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UVA CS 6316 - Fall 2015 Graduate: Machine Learning

Lecture 15: Logistic Regression / Generative vs. Discriminative

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This means we use Bernoulli distribution to model the target variable with its Bernoulli parameter paper (y=1 | x) predefined.

The main interest \rightarrow predicting the probability that an event occurs (i.e., the probability that p(y=1 | x)).

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 $P(y|x) = \frac{e^{\alpha + \beta x}}{1 + e^{\alpha + \beta x}} \qquad \text{logistu}$ $\ln\left[\frac{P(y|x)}{1 - P(y|x)}\right] = \alpha + \beta x \qquad \text{logit} / \text{log-odd}$



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LDA vs. Logistic Regression

LDA (Generative model)

- Assumes Gaussian class-conditional densities and a common covariance
- Model parameters are estimated by maximizing the full log likelihood, parameters for each class are estimated independently of other classes, $K_p + \frac{p(p+1)}{2} + (K-1)$ parameters
- Makes use of marginal density information Pr(x)
- Easier to train, low variance, more efficient if model is correct
- Higher asymptotic error, but converges faster

• Logistic Regression (Discriminative model)

- Assumes class-conditional densities are members of the (same) exponential family distribution
- Model parameters are estimated by maximizing the conditional log likelihood, simultaneous consideration of all other classes, (K 1)(p + 1) parameters
- Ignores marginal density information Pr(x)
- Harder to train, robust to uncertainty about the data generation process
- 10/21 gwer asymptotic error, but converges more slowly

Discriminative vs. Generative

• Definitions

- h_{gen} and h_{dis}: generative and discriminative classifiers
- h_{gen, inf} and h_{dis, inf}: same classifiers but trained on the entire population (asymptotic classifiers)
- $\circ \ \ n \rightarrow \ infinity, \ h_{gen} \rightarrow h_{gen, \ inf} \ and \ h_{dis} \rightarrow h_{dis, \ inf}$

Ng, Jordan,. "On discriminative vs. generative classifiers: A comparison of logistic regression and naive bayes." *Advances in neural information processing systems* 14 (2002): 841.

Discriminative vs. Generative

Proposition 1:

 $\epsilon (h_{dis,inf}) \leq \epsilon (h_{gen,inf})$

Proposition 1 states that aymptotically, the error of the discriminative logistic regression is smaller than that of the generative naive Bayes. This is easily shown

- p : number of dimensions
- n : number of observations
- ϵ : generalization error

Logistic Regression vs. NBC

Discriminative classifier (Logistic Regression)

- Smaller asymptotic error
- Slow convergence ~ O(p)

Generative classifier (Naive Bayes)

- Larger asymptotic error
- Can handle missing data (EM)
- Fast convergence ~ O(lg(p))



Discriminative vs. Generative

- Empirically, generative classifiers approach their asymptotic error faster than discriminative ones
 - Good for small training set
 - Handle missing data well (EM)
- Empirically, discriminative classifiers have lower asymptotic error than generative ones
 - Good for larger training set

