Non Parametric Models

An Introduction:
Histogram, Parzen Window and K-Nearest Neighbor

Dr Muhammad Sarim

Contents

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- Density estimation with parametric models assumes that the forms of the underlying density functions are known.
- However, common parametric forms do not always fit the densities actually encountered in practice.
- In addition, most of the classical parametric densities are unimodal, whereas many practical problems involve multimodal densities.
- Non-parametric methods can be used with arbitrary distributions and without the assumption that the forms of the underlying densities are known.

Non-Parametric Density Estimation

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- The expected value of k is $E[k] = nP$ and the MLE for P is $\hat{P} = \frac{k}{n}$.

Non-Parametric Density Estimation

- If we assume that $p(\mathbf{x})$ is continuous and $\mathcal{R}$ is small enough so that $p(\mathbf{x})$ does not vary significantly in it, we can get the approximation

$$\int_{\mathcal{R}} p(\mathbf{x}')d\mathbf{x}' \simeq p(\mathbf{x})V$$

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- Then, the density estimate becomes

$$p(\mathbf{x}) \simeq \frac{k/n}{V}$$

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- Let n be the number of samples used, $\mathcal{R}_n$ be the region used with n samples, V_n be the volume of $\mathcal{R}_n$, k_n be the number of samples falling in $\mathcal{R}_n$, and $p_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{k_n/n}{V_n}$ be the estimate for $p(\mathbf{x})$.

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- If $p_n(\mathbf{x})$ is to converge to $p(\mathbf{x})$, three conditions are required:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} V_n = 0$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} k_n = \infty$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{k_n}{n} = 0$$

Contents

Histogram Method

- A very simple method is to partition the space into a number of equally-sized cells (bins) and compute a histogram.

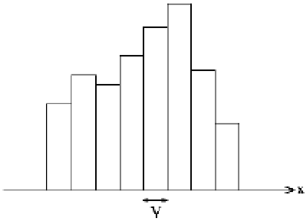

Figure: Histogram in one dimension.

- The estimate of the density at a point x becomes

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{k}{nV}$$

where n is the total number of samples, k is the number of samples in the cell that includes $\mathbf{x}$, and V is the volume of that cell.

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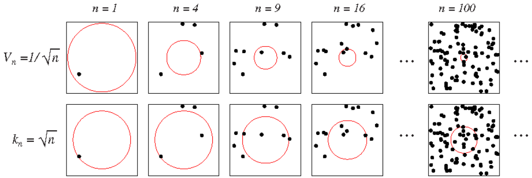

Figure: Two common methods for estimating the density at a point, here at the center of each square.

Contents

Parzen Windows

- Suppose that φ is a d-dimensional window function that satisfies the properties of a density function, i.e.,

$$\varphi(\mathbf{u}) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int \varphi(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u} = 1$$

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- A density estimate can be obtained as

$$p_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{V_n} \varphi\left(\frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_i}}{h_n}\right)$$

where h_n is the window width and $V_n = h_n^d$.

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- The density estimate can also be written as

$$p_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\delta_n(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x_i}) \quad \text{where} \quad \delta_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{V_n}\varphi\left(\frac{\mathbf{x}}{h_n}\right)$$

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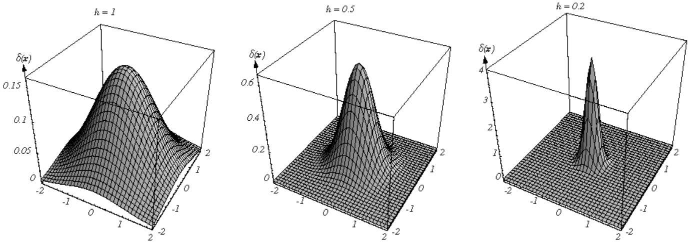

Figure: Examples of two-dimensional circularly symmetric Parzen windows for three different values of h_n. The value of h_n affects both the amplitude and the width of $\delta_n(\mathbf{x})$.

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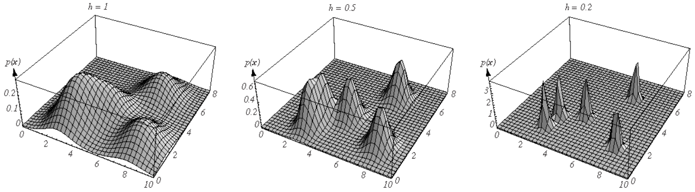

Figure: Parzen window density estimates based on the same set of five samples using the window functions in the previous figure.

Parzen Windows

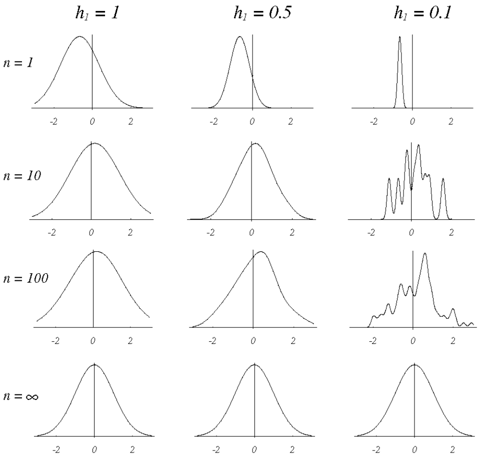

Figure: Parzen window estimates of a univariate Gaussian density using different window widths and numbers of samples where $\varphi(u) = N(0, 1)$ and $h_n = h_1/\sqrt{n}$.

Parzen Windows

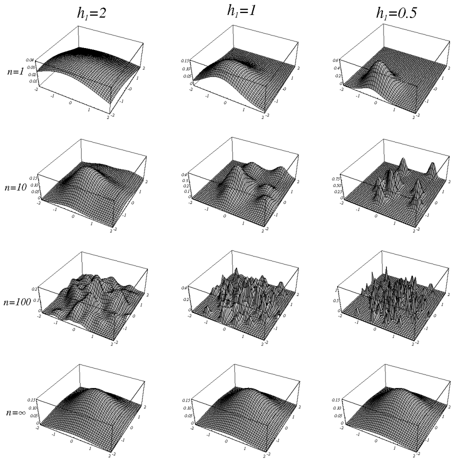

Figure: Parzen window estimates of a bivariate Gaussian density using different window widths and numbers of samples where $\varphi(\mathbf{u}) = N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ and $h_n = h_1/\sqrt{n}$.

Parzen Windows

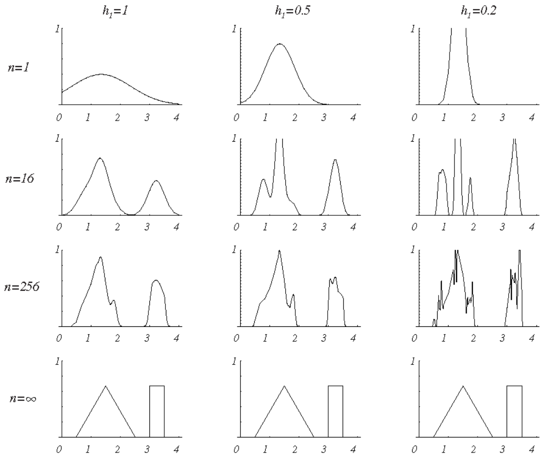

Figure: Estimates of a mixture of a uniform and a triangle density using different window widths and numbers of samples where $\varphi(\mathbf{u}) = N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ and $h_n = h_1/\sqrt{n}$.

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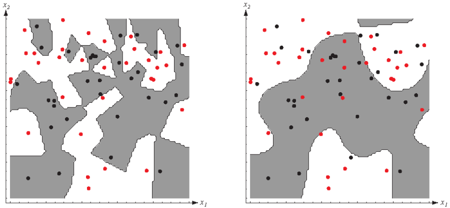

Figure: Decision boundaries in 2-D. The left figure uses a small window width and the right figure uses a larger window width.

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K-Nearest Neighbors

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- If the density is high near $\mathbf{x}$, the volume will be relatively small. If the density is low, the volume will grow large.

K-Nearest Neighbors

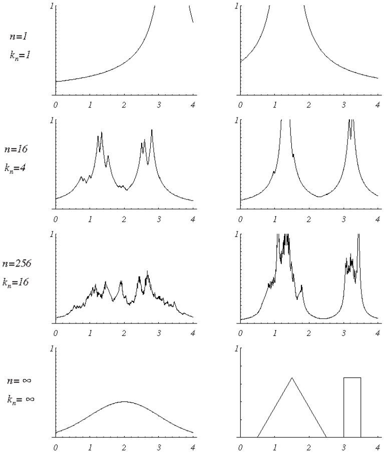

Figure: k-nearest neighbor estimates of two 1-D densities: a Gaussian and a bimodal distribution.

Minimum-Error-Rate Classification

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- Suppose that a volume V around $\mathbf{x}$ includes k samples, k_i of which are labeled as belonging to class w_i.
- As estimate for the joint probability $p(\mathbf{x}, w_i)$ becomes

$$p_n(\mathbf{x}, w_i) = \frac{k_i/n}{V}$$

and gives an estimate for the posterior probability

$$P_n(w_i|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p_n(\mathbf{x}, w_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{c} p_n(\mathbf{x}, w_j)} = \frac{k_i}{k}$$

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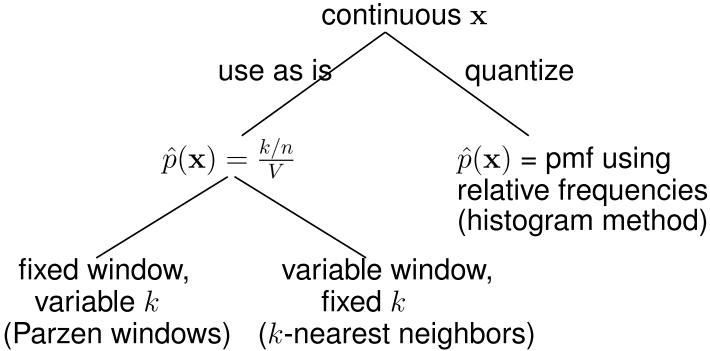
Non-Parametric Models Summary



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  - There may be severe requirements for computation time and storage.

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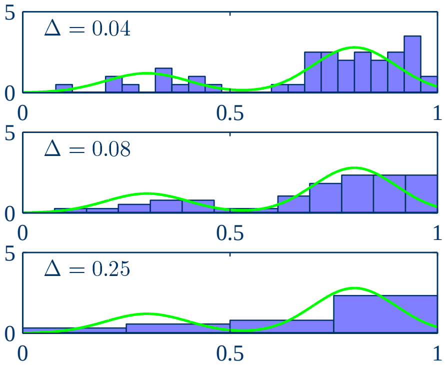

Figure 10: An illustration of the histogram approach to density estimation, in which a data set of 50 points is generated from the distribution shown by the green curve. Histogram density estimates are shown for various values of the cell volume (Δ).

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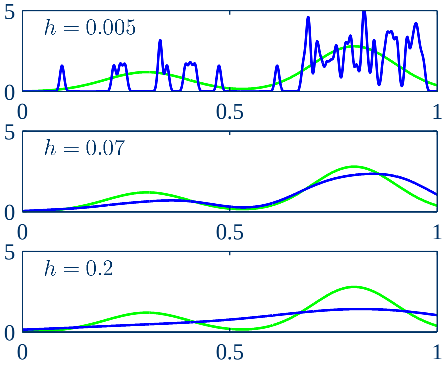

Figure 11: Illustration of the Parzen density model. The window width (h) acts as a smoothing parameter. If it is set too small (top), the result is a very noisy density model. If it is set too large (bottom), the bimodal nature of the underlying distribution is washed out. An intermediate value (middle) gives a good estimate.

Non-Parametric Models Summary

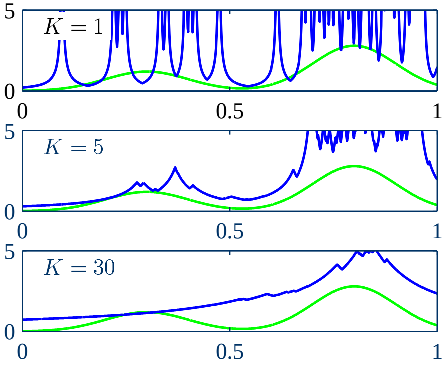

Figure 12: Illustration of the k-nearest neighbor density model. The parameter k governs the degree of smoothing. A small value of k (top) leads to a very noisy density model. A large value (bottom) smoothes out the bimodal nature of the true distribution.

Non-Parametric Models Summary

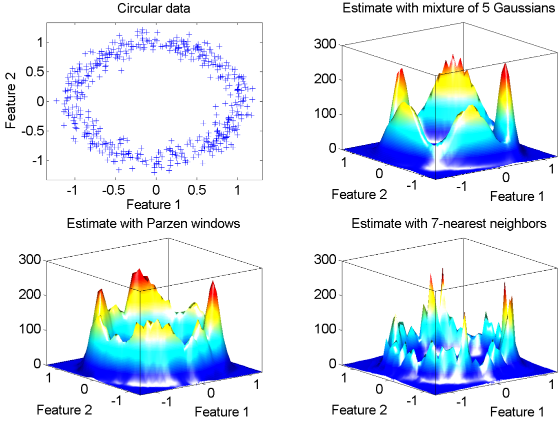

Figure 13: Density estimation examples for 2-D circular data.

Non-Parametric Models Summary

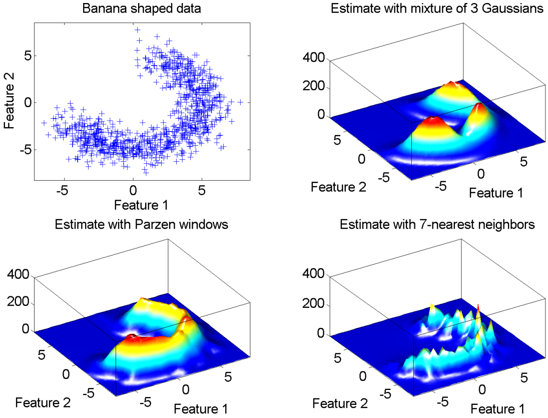

Figure 14: Density estimation examples for 2-D banana shaped data.