

Natural Language Processing

Info 159/259 Lecture 24: Latent variable models (April 20, 2023)

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Random variable

• A variable that can take values within a fixed set (discrete) or within some range (continuous).

event	event space
dice throw	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
the next word I say	{the, a, dog, runs, to, store}
author of a text	{Austen, Dickens}
height of a skyscraper	[0, ∞]

Note this includes both data (X) and labels we're predicting (Y) — they can all be thought of as random variables

Joint probability

weather	hot	cloudy	rainy	hot	hot	cloudy	rainy
ice cream	1	0	0	1	1	1	0

P(X = hot, Y = ice cream)

The probability of multiple things happening at the same time.

Chain Rule of Probability

 $P(X, Y) = P(X)P(Y \mid X)$

Joint probability

weather	hot	cloudy	rainy	hot	hot	cloudy	rainy
ice cream	1	0	0	1	1	1	0

 $P(X, Y) = P(X)P(Y \mid X)$ hot cloudy rainy $P(X = x) \quad 3/7 = 0.42 \quad 2/7 = 0.29 \quad 2/7 = 0.29$ $P(Y = \text{ice cream} \mid X = x) \quad 3/3 = 1.0 \quad 1/2 = 0.50 \quad 0.2 = 0.0$

P(X = hot, Y = ice cream) = 0.42

Latent variables

- A latent variable is one that's unobserved, either because:
 - we are predicting it (but have observed that variable for other data points)
 - it is unobservable

Latent variables

	observed variables	latent variables
email	text, date, sender	topic, urgency
novels	text, author, date	genre, happy ending, archetypes
netflix users	viewing data	preferences

Probabilistic graphical models

- Nodes represent variables (shaded = observed, clear = latent)
- Arrows indicate conditional relationships
- The probability of x here is dependent on y
- Simply a visual way of writing the joint probability:



 $P(x, y) = P(y) P(x \mid y)$

Classification

P(y = dickens | x = "it was the best of times")



Independence Assumption



We will assume the features are independent:

$$P(x_1, ..., x_N \mid y) = \prod_i^N P(x_i \mid y)$$

Naive Bayes

 To fully specify Naive Bayes, we need to add the implicit parameters θ (the prior distribution) and Φ (the distribution of x given y).



 $P(x, y \mid \theta, \phi) = P(y \mid \theta) P(x \mid y, \phi)$



$$P(y = \text{Austen} \mid \theta) = 0.5$$

Look up the value of y in θ





 $P(x = \text{love} | y = \text{Austen}, \phi) = 0.04$

Look up the value of x in the Φ indexed by y

Naive Bayes

• We can plug these multinomials in to make this more clear



 $P(x, y \mid \theta, \phi) = P(y \mid \theta) P(x \mid y, \phi)$

Naive Bayes

 When we train Naive Bayes, y is observed, and we estimate the parameters θ and Φ with (e.g.) maximum likelihood estimation

$$heta_i = rac{count(i)}{N}$$
 $\phi_{y,i} = rac{count(y,i)}{N_y}$



Naive Bayes MLE

$$\theta_i = \frac{count(i)}{N}$$

The number of Austen texts divided by the total number of texts

$$\phi_{y,i} = \frac{count(y,i)}{N_y}$$

The number of times "love" appears in Austen texts divided by the total number of words in Austen texts

Naive Bayes

$$P(y \mid x, \theta, \phi) = \frac{P(y \mid \theta)P(x \mid y, \phi)}{\sum_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}} P(y' \mid \theta)P(x \mid y', \phi)}$$

 We calculate the posterior probability of y using Bayes' rule



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Unsupervised Naive Bayes

- Same model structure
- Same conditional relationships
- No observed labels y
- Why would we do this??



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Structure

• Unsupervised learning finds *structure* in data.



Unsupervised Naive Bayes

- The only variables we observe are the data x
- y here is still a choice among K alternatives:

$$\mathcal{Y} = \{1, 2, \dots K\}$$



 We want to estimate the best values of the parameters Φ and θ and infer the most likely values for latent variables y

 Guiding principle: we want to maximize the likelihood of the observed data

$$P(x \mid \phi, \theta) = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} P(x, y \mid \phi, \theta)$$

$$P(x \mid \phi, \theta) = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} P(x \mid y, \phi) P(y \mid \theta)$$

$$\ell(\phi, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \log P(x \mid \phi, \theta)$$

$$\ell(\phi, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \log \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} P(x \mid y, \phi) P(y \mid \theta)$$

this sum in the log makes this likelihood hard to optimize

Lots of standard inference techniques we can use

- Expectation Maximization
- Markov chain Monte Carlo (Gibbs sampling, Metropolis Hastings, etc.)
- Variational methods
- Spectral methods (Anandkumar et al. 2012, Arora et al. 2013)



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- Start out with random values for the parameters
- Iterate until convergence:
 - Calculate expected values for latent variables y



1. Calculate expected values for latent variables

$$P(y \mid x, \theta, \phi) = \frac{P(y \mid \theta)P(x \mid y, \phi)}{\sum_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}} P(y' \mid \theta)P(x \mid y', \phi)}$$

1	2	3	4	5
0.10	0.50	0.25	0.07	0.08



Expected values for 10 data points, with K=5

	1	2	3	4	5
y1	0.35	0.03	0.12	0.27	0.23
y2	0.39	80.0	0.31	0.03	0.19
уЗ	0.05	0.36	0.22	0.1	0.27
y4	0.31	0.14	0.05	0.28	0.22
у5	0.65	0.05	0.17	0.07	0.06
у6	0.11	0.04	0.34	0.27	0.24
у7	0.07	0.07	0.45	0.02	0.39
у8	0.14	0.54	0.03	0.11	0.18
у9	0.51	0.06	0.09	0.29	0.05
y10	0.01	0.23	0.08	0.14	0.54

2. Use those expected values to maximize parameters



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2. Use those expected values to maximize parameters

$$\theta_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N r_{i,k}$$

r_{i,k} is proportion of the count we attribute to k

	1	2	3	4	5
y1	0.35	0.03	0.12	0.27	0.23
y2	0.39	0.08	0.31	0.03	0.19
уЗ	0.05	0.36	0.22	0.1	0.27
y4	0.31	0.14	0.05	0.28	0.22
y5	0.65	0.05	0.17	0.07	0.06
у6	0.11	0.04	0.34	0.27	0.24
у7	0.07	0.07	0.45	0.02	0.39
y8	0.14	0.54	0.03	0.11	0.18
у9	0.51	0.06	0.09	0.29	0.05
y10	0.01	0.23	0.08	0.14	0.54
avg	0.259	0.160	0.186	0.158	0.237

k

2. Use those expected values to maximize parameters

$$\phi_{k,w} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} r_{i,k} \operatorname{count}(i,w)}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} r_{i,k} N_{i}}$$

 $r_{i,k}$ is proportion of the count we attribute to k

count(i,w) = count of word w in document i

N_i is the total word count in document i

	1	2	3	4	5
y1	0.35	0.03	0.12	0.27	0.23
y2	0.39	0.08	0.31	0.03	0.19
уЗ	0.05	0.36	0.22	0.1	0.27
y4	0.31	0.14	0.05	0.28	0.22
y5	0.65	0.05	0.17	0.07	0.06
y6	0.11	0.04	0.34	0.27	0.24
у7	0.07	0.07	0.45	0.02	0.39
y8	0.14	0.54	0.03	0.11	0.18
у9	0.51	0.06	0.09	0.29	0.05
v10	0.01	0.23	0.08	0.14	0.54

k

In general, EM involves iterating between two steps:

E-step: calculate the posterior probability of latent y

$$Q(y) = P(y \mid x_i, \theta)$$

M-step: find the values of parameters θ that maximize:

$$\theta = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} Q(y) \log \frac{P(x_i, y \mid \theta)}{Q(y)}$$

- Start out with random values for the parameters
- Iterate until convergence:
 - Calculate expected values for latent variables
 - Use those expected values to maximize parameter values

K-means

1 Given: a set $\mathcal{X} = \{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ a distance measure $d : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}$ 2 a function for computing the mean $\mu : \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}^m$ 3 4 Select k initial centers $\vec{f_1}, \ldots, \vec{f_k}$ 5 while stopping criterion is not true do for all clusters c_i do 6 $c_{i} = \{\vec{x}_{i} \mid \forall \vec{f_{l}} \ d(\vec{x}_{i}, \vec{f}_{i}) \le d(\vec{x}_{i}, \vec{f_{l}})\}$ 7 end 8 **for** all means $\vec{f_j}$ **do** 9 $\vec{f}_j = \mu(c_j)$ 10 end 11 12 **end**

Expectation maximization yields a soft clustering (where a given data point can have fractional membership in multiple clusters.

K-means is an approximation to this: instead of allowing fractional membership, each data point is placed into its single most likely cluster. Also known as "hard EM"

Semi-supervised

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EM is useful for when we have partially labeled data

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Semi-supervised

How would the presence of *some* supervised labels change your calculating of the E and M steps?

1. Calculate expected values for latent variables

 $P(y \mid x, \theta, \phi) = \frac{P(y \mid \theta)P(x \mid y, \phi)}{\sum_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}} P(y' \mid \theta)P(x \mid y', \phi)}$

what's this value for an observed label?

2. Use those expected values to maximize parameters

$$\theta_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N r_{i,k}$$

what's r_{i,k} for a data point with observed label?



In more complex models, there are often dependencies between multiple latent variables

Here's an example: if you don't know the value of θ , but you believe y₁ and y₂ = 2, then your best estimate of θ will favor 2, making P(y₃ = 2) high

> the y's are dependent on each other





The idea is very simple: start out with random guesses for all variables



Then, iterate through each variable and sample a new value for it conditioned on the current samples of everything else



 $P(y \mid \theta = \square, x) \propto P(y \mid \theta = \square) P(x \mid y)$

Then, iterate through each variable and sample a new value for it conditioned on the current samples of everything else



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 $P(y \mid \theta = \square, x) \propto P(y \mid \theta = \square) P(x \mid y)$

Then, iterate through each variable and sample a new value for it conditioned on the current samples of everything else



$$P(\theta \mid a, y) \propto P(\theta \mid a) \prod_{i=1}^{N} P(y_i \mid \theta)$$

Then, iterate through each variable and sample a new value for it conditioned on the current samples of everything else



Graphical models

- Graphical models articulate the relationship between variables
- Lots of standard inference techniques are available; the art is in defining the structure of the model:
 - what the variables are
 - what parametric form they take
 - what's observed and what's latent
 - what the relationship is between the variables



Topic models



Clustering

- Clustering is designed to learn structure in the data:
 - Hierarchical structure between data points
 - Natural partitions between data points

Topic Models

- A probabilistic model for discovering hidden "topics" or "themes" (groups of terms that tend to occur together) in documents.
- Unsupervised (find *interesting structure* in the data)
- Clustering algorithm, clustering tokens into topics



Antoniak et al. 2019, "Narrative Paths and Negotiation of Power in Birth Stories"

The Ten Most Significant Topics in the National Anti-Slavery Standard					The Ten Most Significant Tonics in the National Anti-Slavery Standard While Child Was Editor				
Topic	Label	PMI	Keywords	Topic	Label	PMI	Keywords		
T49	places	1.54	ohio, philadelphia, mass, office, york, miller, penn, standard, thomas, free	<u>T70</u>	cooking	0.88	water, put, half, sugar, pound, cold, milk, salt, add, butter		
T32	miscellaneous ads	1.48	table, york, duty, free, street, fair, ad, cotton, good, cent	T26	foreign relations	0.63	united, government, states, american, cuba, foreign,		
T91	shopping	1.10	street, philadelphia, books, goods, hand, prices, store, cases, assortment, attention	T49	places	0.63	ohio, philadelphia, mass, office, york, miller, penn, standard thomas free		
T46	ads for dry goods	0.87	cents, corn, flour, wheat, american, advance, made, paper, white, sales	T40	correspondence	0.53	letter, office, post, letters, received, written, send,		
T16	abolition	0.87	slavery, anti, abolitionists, american, society, abolition, pro, slave, liberty, garrison	T42	formal organizing	0.49	society, meeting, friends, held, annual, county, anti,		
T7	organizing	0.52	friends, aid, fair, money, work, make, means, committee, time, funds	T14	Massachusetts	0.45	boston, mass, rev, john, wm, george, salem, charles,		
T2	time	0.38	time, made, found, left, place, day, return, received, immediately, told	T25	travel and accidents	0.44	samue, esq fire, railroad, city, train, boston, cars, company, york, road academt		
T62	war and expansion	0.37	texas, mexico, war, states, united, annexation, california, mexican, government, country	T35	federal government	0.40	house, congress, district, petition, representatives, adams,		
T42	formal organizing	0.36	society, meeting, friends, held, annual, county, anti, present, members, meetings	Т9	violence and crime	0.39	house, man, shot, negro, murder, mob, night, city,		
T97	slavery	0.24	slave, slaves, slavery, free, master, negroes, states, property, slaveholders, emancipation	T5	state government	0.38	state, law, laws, act, states, citizens, person, persons, united, legislature		

Klein 2020, "Dimensions of Scale: Invisible Labor, Editorial Work, and the Future of Quantitative Literary Studies"

A Topic Model of Literary Studies Journals

	Overview		Topic -	Article	Word	Bibliography	Word index	Settings	About
	List	Gric	l Years					click a colun	nn label to sort; click a row for more about a topic
to	oic \downarrow î	1889	-2013	top wor	ds				proportion of corpus
1		see both own view role university further account criti					ritical particula	ar 2.5%	
2		يستقرل		other bo	th two for	m same even eac	ch part experiend	ce process	2.6%
3		<u>.</u>		old beov	vulf englis	h ic mid swa pe p	ooet ond grende	I	0.3%

Goldstone and Underwood (2014), The Quiet Transformations of Literary Studies

Topic Models

• **Input**: set of documents, number of clusters to learn.

• Output:

- topics
- topic ratio in each document
- topic distribution for each word in doc

{album, band, music}	{government, party, election}	{game, team, player}	
album	government	game	
band	party	team	
music	election	player	
song	state	win	
release	political	play	
{god, call, give}	{company, market, business}	{math, number, function}	
god	company	math	
call	market	number	
give	business	function	
man	year	code	
time	product	set	
{city, large, area}	{math, energy, light}	{law, state, case}	
city	math	law	
large	energy	state	
area	light	case	
station	field	court	
include	star	legal	

Applications



Antoniak et al. 2019, "Narrative Paths and Negotiation of Power in Birth Stories"

x = feature vector

β = coefficients

Feature	Value	Feature	β	
contains "love"	0	contains "love"	-3.1	
contains "castle"	0	contains "castle"	6.8	
contains "dagger"	0	contains "dagger"	7.9	
contains "run"	0	contains "run"	-3.0	
contains "the"	1	contains "the"	-1.7	
topic 1	0.55	topic 1	0.3	
topic 2	0.32	topic 2	-1.2	
topic 3	0.13	topic 3	5.7	

Software

- Mallet
 <u>http://mallet.cs.umass.edu/</u>
- Gensim (python) <u>https://radimrehurek.com/</u> <u>gensim/</u>
- Visualization <u>https://github.com/uwdata/</u> <u>termite-visualizations</u>



... The messenger, however, does not reach Romeo and, instead, Romeo learns of Juliet's apparent death from his servant Balthasar. Heartbroken, Romeo buys poison from an apothecary and goes to the Capulet crypt. He encounters Paris who has come to mourn Juliet privately. Believing Romeo to be a vandal, Paris confronts him and, in the ensuing battle, Romeo kills Paris. Still believing Juliet to be dead, he drinks the poison. Juliet then awakens and, finding Romeo dead, stabs herself with his dagger. The feuding families and the Prince meet at the tomb to find all three dead. Friar Laurence recounts the story of the two "star-cross'd lovers". The families are reconciled by their children's deaths and agree to end their violent feud. The play ends with the Prince's elegy for the lovers: "For never was a story of more woe / Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."

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"Death"

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"Love"

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"Family"

... The messenger, however, does not reach Romeo and, instead, Romeo learns of Juliet's apparent death from his servant Balthasar. Heartbroken, Romeo buys poison from an apothecary and goes to the Capulet crypt. He encounters Paris who has come to mourn Juliet privately. Believing Romeo to be a vandal, Paris confronts him and, in the ensuing battle, Romeo kills Paris. Still believing Juliet to be dead, he drinks the poison. Juliet then awakens and, finding Romeo dead, stabs herself with his dagger. The feuding families and the Prince meet at the tomb to find all three dead. Friar Laurence recounts the story of the two "star-cross'd lovers". The families are reconciled by their children's deaths and agree to end their violent feud. The play ends with the Prince's elegy for the lovers: "For never was a story of more woe / Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."



tokens, not types

... The messenger, however, does not reach Romeo and, instead, Romeo learns of Juliet's apparent death from his servant Balthasar. Heartbroken, Romeo buys poison from an apothecary and goes to the Capulet crypt. He encounters Paris who has come to mourn Juliet privately. Believing Romeo to be a vandal, Paris confronts him and, in the ensuing battle, Romeo kills Paris. Still believing Juliet to be dead, he drinks the poison. Juliet then awakens and, finding Romeo dead, stabs herself with his dagger. The feuding families and the Prince meet at the tomb to find all three dead. Friar Laurence recounts the story of the two "star-cross'd lovers". The families are reconciled by their children's deaths and agree to end their violent feud. The play ends with the Prince's elegy for the lovers: "For never was a story of more woe / Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."



A different *Paris* token might belong to a "Place" or "French" topic



document distribution over topics

topic indicators for words

Topic Models

• A document has *distribution over topics*





Topic Models

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• A topic is a distribution over words



• e.g., P("adore" | topic = love) = .18






















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Inferred Topics

{album, band, music}	{government, party, election}	{game, team, player}
album	government	game
band	party	team
music	election	player
song	state	win
release	political	play
{god, call, give}	{company, market, business}	{math, number, function}
god	company	math
call	market	number
give	business	function
man	year	code
time	product	set
{city, large, area}	{math, energy, light}	{law, state, case}
city	math	law
large	energy	state
area	light	case
station	field	court
include	star	legal





Inference

- What are the topic distributions for each document?
- What are the topic assignments for each word in a document?
- What are the word distributions for each topic?

Find the parameters that maximize the likelihood of the data!





Assumptions

- Every word has one topic
- Every document has one topic distribution
- No sequential information (topics for words are independent of each other given the set of topics for a document)
- Topics don't have arbitrary correlations (Dirichlet prior)
- Words don't have arbitrary correlations (Dirichlet prior)
- The only information you learn from are the identities of words and how they are divided into documents.

What if you want to encode other assumptions or reason over other observations?











Deep Latent Variable Models

- Making models "deep" involves changing the parameterization of the underlying probability distribution
- Multinomial ~ Dirichlet \rightarrow FFNN, RNNLM, Transformer
- Allows for more flexible parameterization, alternative independence assumptions, and richer models of context.

Deep Latent Variable Models

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Unsupervised "Naive" Bayes (each x_i is independent from the others)

$$P(x_1, \dots, x_N \mid y; \phi) = \prod_i^N P(x_i \mid y)$$
$$= \prod_i^N \phi_{x_i}^y$$

Deep Latent Variable Models

Deep version (each x_i depends on the other tokens)

$$P(x_i \mid y, \phi) = \mathsf{RNNLM}\left(x_{1:i}; \phi^y\right)$$

 Φ^{y} here is a vector that gets passed into each RNN time step (e.g., concatenated with x)



Latent variable models

• See Kim et al. 2019 for more!