

Exercise of Supervised Learning: Multiclass Classification

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Exercise 4: Multiclass Hinge Loss

Consider the multiclass classification scenario consisting of a feature space \mathcal{X} and a label space $\mathcal{Y} = \{1, \dots, g\}$ with $g \geq 2$ classes. Moreover, we consider the hypothesis space of models based on g discriminant/scoring functions:

$$\mathcal{H} = \{f = (f_1, \dots, f_g)^T : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^g \mid f_k : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \forall k \in \mathcal{Y}\}.$$

A model f in \mathcal{H} is used to make a prediction by means of transforming the scores into classes by choosing the class with the maximum score:

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \max_{k \in \{1, \dots, g\}} f_k(\mathbf{x}). \quad (1)$$

The multiclass hinge loss is defined by

$$L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = \max_k (f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{1}_{y \neq k}). \quad \triangleright$$

(a) Show that 0-1-loss for a predictor h as in (1) based on a model $f \in \mathcal{H}$ is at most the multiclass hinge loss for f i.e.,

$$L_{0-1}(y, h(\mathbf{x})) = \mathbf{1}_{y \neq h(\mathbf{x})} \leq L(y, f(\mathbf{x})).$$

Solution to Question (a)

There are two cases: $y = \arg \max_k f_k(\mathbf{x})$ or $y \neq \arg \max_k f_k(\mathbf{x})$.

If $y = \arg \max_k f_k(\mathbf{x})$, the 0-1-loss is

$$L_{0-1}(y, h(\mathbf{x})) = 0$$

because $y = \arg \max_k f_k(\mathbf{x})$. That is, the prediction via argmax is correct.

Now we analyze $L(y, f(\mathbf{x}))$. We need to evaluate $f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + I_{y \neq k}$ for all $k \in [1, 2, \dots, g]$, then we take the maximal number. Note that for $k = y$, we have

$$f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + I_{y \neq k} = f_y(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 0 = 0$$

So, it means the max over all k -s yields 0 or some larger number. Formally,

$$\begin{aligned} L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) &= \max_k (f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + I_{y \neq k}) \\ &\geq f_y(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

So $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) \geq L_{0,1}(y, h(\mathbf{x}))$ holds.

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Solution to Question (a): Continued

If $y \neq \arg \max_k f_k(\mathbf{x})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) &= \max_k \underbrace{(f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}))}_{>0} + \underbrace{I_{y \neq k}}_{=1} \\ &> 1. \end{aligned}$$

The 0-1-loss is

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because $y \neq \arg \max_k f_k(x)$. That is, the prediction via argmax is incorrect. So $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) > L_{0,1}(y, h(\mathbf{x}))$.

Combining the two cases, we have proved that

$$L_{0-1}(y, h(\mathbf{x})) = I_{y \neq h(\mathbf{x})} \leq L(y, f(\mathbf{x})).$$

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Question (b)

(b) Verify that the multiclass hinge loss of $f \in \mathcal{H}$ on a data point $(\mathbf{x}, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ is bounded from above by $\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\}$. *Hint:* Note that this upper bound is sometimes referred to as the multiclass hinge loss.

Solution to Question (b)

Let's assume $k^* = \arg \max_k f_k(\mathbf{x})$. Note that k^* can be y or some other classes.

Case 1: If $k^* = y$, then $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 0 = 0$. So,
 $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) \leq \sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\}$. (Sum of non-neg. number is also non-neg.) So we have finished the proof for this case.

Case 2: If $k^* \neq y$, then $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1 > 1$. (Result from (a)).
So in this case, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) &= \underbrace{f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1}_{\geq 0} \\ &= \max\{0, f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

But our goal is to compare $L(y, f(\mathbf{x}))$ with $\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\}$. So we need to add more terms of other k with $k \neq k^*$. For other classes, we can apply the same fact that $\max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} \geq 0$, as $\max\{0, \cdot\}$ always gives a non-neg. number.

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Solution to Question (b): Continue

For Case 2 where $k^* \neq y$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) &= \underbrace{f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1}_{\geq 0} \\ &= \max\{0, f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1\} \\ &\leq \max\{0, f_{k^*}(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1\} + \underbrace{\max\{0, f_1(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1\} + \dots + \max\{0, f_g(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) + 1\}}_{\forall j \in \mathcal{Y} \text{ and } j \neq y \text{ and } j \neq k^*} \\ &= \sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} \end{aligned}$$

So, combining the two cases, $\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\}$ is an upper bound for $L(y, f(\mathbf{x}))$.

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So, combining the two cases, $\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\}$ is an upper bound for $L(y, f(\mathbf{x}))$.

Question (c)

In the case of binary classification, i.e., $g = 2$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \{-1, +1\}$, we use a single discriminant model $f(\mathbf{x}) = f_1(\mathbf{x}) - f_{-1}(\mathbf{x})$ based on two scoring functions: $f_1, f_{-1} : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for the prediction by means of $h(\mathbf{x}) = \text{sgn}(f(\mathbf{x}))$. Here, f_1 is the score for the positive class and f_{-1} is the score for the negative class. Show that the upper bound in (b) coincide with the binary hinge loss $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = \max\{0, 1 - yf(\mathbf{x})\}$.

Solution to Question (c)

Case 1: $y = +1$. In this case,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} &= \sum_{k \neq +1} \max\{0, f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_1(\mathbf{x}) + 1\} \\ &= \max\{0, \underbrace{f_{-1}(\mathbf{x}) - f_1(\mathbf{x})}_{:= -f(\mathbf{x})} + 1\} \\ &= \max\{0, 1 - f(\mathbf{x})\} \\ &= \max\{0, 1 - y \cdot f(\mathbf{x})\}\end{aligned}$$

So the equation holds in this case.

Solution to Question (c): Continued

Case 2: $y = -1$. In this case,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} &= \sum_{k \neq -1} \max\{0, f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_{-1}(\mathbf{x}) + 1\} \\ &= \max\{0, f_1(\mathbf{x}) - f_{-1}(\mathbf{x}) + 1\} \\ &= \max\{0, 1 + f(\mathbf{x})\} \\ &= \max\{0, 1 - y \cdot f(\mathbf{x})\}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it is proven that the equation holds in two cases.

Question (d)

Recall the statement of the lecture regarding the binary hinge loss:

“... the hinge loss only equals zero for a margin ≥ 1 encouraging confident (correct) predictions.”

Can we say something similar for the alternative multiclass hinge loss in (b)?

Hint: multiclass hinge loss: $\sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\}$, and all $\max\{0, \cdot\}$ terms are non-negative.

Solution to Question (d)

Yes, we can say that *it is only zero if all the $g - 1$ margins are greater than 1*.

- ▶ Margins: $m_{y,k}(\mathbf{x}) = f_y(\mathbf{x}) - f_k(\mathbf{x})$, where $k \in \mathcal{Y} \setminus \{y\}$.
- ▶ Mathematically: $m_{y,k}(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1 \ \forall k \neq y \Leftrightarrow \sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} = 0$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} m_{y,k}(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1 \ \forall k \neq y &\Rightarrow f_y(\mathbf{x}) - f_k(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1 \ \forall k \neq y \\ &\Rightarrow f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x}) \leq -1 \ \forall k \neq y \\ &\Rightarrow \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} = 0 \ \forall k \neq y \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_{k \neq y} \max\{0, 1 + f_k(\mathbf{x}) - f_y(\mathbf{x})\} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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Question (e) and Solution to (e)

Show the standard solution.