# Introduction to Bayesian learning Lecture 2: Bayesian methods for (un)supervised problems

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#### 1. Supervised learning example : Naive Bayes Classification

- 2. Bayesian linear regression Regression : reminders Bayesian linear regression
- 3. Bayesian model choice

Bayesian model averaging Bayesian model selection Automatic complexity penalty Laplace approximation and BIC criterion Empirical Bayes

# Setting

Not purely Bayesian framework : the training step is not necessarily Bayesian, only the prediction step is.

- Sample space  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_1 \times \cdots \times \mathcal{X}_d$  (d features)
- some features may be categorical, some discrete, some continuous ...
- data  $X_i = (X_{i,1}, \dots, X_{i,d}), i = 1, \dots, n.$
- Classification problem :  $X_i$  may come from anyone of K classes  $(C_1, \ldots, C_K)$ .
- Example  $\begin{cases} X_{i,1} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p} : & \text{X-ray image from patient } i \\ X_{i,2} \in \{0,1\} : & \text{result of a blood test from patient } i. \end{cases}$
- classes : {ill, healthy, healthy carrier}.
- Goal predict the class  $c \in \{1, \dots, K\}$  of a new patient.

# Naive Bayes assumption

Conditionally to the class  $c(i) \in \{1, ..., K\}$  of observation i, the features  $(X_{i,1}, ..., X_{i,d})$  are independent.

- Looks like a strong (and erroneous) assumption!
- In practice : produces reasonable prediction (even though the posterior probabilities of each class are not to be taken too seriously)

# 1. Training step

- Training set  $\{(x_{i,j}, c(i)), i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, j \in \{1, \dots, d\}\}, c(i) \in \{1, \dots, K\}.$
- for  $k \in \{1, \ldots, K\}$  :
  - Retain observations of class  $k \to i \in I_k.$
  - For  $j \in \{1, \dots, d\}$  estimate the class distribution, with density

$$p_{j,k}(x_j) = p(x_{i,j}|c(i) = k),$$

using data  $(x_{i,j})_{i \in I_k}$ , usually in a parametric model with parameter  $\theta_{j,k}$ :  $\rightarrow$  estimated density  $p_{j,k,\widehat{\theta}_{j,k}}(\cdot)$ 

• **output** : the conditional distribution of X given C = k,

$$p_k(x) = \prod_{j=1}^k p_{j,k,\widehat{\theta}_{j,k}}(x_j)$$

## 2. computing the predictive class probabilities

input :

- new data point  $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_d)$
- From step 1 : conditional distributions of X given C = k :  $p_k(\cdot) = \prod p_{j,k,\widehat{\theta}_{j,k}}$  (plug-in method, neglect estimation error of  $\widehat{\theta}_{j,k}$ ).
- (a) Assign a prior probability to each class :  $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_K)$ ,  $\pi_k = \mathbb{P}_{\pi}(C = k)$ . step 1  $\rightarrow$  joint density of (X, C) :  $q(x, k) = \pi_k p_k(x)$ .

(b) Apply the discrete Bayes formula :

$$\pi(k|x) = \frac{\pi_k p_k(x)}{\sum_{c=1}^{K} \pi_c p_c(x)} = \frac{\pi_k \prod_{j=1}^{d} p_{j,k,\widehat{\theta}_{j,k}}(x_j)}{\sum_{c=1}^{K} \pi_c \prod_{j=1}^{d} p_{j,c,\widehat{\theta}_{j,c}}(x_j)}$$

Easy to implement ! O(kdN) for N testing data.

3. final step : class prediction

- Classification task : output= a predicted class  $\widehat{x}$
- Naive Bayes prediction for a new point  $\boldsymbol{x}$

$$\widehat{c} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{k \in \{1,...,k} \pi(k|x).$$

(a maximum a posteriori)

## Example : text documents classification

• 2 classes :  $\{1 = \text{ spam }, 2 = \text{ non spam }\}$ 

• vocabulary 
$$\mathcal{V} = \{w_1, \ldots, w_V\}.$$

- dataset : documents (email)  $T_i = (T_{i,j}, j = 1, ..., N_i), i \leq n$  with
  - $N_i$  : number of words in  $T_i$
  - $t_{i,j} \in \mathcal{V} : j^{th}$  word in  $T_i$

# Conditional model (text documents)

- Naive Bayes assumption : in document  $T_i$ , conditionally to the class, words are drawn independently from each other in the vocabulary  $\mathcal{V}$
- $T_i$  can be summarized by a 'bag of words'  $X_i = (X_{i,1}, \dots, X_{i,V})$ :  $X_{i,j}$ : number of occurrences of word j in  $T_i$ .
- Conditional model for  $X_i$  given its class  $k \in \{1,2\}$  :

$$\mathcal{L}(X_i|C=k) = \mathcal{M}ulti(\theta_k = (\theta_{1,k}, \dots, \theta_{V,k}), N_i), \quad i.e.$$
$$p_{k,\theta_k}(x) = \frac{N_i!}{\prod_{j=1}^V x_{i,j}!} \prod_{j=1}^V \theta_{j,k}^{x_{i,j}}$$

## 1. training step (text documents)

Fit separately 2 Multinomial models on spam and non-spam

• Here : the Dirichlet prior  $\mathcal{D}iri(a_1 \dots, a_v)$ ,  $a_j > 0$  is conjugate for the Multinomial model, with density

$$diri(\theta|a_1,\ldots,a_V) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^V a_j)}{\prod_{j=1}^V \Gamma(a_j)} \prod_{j=1}^V \theta_j^{a_j-1}$$

on  $\mathcal{S}_V = \{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^V_+ : \sum_{j=1}^V \theta_j = 1 \}$  the V - 1-simplex.

• Mean of  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  under  $\boldsymbol{\pi} = \mathcal{D}iri(a_1, \dots, a_V)$ :  $\mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \left(\frac{a_1}{\sum_j a_j}, \dots, \frac{a_V}{\sum_j a_j}\right)$ 

• The posterior for  $x_{1:n} = (x_{i,1}, \ldots, x_{i,V})_{i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}}$  is

$$Diri((a_1 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,1}), \ldots, (a_V + \sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,V})).$$

- 1. training step (text documents) Cont'd
  - Concatenate documents of each class separately

$$ightarrow \ x^{(k)} = (x^{(k)}_j)_{j=1,...,V} \ , \quad k=1,2$$

with  $x_{k,j} = \text{total } \# \text{ occurrences of word } j \text{ in documents of class } k$ .

- $\theta_k = (\theta_{k,1}, \dots, \theta_{k,V})$  multinomial parameter for class k.
- Flat priors on  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_k : \boldsymbol{\pi}_1 = \boldsymbol{\pi}_2 = \mathcal{D}\textit{iri}(1, \dots, 1)$
- Posterior mean estimates

$$\widehat{\theta}_{k} = \mathbb{E}_{\pi_{k}}[\theta|x^{(k)}] = \left(\frac{x_{1}^{(k)} + 1}{V + \sum_{j=1}^{V} x_{j}^{(k)}}, \dots, \frac{x_{V}^{(k)} + 1}{V + \sum_{j=1}^{V} x_{j}^{(k)}}\right)$$

(the prior acts as regularizer : +1' term avoids 0 probabilities.

## 2. Prediction step

• For a new document  $\boldsymbol{x}^{new}$  the predictive probabilities of each class are :

$$\pi(C = k | x^{new}) = \frac{p(x^{new} | C = k)\pi_1}{p(x^{new} | C = k)\pi_1 + p(x^{new} | C = 2)\pi_2}$$

with

$$p(x^{new}|C=k) \propto \prod_{j=1}^{V} \widehat{\theta_{k,j}}^{x_j^{new}}$$

• The class prediction is

$$k^*(x^{new}) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{k=1,2} p(x^{new} | C = k)$$

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## The regression problem

- Supervised learning : training dataset  $(x_i, Y_i), i \leq n$ , with
  - $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$  the features for observation *i* (considered non random)
  - $Y_i \in \mathbb{R}$  the label (random variable).
- goal : for a new observation with features  $x_{new}$ , predict  $Y_{new}$ , *i.e.* construct a *regression function*  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ , so that h(x) is our best prediction of Y at point x.
- *h* should
  - be simple (avoid over-fitting)  $\rightarrow$  simple class  $\mathcal{H}$ .
  - fit the data well : measured through a loss function L(x, y, h). example : squared error loss  $L(x, y, h) = (y - h(x))^2$ .

## Multiple classical strategies

• Statistical learning approach : empirical risk minimization

$$R_n(x_{1:n}, y_{1:n}, h) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1}^n L(x_i, y_i, h)$$
  

$$\rightarrow \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{minimize} \qquad R_n(x_{1:n}, y_{1:n}, h)$$

• Probabilistic modeling approach (likelihood based) : assume e.g.

$$Y_i = h_0(x_i) + \epsilon_i ,$$

 $\epsilon_i \sim P_{\epsilon}$  independent noises, e.g.  $P_{\epsilon} = \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \sigma^2$  known or not.

 $\rightarrow$  likelihood of  $h, \, p_h(x_{1:n}, y_{1:n}) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_\epsilon(y_i - h(x_i)).$ 

$$ightarrow minimize_{h\in\mathcal{H}} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p_{\epsilon}(y_i - h(x_i))$$

• With Gaussian noises, both strategies coincide.

### Linear regression

• h: a linear combination of basis functions  $\phi_j : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  (feature maps),  $j \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ 

$$\begin{split} h(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^{p} \theta_{j} \phi_{j}(x), \quad \theta_{j} \text{ unknown}, \quad \phi_{j} \text{ known}, \quad i.e \\ \mathcal{H} &= \Big\{ \sum_{j=1}^{p} \theta_{j} \phi_{j} : \quad \theta = (\theta_{1}, \dots, \theta_{p}) \in \mathbb{R}^{p} \Big\} \end{split}$$

• Examples

- $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^p$ ,  $\phi_j(x) = x_j$ : canonical feature map
- $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi_j(x) = x^{j-1}$ : polynomial basis function

• 
$$\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$$
,  $\phi_j(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2} \det \Sigma_j} \exp{-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu_j)^\top \Sigma_j^{-1}(x-\mu_j)}$ ,  
Gaussian basis function

Empirical risk minimization for linear regression

• Empirical risk :

$$R_n(x_{1:n}, y_{1:n}, \theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \langle \theta, \phi(x_i) \rangle)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|y_{1:n} - \Phi \theta\|^2,$$

with  $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ : design matrix,  $\Phi_{i,j} = \phi_j(x_i)$ .

- Minimizer of  $R_n$ : the *least squares* estimator
- explicit solution when  $\Phi^{\top}\Phi$  is of rank p (invertible)

$$\widehat{\theta} = (\Phi^{\top} \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^{\top} y_{1:n}$$

## Regularization

- goals : prevent
  - over-fitting
  - numerical instabilities (inversion of  $(\Phi^{\top}\Phi)$ .
- Add a complexity penalty (function of  $\theta$ ) to the empirical risk
- penalty  $:\lambda \|\theta\|_2^2 \to \text{ridge regression}$
- penalty  $:\lambda \|\theta\|_1 \to$ Lasso regression
- e.g. with  $L_2$  penalty, the optimization problem becomes

$$\widehat{\theta} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\theta} \|y_{1:n} - \Phi\theta\|^2 + \lambda \|\theta\|_2^2 \quad \text{for some } \lambda > 0.$$

$$\rightarrow \text{ solution } \widehat{\theta} = \left[ \Phi^{\top} \Phi + \lambda I_{\rho} \right]^{-1} \Phi^{\top} y_{1:n}.$$

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# Bayesian linear model

- Again,  $Y_i = \langle \theta, \Phi(x_i) \rangle + \epsilon_i$
- Assume  $\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \beta^{-1}), \beta > 0$  noise precision viewed as a constant (known or not)
- Prior distribution on  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p$  :  $\boldsymbol{\pi} = \mathcal{N}(m_0, S_0)$ .
- independence assumption :  $\epsilon_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp \epsilon_2 \perp\!\!\!\perp \cdots \perp\!\!\!\!\mid \boldsymbol{\theta}$ .

• 
$$Y = Y_{1:n} = \Phi\theta + \epsilon_{1:n}$$
, with  $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ ,  $\Phi_{i,j} = \phi_j(x_i)$ .

Bayesian model

$$egin{cases} oldsymbol{ heta} \sim oldsymbol{\pi} = \mathcal{N}(m_0, S_0) \ \mathcal{L}ig[Y| hetaig] = \mathcal{N}(\Phi heta, rac{1}{eta} I_n) \end{cases}$$

• Natural Bayesian estimator :  $\hat{\theta} = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}(\theta | Y_{1:n})$ .  $\rightarrow$  posterior distribution?

## Conditioning and augmenting Gaussian vectors

#### Lemma

Let

$$\left\{egin{array}{l} \mathcal{W}\sim\mathcal{N}(\mu,\Lambda^{-1})\ \mathcal{L}[\mathcal{Y}|w]=\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{A}w+b,\mathcal{L}^{-1}) \end{array}
ight.$$

*i.e.*  $Y = AW + b + \epsilon$  with  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, L^{-1}) \perp W$ .

Then  $\mathcal{L}[W|y] = \mathcal{N}(m_y, S)$  with

$$S = (\Lambda + A^{\top}LA)^{-1}$$
$$m_y = S[A^{\top}L(y-b) + \Lambda\mu.]$$

proof : homework (see exercises sheet online)

### Application to posterior computation

Using the lemma with

$$A = \Phi, \quad b = 0, \quad W = \theta, \quad \Lambda = S_0^{-1}, \quad \mu = m_0, \quad L = \beta I_p,$$

we obtain immediately the posterior distribution

$$\pi(\cdot | Y_{1:n}) = \mathcal{L}[\theta | y_{1:n}] = \mathcal{N}(m_n, S_n)$$

with

$$\begin{cases} S_n = \left(S_0^{-1} + \beta \Phi^{\top} \Phi\right)^{-1} \\ m_n = S_n \left(\beta \Phi^{\top} y_{1:n} + S_0^{-1} m_0\right) \end{cases}$$
(1)

### Posterior mean estimate

$$\widehat{\theta} = \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\pi}}[\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y}_{1:n}] = \boldsymbol{m}_n$$

Special case : diagonal, centered prior

- choose  $m_0 = 0$ ,  $S_0 = \alpha^{-1} l_p$ , with  $\alpha$  : prior precision (it makes sense!)
- Then (1) becomes

$$\begin{cases} S_n = \left(\alpha I_p + \beta \Phi^{\top} \Phi\right)^{-1} = \beta^{-1} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta} + \Phi^{\top} \Phi\right)^{-1} \\ m_n = S_n \left(\beta \Phi^{\top} y_{1:n}\right) = \underbrace{\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta} + \Phi^{\top} \Phi\right)^{-1} \Phi^{\top} y_{1:n}}_{\text{penalized least squares solution}} \end{cases}$$
(2)

Adding a prior 
$$\mathcal{N}(0, \alpha^{-1} I_p)$$
  
 $\iff$   
Adding a  $L_2$  regularization with parameter  $\lambda = \alpha/\beta$ .

**remark** : Narrow prior  $\iff$  large  $\alpha \iff$  large penalty

## Predictive distribution

New data point  $(x_{new}, Y_{new})$ , with  $Y_{new}$  not observed and  $x_{new}$  known :

- **goal** : obtain the posterior distribution of  $Y_{new}$  (mean and variance  $\rightarrow$  credible intervals).
- We still have  $Y_{new} = \langle \theta, \phi(x_{new}) \rangle + \epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \beta^{-1})$  and  $\epsilon \perp \mu$ .
- Now (after training step)  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \sim \boldsymbol{\pi}(\boldsymbol{\cdot} | y_{1:n}) = \mathcal{N}(m_n, S_n)$
- Thus  $Y_{new} \stackrel{d}{=}$  linear transform of Gaussian vector  $(\epsilon, \theta)$

$$\mathcal{L}[Y_{new}|y_{1:n}] = \mathcal{N}\left(\phi(x_{new})^{\top}m_n, \ \phi(x_{new})^{\top}S_n\phi(x_{new}) + \beta^{-1}\right)$$

# Example : polynomial basis functions

- True regression functions :  $h_0(x) = \sin(x)$
- Polynomial basis functions :  $\phi(x) = (1, x, x^2, x^3, x^4) \ (p = 5).$



Estimated regression function

• 
$$\widehat{h}(x) = \langle \widehat{\theta}, \Phi(x) \rangle = \widehat{\theta}_1 + \sum_{j=2}^5 \widehat{\theta}_j x^{j-1}$$

• With the previous dataset



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## Predictive distribution

- $\widehat{h}(x)$ : the mean of  $\mathcal{L}(Y_{\text{new}}|y_{1:n})$  for  $x_{\text{new}} = x$
- Remind  $\mathcal{L}(Y_{\text{new}}|y_{1:n}) = \mathcal{N}(\widehat{h}(x), \sigma_{new}^2 = \phi(x)^{\top} S_n \phi(x) + \beta^{-1})$
- $\bullet \ \to {\rm posterior} \ {\rm credible} \ {\rm interval} \ {\rm for} \ Y$  ,

$$I_{x} = \left[\widehat{h}(x) - 1/96\sqrt{\sigma_{new}^{2}}, \widehat{h}(x) + 1/96\sqrt{\sigma_{new}^{2}}\right]$$



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# Model choice problem

- What if several model in competition  $\{M_k, k \in \{1, ..., K\}\}$ , with  $M_k = \{\Theta_k, \pi_k\}$ ?
- Continuous case : family of models  $\{M_{\alpha}, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}\}$
- $\rightarrow$  How to choose k or  $\alpha$ ?
- Examples :
  - $M_1 = \{\Theta, \pi_1\}, M_2 = \{\Theta, \pi_2\}$  with  $\pi_1$  a flat prior and  $\pi_2$  the Jeffreys prior
  - $M_{\alpha}$  linear model with normal prior on the noise  $\mathcal{N}(0, \alpha^{-1})$

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# Hierarchical models

- Bayesian view : put a prior on unknown quantities, then condition upon data.
- Model choice problem : put a 'hyper-prior' on  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$  (or  $k \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ )  $\rightarrow$  hierarchical Bayesian model
- Convenient when dealing with parallel experiments

# Example of hierarchical model

 $\label{eq:example:2} {\rm Example:2\ rivers\ with\ fishes.}$ 

- $X_i \in \{0,1\}$  : fished fish ill or sound.
- $X_i \sim Ber(\theta)$ , with  $\theta = \theta_1$  in river 1 and  $\theta = \theta_2$  in river 2.
- $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are 2 realizations of  $\theta \sim Beta(a, b)$
- $\alpha = (a, b)$  : hyper-parameter for the prior
- hierarchical Bayes : put a prior on  $\alpha$  (*e.g.* product of 2 independent Gammas).

Posterior mean estimates in a BMA framework

- denote  $\pi^h$  the hyper-prior on k (or  $\alpha$ )
- Let us stick to the discrete case ,  $k \in \{1, \dots, M\}.$
- The prior is a mixture distribution  $\pi = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi^{h}(k) \pi_{k}(\cdot)$ , *i.e.* for all  $\pi$ -integrable function  $g(\theta)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\pi}[g(\theta)] = \mathbb{E}_{\pi^{h}}\Big[\mathbb{E}\left(g(\theta)|k\right)\Big] = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi^{h}(k) \int_{\Theta_{k}} g(\theta) \,\mathrm{d}\pi_{k}(\theta)$$

• by the tower rule for conditional expectations, the posterior mean is a weighted average

$$\widehat{g} = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[g(\theta)|X_{1:n}] = \mathbb{E}_{\pi^{h}}\Big[\mathbb{E}\left(g(\theta)|k, X_{1:n}\right)|X_{1:n}\Big]$$
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi^{h}(k|X_{1:n}) \underbrace{\int_{\Theta_{k}} g(\theta) \,\mathrm{d}\pi_{k}(\theta|X_{1:n})}_{\Theta_{k}}$$

 $\widehat{g}_k: \mathrm{posterior}$  mean in model k

# Model evidence

Computing the posterior mean in the BMA framework requires

- Computing the posterior means in each individual model  $\rightarrow k$  'moderate' tasks
- Averaging them with weights  $\pi^h(k|X_{1:n})$ , posterior weight of model k
- Bayes formula

$$\pi^{h}(k|X_{1:n}) = \frac{\pi^{h}(k)p(X_{1:n}|k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K}\pi^{h}(j)p(X_{1:n}|j)}$$

with

$$\begin{split} p(X_{1:n}|k) &= \text{ evidence of model } k \\ &= \int_{\Theta_k} p(X_{1:n}|\theta) \, \mathrm{d}\pi_k(\theta) \\ &= m_k(X_{1:n}) \text{ marginal likelihood of } X_{1:n} \text{ in model } k \\ & \swarrow \\ & \text{hard to compute (integral)} \end{split}$$

## Shortcomings of BMA

- Inference has to be done in each individual model
- Usually one weight (say  $\pi(k^*|X_{1:n})$ )  $\gg$  all others (reason : concentration of the posterior around the true  $\theta_0 \in \Theta_{k_0}$  and  $k^* = k_0$  $\implies$  final estimate  $\hat{g} \approx \hat{g}_{k_0}$ . Other  $\hat{g}_k$ 's are almost useless

Bottleneck : compute  $k^*$ . model choice problem.

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Posterior weights, model evidence and Bayes factor

Recall 
$$k^* = \underset{k}{\operatorname{argmax}} \pi(k|X_{1:n}) = \underset{k}{\operatorname{argmax}} \underbrace{p(X_{1:n}|k)}_{\text{evidence of model } k} \pi^h(k)$$

- Uniform prior on  $k \implies$  only the evidence  $p(X_{1:n}|k)$  matters.
- in any case : prior influence vanishes with n.
- Relevant quantity to compare model k and j :

$$B_{kj} = \frac{p(X_{1:n}|k)}{p(X_{1:n}|j)}$$
: Bayes factor (Jeffreys, 61)

• Suggested scale for decision making :

$\log_{10} B_{kj}$	$B_{kj}$	evidence against $B_j$
0  ightarrow 1/2	1  ightarrow 3.2	not significant
1/2  ightarrow 1	3.2  ightarrow 10	$\operatorname{substantial}$
1  ightarrow 2	10  ightarrow 100	strong
> 2	> 100	decisive

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Bayesian model averaging Bayesian model selection Automatic complexity penalty Laplace approximation and BIC criterion Empirical Bayes Occam's razor principle

### Between 2 models explaining the data equally well, one ought to choose the simplest one.

 $\rightarrow$  Avoid over-fitting

 $\rightarrow$  Better generalization properties.

## Occam's razor and model evidence

- When selecting  $k^*$  according to the model evidences  $p(X_{1:n}|k)$ , the Occam's razor is automatically implemented.
- Reason : the prior plays the role of a regularizer.

automatic complexity penalty : intuition 1

Complex model  $\implies$  large  $\Theta_k$  $\implies$  small  $\pi_k(\theta)$  (if uniform over  $\Theta_k$ )  $\implies \int_{\Theta_k} p_{\theta}(x_{1:n})\pi_k(\theta) \,\mathrm{d}\theta$  small (average over large regions where  $p_{\theta}(x_{1:n})$  small)

## automatic complexity penalty : intuition 2

- if  $\Theta_k \subset \mathbb{R}$  : assume
  - $\pi_k$  flat over interval of length  $\Delta_k^{prior}$
  - $p_{\theta_k}(X_{1:n})$  peaked around  $p_{\widehat{\theta}_{MAP,k}}(X_{1:n})$  with 'width'  $\Delta_k^{posterior}$ .
- then  $\pi_k(\theta) \approx 1/\Delta_k^{prior}$  and

$$p(X_{1:n}|k) = \int_{\Theta_k} p_{\theta}(x) \pi_k(\theta) \, \mathrm{d}\theta \approx p_{\widehat{\theta}_{MAP,k}}(X_{1:n}) \qquad \underbrace{\frac{\Delta \theta_k^{p_c}}{\Delta \theta}}_{=}$$



complexity penalty

• If  $\Theta_k \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and same approximation in each dimension

$$\log p(X_{1:n}|k) \approx \log p_{\widehat{\theta}_{MAP,k}}(X_{1:n}) + \underbrace{d \log \frac{\Delta \theta_k^{posterior}}{\Delta \theta_k^{prior}}}_{\text{dimension + complexity penalty}}$$

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