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Suppose that we have c classes and that class ω_i contains n_i points in the training data with $n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_c = n$

$$P(\omega_i | \mathbf{x}) = rac{p_n(\mathbf{x} | \omega_i) P(\omega_i)}{p_n(\mathbf{x})}.$$

Given a point x, we find the k_n nearest neighbors. Suppose that k_i points from k_n belong to class ω_i then

$$p_n(x|\omega_i) = \frac{k_i}{n_i V_n}.$$



The prior probabilities can be computed as:

$$P(\omega_i) = \frac{n_i}{n}.$$

Using the Bayes' rule, the posterior probabilities can be computed as follows:

$$P(\omega_i|x) = \frac{p_n(x|\omega_i)P(\omega_i)}{p_n(x)} = \frac{\frac{k_i}{n_i V_n} \frac{n_i}{n}}{\frac{k_n}{n V_n}}$$
$$= \frac{k_i}{k_n}$$

where
$$p_n(x) = \frac{k_n}{nV_n}$$
 is used.

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k-nearest-neighbor classification rule:

Given a data point x, find a hypershipere around it that contains k points and assign x to the class having the largest number of representatives inside the hypersphere.

$$P(\omega_i|x) = rac{p_n(x|\omega_i)P(\omega_i)}{p_n(x)} = rac{k_i}{k_n}$$

When k = 1 we get the nearest-neighbor rule.

We want to show that

$$P^* \leq P \leq P^*(2 - rac{c}{c-1}P^*) \leq 2P^*.$$

where P is the error rate based on the nearest-neighbor rule with infinitely many samples, and P^* is the minimum possible error rate (Bayes error rate).

A set of *n* labeled prototypes: $\mathcal{D}^n = \{x_1, \cdots, x_n\}.$

The prototype nearest to a test point x: $x' \in \mathcal{D}^n$.

The nearest-neighbor rule: classifying x to the label associated with x'.

Random variable denoting the label of x': θ' .

The probability that $\theta' = \omega_i$: the *a posteriori* probability $P(\omega_i | x')$.

When the number of samples is very large, it is reasonable to assume that x' is sufficiently close to x that $P(\omega_i|x') \simeq P(\omega_i|x)$.

Thus the nearest-neighbor rule is effectively matching probabilities with nature.

We define:

$$P(\omega_m|x) = max_i P(\omega_i|x).$$

The Bayes decision rule always selects ω_m .

Defining the infinite-sample conditional average probability of error P(e|x) and the unconditional average probability of error P(e), we have:

$$P(e) = \int P(e|x)p(x)dx.$$

If we further let $P^*(e|x)$ be the minuimum possible value of P(e|x) and P^* be the minimum possible value of P(e), then

$$\mathcal{P}^*(e|x) = 1 - \mathcal{P}(\omega_m|x) ext{ and } \mathcal{P}^* = \int \mathcal{P}^*(e|x) \mathcal{p}(x) \mathit{d}x.$$

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Assume $P_n(e)$ is the *n*-sample error rate, and if

$$P = \lim_{n \to \infty} P_n(e)$$

then we want to show that

$$P^* \leq P \leq P^*(2-rac{c}{c-1}P^*).$$

Given x' as the nearest-neighbor of x, we have

$$P(e|x) = \int P(e|x,x')p(x'|x)dx'.$$

It is very difficult to obtain the conditional density p(x'|x).

However, because x' is the nearest neighbor of x, we expect p(x'|x) to approach a delta function centered at x.

Consider the probability that any sample falls with in a hyper sphere $\mathcal S$ centered about x

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathcal{S}} = \int_{x'\in\mathcal{S}} \mathsf{p}(x') \mathsf{d} x'.$$

The probability that all *n* samples fall outside S is $(1 - P_S)^n$ which approaches zero as *n* goes to infinity.

Thus x' converges to x in probability, and p(x'|x) approaches a delta function, as expected.

We now turn to the calculation of the conditional probability of error $P_n(e|x, x')$.

- x'_n : the nearest neighbor of x with the number of samples n.
- *n* independently drawn labeled samples $(x_1, \theta_1), \ldots, (x_n, \theta_n)$

We assume that these pairs were generated by

1 selecting a state of nature ω_j for θ_j with probability $P(\omega_j)$,

2 then selecting an x_j according to the probability law $p(x|\omega_j)$,

with each pair selected independently.

Suppose that during classification, nature selects a pair (x, θ) and also suppose that x'_n labeled θ'_n is the training sample nearest x.

Because the state of nature when x'_n was drawn is independent of the state of nature when x is drawn, we have

$$P(\theta, \theta'_n | x, x'_n) = P(\theta | x) P(\theta'_n | x'_n).$$

Then the conditional probability of error

$$egin{aligned} \mathcal{P}(e|x,x_n') &= 1 - \sum_{i=1}^c \mathcal{P}(heta = \omega_i, heta_n' = \omega_i|x,x_n') \ &= 1 - \sum_{i=1}^c \mathcal{P}(\omega_i|x)\mathcal{P}(\omega_i|x_n'). \end{aligned}$$

Considering

$$\begin{split} P(e|x) &= \int P(e|x,x') p(x'|x) dx' \\ p(x'|x) &= \delta(x'-x) \end{split}$$

we have:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} P_n(e|x) = \int [1 - \sum_{i=1}^c P(\omega_i|x)P(\omega_i|x'_n)]\delta(x'_n - x)dx'_n$$
$$= 1 - \sum_{i=1}^c P^2(\omega_i|x).$$

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The asymptotic nearest-neighbor eror rate is given by

$$P = \lim_{n \to \infty} P_n(e)$$

=
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int P_n(e|x)p(x)dx$$

=
$$\int [1 - \sum_{i=1}^c P^2(\omega_i|x)]p(x)dx.$$

Recall

$$P^*(e|x) = 1 - P(\omega_m|x).$$

We want to know how small $\sum_{i=1}^{c} P^2(\omega_i | x)$ can be for a given $P(\omega_m | x)$, i.e., a given P^* .

We write

$$\sum_{i=1}^{c} P^2(\omega_i | x) = P^2(\omega_m | x) + \sum_{i \neq m} P^2(\omega_i | x).$$

We want to minimize this subject to:

•
$$P(\omega_i|x) \geq 0$$

•
$$\sum_{i\neq m} P(\omega_i|x) = 1 - P(\omega_m|x) = P^*(e|x).$$

We can minimize $\sum_{i=1}^{c} P^2(\omega_i | x)$ if all of the *a posteriori* probabilities except $P(\omega_m | x)$ are equal.

$$P(\omega_i|x) = \begin{cases} \frac{P^*(e|x)}{c-1} & i \neq m\\ 1-P^*(e|x) & i = m \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$\sum_{i=1}^{c} P^2(\omega_i|x) \geq (1-P^*(e|x))^2 + rac{(P^*(e|x))^2}{c-1}
onumber \ 1-\sum_{i=1}^{c} P^2(\omega_i|x) \leq 2P^*(e|x) - rac{c}{c-1}(P^*(e|x))^2.$$

This immediately shows that $P \leq 2P^*$.

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To seek for a tighter bound:

$$Var[P^*(e|x)] = \int [P^*(e|x) - P^*]^2 p(x) dx$$
$$= \int (P^*(e|x))^2 p(x) dx - P^{*2} \ge 0$$

so that

$$\int (P^*(e|x))^2 p(x) dx \ge (P^*)^2$$

with equality holding if and only if the variance of $P^*(e|x)$ is zero.

Then...

$$P^*\leq P\leq P^*(2-rac{c}{c-1}P^*).$$

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FIGURE 4.14. Bounds on the nearest-neighbor error rate *P* in a *c*-category problem given infinite training data, where *P*^{*} is the Bayes error (Eq. 52). At low error rates, the nearest-neighbor error rate is bounded above by twice the Bayes rate. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

- How well the nearest-neighbor rule works in the finite-sample case?
- How rapidly the performance converges to the asymptotic value?
- The convergence can be arbitrarily slow, and the error rate $P_n(e)$ need not even decrease monotonically with n.
- It is difficult to obtain anything other than asymptotic results without making further assumptions about the underliving probability structure.

The k-Nearest-Neighbor Rule

We can make decision by examining the labels on the k nearest neighbors and taking a vote. We can consider two-class case

- *k* odd: avoiding ties
- k even: reject ties

The error of k-NN P_{kNN} yields:

$$\frac{1}{2}P^* \leq P_{2NN} \leq P_{4NN} \leq \cdots \leq P^* \leq \cdots \leq P_{3NN} \leq P_{NN} \leq 2P^*.$$

If you are interested, see chapter 7 of Fukunaga "Statistical Pattern Recognition" for the detailed derivation.

The k-Nearest-Neighbor Rule



FIGURE 4.16. The error rate for the *k*-nearest-neighbor rule for a two-category problem is bounded by $C_k(P^*)$ in Eq. 54. Each curve is labeled by *k*; when $k = \infty$, the estimated probabilities match the true probabilities and thus the error rate is equal to the Bayes

Two normal distributions

Class 1
$$\Sigma_1 = I$$
, $\mu_1 = [s, 0, \dots, 0]^T$
Class 2 $\Sigma_2 = I$, $\mu_2 = [-s, 0, \dots, 0]^T$

Bayes error:

$$P^* = \int_s^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty \cdots \int_{-\infty}^\infty N(0, I) dx_1 \cdots dx_n$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} (1 - \operatorname{erf}(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}))$$
$$\operatorname{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$$

Given n class 1 and n class 2 data, observe the error rate by using k-NN classifier

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Exercise (knnclass.py)



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Try k-NN classifier for MNIST data. Very simple modification to mntest.py should work. Strongly suggested (but not assignment).

My simple implementation of 1-NN classifier achieves 97% accuracy. How about k-NN classifier?