



Probabilistic Graphical Models & Probabilistic AI

Ben Lengerich

Lecture 3: A Linear view of Discriminative and Generative Models

January 28, 2025

Reading: See course homepage



Logistics Review

- [Lecture scribe sign-up sheet](#)
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Homework 1

- Due Friday at midnight.
- Submit via **Canvas**.
- How is it going?



Questions about Course Logistics?



Today

- Introduction to LaTeX
- Discriminative vs Generative Models:
 - Logistic Regression (Discriminative)
 - Naïve Bayes (Generative)



Introduction to LaTeX

What is LaTeX?

- LaTeX is a document preparation system and markup language used to create high-quality documents
- Key ideas:
 - Separation of content and formatting.
 - Not WYSIWYG (like Word); instead uses a language for precise design.
- Implications:
 - Handles complex layouts like tables, equations, and citations seamlessly.
 - Some upfront work, but no fighting the system for layout.

```
\begin{solution}
  Write your solution here. For multiple choice
  questions, only the letter answer is required.
  \begin{parts}
    \part Solution for (a)
    \part Solution for (b)
    \part Solution for (c)
    \part Solution for (d)
  \end{parts}
\end{solution}
```



Answer: Write your solution here.

- (a) Solution for (a)
- (b) Solution for (b)
- (c) Solution for (c)
- (d) Solution for (d)

Why use LaTeX?

- **Professional Output:** Superior typesetting for academic papers, theses, and technical reports.
- **Handles Complexities:** Math **formulas**, **bibliographies**, and **cross-referencing** are simple and accurate.
- **Automation:** Automatically generates **tables of contents**, **indices**, and **citations**.
- **Reproducibility:** Documents look consistent regardless of the platform.

Basics of a LaTeX document

- Minimal example of a LaTeX document:

Preamble →

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
```

Content →

```
\begin{document}
Hello, World!
\end{document}
```

Hello, World!



Essential Commands

- **Text Formatting:**

- Bold: `\textbf{bold text}`
- Italics: `\textit{italic text}`
- Underline: `\underline{text}`

- **Lists:**

```
\begin{itemize}
  \item Item 1
  \item Item 2
\end{itemize}
```



Math in LaTeX

- **In-line math:**

- Single \$ to start/end math environment: `$E = mc^2$`

- **Block math:**

```
\[  
E = mc^2  
\]
```

Figures

Preamble → `\usepackage{graphicx}`

Where to put the figure → `\begin{figure}[h]`
`\includegraphics[width=0.5\linewidth]{image.png}`
`\caption{A sample figure}`
`\end{figure}`

A caption
for the
figure

Define the
width of
the figure

Your
image

Tables

How many columns and
to arrange the column
text (c = center)

Start
table

```
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
```

```
\hline
```

```
Column 1 & Column 2 \\
```

```
\hline
```

Horizontal
line

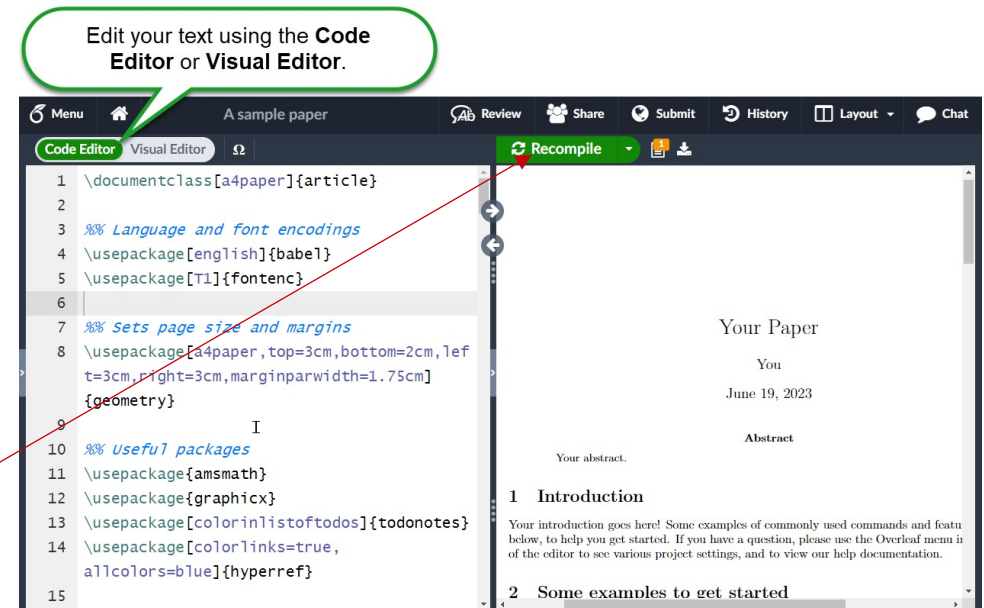
```
Data 1 & Data 2 \\
```

```
\hline
```

```
\end{tabular}
```

Where to use LaTeX

- I recommend [Overleaf](#)
 - Live collaboration tools
 - Integrates with Dropbox, etc for automatic backups
- Also possible to use local editors: TeXShop, MikTeX, TeXworks
- Workflow:
 - Write LaTeX code.
 - Compile:
 - Use the “Recompile” button on Overleaf
 - Use `pdflatex` or `xelatex` locally.
 - View and iterate on the generated PDF.





Resources

- [Overleaf Tutorials](#)
- [LaTeX Wikibook](#)
- [TeX Stack Exchange](#) for Q&A.



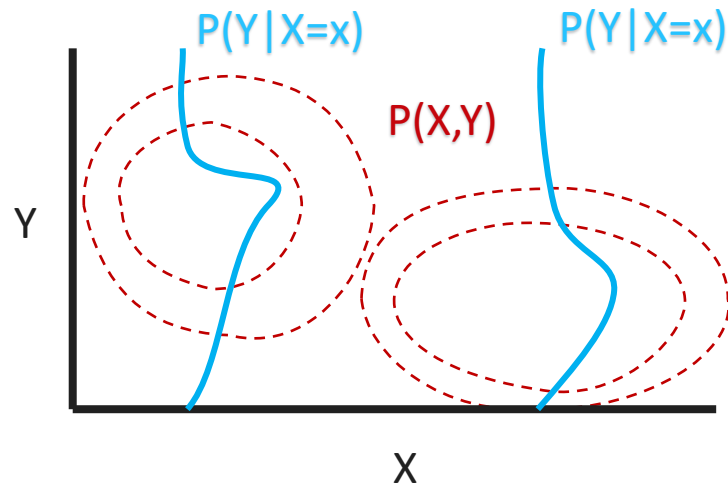
Questions about LaTeX?



A Linear View of Discriminative and Generative Models

Generative and Discriminative Models

- **Generative:**
 - Models the joint distribution $P(X, Y)$.
- **Discriminative:**
 - Models the conditional distribution $P(Y|X)$.



Two paths to $P(Y|X)$

- **Discriminative:**



- **Generative:**

- Learn $P(X|Y), P(Y)$
- Calculate $P(X) = \int_Y P(X, Y) dY$



Two paths to classification

- **Discriminative:**



- **Generative:**

- Learn $P(X|Y), P(Y)$
- Calculate ~~$P(X) = \int_Y P(X, Y) dY$~~



Example Discriminative Model: Logistic Regression

Observe X, Y



Learn $P(Y|X)$

- Parameterize:

- $P(Y = 1|X) = \sigma(\theta^T X)$, where $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$ is the sigmoid function.

- $P(Y = 0|X) = 1 - P(Y = 1|X)$

- **Why this parameterization?**

$$\begin{aligned} \log \frac{P(Y = 1|X)}{P(Y = 0|X)} &= \log \frac{\sigma(\theta^T X)}{1 - \sigma(\theta^T X)} \\ &= \log \frac{\frac{1}{1+e^{-\theta^T X}}}{1 - \frac{1}{1+e^{-\theta^T X}}} = \log \frac{\frac{1}{1+e^{-\theta^T X}}}{\frac{(1+e^{-\theta^T X}) - 1}{1+e^{-\theta^T X}}} = \log \frac{\frac{1}{1+e^{-\theta^T X}}}{\frac{e^{-\theta^T X}}{1+e^{-\theta^T X}}} \\ &= \log \frac{1}{e^{-\theta^T X}} = \log e^{\theta^T X} = \theta^T X \end{aligned}$$

Example Discriminative Model: Logistic Regression

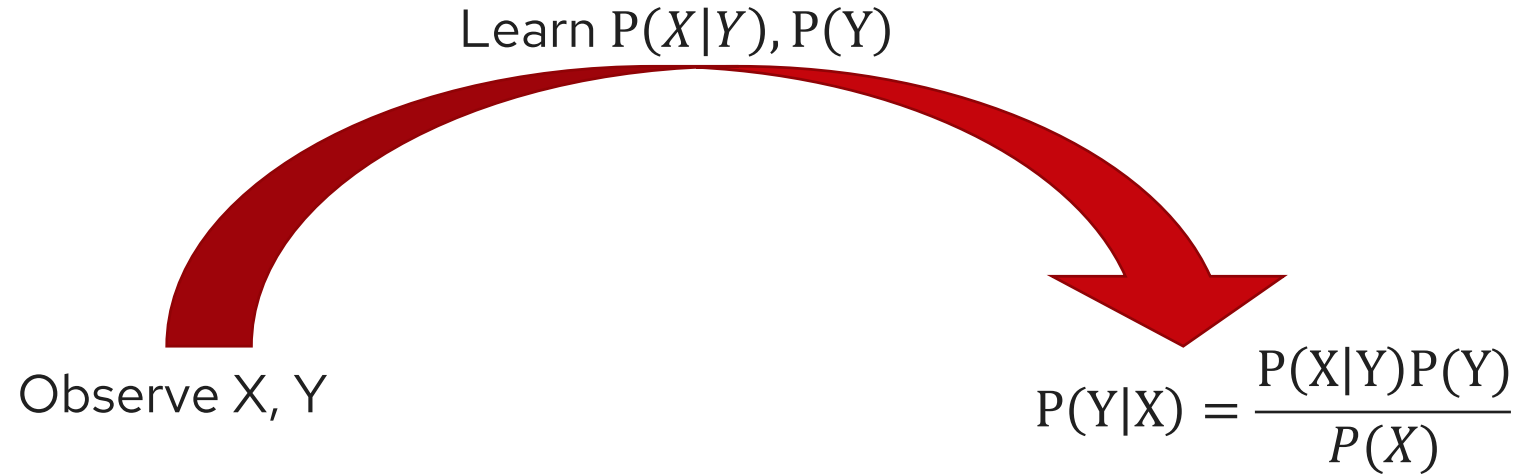
Observe X, Y



Learn $P(Y|X)$

- Parameterize:
 - $P(Y = 1|X) = \sigma(\theta^T X)$, where $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$ is the sigmoid function.
 - $P(Y = 0|X) = 1 - P(Y = 1|X)$
- Estimate $\hat{\theta}$ from observations:
 - $\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \prod_i P(Y_i|X_i; \theta)$
 $= \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \sum_i [Y_i \log \sigma(\theta^T X_i) + (1 - Y_i) \log(1 - \sigma(\theta^T X_i))]$
- Calculate $P(Y = 1|X) = \sigma(\theta^T X)$

Example Generative Model: Naïve Bayes

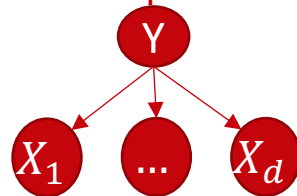


- Parameterize:

- Assume $P(X|Y) = \prod_{j=1}^d P(X_j|Y)$,

- $P(X_j|Y) = N(\mu_{jk}, \sigma_{jk}^2)$ ↗

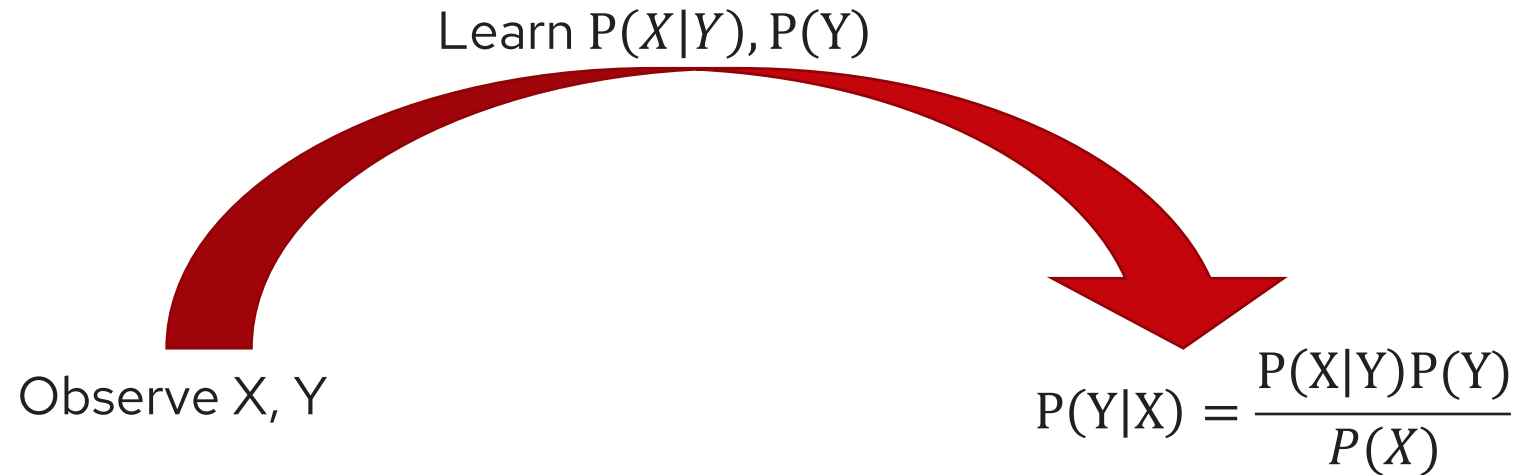
Conditional independences of features $X | Y$



$$P(Y = k) = \frac{\# \text{ of samples with } Y=k}{\text{Total samples}}$$

↗
Frequency of labels

Example Generative Model: Naïve Bayes



- Parameterize:

- Assume $P(X|Y) = \prod_{j=1}^d P(X_j|Y)$, $P(Y = k) = \frac{\text{\# of samples with } Y=k}{\text{Total samples}}$

- Estimate:

- $\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mu, \sigma} P(X|Y)$

- Calculate $P(Y = 1|X) = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^d P(X_j|Y = 1)P(Y=1)}{P(X)}$

Summary

- **Discriminative:**



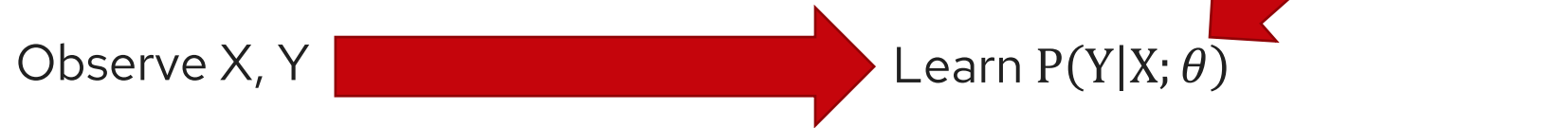
- **Generative:**

- Learn $P(X|Y), P(Y)$
- Calculate $P(X) = \int_Y P(X, Y) dY$



What about MAP / Regularization?

Logistic Regression:



- Parameterize:
 - $P(Y = 1|X) = \sigma(\theta^T X)$, where $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$ is the sigmoid function.
 - $P(Y = 0|X) = 1 - P(Y = 1|X)$
- Estimate $\hat{\theta}$ from observations:
 - $\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \prod_i P(Y_i|X_i; \theta) P(\theta)$
 $= \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \sum_i [Y_i \log \sigma(\theta^T X_i) + (1 - Y_i) \log(1 - \sigma(\theta^T X_i))] - R(\theta)$
- Calculate $P(Y|X)$

Discriminative vs Generative Models

- Discriminative models optimize the conditional likelihood:

$$\widehat{\theta}_{disc} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(Y|X; \theta)$$

- Generative models optimize the joint likelihood:

$$\widehat{\theta}_{gen} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(X, Y; \theta)$$

Are these the same optimization?

Discriminative vs Generative Models

- Discriminative models optimize the conditional likelihood:

$$\widehat{\theta}_{disc} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(Y|X; \theta) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \frac{P(X|Y; \theta)P(Y; \theta)}{P(X; \theta)}$$

- Generative models optimize the joint likelihood:

$$\widehat{\theta}_{gen} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(X, Y; \theta) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(X|Y; \theta)P(Y; \theta)$$

Are these the same optimization?

Same optimization when $P(X; \theta)$ is invariant to θ



Logistic Regression vs Naïve Bayes

Logistic Regression	Naïve Bayes
Discriminative	Generative
Defines $P(Y X; \theta)$	Defines $P(X, Y; \theta)$
Estimates $\hat{\theta}_{lr} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(Y X; \theta)$	Estimates $\hat{\theta}_{nb} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P(X, Y, \theta)$
Lower asymptotic error on classification	Higher asymptotic error on classification
Slower convergence in terms of samples	Faster convergence in terms of samples

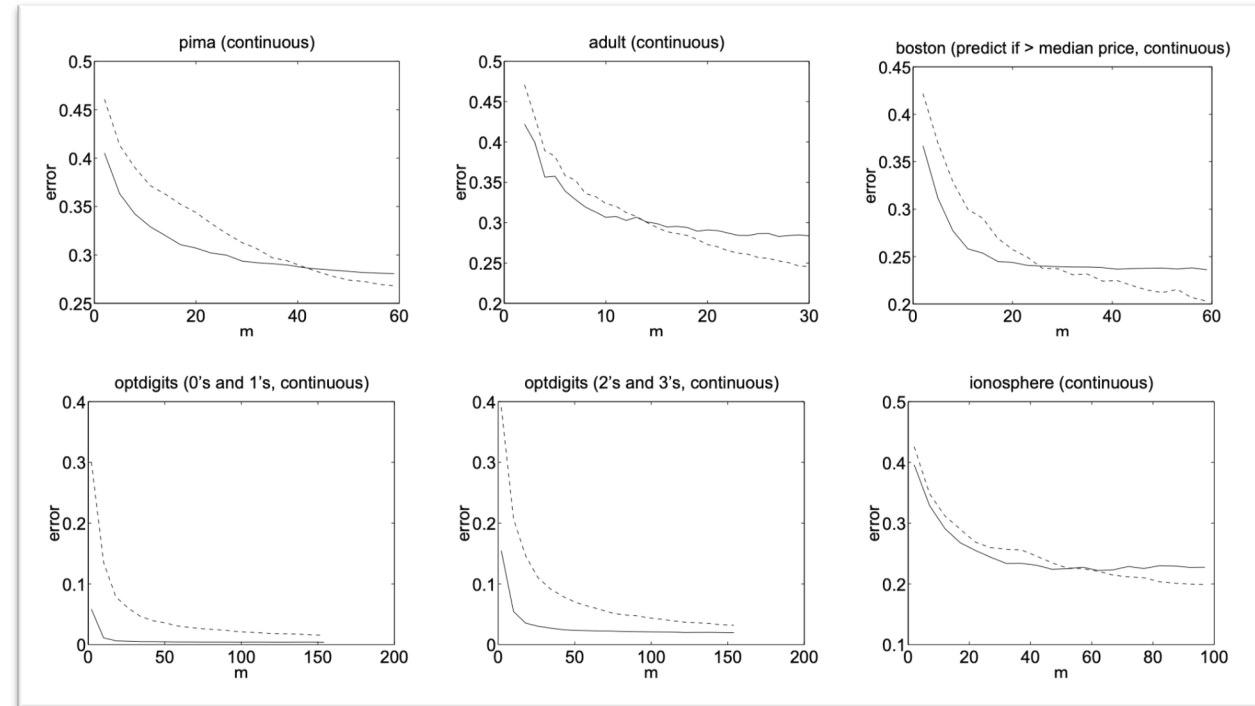
Andrew Ng's Insight

- “While discriminative learning has lower asymptotic error, a generative classifier may also approach its (higher) asymptotic error much faster.”

Why?

..... LR
—— NB

Ng & Jordan 2001



Andrew Ng's Insight

- “While discriminative learning has lower asymptotic error, a generative classifier may also approach its (higher) asymptotic error much faster.”
- Underlying assumption of this statement:
 - Generative models of the form $P(X, Y, \theta)$ make **more simplifying assumptions** than do discriminative models of the form $P(Y|X, \theta)$.
 - **Not always true**
 - “So far there is no theoretically correct, general criterion for choosing between the discriminative and the generative approaches to classification of an observation \mathbf{x} into a class y ; the choice depends on the relative confidence we have in the correctness of the specification of either $p(y|\mathbf{x})$ or $p(\mathbf{x}, y)$ for the data.”

[Xue & Tittering 2008](#)

Modern Deep Generative Models

January 27, 2025:



Questions?

