Introducción al aprendizaje automático

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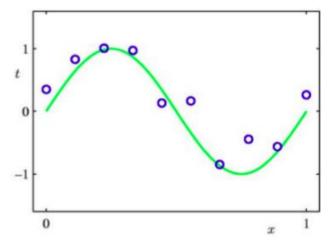
#2. Modelos probabilísticos y no paramétricos

Regresión

Disponemos de N pares de entrenamiento (observaciones)

$$\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N = \{(x_1, y_1), \cdots, (x_N, y_N)\}$$

 El problema de regresión consiste en estimar f(x) a partir de estos datos

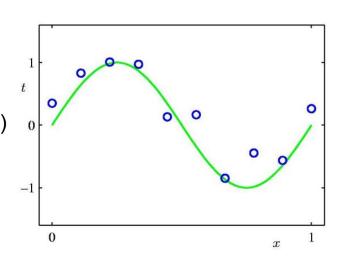


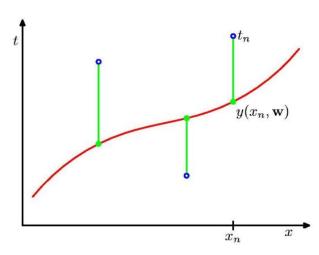
Regresión polinomial

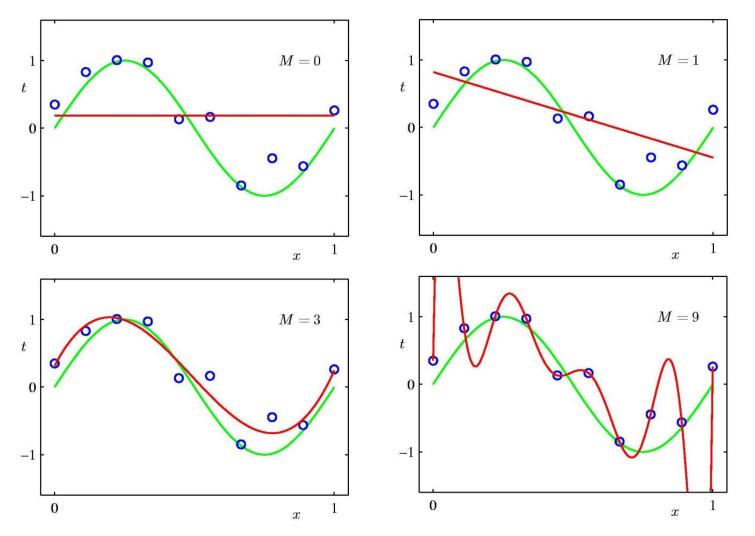
- En verde se ilustra la función "verdadera" (inaccesible)
- Las muestras son uniformes en x y poseen ruido en y
- Utilizaremos una <u>función de costo</u> (error cuadrático)
 que mida el error en la predicción de y mediante f(x)

$$E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \{y(x_n, \mathbf{w}) - t_n\}^2$$

$$y(x, \mathbf{w}) = w_0 + w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + \ldots + w_M x^M = \sum_{j=0}^{M} w_j x^j$$







Regresión polinomial. Solución por MV

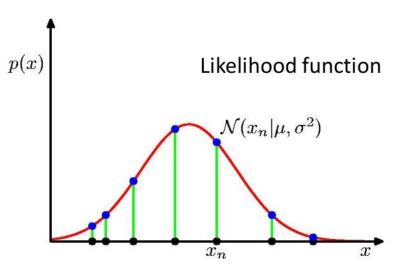
Distribución gaussiana

$$\mathcal{N}(x|\mu,\sigma^2)$$

$$\mathcal{N}(x|\mu,\sigma^2) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x-\mu)^2 \right\}$$

- Siempre positiva, integra a 1
- precisión $\beta = 1/\sigma^2$
- valor esperado $\mathbb{E}[x] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{N}(x|\mu, \sigma^2) x \, dx = \mu$
- varianza $var[x] = \mathbb{E}[x^2] \mathbb{E}[x]^2 = \sigma^2$

Máxima verosimilitud (MV)



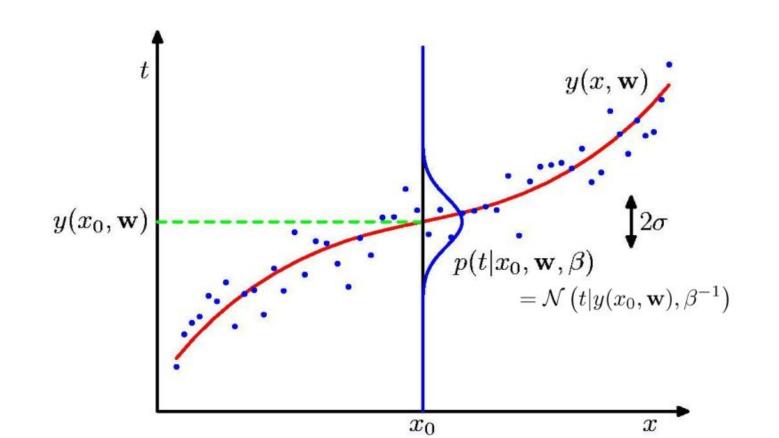
- Muestras iid
- Función de verosimilitud $p(\mathbf{x}|\mu,\sigma^2) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \mathcal{N}(x_n|\mu,\sigma^2)$
- Logaritmo de la función de verosimilitud $\ln p(\mathbf{x}|\mu,\sigma^2) = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\sum_{n=1}^N(x_n-\sigma)^2 \frac{N}{2}\ln\sigma^2 \frac{N}{2}\ln(2\pi)$
- Media muestral por MV $\mu_{ML} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} x_n$
- Varianza muestral por MV $\sigma_{ML}^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (x_n \mu_{ML})^2$

Revisando el ajuste de curvas

• Objetivo: predecir valores de salida t para nuevas entradas x, en base a un conjunto de pares de entrenamiento $(x_1,t_1), \ldots, (x_N,t_N)$.

 Para capturar la incertidumbre sobre los valores de salida, podemos asumir que, dado un x, el valor de t se genera a partir de una gaussiana de media y(x; w) (la curva polinomial)

$$p(t|x, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(t|y(x, \mathbf{w}), \beta^{-1})$$



Probabilidades bayesianas

- Conocimiento "a priori" sobre los parámetros en p(w) (prior)
- Efecto de las observaciones $D=\{t_1, \dots t_N\}$ en el proceso de inferencia sobre w se expresa mediante p(w|D) (likelihood)
- La incertidumbre sobre w después de observar D (posterior)

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D}) = \frac{p(\mathcal{D}|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})}{p(\mathcal{D})}$$
posterior \propto likelihood \times prior

• El denominador p(D) es un factor de normalización

Revisando el ajuste de curvas

• Entrenamiento por MV, asumiendo muestras iid y distribución $p(t|x,w,\beta)$:

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \mathcal{N}(t_n|y(x_n, \mathbf{w}, \beta^{-1}))$$

$$\ln p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = -\frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \{y(x_n, \mathbf{w}) - t_n\}^2 + \frac{N}{2} \ln \beta - \frac{N}{2} \ln (2\pi)$$

 La solución por MV, después de notar que los últimos dos términos no dependen de w y que β es un factor de escala, se obtiene de forma equivalente minimizando el error cuadrático medio:

$$E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (y(n_n, \mathbf{w}) - t_n)^2$$

Revisando el ajuste de curvas

También podemos utilizar MV para estimar β:

$$\frac{1}{\beta_{ML}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \{ y(x_n, \mathbf{w}_{ML}) - t_n \}^2$$

 Con w y β podemos hacer predicciones sobre x mediante la "distribución predictiva"

$$p(t|x, \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{ML}}, \beta_{\mathrm{ML}}) = \mathcal{N}(t|y(x, \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{ML}}), \beta_{\mathrm{ML}}^{-1})$$

• Si consideramos un *prior* Gaussiano sobre w

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|0, \alpha^{-1}\mathbf{I}) = \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\pi}\right)^{(M+1)/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{\alpha}{2}\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w}\right\}$$

Máximo a posteriori (MAP)

Posterior ∞ likelihood x prior

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \beta) \propto p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta)p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha)$$

• Tomando el logaritmo de la función de verosimilitud de $p(w|x, t, \alpha, \beta)$ y considerando como antes sólo los términos que dependen de w

$$\frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \{y(x_n, \mathbf{w}) - t_n\}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$$

resulta en error cuadrático con regularización L, de parámetro $\lambda = \alpha/\beta$

Regresión logística

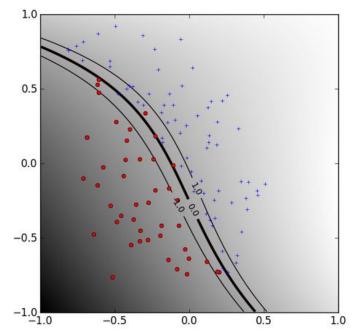
Clasificación basada en probabilidades

• Objetivo: dar la probabilidad de que una instancia x sea de una clase y, es decir, aprender p(y|x)

Recordar:

$$0 \le p(evento) \le 1$$

 $p(evento) + p(\neg evento) = 1$



Regresión lineal

- Función de predicción lineal $y = f_w(x) = \langle x, w \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k w_k$
- Función de costo: $L(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y^i \langle x^i, w \rangle)^2$
- Ecuaciones normales

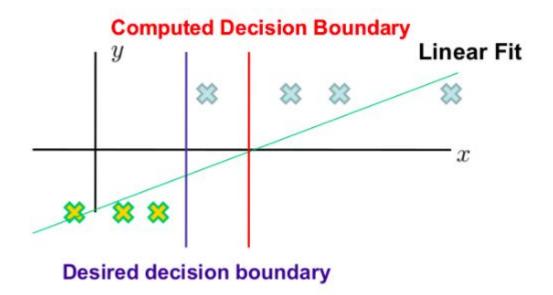
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^1 & \dots & x_k^1 & \dots & x_K^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ x_1^N & \dots & x_k^N & \dots & x_K^N \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_k \\ \vdots \\ w_K \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e = y - Xw$$

$$L(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{e} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{w}^* = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$
$$L(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{e} + \lambda \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{w}^* = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

Error cuadrático en clasificación

- Mínimo global único y solución en forma cerrada
- Pero, ¿es una medida del error de clasificación? ¿es adecuada?



Error cuadrático en clasificación

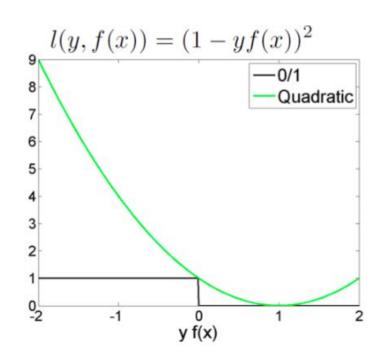
$$y_{\pm} \in \{-1, 1\}$$

$$l(y, f(x)) = (y - f(x))^{2}$$

$$y_{\pm}^{2=1} \quad y^{2}(y - f(x))^{2}$$

$$= (y^{2} - yf(x))^{2}$$

$$y_{\pm}^{2=1} \quad (1 - yf(x))^{2}$$

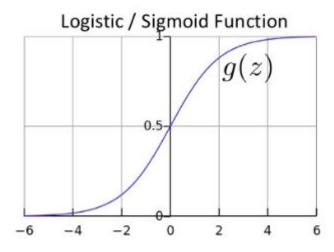


- No es robusta frente a outliers
- Penaliza predicciones que son muy buenas

Regresión logística

- Aproximación probabilística al problema de clasificación
- La función de predicción $h_w(x)$ debe dar una aproximación de p(y=1|x,w)
- $0 \le h_w(x) \le 1$

$$h_w(x) = g(w^T x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-w^x)}$$



WARNING: entering draft mode ...

Logistic Regression

 $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{Given} \ \left\{ \left(\boldsymbol{x}^{(1)}, y^{(1)} \right), \left(\boldsymbol{x}^{(2)}, y^{(2)} \right), \dots, \left(\boldsymbol{x}^{(n)}, y^{(n)} \right) \right\}$ where $x^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $y^{(i)} \in \{0, 1\}$

• Model:
$$h_{m{ heta}}(m{x}) = g\left(m{ heta}^{\intercal}m{x}
ight)$$

Model:
$$h_{m{ heta}}(m{x}) = g\left(m{ heta}^{\intercal}m{x}
ight)$$
 $g(z) = rac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$

Logistic Regression Objective Function

Can't just use squared loss as in linear regression:

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^{2}$$

Using the logistic regression model

$$h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{x}}}$$

results in a non-convex optimization

A probabilistic criterion for training a classifier

Training set: $\{(\mathbf{x}^1, y^1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}^N, y^N)\}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^M, y \in \{0, 1\}$

y: discrete observations: model as samples from Bernoulli distribution

$$P(y = 1|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w})$$

$$P(y = 0|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = 1 - f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w})$$

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}) = (f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}))^y (1 - f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}))^{1-y}$$

Find w that maximizes the likelihood of labels in the training set

$$-L(\mathbf{w}) = C(\mathbf{w}) = \log P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \log P(y^i|\mathbf{x}^i, \mathbf{w})$$
$$= \sum_{i} y^i \log f(\mathbf{x}^i, \mathbf{w}) + (1 - y^i) \log(1 - f(\mathbf{x}^i, \mathbf{w}))$$

Intuition Behind the Objective

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[y^{(i)} \log h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)}) + \left(1 - y^{(i)}\right) \log \left(1 - h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)})\right) \right]$$

Cost of a single instance:

$$cost (h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}), y) = \begin{cases} -\log(h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})) & \text{if } y = 1\\ -\log(1 - h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})) & \text{if } y = 0 \end{cases}$$

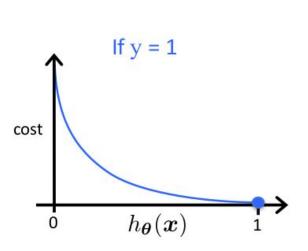
Can re-write objective function as

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{cost}\left(h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)}), y^{(i)}\right)$$

Compare to linear regression:
$$J(\pmb{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\pmb{\theta}} \left(\pmb{x}^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

Intuition Behind the Objective

$$cost (h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}), y) = \begin{cases} -\log(h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x})) & \text{if } y = 1\\ -\log(1 - h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x})) & \text{if } y = 0 \end{cases}$$

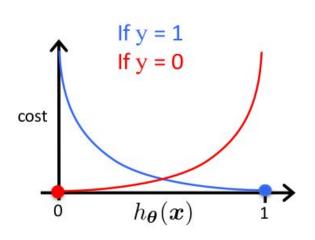


If y = 1

- Cost = 0 if prediction is correct
- As $h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}) \to 0, \cos t \to \infty$
- Captures intuition that larger mistakes should get larger penalties
 - e.g., predict $h_{\theta}(x) = 0$, but y = 1

Intuition Behind the Objective

$$cost (h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}), y) = \begin{cases} -\log(h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x})) & \text{if } y = 1\\ -\log(1 - h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x})) & \text{if } y = 0 \end{cases}$$



If y = 0

- Cost = 0 if prediction is correct
- As $(1 h_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x})) \to 0$, $\cos t \to \infty$
- Captures intuition that larger mistakes should get larger penalties

Regularized Logistic Regression

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[y^{(i)} \log h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)}) + \left(1 - y^{(i)}\right) \log \left(1 - h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)})\right) \right]$$

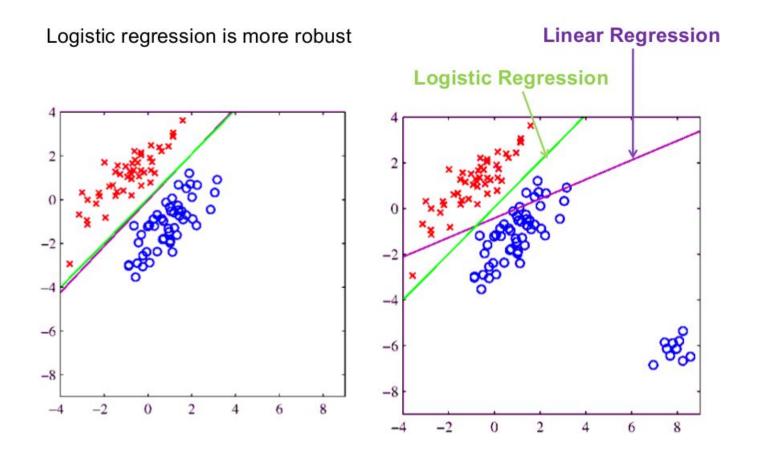
• We can regularize logistic regression exactly as before:

$$J_{\text{regularized}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{d} \theta_j^2$$
$$= J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\theta}_{[1:d]}\|_2^2$$

[1:d] => exclude the bias!

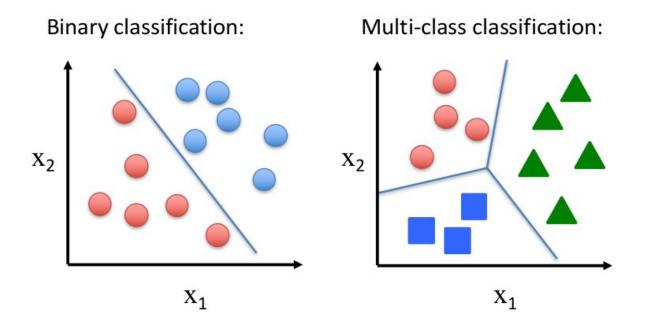
$$\theta^* = \arg\min_{\theta} J(\theta)$$

Logistic vs Linear Regression



Problemas multiclase

Multi-Class Classification



Disease diagnosis: healthy / cold / flu / pneumonia

Object classification: desk / chair / monitor / bookcase

Multi-Class Logistic Regression

For 2 classes:

$$h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathsf{T}}\boldsymbol{x})} = \underbrace{\frac{\exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathsf{T}}\boldsymbol{x})}{1 + \exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathsf{T}}\boldsymbol{x})}}_{\text{weight assigned to y = 0}} \underbrace{\frac{\exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathsf{T}}\boldsymbol{x})}{1 + \exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathsf{T}}\boldsymbol{x})}}_{\text{weight assigned to y = 1}}$$

• For C classes {1, ..., C}:

$$p(y = c \mid \boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\theta}_C) = \frac{\exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}_c^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x})}{\sum_{c=1}^C \exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}_c^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x})}$$

Called the softmax function

Implementing Multi-Class Logistic Regression

• Use
$$h_c(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{\exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}_c^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x})}{\sum_{c=1}^C \exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}_c^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x})}$$
 as the model for class c

- Gradient descent simultaneously updates all parameters for all models
 - Same derivative as before, just with the above $h_c(x)$
- Predict class label as the most probable label

$$\max_{c} h_c(\boldsymbol{x})$$

What is multiclass classification?

- · An input can belong to one of K classes
- Training data: Input associated with class label (a number from 1 to K)
- Prediction: Given a new input, predict the class label

Each input belongs to exactly one class. Not more, not less.

- Otherwise, the problem is not multiclass classification
- If an input can be assigned multiple labels (think tags for emails rather than folders), it is called multi-label classification

Binary to multiclass

- Can we use a binary classifier to construct a multiclass classifier?
 - Decompose the prediction into multiple binary decisions

- How to decompose?
 - One-vs-all
 - All-vs-all
 - Error correcting codes

1. One-vs-all classification

Assumption: Each class individually separable from all the others

- Learning: Given a dataset $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}$ $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ $y \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$
 - Decompose into K binary classification tasks
 - For class k, construct a binary classification task as:
 - Positive examples: Elements of D with label k
 - Negative examples: All other elements of D
 - Train K binary classifiers \mathbf{w}_1 , \mathbf{w}_2 , \cdots \mathbf{w}_K using any learning algorithm we have seen

1. One-vs-all classification

Assumption: Each class individually separable from all the others

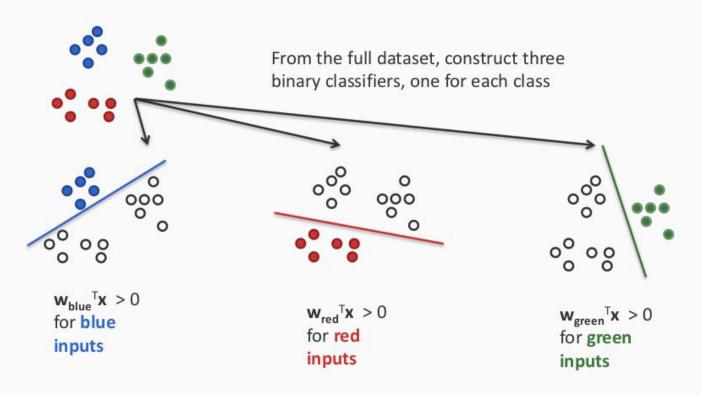
• Learning: Given a dataset
$$D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$y \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$$

- Train K binary classifiers \mathbf{w}_1 , \mathbf{w}_2 , \cdots \mathbf{w}_K using any learning algorithm we have seen
- Prediction: "Winner Takes All" argmax_i w_i^Tx

Visualizing One-vs-all

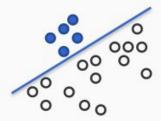


One-vs-all may not always work

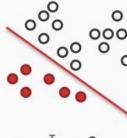


Black points are not separable with a single binary classifier

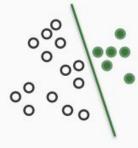
The decomposition will not work for these cases!











w_{green}^Tx > 0 for green inputs



???

2. All-vs-all classification

Sometimes called one-vs-one

Assumption: Every pair of classes is separable

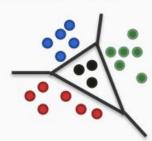
- Learning: Given a dataset $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}, \quad y \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$
 - For every pair of labels (j, k), create a binary classifier with:
 - Positive examples: All examples with label j
 - Negative examples: All examples with label k
 - Train $\binom{K}{2} = \frac{K(K-1)}{2}$ classifiers to separate every pair of labels from each other

2. All-vs-all classification

Sometimes called one-vs-one

- Assumption: Every pair of classes is separable
- Learning: Given a dataset $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}, \quad \substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ y \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}}$
 - Train $\binom{K}{2} = \frac{K(K-1)}{2}$ classifiers to separate every pair of labels from each other
- Prediction: More complex, each label get K-1 votes
 - How to combine the votes? Many methods
 - Majority: Pick the label with maximum votes
 - · Organize a tournament between the labels

All-vs-all classification



- Every pair of labels is linearly separable here
 - When a pair of labels is considered, all others are ignored

Problems

- 1. O(K²) weight vectors to train and store
- 2. Size of training set for a pair of labels could be very small, leading to overfitting of the binary classifiers
- 3. Prediction is often ad-hoc and might be unstable

 Eg: What if two classes get the same number of votes? For a tournament, what is the sequence in which the labels compete?

3. Error correcting output codes (ECOC)

- · Each binary classifier provides one bit of information
- With K labels, we only need log₂K bits
 - One-vs-all uses K bits (one per classifier)
 - All-vs-all uses O(K2) bits
- Can we get by with O(log K) classifiers?
 - Yes! Encode each label as a binary string
 - Or alternatively, if we do train more than O(log K) classifiers, can we use the redundancy to improve classification accuracy?

Using log₂K classifiers

Learning:

- Represent each label by a bit string
- Train one binary classifier for each bit

	23			
abel#	Code			
0	0	0	0	
1	0	0	1	
2	0	1	0	
3	0	1	1	
4	1	0	0	
5	1	0	1	
6	1	1	0	
7	1	1	1	

8 classes, code-length = 3

• Prediction:

- Use the predictions from all the classifiers to create a log₂N bit string that uniquely decides the output
- What could go wrong here?
 - Even if one of the classifiers makes a mistake, final prediction is wrong!

Error correcting output coding

Answer: Use redundancy

- Assign a binary string with each label
 - Could be random
 - Length of the code word L >= log₂K is a parameter

#	Code				
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
2	0	1	0	1	1
3	0	1	1	0	1
4	1	0	0	1	1
5	1	0	1	0	0
6	1	1	0	0	0
7	1	1	1	1	1

8 classes, code-length = 5

• Train one binary classifier for each bit

- Effectively, split the data into random dichotomies
- We need only log₂K bits
- Additional bits act as an error correcting code
- One-vs-all is a special case.
 - How?

How to predict?

Prediction

- Run all L binary classifiers on the example
- Gives us a predicted bit string of length L
- Output = label whose code word is "closest" to the prediction
- Closest defined using Hamming distance
 - Longer code length is better, better error-correction

•	Examp	e

- Suppose the binary classifiers here predict 11010
- The closest label to this is 6, with code word 11000

#	Code				
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
2	0	1	0	1	1
3	0	1	1	0	1
4	1	0	0	1	1
5	1	0	1	0	0
6	1	1	0	0	0
7	1	1	1	1	1

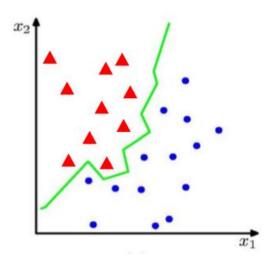
8 classes, code-length = 5

Error correcting codes: Discussion

- Assumes that columns are independent
 - Otherwise, ineffective encoding
- · Strong theoretical results that depend on code length
 - If minimal Hamming distance between two rows is d, then the prediction can correct up to (d-1)/2 errors in the binary predictions
- Code assignment could be random, or designed for the dataset/task
- One-vs-all and all-vs-all are special cases
 - All-vs-all needs a ternary code (not binary)

Modelos no paramétricos: vecinos más cercanos

Classification



Suppose we are given a training set of N observations

$$(x_1,\ldots,x_N)$$
 and $(y_1,\ldots,y_N), x_i\in\mathbb{R}^d, y_i\in\{-1,1\}$

• Classification problem is to estimate f(x) from this data such that

$$f(x_i) = y_i$$

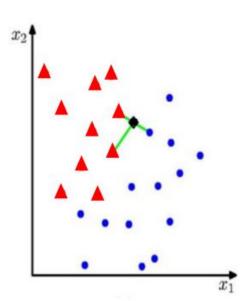
K Nearest Neighbour (K-NN) Classifier

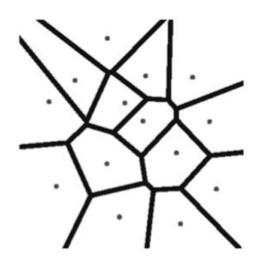
Algorithm

- For each test point, x, to be classified, find the K nearest samples in the training data
- Classify the point, x, according to the majority vote of their class labels

e.g.
$$K = 3$$

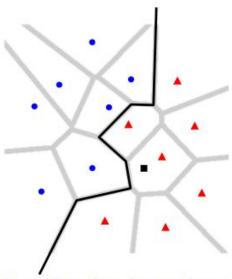
 applicable to multi-class case





Voronoi diagram:

- · partitions the space into regions
- boundaries are equal distance from training points

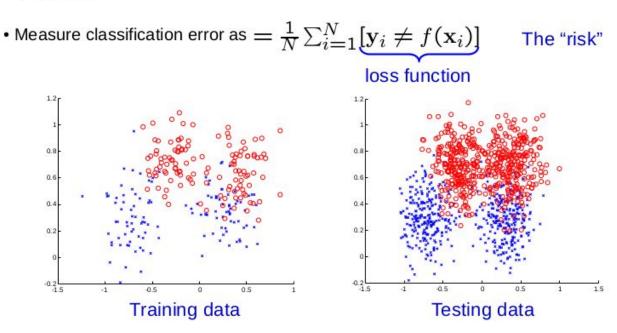


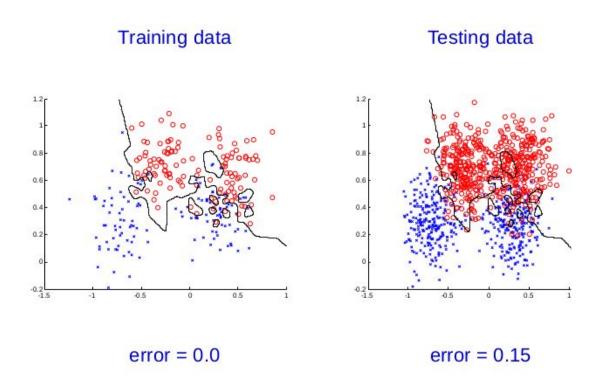
Classification boundary:

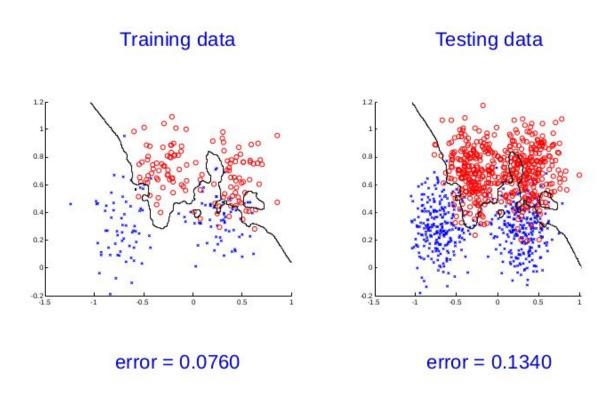
• non-linear

A sampling assumption: training and test data

- Assume that the training examples are drawn independently from the set of all possible examples.
- This makes it very unlikely that a strong regularity in the training data will be absent in the test data.

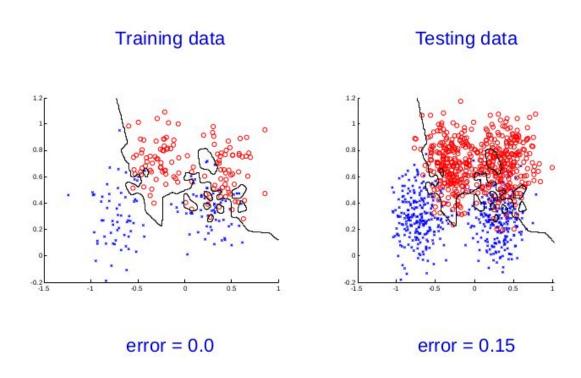


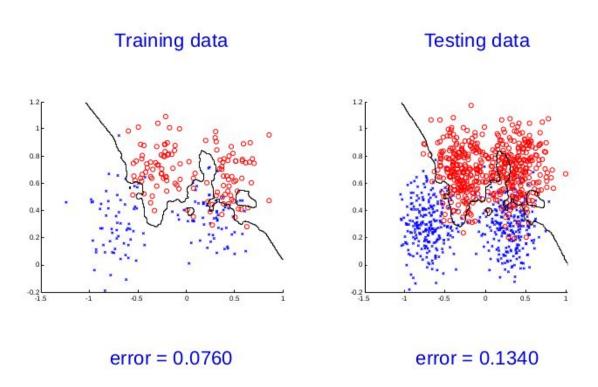


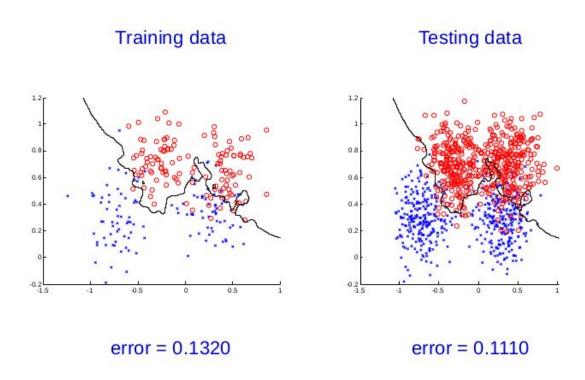


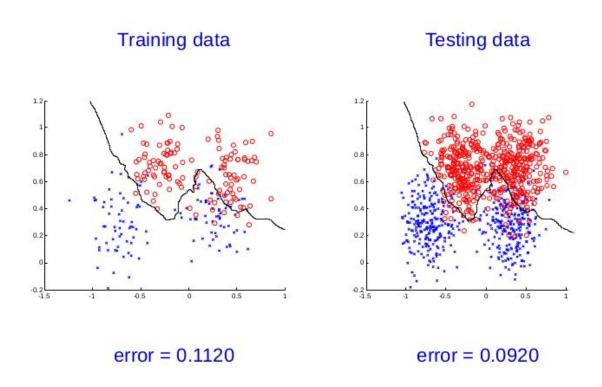
Generalization

- The real aim of supervised learning is to do well on test data that is not known during learning
- Choosing the values for the parameters that minimize the loss function on the training data is not necessarily the best policy
- We want the learning machine to model the true regularities in the data and to ignore the noise in the data.









Properties and training

As K increases:

- Classification boundary becomes smoother
- Training error can increase

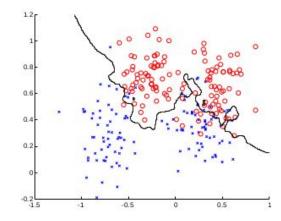
Choose (learn) K by cross-validation

- Split training data into training and validation
- Hold out validation data and measure error on this

Summary

Advantages:

- K-NN is a simple but effective classification procedure
- Applies to multi-class classification
- Decision surfaces are non-linear
- Quality of predictions automatically improves with more training data
- Only a single parameter, K; easily tuned by cross-validation



Summary

Disadvantages:

- What does nearest mean? Need to specify a distance metric.
- Computational cost: must store and search through the entire training set at test time. Can alleviate this problem by thinning, and use of efficient data structures like KD trees.

