Classification: KNN vs. LS

Mingliang Wang

1 KNN and LS for classification

Compare the classification performance of linear regression and k nearest neighbor classification on the zipcode data. In particular, we consider only the category 2's and 3's. For KNN, we studied the cases that k = 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15. Show both the training and test error for each choice. The least square (LS) method make a decision like this: if prediction > 2.5, class = 3, else class = 2.

2 Data description

The data is stored in a file named "zipdata". For training data, every column stands for a covariate and "%" stands for the response in train%.txt; for the test data set, the first column stands for the response and other columns stands for covariates. A part of the training data is given in Figure 1.

3 Results

The KNN and LS are implemented using R and the script is given in "KNNvsLS.R". The results are plot in Figure 2 in which the training and testing errors for both methods are presented. The training error of KNN increase with k and so as the classification error. In addition, KNN performance better than the LS at all k values in testing. So we would prefer the KNN for the classification.

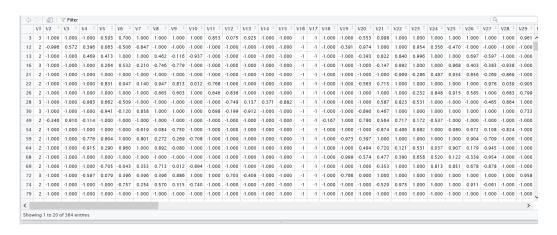


Figure 1: zipdata description

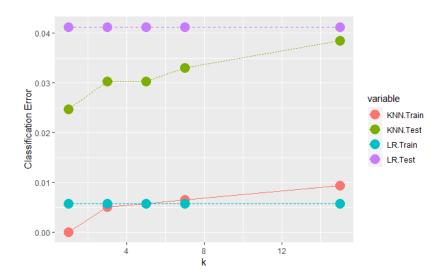


Figure 2: Classification error for KNN and LS