

Machine Learning

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Supervised Learning

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Datasets	2
3	Decision Trees	3
4	Neural Networks	5
5	Boosting	8
6	Support Vector Machines	8
7	K-Nearest Neighbors	8
8	Conclusion	10

List of Figures

1	Evolution of the Decision Tree Classifier accuracy according to the Maximum Depth of the tree . . .	3
2	Evolution of the Decision Tree Classifier accuracy according to the Size of the training set	4
3	Evolution of the Decision Tree Classifier accuracy according to Minimum Number of Samples required to split an internal node	4
4	Evolution of the neural network classifier accuracy according to thenumber of epochs	5
5	Evolution of the neural network classifier accuracy according to the use of batch normalization . . .	6
6	Evolution of the neural network classifier accuracy for different parameters	7
7	Evolution of the K-NN Classifier accuracy on the Test Set for different parameters	9

1 Introduction

In this article, I will present the results of various Supervised Learning methods applied on two classification problems. Those methods are:

- Decision Trees with some form of pruning;
- Neural Networks;
- Boosting;
- Support Vector Machines;
- K-Nearest Neighbors.

For each of them, I will discuss the results obtained, the pros and cons of using them, and the parameters that were used. I will also discuss the results when applying the methods on the two different datasets. At the end I will also compare the methods between them and highlight the best one for each dataset.

I will present many plots on this report to show the evolution of the accuracy depending on some parameters. Those plots will be presented in the following way : the hard line represents the median precision value for a given parameter value while the tint area goes from the minimum to the maximum precision value for the given parameter value.

The experiments on this report were performed on a computer with the following specifications:

- CPU : Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-9750H CPU @ 2.60GHz, 6 cores, 12 threads
- RAM : 16GB DDR4
- GPU : NVIDIA Quadro P620

2 Datasets

In this article, I will learn over two datasets:

- [Gender Classification](#);
- [Credit Card Fraud Detection](#).

Gender Classification

This dataset describes some appearance characteristics. It contains 7 features and one output. The features are: long hair, width of the forehead, height of the forehead, wide nose, long nose, thin lips and the distance between nose and lips. The output feature is gender and takes value 1 for male and 0 for female. That dataset is not the most complicated. I thought it would be a good idea to start with a simple dataset to get a better understanding of the methods. It is also a good idea to start with a dataset that is not too big to avoid long training times.

Credit Card Fraud Detection

This dataset is a credit card fraud detection dataset. The dataset contains transactions made by credit cards in September 2013 by European cardholders. This dataset presents transactions that occurred in two days, where we have 492 frauds out of 284,807 transactions. The dataset is highly unbalanced, the positive class (frauds) account for 0.172% of all transactions. It contains only numerical input variables which are the result of a PCA transformation. The only features which have not been transformed with PCA are *Time* and *Amount*. Feature *Time* contains the seconds elapsed between each transaction and the first transaction in the dataset. The feature *Amount* is the transaction amount. Feature *Class* is the response variable and it takes value 1 in case of fraud and 0 otherwise.

Scaling

Some methods require the data to be scaled between 0 and 1. It also permits computation to be faster. Both the training and the testing datasets are scaled between 0 and 1. The scaling is done by dividing each value by the maximum value of the dataset. The scaling is done on the training dataset and then applied on the testing dataset.

3 Decision Trees

In that section I will present the results obtained when using Decision Trees with pruning. We will here discuss the influence of different parameters :

- The maximum depth of the tree;
- The minimum number of samples required to split an internal node;
- The size of the training set.

We begin by finding the limit of our classifier. That limit can be of two natures : overfitting or a flat level on both training and test accuracy. Figure 1 represents those limits. On figure 1b, we can see that the Decision Tree method quickly overfits. Indeed the training accuracy quickly rise above 99% while the test accuracy decreases to reach around 0.87%. We can notice that the best score is obtained for a maximum depth value of 5. Also the score considerably decreases for a maximum depth value of bigger than 5. therefore we can conclude that only 5 out of the 28 dimensions of the input space is relevant for the classification output.

On figure 1a, we can notice that the classifier does not overfit. It is interesting to constat the score for the testing dataset happens to be better than the score for the training dataset. This is probably due to the fact that the dataset is not too big. We can also notice that the best score is obtained for a maximum depth value of 7 which means that all the dimensions of the input space are relevant for the classification output.

Let's discuss now the influence of the size of the training set on the accuracy of the classifier. Figure 2 represents the accuracy of the classifier according to the size of the training set for both datasets. As expected the accuracy of the classifier increases when the size of the training set increases. The accuracy of the classifier is also impacted by the maximum depth of the tree. Indeed, the score for all the different sizes of the training set is almost the same when the maximum depth is around 1, whereas the score differs a lot when the maximum depth of the tree increases. We can also notice that the training set with 160 000 samples gives better results than the trainingset with 210 000 samples in figure 2b. This is probably due to the fact that the training set with 160 000 samples is more balanced than the training set with 210 000 samples, meaning that when adding those 50 000 samples, we probably introduce some noise in the training set.

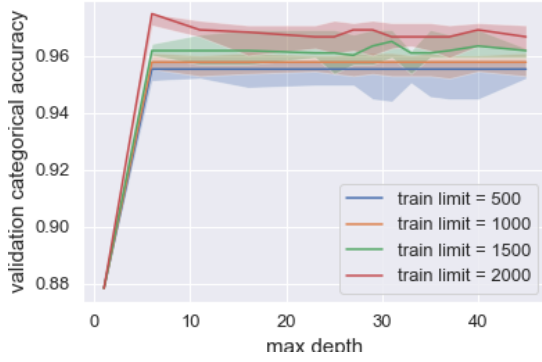
On the Gender dataset, we can see on figure 2a that the accuracy of the classifier is also impacted by the size of the training set. The best score of the classifier is for a training set of 2 000 samples. We can also notice that



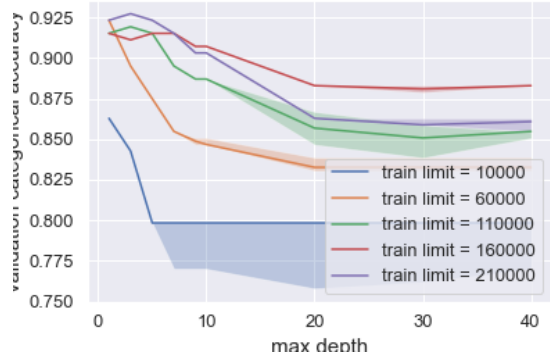
(a) Accuracy for train and test Gender datasets

(b) Accuracy for train and test Credit-Card datasets

Figure 1: Evolution of the Decision Tree Classifier accuracy according to the Maximum Depth of the tree

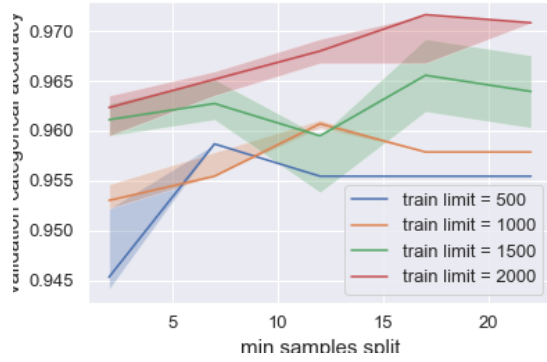


(a) Accuracy for train and test Gender datasets

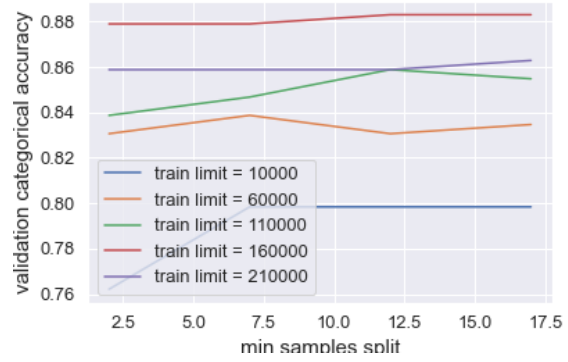


(b) Accuracy for train and test Credit-Card datasets

Figure 2: Evolution of the Decision Tree Classifier accuracy according to the Size of the training set



(a) Accuracy for train and test Gender datasets



(b) Accuracy for train and test Credit-Card datasets

Figure 3: Evolution of the Decision Tree Classifier accuracy according to Minimum Number of Samples required to split an internal node

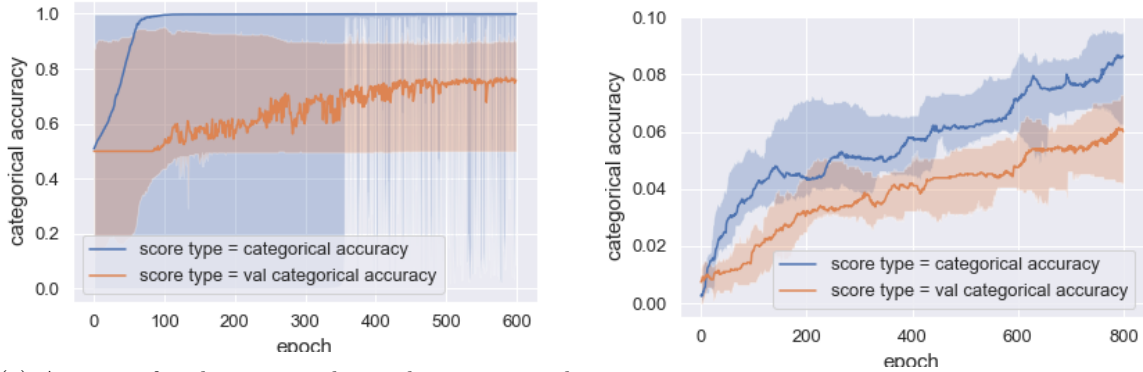
the score is almost the same for a maximum depth between 1 and 5. This means that the training set size has more impact on the classifier when the maximum depth of the tree is high.

The last parameter I will discuss is the minimum number of samples required to split an internal node. That variation is displayed on figure 3. In the Gender dataset, we see that this parameter has some influence. First of all we can see that this parameter leads to overfitting. In the case of the training set composed of 2 000 samples, the classifier overfits for a minimum sample split bigger than 17. But it also improves the results for all the training set sizes, when the minimum sample split is not too high.

In the case of the Credit-Card dataset, we can see that the accuracy of the classifier is not really impacted by the minimum number of samples required to split an internal node except for the smaller dataset. Which has sense. Indeed, the smaller the dataset is the one with the biggest chance of improvement.

Decision Tree is the faster method compared with all the other ones. To get those results and generate the data associated with, it took around 10 minutes.

The decision tree classifier performs pretty well as seen above. But that method does not perform very well on highly dimensional datasets. To resolve that problem, Random Forest can be used. Random Forest is a method that uses multiple decision trees to classify the data. The method is based on the idea that a large number of relatively uncorrelated classifiers (trees) operating as a committee will outperform any of the individual classifiers. That method is also known as bagging.



(a) Accuracy for the train and test dataset on credit-card (b) Accuracy for the train and test dataset on Starcraft

Figure 4: Evolution of the neural network classifier accuracy according to the number of epochs

4 Neural Networks

Neural Network model is the most complicated in terms of parameters in comparison with the other models. We will discuss the influence of the followings:

- The number of epochs;
- The use of batch normalization;
- The number of layers;
- The activation function;
- The size of the training set.

The first thing to say is that our Neural Network classifier does not perform as well as expected with all the parameters explored. For example in the second dataset, in figure 4b, our classifier difficulty scores above 0.5. As expected the accuracy goes up with the number of epochs.

The parameter that affects the most the accuracy of the classifier is the use of a batch normalization as we can see on figure 5a and 5b. We know that the use of a batch normalization permits to decrease the number of training epochs required to train a neural network. We can see on figures 5 it decreases drastically the number of epochs.

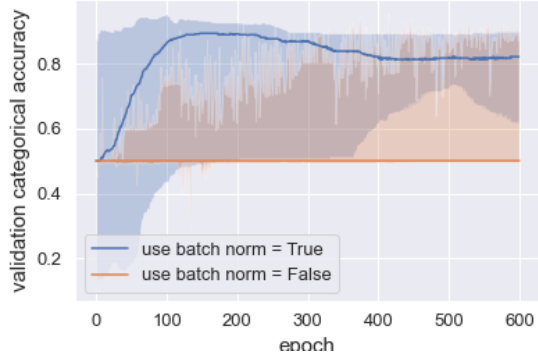
The impact of the activation function is not as important as the batch normalization. We can see on figure 6b and 6e that the accuracy is not very different between the different activation functions expected for the sigmoid function on figure 6b.

Another parameter that affected the score of the classifier was the number of layers. We can see on figures 6a and 6d that for both datasets, the accuracy depends on the layers. One interesting thing to notice is that for Starcraft dataset, the best fit is obtained for no intermediate layers (output neurones directly connected to input) while for credit-card dataset, that configuration gives very poor results.

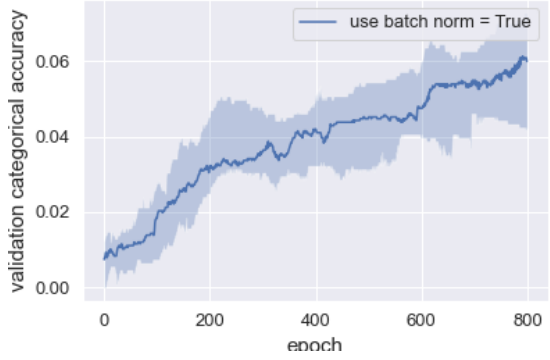
One interesting thing in that case is that the training size does not seem to have a big impact on the classification score. We can see on figure 6c and 6f that the accuracy is not very different between the different training sizes. For example we have pretty much the same accuracy for a 1000 and a 160000 training size.

In terms of computation time, our Neural Network classifier is the slower one. In addition, the memory used in the learning process was also very high. It took 2h30m to train the neural network on both datasets.

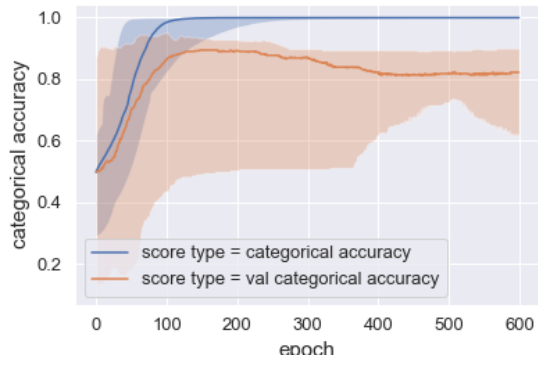
I saw that it was not easy to find a good configuration for the neural network for all these parameters to get good results.



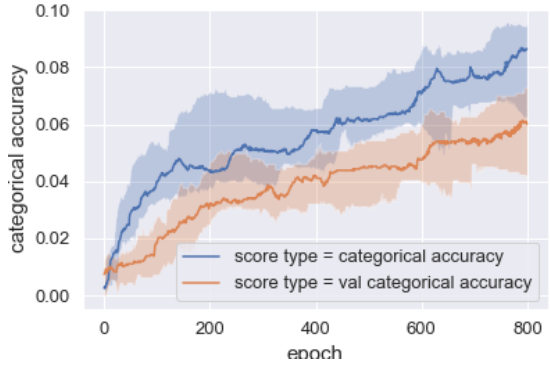
(a) Accuracy with and without batch normalization for credit-card



(b) Accuracy with and without batch normalization for Starcraft

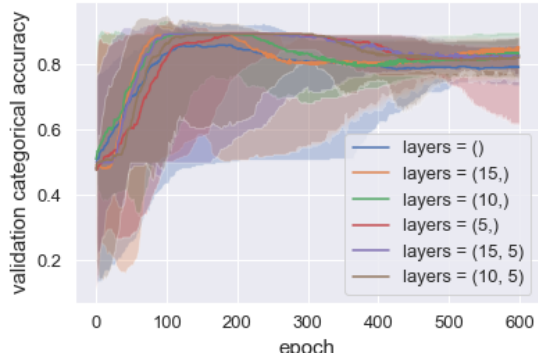


(c) Accuracy for the train and test dataset on credit-card, with batch normalization

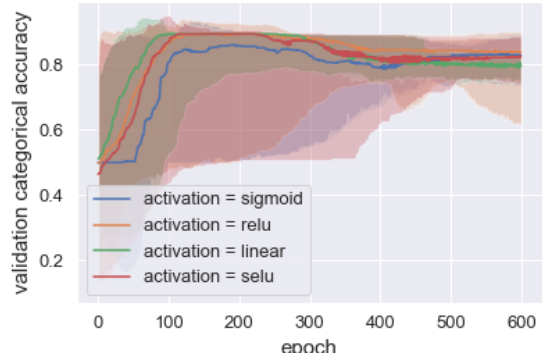


(d) Accuracy for the train and test dataset on Starcraft, with batch normalization

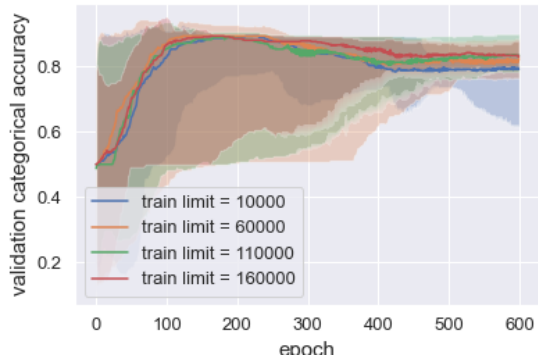
Figure 5: Evolution of the neural network classifier accuracy according to the use of batch normalization



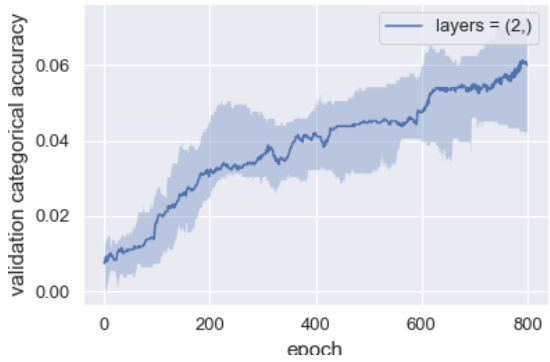
(a) Accuracy for different layers on credit-card



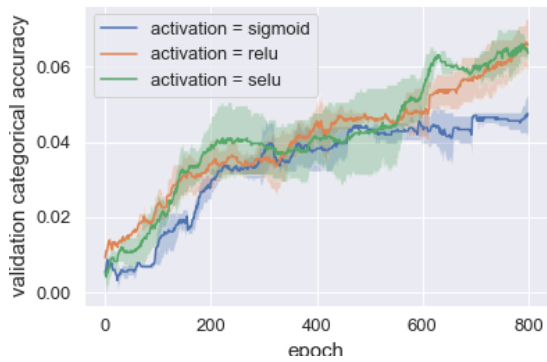
(b) Accuracy for different activations on credit-card



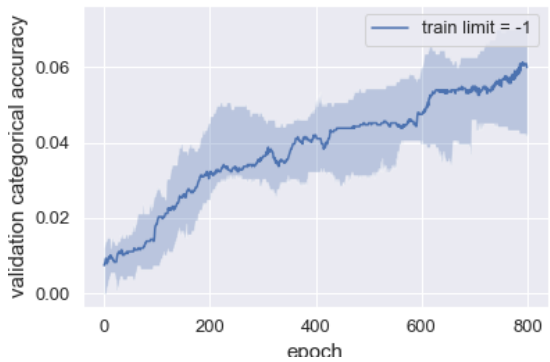
(c) Accuracy for different training dataset size on credit-card



(d) Accuracy for different layers on Starcraft



(e) Accuracy for different activations on Starcraft



(f) Accuracy for different training dataset size on Starcraft

Figure 6: Evolution of the neural network classifier accuracy for different parameters

5 Boosting

Let's now discuss the influence of the followings parameters on the accuracy of the Boosting classifier:

- The number of boosting stages to perform;
- The maximum depth of an individual regression estimator;
- The minimum number of sample needed to split a node of an estimator;
- The size of the training set.

6 Support Vector Machines

In this section we will discuss about the Support Vector Machines classifier. We will see the influence of the followings parameters:

- The penalty of the error term;
- The kernel function;
- The training set size.

7 K-Nearest Neighbors

Here I will discuss the results obtained using a K-Nearest Neighbors classifier. We will see the influence on the accuracy of the classifier of:

- The number of neighbors;
- The distance metric (p-norm);
- The size of the training set.

By design, the accuracy on the training set is always 100% for KNN, so I will not display it on the plots.

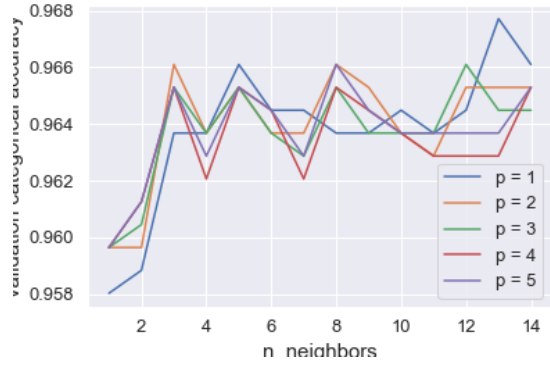
On figure 7, I present the effect of those parameters on the classification score. For the Credit-Card dataset, we can notice that the norm used for the distance metric has a consequent influence on the classification accuracy. The accuracy is better when using the Manhattan norm ($p = 1$). This is not a surprise as higher norm are generally inadequate to measure distances on highly dimensional spaces. In the case of the Gender dataset, the norm used doesn't seem to have a big influence on the accuracy.

On figures 7b we can see that the accuracy of the classifier is better for a small number of neighbors. K-NN is a non-parametric classifier. It is not able to generalize the data, so it is better to use a small number of neighbors. We usually increase the research perimeter to be more resilient to noise but here the data do not allow us such a liberty. This is particularly true in the Credit-Card dataset where the fraud are really close to legal transactions. On figure 7a, we can see that the accuracy is better for a number of neighbors bigger than 3. In the case of the Gender dataset, the data are more separated and we can afford to increase the number of neighbors.

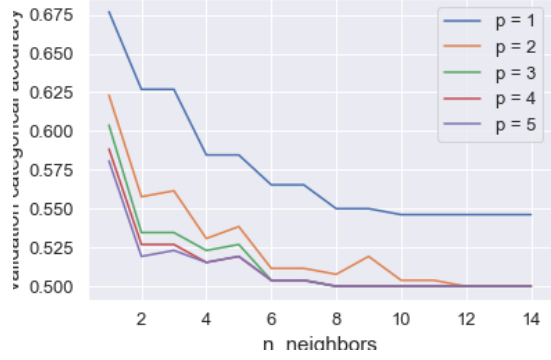
On figures 7d, we can see that the accuracy of the classifier is better for an important number of training examples. Also the classifier doesn't overfit. On figure 7c, we can see that the accuracy decreases for a number of training examples between 1 000 and 1 500. But it keeps having a very good score. I don't really know why. Maybe the samples introduced were not well representative of the data.

Concerning time efficiency, the K-NN classifier achieve a correct performance. To get those results and generate the data associated with, it took around 25 minutes.

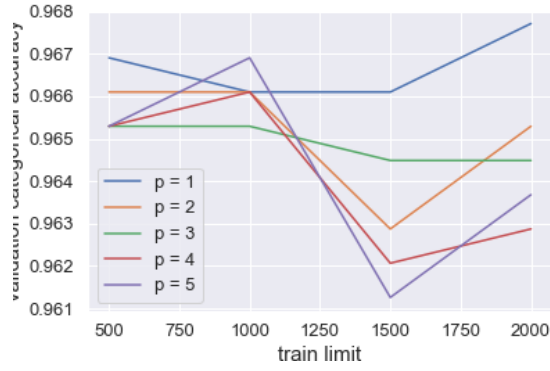
In comparison with the other methods, K-NN didn't perform well on the Credit-Card dataset. Having a discussion with an expert of the dataset would be a good idea for designing a distance metric that is better suited to the problem. Indeed, the distance metric is the key to success with K-NN. So it is important to choose the most appropriate one.



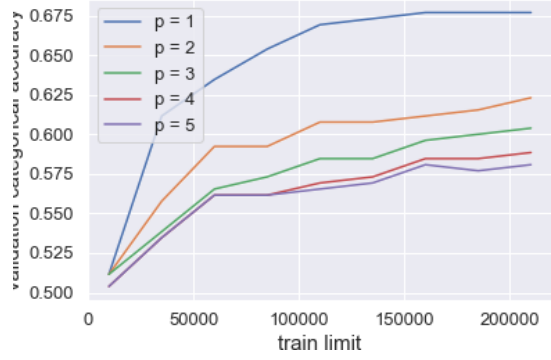
(a) Evolution of the accuracy according to the number of neighbors on Gender dataset, with $train_limit = 2000$



(b) Evolution of accuracy according to the number of neighbors on Credit-Card dataset, with $train_limit = 90000$



(c) Evolution of accuracy according to the number of training examples on Gender dataset, with $n_neighbors = 13$



(d) Evolution of accuracy according to the number of training examples on Credit-Card dataset, with $n_neighbors = 1$

Figure 7: Evolution of the K-NN Classifier accuracy on the Test Set for different parameters

8 Conclusion