# MEDPUB - Maximum Entropy Decisions about PUBlications



Institute for Adaptive & Neural Computation





# The problems with email tables of contents alerts

- Small fraction of articles relevant
- Hence alerts go unread
- To read abstracts and articles, researcher has to deal with a variety of journal-specific interfaces
- Setting up tables of contents alerts requires dealing with multiple websites too

# A solution

- Collect the latest journal tables of contents from a database (PUBMED)
- Use machine learning algorithm trained by user to rank articles in order of interest
- Helpful GUI to displays abstracts, give easy access to PDFs, save references in BibTeX
- Which machine learning algorithm?

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# Naïve Bayes Algorithm

 $Class c \in \{interesting, boring\}$ 

Document *d* comprises *N<sub>w</sub>* instances of word *w* 

Likelihood of generating document d given class c:  $p(d|c) \propto \prod_{w} \frac{p(w|c)^{N_{w}}}{N_{w}!}$ 

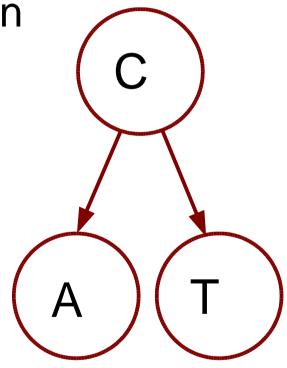
(Multinomial formula; independence; bag of words)

Bayes: 
$$p(c|d) = \frac{p(d|c)p(c)}{\sum_{c'} p(d|c')p(c')}$$

Estimate p(w|c) and p(c) from document set D

### **Different Fields**

- Titles, abstract and authors contain different types of information
- Some articles contain only title & author information
  - e.g. Nature N&V, ZETOC alerts
- Hence have combine separate conditional probability tables
  - Bayesian chain rule

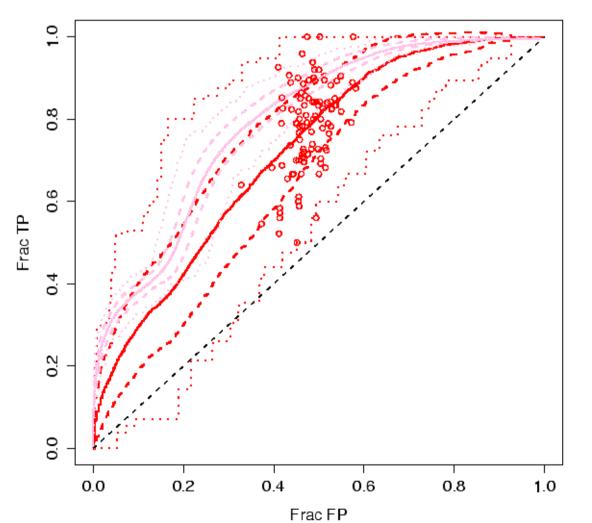


# Testing performance (I)

- Corpus of 2662 articles, 1047 with empty abstracts collected over 10-week period of testing software
- 218 interesting articles, 2444 boring
- Ten by tenfold crossvalidation procedure
- Naïve Bayes (ifile implementation)

# Naïve Bayes: title and abstract (lumped together)

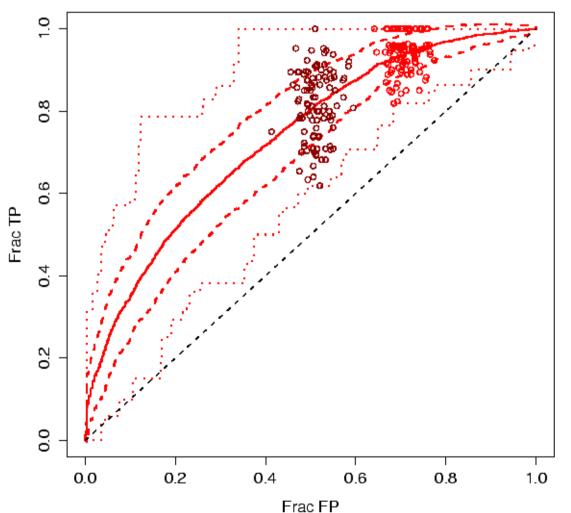
ifile-ti-ab ROC



48±4% FP 78±11% TP

#### Naïve Bayes – titles only

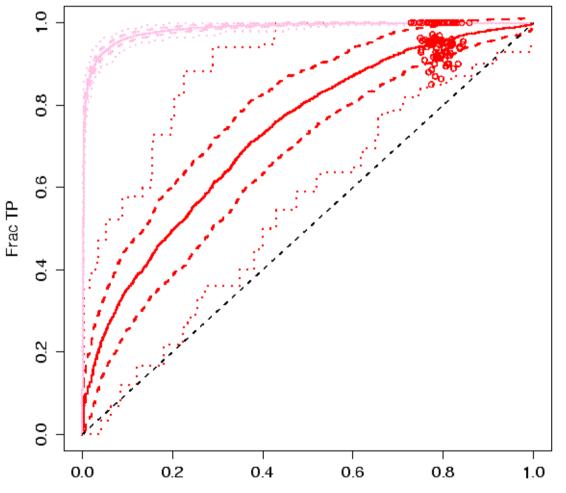
ifile-ti ROC



71±3% FP 94±5% TP

#### Naïve Bayes – titles and authors

ifile-ti-au-chain ROC

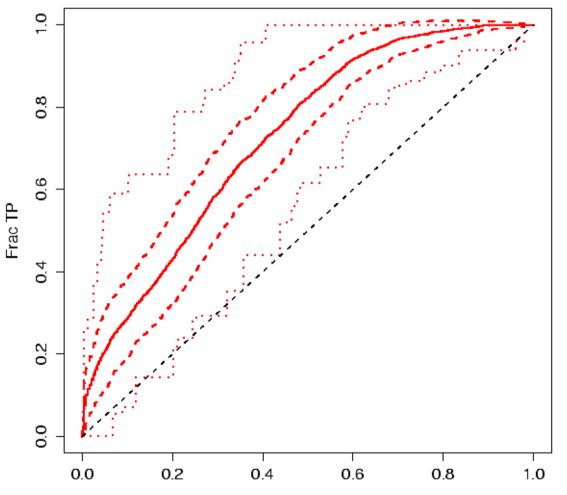


79±2% FP 96±4% TP



# Naïve Bayes – Abstracts and Titles

ifile-ti-ab-chain ROC

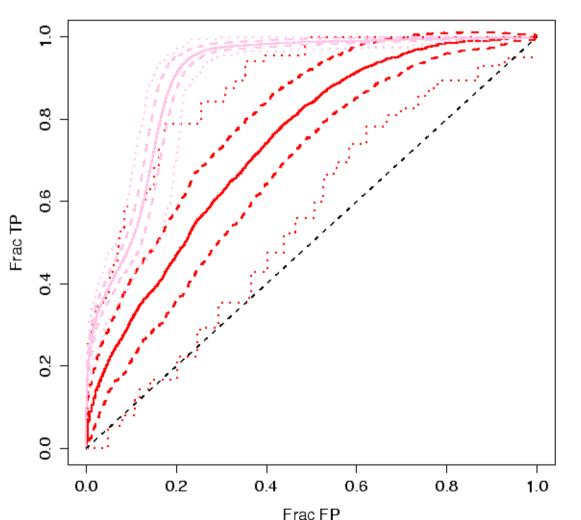


59±4% FP 90±7% TP

Frac FP

#### NB Titles + Abstracts + Authors

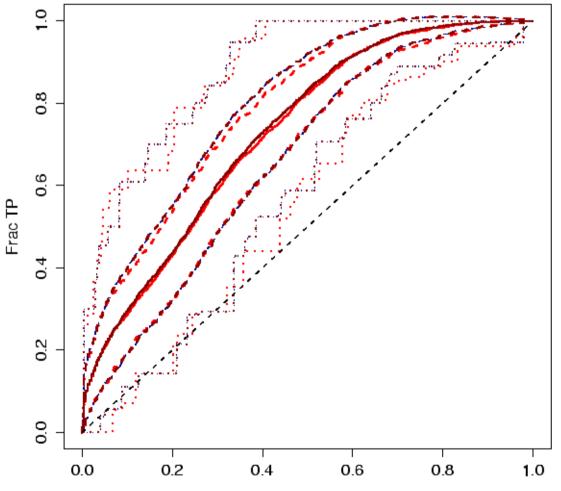
ifile-ti-ab-au-chain ROC



#### 64±4% FP 93±6% TP

# Naïve Bayes – occurrence vs counts

ifile-ti-ab-chain-occ ROC



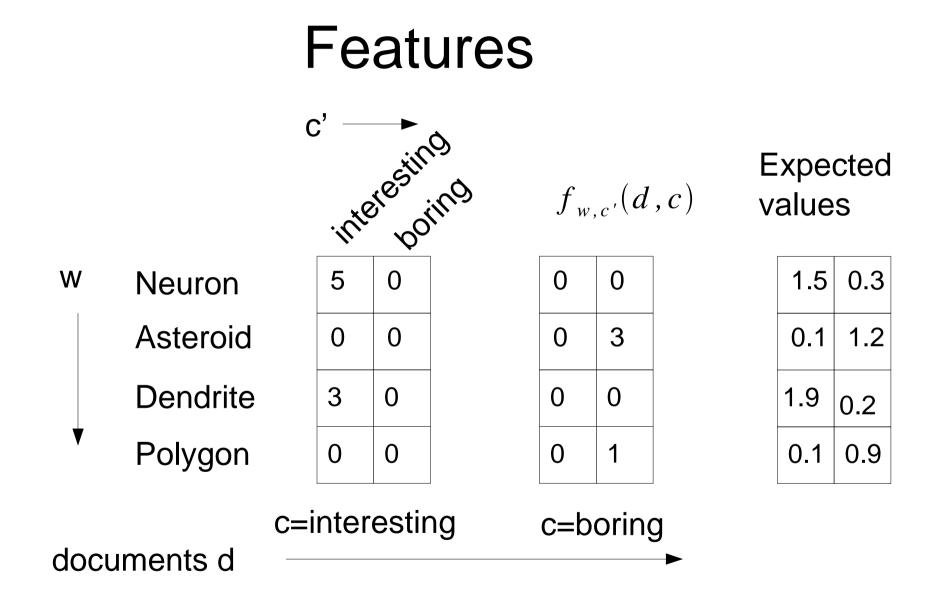
Frac FP

#### Can we do better?

 Work by Nigram et al. suggests that the Maximum Entropy algorithm outperforms Naïve Bayes

# Maximum Entropy

- Choose a model that is consistent with the facts, but otherwise as uniform as possible
  - Modern formulation due to Jaynes, see also "Principle of Insufficient Reason" (Laplace), Occam's Razor...
- e.g. if we have no information about document, assign 50% chance of it being interesting or boring



### Constraints

 Our distribution of class conditional on document should match expected value of each feature in data:

$$\frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{d \in D} f_{w,c}(d, c(d)) = \frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{d \in D} p(c|d) \sum_{c} f_{w,c}(d, c(d))$$

#### Maximum entropy

 Conditional entropy of distribution should be maximised subject to constraints

$$H(p) = -\sum_{c,d} p(d) p(c|d) \log p(c|d)$$

# Solution

• The distribution has the exponential form

$$p(c|d) = \frac{1}{Z(d)} \prod_{w,c'} e^{\lambda_{w,c'}f_{w,c'}(d,c)}$$

 The parameters are adjusted to maximise the (log) likelihood of the data. This also maximises the entropy.

$$l(D) = \log \prod_{d \in D} p(c(d)|d)$$

#### Naïve Bayes versus MaxEnt

Naïve Bayes

MaxEnt

$$p(c|d) \propto \tilde{p}(c) \prod_{w} \frac{\tilde{p}(w|c)^{N_{w}}}{N_{w}!}$$

$$p(c|d) \propto \prod_{w} e^{\lambda_{w,c} N_{w}}$$

Parameters derived directly from training data

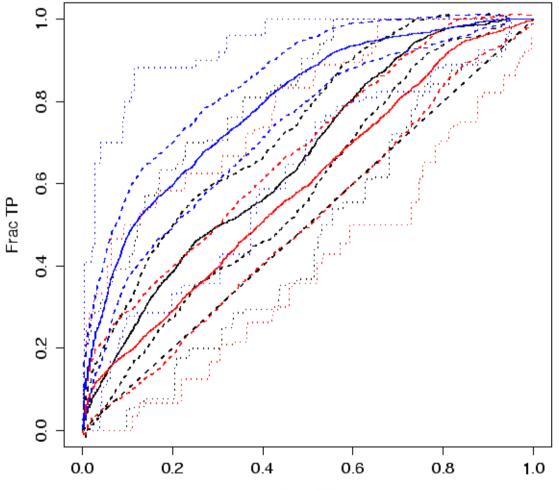
Number of times w appears in d

# Testing performance (II)

- Similar to before, but only consider articles with abstracts, hence 1615 articles in corpus
- Test using open source, Java-based MALLET library implementations of various algorithms

### Naïve Bayes, Decision Trees, Maxent

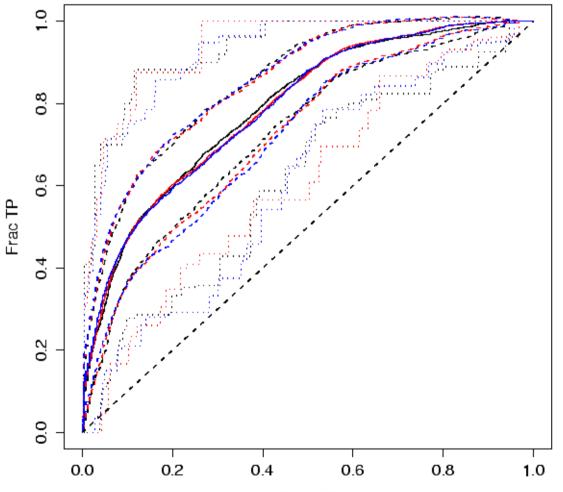
abstract-1 ROC



Frac FP

#### Maxent with bigrams and trigrams

abstract-1-maxent ROC



Frac FP

# Why does MaxEnt perform better?

- No independence assumptions (Nigram et al)
  - e.g. Naïve Bayes would count both Boltzman and machine in Boltzman machine
  - MaxEnt will discount the weights for these features so that their weight towards classification is approximately half
- Other reasons?

### Conclusions

- MaxEnt and Naïve Bayes cut down on the number of uninteresting articles to be skimmed for finding a given fraction of interesting articles
  - Is the improvement worthwhile?
- MaxEnt > Naïve Bayes

### The future?

- Already open source project on sourceforge
  - Put MaxEnt version there
- Algorithm improvements anyone?
  - Star rating system?
  - Performance improvements
- More data sources?