

Machine Learning: Homework Assignment 4
E4525 Spring 2018,
IEOR, Columbia University

Due: March 1st, 2019

1. **Bias-Variance For Density Estimation** Let's assume we have $x \in \mathbb{R}$ distributed with unknown probability density $p(x)$. We sample points x_i for $i = 1, \dots, N$ at random, and consider the following the Bernoulli random variable

$$s_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } |x_i - x_0| < \frac{h}{2} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

As discussed in class, the probability that $s_i = 1$ is given by

$$\theta = P(s_i = 1) = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} du p(x_0 + u). \quad (2)$$

Our sample estimate for the density $p(x_0)$ is given by

$$\hat{p}_h(x_0) = \frac{\hat{\theta}}{h} = \frac{\hat{N}_1}{hN} \quad (3)$$

where $\hat{N}_1 = \sum_i s_i$.

The average square error of our density estimate at point x_0 is

$$\mathcal{E}_h(x_0) = \mathbb{E}_D \left[\{\hat{p}_h(x_0) - p(x_0)\}^2 \right] = \{p(x) - \bar{p}_h(x_0)\}^2 + \text{Var} [\hat{p}]$$

where the expectation is taken over all possible data samples $D = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{p}_h(x_0) &= \mathbb{E}_D [\hat{p}_h(x_0)] \\ \text{Var} [\hat{p}_h(x_0)] &= \mathbb{E}_D \left[\{\hat{p}_h(x_0) - \bar{p}_h(x)\}^2 \right] \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Assuming that h is small, prove that, to leading order on h

(a)

$$\bar{p}_h(x_0) = p(x_0) + \frac{h^2}{24} \frac{d^2 p(x_0)}{dx^2} \quad (5)$$

Given equation 3 the expected value of \hat{p} is

$$\bar{p}_h(x_0) = \frac{\theta}{h} \quad (6)$$

expanding p in powers of u up to second order we find

$$p(x_0 + u) = p(x_0) + \frac{dp(x_0)}{dx}u + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2p(x_0)}{dx^2}u^2. \quad (7)$$

Integrating equation 2 we find

$$\theta = p(x_0)h + \frac{1}{3} \frac{d^2p(x_0)}{dx^2} \left(\frac{h}{2}\right)^3 \quad (8)$$

and, therefore,

$$\bar{p}_h(x_0) = p(x_0) + \frac{h^2}{24} \frac{d^2p(x_0)}{dx^2} \quad (9)$$

(b)

$$\text{Var}[\hat{p}_h(x_0)] = \frac{p(x_0)}{Nh} \quad (10)$$

From equation 3 we have that

$$\text{Var}[\hat{p}(x_0)] = \frac{\text{Var}[\hat{N}_1]}{N^2h^2} \quad (11)$$

because \hat{N}_1 is the sum of N independent Bernoulli variables, with $p(s_i = 1) = \theta$ we have that

$$\text{Var}[\hat{N}_1] = N\theta(1 - \theta) = Nh p(x_0) + O(h^2) \quad (12)$$

and, therefore, to leading order in h

$$\text{Var}[\hat{p}(x_0)] = \frac{p(x_0)}{Nh} \quad (13)$$

(c) that the average square error of the density estimate is

$$\mathcal{E}_h(x_0) = Ah^4 + \frac{B}{Nh} \quad (14)$$

for some coefficients A and B that do not depend on N or h .

[HINT] You don't need to worry about the precise expressions for A and B . Just show there are some coefficients that do not depend on N or h .

From the previous two exercises

$$\begin{aligned} p(x_0) - \bar{p}(x_0) &= \frac{1}{24} \frac{d^2 p(x_0)}{dx^2} h^2 \\ \text{Var}[\hat{p}(x_0)] &= \frac{p(x_0)}{Nh} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where

$$c = \frac{1}{24} \frac{d^2 p(x_0)}{dx^2}. \quad (16)$$

Therefore

$$\mathcal{E}_h(x_0) = \{p(x_0) - \bar{p}(x_0)\}^2 + \text{Var}[\hat{p}(x_0)] = Ah^4 + \frac{B}{Nh} \quad (17)$$

where $A = c^2$ and $B = p(x_0)$

(d) Show that the optimal h that minimizes $\mathcal{E}_h(x_0)$ is given by

$$\tilde{h} = FN^{-\frac{1}{5}} \quad (18)$$

for some constant F that does not depend on N .

The optimal h will satisfy

$$\frac{d\mathcal{E}_h(x_0)}{dh} = 0 = 4Ah^3 - \frac{B}{Nh^2} \quad (19)$$

solving for h we find

$$\tilde{h} = \left(\frac{B}{4A} \frac{1}{N} \right)^{\frac{1}{5}} = FN^{-\frac{1}{5}} \quad (20)$$

where

$$F = \left(\frac{B}{4A} \right)^{\frac{1}{5}} \quad (21)$$

(e) Show that the expected error at the optimal \tilde{h} is

$$\mathcal{E}_{\tilde{h}}(x_0) = N^{-\frac{4}{5}} \quad (22)$$

for some other constant H .

Substituting \tilde{h} from equation 18 into equation 14 we find

$$\mathcal{E}_{\tilde{h}}(x_0) = AF^4 N^{-\frac{4}{5}} + \frac{B}{F} \frac{1}{NN^{-\frac{1}{5}}} = HN^{-\frac{4}{5}} \quad (23)$$

where

$$H = AF^4 + \frac{B}{F} \quad (24)$$

2. Naive Bayes for Exponential Distribution Data

Let's assume

- $x \in \mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}_+^D$ so that, for each dimension $d = 1, \dots, D$, x_d is a positive real number $0 < x_d$.
- $y = 1, \dots, K$ is a categorical variable.
- **Naive Bayes Assumption:** conditional of the value of y , x_d and $x_{d'}$ are independent provided $d \neq d'$.
- Conditional on $y = k$, x_d has an exponential distribution

$$p(x_d|y = k) = \begin{cases} \lambda_{d,k} e^{-\lambda_{d,k} x_d} & \text{if } 0 < x_d \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

[HINT] Using the $z_{i,k}$ the one hot encoding of y_i will probably simplify some of the answers below

Given a data sample $\{y_i, x_{i,d}\}$ for $i = 1, \dots, N$ where samples are independent of each other:

- (a) Derive an expression for the maximum likelihood estimate for the parameter $\hat{\lambda}$ of the exponential distribution in terms of the data $\{x_i\}$, where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

The probability of observing x_i , given the parameter λ is

$$p(x_i; \lambda) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x_i} \quad (26)$$

Therefore the average log likelihood of the observations is

$$\hat{l}(\lambda; \{x_i\}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \log p(x_i; \lambda) = \log \lambda - \frac{\lambda}{N} \sum_i x_i \quad (27)$$

The maximum will satisfy the first order equation

$$\frac{\partial l}{\partial \lambda} = 0 = \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_i \quad (28)$$

solving for λ we find

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{N}{\sum_i x_i} \quad (29)$$

the inverse of the sample average of x_i .

- (b) Write the max likelihood estimate $\hat{\pi}_k$ for the marginal probability that $y = k$

y is a categorical variable, the max likelihood estimate of the probability is

$$\hat{\pi}_k = \frac{\hat{N}_k}{N} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i z_{i,k} \quad (30)$$

- (c) Using the Naive Bayes assumption find maximum likelihood estimates $\hat{\lambda}_{d,k}$ for the exponential distribution parameter of dimension d , and class k

Each dimension d is independent, so we can consider them separately. Given k , we only need to consider observations where $y_i = k$, the estimate for lambda is then

$$\hat{\lambda}_{d,k} = \frac{\hat{N}_k}{\sum_i x_{i,k} z_{i,k}} \quad (31)$$

- (d) Demonstrate that with the naive Bayes assumption the following equation is satisfied

$$p(y = k|x) = \frac{e^{\sum_d w_{d,k} x_d + b_k}}{\sum_{k'} e^{\sum_d w_{d,k'} x_d + b_{k'}}} \quad (32)$$

Write explicit expressions for $w_{d,k}$ and b_k in terms of $\hat{\lambda}_{d,k}$ and $\hat{\pi}_k$
Using Bayes Theorem

$$p(y = k|x) = \frac{p(x|y = k)p(y = k)}{\sum_{k'} p(x|y = k')p(y = k')} \quad (33)$$

where the max likelihood estimate of $p(y = k)$ is $\hat{\pi}_k$.

Using the Naive Bayes assumption we can write

$$p(x|y = k) = \prod_d p(x_d|y = k) = \prod_d \hat{\lambda}_{d,k} e^{-\hat{\lambda}_{d,k} x_d} \quad (34)$$

taking logs we can rewrite this as

$$p(x|y = k) = e^{\sum_d \log \hat{\lambda}_{d,k} - \hat{\lambda}_{d,k} x_d} \quad (35)$$

and therefore

$$p(y = k|x) = \frac{e^{\sum_d \log \lambda_{d,k} - \lambda_{d,k} x_d + \log \pi_k}}{\sum_{k'} e^{\sum_d \log \lambda_{d,k'} - \lambda_{d,k'} x_d + \log \pi_{k'}}} \quad (36)$$

therefore, if we define

$$\begin{aligned} w_{d,k} &= -\hat{\lambda}_{d,k} \\ b_k &= \log \pi_k + \sum_d \log \hat{\lambda}_{d,k} \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

we finally obtain

$$p(y = k|x) = \frac{e^{\sum_d w_{d,k} x_d + b_k}}{\sum_{k'} e^{\sum_d w_{d,k'} x_d + b_{k'}}} \quad (38)$$