

Using Probabilistic Generative Models for Ranking Risks of Android Apps

Peng, Gates, Li, Qi, et. al.
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Problem:

- Android *relies on the User* to make security relevant decisions regarding permissions during installation
- In Android, *permissions are difficult to understand and often ignored*

Data

~325,000 apps from Google Play in Feb2012

~400 malware apps

Extract **Permission Requests as Features**

Models Explored:

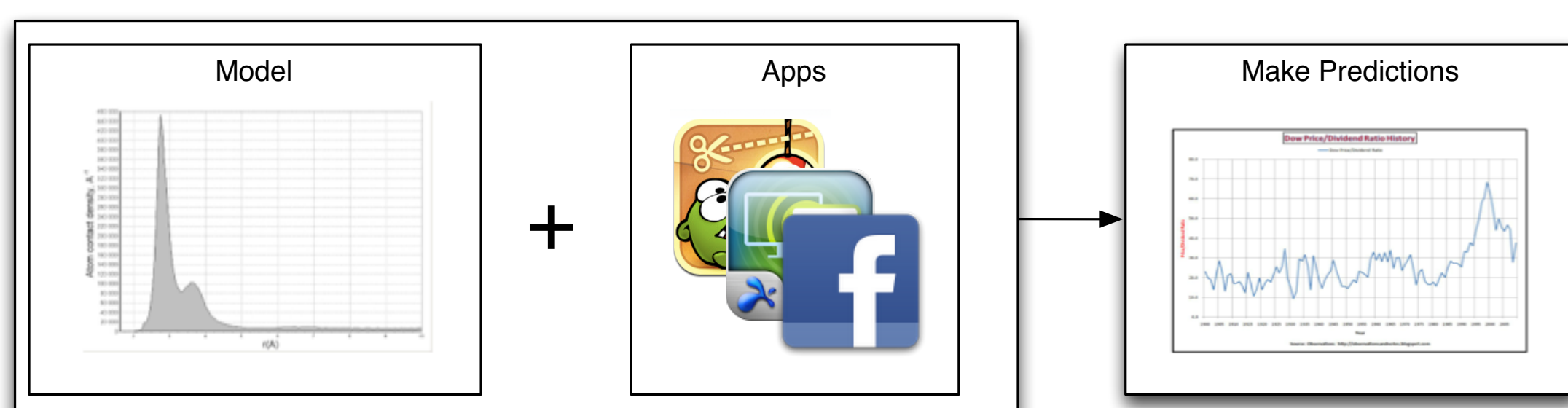
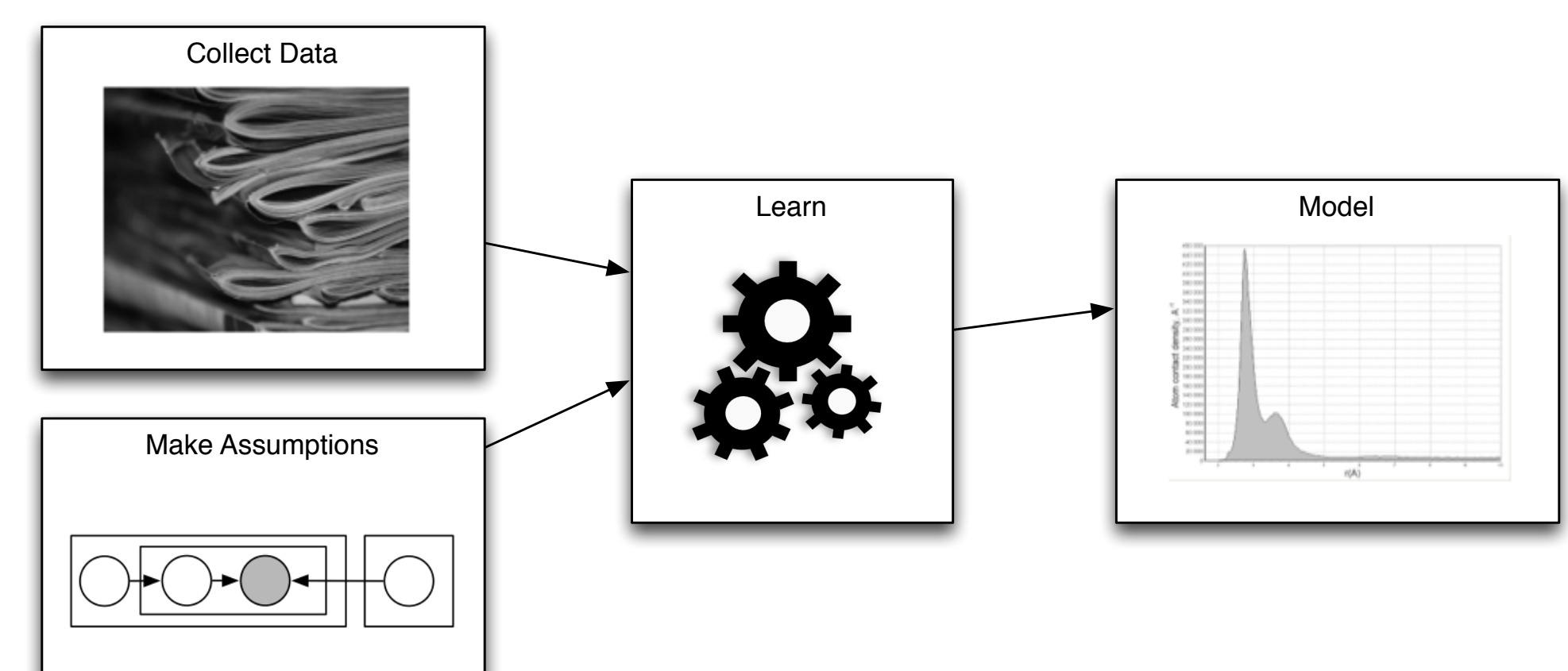
- Naïve Bayes
- Naïve Bayes with Informative Prior
- Mixture of Naïve Bayes
- Hierarchical Mixture of Naïve Bayes

Goal:

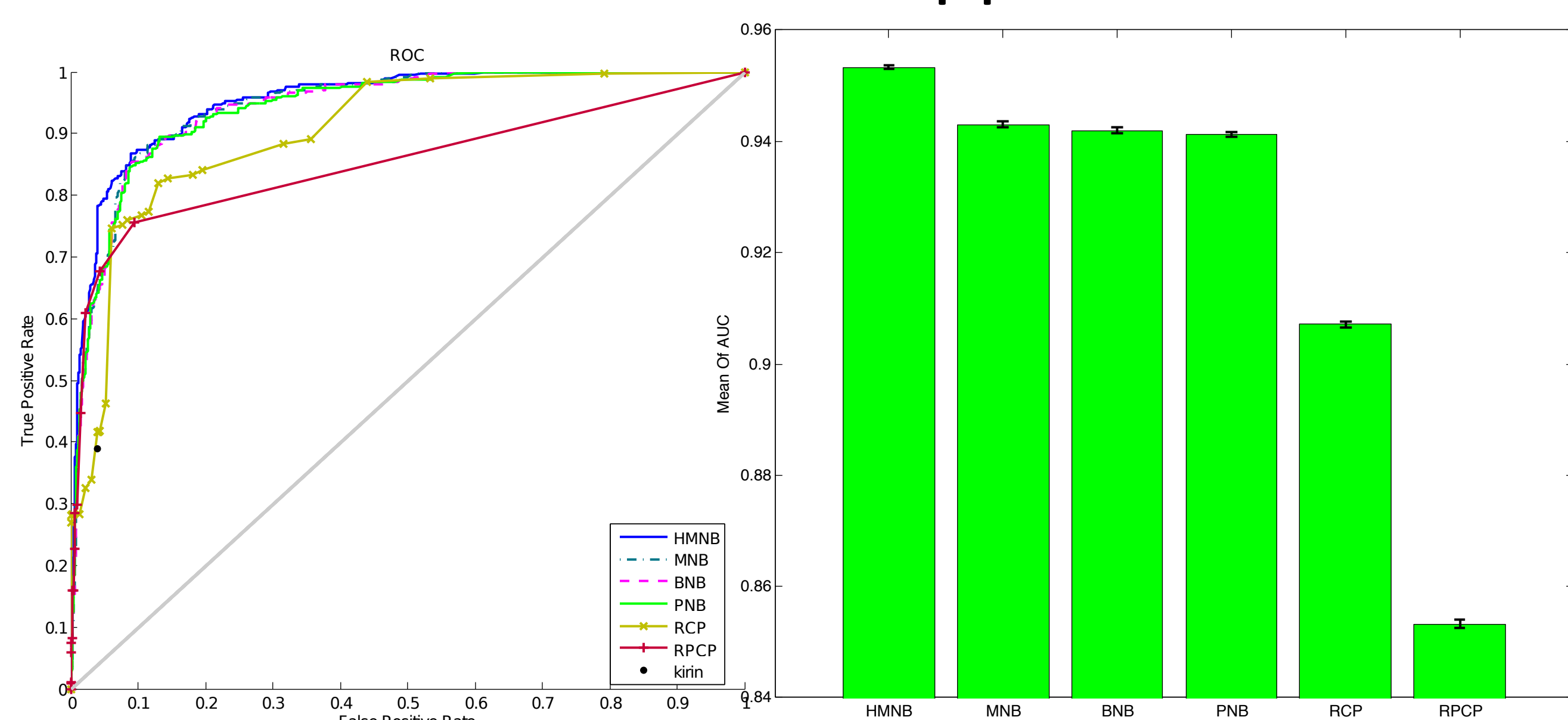
- Create a principled method to *calculate the risk* of apps, that is...
 - Simple to understand
 - Monotonic
 - Ranks Malware generally as High Risk

Method:

- Use Probabilistic Generative Models
- Train on large amount of unlabeled data
- Create an expectation, measure distance from the expectation to create risk score



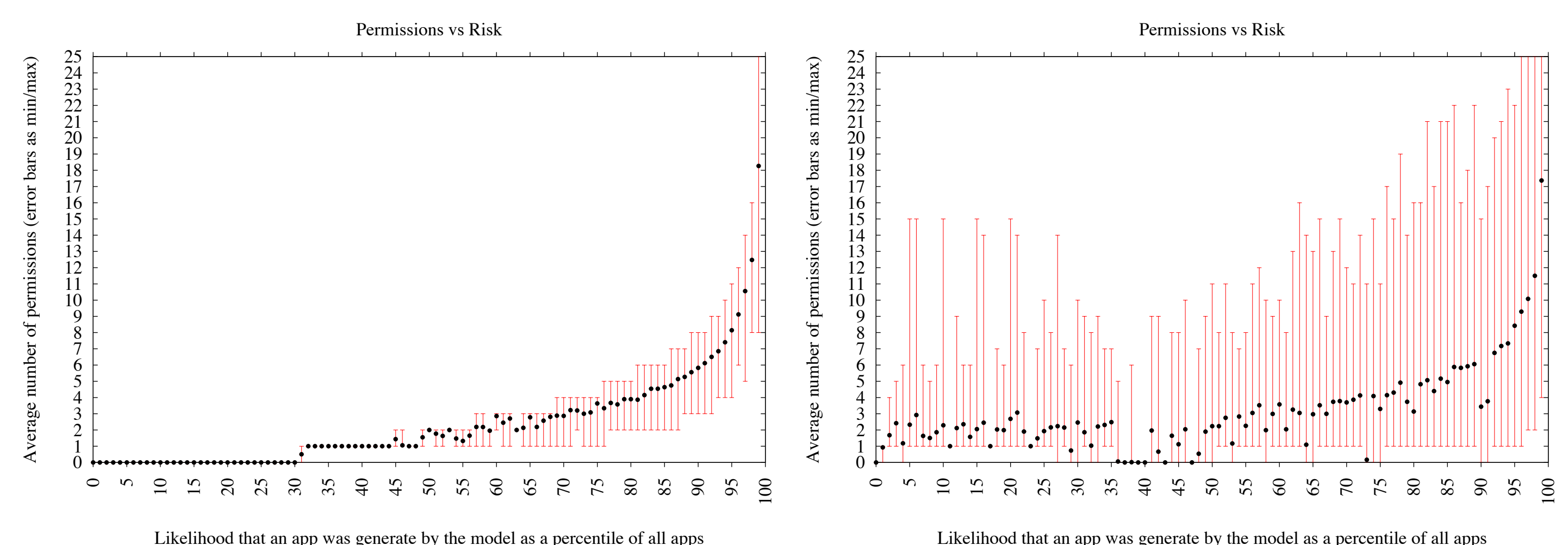
Risk: Malware vs Market Apps



Monotonic Property:

Naïve Bayes with Informative Prior
Monotonic

Hierarchical Mixture of Naïve Bayes
Not Monotonic



Conclusion:

- Naïve Bayes with Prior is suggested
- Performance + Simplicity + Monotonic