

Performance analysis for L₂ kernel classification

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Abstract

We provide statistical performance guarantees for a recently introduced kernel classifier that optimizes the L₂ or integrated squared error (ISE) of a difference of densities. The classifier is similar to a support vector machine (SVM) in that it is the solution of a quadratic program and yields a sparse classifier. Unlike SVMs, however, the L₂ kernel classifier does not involve a regularization parameter. We prove a distribution free concentration inequality for a cross-validation based estimate of the ISE, and apply this result to deduce an oracle inequality and consistency of the classifier on the sense of both ISE and probability of error. Our results can also be specialized to give performance guarantees for an existing method of L₂ kernel density estimation.

1 Paper Body

In the binary classification problem we are given realizations $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ of a jointly distributed pair (X, Y) , where $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is a pattern and $Y \in \{-1, +1\}$ is a class label. The goal of classification is to build a classifier, i.e., a function taking X as input and outputting a label, such that some measure of performance is optimized. Kernel classifiers [1] are an important family of classifiers that have drawn much recent attention for their ability to represent nonlinear decision boundaries and to scale well with increasing dimension d . A kernel classifier (without offset) has the form
$$g(x) = \text{sign} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i)$$

where y_i are parameters and k is a kernel function. For example, support vector machines (SVMs) without offset have this form [2], as does the standard kernel density estimate (KDE) plug-in rule. Recently Kim and Scott [3] introduced an L₂ or integrated squared error (ISE) criterion to design the coefficients y_i of a kernel classifier with Gaussian kernel. Their L₂ classifier performs comparably to existing kernel methods while possessing a number of desirable properties. Like the SVM, L₂ kernel classifiers are the solutions of convex quadratic programs that can be solved efficiently using standard decomposition algorithms. In addition, the classifiers are sparse, meaning most of the coefficients $y_i = 0$,

which has advantages for representation and evaluation efficiency. Unlike the SVM, however, there are no free parameters to be set by the user except the kernel bandwidth parameter. In this paper we develop statistical performance guarantees for the L2 kernel classifier introduced in [3]. The linchpin of our analysis is a new concentration inequality bounding the deviation of a cross-validation based ISE estimate from the true ISE. This bound is then applied to prove an oracle inequality and consistency in both ISE and probability of error. In addition, as a special case of ?

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our analysis, we are able to deduce performance guarantees for the method of L2 kernel density estimation described in [4, 5]. The ISE criterion has a long history in the literature on bandwidth selection for kernel density estimation [6] and more recently in parametric estimation [7]. The use of ISE for optimizing the weights of a KDE via quadratic programming was first described in [4] and later rediscovered in [5]. In [8], an ‘1 penalized ISE criterion was used to aggregate a finite number of pre-determined densities. Linear and convex aggregation of densities, based on an L2 criterion, are studied in [9], where the densities are based on a finite dictionary or an independent sample. In contrast, our proposed method allows data-adaptive kernels, and does not require and independent (holdout) sample. In classification, some connections relating SVMs and ISE are made in [10], although no new algorithms are proposed. Finally, the ?difference of densities? perspective has been applied to classification in other settings by [11], [12], and [13]. In [11] and [13], a difference of densities are used to find smoothing parameters or kernel bandwidths. In [12], conditional densities are chosen among a parameterized set of densities to maximize the average (bounded) density differences. Section 2 reviews the L2 kernel classifier, and presents a slight modification needed for our analysis. Our results are presented in Section 3. Conclusions are offered in the final section, and proofs are gathered in an appendix.

2

L2 Kernel Classification

We review the previous work of Kim & Scott [3] and introduce an important modification. For convenience, we relabel Y so that it belongs to $\{1, ??\}$ and denote $I_+ = \{i \mid Y_i = +1\}$ and $I_- = \{i \mid Y_i = ??\}$. Let $f_-(x)$ and $f_+(x)$ denote the class-conditional densities of the pattern given the label. From decision theory, the optimal classifier has the form $g_*(x) = \text{sign} \{f_+(x) - f_-(x)\}$,

(1)

where γ incorporates prior class probabilities and class-conditional error costs (in the Bayesian setting) or a desired tradeoff between false positives and false negatives [14]. Denote the ?difference of densities? $d_*(x) := f_+(x) - f_-(x)$. The class-conditional densities are modelled using the Gaussian kernel as $f_{i+}(x; \gamma) = \gamma \int k(x, X_i) dP_{i+}$, $f_{i-}(x; \gamma) = \gamma \int k(x, X_i) dP_{i-}$

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with constraints $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathcal{A}$ where $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$, $y_i = y_i = 1$, $\mathbf{A} =$

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y} \\ & y_i \geq 0 \\ & \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y} \end{aligned}$$

The Gaussian kernel is defined as

$$k(x, x_i) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|x - x_i\|^2\right)$$

The ISE associated with \mathbf{y} is

$$\text{ISE}(\mathbf{y}) = \int \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) \right)^2 dx - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i \int k(x, x_i) dx \right)^2$$

Since we do not know the true $d^*(x)$, we need to estimate the second term in the above equation $\int d^*(x) dx$ by $\hat{H}_n(\mathbf{y})$ which will be explained in detail in Section 2.1. Then, the empirical ISE is $\int \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) \right)^2 dx - 2 \hat{H}_n(\mathbf{y}) + \int d^*(x) dx$. ISE 2

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{b} \text{ is defined as } \mathbf{b} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \text{ISE}(\mathbf{b}) \\ & \text{and the final classifier will be} \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{g}(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \hat{f}(x) \geq 0 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) - \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b}$$

Estimation of $H(\mathbf{y})$

In this section, we propose a method of estimating $H(\mathbf{y})$ in (2). The basic idea is to view $H(\mathbf{y})$ as an expectation and estimate it using a sample average. In [3], the resubstitution estimator for $H(\mathbf{y})$ was used. However, since this estimator is biased, we use a leave-one-out cross-validation (LOOCV) estimator, which is unbiased and facilitates our theoretical analysis. Note that the difference of densities can be expressed as $n \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) = f_+(x) - f_-(x)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Then,} \\ & H(\mathbf{y}) = \int \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) \right)^2 dx \\ & = \int \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) f_+(x) dx \\ & = \int \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) f_-(x) dx \\ & = \int \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) f_+(x) dx \\ & = \int \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) f_-(x) dx \\ & = \int \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) f_+(x) dx \\ & = \int \sum_{i=1}^n y_i k(x, x_i) f_-(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n h(X_i), \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) f_+(x) dx - \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) f_-(x) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

We estimate each $h(X_i)$ in (5) for $i = 1, \dots, n$ using leave-one-out cross-validation. Let $X_{-i} = \{X_j\}_{j \neq i}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $N_+ = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{\{Y_j = 1\}}$ and $N_- = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{\{Y_j = -1\}}$. Then, the estimate of H_n in (5) is $H_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{h}_i$ where $\hat{h}_i = \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) \hat{f}_i(x) dx$.

Optimization

The optimization problem (4) can be formulated as a quadratic program. The first term in (3) is $\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) f(x) dx = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{\{Y_j = 1\}} f(x) dx$.

$$\begin{aligned} & = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) k(x, X_j) dx \\ & = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) k(x, X_j) dx = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) k(x, X_j) dx \end{aligned}$$

by the convolution theorem for Gaussian kernels [15]. As we have seen in Section 2.1, the second term H_n in (3) is linear in f and can be expressed as $\sum_{i=1}^n c_i f(X_i)$ where $c_i = \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) f(x) dx$. Finally, since the third term does not depend on f , the optimization problem (4) becomes the following quadratic program (QP) $\min_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\mathcal{X}} k(x, X_i) k(x, X_j) dx + \sum_{i=1}^n c_i f(X_i)$. The QP (6) is similar to the dual QP of the 2-norm SVM with hinge loss [2] and can be solved by a variant of the Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO) algorithm [3].

3

Statistical performance analysis

In this section, we give theoretical performance analysis on our proposed method. We assume that $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^{N_+}$ and $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^{N_-}$ are i.i.d samples from $f_+(x)$ and $f_-(x)$, respectively, and treat N_+ and N_- as deterministic variables n_+ and n_- such that $n_+ + n_- = n$. 3.1

Concentration inequality for H_n

Lemma 1. Conditioned on X_i , \hat{h}_i is an unbiased estimator of $h(X_i)$, i.e., $\mathbb{E}[\hat{h}_i] = h(X_i)$. Furthermore, for any $\epsilon > 0$, $\mathbb{P}(\sum_{i=1}^n |\hat{h}_i - h(X_i)| \geq \epsilon) \leq 2e^{-\frac{\epsilon^2}{4n}} + e^{-\frac{\epsilon^2}{4n}}$ where $c = 2$.

Lemma 1 implies that $H_n \approx H$ almost surely for all n . A simultaneously, provided that n_+ , n_- , and n evolve as functions of n such that $n_+ \geq 2d/\ln n$ and $n_- \geq 2d/\ln n$. 3.2

Oracle Inequality

Next, we establish an oracle inequality, which relates the performance of our estimator to that of the best possible kernel classifier. Theorem 1. Let

$\epsilon > 0$ and set $\epsilon = \epsilon(n) = 2n^{-c} + e^{-c(n-1)}$ where $c = 2d/4 + (1+\epsilon)$. Then, with probability at least $1 - 2\epsilon$, $b \leq \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \text{ISE}(x) + 4\epsilon$. \square Proof. From Lemma 1, with probability at least $1 - 2\epsilon$, $\text{ISE}(x) \leq 2\epsilon + \text{ISE}(x) + \text{ISE}(x)$.

$d(x) = 2(H_n(x) - H(x))$. Then, with probability at least $1 - \epsilon$, by using the fact $\text{ISE}(x) \leq \text{ISE}(x)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{X}$, we have $d(x) \leq d(x) + 2\epsilon + \text{ISE}(x) + 4\epsilon$. $b \leq \text{ISE}(b) + 2\epsilon + \text{ISE}(b) \leq \text{ISE}(b) + 4\epsilon$. This proves the theorem. where the second inequality holds from the definition of ϵ . \square

ISE consistency

b converges to zero in probability. Next, we have a theorem stating that $\text{ISE}(x)$ Theorem 2. Suppose that for $f = f_+$ and f_- , the Hessian $H_f(x)$ exists and each entry of $H_f(x)$ is piecewise continuous and square integrable. If ϵ , n_+ , and n_- evolve as functions of n such that $b \rightarrow 0$ in probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, $n_+ \rightarrow 2d / \ln n$, and $n_- \rightarrow 2d / \ln n$, then $\text{ISE}(x)$. This result intuitively follows from the oracle inequality since the standard Parzen window density estimate is consistent and uniform weights are among the simplex \mathcal{A} . The rigorous proof is omitted due to space limitations. \square

3.4

Bayes Error Consistency

In classification, we are ultimately interested in minimizing the probability of error. Let us now assume $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is an i.i.d sample from $f(x) = p f_+(x) + (1-p) f_-(x)$, where $0 \leq p \leq 1$ is the prior probability of the positive class. The consistency with respect to the probability of error could be easily shown if we set ϵ to $\epsilon = 1/p$ and apply Theorem 3 in [17]. However, since p is unknown, we must estimate p . Note that N_+ and N_- are binomial random variables, and we may estimate p as $\hat{p} = N_+/N$. The next theorem says the L2 kernel classifier is consistent with respect to the probability of error. Theorem 3. Suppose that the assumptions in Theorem 2 are satisfied. In addition, suppose that $f \in L_2(\mathcal{R})$, i.e. $\|f\|_{L_2} < \infty$. Let $\hat{p} = N_+/N$ be an estimate of $p = 1/p$. If ϵ evolves as $2d$ a function of n such that $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ and $n/\ln n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then the L2 kernel classifier is consistent. In other words, given training data $D_n = ((X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n))$, the classification error $\mathbb{E} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(Y_i - \hat{Y}_i) / n$ converges to the Bayes error L^* in probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The proof is given in Appendix A.2. \square

Application to density estimation

By setting $\epsilon = 0$, our goal becomes estimating f_+ and we recover the L2 kernel density estimate of [4, 5] using leave-one-out cross-validation. Given an i.i.d sample X_1, \dots, X_n from $f(x)$, the L2 kernel density estimate of $f(x)$ is defined as $b = \hat{f}_b(x; \epsilon)$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n b_i k(x, X_i)$$

$$i=1$$

$$\text{with } b_i \text{'s optimized such that } b = \arg \min_{b_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(b_i, X_i)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \ell(b_i, X_i)$$

$$2$$

[illegible]

$$\frac{2}{(1+\gamma)^2 M^2} + 2e^{2(n-\gamma)} \frac{2}{(1+\gamma)^2 M^2}$$

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(7)

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[illegible]

and ϵ . In the previous analyses, we have shown the convergence of $\text{ISE}(\epsilon)$ as deterministic n variables but now we turn to the case where these variables are random. Define an $n(1/p)$, $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$. For any $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$, event $D = N^+ \leq n^{1/2}$, $N^- \leq 2\epsilon n^{1/2}$ $\{ \text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon \}$ $\mathbb{P}(D) + \mathbb{P}(\text{ISE}(\epsilon) > \epsilon | D^c)$. The first term converges to 0 from the strong law of large numbers. Let define a set $S = \{ (n^+, n^-) : n^+ \leq n^{1/2}, n^- \leq 2\epsilon n^{1/2}, \text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon \}$. Then, $(n^+, n^-) \in S$ $\mathbb{P}(\text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon) = \mathbb{P}(\text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon | S) \mathbb{P}(S)$. $\mathbb{P}(S) = \mathbb{P}(N^+ \leq n^+, N^- \leq n^- | \text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon) = \mathbb{P}(\text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon | N^+ \leq n^+, N^- \leq n^-) \mathbb{P}(N^+ \leq n^+, N^- \leq n^-)$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{(n^+, n^-) \in S} \\ & \mathbb{P}(\text{ISE}(\epsilon) > \epsilon | N^+ \leq n^+, N^- \leq n^-) \mathbb{P}(\text{ISE}(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Provided that $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$ and $n \geq 2d / \ln n$, any pair $(n^+, n^-) \in S$ satisfies $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$, $n^+ \leq 2d / \ln n$, and $n^- \leq 2d / \ln n$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and thus the term in (8) converges to 0 from Theorem 2. This proves the theorem.

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