Linear classification

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Classification

- value t to predict are from a discrete domain, where each value denotes a class
- most common case: disjoint classes, each input has to assigned to exactly one class
- input space is partitioned into decision regions
- in linear classification models decision boundaries are linear functions of input $\mathbf{x}$ ($D-1$-dimensional hyperplanes in the D-dimensional feature space)
- datasets such as classes correspond to regions which may be separated by linear decision boundaries are said linearly separable

Regression and classification

- Regression: the target variable $\mathbf{t}$ is a vector of reals
- Classification: several ways to represent classes (target variable values)
- Binary classification: a single variable $t \in \{0, 1\}$, where $t = 0$ denotes class C_0 and $t = 1$ denotes class C_1
- $K > 2$ classes: "1 of K" coding. $\mathbf{t}$ is a vector of K bits, such that for each class C_j all bits are 0 except the j-th one (which is 1)

Approaches to classification

Three general approaches to classification

1. find $f : \mathbf{X} \mapsto \{1, \ldots, K\}$ (discriminant function) which maps each input $\mathbf{x}$ to some class C_i, such that $i = f(\mathbf{x})$
2. discriminative approach: determine the conditional probabilities $p(C_j|\mathbf{x})$ (inference phase); use these distributions to assign an input to a class (decision phase)
3. generative approach: determine the class conditional distributions $p(\mathbf{x}|C_j)$, and the class prior probabilities $p(C_j)$; apply Bayes' formula to derive the class posterior probabilities $p(C_j|\mathbf{x})$; use these distributions to assign an input to a class

Discriminative approaches

- Approaches 1 and 2 are discriminative: they tackle the classification problem by deriving from the training set conditions (such as decision boundaries) that , when applied to a point, discriminate each class from the others
- The boundaries between regions are specified by discrimination functions

Generalized linear models

- In linear regression, a model predicts the target value; the prediction is made through a linear function $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0$ (linear basis functions could be applied)
- In classification, a model predicts probabilities of classes, that is values in $[0, 1]$; the prediction is made through a generalized linear model $y(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0)$, where f is a non linear activation function with codomain $[0, 1]$
- boundaries correspond to solution of $y(\mathbf{x}) = c$ for some constant c; this results into $w^T\mathbf{x} + w_0 = f^{-1}(c)$, that is a linear boundary. The inverse function f^{-1} is said link function.

Generative approaches

- Approach 3 is generative: it works by defining, from the training set, a model of items for each class
- The model is a probability distribution (of features conditioned by the class) and could be used for random generation of new items in the class
- By comparing an item to all models, it is possible to verify the one that best fits

Linear discriminant functions in binary classification

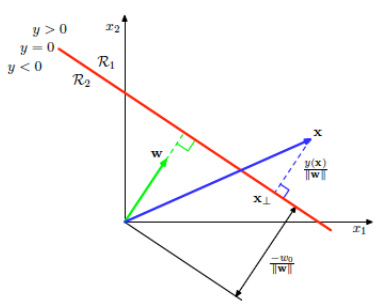
- Decision boundary: $D-1$-dimensional hyperplane of all points s.t. $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0 = 0$
- Given $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$ on the hyperplane, $y(\mathbf{x}_1) = y(\mathbf{x}_2) = 0$. Hence,

$$\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_1 + w_0 - \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_2 - w_0 = \mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2) = 0$$

  that is, vectors $\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2$ and $\mathbf{w}$ are orthogonal
- For any $\mathbf{x}$, the dot product $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}$ is the length of the projection of $\mathbf{x}$ in the direction of $\mathbf{w}$ (orthogonal to the hyperplane $\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0 = 0$), in multiples of $||\mathbf{w}||_2$
- By normalizing wrt to $||\mathbf{w}||_2 = \sqrt{\sum_i w_i^2}$, we get the length of the projection of $\mathbf{x}$ in the direction orthogonal to the hyperplane, assuming $||\mathbf{w}||_2 = 1$

Linear discriminant functions in binary classification

- For any $\mathbf{x}$, $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0$ returns the distance (in multiples of $||\mathbf{w}||$) of $\mathbf{x}$ from the hyperplane
- The sign of the returned value discriminates in which of the regions separated by the hyperplane the point lies



Linear discriminant functions in multiclass classification

- Define K linear functions

$$y_i(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}_i^T\mathbf{x} + w_{i0} \qquad\qquad 1 \leq i \leq K$$

  Item $\mathbf{x}$ is assigned to class C_k iff $y_k(\mathbf{x}) > y_j(\mathbf{x})$ for all $j \neq k$: that is,

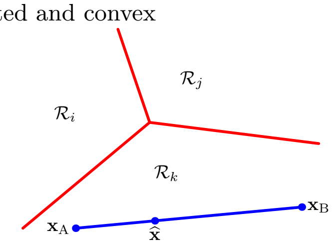
$$k = \operatorname*{argmax}_j y_j(\mathbf{x})$$

- Decision boundary between C_i and C_j: all points $\mathbf{x}$ s.t. $y_i(\mathbf{x}) = y_j(\mathbf{x})$, a $D-1$-dimensional hyperplane

$$(\mathbf{w}_i - \mathbf{w}_j)^T\mathbf{x} + (w_{i0} - w_{j0}) = 0$$

Linear discriminant functions in multiclass classification

The resulting decision regions are connected and convex



Generalized discriminant functions

- The definition can be extended to include terms relative to products of pairs of feature values (Quadratic discriminant functions)

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{D} w_i x_i + \sum_{i=1}^{D}\sum_{j=1}^{i} w_{ij} x_i x_j$$

  $\frac{d(d+1)}{2}$ additional parameters wrt the $d+1$ original ones: decision boundaries can be more complex

- In general, generalized discriminant functions through set of functions $\phi_i, \ldots, \phi_m$

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{M} w_i \phi_i(\mathbf{x})$$

Least squares and classification

- Assume classification with K classes
- Classes are represented through a 1-of-K coding scheme: set of variables $z_1, \ldots, z_K$, class C_i coded by values $z_i = 1$, $z_k = 0$ for $k \neq i$
- K discriminant functions y_i are derived as linear regression functions with variables z_i as targets
- To each variable z_i a discriminant function $y_i(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}_i^T\mathbf{x} + w_{i0}$ is associated: $\mathbf{x}$ is assigned to the class C_k s.t.

$$k = \operatorname*{argmax}_i y_i(\mathbf{x})$$

- Then, $z_k(\mathbf{x}) = 1$ and $z_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ $(j \neq k)$ if $k = \underset{i}{\operatorname{argmax}}\, y_i(\mathbf{x})$
- Group all parameters together as

$$\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{W}^T\overline{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} w_{10} & w_{11} & \cdots & w_{1D} \\ w_{20} & w_{21} & \cdots & w_{2D} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_{K0} & w_{K1} & \cdots & w_{KD} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_D \end{pmatrix}$$

- In general, a regression function provides an estimation of the target given the input $E[t|\mathbf{x}]$
- $y_i(\mathbf{x})$ can be seen as an estimate of the conditional expectation $E[z_i|\mathbf{x}]$ of binary variable z_i given $\mathbf{x}$
- If we assume z_i is distributed according to a Bernoulli distribution, the expectation corresponds to the posterior probability

$$\begin{aligned} y_i(\mathbf{x}) &\simeq E[z_i|\mathbf{x}] \\ &= P(z_i = 1|\mathbf{x}) \cdot 1 + P(z_i = 0|\mathbf{x}) \cdot 0 \\ &= P(z_i = 1|\mathbf{x}) \\ &= P(C_i|\mathbf{x}) \end{aligned}$$

- However, $y_i(\mathbf{x})$ is not a probability itself (we may not assume it takes value only in the interval $[0, 1]$)

Learning functions y_i

- Given a training set $\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{t}$, a regression function can be derived by least squares
- An item in the training set is a pair $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{t}_i)$, $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$ and $\mathbf{t}_i \in \{0, 1\}^K$
- $\overline{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times(D+1)}$ is the matrix of feature values for all items in the training set

$$\overline{\mathbf{X}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1D} \\ 1 & x_{21} & \cdots & x_{2D} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nD} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Then, for matrix $\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}$, of size $n \times K$, we have

$$(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W})_{ij} = w_{j0} + \sum_{k=1}^{D} x_{ik} w_{jk} = y_j(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

  which is the estimate of $p(C_j|\mathbf{x}_i)$

- $y_j(\mathbf{x}_i)$ is compared to item $\mathbf{T}_{ij}$ in the matrix $\mathbf{T}$, of size $n \times K$, of target values, where row i is the 1-of-K coding of the class of item $\mathbf{x}_i$

$$(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{T})_{ij} = y_j(\mathbf{x}_i) - t_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{D} x_{ik} w_{jk} + w_{j0} - t_{ij}$$

- Let us consider the diagonal items of $(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{T})^T(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{T})$. Then,

$$((\overline{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}} - \mathbf{T})^T(\overline{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}} - \mathbf{T}))_{jj} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_j(\mathbf{x}_i) - t_{ij})^2$$

  That is,

$$((\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{T})^T(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{T}))_{jj} = \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in C_j} (y_j(\mathbf{x}_i) - 1)^2 + \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \notin C_j} y_j(\mathbf{x}_i)^2$$

- Summing all elements on the diagonal of $(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{T})^T(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{T})$ provides the overall sum, on all items in the training set, of the squared differences between observed values and values computed by the model, with parameters $\mathbf{W}$, that is

$$\sum_{j=1}^{K}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(y_j(\mathbf{x}_i)-t_{ij})^2$$

- This corresponds to the trace of $(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{T})^T(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{T})$. Hence, we have to minimize:

$$E(\mathbf{W})=\frac{1}{2}\mathrm{tr}\Big((\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{T})^T(\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{T})\Big)$$

- Standard approach, solve

$$\frac{\partial E(\mathbf{W})}{\partial \mathbf{W}}=\mathbf{0}$$

- It is possible to show that

$$\frac{\partial E(\mathbf{W})}{\partial \mathbf{W}}=\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\mathbf{T}$$

- From $\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\overline{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{W}-\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\mathbf{T}=\mathbf{0}$ it results

$$\mathbf{W}=(\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\overline{\mathbf{X}})^{-1}\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\mathbf{T}$$

- and the set of discriminant functions

$$\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{W}^T\overline{\mathbf{x}}=\mathbf{T}^T\overline{\mathbf{X}}(\overline{\mathbf{X}}^T\overline{\mathbf{X}})^{-1}\overline{\mathbf{x}}$$

Fisher linear discriminant

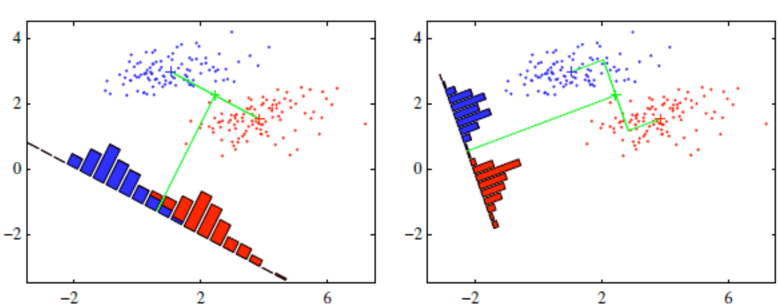
- The idea of *Linear Discriminant Analysis* (*LDA*) is to find a linear projection of the training set into a suitable subspace where classes are as linearly separated as possible

- A common approach is provided by Fisher linear discriminant, where all items in the training set (points in a D-dimensional space) are projected to one dimension, by means of a linear transformation of the type

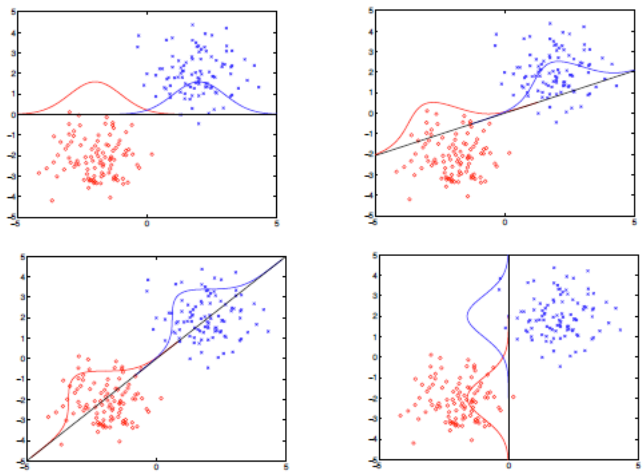
$$y=\mathbf{w}\cdot\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}$$

  where $\mathbf{w}$ is the D-dimensional vector corresponding to the direction of projection (in the following, we will consider the one with unit norm).

If $K=2$, given a threshold $\tilde{y}$, item $\mathbf{x}$ is assigned to C_1 iff its projection $y=\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}$ is such that $y>\tilde{y}$; otherwise, $\mathbf{x}$ is assigned to C_2.



Different line directions, that is different parameters $\mathbf{w}$, may induce quite different separability properties.



Deriving $\mathbf{w}$ in the binary case

Let n_1 be the number of items in the training set belonging to class C_1 and n_2 the number of items in class C_2. The mean points of both classes are

$$\mathbf{m}_1 = \frac{1}{n_1}\sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_1}\mathbf{x} \qquad \mathbf{m}_2 = \frac{1}{n_2}\sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_2}\mathbf{x}$$

A simple measure of the separation of classes, when the training set is projected onto a line, is the difference between the projections of their mean points

$$m_2 - m_1 = \mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)$$

where $m_i = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{m}_i$ is the projection of $\mathbf{m}_i$ onto the line.

- We wish to find a line direction $\mathbf{w}$ such that $m_2 - m_1$ is maximum
- $\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)$ can be made arbitrarily large by multiplying $\mathbf{w}$ by a suitable constant, at the same time maintaining the direction unchanged. To avoid this drawback, we consider unit vectors, introducing the constraint $||\mathbf{w}||_2 = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w} = 1$
- This results into the constrained optimization problem

$$\max_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)$$
$$\text{where } \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w} = 1$$

- This can be transformed into an equivalent unconstrained optimization problem by means of lagrangian multipliers

$$\max_{\mathbf{w},\lambda} \mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1) + \lambda(1 - \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w})$$

Setting the gradient of the function wrt $\mathbf{w}$ to $\mathbf{0}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1) + \lambda(1 - \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w})) = \mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1 + 2\lambda\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$$

results into

$$\mathbf{w} = \frac{\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1}{2\lambda}$$

Setting the derivative wrt λ to 0

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial\lambda}(\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1) + \lambda(1 - \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w})) = 1 - \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{w} = 0$$

results into

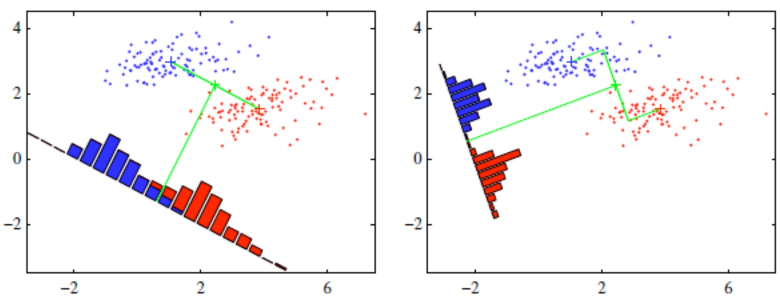
$$\lambda = \frac{\sqrt{(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)^T(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)}}{2} = \frac{||\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1||_2}{2}$$

Combining with the result for the gradient, we get

$$\mathbf{w} = \frac{\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1}{||\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1||_2}$$

The best direction $\mathbf{w}$ of the line, wrt the measure considered, is the one from $\mathbf{m}_1$ to $\mathbf{m}_2$.

However, this may result in a poor separation of classes.



Projections of classes are dispersed (high variance) along the direction of $\mathbf{m}_1 - \mathbf{m}_2$. This may result in a large overlap.

Deriving $\mathbf{w}$ in the binary case: refinement

- Choose directions s.t. classes projections show as little dispersion as possible
- Possible in the case that the amount of class dispersion changes wrt different directions, that is if the distribution of points in the class is elongated
- We wish then to maximize a function which:
  - is growing wrt the separation between the projected classes (for example, their mean points)
  - is decreasing wrt the dispersion of the projections of points of each class

- The within-class variance of the projection of class C_i $(i = 1, 2)$ is defined as

$$s_i^2 = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in C_i} (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} - m_i)^2$$

  The total within-class variance is defined as $s_1^2 + s_2^2$

- Given a direction $\mathbf{w}$, the Fisher criterion is the ratio between the (squared) class separation and the overall within-class variance, along that direction

$$J(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{(m_2 - m_1)^2}{s_1^2 + s_2^2}$$

- Indeed, $J(\mathbf{w})$ grows wrt class separation and decreases wrt within-class variance

Let $\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2$ be the within-class covariance matrices, defined as

$$\mathbf{S}_i = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in C_i} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m}_i)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m}_i)^T$$

Then,

$$s_i^2 = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in C_i} (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} - m_i)^2 = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{w}$$

Let also $\mathbf{S}_W = \mathbf{S}_1 + \mathbf{S}_2$ be the total within-class covariance matrix and

$$\mathbf{S}_B = (\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)^T$$

be the between-class covariance matrix.

Then,

$$J(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{(m_2 - m_1)^2}{s_1^2 + s_2^2} = \frac{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}}{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w}}$$

As usual, $J(\mathbf{w})$ is maximized wrt $\mathbf{w}$ by setting its gradient to $\mathbf{0}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} \frac{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}}{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{0}$$

which results into

$$(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w} - (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$$

that is

$$(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}$$

Observe that:

- $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}$ is a scalar, say c_B
- $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w}$is a scalar, say c_W
- $(\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)^T \mathbf{w}$ is a scalar, say c_m

Then, the condition $(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{S}_B \mathbf{w}$ can be written as

$$c_B \mathbf{S}_W \mathbf{w} = c_W (\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1) c_m$$

which results into

$$\mathbf{w} = \frac{c_W c_m}{c_B} \mathbf{S}_W^{-1} (\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)$$

Since we are interested into the direction of $\mathbf{w}$, that is in any vector proportional to $\mathbf{w}$, we may consider the solution

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{S}_W^{-1} (\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1) = (\mathbf{S}_1 + \mathbf{S}_2)^{-1} (\mathbf{m}_2 - \mathbf{m}_1)$$

Deriving $\mathbf{w}$ in the binary case: choosing a threshold

Possible approach:

- model $p(y|C_i)$ as a gaussian: derive mean and variance by maximum likelihood

$$m_i = \frac{1}{n_i}\sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_i} w^T\mathbf{x} \qquad \sigma_i^2 = \frac{1}{n_i - 1}\sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_i}(w^T\mathbf{x} - m_i)^2$$

  where n_i is the number of items in training set belonging to class C_i

- derive the class probabilities

$$p(C_i|y) \propto p(y|C_i)p(C_i) = p(y|C_i)\frac{n_i}{n_1 + n_2} \propto n_i e^{-\frac{(y-m_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}}$$

- the threshold $\tilde{y}$ can be derived as the minimum y such that

$$\frac{p(C_2|y)}{p(C_1|y)} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}\frac{p(y|C_2)}{p(y|C_1)} > 1$$

Perceptron

- Introduced in the '60s, at the basis of the neural network approach
- Simple model of a single neuron
- Hard to evaluate in terms of probability
- Works only in the case that classes are linearly separable

Definition

It corresponds to a binary classification model where an item $\mathbf{x}$ is classified on the basis of the sign of the value of the linear combination $\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}$. That is,

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x})$$

$f()$ is essentially the sign function

$$f(i) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } i < 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } i \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

The resulting model is a particular generalized linear model. A special case is the one when ϕ is the identity, that is $y(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x})$.

By the definition of the model, $y(\mathbf{x})$ can only be ± 1: we denote $y(\mathbf{x}) = 1$ as $\mathbf{x} \in C_1$ and $y(\mathbf{x}) = -1$ as $\mathbf{x} \in C_2$.

To each element $\mathbf{x}_i$ in the training set, a target value is then associated $t_i \in \{-1, 1\}$.

Cost function

- A natural definition of the cost function would be the number of misclassified elements in the training set
- This would result into a piecewise constant function and gradient optimization could not be applied (we would have zero gradient almost everywhere)
- A better choice is using a piecewise linear function as cost function

We would like to find a vector of parameters $\mathbf{w}$ such that, for any $\mathbf{x}_i$, $\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_i > 0$ if $\mathbf{x}_i \in C_1$ and $\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_i < 0$ if $\mathbf{x}_i \in C_2$: in short, $\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_i t_i > 0$.

Each element $\mathbf{x}_i$ provides a contribution to the cost function as follows

1. 0 if $\mathbf{x}_i$ is classified correctly by the model
2. $-\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_i t_i > 0$ if $\mathbf{x}_i$ is misclassified

Let $\mathcal{M}$ be the set of misclassified elements. Then the cost is

$$E_p(\mathbf{w}) = -\sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{M}} t_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}$$

The contribution of $\mathbf{x}_i$ to the cost is 0 if $\mathbf{x}_i \notin \mathcal{M}$ and it is a linear function of $\mathbf{w}$ otherwise

Gradient optimization

The minimum of $E_p(\mathbf{w})$ can be found through gradient descent

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{w}^{(k)} - \eta \frac{\partial E_p(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}}\Big|_{\mathbf{w}^{(k)}}$$

the gradient of the cost function wrt to $\mathbf{w}$ is

$$\frac{\partial E_p(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = -\sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbf{x}_i t_i$$

Then gradient descent can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{w}^{(k)} + \eta \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{M}_k} \mathbf{x}_i t_i$$

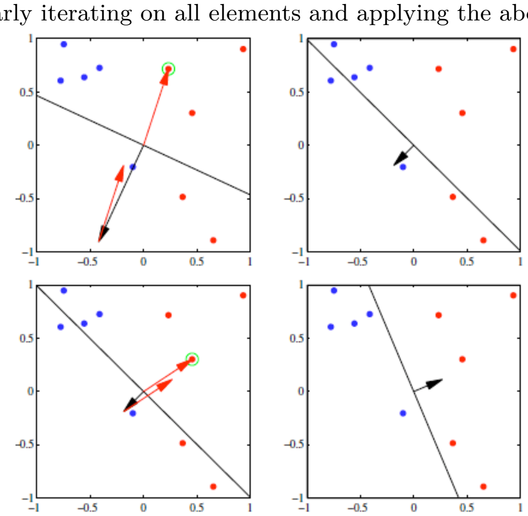
where $\mathcal{M}_k$ denotes the set of points misclassified by the model with parameter $\mathbf{w}^{(k)}$

Online (or stochastic gradient descent): at each step, only the gradient wrt a single item is considered

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{w}^{(k)} + \eta \mathbf{x}_i t_i$$

where $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{M}_k$ and the *scale factor* $\eta > 0$ controls the impact of a badly classified item on the cost function

The method works by circularly iterating on all elements and applying the above formula.



In black, decision boundary and corresponding parameter vector $\mathbf{w}$; in red misclassified item vector $\mathbf{x}_i$, added by the algorithm to the parameter vector as $\eta\mathbf{x}_i$

At each step, if $\mathbf{x}_i$ is well classified then $\mathbf{w}^{(k)}$ is unchanged; else, its contribution to the cost is modified as follows

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}^{(k+1)} t_i &= -\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}^{(k)} t_i - \eta (\mathbf{x}_i t_i)^T \mathbf{x}_i t_i \\ &= -\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}^{(k)} t_i - \eta ||\mathbf{x}_i||^2 \\ &< -\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}^{(k)} t_i \end{aligned}$$

This contribution is decreasing, however this does not guarantee the convergence of the method, since the cost function could increase due to some other element becoming misclassified if $\mathbf{w}^{(k+1)}$ is used

Perceptron convergence theorem

It is possible to prove that, in the case the classes are linearly separable, the algorithm converges to the correct solution in a finite number of steps.

Let $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$ be a solution (that is, it discriminates C_1 and C_2): if $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}$ is the element considered at iteration $(k+1)$ and it is misclassified, then

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k+1)} - \alpha\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{w}^{(k)} - \alpha\hat{\mathbf{w}}) + \eta\mathbf{x}_{k+1}t_{k+1}$$

where $\alpha > 0$ is a suitable constant