ECE/CS/ME 539 – Fall 2024 — Activity 9

1.

The table below provides a training data set containing six observations, three predictors, and one qualitative response variable.

X_1	X_2	X_3	Y
0	3	0	Red
2	0	0	Red
0	1	3	Red
0	1	2	Green
-1	0	1	Green
1	1	1	Red

Suppose we wish to use this data set to make a prediction for Y when $X_1 = X_2 = X_3 = 0$ using K-nearest neighbors.

(a) Compute the Euclidean distance between each observation and the test point, $X_1 = X_2 = X_3 = 0$.

(b) What is our prediction with $K = 1$? Why?

(c) What is our prediction with $K = 3$? Why?

2.

When the number of features p is large, there tends to be a deterioration in the performance of KNN and other local approaches that perform prediction using only observations that are near the test ob- servation for which a prediction must be made. This phenomenon is known as the curse of dimensionality, and it ties into the fact that non-parametric approaches often perform poorly when p is large.

(a) Suppose that we have a set of observations, each with measurements on $p = 1$ feature, X. We assume that X is uniformly (evenly) distributed on [0, 1]. Associated with each observation is a response value. Suppose that we wish to predict a test observation's response using only observations that are within 10% of the range of X closest to that test observation. For instance, in order to predict the response for a test observation with $X = 0.6$, we will use observations in the range [0.55, 0.65]. On average, what fraction of the available observations will we use to make the prediction?

(b) Now suppose that we have a set of observations, each with measurements on $p = 2$ features, $X1$ and $X2$. We assume that predict a test observation's response using only observations that $(X1, X2)$ are uniformly distributed on [0, 1] $\times$ [0, 1]. We wish to are within 10% of the range of $X1$ and within 10% of the range of $X2$ closest to that test observation. For instance, in order to predict the response for a test observation with $X1 = 0.6$ and $X2 = 0.35$, we will use observations in the range [0.55, 0.65] for $X1$ and in the range [0.3, 0.4] for $X2$. On average, what fraction of the available observations will we use to make the prediction?

(c) Now suppose that we have a set of observations on $p = 100$ features. Again the observations are uniformly distributed on each feature, and again each feature ranges in value from 0 to 1. We wish to predict a test observation's response using observations within the 10% of each feature's range that is closest to that test observation. What fraction of the available observations will we use to make the prediction?

(d) Using your answers to parts (a)–(c), argue that a drawback of KNN when p is large is that there are very few training observations "near" any given test observation.

(e) Now suppose that we wish to make a prediction for a test observation by creating a p-dimensional hypercube centered around the test observation that contains, on average, 10% of the training observations. For p =1, 2, and 100, what is the length of each side of the hypercube? Comment what happens to the length of the sides as $\lim_{p\to\infty}$.