y) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)$, then

$$p(x_n|y_n) = \mathcal{N}(x_n; \mu_{y_n}, \Sigma_{y_n})$$

- Minimize the NLL loss to get the best values of π_y , μ_y and Σ_y

$$loss = -\sum_{n=1}^N \log \left(\pi_{y_n} \mathcal{N}(x_n; \mu_{y_n}, \Sigma_{y_n}) \right)$$

The solution:

$$\pi_y = \frac{\text{the number of data points in the class } y}{N}$$

μ_y and Σ_y are calculated using the data points in class- y

Apply the Bayes classifier to classify a data point

- We have a new data point x that is not in the training dataset
- We may not know the class label y of x
- We apply the trained classifier to classify the data point x
 - Compute the posterior probability $p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y) p(y)}{p(x)}$
 - Classification rule (binary classification):
 - if $p(y = 0|x) > p(y = 1|x)$, then x belongs to class-0
 - if $p(y = 0|x) < p(y = 1|x)$, then x belongs to class-1
 - if $p(y = 0|x) = p(y = 1|x)$, then x is on decision boundary

Apply the Bayes classifier

$$p(y = 0|x) = \frac{p(x|y = 0) p(y = 0)}{p(x)}$$

$$p(y = 1|x) = \frac{p(x|y = 1) p(y = 1)}{p(x)}$$

- Make classification using log-likelihood ratio $h(x)$

$$h(x) = \log \frac{p(y = 0|x)}{p(y = 1|x)} = \log \frac{p(y = 0)p(x|y = 0)}{p(y = 1)p(x|y = 1)}$$

where $p(y = 1|x)$ is assumed not equal to 0

if $h(x) > 0$, then then x belongs to class-0 ($p(y = 0|x) > p(y = 1|x)$)

if $h(x) < 0$, then then x belongs to class-1 ($p(y = 0|x) < p(y = 1|x)$)

Then we do not need to compute $p(x)$

The curve/surface defined by $h(x) = 0$ is the **decision boundary**

Bayes classifier - the decision boundary

(Assuming $p(x|y) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)$, $p(y) = \pi_y$)

- Classification using log-likelihood ratio $h(x)$

$$h(x) = \log \frac{\pi_0 \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_0, \Sigma_0)}{\pi_1 \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_1, \Sigma_1)}$$

$h(x) = 0$ defines decision boundary (when $p(y = 0|x) = p(y = 1|x)$)

if $\Sigma_0 \neq \Sigma_1$, then $h(x) = 0 \implies x^T A x - b^T x + c = 0$

a quadratic surface/curve

if $\Sigma_0 = \Sigma_1$, then $h(x) = 0 \implies a^T x - d = 0$

hyperplane or a line

Bayes classifier: Accuracy and Error

- The accuracy/error of a Bayes classifier can be calculated using equations.

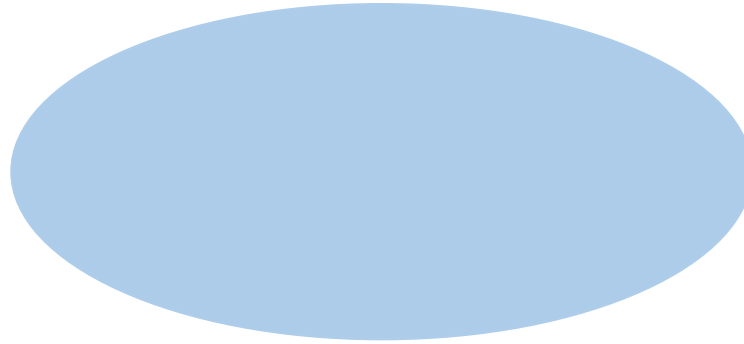
$$p(y|x) = \frac{p(x|y)p(y)}{p(x)}$$

Notations

- $x \rightarrow C_y$ means a data point x is classified into the class y by using a Bayes classifier.
 - $x \rightarrow \textcolor{blue}{C}_0$: x is classified into the class 0 by using the classifier
 - $x \rightarrow \textcolor{red}{C}_1$: x is classified into the class 1 by using the classifier
- $x \in C_y$ means a data point x is in the class y
 - $x \in \textcolor{blue}{C}_0$ means a data point x is in the class 0
 - $x \in \textcolor{red}{C}_1$ means a data point x is in the class 1

A basic property of class PDFs

class 0

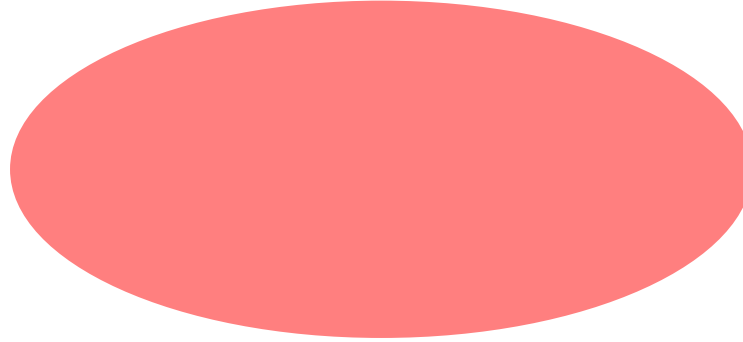


$p(x|y = 0)$ is the PDF of the class 0

$$\int_{x \in \mathcal{C}_0} p(x|y = 0) dx = 1$$

A basic property of class PDFs

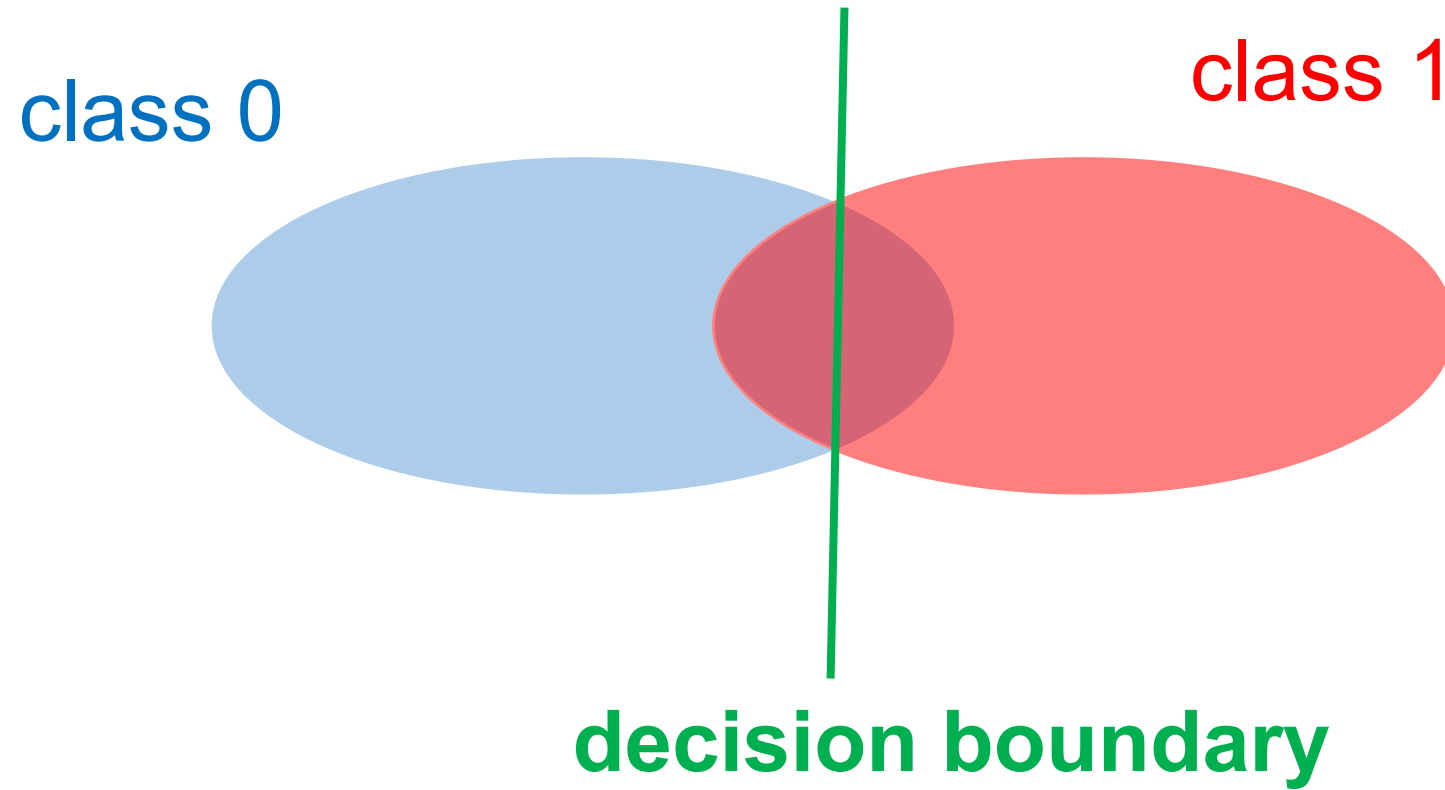
class 1



$p(x|y = 1)$ is the PDF of the class 1

$$\int_{x \in \mathcal{C}_1} p(x|y = 1) dx = 1$$

binary classification



$$1 = \int_{x \in \mathcal{C}_0} p(x|y=0) dx = \int_{x \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_0} p(x|y=0) dx + \int_{x \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1} p(x|y=0) dx$$

$p(x|y=0)$ class 0

class 1

$x \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_0$

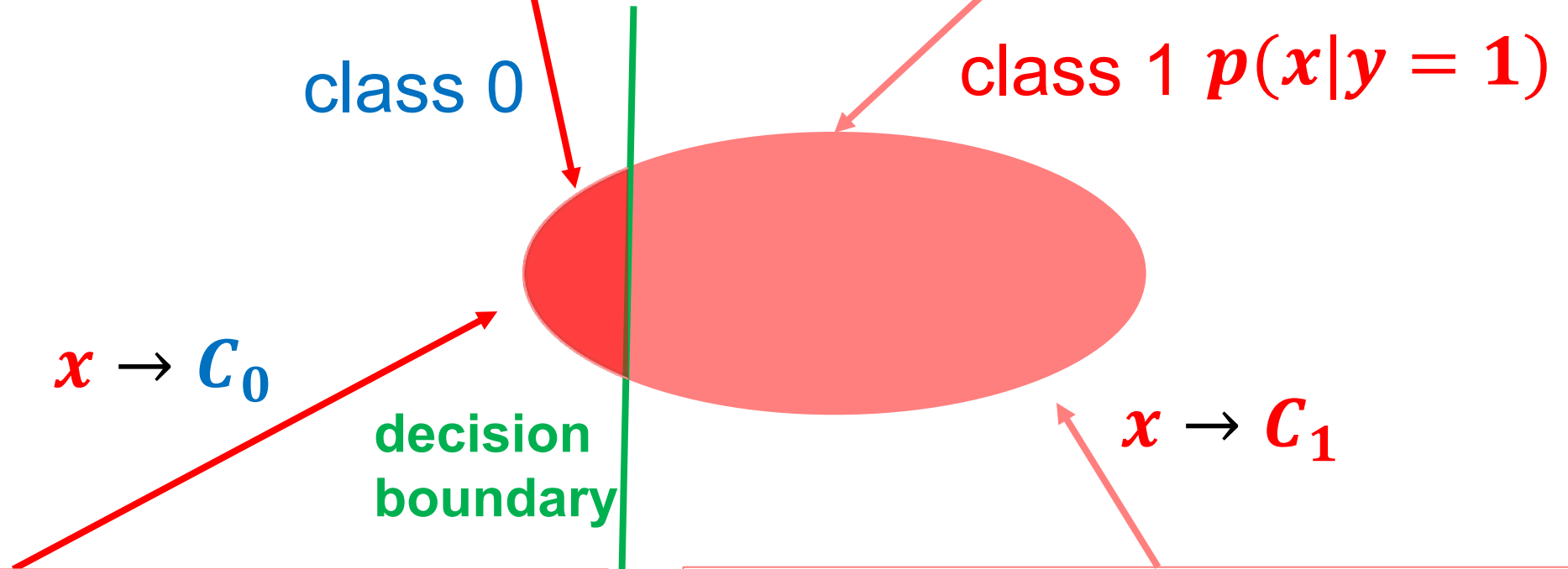
decision
boundary

$x \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1$

right classifications for class 0:
data points with true label=0
are classified into class 0

wrong classifications for class 0:
data points with true label=0
are classified into class 1

$$1 = \int_{x \in \mathcal{C}_1} p(x|y=1) dx = \int_{x \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_0} p(x|y=1) dx + \int_{x \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1} p(x|y=1) dx$$



wrong classifications for class 1:
data points with true label=1
are classified into class 0

right classifications for class 1:
data points with true label=1
are classified into class 1

binary classification accuracy

$$accuracy = \int_{x \in \Omega_{correct}} p(x) dx$$

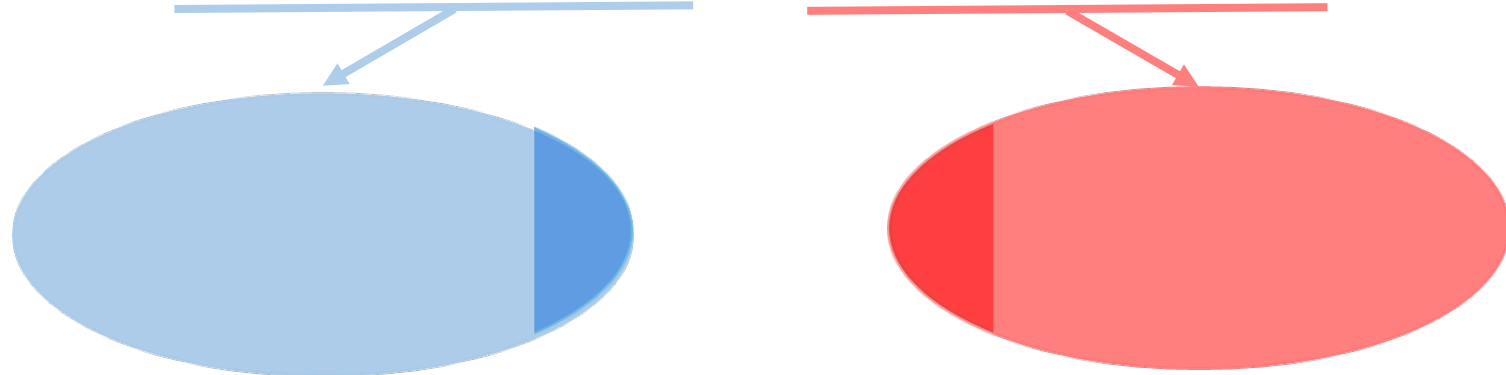
$$\Omega_{correct} = \{x | x \text{ is correctly classified}\}$$

x is correctly classified: then (1) or (2) is true

(1) true label $y = 0$ and $x \rightarrow C_0$

(2) true label $y = 1$ and $x \rightarrow C_1$

$$\Omega_{correct} = \{x | y = 0, x \rightarrow C_0\} \cup \{x | y = 1, x \rightarrow C_1\}$$

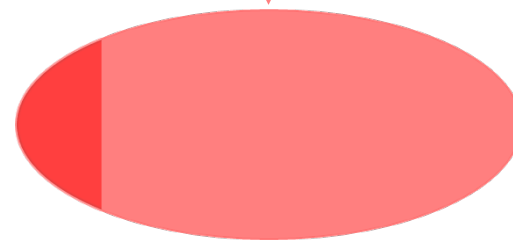
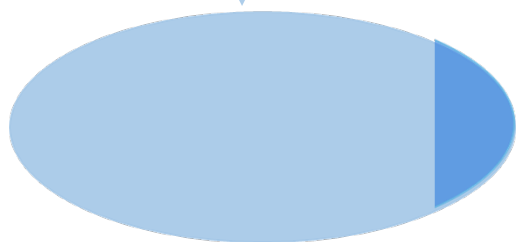


binary classification accuracy

$$accuracy = \int_{x \in \Omega_{correct}} p(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{x \in \Omega_{correct}} [(p(y = 0)p(x|y = 0) + p(y = 1)p(x|y = 1))] dx$$

$$= \int_{x \in \Omega_{correct}} \underbrace{p(y = 0)p(x|y = 0)}_{\downarrow} dx + \int_{x \in \Omega_{correct}} \underbrace{p(y = 1)p(x|y = 1)}_{\downarrow} dx$$



$$= \int_{x \rightarrow c_0} p(y = 0)p(x|y = 0) dx + \int_{x \rightarrow c_1} p(y = 1)p(x|y = 1) dx$$

$$\pi_0 = p(y = 0) \text{ and } \pi_1 = p(y = 1)$$

binary classification accuracy

x in class-0
(truth)

x in class-1
(truth)

$$accuracy = \pi_0 \int_{\underline{x \rightarrow c_0}} \textcolor{blue}{p(x|y = \textcolor{blue}{0})} dx + \pi_1 \int_{\underline{x \rightarrow c_1}} \textcolor{red}{p(x|y = \textcolor{red}{1})} dx$$

x is classified to class-0
(right classification)

x is classified to class-1
(right classification)

Error rate: the expected classification error

$$\textit{error rate} = 1 - \textit{accuracy}$$

Error rate: the expected classification error

$$\text{error rate} = 1 - \text{accuracy}$$

$$= 1 - \left(\pi_0 \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) dx + \pi_1 \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) dx \right)$$

$$= (\pi_0 + \pi_1) - \pi_0 \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) dx - \pi_1 \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) dx$$

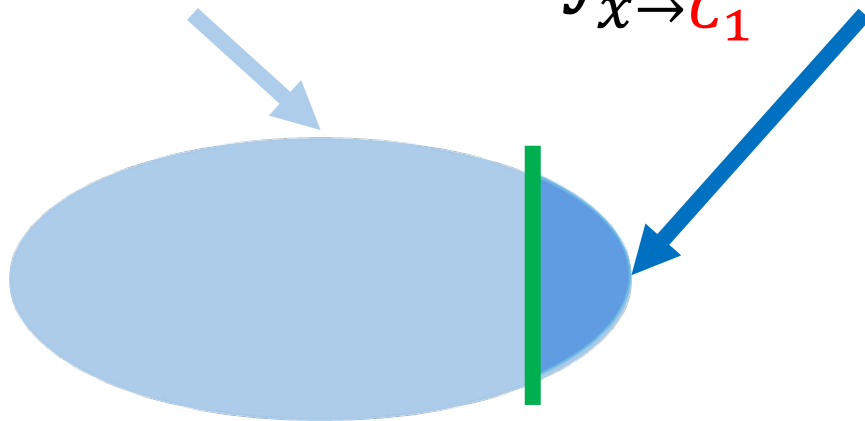
$$= \pi_0 \left(1 - \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) dx \right) + \pi_1 \left(1 - \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) dx \right)$$

Error rate: the expected classification error

$$\text{error rate} = 1 - \text{accuracy}$$

$$= \pi_0 \left(1 - \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) d\mathbf{x} \right) + \pi_1 \left(1 - \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) d\mathbf{x} \right)$$

$$\int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) d\mathbf{x} + \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) d\mathbf{x} = 1$$

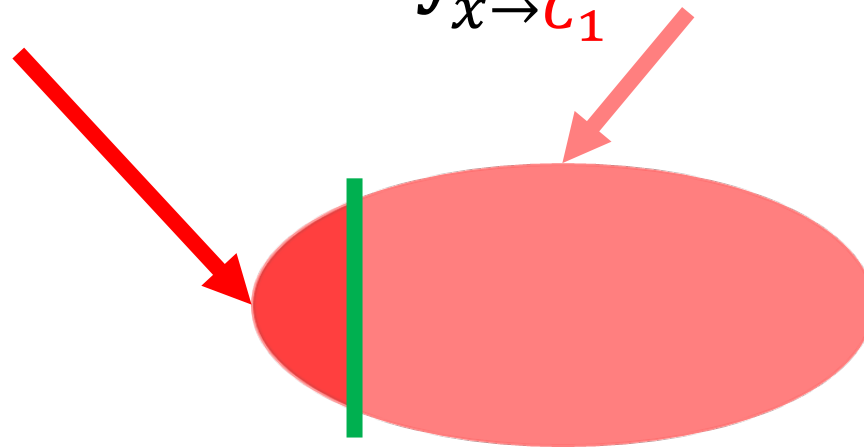


Error rate: the expected classification error

$$\text{error rate} = 1 - \text{accuracy}$$

$$= \pi_0 \left(1 - \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) d\mathbf{x} \right) + \pi_1 \left(1 - \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) d\mathbf{x} \right)$$

$$\int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) d\mathbf{x} + \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) d\mathbf{x} = 1$$

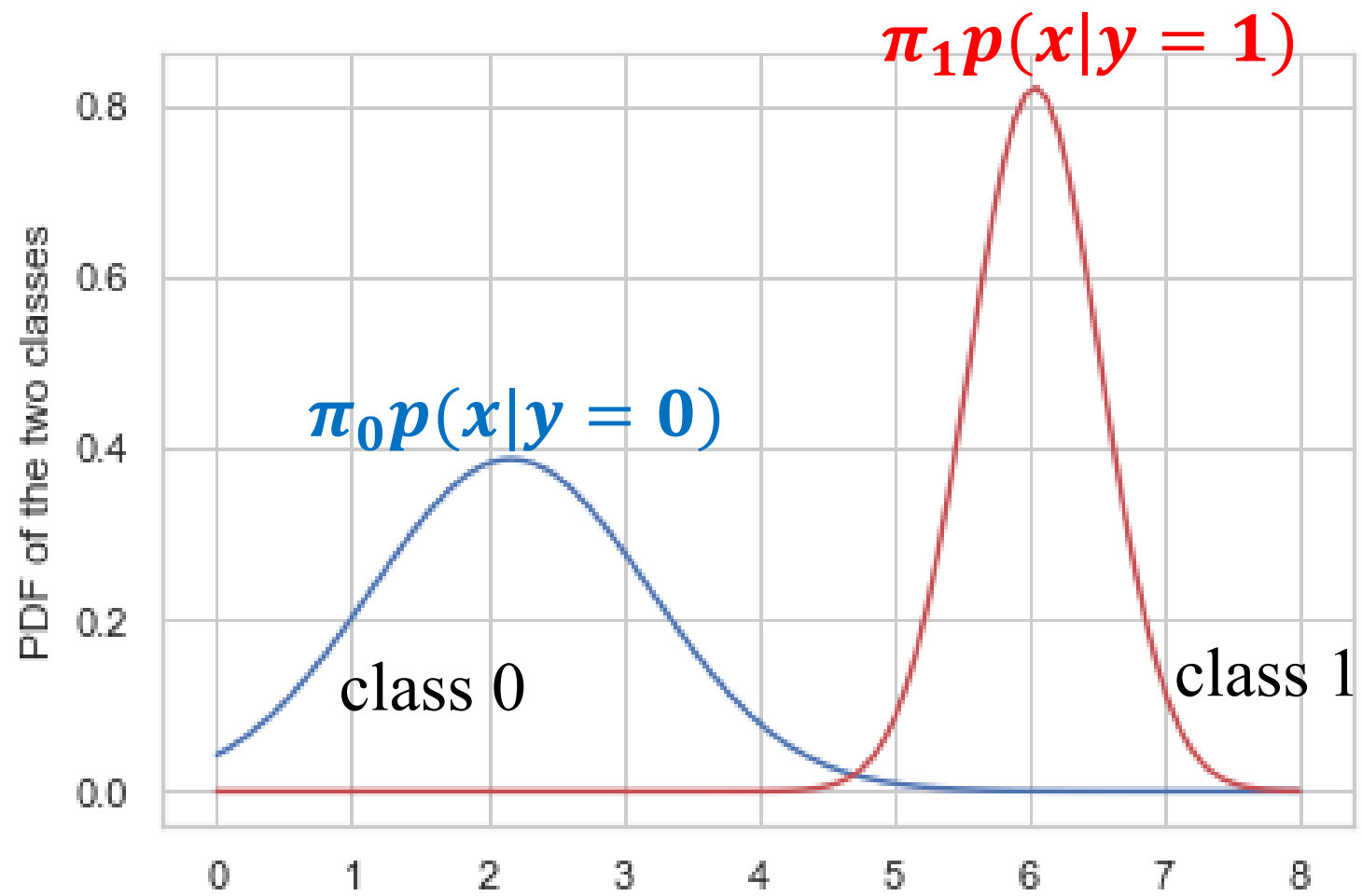


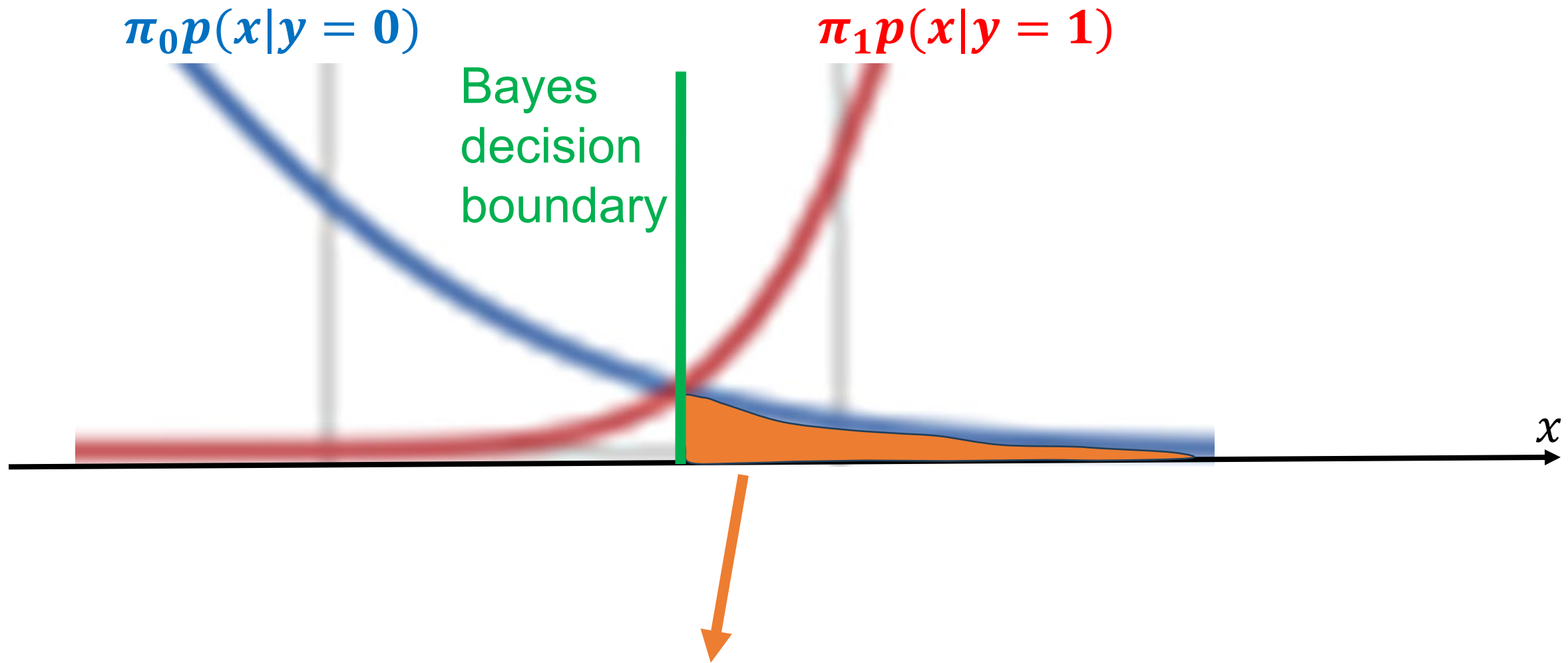
Error rate: the expected classification error

$$\text{error rate} = 1 - \text{accuracy}$$

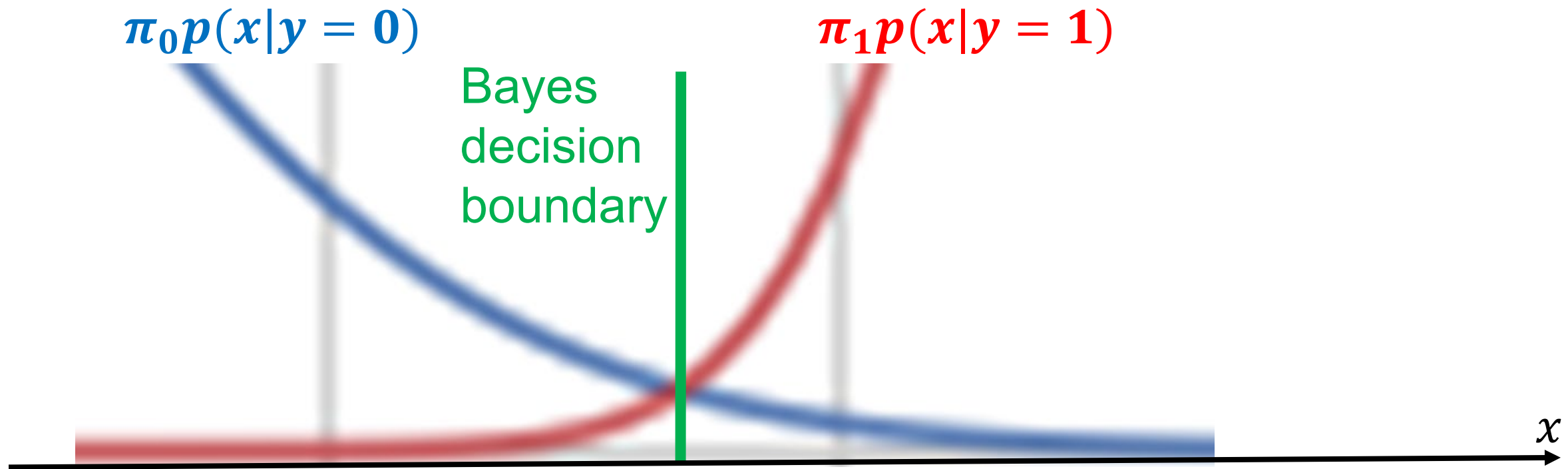
The diagram illustrates the error rate formula with annotations for truth and classification. It features two boxes at the top: a blue box on the left labeled "x in class-0 (truth)" and a red box on the right labeled "x in class-1 (truth)". Arrows point from these boxes to the conditional probability terms in the formula. The formula itself is
$$\text{error rate} = \pi_0 \int_{\underline{x \rightarrow c_1}} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) d\mathbf{x} + \pi_1 \int_{\underline{x \rightarrow c_0}} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) d\mathbf{x}$$
 Below the formula, two purple boxes provide further context: the left box, "x is classified to class-1 (wrong classification)", has an arrow pointing to the $\underline{x \rightarrow c_1}$ term; the right box, "x is classified to class-0 (wrong classification)", has an arrow pointing to the $\underline{x \rightarrow c_0}$ term.

$$\text{error rate} = \pi_0 \int_{\underline{x \rightarrow c_1}} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}) d\mathbf{x} + \pi_1 \int_{\underline{x \rightarrow c_0}} \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}) d\mathbf{x}$$



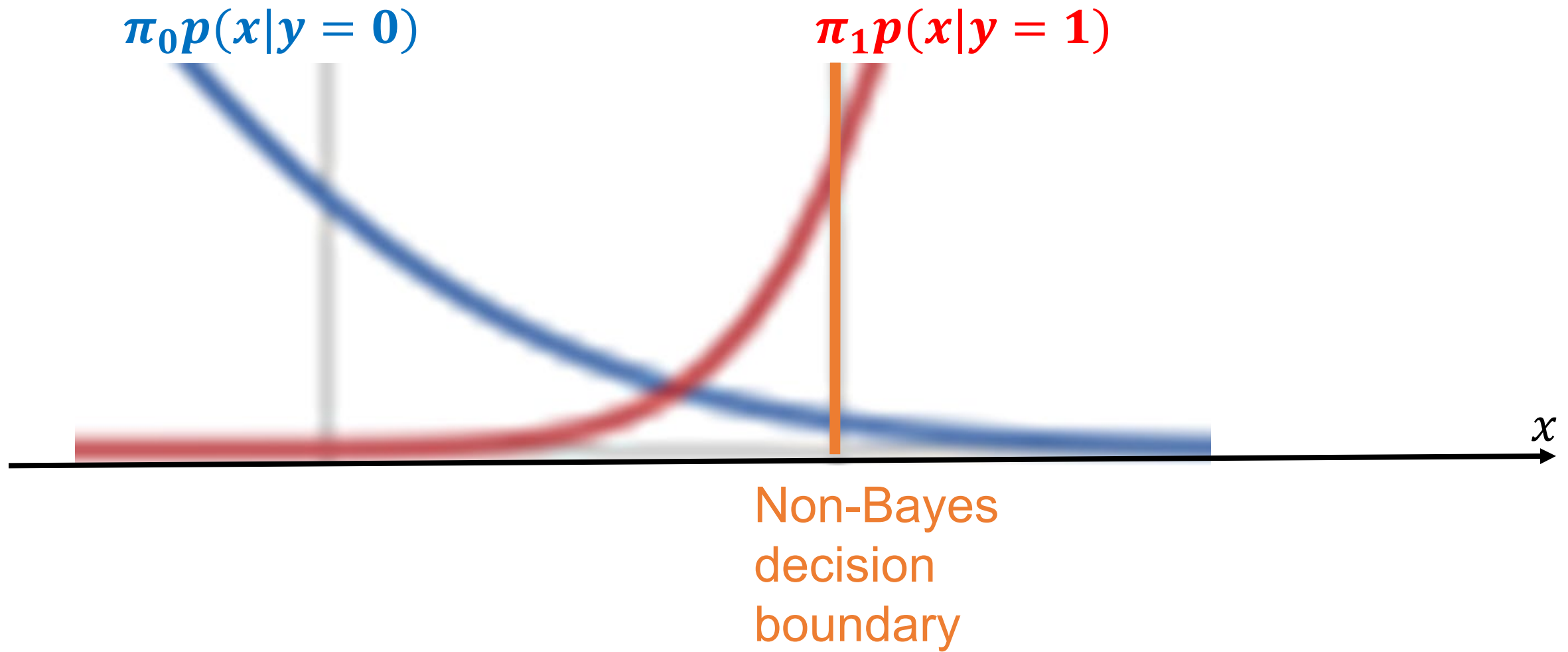


What is the meaning of the **area** of the region in the orange color ?
Area under the blue curve and on the right side of the decision boundary
(e.g., what does this mean: $\text{area}=0.01$?)

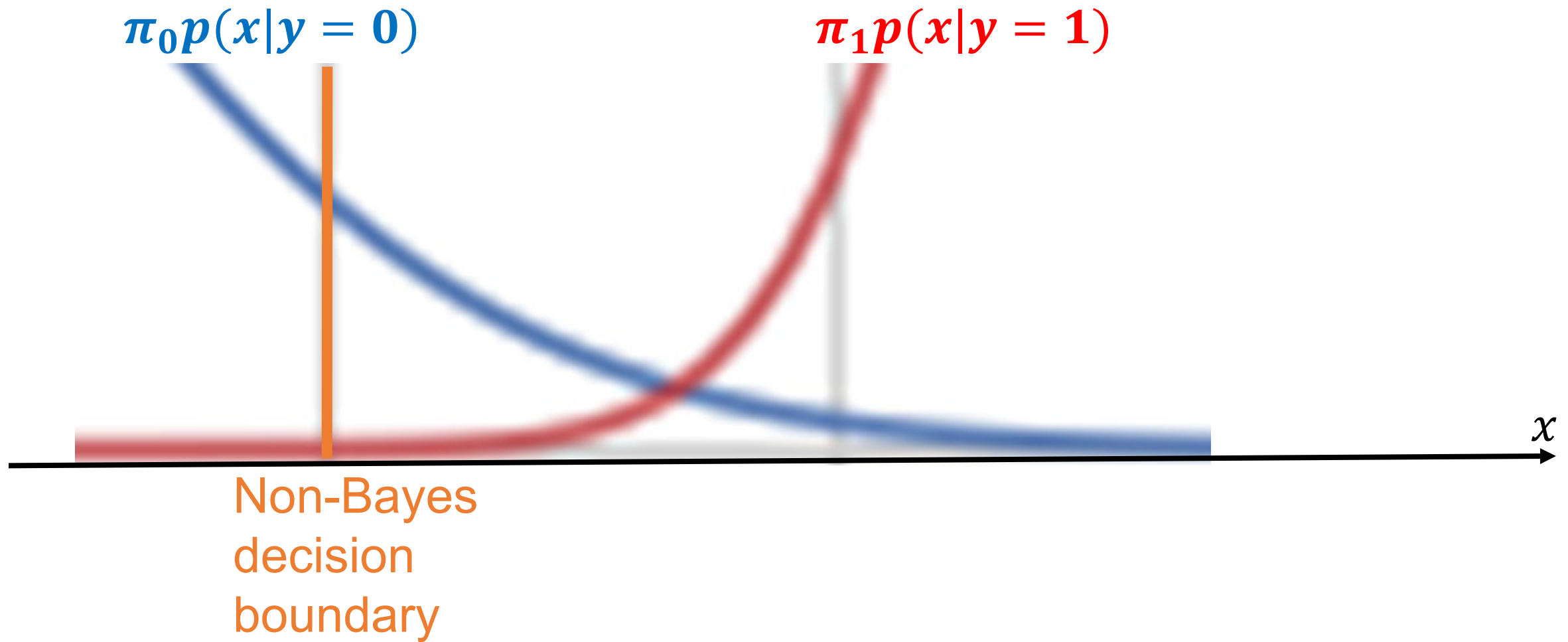


$$\text{error rate} = \pi_1 \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_0} p(x|y=1) dx + \pi_0 \int_{x \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_1} p(x|y=0) dx$$

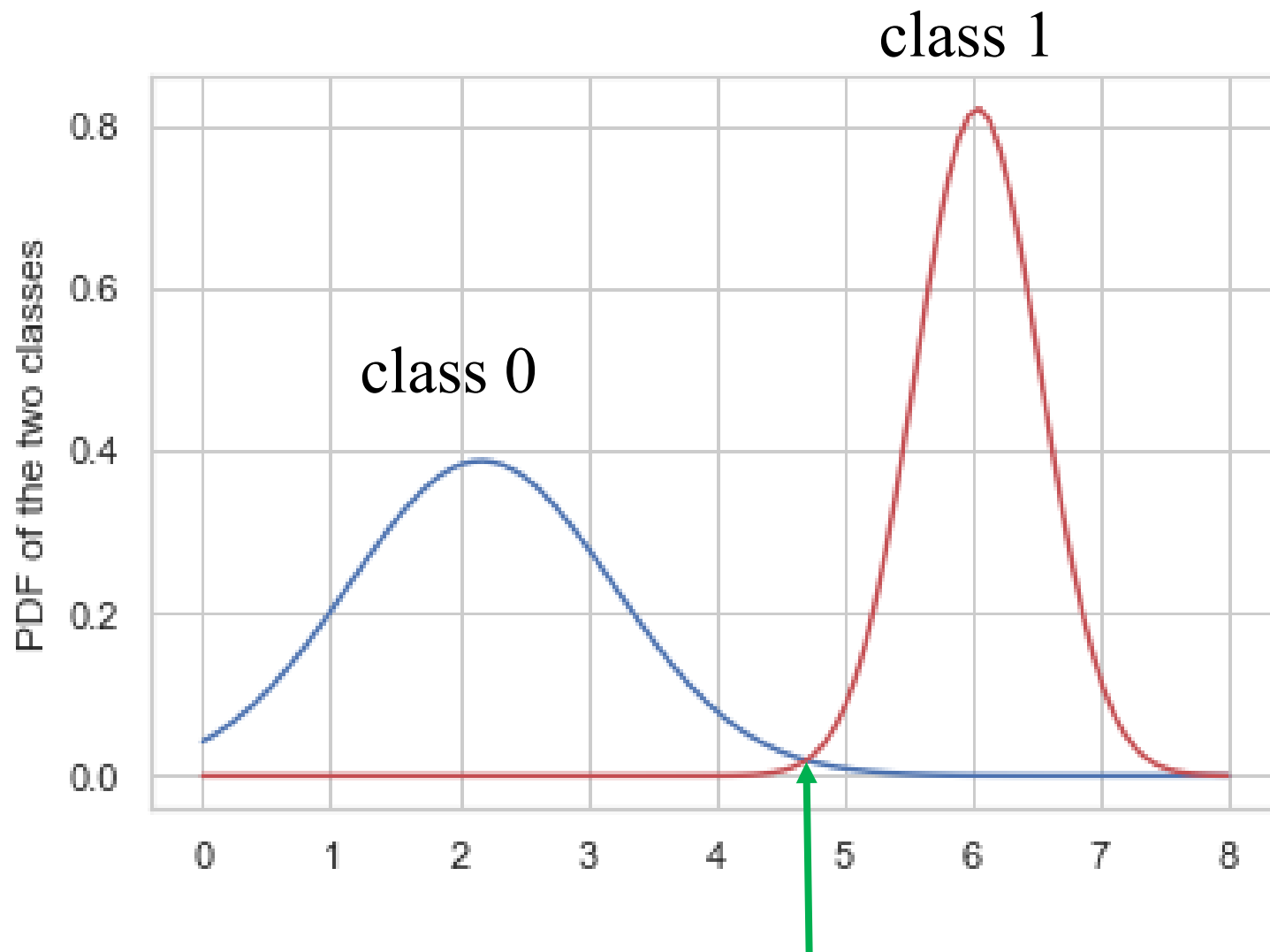
Large error if the two PDFs have large overlap



Error of Non-Bayes decision boundary > Error of Bayes decision boundary



Error of Non-Bayes decision boundary > Error of Bayes decision boundary



Decision Rule:

if $x > \mathbf{t}$, then x is from class 1
if $x < \mathbf{t}$, then x is from class 0.

when $\pi_0 = \pi_1 = 0.5$, the decision threshold (\mathbf{t})
is at the intersection point where

$$\mathbf{p}(x|y = \mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{p}(x|y = \mathbf{1})$$

An application-dependent loss

$$\text{error rate} = \pi_1 \int_{x \rightarrow c_0} p(x|y = 1) dx + \pi_0 \int_{x \rightarrow c_1} p(x|y = 0) dx$$

$$\text{loss} = B \times \pi_1 \int_{x \rightarrow c_0} p(x|y = 1) dx + A \times \pi_0 \int_{x \rightarrow c_1} p(x|y = 0) dx$$

A is the cost of making a wrong decision for data points in class 0

B is the cost of making a wrong decision for data points in class 1

Bayes binary classification: summary

- Assume a PDF $p(x|y)$ for each class (e.g., Gaussian, or GMM)
- Assume a prior distribution $p(y)$ (it could be complex and have many parameters)
- Train the classifier on training data, which is to estimate the parameters of the PDFs and the parameters of the prior distributions by minimizing the NLL loss
- Use the trained classifier to classify a new data point

$$p(y = 0|x), p(y = 1|x) \text{ and log-likelihood ratio } h(x) = \log \frac{p(y=0|x)}{p(y=1|x)}$$

- If every class PDF is a simple Gaussian, a nice analytical form of the decision boundary can be obtained; and we can calculate the error rate.

Naïve Bayes Classifier

- We have a set of data points $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_N\}$ and $x_n \in \mathcal{R}^M$
- Each data point has M features

$$x_n = [x_{n,1}, x_{n,2}, x_{n,3}, \dots, x_{n,m}, \dots, x_{n,M}]^T$$

- Drop the index n

$$x = [x_{(1)}, x_{(2)}, x_{(3)}, \dots, x_{(m)}, \dots, x_{(M)}]^T$$

- A Naïve Bayes classifier assumes a PDF such that

$$p(x|y) = p(x_{(1)}|y)p(x_{(2)}|y)p(x_{(3)}|y) \dots p(x_{(M)}|y) = \prod_{m=1}^M p(x_{(m)}|y)$$

For each data point x , the feature components are assumed to be independent

It becomes easy to compute the PDF value at each data point x

Naïve Bayes Classifier: 2D Gaussian PDF

- Each data point $x = [x_{(1)}, x_{(2)}]^T$ is in 2D space
- A Naïve Bayes classifier assumes a PDF such that

$$p(x|y) = p(x_{(1)}|y)p(x_{(2)}|y)$$

$$p(x|y) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_1} e^{-\frac{x_{(1)}^2}{2\sigma_1^2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_2} e^{-\frac{x_{(2)}^2}{2\sigma_2^2}} \right)$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2^2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ which means } x_{(1)} \text{ and } x_{(2)} \text{ are independent}$$

Bayes_Rule_1D_2D_Gaussian_2Classes.ipynb

What is the difference between
Gaussian Bayes Classifier and GMM ?