Support Vector Machines and Optimal Hyperplanes

CS6780 – Advanced Machine Learning
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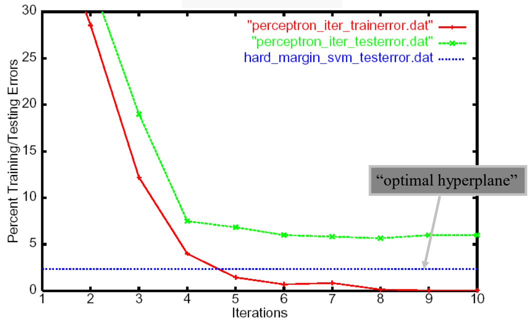
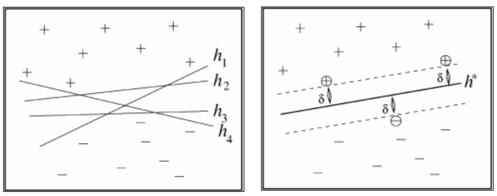
Reading: Murphy 14.5
Schoelkopf/Smola Chapter 5 (rest), Chapter 7.1-7.3, 7.5

Example: Reuters Text Classification



Optimal Hyperplanes

- Assumption:
  – Training examples are linearly separable.



Margin of a Linear Classifier

Definition: *For a linear classifier* h_w*, the* **margin** δ *of an example* $(\vec{x}, y)$ *with* $\vec{x} \in \Re^N$ *and* $y \in \{-1, +1\}$ *is* $\delta = y(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x})$.

Definition: *The margin is called geometric margin, if* $||\vec{w}|| = 1$*. For general* $\vec{w}$*, the term functional margin is used to indicate that the norm of* $\vec{w}$ *is not necessarily 1.*

Definition: *The (hard) margin of an unbiased linear classifier* $h_{\vec{w}}$ *on a sample* S *is* $\delta = min_{(\vec{x},y)\in S} y(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x})$.

Definition: *The (hard) margin of an unbiased linear classifier* $h_{\vec{w}}$ *on a task* $P(X, Y)$ *is*

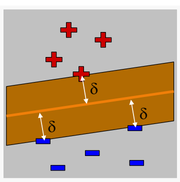
$$\delta = inf_{S\sim P(X,Y)} min_{(\vec{x},y)\in S} y(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}).$$

Hard-Margin Separation

- Goal:
  – Find hyperplane with the largest distance to the closest training examples.

Optimization Problem (Primal):

$$\min_{\vec{w},b} \quad \frac{1}{2}\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}$$
$$s.t. \quad y_1(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_1 + b) \geq 1$$
$$\ldots$$
$$y_n(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1$$



- Support Vectors:
  – Examples with minimal distance (i.e. margin).

Vapnik Chervonenkis Dimension

- Definition: The VC-Dimension of H is equal to the maximum number d of examples that can be split into two sets in all 2^d ways using functions from H (shattering).

Generalization Error Bound: Infinite H, Non-Zero Error

- Setting
  - Sample of n labeled instances *S*
  - Learning Algorithm *L* using a hypothesis space *H* with *VCDim(H)=d*
  - ERM learner *L* returns hypothesis $\hat{h}=L(S)$ with lowest training error
- Given hypothesis space *H* with *VCDim(H)* equal to *d* and an i.i.d. sample *S* of size *n*, with probability (1-δ) it holds that

$$Err_P(h_{\mathcal{L}(S)}) \leq Err_S(h_{\mathcal{L}(S)}) + \sqrt{\frac{d\left(\ln\left(\frac{2n}{d}\right)+1\right)-\ln\left(\frac{\delta}{4}\right)}{n}}$$

VC Dimension of Hyperplanes

- Theorem: The VC Dimension of unbiased hyperplanes over N features is N.
- Theorem: The VC Dimension of biased hyperplanes over N features is N+1.

VC Dimension of Margin Hyperplanes

Theorem: Unbiased linear classifiers H_X with $\|w\| = 1/\delta$ and $\max_i \|x_i\| \leq R$ and margin

$$\min_i |w \cdot x_i| = 1$$

for a given set of instances $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_k\}$, have VC Dimension

$$VCDim(H_X) \leq \frac{R^2}{\delta^2}$$