

COST-SENSITIVE LEARNING: IN A NUTSHELL

Advanced Machine Learning

• Cost-sensitive learning:

- Classical learning: data sets are balanced, and all errors have equal costs
- We now assume given, unequal cost
- And try to minimize them in expectation

Imbalanced Learning:

• Applications:

- Medicine — Misdiagnosing as healthy vs. having a disease
- (Extreme) Weather prediction — Incorrectly predicting that no hurricane occurs
- Credit granting — Lending to a risky client vs. not lending to a trustworthy client.

Cost-Sensitive Learning Part 1



		True class		Truth	
		$y = 1$	$y = -1$	Default	Pays Back
Pred. class \hat{y}	$\hat{y} = 1$	TP	FP	0	10
	$\hat{y} = -1$	FN	TN	1000	0
		$y = 1$	$y = -1$	Cost matrix	
		$C(1, 1)$	$C(1, -1)$		
		$C(-1, 1)$	$C(-1, -1)$		

Learning goals

- In these examples, the costs of a false negative is much higher than the costs of a false positive.

• Cost matrix

- Minimum expected cost principle

• Optimal theoretical threshold

- In some applications, the costs are unknown — need to be specified by experts, or be learnt.

COST-MATRIXIVE LEARNING: IN A NUTSHELL

- Input: cost matrix C

- Classical learning: data sets are balanced, and all errors have equal costs
- We now assume given, unequal cost

Classification	True Class y			
	1	2	...	g
1	$C(1,1)$	$C(1,2)$...	$C(1,g)$
2	$C(2,1)$	$C(2,2)$...	$C(2,g)$
...				
g	$C(g,1)$	$C(g,2)$...	$C(g,g)$

- Applications:

- Medicine — Misdiagnosing as healthy vs. having a disease
- (Extreme) Weather prediction — Incorrectly predicting that no hurricane occurs
- Credit granting — Lending to a risky client vs. not lending to a trustworthy client.

- $C(j, k)$ is the cost of classifying class k as j ,

- 0-1-loss would simply be: $C(j, k) = 1_{j \neq k}$

- C designed by experts with domain knowledge

- In these examples, the costs of a false negative is much higher than the costs of a false positive.

Pred. ① Too low costs: not enough change in model, still costly errors

② Too high costs: might never predict costly classes

- In some applications, the costs are unknown, or not as specified by experts, or be learnt.



COST MATRIX FOR IMBALANCED LEARNING

- Common heuristic for imbalanced data sets:

- $C(j, k) = \frac{n_j}{n_k}$ with $n_k \ll n_j$, True Class y
 misclassifying a minority class k as a majority class j
- $C(j, k) = 1$ with $n_j \ll n_k$, True Class y
 misclassifying a majority class k as a minority class j
- 0 for a correct classification



- $C(j, k)$ is the cost of classifying class k as j ,
- 0-1-loss would simply be: $C(j, k) = \mathbb{1}_{[j \neq k]}$
- Imbalanced binary classification:
- C designed by experts with domain knowledge

- Too low costs: not enough change in model, still costly errors
- Too high costs: might never predict costly classes

	True class	
	$y = 1$	$y = -1$
Pred. $\hat{y} = 1$	0	1
class $\hat{y} = -1$	$\frac{n_-}{n_+}$	0

- So: much higher costs for FNs

MINIMUM EXPECTED COST PRINCIPLE

- Suppose we have: for imbalanced data sets:
 - a cost matrix C with $n_k \ll n_j$,
 - knowledge of the true posterior $p(k | \mathbf{x})$ majority class j
- Predict class j with smallest expected costs when marginalizing over true classes:
 - 0 for a correct classification



$$\mathbb{E}_{K \sim p(\cdot | \mathbf{x})}(C(j, K)) = \sum_{k=1}^g p(k | \mathbf{x}) C(j, k)$$

- Imbalanced binary classification:
- If we trust a probabilistic classifier, we can convert its scores to labels:

	True class	
	$y = 1$	$y = -1$
Pred. $\hat{y} = 1$	1	0
Pred. $\hat{y} = -1$	0	1

$$h(\mathbf{x}) := \arg \min_{j=1, \dots, g} \sum_{k=1}^g \pi_k(\mathbf{x}) C(j, k).$$

- So: much higher costs for FNs
- Can be better to take a less probable class (Ekan et al. 2001)

OPTIMAL THRESHOLD FOR BINARY CASE



- Optimal decisions do not change if
 - C is multiplied by positive constant
 - C is added with constant shift for $p(\cdot | \mathbf{x})$
- Scale and shift C to get simpler C'

ted costs when marginalizing over true classes:

	True class	
	$y = 1$	$y = -1$
Pred. $\hat{y} = 1$	$C'(1, 1)$	0
class $\hat{y} = -1$	$C'(-1, 1)$	0

$\mathbb{E}_{K \sim p(\cdot | \mathbf{x})}(C(j, K)) = \sum_{k=1}^g p(k | \mathbf{x}) C(j, k)$

- where
 - If we trust we trust a probabilistic classifier, we can convert its scores to labels:
 - $C'(-1, 1) = \frac{C(-1, 1) - C(-1, -1)}{C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)}$
 - $C'(1, 1) = \frac{C(1, 1) - C(-1, -1)}{C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)}$
 - We predict \mathbf{x} as class 1 if $\arg \min_{j=1, \dots, g} \sum_{k=1}^g \pi_k(\mathbf{x}) C(j, k)$.

$$\mathbb{E}_{K \sim p(\cdot | \mathbf{x})}(C'(1, K)) \leq \mathbb{E}_{K \sim p(\cdot | \mathbf{x})}(C'(-1, K))$$
- Can be better to take a less probable class (Ekan et al. 2001)

OPTIMAL THRESHOLD FOR BINARY CASE / 2

- Let's unroll the expected value and use C' :

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(-1 | \mathbf{x})C(1, -1) + \rho(1 | \mathbf{x})C(-1, 1) &\leq \rho(-1 | \mathbf{x})C'(-1, -1) + \rho(1 | \mathbf{x})C'(-1, 1) \\ \Rightarrow [1 - \rho(1 | \mathbf{x})]C(1, -1) + \rho(1 | \mathbf{x})C(-1, 1) &\leq \rho(1 | \mathbf{x})C'(-1, 1) \end{aligned}$$

- Scale and shift C to get simpler C' :

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \rho(1 | \mathbf{x}) &\geq \frac{C(1, -1) - C(1, 1) + 1}{C'(-1, 1) - C'(1, 1) + 1} \\ \Rightarrow \rho(1 | \mathbf{x}) &\geq \frac{C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)}{C(-1, 1) - C(1, 1) + C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)} = c^* \end{aligned}$$

- If even $C(1, 1) = C(-1, -1) = 0$, we get:

Pred. $\hat{y} = 1$	$C(1, 1)$	1
class $y = -1$	$C(-1, 1)$	0

where

$$\rho(1 | \mathbf{x}) \geq \frac{C(1, -1)}{C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1) + C(1, -1)} = c^*$$

- Optimal threshold c^* for probabilistic classifier

$$C'(1, 1) = \frac{C(1, -1)}{C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)}$$

- We predict \mathbf{x} as class $h(\mathbf{x}) := 2 \cdot \mathbb{1}_{[\rho(\mathbf{x}) \geq c^*]} - 1$

$$\mathbb{E}_{K \sim \rho(\cdot | \mathbf{x})}(C'(1, K)) \leq \mathbb{E}_{K \sim \rho(\cdot | \mathbf{x})}(C'(-1, K))$$



OPTIMAL THRESHOLD FOR BINARY CASE

- Let's unroll the expected value and use C' :

$$p(-1 | \mathbf{x})C'(1, -1) + p(1 | \mathbf{x})C'(1, 1) \leq p(-1 | \mathbf{x})C'(-1, -1) + p(1 | \mathbf{x})C'(-1, 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow [1 - p(1 | \mathbf{x})] \cdot 1 + p(1 | \mathbf{x})C'(1, 1) \leq p(1 | \mathbf{x})C'(-1, 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow p(1 | \mathbf{x}) \geq \frac{1}{C'(-1, 1) - C'(1, 1) + 1}$$

$$\Rightarrow p(1 | \mathbf{x}) \geq \frac{C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)}{C(-1, 1) - C(1, 1) + C(1, -1) - C(-1, -1)} = c^*$$

- If even $C(1, 1) = C(-1, -1) = 0$, we get:

$$p(1 | \mathbf{x}) \geq \frac{C(1, -1)}{C(-1, 1) + C(1, -1)} = c^*$$

- Optimal threshold c^* for probabilistic classifier

$$h(\mathbf{x}) := 2 \cdot \mathbb{1}_{[p(\mathbf{x}) \geq c^*]} - 1$$

