Learning Theory Bridges Loss Functions

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Research Interests: robustness and knowledge transfer via loss function



https://hermite.jp/







Evaluation



Machine Learning, 20, 273–297 (1995) © 1995 Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston. Manufactured in The Netherlands.

Support-Vector Networks

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$$\min_{w,b} \sum_{i} \max \left\{ 0, 1 - y_{i}(w^{T}x_{i} + b) \right\}$$
hinge loss minimization
$$\prod_{i} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{j} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{j$$

margin maximization



Background: Binary Classification⁸

Input

▶ sample $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$: pair of feature $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$ and label $y_i \in \{\pm 1\}$





Loss function and Risk

Goal of classification: minimize misclassification rate $R_{01}(f) = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{1}[Y \neq \operatorname{sign}(f(X))] \right]$ O-1 risk

Misclassification rate = expectation of 0-1 loss $\mathbf{1}[Y \neq \operatorname{sign}(f(X))] = \phi_{01}(Yf(X))$

Minimizing R₀₁ is NP-hard [Feldman+ 2012]



Feldman, V., Guruswami, V., Raghavendra, P., & Wu, Y. (2012). Agnostic learning of monomials by halfspaces is hard. SIAM Journal on Computing, 41(6), 1558-1590.

Target Loss vs. Surrogate Loss ¹⁰

Target loss (0-1 loss)



- Final learning criterion
- Hard to optimize
 - nonconvex, no gradient

Surrogate loss



- Different from target loss
- Easily-optimizable criterion
 - usually convex, smooth

Elements of Learning Theory



What surrogate is desirable? ¹²



How to check risk convergence? ¹³

[Steinwart 2007]

Definition. ϕ is ψ -calibrated for a target loss ψ if for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all f, $\frac{R_{\phi}(f) - R_{\phi}^*}{R_{\phi}(f) - R_{\psi}^*} < \varepsilon.$ surrogate (excess) risk target (excess) risk Idea: write δ as function of ε (by using contraposition) **Definition.** (calibration function) $\delta(\varepsilon) = \inf_{f} \frac{R_{\phi}(f) - R_{\phi}^{*}}{R_{\phi}(f) - R_{\psi}^{*}} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \frac{R_{\psi}(f) - R_{\psi}^{*}}{R_{\psi}(f) - R_{\psi}^{*}} \ge \varepsilon$ surrogate (excess) risk target (excess) risk

If $\delta(\varepsilon) > 0$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$, surrogate is calibrated!

Steinwart, I. (2007). How to compare different loss functions and their risks. Constructive Approximation, 26(2), 225-287.

Main Tool: Calibration Function¹⁴

Definition. (calibration function)

$$\delta(\varepsilon) = \inf_{f} \frac{R_{\phi}(f) - R_{\phi}^{*}}{\varphi} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \frac{R_{\psi}(f) - R_{\psi}^{*}}{\varphi} \ge \varepsilon$$

surrogate (excess) risk target (excess) risk

Provides iff condition

• ψ -calibrated $\iff \delta(\varepsilon) > 0$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$

Provides excess risk bound monotonically increasing ψ -calibrated $\implies R_{\psi}(f) - R_{\psi}^* \leq (\delta^{**})^{-1} \left(R_{\phi}(f) - R_{\phi}^* \right)$ target excess risk surrogate excess risk

 $\delta^{**:}$ biconjugate of δ

Example: Binary Classification (ϕ_{01}) ¹⁵

[Bartlett+ 2006]

Theorem. If surrogate ϕ is convex, it is ϕ_{01} -calibrated iff

- differentiable at 0
- ▶ $\phi'(0) < 0$



P. L. Bartlett, M. I. Jordan, & J. D. McAuliffe. (2006). <u>Convexity, classification, and risk bounds</u>. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 101(473), 138-156.

Counterintuitive Result

e.g. multi-class classification \Rightarrow maximize prediction margin



Crammer-Singer loss is not calibrated to 0-1 loss ! (similar extension of logistic loss is calibrated) [Zhang 2004]

Crammer, K., & Singer, Y. (2001). On the algorithmic implementation of multiclass kernel-based vector machines. *Journal of machine learning research*, 2(Dec), 265-292

Zhang, T. (2004). <u>Statistical analysis of some multi-category large margin classification methods</u>. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, *5*(Oct), 1225-1251.

Summary: Calibration Theory¹⁷

Surrogate vs. Target loss

Target loss is often hard to optimize → replace with surrogate loss





Binary Classification

Hinge, logistic is calibrated Calibrated iff $\phi'(0) < 0$

Multi-class Classification

CS-loss (MC-hinge loss) is not calibrated!

cross-entropy is calibrated (omitted)

Stringent justification of surrogate loss!

When target is not 0-1 loss

H. Bao and M. Sugiyama. <u>Calibrated Surrogate Maximization of Linear-fractional Utility in Binary</u> <u>Classification</u>. In *AISTATS*, 2020.



Our focus: binary classification



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Accuracy can't detect unreasonable classifiers under **class imbalance**!

Is accuracy appropriate?

F-measure is more appropriate under class imbalance

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Training and Evaluation

Usual training with accuracy



Training with accuracy but evaluating with F-measure



Not only F₁, but many others ²²

Q. Can we handle in the same way?

Accuracy Acc = TP + TN

Weighted Accuracy

$$WAcc = \frac{w_1 TP + w_2 TN}{w_1 TP + w_2 TN + w_3 FP + w_4 FN}$$

F-measure

$$F_{1} = \frac{2TP}{2TP + FP + FN}$$

Balanced Error Rate
BER =
$$\frac{1}{\pi}$$
FN + $\frac{1}{1 - \pi}$ FP

Jaccard index

$$Jac = \frac{TP}{TP + FP + FN}$$

Unification of Metrics



Unification of Metrics



Goal of This Talk

Given a metric
$$U(f) = \frac{a_0 \text{TP} + b_0 \text{FP} + c_0}{a_1 \text{TP} + b_1 \text{FP} + c_1}$$

Q. How to optimize U(f) directly?

without estimating class-posterior probability

Related: Plug-in Classifier

[Koyejo+ NIPS2014; Yan+ ICML2018]

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Estimating class-posterior probability is costly!



Bayes-optimal classifier (general case): $\mathbb{P}(Y = +1 | x) - \delta^*$



O. O. Koyejo, N. Natarajan, P. K. Ravikumar, & I. S. Dhillon. Consistent binary classification with generalized performance metrics. In *NIPS*, 2014.

B. Yan, O. Koyejo, K. Zhong, & P. Ravikumar. Binary classification with Karmic, threshold-quasi-concave metrics. In *ICML*, 2018.

Convexity & Statistical Property²⁷

Q. How to make tractable surrogate?



Non-concave, but quasi-concave²⁸



Surrogate Utility







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Surrogate Utility





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 $\blacktriangleright f(X)$

Hybrid Optimization Strategy ³¹



Note: numerator can be negative

- ► U_{ϕ} isn't quasi-concave only if numerator < 0
- make numerator positive first (concave), then maximize fractional form (quasi-concave)

32 Hybrid Optimization Strategy



numerator is always concave

Strategy

- 1) update gradient-ascent direction while $\mathbb{E}[W_0] < 0$
- 2 maximize fraction by normalized-gradient ascent [Hazan+ NeurlPS2015]

Hazan, E., Levy, K., & Shalev-Shwartz, S. (2015). Beyond convexity: Stochastic quasi-convex optimization. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (pp. 1594-1602).

Convexity & Statistical Property ³³

Q. How to make surrogate calibrated?

Accuracy

tractable (convex)

 $R_{\phi}(f) = \mathbb{E}[\phi(Yf(X))]$

calibrated

intractable

 $R_{01}(f) = \mathbb{E}[\phi_{01}(Yf(X))]$



Special Case: F1-measure

Theorem

$$U_{\phi}(f_n) \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\to} 1 \Longrightarrow U(f_n) \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\to} 1 \quad \forall \{f_n\}$$

if ϕ satisfies

►
$$\exists c \in (0,1) \text{ s.t. } \sup_{f} U_{\phi}(f) \ge \frac{2c}{1-c}, \lim_{m \to +0} \phi'(m) \ge c \lim_{m \to -0} \phi'(m)$$

- ϕ is non-increasing
- ϕ is convex

Note: informal

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Example



Intuition: trade off TP and FP by gradient steepness

non-differentiable at m=0

Experiment: F₁-measure

| $(F_1-measure)$ | Proposed | | Baselines | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Dataset | U-GD | U-BFGS | ERM | W-ERM | Plug-in |
| adult | 0.617(101) | 0.660(11) | 0.639(51) | 0.676(18) | 0.681 (9) |
| australian | 0.843 (41) | 0.844~(45) | 0.820(123) | 0.814(116) | 0.827(51) |
| breast-cancer | 0.963(31) | 0.960(32) | 0.950(37) | 0.948(44) | 0.953(40) |
| $\operatorname{cod-rna}$ | 0.802(231) | 0.594(4) | 0.927(7) | 0.927(6) | 0.930(2) |
| diabetes | 0.834(32) | 0.828(31) | 0.817(50) | 0.821(40) | 0.820(42) |
| fourclass | 0.638(70) | 0.638(64) | 0.601(124) | 0.591(212) | 0.618(64) |
| german.numer | 0.561(102) | 0.580(74) | 0.492(188) | 0.560(107) | 0.589(73) |
| heart | 0.796(101) | 0.802(99) | 0.792(80) | 0.764(151) | 0.764(137) |
| ionosphere | 0.908(49) | 0.901(43) | 0.883(104) | 0.842(217) | 0.897(54) |
| madelon | 0.666(19) | 0.632(67) | 0.491(293) | 0.639(110) | 0.663(24) |
| mushrooms | 1.000(1) | 0.997(7) | 1.000(1) | 1.000(2) | 0.999(4) |
| phishing | 0.937(29) | 0.943(7) | 0.944(8) | 0.940(12) | 0.944(8) |
| phoneme | 0.648(27) | 0.559(22) | 0.530(201) | 0.616(135) | 0.633(35) |
| $skin_nonskin$ | 0.870(3) | 0.856(4) | 0.854(7) | 0.877(8) | 0.838(5) |
| sonar | 0.735 (95) | 0.740(91) | 0.706(121) | 0.655(189) | $0.721 \ (113)$ |
| spambase | 0.876(27) | 0.756(61) | 0.887(42) | 0.881(58) | 0.903(18) |
| splice | 0.785(49) | 0.799(46) | 0.785(55) | 0.771(67) | 0.801 (45) |
| w8a | 0.297(80) | 0.284(96) | 0.735(35) | 0.742(29) | 0.745(26) |

(F₁-measure is shown)

model:
$$f_{\theta}(x) = \theta^{\mathsf{T}} x$$

surrogate loss: $\phi(m) = \max\{\log(1 + e^{-m}), \log(1 + e^{-3})\}$

Loss for Complicated Metrics ³⁶

Linear-fractional metrics

contains F-measure, Jaccard often used with imbalanced data

$$U(f) = \frac{a_0 \mathsf{TP} + b_0 \mathsf{FP} + c_0}{a_1 \mathsf{TP} + b_1 \mathsf{FP} + c_1}$$



Provides guideline of designing loss for complicated metrics!

When adversary presents

H. Bao, C. Scott, and M. Sugiyama. <u>Calibrated Surrogate Losses for Adversarially Robust Classification</u>. In COLT, 2020.

Adversarial Attacks

original data

[Goodfellow+ 2015]

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Adding inperceptible small noise can fool classifiers!



perturbed data



 $m{x} + \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(
abla_{m{x}} J(m{ heta}, m{x}, y))$ "gibbon" 99.3 % confidence

Penalize Vulnerable Prediction ³⁹

Usual Classification

Robust Classification



usual 0-1 loss
$$\ell_{01}(x, y, f) = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } yf(x) \le 0\\ 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$e_{\gamma}(x, y, f) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \exists \Delta \in \mathbb{B}_{2}(\gamma) . yf(x + \Delta) \leq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

prediction too close to boundary should be penalized

$$\mathbb{B}_2(\gamma) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid ||x||_2 \le \gamma \}: \gamma\text{-ball}$$

In Case of Linear Predictors ⁴⁰

linear predictors $\mathscr{F}_{\text{lin}} = \{x \mapsto \theta^{\mathsf{T}} x \mid \|\theta\|_2 = 1\}$



robust 0-1 loss

$$\mathscr{E}_{\gamma}(x, y, f) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \exists \Delta \in \mathbb{B}_{2}(\gamma) \, . \, yf(x + \Delta) \leq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \mathbf{1} \{ yf(x) \leq \gamma \} := \phi_{\gamma}(yf(x))$$

Formulation of Classification⁴¹

Usual Classification

minimize 0-1 risk

$$R_{\phi_{01}}(f) = \mathbb{E}\left[\phi_{01}(Yf(X))\right]$$



Robust Classification

minimize γ -robust 0-1 risk

$$R_{\phi_{\gamma}}(f) = \mathbb{E}\left[\phi_{\gamma}(Yf(X))\right]$$

(restricted to linear predictors)



Existing Approaches

Direct optimization of robust risk $R_{\phi_{y}}(f)$ is intractable



Both do not necessarily lead to true minimizer!

Shaham, U., Yamada, Y., & Negahban, S. (2018).

Understanding adversarial training: Increasing local stability of supervised models through robust optimization. *Neurocomputing*, 195-204.

Wong, E., & Kolter, Z. (2018,). Provable Defenses against Adversarial Examples via the Convex Outer Adversarial Polytope. In *International Conference on Machine Learning* (pp. 5286-5295).

What surrogate is calibrated? 43



P. L. Bartlett, M. I. Jordan, & J. D. McAuliffe. (2006). <u>Convexity, classification, and risk bounds</u>. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 101(473), 138-156.

Isn't it a piece of cake?

Theorem. If surrogate ϕ is convex, it is ϕ_{01} -calibrated iff

- differentiable at 0
- $\blacktriangleright \phi'(0) < 0$



If $\phi'(\gamma) < 0$, then calibrated to robust 0-1 loss?

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No convex calibrated surrogate 45

Theorem. Any convex surrogate is not ϕ_{γ} -calibrated.

(under linear predictors)

Proof Sketch: find distribution such that $\delta(\varepsilon) = 0$



surrogate conditional risk is plotted

How to find calibrated surrogate? 46

Idea. To make conditional risk not minimized in non-robust area







Example: Shifted Ramp Loss 47



Simulation

Ramp loss



Hinge loss

each ball is γ -ball / yellow balls are non-robust data points

Loss for Robust Learning

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Summary

Binary Classification



Linear-fractional

Introduce calibration analysis

Show applicability to analyze robustness

Adversarial

Summary



Introduce calibration analysis

Show applicability to analyze robustness

More Reads

classification

- binary [Lin04] [Zha04a] [BJM06] [WL07]
- multi-class [Zha04b] [TB07] [LS13] [PS16] [RA16]
- cost-sensitive [Sco12]
- ▶ imbalance [BS20]

structured prediction

- abstain [RA16] [NCH+19]
- multi label [GZ11] [ZRA20]
- partial label [CGS11] [CRB20]
- ordinal [RA16] [PBG18]
- Hamming [OBL17] [NBR20]

ranking

- ► AUC [DKH12] [GZ15]
- ▶ top-k [Blo19] [YK20]
- ▶ preference graph [DMJ10]
- ► NDCG [RTY11] [Blo19]
- precision@k [RAT13]
- ▶ pAp@k [<u>HVK+20]</u>

robustness

- ▶ label noise [RW10]
- adversarial [BSS20]

Any new problems?