

1 Introduction

In the last few chapters, we have tried to develop a model to estimate the product cost. There are two main problems that can hinder the estimator to achieve a high performance, namely, presence of **outliers** and **novelty**. These two concepts prevent the model to make a good estimation either by deceiving or by not appropriately extrapolating to the new data points. What an outlier and a novelty datapoints have in common is that both deviate substantially from the statistic metrics of the dataset.

2 Definition: Outliers vs. Novelty

Study last three papers and sklearn documentation

Notice that the target value of outliers is a random number in the same expected range. This is a sensible assumption, otherwise if the target has a same form of functionality of the features, even out of range, lead to the same trained model.

1. Add a formal definition for outlier and novelty.
2. Make few actual or fictitious, relevant or irrelevant examples from industry.
3. How these two concepts are different from theoretical and practical perspective?

Here we identify two specific forms of outliers:

1. Outliers are uniformly distributed in range of inliers
2. Outliers are isolated in the feature space

3 Approaches

Here we take two main approaches toward the problem. (i) **Supervised** and (ii) **Unsupervised** methods.

4 Unsupervised Approaches

What are the advantages?

4.1 Simple statistical tools

Comparing the distance of data point to the center of data and variation of data.

4.2

Extend the idea from previous section for a non-unimodal data distribution. In such cases the previous recipe fails. What we can do is to compare the distance with the local density.

The local density is determined by **KNN**

4.3 Isolation Forest

Outliers have shorter tree branch length compare to the outliers

5 Supervised

5.1 Robust Regression on clustered data

The approach that we present in this section is to build a robust regression by mean of clustering. The process starts by applying a *proper* clustering method (number of cluster is large to make sure that the elbow criteria is passed). Two different outcomes are expected:

1. There are few clusters that contain the majority of data.
2. Dataset is distributed among clusters almost uniformly.

If the outcome 1 happens, the regression model of interest will be trained on the sorted clusters based on their population from large to small. The test error will be measured every time a new cluster is added to the training dataset. The accumulated clusters with minimum generalization error will be the final dataset to train a regression model.

If the outcome 2 happens, then there would be no preference among the clusters. The best course of action would be similar to *cross validation* by taking one cluster out and train on the rests. The best model can be reached either by taking average (need to be spific, if it is a decision tree based model the average of models does not mean anything), or exclude the cluster that when it is added to the training dataset increase the generalization error dramatically.

5.2 Curse of Dimensionality

When the number of features is too large, the clustering method lose its reliability.

5.3 Algorithm

- Clustering with large number of clusters
- Apply clustering, make sure you pass elbow criteria.
- Sort cluster based on their population.

- Start training from high population accumulatively.
- Measure generalization error.
- Plot error againsts clusters.

6 Summary

References

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