

EMPIRICAL THRESHOLDING: BINARY CASE

● Theoretical threshold from MECP not always best, due to e.g. wrong model class, finite data, etc.

● Simply measure costs on data with different thresholds

● Then pick best threshold (Fig 1 in [Sheng et al., 2006](#)):

Cost-Sensitive Learning Part 2

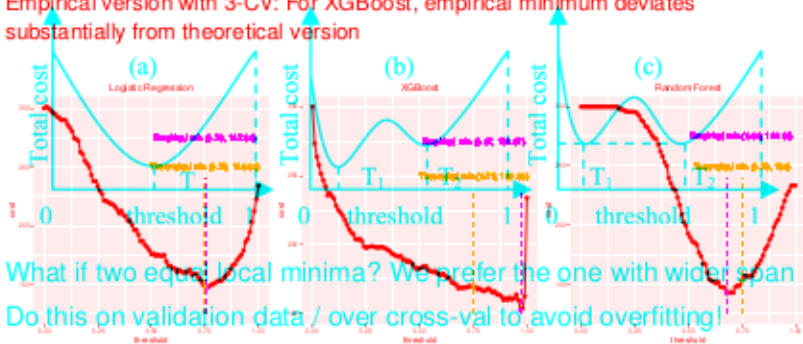


● What if two equal local minima? We prefer the one with wider span

● Do this on validation data / over cross-val to avoid overfitting!

EMPIRICAL THRESHOLDING: BINARY CASE

- Example: German Credit task
- Theoretical threshold from MLEP not always best, due to e.g. wrong model class, finite data, etc.
- Simply measure costs on data with different thresholds
- Then pick best threshold (Fig. 1 in [Liang et al. 2000](#)):
- Theoretical: $C(\text{good}, \text{bad}) / (C(\text{bad}, \text{good}) + C(\text{good}, \text{bad})) = 3/4 = c^*$
- Empirical version with 3-CV: For XGBoost, empirical minimum deviates substantially from theoretical version



- What if two equal local minima? We prefer the one with wider span
- Do this on validation data / over cross-val to avoid overfitting!

EMPIRICAL THRESHOLDING: MULTICLASS

- Example: German Credit task
- In the standard setting, we predict class $h(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \max_k \pi_k(\mathbf{x})$.

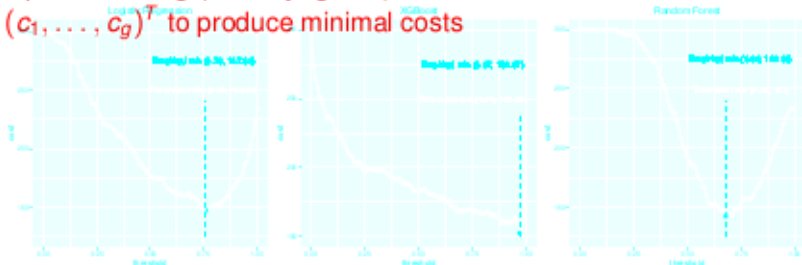
- Let's use g thresholds c_k now

	True class	
	$y = \text{good}$	$y = \text{bad}$
Pred. class	$\frac{\pi(\mathbf{x})_{\text{good}}}{c_{\text{good}}}$	$\frac{\pi(\mathbf{x})_{\text{bad}}}{c_{\text{bad}}}$
\mathbf{s}	3	0

- Predict class $\arg \max_k \pi_k(\mathbf{x})$

Theoretical version with 3-CV: For XGBoost, empirical minimum deviates substantially from theoretical version

- Compute empirical costs over cross-validation
- Optimize over g (actually: $g - 1$) dimensional threshold vector $(c_1, \dots, c_g)^T$ to produce minimal costs

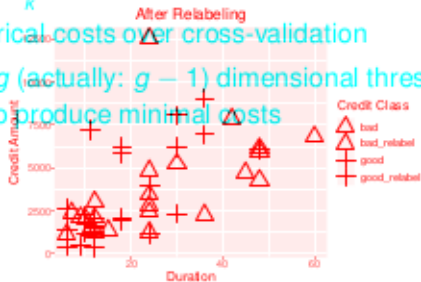


METACOST: OVERVIEW

- Model-agnostic wrapper technique
- General idea:
 - Let's use g thresholds c_k now
 - 1 Relabel train obs with their low expected cost classes
 - 2 Rescale scores $s = \left(\frac{\pi_k(\mathbf{x})}{c_g} \right)^{1/g}$

Example: German Credit task:

- Compute empirical costs over cross-validation
- Optimize over g (actually: $g - 1$) dimensional threshold vector $(c_1, \dots, c_g)^T$ to produce minimal costs



- Relabeled instances colored red
- Relabeling from good to bad more common because of costs



METACOST: ALGORITHM

Input: $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}^n$, training data, B number of bagging iterations, $\pi(\mathbf{x})$ probabilistic classifier, \mathbf{C} cost matrix, empty dataset $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} = \emptyset$

• **General idea:** B classifiers are trained on different bootstrap samples.

for $b = 1, \dots, B$ do

1 $\mathcal{D}_b \leftarrow$ Bootstrap version of \mathcal{D}

2 $\pi_b \leftarrow$ train classifier on \mathcal{D}_b

end for

• **Example German Credit task:**

Relabeling: Find classifiers for which $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$ is OOB and compute π_b by averaging over predictions. Determine new label $\tilde{y}^{(i)}$ w.r.t. to the cost minimal class.

for $i = 1, \dots, n$ do

$\tilde{M} \leftarrow \bigcup_{m: \mathbf{x}^{(i)} \notin \mathcal{D}_m} \{m\}$

end for

for $j = 1, \dots, g$ do

$\pi_j(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \leftarrow \frac{1}{|\tilde{M}|} \sum_{m \in \tilde{M}} \pi_j(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | \mathcal{D}_m)$ for each i

end for

for $i = 1, \dots, n$ do

$\tilde{y}^{(i)} \leftarrow \arg \min_k \sum_{j=1}^g \pi_j(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \mathbf{C}(k, j)$

$\tilde{\mathcal{D}} \leftarrow \tilde{\mathcal{D}} \cup \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \tilde{y}^{(i)})\}$

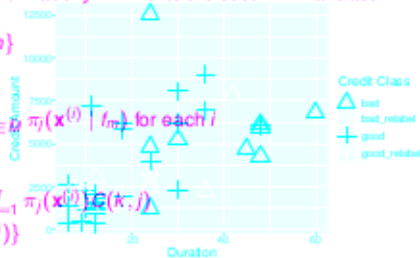
end for

Cost Sensitivity: Train on relabeled data.

• **Relabeled instances colored red**

$f_{meta} \leftarrow$ train f on $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}$

• **Relabeling from good to bad more common because of costs**



METACOST: ALGORITHM

Input: $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^n$ training data, B number of bagging iterations, $\pi(\mathbf{x})$ probabilistic classifier, \mathbf{C} cost matrix, empty dataset $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} = \emptyset$
Bagging: Classifier is trained on different bootstrap samples.
for $b = 1, \dots, B$ **do**
 $\mathcal{D}_b \leftarrow$ Bootstrap version of \mathcal{D}
 $\pi_b \leftarrow$ train classifier on \mathcal{D}_b
end for
Relabeling: Find classifiers for which $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$ is OOB and compute π_b by averaging over predictions. Determine new label $\tilde{y}^{(i)}$ w.r.t. to the cost minimal class.
for $i = 1, \dots, n$ **do**
 $\tilde{M} \leftarrow \bigcup_{m: \mathbf{x}^{(i)} \notin \mathcal{D}_m} \{m\}$
end for
for $j = 1, \dots, g$ **do**
 $\pi_j(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \leftarrow \frac{1}{|\tilde{M}|} \sum_{m \in \tilde{M}} \pi_j(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | f_m)$ for each i
end for
for $i = 1, \dots, n$ **do**
 $\tilde{y}^{(i)} \leftarrow \arg \min_k \sum_{j=1}^g \pi_j(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) C(k, j)$
 $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} \leftarrow \tilde{\mathcal{D}} \cup \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \tilde{y}^{(i)})\}$
end for

