

CHAPTER 3:  
BAYESIAN DECISION  
THEORY (SEC 3.1-3.4)

# Probability and Inference

2

- Result of tossing a coin is  $\in \{\text{Heads}, \text{Tails}\}$
- Random var  $X \in \{1, 0\}$

$$\text{Bernoulli: } P\{X=1\} = p_o^X (1 - p_o)^{(1-X)}$$

- Sample:  $\mathbf{X} = \{x^t\}_{t=1}^N$

$$\text{Estimation: } p_o = \# \{\text{Heads}\} / \#\{\text{Tosses}\} = \sum_t x^t / N$$

- Prediction of next toss:

Heads if  $p_o > 1/2$ , Tails otherwise

# Classification

3

- Credit scoring: Inputs are income and savings.

Output is low-risk vs high-risk

- Input:  $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2]^T$ , Output:  $C \in \{0, 1\}$

- Prediction:

choose  $\begin{cases} C = 1 \text{ if } P(C = 1 | x_1, x_2) > 0.5 \\ C = 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$

or

choose  $\begin{cases} C = 1 \text{ if } P(C = 1 | x_1, x_2) > P(C = 0 | x_1, x_2) \\ C = 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$

# Bayes' Rule

4

The diagram shows the Bayes' Rule formula with labels and arrows indicating the components:

$$P(C | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{P(C) p(\mathbf{x} | C)}{p(\mathbf{x})}$$

- posterior*: points to  $P(C | \mathbf{x})$
- prior*: points to  $P(C)$
- likelihood*: points to  $p(\mathbf{x} | C)$
- evidence*: points to  $p(\mathbf{x})$

$$P(C = 0) + P(C = 1) = 1$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x} | C = 1)P(C = 1) + p(\mathbf{x} | C = 0)P(C = 0)$$

$$p(C = 0 | \mathbf{x}) + P(C = 1 | \mathbf{x}) = 1 \quad (\text{thanks to dividing by } p(\mathbf{x}))$$

# Bayes' Rule: $K > 2$ Classes

5

$$\begin{aligned} P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) &= \frac{p(\mathbf{x} | C_i)P(C_i)}{p(\mathbf{x})} \\ &= \frac{p(\mathbf{x} | C_i)P(C_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^K p(\mathbf{x} | C_k)P(C_k)} \end{aligned}$$

$$P(C_i) \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^K P(C_i) = 1$$

choose  $C_i$  if  $P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) = \max_k P(C_k | \mathbf{x})$

# Losses and Risks

6

- Actions:  $\alpha_i$
- Loss of  $\alpha_i$  when the state is  $C_k$  :  $\lambda_{ik}$
- Expected risk (Duda and Hart, 1973)

$$R(\alpha_i | \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_{ik} P(C_k | \mathbf{x})$$

choose  $\alpha_i$  if  $R(\alpha_i | \mathbf{x}) = \min_k R(\alpha_k | \mathbf{x})$

# Losses and Risks: 0/1 Loss

7

$$\lambda_{ik} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = k \\ 1 & \text{if } i \neq k \end{cases} \quad \alpha_i \text{ means predicting } C_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} R(\alpha_i | \mathbf{x}) &= \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_{ik} P(C_k | \mathbf{x}) \\ &= \sum_{k \neq i} P(C_k | \mathbf{x}) \\ &= 1 - P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) \end{aligned}$$

*For minimum risk, choose the most probable class*

In most parts of the course, we use 0/1 loss for simplicity

# Losses and Risks: Reject

8

$$\lambda_{ik} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = k \\ \lambda & \text{if } i = K + 1, \quad 0 < \lambda < 1 \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$R(\alpha_{K+1} | \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda P(C_k | \mathbf{x}) = \lambda$$

$$R(\alpha_i | \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k \neq i} P(C_k | \mathbf{x}) = 1 - P(C_i | \mathbf{x})$$

choose  $C_i$  if  $P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) > P(C_k | \mathbf{x}) \quad \forall k \neq i$  and  $P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) > 1 - \lambda$   
reject otherwise i.e.,  $P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) < 1 - \lambda$  for all  $i$

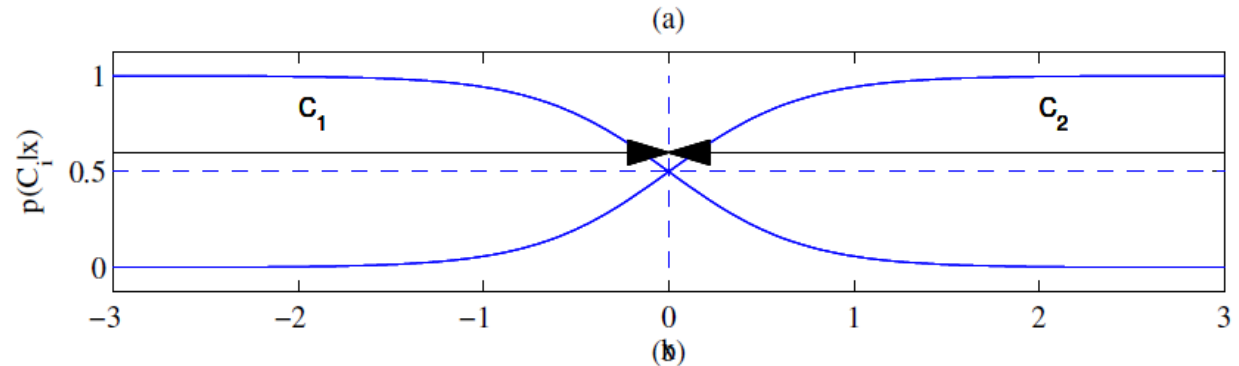
What if  $\lambda = 0$ ? What if  $\lambda > 1$ ?



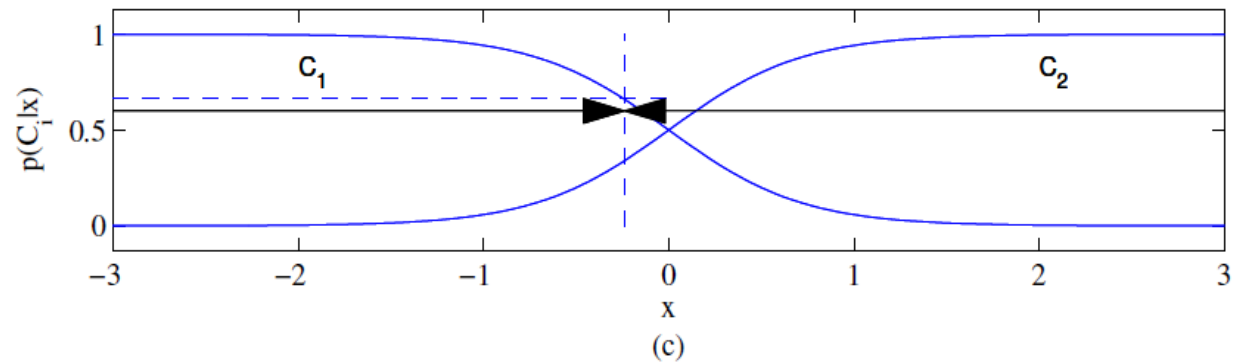
# Different Losses and Reject

9

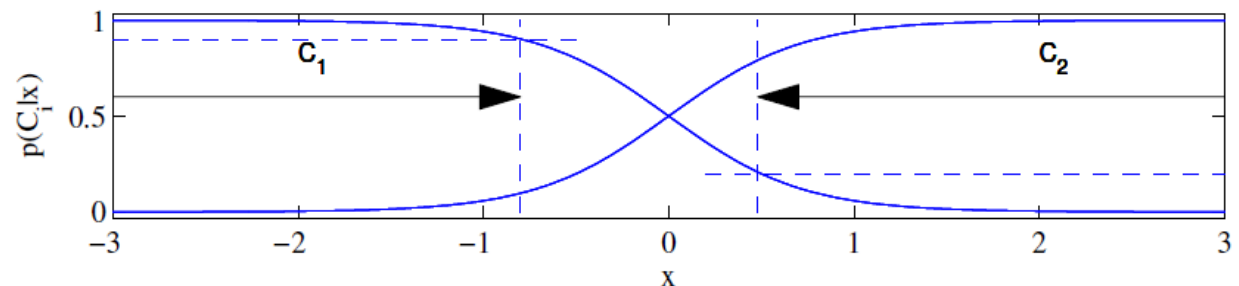
Equal losses



Unequal losses



With reject



# Discriminant Functions

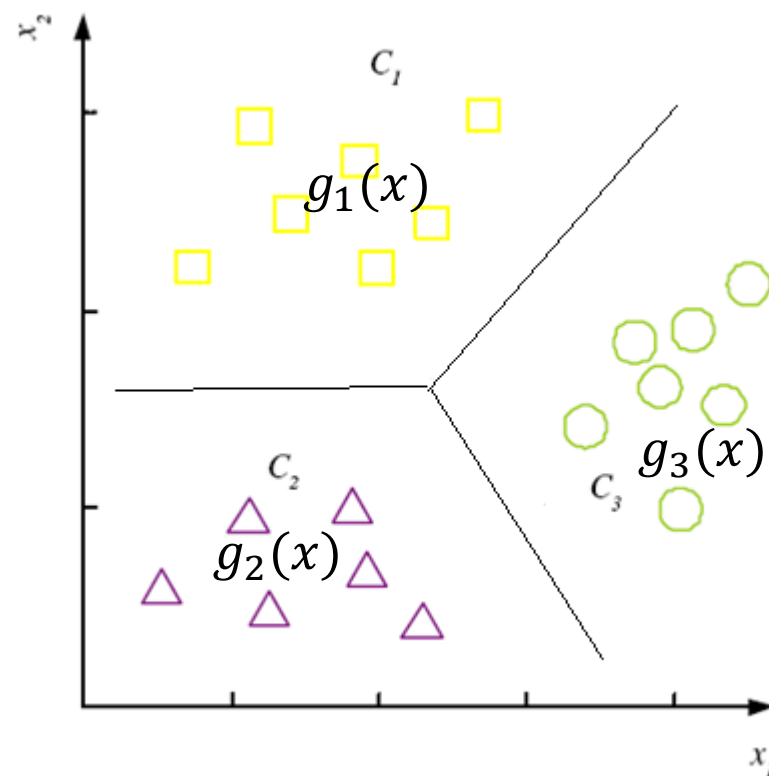
10

choose  $C_i$  if  $g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \max_k g_k(\mathbf{x})$

$$g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} -R(\alpha_i | \mathbf{x}) \\ P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) \\ p(\mathbf{x} | C_i)P(C_i) \end{cases}$$

$K$  decision regions  $\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_K$

$$\mathcal{R}_i = \{\mathbf{x} | g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \max_k g_k(\mathbf{x})\}$$



# Discriminant Functions

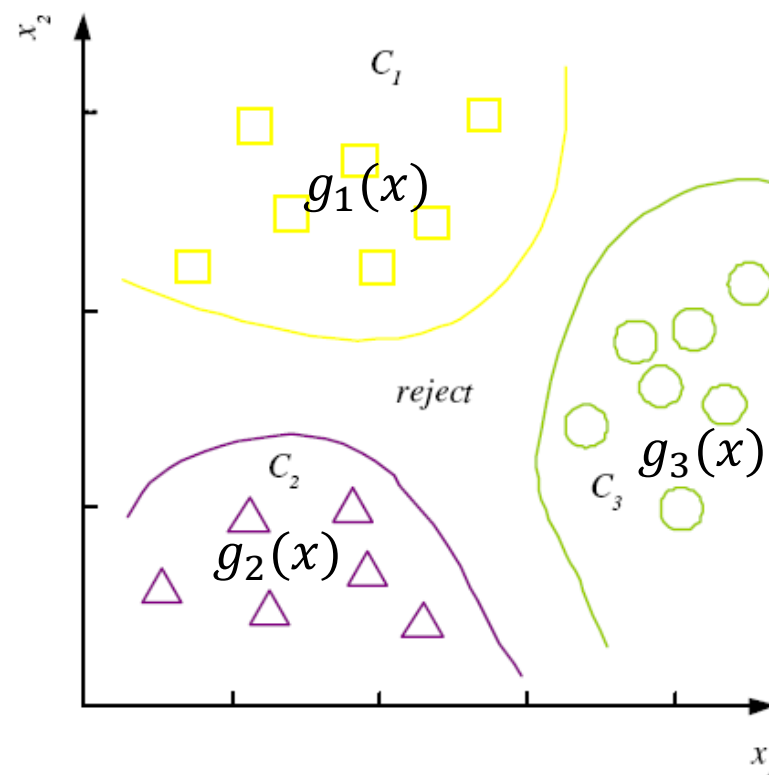
11

choose  $C_i$  if  $g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \max_k g_k(\mathbf{x})$

$$g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} -R(\alpha_i | \mathbf{x}) \\ P(C_i | \mathbf{x}) \\ p(\mathbf{x} | C_i)P(C_i) \end{cases}$$

$K$  decision regions  $\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_K$

$$\mathcal{R}_i = \{\mathbf{x} | g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \max_k g_k(\mathbf{x})\}$$



# $K=2$ Classes

12

□ Dichotomizer ( $K=2$ ) vs Polychotomizer ( $K>2$ )

□  $g(\mathbf{x}) = g_1(\mathbf{x}) - g_2(\mathbf{x})$

choose  $\begin{cases} C_1 & \text{if } g(\mathbf{x}) > 0 \\ C_2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

□ *Log odds:*  $\log \frac{P(C_1 | \mathbf{x})}{P(C_2 | \mathbf{x})}$