

Modern Statistical Modeling

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1 Prediction and Nearest Neighbor

- Goal: (1) predict y from x (“black box”); (2) which variable(s) in x contributes to the prediction of y (“ $x^T\beta$ ”), estimation, testing, variable selection.
- Why are prediction and estimation different: (1) model parameters; (2) identifiability ($f_{\theta_1} \neq f_{\theta_2} \Rightarrow \theta_1 \neq \theta_2$).
- Find prediction function $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ that minimizes $\mathbb{E}_{X,Y} \mathcal{L}(f(X), Y) = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{L}(f(X), Y)|X)\}$ where loss function $\mathcal{L} : \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
- Optimal predictor conditioned on x : $f^*(x) = \arg \min_{f(x) \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}\{\mathcal{L}(f(X), Y)|X = x\}$.
- Regression: y numerical, squared error (L_2 -loss) $\mathcal{L}(\hat{y}, y) = (\hat{y} - y)^2$, $\mathbb{E}\{(Y - f(X))^2|X\} = \{\mathbb{E}(Y|X) - f(X)\}^2 + \mathbb{E}\{(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2|X\} = \text{bias}^2 + \text{variance}$. Optimal $f^*(X) = \mathbb{E}(Y|X)$.
- To model f^* , $\begin{cases} \text{parametric: linear, } f^*(x) = x^T\beta, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^2 \\ \text{nonparametric: infinite dimension, } f^*(x) = m(x), m \text{ satisfying certain smoothness} \end{cases}$.
- Classification: 0-1 loss $\mathcal{L}(\hat{y}, y) = I(\hat{y} \neq y)$, $\mathbb{E}\{\mathcal{L}(h(X), Y)|X = x\} = \sum_{j \neq h(x)} P(Y = j|X = x) = 1 - P(Y = h(X)|X = x)$. Optimal classification (Bayes classifier): $h^*(x) = \arg \max_{h(x) \in \mathcal{Y}} P(Y = h(X)|X = x)$.
- A fully nonparametric approach: k nearest neighbor (k -NN). Given training data $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^m$, use data “around” x to estimate $m(x) = \mathbb{E}(Y|X = x)$. Rationale: “Things that look alike must be alike”. Classification: $h_{k\text{-NN}}(x) = \text{majority label among } \{y_i, i \in N_k(x)\}$. Regression: $m_{k\text{-NN}}(x) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i \in N_k(x)} y_i$. k controls size of neighbor set. $k \uparrow$: effective sample size \uparrow , variance \downarrow , heterogeneity \uparrow , bias \uparrow .
- Theory for 1-NN: Consider binary classification: $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$, $\mathcal{L}(h(x), y) = I(h(x) \neq y)$. Assume $\mathcal{X} \subset [0, 1]^d$, ρ Euclidean distance, $S = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$. $\forall x \in \mathcal{X}$, let $\pi_1(x), \dots, \pi_n(x)$ be an ordering of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ with increasing distance to x . $\eta(x) = \mathbb{E}(Y = 1|X = x)$. Bayes classifier: $h^*(x) = I(\eta(x) > \frac{1}{2})$. Assumption on η : η is c -Lipschitz for some $c > 0$. Goal: Derive an upper bound on $\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^n} \mathcal{L}(\hat{h}_S) = \mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^n} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}} I(\hat{h}_S(x) \neq y)$.
- **Lemma 1.1** The 1-NN rule \hat{h}_S satisfies $\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^n} \mathcal{L}(\hat{h}_S) \leq 2\mathcal{L}(h^*) + c\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^n, x \sim \mathcal{D}} \|x - x_{\pi_1(x)}\|$.

Proof $\mathbb{E}_S \mathcal{L}(\hat{h}_S) = \mathbb{E}_{S_x \sim \mathcal{D}_x^n, x \sim \mathcal{D}_x, y \sim \eta(x), y' \sim \eta(\pi_1(x))} P(y \neq y')$. Note that $P(y \neq y') = \eta(x')(1 - \eta(x)) + (1 - \eta(x'))\eta(x) = (\eta - \eta' + \eta')(1 - \eta) + (1 - \eta + \eta - \eta')\eta = 2\eta(1 - \eta) + (\eta - \eta')(2\eta - 1)$. Since η is c -Lipschitz and $|2\eta - 1| \leq 1$, $P(y \neq y') \leq 2\eta(1 - \eta) + c\|x - x'\|$. Substituting back, $\mathbb{E}_S \mathcal{L}(\hat{h}_S) \leq 2\mathbb{E}_x \eta(x)(1 - \eta(x)) + c\mathbb{E}_{S,x} \|x - x_{\pi_1(x)}\|$. The Bayes error $\mathcal{L}(h^*) = \mathbb{E}_x \{\eta(x) \wedge (1 - \eta(x))\} \geq \mathbb{E}_x (\eta(x)(1 - \eta(x)))$. \square

- **Lemma 1.2** Let C_1, \dots, C_r be a collection of subsets of \mathcal{X} . Then $\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^n} \{\sum_{i: C_i \cap S = \emptyset} P(C_i)\} \leq \frac{r}{ne}$ (“probability of subsets that not hit by S ”).

Proof By linearity, $\mathbb{E}_S \{\sum_{i: C_i \cap S = \emptyset} P(C_i)\} = \sum_{i=1}^r P(C_i) \mathbb{E}_S I(C_i \cap S = \emptyset) = \sum_{i=1}^r P(C_i) P(C_i \cap S = \emptyset)$. Note that $P(C_i \cap S = \emptyset) = (1 - P(C_i))^n \leq e^{-nP(C_i)}$. Thus, LHS $\leq \sum_{i=1}^r P(C_i) e^{-nP(C_i)} \leq r \max P(C_i) e^{-nP(C_i)} \leq \frac{r}{ne}$. \square

- **Theorem 1.1** (Generalization upper bound for 1-NN) $\mathbb{E}_S \mathcal{L}(\hat{h}_S) \leq 2\mathcal{L}(h^*) + 2c\sqrt{dn}^{-\frac{1}{d+1}}$.

Proof Take C_i of the form $\{x : x_j \in [(\alpha_j - 1)/T, \alpha_j/T], \forall j\}$, where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d \in \{1, \dots, T\}^d$.

Case 1: If $x, x' \in C_i$ for some i , then $\|x - x'\| \leq \sqrt{d}\epsilon$.

Case 2: Otherwise, $\|x - x'\| \leq \sqrt{d}$.

Hence, $\mathbb{E}_{S,x} \|x - x_{\pi_1(x)}\| \leq \mathbb{E}_S \{P(\cup_{i: C_i \cap S \neq \emptyset} C_i) \sqrt{d}\epsilon + P(\cup_{i: C_i \cap S = \emptyset}) \sqrt{d}\} \leq \sqrt{d}(\epsilon + \frac{r}{ne})$. Since $r = (\frac{1}{\epsilon})^d, \dots \leq \sqrt{d}(\epsilon + \frac{1}{\epsilon^{\frac{1}{ne}}})$. Matching the two terms gives $\epsilon = (\frac{1}{ne})^{\frac{1}{d+1}}$ and the optimal bound $2\sqrt{d}(ne)^{-\frac{1}{d+1}} \leq 2\sqrt{dn}^{-\frac{1}{d+1}}$. \square

- **Theorem 1.2** (Generalization upper bound for k -NN) $\mathbb{E}_S \mathcal{L}(\hat{h}_S) \leq (1 + \sqrt{\frac{8}{k}}) \mathcal{L}(h^*) + (6c\sqrt{d} + k)n^{-\frac{1}{d+1}}$.

Remark 1.1 k is called regularization parameter/hyperparameter and the optimal $k \sim n^d$.

Remark 1.2 Exponential dependence on d : “curse of dimensionality”.

- **Theorem 1.3** (Lower bound) $\forall c > 1$ and any learning rule h , \exists a distribution over $[0, 1]^d \times \{0, 1\}$ s.t. $\eta(x)$ is c -Lipschitz, the Bayes error is 0, but for $n < (c+1)^d/2$, $\mathbb{E} \mathcal{L}(h) > \frac{1}{4}$ (i.e. minimax bound $\inf_h \sup_y \mathbb{E} \mathcal{L}(h) \geq Cn^{-\frac{1}{d+1}}$).

Hint Let G_c^d be the regular grid on $[0, 1]^d$ with distance $1/c$ between points. Then any $\eta : G_c^d \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is c -Lipschitz. Then use the following theorem. \square

- **Theorem 1.4** (No free-lunch theorem) Let A be any learning rule for binary classification with 0-1 loss over \mathcal{X}^d and $n < |\mathcal{X}|/2$. Then \exists distribution D over $\mathcal{X} \times \{0, 1\}$ s.t. $\mathbb{E} \mathcal{L}(A) \geq \frac{1}{4}$. Furthermore, with prob $\geq \frac{1}{7}$, $\mathcal{L}(A_S) \geq \frac{1}{8}$.

2 Linear Regression

- $Y_{n \times 1} = X_{n \times p} \beta_{p \times 1} + \epsilon_{n \times 1}$, $\mathbb{E}(\epsilon|X) = 0$, $\text{Var}(\epsilon) = \sigma^2 I_n$ and X fixed.
- Least squares estimator (LSE) solves the normal equation $X^T X \hat{\beta} = X^T Y$, $\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$.
- ANOVA: $y_{ij} = \mu + \alpha_j + \epsilon_{ij}$, $i = 1, \dots, n_j$, $j = 1, \dots, J$. $\sum_j n_j = n$, $\sum_j \alpha_j = 0$.
- **Definition 2.1** θ is estimable if \exists an unbiased estimator of θ . $c^T \beta$ is linearly estimable if $\exists l \in \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $\mathbb{E}(l^T Y) = c^T \beta$, $\forall \beta \in \mathbb{R}^p \Leftrightarrow c = X^T l \in \mathcal{C}(X^T)$.
- **Theorem 2.1** (1) If $c^T \hat{\beta}$ is unique, then $c \in \mathcal{C}(X^T X) = \mathcal{C}(X^T)$.
 (2) If $c \in \mathcal{C}(X^T)$, then $c^T \hat{\beta}$ is unique and unbiased for $c^T \beta$.
 (3) If $c^T \beta$ is estimable and $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}_n(0, \sigma^2 I_n)$, then $c \in \mathcal{C}(X^T)$.

Proof (1) Let $b \in \mathcal{C}(X^T X)^\perp$ be arbitrary, then $X^T Y = X^T X \hat{\beta} = X^T X(\hat{\beta} + b) \Rightarrow c^T \hat{\beta} = c^T(\hat{\beta} + b) \Rightarrow c^T b = 0$.

(2) $c = X^T l$ for some $l \in \mathbb{R}^n$, then $c^T \hat{\beta} = l^T X^T \hat{\beta} = l^T X^T (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y = l^T P_X Y$ is unique. $\mathbb{E}(c^T \hat{\beta}) = l^T P_X \mathbb{E} Y = l^T P_X X \beta = l^T X \beta = c^T \beta$.

(3) If \exists an estimator $T(X, Y)$ unbiased for $c^T \beta$, then $c^T \beta = \int T(X, y) \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{n}{2}}} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|y - X\beta\|^2\} dy$. Differentiate with β , $c = X^T \int \frac{y - X\beta}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \sigma^2} T(X, y) \exp\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|y - X\beta\|^2\} dy$. \square