

Lecture Slides for  
**INTRODUCTION  
TO  
MACHINE  
LEARNING  
3RD EDITION**

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CHAPTER 4:

**PARAMETRIC  
METHODS**

# Parametric Estimation

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- A statistic is any value that is calculated from a given sample.
- The advantage of the parametric approach is that the model is defined up to a small number of parameters—for example, mean, variance—the sufficient statistics of the distribution.
- $X = \{ x^t \}_t$  where  $x^t \sim p(x | \theta)$
- Parametric estimation:
  - Assume a form for  $p(x | \theta)$  and estimate  $\theta$ , its sufficient statistics, using  $X$
  - e.g.,  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  where  $\theta = \{ \mu, \sigma^2 \}$

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation

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- Likelihood of  $\theta$  given the sample  $X$

$$l(\theta|X) = p(X|\theta) = \prod_t p(x^t|\theta)$$

- Log likelihood

$$L(\theta|X) = \log l(\theta|X) = \sum_t \log p(x^t|\theta)$$

- Maximum likelihood estimator (MLE)

$$\theta^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} L(\theta|X)$$

# Examples: Bernoulli

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□ **Bernoulli:** Two states, failure/success,  $x$  in  $\{0,1\}$

$$P(x) = p^x (1-p)^{(1-x)} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} E[X] = \sum_x xp(x) = 1 \cdot p + 0 \cdot (1-p) = p \\ \text{Var}(X) = \sum_x (x - E[x])^2 p(x) = p(1-p) \end{array} \right.$$

$$L(p|X) = \log \prod_t p^{x^t} (1-p)^{(1-x^t)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L(p|X) &= \sum_t \left\{ x^t \log p + (1-x^t) \log(1-p) \right\} \\ &= \sum_t x^t \log p + \left( N - \sum_t x^t \right) \log(1-p) \end{aligned}$$

➔ MLE:  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial p} = 0, \Rightarrow \hat{p} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t x^t$

# Examples: Multinomial

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- **Multinomial:**  $K > 2$  states,  $x_i$  in  $\{0,1\}$
- Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K$  are the indicator variables where  $x_i$  is 1 if the outcome is state  $i$  and 0 otherwise.

$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K) = \prod_i p_i^{x_i} \quad \sum_{i=1}^K p_i = 1$$

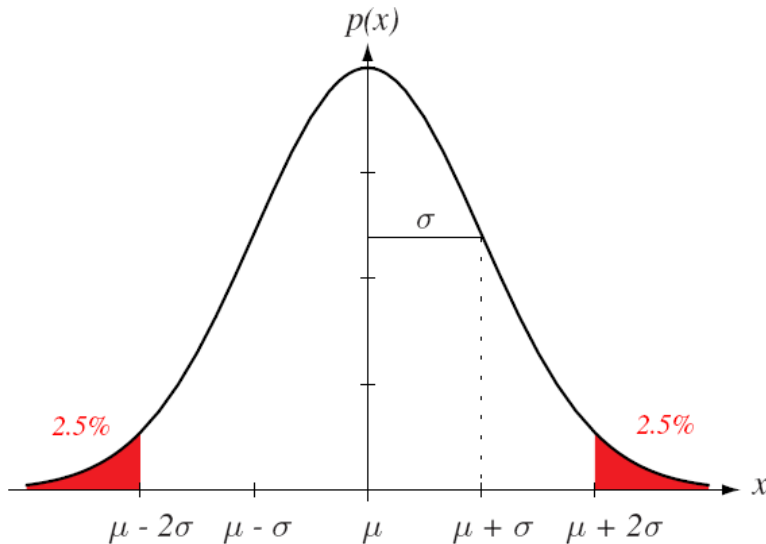
$$\begin{aligned} L(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_K | X) &= \log \prod_t \prod_i p_i^{x_i^t} = \log \prod_i p_i^{\sum_t x_i^t} = \log \prod_i p_i^{m^t} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^K m^t \log p_i, \quad m^t = \sum_t x_i^t = \text{number of observations of } x_i^t = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$x_i^t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if experiment } t \text{ chooses state } i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{MLE: } p_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t x_i^t \quad (\text{why?})$$

# Gaussian (Normal) Distribution

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□  $p(x) = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left[-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu, \sigma | \mathcal{X}) = -\frac{N}{2} \log(2\pi) - N \log \sigma - \frac{\sum_t (x^t - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

□ MLE for  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$ :

$$m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t x^t, \quad s^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t (x^t - m)^2$$

# Bias and Variance

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Unknown parameter  $\theta$ , Estimator  $d_i = d(X_i)$  on sample  $X_i$

The **mean square error** of the estimator  $d$

$$r(d, \theta) = E[(d(\mathcal{X}) - \theta)^2]$$

Bias:  $b_\theta(d) = E[d] - \theta$ , Variance:  $E[(d - E[d])^2]$

If  $b_\theta(d) = 0$  for all  $\theta$  values,  $d$  is an **unbiased estimator**

$$E[m] = E\left[\frac{\sum_t x^t}{N}\right] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t E[x^t] = \frac{N\mu}{N} = \mu$$

$m$  is also a **consistent estimator**, that is,  $\text{Var}(m) \rightarrow 0$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\text{Var}(m) = \text{Var}\left(\frac{\sum_t x^t}{N}\right) = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_t \text{Var}(x^t) = \frac{N\sigma^2}{N^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{N}$$

# The MLE of $\sigma^2$

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$$s^2 = \frac{\sum_t (x^t - m)^2}{N} = \frac{\sum_t (x^t)^2 - Nm^2}{N}$$
$$E[s^2] = \frac{\sum_t E[(x^t)^2] - N \cdot E[m^2]}{N}$$

Given that  $\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$ , we get  $E[X^2] = \text{Var}(X) + E[X]^2$ , and we can write:

$$E[(x^t)^2] = \sigma^2 + \mu^2 \text{ and } E[m^2] = \sigma^2 / N + \mu^2$$

$$E[s^2] = \frac{N(\sigma^2 + \mu^2) - N(\sigma^2 / N + \mu^2)}{N} = \left( \frac{N-1}{N} \right) \sigma^2 \neq \sigma^2$$

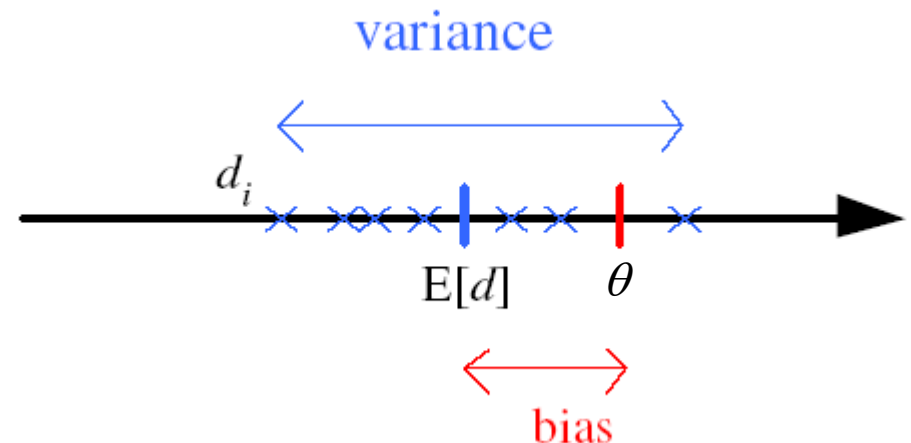
which shows that  $s^2$  is a biased estimator of  $\sigma^2$ .



This is an example of an **asymptotically unbiased** estimator whose bias goes to 0 as  $N$  goes to infinity.

**Mean square error:** (Proof: Refer to textbook)

$$\begin{aligned} r(d, \theta) &= E[(d - \theta)^2] \\ &= E[(d - E[d])^2 + (E[d] - \theta)^2] \\ &= \text{Variance} + (\text{Bias})^2 \end{aligned}$$



# Bayes' Estimator

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- Treat  $\theta$  as a random var with prior  $p(\theta)$
- Bayes' rule:  $p(\theta|X) = p(X|\theta) p(\theta) / p(X)$
- $p(x|X) = \int p(x, \theta|X) d\theta = \int p(x|\theta, X) p(\theta|X) d\theta$
- $$= \int p(x|\theta) p(\theta|X) d\theta$$
- Where  $p(x|\theta, X) = p(x|\theta)$  because once we know  $\theta$ , the sufficient statistics, we know everything about the distribution.
- Evaluating the integrals may be quite difficult, except in cases where the posterior has a nice form.

# Bayes' Estimator

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- If we can assume that  $p(\theta|X)$  has a narrow peak around its mode, then using the maximum a posteriori (MAP) estimate will make the calculation easier.

- Maximum a Posteriori (MAP):

$$\theta_{\text{MAP}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} p(\theta|X)$$

$$p(x/X) = p(x/\theta_{\text{MAP}})$$

- Maximum Likelihood (ML):  $\theta_{\text{ML}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} p(X|\theta)$

- Bayes' Estimator:  $\theta_{\text{Bayes}}, = \mathbb{E}[\theta|X] = \int \theta p(\theta|X) d\theta$

# Bayes' Estimator: Example

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- $x^t \sim N(\theta, \sigma^2)$  and  $\theta \sim N(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$
- $\theta_{\text{ML}} = m$
- $\theta_{\text{MAP}} = \theta_{\text{Bayes'}} =$

$$E[\theta|\mathbf{X}] = \frac{N / \sigma^2}{N / \sigma^2 + 1 / \sigma_0^2} m + \frac{1 / \sigma_0^2}{N / \sigma^2 + 1 / \sigma_0^2} \mu_0$$

# Parametric Classification

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$$g_i(x) = p(x|C_i)P(C_i) \quad \text{discriminant function}$$

or

$$g_i(x) = \log p(x|C_i) + \log P(C_i)$$

$$p(x|C_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \exp\left[-\frac{(x-\mu_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right]$$

$$g_i(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \log 2\pi - \log \sigma_i - \frac{(x-\mu_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2} + \log P(C_i)$$

- Given the sample  $X = \{x^t, \mathbf{r}^t\}_{t=1}^N$

$$x \in \mathfrak{R}$$

$$\mathbf{r} \in \{0, 1\}^K$$

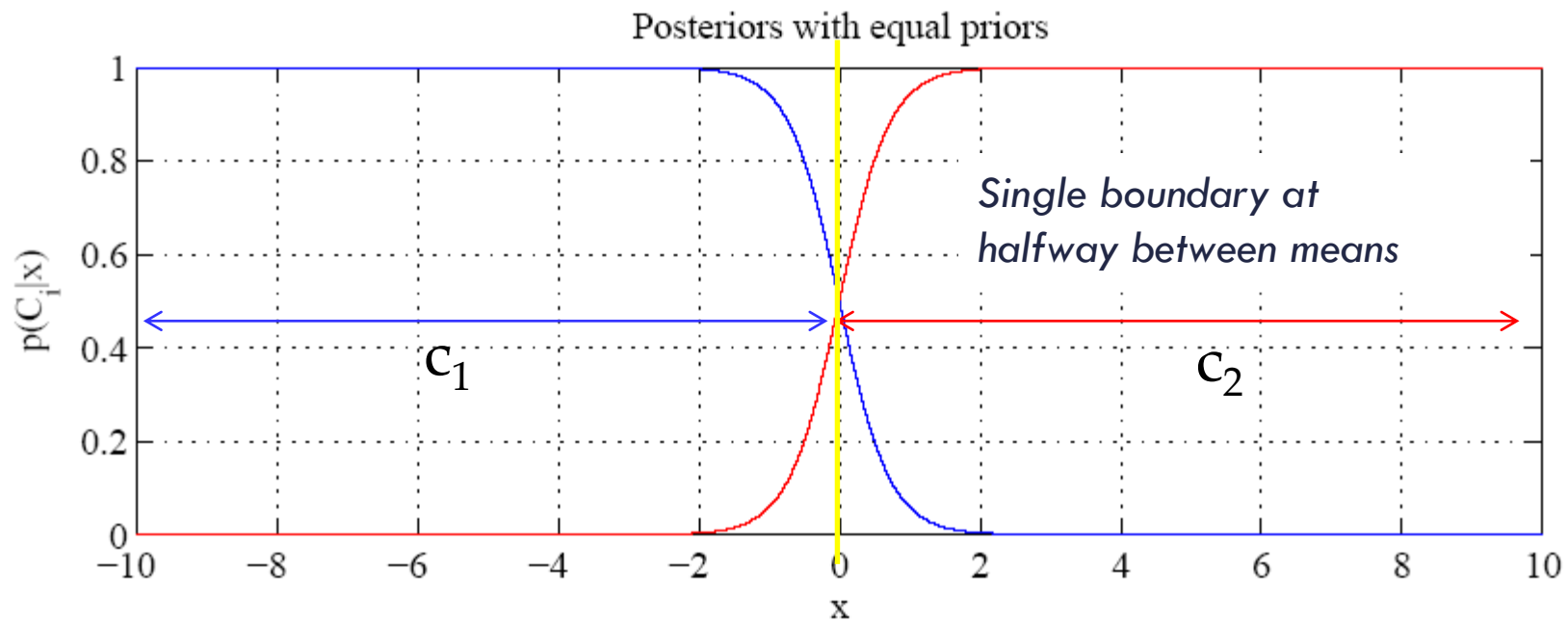
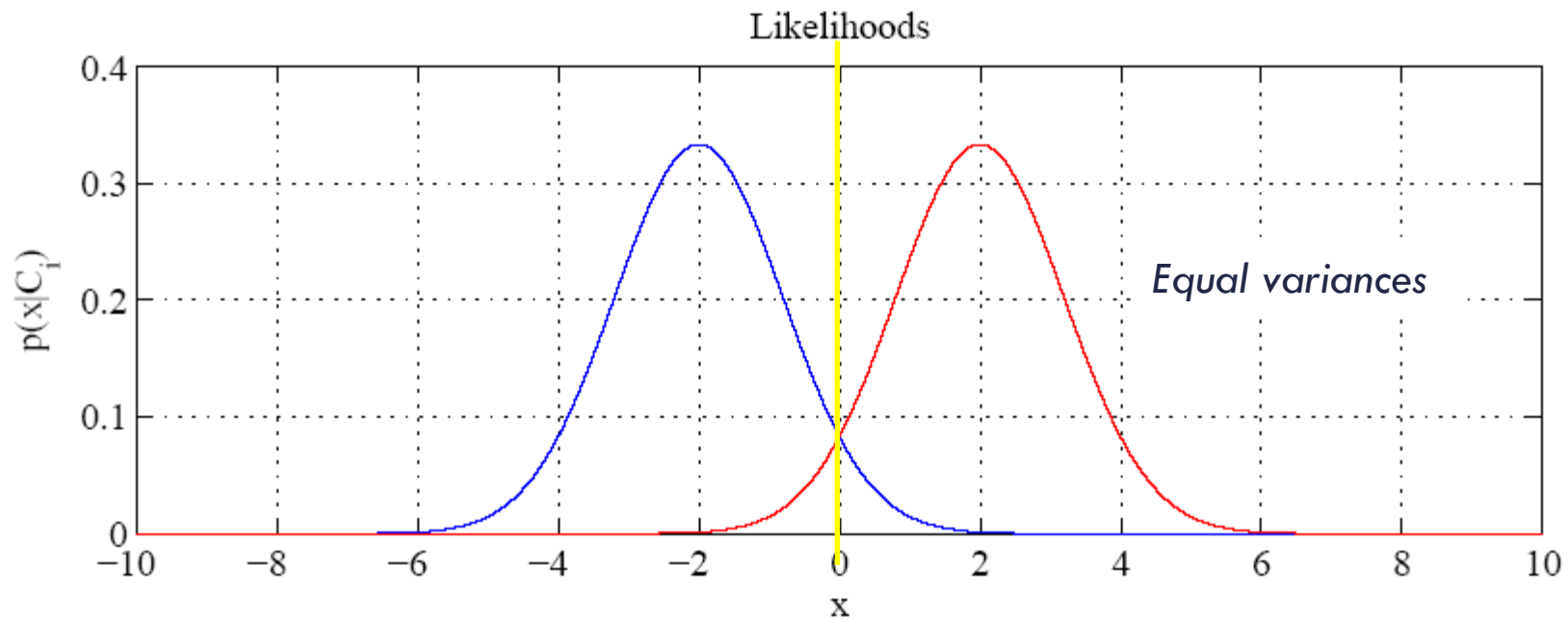
$$r_i^t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x^t \in C_i \\ 0 & \text{if } x^t \in C_j, j \neq i \end{cases}$$

- ML estimates are

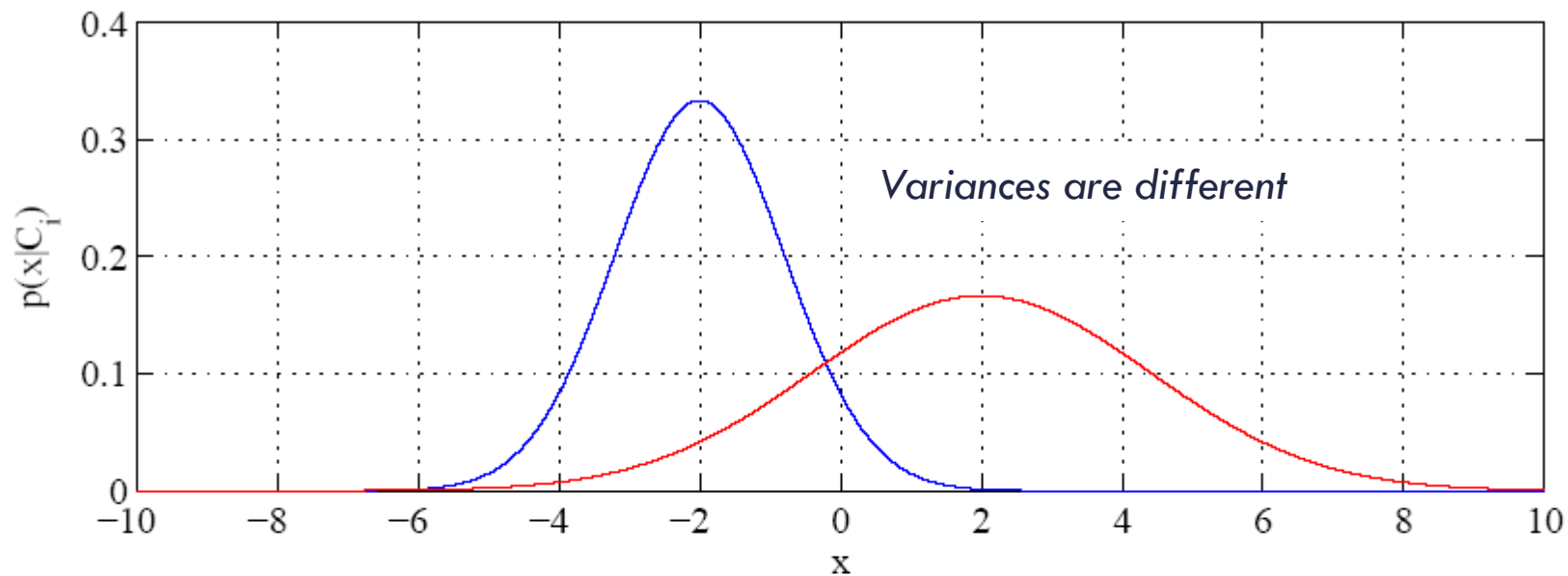
$$m_i = \frac{\sum_t x^t r_i^t}{\sum_t r_i^t}, \quad s_i^2 = \frac{\sum_t (x^t - m_i)^2 r_i^t}{\sum_t r_i^t}, \quad \hat{P}(C_i) = \frac{\sum_t r_i^t}{N}$$

- Plugging these estimates into equation, we get the discriminant function

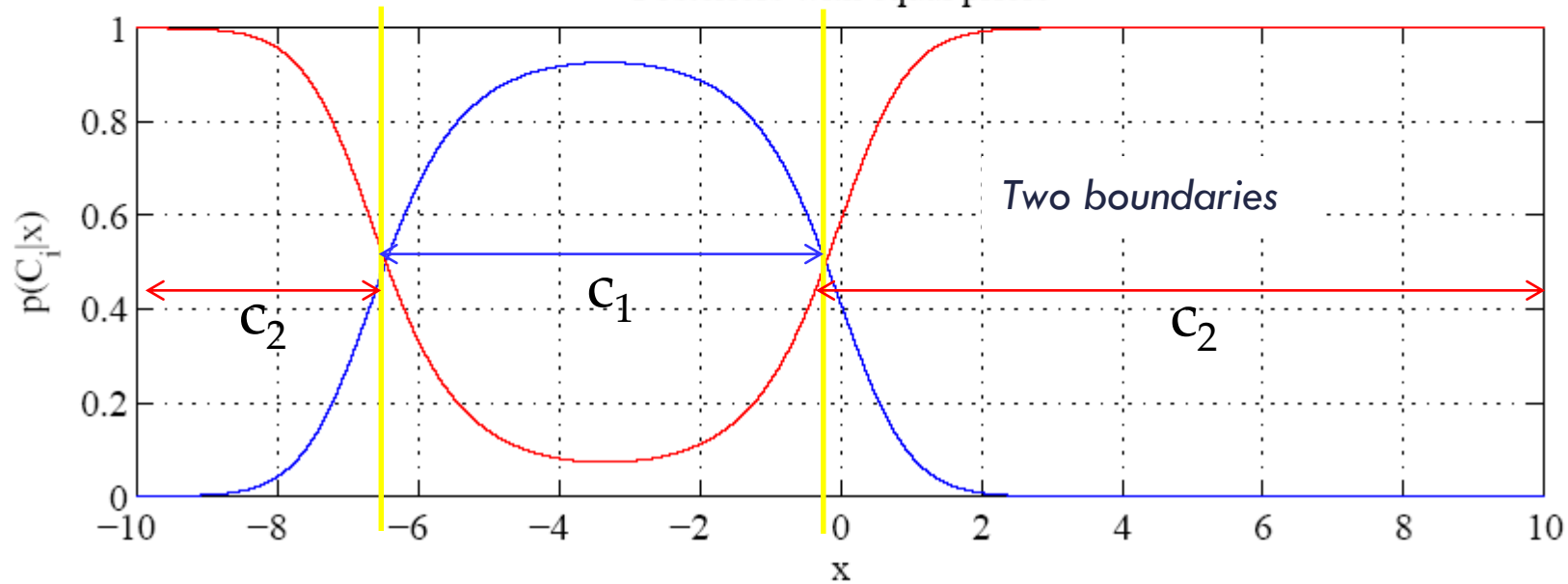
$$g_i(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \log 2\pi - \log s_i - \frac{(x - m_i)^2}{2s_i^2} + \log \hat{P}(C_i)$$



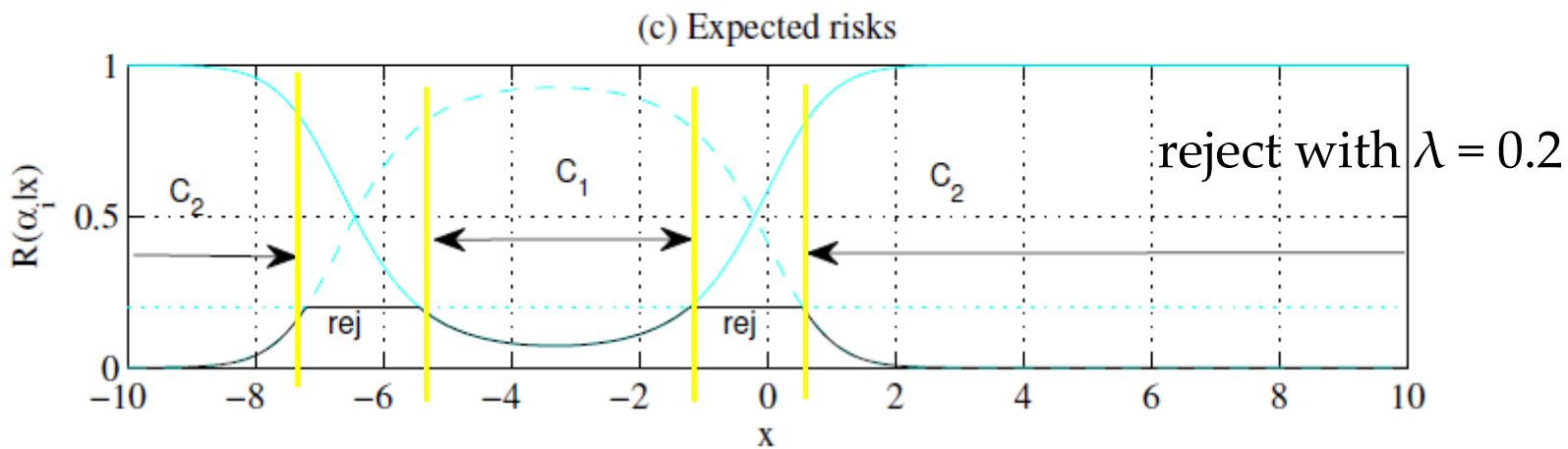
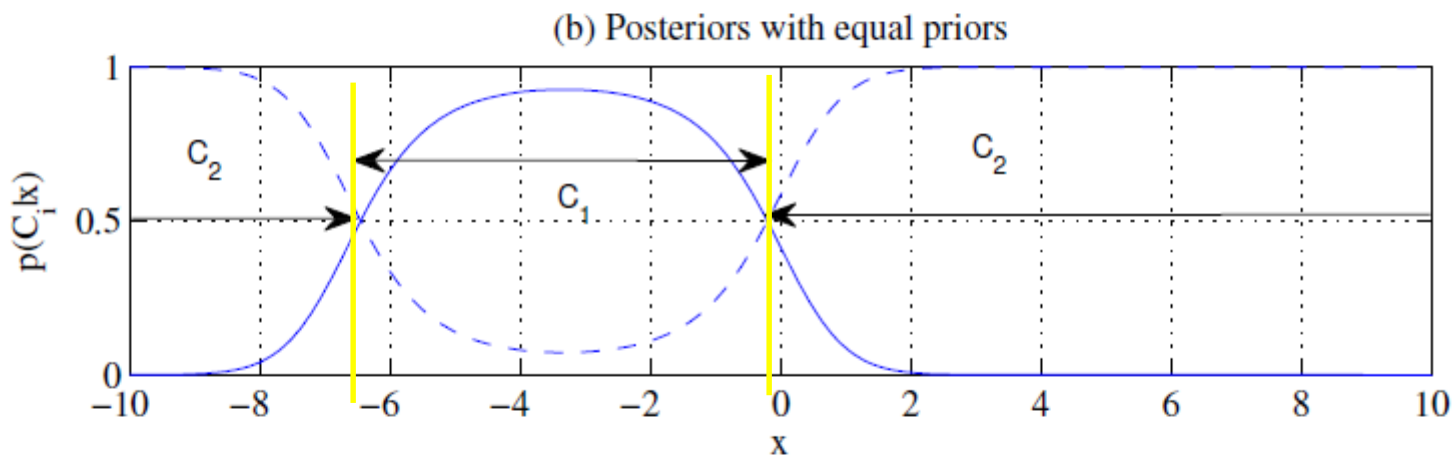
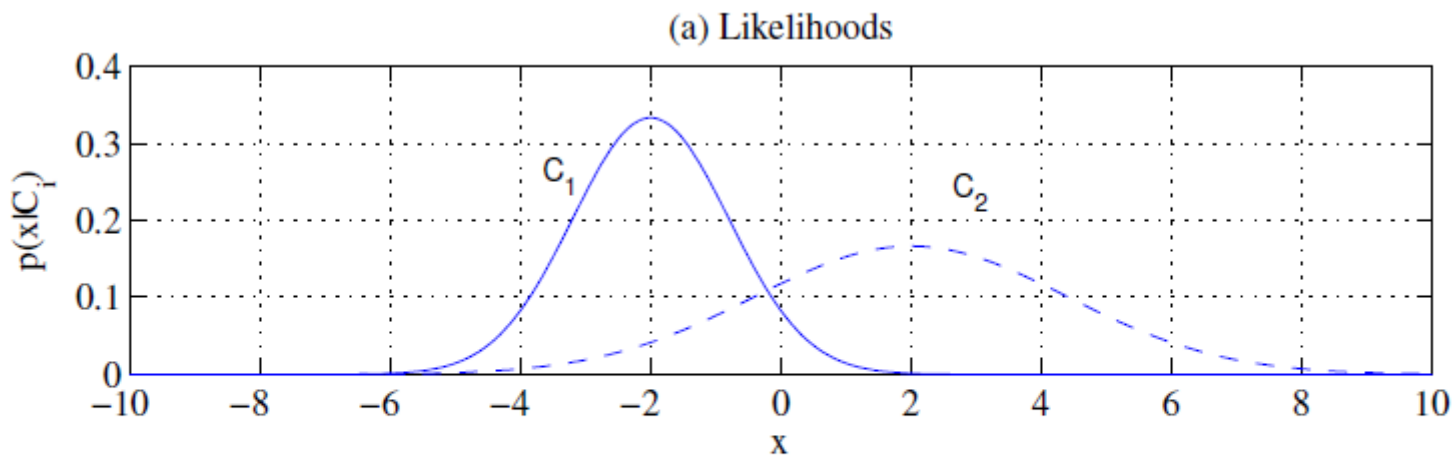
## Likelihoods



## Posteriors with equal priors







# Regression

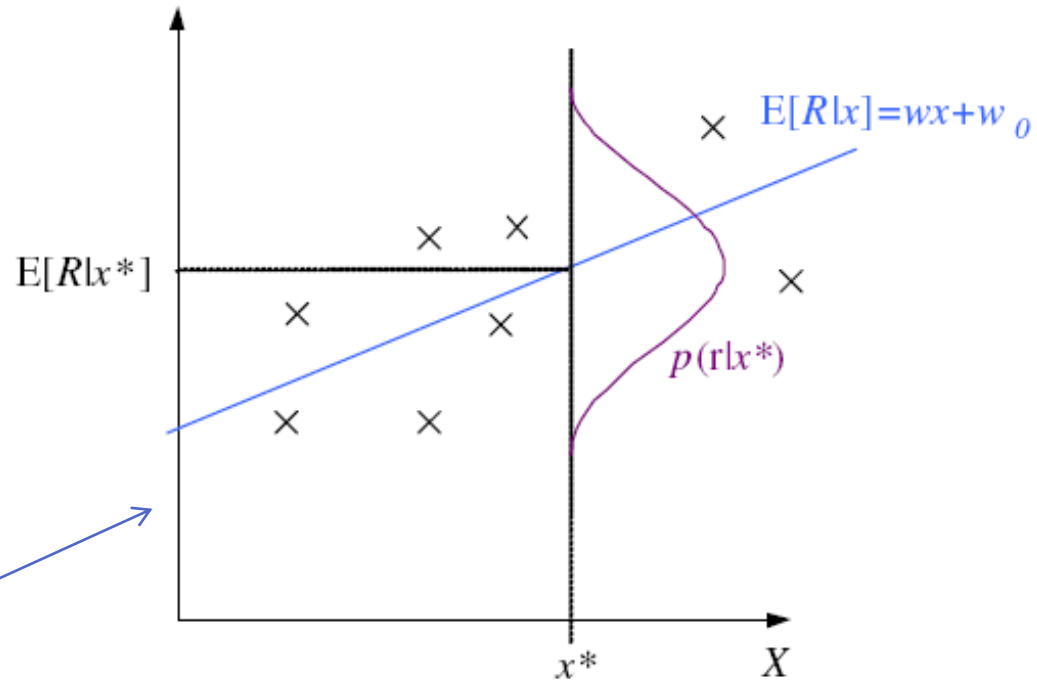
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$$r = f(x) + \varepsilon$$

$$\text{estimator} : g(x|\theta)$$

$$\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

$$p(r|x) \sim N(g(x|\theta), \sigma^2)$$



$f(x)$  is the unknown function, which we would like to approximate by our estimator,  $g(x|\theta)$ , defined up to a set of parameters  $\theta$ .

$$p(r, x) = p(r|x) p(x)$$

$$L(\theta|X) = \log \prod_{t=1}^N p(x^t, r^t) = \log \prod_{t=1}^N p(r^t|x^t) + \log \prod_{t=1}^N p(x^t)$$

# Regression: From LogL to Error

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Ignoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> term since it does not depend on our estimator

$$\begin{aligned}L(\theta|\mathbf{X}) &= \log \prod_{t=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left[-\frac{\left[r^t - g(x^t|\theta)\right]^2}{2\sigma^2}\right] \\ &= -N \log\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^N \left[r^t - g(x^t|\theta)\right]^2 \\ E(\theta|\mathbf{X}) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^N \left[r^t - g(x^t|\theta)\right]^2 \quad \text{Error function}\end{aligned}$$

the sum of squared errors called the **least squares** estimates

# Linear Regression

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$$g(x^t | w_1, w_0) = w_1 x^t + w_0$$

taking the derivative of the sum of squared errors with respect to  $w_1$  and  $w_0$

$$\sum_t r^t = Nw_0 + w_1 \sum_t x^t$$

$$\sum_t r^t x^t = w_0 \sum_t x^t + w_1 \sum_t (x^t)^2$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} N & \sum_t x^t \\ \sum_t x^t & \sum_t (x^t)^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_t r^t \\ \sum_t r^t x^t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \Rightarrow \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{y}$$

# Polynomial Regression

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$$g(x^t | w_k, \dots, w_2, w_1, w_0) = w_k (x^t)^k + \dots + w_2 (x^t)^2 + w_1 x^t + w_0$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} N & \sum_t x^t & \sum_t (x^t)^2 & \dots & \sum_t (x^t)^k \\ \sum_t x^t & \sum_t (x^t)^2 & \sum_t (x^t)^3 & \dots & \sum_t (x^t)^{k+1} \\ \vdots & & & & \\ \sum_t (x^t)^k & \sum_t (x^t)^{k+1} & \sum_t (x^t)^{k+2} & \dots & \sum_t (x^t)^{2k} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_k \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_t r^t \\ \sum_t r^t x^t \\ \sum_t r^t (x^t)^2 \\ \vdots \\ \sum_t r^t (x^t)^k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{D}), \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{r}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x^1 & (x^1)^2 & \cdots & (x^1)^k \\ 1 & x^2 & (x^2)^2 & \cdots & (x^2)^k \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 1 & x^N & (x^N)^2 & \cdots & (x^N)^k \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} r^1 \\ r^2 \\ \vdots \\ r^N \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{D})^{-1} \mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{r}$$

Assuming Gaussian distributed error and maximizing likelihood corresponds to minimizing the sum of squared errors. Another measure is the **relative square error** (RSE).

# Other Error Measures

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- Square Error: 
$$E(\theta|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^N \left[ r^t - g(x^t|\theta) \right]^2$$
- Relative Square Error: 
$$E(\theta|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^N \left[ r^t - g(x^t|\theta) \right]^2}{\sum_{t=1}^N \left[ r^t - \bar{r} \right]^2}$$
- If  $E_{\text{RSE}}$  is close to 1, then our prediction is as good as predicting by the average; as it gets closer to 0, we have better fit. If  $E_{\text{RSE}}$  is close to 1, this means that using a model based on input  $x$  does not work better than using the average which would be our estimator if there were no  $x$ ; if  $E_{\text{RSE}}$  is close to 0, input  $x$  helps.

- A measure to check the goodness of fit by regression is the coefficient of determination that is

$$R^2 = 1 - E_{\text{RSE}}$$

and for regression to be considered useful, we require  $R^2$  to be close to 1.

- Absolute Error:  $E(\theta | \mathbf{X}) = \sum_t |r^t - g(x^t | \theta)|$
- $\varepsilon$ -sensitive Error:

$$E(\theta | \mathbf{X}) = \sum_t \mathbf{1}(|r^t - g(x^t | \theta)| > \varepsilon) (|r^t - g(x^t | \theta)| - \varepsilon)$$



# Tuning Model Complexity: Bias and Variance

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Why?

$$E\left[\left(r - g(x)\right)^2 | x\right] = E\left[\left(r - E[r|x]\right)^2 | x\right] + \left(E[r|x] - g(x)\right)^2$$

*variance \_ noise* *squared error*

1<sup>st</sup>: The variance of  $r$  given  $x$ ; it does not depend on  $g(\cdot)$  or  $X$ . It is the variance of noise added,  $\sigma^2$ . This is the part of error that can never be removed, no matter what estimator we use.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Deviation from the regression function,  $E[r|x]$ . This does depend on the estimator and the training set.

$$E_x\left[\left(E[r|x] - g(x)\right)^2 | x\right] = \left(E[r|x] - E_x[g(x)]\right)^2 + E_x\left[\left(g(x) - E_x[g(x)]\right)^2\right]$$

*bias* *variance*

# Estimating Bias and Variance

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- $M$  samples  $X_i = \{x_i^t, r_i^t\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, M$   
are used to fit  $g_i(x)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, M$

$$\text{Bias}^2(g) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t \left[ \bar{g}(x^t) - f(x^t) \right]^2$$

$$\text{Variance}(g) = \frac{1}{NM} \sum_t \sum_i \left[ g_i(x^t) - \bar{g}(x^t) \right]^2$$

$$\bar{g}(x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M g_i(x)$$

# Bias/Variance Dilemma

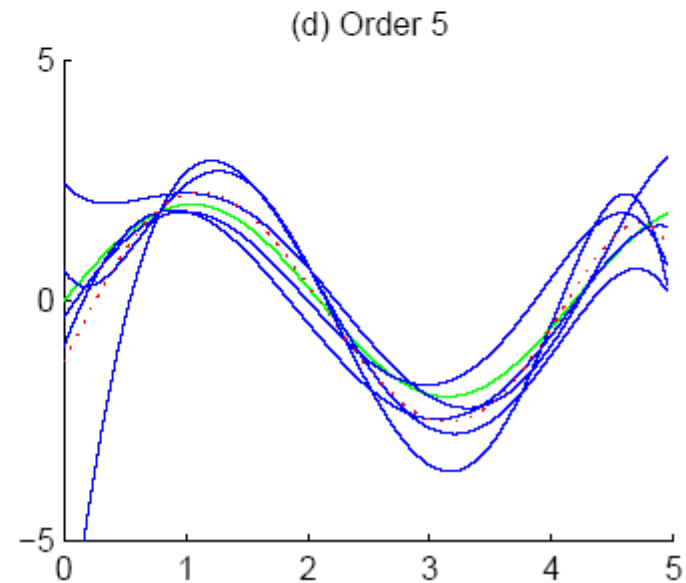
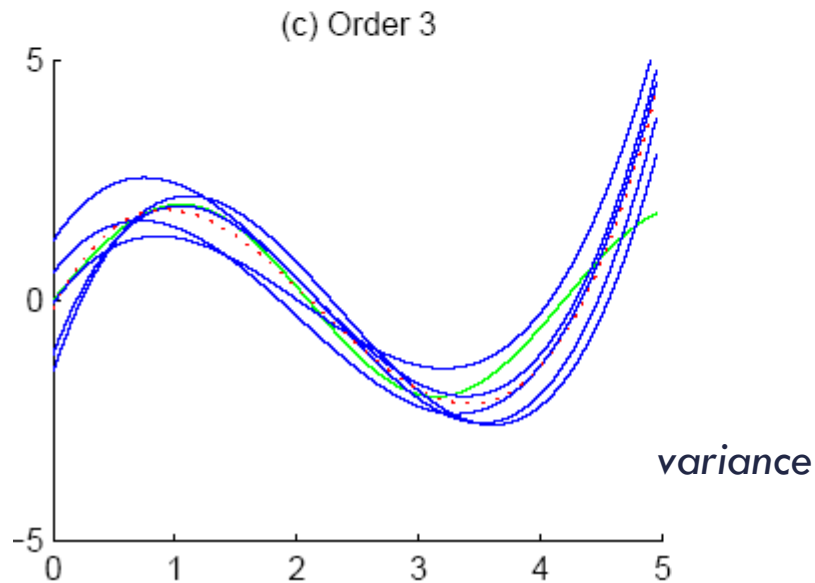
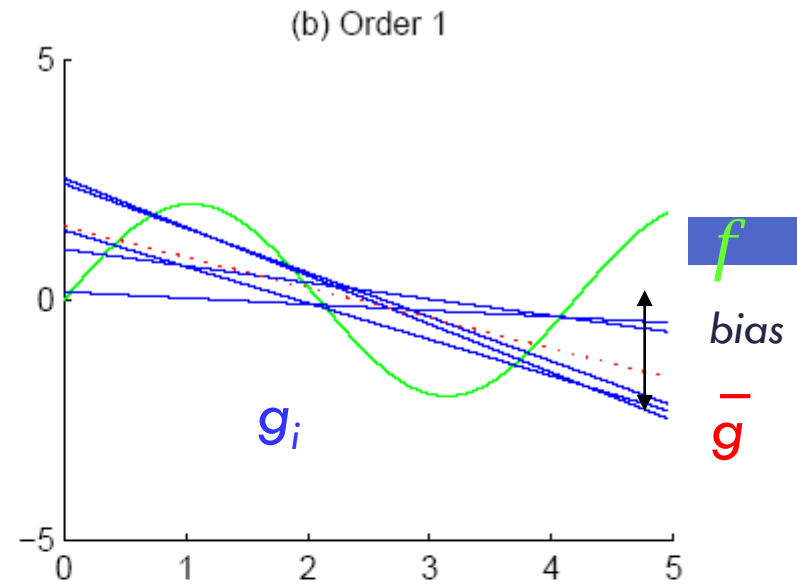
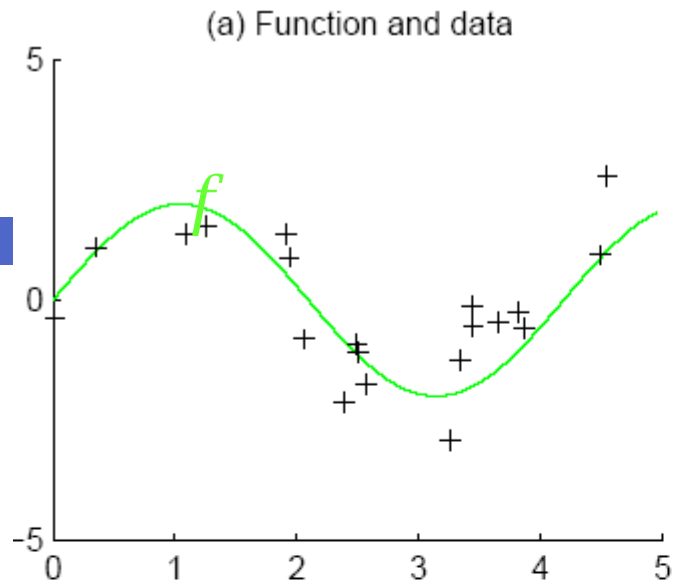
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- Example:  $g_i(x)=2$  has no variance and high bias  
 $g_i(x)=\sum_t r_i^t / N$  has lower bias with variance
- As we increase complexity,  
    bias decreases (a better fit to data) and  
    variance increases (fit varies more with data)
- Bias/Variance dilemma: (Geman et al., 1992)

# Underfitting and overfitting

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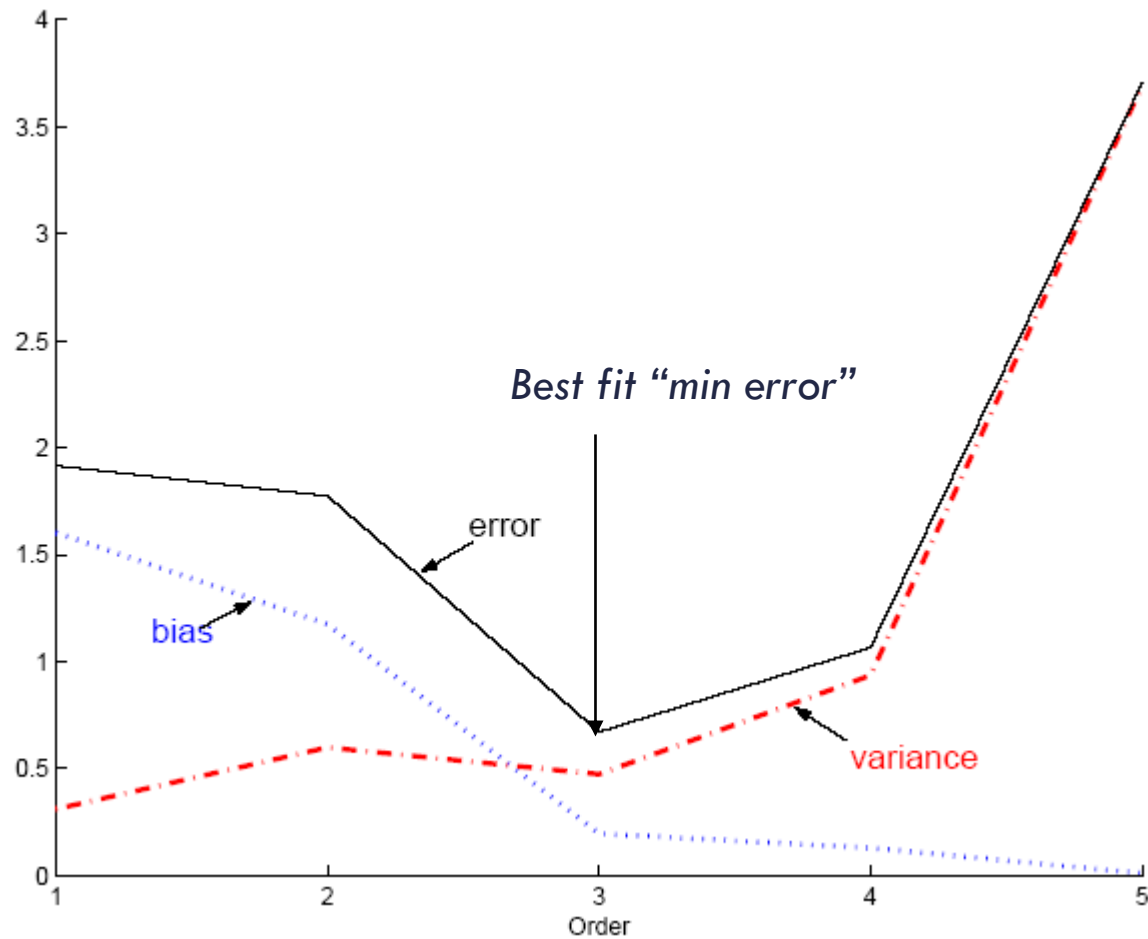
- If there is bias, this indicates that our model class does not contain the solution; this is **underfitting**.
- If there is variance, the model class is too general and also learns the noise; this is **overfitting**.
- If  $g(\cdot)$  is of the same hypothesis class with  $f(\cdot)$ , we have an **unbiased** estimator, and estimated bias decreases as the number of models increases.
- This shows the error-reducing effect of choosing the right model, which we called **inductive bias**.



Function,  $f(x) = 2\sin(1.5x)$ , and one noisy ( $N(0, 1)$ ) dataset sampled from the function.

# Model Selection

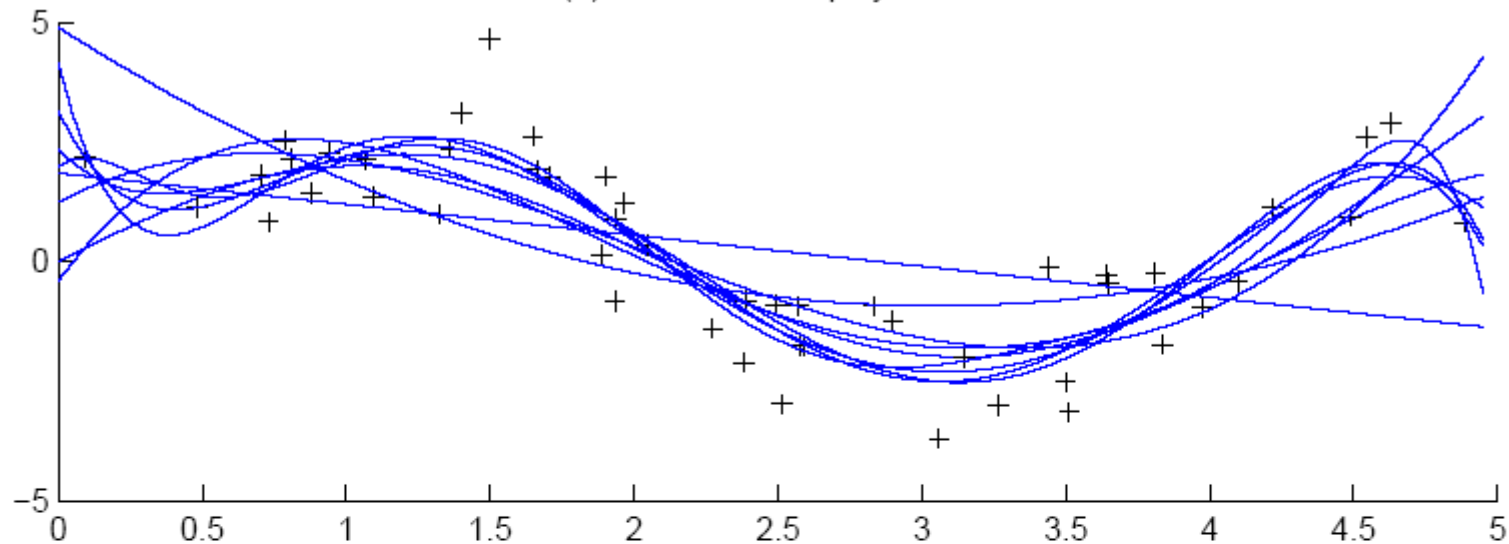
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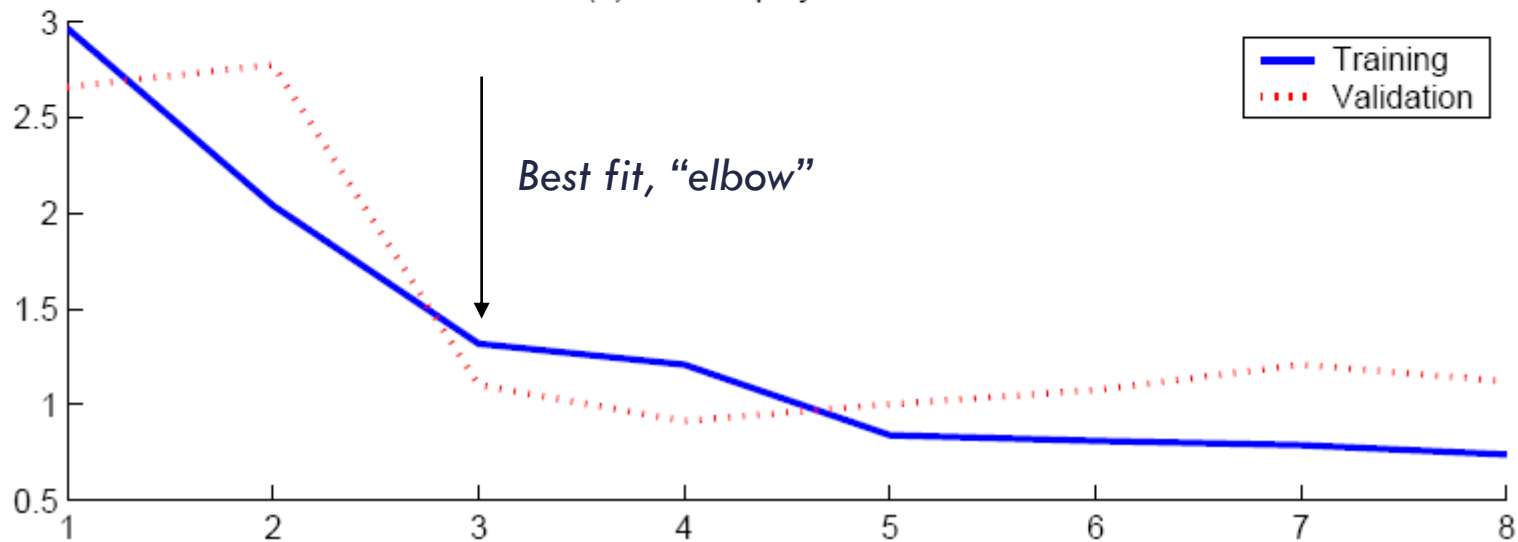
# Cross-validation

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(a) Data and fitted polynomials



(b) Error vs polynomial order



# Model Selection

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- **Cross-validation:** Measure generalization accuracy by testing on data unused during training
- **Regularization:** Penalize complex models  
$$E' = \text{error on data} + \lambda \cdot \text{model complexity.}$$
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> term that penalizes complex models with large variance, where  $\lambda$  gives the weight of this penalty.
- If  $\lambda$  is taken too large, only very simple models are allowed and we risk introducing bias.  $\lambda$  is optimized using cross-validation.
- Also we can consider  $E'$  as the error on new test data.



# Model Selection

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- The 1<sup>st</sup> term on the right is the training error and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is an **optimism** term estimating the discrepancy between training and test error.
- Akaike's information criterion (AIC) and Bayesian information criterion (BIC) work by estimating this optimism and adding it to the training error to estimate test error, without any need for validation.
- **Structural Risk Minimization (SRM)**: Uses a set of models ordered in terms of their complexities. Finding the model simplest in terms of order and best in terms of empirical error on the data
- **Minimum Description Length (MDL)**: Kolmogorov complexity, shortest description of data

# Bayesian Model Selection Regularization (L2):

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- Prior on models,  $p(\text{model})$

$$p(\text{model}|\text{data}) = \frac{p(\text{data}|\text{model}) p(\text{model})}{p(\text{data})}$$

- Regularization, when prior favors simpler models
- Bayes, MAP of the posterior,  $p(\text{model}|\text{data})$
- Average over a number of models with high posterior.  
If we have a regression model and use the prior  $p(\mathbf{w}) \sim$

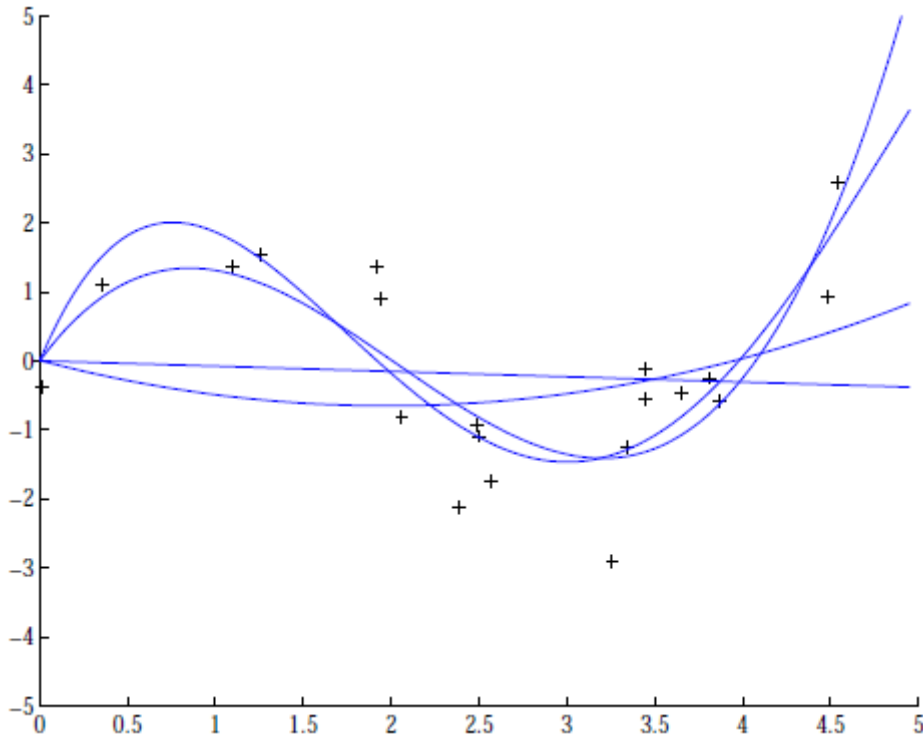
$N(0, 1/\lambda)$ , we minimize

$$E(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^N \left[ r^t - g(x^t | \mathbf{w}) \right]^2 + \lambda \sum_i w_i^2$$

- $w_i$  are close to 0, to have smoother fitted polynomial.

# Regression example

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Coefficients increase in magnitude as order increases:

1:  $[-0.0769, 0.0016]^T$

2:  $[0.1682, -0.6657, 0.0080]^T$

3:  $[0.4238, -2.5778, 3.4675, -0.0002]^T$

4:  $[-0.1093, 1.4356, -5.5007, 6.0454, -0.0019]^T$