

# Distance Weighted Discrimination

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Given two sets of points in a matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{R}^n$  with associated class variables  $[-1,1]$  in  $\mathbf{Y} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{y})$ , distance weighted discrimination ([1]) seeks to classify the points into two distinct subsets by finding a hyperplane between the two sets of points. Mathematically, the distance weighted discrimination problem seeks a hyperplane defined by a normal vector,  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ , and position,  $\beta$ , such that each element in the residual vector  $\bar{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{X}^T\boldsymbol{\omega} + \beta\mathbf{y}$  is positive and large. Since the class labels are either 1 or -1, having the residuals be positive is equivalent to having the points on the proper side of the hyperplane.

Of course, it may be impossible to have a perfect separation of points using a linear hyperplane, so an error term  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$  is introduced. Thus, the perturbed residuals are defined to be

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{X}^T\boldsymbol{\omega} + \beta\mathbf{y} + \boldsymbol{\xi}$$

Distance Weighted Discrimination solves the following optimization problem to find the optimal hyperplane[1].

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\mathbf{r}, \boldsymbol{\omega}, \beta, \boldsymbol{\xi}}{\text{minimize}} && \sum_{i=1}^n (1/r_i) + C\mathbf{1}^T\boldsymbol{\xi} \\ & \text{subject to} && \\ & && \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{X}^T\boldsymbol{\omega} + \beta\mathbf{y} + \boldsymbol{\xi} \\ & && \boldsymbol{\omega}^T\boldsymbol{\omega} \leq 1 \\ & && \mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ & && \boldsymbol{\xi} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

where  $C > 0$  is a penalty parameter to be chosen.

The function `dwd` takes as input two  $n \times p$  matrices `X1` and `X2` containing the points to be separated, as well as a penalty term  $C \geq 0$  penalizing the movement of a point on the wrong side of the hyperplane to the proper side, and returns the optimal solution using `sqp` to the distance weighted discrimination problem.

```
R> out <- dwd(X1,X2,C)
```

## Numerical Example

Consider two point configurations - `An` and `Ap` - which we would like to classify using distance weighted discrimination. Each point configuration is a matrix containing 50 points in three dimensional space.

```
R> data(Andwd)
R> data(Apdwd)
R> d <- ncol(Andwd)
```

```
R> head(Andwd)
```

```
      V1      V2      V3
[1,] 0.214 -1.577 -1.525
```

```
[2,] 0.480 0.624 -0.501
[3,] 0.088 0.330 -1.213
[4,] 0.444 -0.398 -0.630
[5,] -0.363 -1.081 -1.447
[6,] 0.123 -0.077 -0.167
```

```
R> head(Apdwd)
```

```
      V1      V2      V3
[1,] -0.687 0.192 0.726
[2,] 0.444 0.782 0.887
[3,] 2.360 -1.114 0.089
[4,] 2.230 1.428 1.369
[5,] 1.555 -0.142 2.138
[6,] 0.259 0.163 1.818
```

Distane weighed discrimination is used to separate these two configurations by specifying an appropriate penalization term. Here, we will take a value of 0.5.

```
R> out <- dwd(Apdwd,Andwd,0.5)
```

The information defining the seperating hyperplane ( $\omega$  and  $\beta$ ) is stored in the **X** output vector.

```
X <- out$X
```

```
omega <- X[[1]][2:(d+1)]
beta <- X[[1]][d+3]
```

```
omega
```

```
      [,1]
[1,] 0.6567689
[2,] 0.4857645
[3,] 0.5767907
```

```
beta
```

```
[1] -0.7520769
```

## References

- [1] James Stephen Marron, Michael J Todd, and Jeongyoun Ahn. Distance-weighted discrimination. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 102(480):1267–1271, 2007.