



**RESEARCH ARTICLE**



**PERFORMANCE OF BAYES AND DISTANCE DISCRIMINANT FUNCTIONS IN  
CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM – A SIMULATION STUDY**

**NUNNA SRINIVASA RAO<sup>1</sup>, A.V. DATTATREYA RAO<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Statistics, Andhra Loyola College (Autonomous), Vijayawada-520 008

<sup>2</sup>Professor of Statistics, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, India

**ABSTRACT**

**NUNNA SRINIVASA RAO**

\*Author for Correspondence

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The criterion of error of misclassification of Bayes and Distance linear classifiers have not been fully investigated under the influence of intra class correlations in classifying two Multivariate Normal populations [c.f p 527 Johnson and Wriehen (2001)]. Here an attempt is made to study the relative performance of Bayes and Distance classifiers in classifying a new observation  $X_0$  into one of the two Multivariate Normal populations  $N_p(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)$  and  $N_p(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)$  in the above said context.

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**1. INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR CLASSIFIERS**

As it is proposed to study the relative performance of Bayes and Distance classifiers in case of two Multivariate Normal populations, the decision rules are presented here for ready reference:

*a) When the parameters are specified*

i) Bayes Rule

When  $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma_2 = \Sigma$  the Bayes Rule which is originally quadratic reduces to linear and is given by

$$(\mu_2 - \mu_1)^T \Sigma^{-1} X + \frac{1}{2}(\mu_1^T \Sigma^{-1} \mu_1 - \mu_2^T \Sigma^{-1} \mu_2) \leq \ln \frac{P(\pi_1)}{P(\pi_2)} \rightarrow X \in \begin{cases} \pi_1 \\ \pi_2 \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

ii) DISTANCE CLASSIFIER

The decision rule is

$$\|X - \mu_1\|^2 - \|X - \mu_2\|^2 \leq 2 \ln \frac{P(\pi_1)}{P(\pi_2)} \rightarrow X \in \begin{cases} \pi_1 \\ \pi_2 \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

This decision rule has the geometrical interpretation of comparing the distances from X to  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  according to a Threshold. When  $P(\pi_1) = P(\pi_2) = 0.5$ , the decision boundary is the perpendicular bisector of the line joining  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ .

b) When the parameters are unknown

When the parameters are unknown, then they are estimated based upon two samples of sizes  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  respectively from  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ , before the classification is done. The estimates are given by

$$\hat{\mu}_i = \bar{X}_i \text{ and } \hat{\Sigma} = S_{pooled} = \frac{(n_1 - 1)S_1 + (n_2 - 1)S_2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}$$

$$\text{where } S_i^2 = \frac{1}{n_i - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_i} (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

Now, the methods described above can be used by replacing  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \Sigma$  respectively by  $\bar{X}_1, \bar{X}_2$  and  $S_{pooled}$ .

**2. Computation of Total Probability of Misclassification (TPM)**

Computing probability of error of misclassification is somewhat difficult as it involves evaluation of multiple integrals [c.f Fukunaga (1990)]. However TPM can be estimated by means of the confusion matrix using simulation and the process is as under:

Total Probability of Misclassification (TPM) is defined as,

TPM = P(misclassifying a  $\pi_1$  observation or misclassifying a  $\pi_2$  observation)

Therefore the confusion matrix is of the form

		Predicted	
		$\pi_1$	$\pi_2$
Actual	$\pi_1$	$n_{1C}$	$n_{1M} = n_1 - n_{1C}$
	$\pi_2$	$n_{2M} = n_1 - n_{2C}$	$n_{2C}$

$n_{1C}$  = Number of  $\pi_1$  items correctly classified as  $\pi_1$  items

$n_{2C}$  = Number of  $\pi_2$  items correctly classified as  $\pi_2$  items

$n_{1M}$  = Number of  $\pi_1$  items misclassified as  $\pi_2$  items

$n_{2M}$  = Number of  $\pi_2$  items misclassified as  $\pi_1$  items

**3. METHODOLOGY**

Let  $N_p(\mu_1, \Sigma)$  and  $N_p(\mu_2, \Sigma)$  be the two normal populations to be discriminated for the specified parameters using above said methods. Without loss of generality  $\mu_1$  is taken as Null vector,  $\mu_2$  is taken as  $k [1]^T$  (where  $[1]^T$  is a vector with all components as unity),  $k$  varying from 0.5(0.5) 3.

Exploiting the relationship  $V^{1/2} \rho V^{1/2} = \Sigma$ , (where  $V$  and  $\rho$  are respectively the diagonal matrix of variances and intra class correlations), here it is considered  $\Sigma = \rho$  and the dimensionality ( $p$ ) ranging from 3(1)10 and the correlations in the correlation matrix ranging from 0.2 to 0.8 spreading with equidistant along the rows are taken in ascending fashion and in another case it is taken in the descending order. The priori probabilities  $p(\pi_1) = p_1$  and  $p(\pi_2) = p_2 = 1 - p_1$ . Here we have taken  $p_1 = 0.1(0.1)0.9$ .

#### 4. GENERATION OF MULTIVARIATE NORMAL DATA

The vectors of multivariate normal data with the specified parameters can be obtained starting from univariate standard normal data using Box and Muller (1958) technique and from this, we can generate multivariate normal data for any specified set of parameters  $\mu, \Sigma$  [c.f Fukunaga (1990)].

When the parameters are not specified then the simulation study involves two phases - *Training* (estimation) and *Validation* (classification). In training phase, based on samples of size  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  drawn respectively from the specified populations, estimation of parameters is done, then the classifiers are constructed, while in validation phase another set of pseudo random vectors are drawn from Multivariate Normal and is used to study the performance of classifiers under consideration.

#### 5. SALIENT OBSERVATIONS ON THE SIMULATION RESULTS

The tolerance limit for TPM is taken as 10% and the following observations were made:

##### PARAMETERS ARE SPECIFIED

##### I. Decreasing pattern of correlations in $\Sigma$ matrix.

1. Distance classifier performs better than Bayes classifier under orthogonal transformation.

##### II. Increasing pattern of correlations in $\Sigma$ matrix

2. Distance classifier under orthogonal transformation is the only classifier satisfying the tolerance limit condition.

##### PARAMETERS ARE NOT SPECIFIED

##### I. Decreasing pattern of correlations in $\Sigma$ matrix.

3. Bayes classifier performs better than Distance classifier under given vector.
4. Under Orthogonal transformation, Distance classifier performs better than Bayes classifier even when the priori probabilities  $p(\pi_1)$  are increasing.
5. Under *Jackknifing* Bayes classifier performs better with the gradual increase in  $p(\pi_1)$ .

##### II. Increasing pattern of correlations in $\Sigma$ matrix.

6. Under *Jackknifing* Bayes classifier is performing better when compared to the Distance classifier.
7. In general *given vector* under any classifier is performing better when compared to Orthogonal transformation and *Jackknifing*, However *Jackknifing* under Bayes classifier is equally good when compared to Bayes classifier *under given vector* with the increase in priori probability  $p(\pi_1)$ .

Performance of *jackknifing* very much depends on size of the samples and priori probabilities. It is observed that *Jackknifing* gives better results with the increase in sample sizes and priori probabilities  $p(\pi_1)$ .

ANNEXURE

100\*TPM OF BAYES AND DISTANCE CLASSIFIERS IN CLASSIFYING TWO POPULATIONS

$$\pi_1 : N_p(0, \Sigma) \text{ and } \pi_2 : N_p(\mu_2, \Sigma)$$

TABLE NO. 1.1: DECREASING ORDER OF CORRELATIONS IN  $\Sigma$  MATRIX WHEN THE PARAMETERS ARE SPECIFIED

$p(\pi_1)$	$\mu_2$	$\pi_1 : N_{10}(0, \Sigma)$				$\pi_2 : N_{10}(\mu_2, \Sigma)$							
		$(3.0)1^T$		$(2.5)1^T$		$(2.0)1^T$		$(1.5)1^T$		$(1)1^T$		$(0.5)1^T$	
		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
0.1	Bayes	2.8	0.0	6.2	0.2	10.8	4.1	21.5	17.0	36.3	41.0	50.0	50.0
	Distance	5.8	0.0	10.1	0.0	13.7	0.3	19.8	1.5	27.9	8.4	40.3	36.1
0.2	Bayes	3.0	0.0	5.1	3.0	7.2	1.2	16.8	7.8	29.1	27.3	46.8	49.5
	Distance	8.4	0.0	9.2	0.0	11.5	0.0	18.6	0.9	28.7	6.7	38.8	29.3
0.3	Bayes	2.9	0.1	5.9	0.2	9.7	1.0	17.5	5.1	26.9	19.3	39.3	44.1
	Distance	6.8	0.0	11.5	0.0	15.2	0.1	20.5	0.9	30.5	8.0	36.7	24.3
0.4	Bayes	3.1	0.0	5.7	0.1	9.6	0.7	15.2	3.6	26.5	12.5	37.9	32.1
	Distance	7.9	0.0	11.2	0.0	13.5	0.1	20.8	0.9	29.7	5.4	37.6	22.5
0.5	Bayes	4.1	0.0	6.2	0.0	10.1	0.6	16.4	2.4	25.3	9.5	36.9	26.4
	Distance	7.9	0.0	11.9	0.0	13.4	0.2	22.2	1.3	30.1	5.3	39.7	21.7
0.6	Bayes	4.2	0.0	7.1	0.1	10.2	0.4	17.9	2.9	26.7	11.1	41.3	32.1
	Distance	7.7	0.0	11.2	0.0	15.5	0.0	21.4	0.9	30.6	5.3	40.0	23.3
0.7	Bayes	3.6	0.0	6.1	0.1	12.3	0.5	20.5	5.2	27.6	17.4	43.9	43.5
	Distance	7.4	0.0	9.6	0.0	14.6	0.0	21.6	1.3	29.8	5.8	41.5	25.3
0.8	Bayes	4.7	0.0	9.6	0.3	14.2	1.1	24.4	6.6	33.8	26.1	47.3	49.5
	Distance	7.1	0.0	11.8	0.0	15.1	0.1	25.2	1.1	29.5	6.3	40.9	28.8
0.9	Bayes	6.4	0.0	12.2	0.4	19.9	3.9	28.5	17.1	40.9	40.9	49.9	49.9
	Distance	8.8	0.0	12.4	0.0	16.6	0.0	22.5	1.3	34.5	10.0	41.9	38.0

$p(\pi_1)$  : Priori Probability of  $\pi_1$  1 For a Given Vector 2 Using Orthogonal Transformation

TABLE 1.2: INCREASING ORDER OF CORRELATIONS IN  $\Sigma$  MATRIX WHEN THE PARAMETERS ARE SPECIFIED

$p(\pi_1)$	$\mu_2$	$\pi_1 : N_{10}(0, \Sigma)$				$\pi_2 : N_{10}(\mu_2, \Sigma)$							
		$(3.0)1^T$		$(2.5)1^T$		$(2.0)1^T$		$(1.5)1^T$		$(1.0)1^T$		$(0.5)1^T$	
		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
0.1	Bayes	16.6	20.1	23.4	25.0	28.7	32.4	39.8	40.4	46.6	48.1	50.0	50.0
	Distance	6.7	0.0	11.1	0.0	13.9	0.4	23.6	1.2	30.3	8.4	41.4	37.7
0.2	Bayes	18.9	23.4	21.1	28.1	27.0	32.5	36.5	35.4	41.3	44.3	50.0	50.0
	Distance	6.7	0.0	9.9	0.0	16.8	0.4	24.6	0.8	30.5	8.1	41.0	27.4
0.3	Bayes	15.1	25.0	19.4	29.6	25.5	29.5	31.4	34.5	41.4	38.1	47.3	49.3
	Distance	8.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	15.2	0.2	22.7	0.6	32.7	7.4	39.6	24.6
0.4	Bayes	17.9	26.2	20.3	29.5	26.1	30.3	32.2	34.4	37.2	39.3	46.8	46.3
	Distance	6.9	0.0	10.5	0.0	17.2	0.2	23.8	1.5	31.6	7.6	42.1	23.3
0.5	Bayes	16.4	33.1	21.6	34.0	25.2	33.4	31.0	36.8	36.3	43.0	44.1	46.1
	Distance	6.8	0.0	10.5	0.0	14.2	0.1	19.9	1.0	29.6	8.3	40.4	23.6
0.6	Bayes	19.7	32.5	22.6	33.8	26.5	35.3	31.5	38.8	37.1	40.2	45.8	47.2
	Distance	7.2	0.0	10.9	0.0	16.7	0.2	21.9	1.9	30.6	5.5	42.5	25.0
0.7	Bayes	16.9	35.8	25.3	35.8	30.9	39.3	34.0	41.7	41.4	44.3	47.3	49.4
	Distance	6.6	0.0	11.7	0.0	17.5	0.4	24.6	1.4	30.5	8.2	39.4	25.1
0.8	Bayes	19.5	39.6	27.7	40.1	29.3	43.3	37.2	45.0	45.1	46.8	49.7	50.0
	Distance	6.9	0.0	14.7	0.1	15.0	0.6	25.8	2.0	31.5	9.0	42.2	29.2
0.9	Bayes	23.8	42.7	27.2	44.6	34.8	46.7	41.6	48.1	47.8	49.7	50.1	50.0
	Distance	8.3	0.0	10.6	0.0	15.4	0.1	25.4	2.4	30.9	14.4	40.4	40.9

$p(\pi_1)$  : Priori Probability of  $\pi_1$  1 For a Given Vector 2 Using Orthogonal Transformation

**TABLE 1.3: DECEASING ORDER OF CORRELATIONS IN  $\Sigma$  MATRIX WHEN THE PARAMETERS ARE NOT SPECIFIED**

$\pi_1 : N_{10}(0, \Sigma) ; \pi_2 : N_{10}(\mu_2, \Sigma)$  Size of First Sample: 10 ; Size of Second Sample: 20  
 B: Bayes Classifier D: Distance Classifier

$p(\pi_1)$	$\mu_2$	$(3.0)1^T$			$(2.5)1^T$			$(2.0)1^T$			$(1.5)1^T$			$(1.0)1^T$			$(0.5)1^T$		
		①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③
0.1	B	0	49	50	0	47.5	50	0.5	44	49.7	0.7	46.7	49.2	8.7	42.2	49	30.7	45	48.5
	D	0	0.5	12.5	0.2	0.5	13.7	4.2	0.7	21.5	9	5.5	29	21.5	14.7	42.2	36	37.7	48.5
0.2	B	0	49.2	48.2	0	46.5	47.7	0	46.7	46	0.2	44.2	45.2	7.5	50.7	44.2	24.2	51.7	45.5
	D	1	1	8.2	1.2	0.5	11.5	3.7	3.2	16.5	8.5	4.2	23.7	19	15	34.5	33	38	46.5
0.3	B	0	48.5	30	0	46	34	0	42.7	34.5	1.2	43.2	34.5	6	41.7	33	23.5	45.5	41
	D	0	0.2	6.2	1.2	1.2	11.2	4.7	0.7	15	10.7	6.5	22	19.5	10.7	29	34	31.5	40.5
0.4	B	0	48.2	14.2	0	47.7	14	0	47.5	17.5	1	44.2	18.5	7.7	44.5	24	26.7	46	33.5
	D	0	0.5	6.2	0.7	0.2	8.7	3.2	1.7	11.2	8.2	6.2	17.2	16.7	15	24.7	34.5	28.5	35.7
0.5	B	0	47.5	3.2	0	47.7	4	0	45.5	6.5	2.2	44.5	7.7	5	41.5	14.2	22	47.7	25.5
	D	0.2	0	6.7	0	1.5	6.5	3	3	9.7	9.5	7.2	13.2	15.7	13.7	20.7	28	33.2	32.5
0.6	B	0	48.2	0.2	0	47.2	0.7	0	47	0.7	1.2	45.2	3.5	5.2	47	9.5	21.5	45.2	21.7
	D	0.2	0.2	5.5	0.7	1.2	6.7	3.7	1.7	9.2	7.5	8	14.7	16.7	14.5	18	26.5	30	30.2
0.7	B	0	49	0	0	48	0	0	47	0	0.7	47	1.5	4.5	43.2	4	27.7	48.5	29.5
	D	0.2	0.7	2.7	0.7	2.5	6	3	3.5	8.7	5.7	5.7	12	18.5	19	18	33.5	36.5	35.7
0.8	B	0	48.7	0	0	47.5	0.5	0	46	1.5	1.2	44.5	3.5	6.7	47.7	10.7	21.2	46.2	31.5
	D	0.2	0.7	4.7	0.2	3	5.5	2.7	3.6	5.7	7.2	8.5	8.5	16.2	26	16.2	31	35.5	36.7
0.9	B	0	49.7	9.5	0	48.2	11	0	47	17	1	47	18.5	7.7	45.2	30.2	31.5	49.2	42.2
	D	0.2	1	3.5	1.2	1	4.7	2	4.7	5.5	9	8.2	7.7	17.5	23	18.5	37.5	42.5	46

$p(\pi_1)$  : Priori Probability of  $\pi_1$  ① For a Given Vector ② Using Orthogonal Transformation ③ Jackknife Method

**TABLE 1.4: INCEASING ORDER OF CORRELATIONS IN  $\Sigma$  MATRIX WHEN THE PARAMETERS ARE NOT SPECIFIED**

$\pi_1 : N_{10}(0, \Sigma) ; \pi_2 : N_{10}(\mu_2, \Sigma)$  Size of First Sample: 10 ; Size of Second Sample: 20

$p(\pi_1)$	$\mu_2$	$(3.0)1^T$			$(2.5)1^T$			$(2.0)1^T$			$(1.5)1^T$			$(1.0)1^T$			$(0.5)1^T$		
		①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③	①	②	③
0.1	B	0.0	31.7	50.0	0.0	18.7	50.0	0.2	24.5	49.7	0.5	28.7	50.0	5.7	29.2	49.2	29.0	35.5	48.2
	D	0.7	0.2	10.7	3.0	0.0	14.5	6.2	2.0	20.2	15.5	4.0	29.2	25.0	11.7	38.5	36.0	35.7	47.0
0.2	B	0.0	19.7	48.5	0.0	21.7	48.0	0.0	25.0	45.7	0.5	28.7	44.0	7.0	31.0	40.5	26.5	42.2	45.0
	D	1.5	0.2	9.0	2.7	1.7	12.5	5.5	2.2	18.5	11.5	7.0	22.5	19.2	17.7	30.5	46.0	37.5	46.0
0.3	B	0.0	27.5	34.2	0.0	19.0	31.7	0.2	20.7	35.2	1.0	29.2	31.2	7.2	31.2	33.7	22.2	42.0	35.5
	D	1.0	0.2	7.5	1.7	0.7	13.2	6.0	3.5	16.2	10.7	5.7	20.5	23.0	11.7	25.2	37.5	25.2	40.5
0.4	B	0.0	28.5	16.0	0.0	26.7	15.7	0.2	25.5	16.5	1.0	25.7	23.5	6.0	38.2	21.0	20.5	37.7	30.7
	D	1.2	1.2	8.5	0.5	1.2	8.5	4.2	2.0	12.5	17.5	8.2	22.2	18.5	11.2	24.7	35.5	28.5	34.2
0.5	B	0.0	34.5	2.5	0.5	33.7	3.0	0.2	28.5	6.0	1.7	28.5	10.2	6.2	34.5	13.5	24.5	44.0	26.0
	D	0.7	0.5	9.5	2.7	2.2	11.2	3.7	6.2	13.0	15.7	4.5	20.0	19.7	13.0	24.0	37.2	26.5	35.0
0.6	B	0.0	27.0	0.0	0.0	27.2	1.5	0.0	27.0	1.7	0.2	26.2	3.5	3.7	28.2	6.2	19.5	35.2	19.0
	D	0.5	0.0	8.0	3.0	2.0	9.0	5.7	4.7	11.5	12.7	5.0	14.5	19.2	11.7	23.0	33.0	27.7	33.0
0.7	B	0.0	26.2	0.0	0.0	30.2	0.0	0.2	28.5	0.2	1.0	30.0	2.0	5.2	32.7	5.2	21.0	41.0	22.5
	D	0.2	0.5	7.7	2.7	1.0	7.5	4.2	2.7	12.0	9.7	7.2	11.7	21.5	15.7	21.7	38.2	29.7	35.7
0.8	B	0.0	35.2	0.0	0.0	31.2	0.0	0.2	32.0	1.2	0.2	33.2	3.0	6.5	29.2	15.0	20.2	41.0	29.5
	D	0.5	2.0	6.0	2.5	0.7	9.5	4.2	7.0	9.2	11.5	8.5	11.0	25.0	18.5	23.5	34.0	38.7	37.2
0.9	B	0.0	32.0	8.5	0.0	38.7	8.0	0.0	29.7	15.0	0.7	37.2	21.0	8.5	36.2	30.5	27.2	40.0	40.2
	D	1.2	0.5	6.2	2.5	3.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	6.5	9.7	16.2	11.7	24.5	22.2	25.2	37.2	41.7	45.7

B: Bayes Classifier; D: Distance Classifier

$p(\pi_1)$  : Priori Probability of  $\pi_1$  ① For a Given Vector ② Using Orthogonal Transformation ③ Jackknife Method

*Note: The typical tables of TPM values are included here to save the space, and the exhaustive tables are available with the authors.*

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