Prediction

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What Is Prediction?

- (Numerical) prediction is similar to classification
  - construct a model
  - use model to predict continuous or ordered value for a given input
- Prediction is different from classification
  - Classification refers to predict categorical class label
  - Prediction models continuous-valued functions
- Major method for prediction: regression
  - model the relationship between one or more *independent* or **predictor** variables and a *dependent* or **response** variable
- Regression analysis
  - Linear and multiple regression
  - Non-linear regression
  - Other regression methods: generalized linear model, Poisson regression, log-linear models, regression trees

Linear Regression

- Linear regression: involves a response variable y and a single predictor variable x

  $y = w_0 + w_1 x$

  where w_0 (y-intercept) and w_1 (slope) are regression coefficients

- Method of least squares: estimates the best-fitting straight line

$$w_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{|D|} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^{|D|} (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \qquad w_0 = \bar{y} - w_1 \bar{x}$$

- Multiple linear regression: involves more than one predictor variable
  - Training data is of the form $(\mathbf{X_1}, y_1), (\mathbf{X_2}, y_2), \ldots, (\mathbf{X_{|D|}}, y_{|D|})$
  - Ex. For 2-D data, we may have: $y = w_0 + w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2$
  - Solvable by extension of least square method or using SAS, S-Plus
  - Many nonlinear functions can be transformed into the above

Nonlinear Regression

- Some nonlinear models can be modeled by a polynomial function
- A polynomial regression model can be transformed into linear regression model. For example,

  $$y = w_0 + w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + w_3 x^3$$

  convertible to linear with new variables: $x_2 = x^2$, $x_3 = x^3$

  $$y = w_0 + w_1 x + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_3$$

- Other functions, such as power function, can also be transformed to linear model
- Some models are intractable nonlinear (e.g., sum of exponential terms)
  - possible to obtain least square estimates through extensive calculation on more complex formulae

Other Regression-Based Models

- Generalized linear model:
  - Foundation on which linear regression can be applied to modeling categorical response variables
  - Variance of y is a function of the mean value of y, not a constant
  - Logistic regression: models the prob. of some event occurring as a linear function of a set of predictor variables
  - Poisson regression: models the data that exhibit a Poisson distribution
- Log-linear models: (for categorical data)
  - Approximate discrete multidimensional prob. distributions
  - Also useful for data compression and smoothing
- Regression trees and model trees
  - Trees to predict continuous values rather than class labels

Regression Trees and Model Trees

- Regression tree: proposed in CART system (Breiman et al. 1984)
  - CART: Classification And Regression Trees
  - Each leaf stores a *continuous-valued prediction*
  - It is the *average value of the predicted attribute* for the training tuples that reach the leaf
- Model tree: proposed by Quinlan (1992)
  - Each leaf holds a regression model—a multivariate linear equation for the predicted attribute
  - A more general case than regression tree
- Regression and model trees tend to be more accurate than linear regression when the data are not represented well by a simple linear model

Predictive Modeling in Multidimensional Databases

- Predictive modeling: Predict data values or construct generalized linear models based on the database data
- One can only predict value ranges or category distributions
- Method outline:
  - Minimal generalization
  - Attribute relevance analysis
  - Generalized linear model construction
  - Prediction
- Determine the major factors which influence the prediction
  - Data relevance analysis: uncertainty measurement, entropy analysis, expert judgement, etc.
- Multi-level prediction: drill-down and roll-up analysis