Introduction to Regression Part A - kNN

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Part A: Statistical Modeling

k-Nearest Neighbors (kNN)

Part B: Model Fitness

How does the model perform predicting?

Part B: Comparison of Two Models

How do we choose from two different models?

Part C: Linear Models



Let's imagine a scenario where we'd like to predict one variable using another (or a set of other) variables.

Examples:

- Predicting the number of views a YouTube video will get next week based on video length, the date it was posted, the previous number of views, etc.
- Predicting which movies a Netflix user will rate highly based on their previous movie ratings, demographic data, etc.



The Advertising data set consists of the sales of a particular product in 200 different markets, and advertising budgets for the product in each of those markets for three different media: TV, radio, and newspaper. Everything is given in units of \$1000.

TV	radio	newspaper	sales
230.1	37.8	69.2	22.1
44.5	39.3	45.1	10.4
17.2	45.9	69.3	9.3
151.5	41.3	58.5	18.5
180.8	10.8	58.4	12.9

Some of the figures in this presentation are taken from "An Introduction to Statistical Learning, with applications in R" (Springer, 2013) with permission from the authors: G. James, D. Witten, T. Hastie and R.



There is an asymmetry in many of these problems:

The variable we would like to predict may be more difficult to measure, is more important than the other(s), or maybe directly or indirectly influenced by the other variable(s).

Thus, we'd like to define two categories of variables:

- variables whose values we want to predict
- variables whose values we use to make our prediction







Response vs. Predictor Variables





Statistical Model



We will assume that the response variable, *Y*, relates to the predictors, *X*, through some unknown function expressed generally as:

 $Y = f(X) + \varepsilon$

Here, f is the unknown function expressing an underlying rule for relating Y to X, ε is the random amount (unrelated to X) that Y differs from the rule f(X).

A statistical model is any algorithm that estimates f. We denote the estimated function as \hat{f} .



Example: predicting sales

Motivation: Predict Sales

Build a model to **predict** sales based on TV budget



The response, y, is the sales The predictor, x, is TV budget







How do we predict y for some x





How do we predict y for some x





Statistical Model





For some problems, what's important is obtaining \hat{f} , our estimate of f. These are called **inference** problems.

When we use a set of measurements, $(x_{i,1}, ..., x_{i,p})$ to predict a value for the response variable, we denote the **predicted** value by:

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{f}(x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,p}).$$

For some problems, we don't care about the specific form of \hat{f} , we just want to make our predictions \hat{y} 's as close to the observed values y's as possible. These are called **prediction problems**.





What is \hat{y}_q at some x_q ?

Find distances to all other points $D(x_q, x_i)$

Find the nearest neighbor, (x_p, y_p)

Predict $\hat{y}_q = y_p$



Simple Prediction Model

Do the same for "all" x's







What is \hat{y}_q at some x_q ?

Find distances to all other points $D(x_q, x_i)$

Find the k-nearest neighbors, x_{q_1}, \dots, x_{q_k}

Predict $\hat{y}_q = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i}^{k} y_{q_i}$







Simple Prediction Models

We can try different k-models on more data





k-Nearest Neighbors – kNN





The very human way of decision making by similar examples. kNN is a non-parametric learning algorithm.

The k-Nearest Neighbor Algorithm: Given a dataset $D = \{(x^{(1)}, y^{(1)}), \dots, (x^{(N)}, y^{(N)})\}$. For every new X:

1. Find the k-number of observations in D most similar to X: $\{(x^{(n_1)}, y^{(n_1)}), \dots, (x^{(n_k)}, y^{(n_k)})\}$

These are called the k-nearest neighbors of x

2. Average the output of the k-nearest neighbors of x

$$\hat{y} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} y^{(n_k)}$$





Ex A.1, Ex A.2







What to do? 🧐

Exercise: One person shares the screen and leads the discussion. Today's lucky student: Alphabetic order of first name.

Instructions: Make sure to read the instructions (and hints).

Participate: Best way to learn out of breakout sessions is to actively participate.

