CS-567 Machine Learning

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Classification

- In the previous topic, regression, the goal was to predict *continuous* target variable(s) t given input variables vector $\mathbf{x}$.
- In *classification*, the goal is to predict *discrete* target variable(s) t given input variables vector $\mathbf{x}$.
- Input space is divided into *decision regions*.
- Boundaries between regions are called *decision boundaries/surfaces*.
- Training corresponds to finding optimal decision boundaries given training data $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, t_1), \ldots, (\mathbf{x}_N, t_N)\}$.

Classification

- Assign $\mathbf{x}$ to 1-of-K discrete classes C_k.
- Most commonly, the classes are distinct. That is, $\mathbf{x}$ is assigned to one and only one class.
- Convenient coding schemes for targets t are
  - 0/1 coding for binary classification.
  - 1-of-K coding for multi-class classification. Example, for $\mathbf{x}$ belonging to class 3, the $K \times 1$ target vector will be coded as $\mathbf{t} = (0, 0, 1, 0, \ldots, 0)^T$.

Linear Classification

- Like regression, the simplest classification model is *linear classification*.
  - This means that the decision surfaces are linear functions of $\mathbf{x}$, for example $y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0 = 0$.
  - That is, a linear decision surface is a $D - 1$ dimensional hyperplane in D-dimensional space.
- Data in which classes can be *separated exactly* by *linear decision surfaces* is called *linearly separable*.

Linear Classification

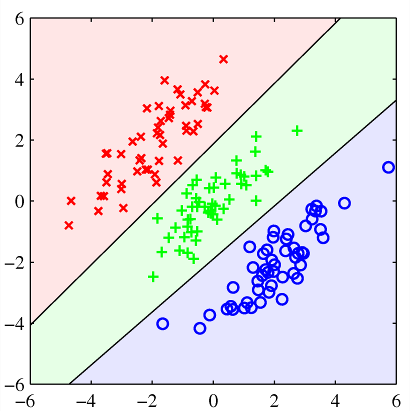

Figure: Linearly separable data and corresponding linear decision boundaries.

3 Approaches for Solving Classification (Decision) Problems

1. **Generative**: Infer posterior $p(\mathcal{C}_k|\mathbf{x})$
   - either by inferring $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathcal{C}_k)$ and $p(\mathbf{x})$ and using Bayes' theorem,
   - or by inferring $p(\mathbf{x}, \mathcal{C}_k)$ and marginalizing.
   - Called generative because $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathcal{C}_k)$ and/or $p(\mathbf{x}, \mathcal{C}_k)$ allow us to generate new $\mathbf{x}$'s.
2. **Discriminative**: Model the posterior $p(\mathcal{C}_k|\mathbf{x})$ directly.
   - If decision depends on posterior, then no need to model the joint distribution.
3. **Discriminant Function**: Just learn a discriminant function that maps $\mathbf{x}$ directly to a class label.
   - f($\mathbf{x}$)=0 for class $\mathcal{C}_1$.
   - f($\mathbf{x}$)=1 for class $\mathcal{C}_2$.
   - No probabilities

Linear Classification
Generalized Linear Model

- The simplest linear regression model computes continuous outputs $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0$.
- By passing these continuous outputs through a non-linear function $f(\cdot)$, we can obtain discrete class labels.

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0)$$

- This is known as a *generalised linear model* and $f(\cdot)$ is known as the *activation function*.
  - Decision surfaces correspond to all inputs $\mathbf{x}$ where $y(\mathbf{x}) = \text{const}$. This is equivalent to the condition $\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0 = \text{const}$.
  - Therefore, decision surfaces are linear functions of the input $\mathbf{x}$, even if $f(\cdot)$ is non-linear.
- As before, we can replace $\mathbf{x}$ by a non-linear transformation $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ and learn non-linear boundaries in $\mathbf{x}$-space by learning linear boundaries in ϕ-space.

Linear Discriminant Functions

Two class case

- The simplest linear discriminant function is given by $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0$ where $\mathbf{w}$ is called the *weight vector* and w_0 is called the *bias*.
- Classification is performed via the non-linear step

$$\text{class}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{C}_1 & \text{if } y(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0 \\ \mathcal{C}_2 & \text{if } y(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \end{cases}$$

- We can view $-w_0$ as a *threshold*.
- Weight vector $\mathbf{w}$ is always orthogonal to the decision surface.
  - Proof: For *any* two points $\mathbf{x}_A$ and $\mathbf{x}_B$ on the surface, $y(\mathbf{x}_A) = y(\mathbf{x}_B) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x}_A - \mathbf{x}_B) = 0$. Since vector $\mathbf{x}_A - \mathbf{x}_B$ is along the surface, $\mathbf{w}$ must be orthogonal.

Linear Discriminant Functions

Two class case

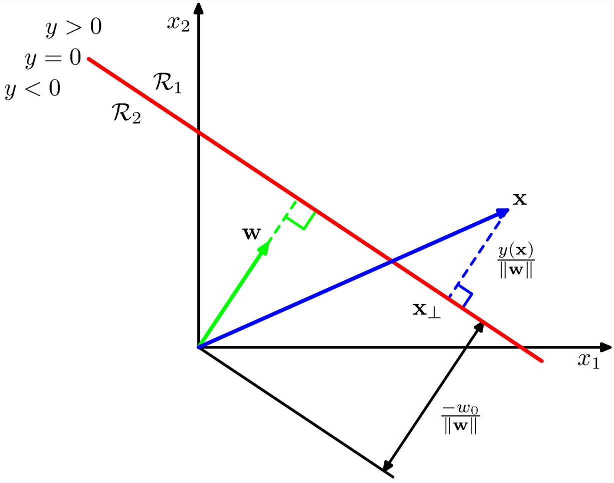

Figure: Geometry of linear discriminant function in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Linear Discriminant Functions

Two class case

- Normal distance of any point $\mathbf{x}$ from decision boundary can be computed as $d = \frac{y(\mathbf{x})}{||\mathbf{w}||}$.
  - Proof:

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_\perp + d\frac{\mathbf{w}}{||\mathbf{w}||}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x} + w_0}_{y(\mathbf{x})} = \underbrace{\mathbf{w}^T\mathbf{x}_\perp + w_0}_{y(\mathbf{x}_\perp)=0} + d\underbrace{\mathbf{w}^T\frac{\mathbf{w}}{||\mathbf{w}||}}_{||\mathbf{w}||}$$

$$\Rightarrow d = \frac{y(\mathbf{x})}{||\mathbf{w}||}$$

- Normal distance to boundary from origin $(\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0})$ is $\frac{w_0}{||\mathbf{w}||}$.

Linear Discriminant Functions

- For notational convenience, bias can be included as a component of the weight vector via

$$\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = (w_0, \mathbf{w})$$
$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (1, \mathbf{x})$$
$$y(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{\mathbf{w}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$$

Linear Discriminant Functions
Multiclass case

- For K class classification with $K > 2$, we have 3 options
  1. Learn $K - 1$ *one-vs-rest* binary classifiers.
  2. Learn $K(K-1)/2$ *one-vs-one* binary classifiers for every possible pair of classes. Each point can be classified based on majority vote among the discriminant functions.
  3. Learn K discriminant functions $y_1, \ldots, y_K$ and then $\text{class}(\mathbf{x}) = \arg\max_k y_k(\mathbf{x})$.
- Options 1 and 2 lead to ambiguous classification regions.

Linear Discriminant Functions
Multiclass Ambiguity

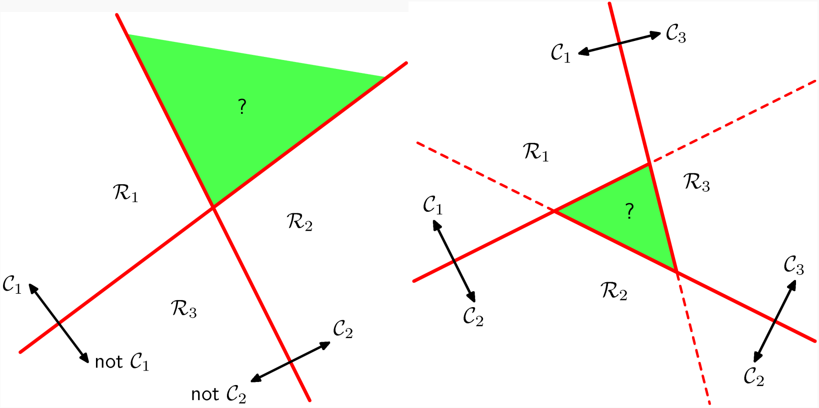

Figure: Ambiguity of multiclass classification using two-class linear discriminant functions.

Linear Discriminant Functions

Multiclass case

- We can write the K-class discriminant function as

$$\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{\mathbf{W}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$$

- For learning, we can write the error function as

$$E(\tilde{\mathbf{W}}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} ||\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}_n) - \mathbf{t}_n||^2$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\tilde{\mathbf{W}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_n - \mathbf{t}_n)^T (\tilde{\mathbf{W}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_n - \mathbf{t}_n)$$

- The optimal discriminant function parameters can be computed as $\tilde{\mathbf{W}}^* = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^\dagger \mathbf{T}$ where $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^\dagger$ is the pseudo-inverse of the design matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$ and $\mathbf{T}$ is the matrix of target vectors.
- As before, we can also work in ϕ-space where we will use the corresponding $\tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}}$ as the design matrix.

Linear Discriminant Functions
Least Squares Solution

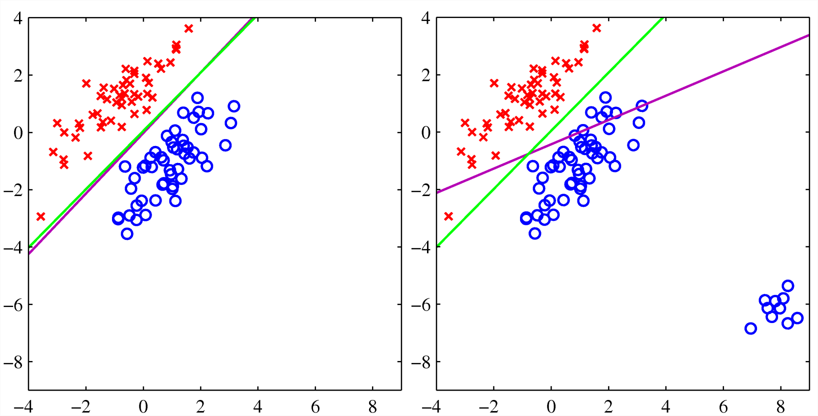

Figure: Least squares solution is sensitive to outliers.

Fisher's Linear Discriminant

Two class case

- Project all data onto a single vector **w**.
- Classify by thresholding projected coefficents.
- Optimal vector is one which
  - maximises between-class distance, and
  - minimises within-class distance.

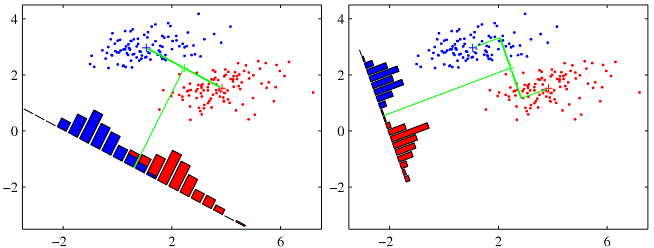

Figure: Fisher's linear discriminant. Classify by thresholding projections onto a vector **w** that maximises inter-class distance and minimises intra-class distances.

Perceptron Algorithm

- Perceptron criterion
- To be completed ...

Gradient Descent

- $\mathbf{w}^{\text{new}} = \mathbf{w}^{\text{old}} - \eta \nabla_{\mathbf{w}}$
- Role of learning rate η.
- Batch
- Sequential
- Stochastic
- Local versus global minima.