# Introducción al aprendizaje automático

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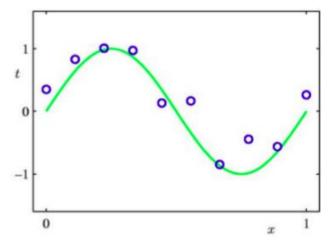
#2. Modelos probabilísticos y no paramétricos

### 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

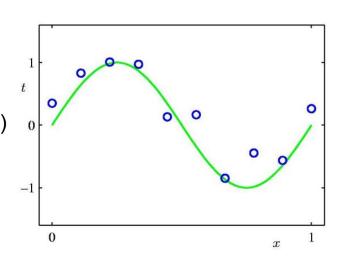


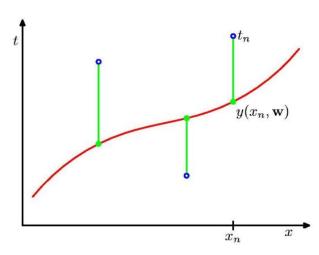
# Regresión polinomial

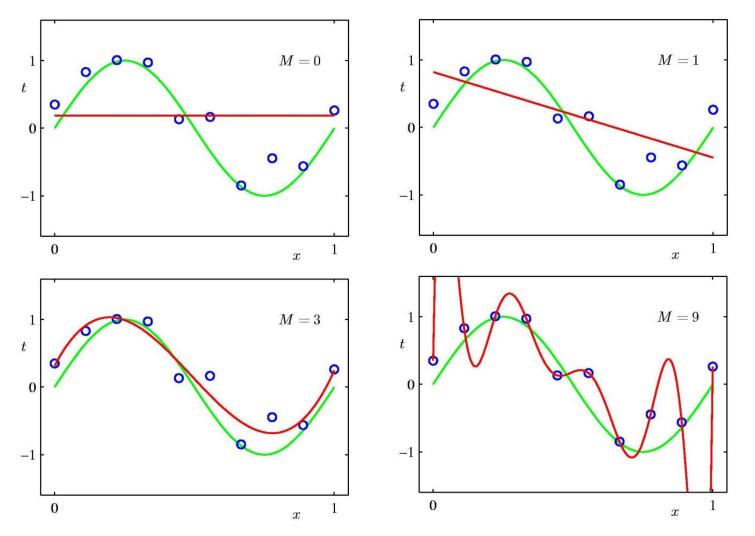
- En verde se ilustra la función "verdadera" (inaccesible)
- Las muestras son uniformes en x y poseen ruido en y
- Utilizaremos una <u>función de costo</u> (error cuadrático)
   que mida el error en la predicción de y mediante f(x)

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

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







# Regresión polinomial. Solución por MV

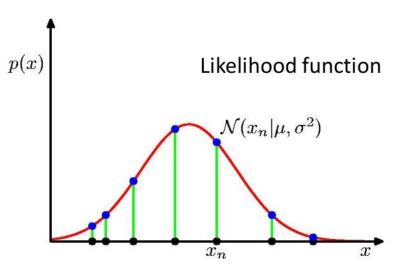
# Distribución gaussiana

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

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

- 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)



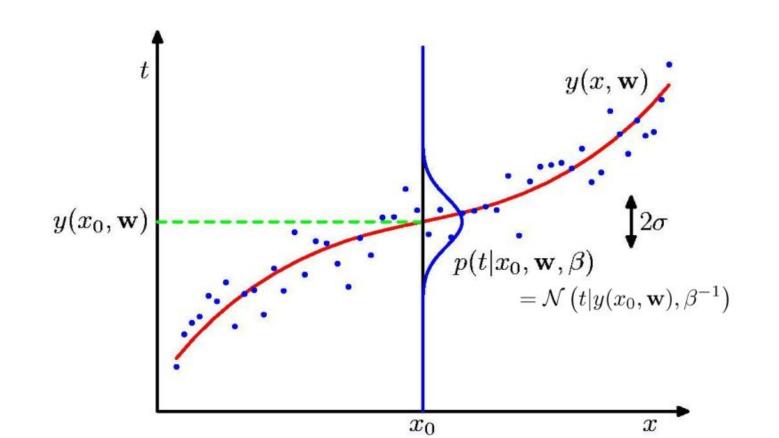
- Muestras iid
- Función de verosimilitud  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mu,\sigma^2) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \mathcal{N}(x_n|\mu,\sigma^2)$
- Logaritmo de la función de verosimilitud  $\ln p(\mathbf{x}|\mu,\sigma^2) = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\sum_{n=1}^N(x_n-\sigma)^2 \frac{N}{2}\ln\sigma^2 \frac{N}{2}\ln(2\pi)$
- Media muestral 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  $\lambda = \alpha/\beta$ 

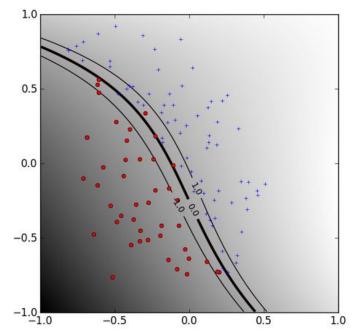
# Regresión logística

### 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

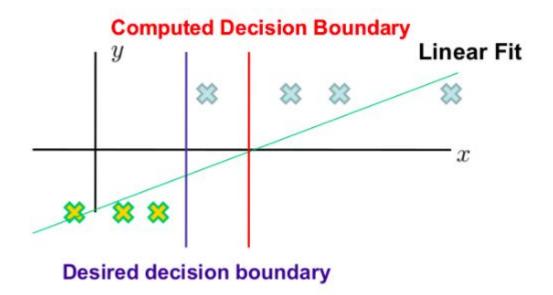
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^1 & \dots & x_k^1 & \dots & x_K^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ x_1^N & \dots & x_k^N & \dots & x_K^N \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_k \\ \vdots \\ w_K \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e = y - Xw$$

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

#### 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

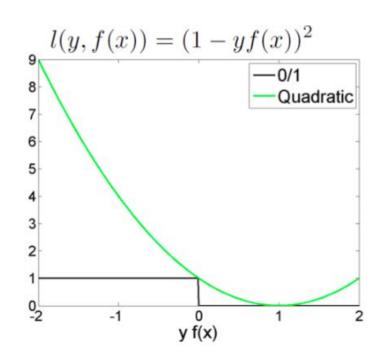
$$y_{\pm} \in \{-1, 1\}$$

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

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

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

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

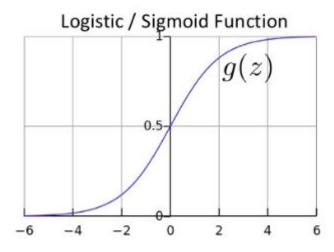


- No es robusta frente a outliers
- Penaliza predicciones que son muy buenas

# 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:

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

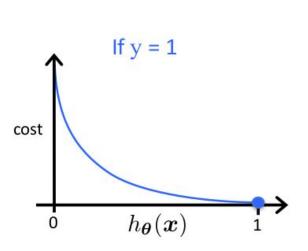
Can re-write objective function as

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

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

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

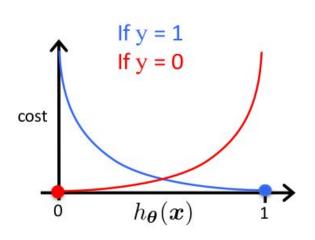


If y = 1

- 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

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

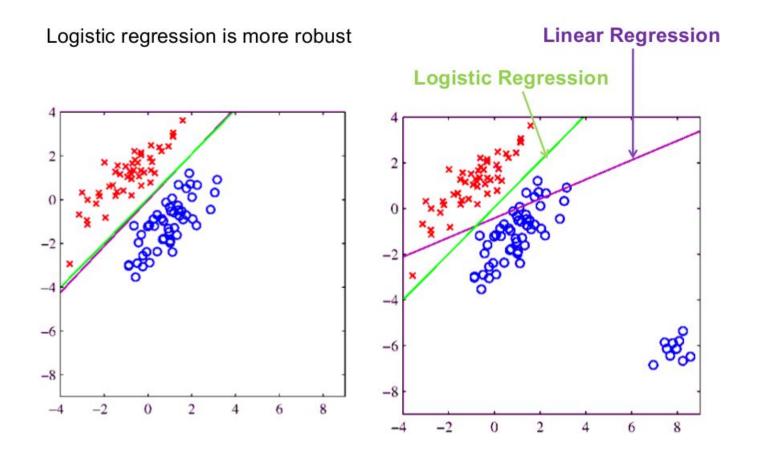
• We can regularize logistic regression exactly as before:

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

[1:d] => exclude the bias!

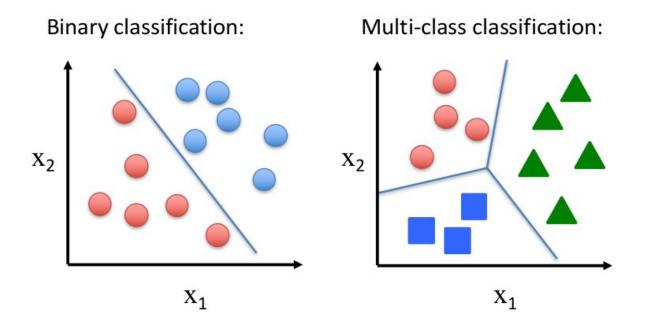
$$\theta^* = \arg\min_{\theta} J(\theta)$$

#### **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

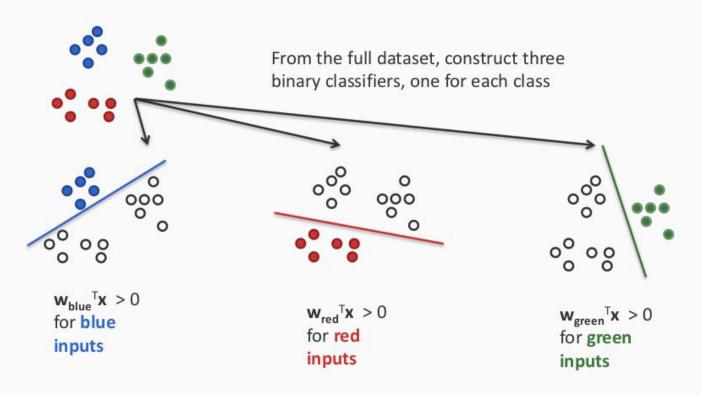
• Learning: Given a dataset 
$$D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}$$

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

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

- 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<sub>i</sub> w<sub>i</sub><sup>T</sup>x

# Visualizing One-vs-all

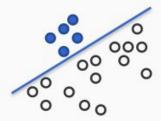


# One-vs-all may not always work

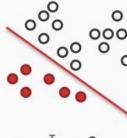


Black points are not separable with a single binary classifier

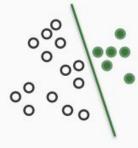
The decomposition will not work for these cases!











w<sub>green</sub><sup>T</sup>x > 0 for green inputs



???

# 2. All-vs-all classification

Sometimes called one-vs-one

Assumption: Every pair of classes is separable

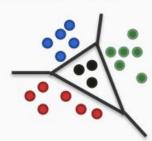
- Learning: Given a dataset  $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}, \quad y \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$ 
  - For every pair of labels (j, k), create a binary classifier with:
    - Positive examples: All examples with label j
    - Negative examples: All examples with label k
  - Train  $\binom{K}{2} = \frac{K(K-1)}{2}$  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(K<sup>2</sup>) 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 log<sub>2</sub>K 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 log<sub>2</sub>K 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 log<sub>2</sub>N 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 >= log<sub>2</sub>K 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 log<sub>2</sub>K 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

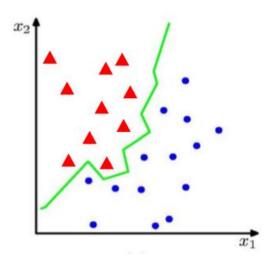
8 classes, code-length = 5

# 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

$$f(x_i) = y_i$$

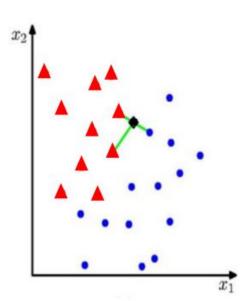
# K Nearest Neighbour (K-NN) Classifier

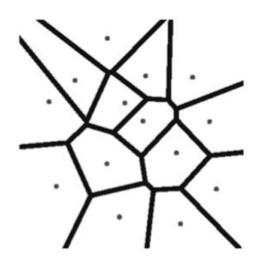
## Algorithm

- 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. 
$$K = 3$$

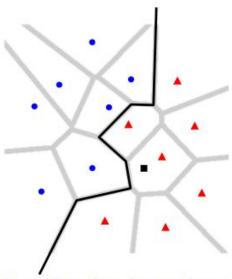
 applicable to multi-class case





## Voronoi diagram:

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

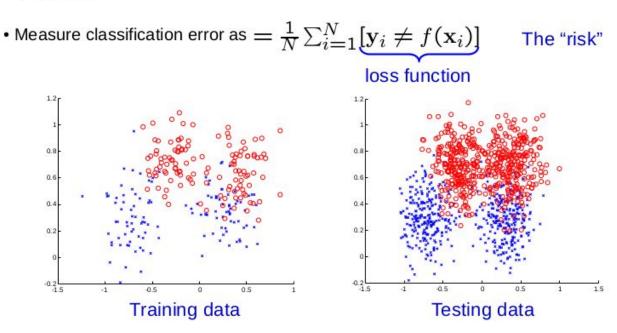


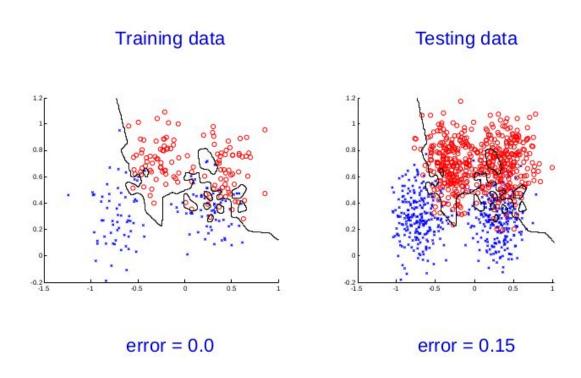
Classification boundary:

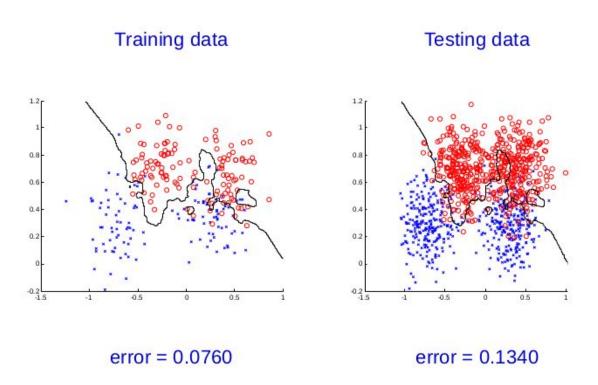
• non-linear

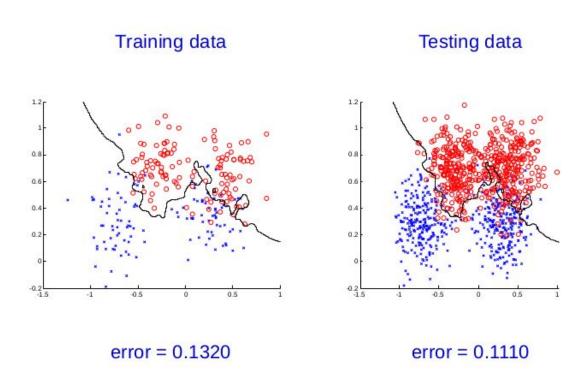
# A sampling assumption: training and test data

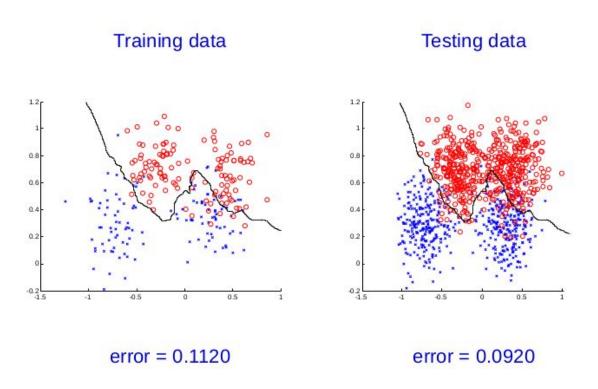
- Assume that the training examples are drawn independently from the set of all possible examples.
- This makes it very unlikely that a strong regularity in the training data will be absent in the test data.











# Properties and training

#### As K increases:

- Classification boundary becomes smoother
- Training error can increase

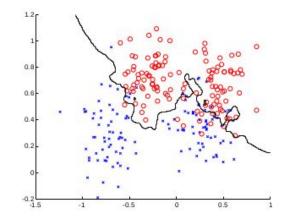
### Choose (learn) K by cross-validation

- 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.

