A NEW DIMENSION REDUCTION METHOD? — FEATURE SELECTION IN GAUSSIAN MIXTURE CLUSTERING

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ABOUT HKBU



ABOUT HK BAPTIST UNIVERSITY 关于香港浸会大学

- Established in 1956 the 2nd longest history in HK 于1956年成立-是香港第二间历史悠久的大学。
- Funded by the Government 由香港政府资助
- 35 undergraduate and 58 postgraduate programmes
 共有35个本科专业和58个研究生专业
- About 8,500 students
 - 约有8,500个学生

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University 大学	2011 Asia Ranking 2011年亚洲大学排名
Peking University 北京大学	3
Tsinghua University 清华大学	8
University of Science and Technology of China 中国科技大学	19
Fudan University 复旦大学	25
Nanjing University 南京大学	32
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ABOUT COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, HKBU

In Research Assessment Exercise conducted by UGC of the HKSAR Government in 2006, ranking of the local CS/IT Departments:



根据香港政府2006年对香港本地大学所做的研究评估报告

MOTIVATION

High-dimensional input data is common, e.g.



Two problems in existing dimension reduction methods:

1. How many dimensions will the input vectors be reduced, i.e. how to select the value of m?

2. It is hard or even impossible to interpret the physical meaning of y_i 's.

MOTIVATION (CONT'D 1)

In our method:



IN THIS TALK

- Focus on Density Mixture Clustering (Gaussian Mixture in particlar)
 - Model:

$$p(x | \Theta^{*}) = \sum_{j=1}^{k^{*}} \alpha_{j}^{*} p(x | \theta_{j}^{*})$$

with

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k^{*}} \alpha_{j}^{*} = 1, \forall 1 \leq j \leq k^{*}, \alpha_{j}^{*} > 0.$$

Data Classification:



$$h(j \mid x_{t}, \Theta^{*}) = \frac{\alpha_{j}^{*} p(x_{t} \mid \theta_{j}^{*})}{\sum_{r=1}^{k^{*}} \alpha_{r}^{*} p(x_{t} \mid \theta_{j}^{*})}, 1 \le j \le k^{*}.$$

- Two Learning Problems:
 - Problem 1: Estimate the model parameters $\Theta^* = \{\alpha_j^*, \theta_j^*\}_{j=1}^{k^*}$
 - Problem 2: Determine the number of mixture components, i.e. the number of clusters

IN THIS TALK (CONT'D 1)

Problem 1:

- Expectation-Maximization (EM) Algorithm provides a general solution of model parameter estimation;
- An adaptive EM Algorithm (given an estimate k of k*):
 - E-Step:

Fixing $\Theta^{(old)}$ and calculate

$$h(j \mid x_{t}, \Theta^{(old)}) = \frac{\alpha_{j}^{(old)} p(x_{t} \mid \theta_{j}^{(old)})}{\sum_{r=1}^{k} \alpha_{r}^{(old)} p(x_{t} \mid \theta_{j}^{(old)})} \qquad j = 1, 2, \dots, k$$

• M-Step Fixing $h(j | x_t, \Theta^{(old)})s$, we update Θ using gradient ascent method:

$$\Theta^{new} = \Theta^{(old)} + \eta \frac{\partial \ell(\Theta; x_t)}{\partial \Theta} \big|_{\Theta^{(old)}}$$

DRAWBACK OF THE EM ALGORITHM

 Scenario: Traditional Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm leads to a poor parameter estimation when the number k of densities in a mixture is mis-specified;

Drawback: The EM algorithm cannot determine the number of components automatically.



IN THIS TALK (CONT'D 2)

Scenario:

- Common to cluster high-dimensional data, e.g. in Microarray data analysis, image processing, pattern recognition.
- Irrelevant features could hinder the detection of cluster structures.
- Among the relevant features, some may be redundant.
- Problem 3: To find the minimal feature subset that best represents the partition of interest via learning the associated weights of the features
- Difficulties
 - Absence of the ground-truth class labels of the training data to guide the feature selection;
 - True number of clusters is unknown a priori;
 - Feature subset and clusters are inter-related.





THE PROPOSED APPROACH

- Develop Rival Penalized EM (RPEM) Algorithm within the learning framework of Maximum Weighted Likelihood Approach
 - To solve Problem 1 and Problem 2
- Present an unsupervised feature selection scheme
 - To solve Problem 3
- Develop an Iterative Feature Selection and Clustering Algorithm
 - which is an integration of RPEM and Unsupervised Feature Selection Scheme
 - Highlights:

Simultaneous learning of the three tasks:

- Problem 1: Model parameter estimation;
- Problem 2: Select the number of components (i.e. the number of clusters);
- Problem 3: The learning of the associated feature weights w_i's.









OUTLINE

Introduction

- The existing unsupervised feature selection methods
- The RPEM Algorithm
- Unsupervised Feature Selection Schemes
- The Iterative Feature Selection and Clustering Algorithm
- Experimental Results
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION: THREE KINDS OF FEATURE SELECTION APPROACHES

- Filter Approach (e.g. see [Dash et al. 2002, Miltra et al.2002])
 - Perform feature selection prior to the clustering algorithm.
- Wrapper Approach (e.g. see [Dy and Brodley 2000 & 2005])
 - For each feature subset candidate, evaluate it by wrapping around the clustering algorithm.
- Embedded Approach (e.g. see [Law et al. 2002, Constantinopoulos et al. 2006])
 - Optimize the two tasks in a single optimization paradigm;
 - Assume that the pdf of the irrelevant features is Gaussian (Sensitive).
- Our approach
 - Iterate between clustering and feature selection;
 - Robust against the pdf of the irrelevant features;
 - Perform not only the relevance analysis, but also the redundancy analysis to gradually shrink the search space.

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MAXIMUM WEIGHTED LIKELIHOOD AND RPEM ALGORITHM

- A general MWL learning framework
- The ML estimate of Θ^* can be obtained via maximizing the cost function:

$$l(\Theta) = \int \ln p(x \mid \Theta) dF(x)$$

with

$$p(x \mid \Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j} p(x \mid \theta_{j}), \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j}, \forall 1 \le j \le k, \alpha_{j} > 0$$

where $k \ge k^*$. The above equation can be further represented as

$$l(\Theta) = \int \sum_{j=1}^{k} g(j \mid x, \Theta) \ln p(x \mid \Theta) dF(x)$$

where $g(j | x, \Theta)$ is the designable weight that satisfying

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k} g(j \mid x, \Theta) = 1$$

By Baye's formula

$$h(j \mid x, \Theta) = \frac{\alpha_j p(x \mid \theta_j)}{p(x \mid \Theta)}$$

Subsequently, we have

$$p(x \mid \Theta) = \frac{\alpha_{j} p(x \mid \theta_{j})}{h(j \mid x, \Theta)}$$

Consequently, we have

$$l(\Theta) = \int \sum_{j=1}^{k} g(j \mid x, \Theta) \ln \left[\alpha_{j} p(x \mid \theta_{j}) \right] dF(x) - \int \sum_{j=1}^{k} g(j \mid x, \Theta) \ln h(j \mid x, \Theta) dF(x)$$
(1)

Theorem 1: Suppose $p(x | \Theta)$ is an identifiable model with respect to Θ . Eq.(1) reaches the global maximum if and only if $\Theta = \Theta^*$. Particularly, as N is large enough, the empirical MWL cost function is then:

$$Q(X_{N};\Theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{k} g(j \mid x_{t},\Theta) \ln[\alpha_{j} p(x_{t} \mid \Theta_{j})] - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{k} g(j \mid x_{t},\Theta) \ln h(j \mid x_{t},\Theta)$$

where

 $\forall j, g(j \mid x_t, \Theta) = 0 \quad if \quad h(j \mid x_t, \Theta) = 0$

Some choices of $g(j | x_t, \Theta)$:

• If $g(j | x_t, \Theta) = h(j | x_t, \Theta)$

• Equal to the Kullback-Leibler divergence function derived from Ying-Yang Machine with the backward architecture.

• If
$$g(j | x_t, \Theta) = I(j | x_t, \Theta)$$

$$I(j | x_t, \Theta) = \begin{cases} 1 & if \quad j = c = \arg \max_{1 \le r \le k} h(j | x_t, \Theta) \\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases}$$

• Equal to the cost function of hard-cut EM.

• A specific design of $g(j | x_t, \Theta)$ herein:

$$g(j \mid x_t, \Theta) = 2\varphi(j \mid x_t, \Theta) - h(j \mid x_t, \Theta)$$
(2)

where $\varphi(j | x_t, \Theta)$ is a special probability function named indicator function.

RIVAL PENALIZED EM ALGORITHM

By considering the specific weights defined above, the cost function becomes

 $Q(\Theta; X_N) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} q_t(\Theta; x_t)$

with

$$q_t(\Theta; x_t) = R_{t(\Theta; x_t)} + H_t(\Theta; x_t)$$

and

$$R_t(\Theta; x_t) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} [2\varphi(j \mid x_t, \Theta) - h(j \mid x_t, \Theta)] \ln[\alpha_j p(x_t \mid \theta_j)]$$

$$H_t(\Theta; x_t) = -\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} [2\varphi(j \mid x_t, \Theta) - h(j \mid x_t, \Theta)] \ln h(j \mid x_t, \Theta)$$

One choice of $\varphi(j | x_t, \Theta)$

$$\varphi(j \mid x_t, \Theta) = I(j \mid x_t, \Theta) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j = c = \arg \max_{1 \le r \le k} h(j \mid x_t, \Theta) \\ 0, \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Learn Θ via maximizing the cost function $Q(\Theta; X_N)$ adaptively:

Step A.1

Fixing $\Theta^{(old)}$, and calculate $h(j | x_t, \Theta^{(old)})$ and $\varphi(j | x_t, \Theta)$, as given an input x_t

Step A.2

Fixing $h(j|x_t, \Theta^{(old)})$ s, we update Θ using gradient ascent method.

$$\alpha_j = \frac{\exp(\beta_j)}{\sum_{r=1}^k \exp(\beta_r)} \quad for \quad 1 \le j \le k$$

and update $\beta_j s$ directly instead of $\alpha_j s$. As a result,

$$\beta_{c}^{(new)} = \beta_{c}^{(old)} + \eta \frac{\partial q_{t}(\Theta; x_{t})}{\partial \beta_{c}}|_{\Theta^{(old)}}$$

$$\Theta_{c}^{(new)} = \Theta_{c}^{(old)} + \eta \frac{\partial q_{t}(\Theta; x_{t})}{\partial \Theta_{c}} \big|_{\Theta_{c}^{(old)}}$$

meanwhile

$$\beta_r^{(new)} = \beta_r^{(old)} + \eta \frac{\partial q_t(\Theta; x_t)}{\partial \beta_r} |_{\Theta^{(old)}}$$

$$\Theta_{r}^{(new)} = \Theta_{r}^{(old)} + \eta \frac{\partial q_{t}(\Theta; x_{t})}{\partial \Theta_{r}} \big|_{\Theta_{r}^{(old)}}, (r \neq c)$$

where $c = \arg \max_{1 \le r \le k} h(j \mid x_t, \Theta).$

The above two steps are iteratively implemented for each input until Θ converges.

Remarks:

We have proved that the convergence of Θ is guaranteed.

DETAILED RPEM IN GAUSSIAN DENSITY MIXTURE MODEL

Suppose the N inputs $\{x_t\}_{t=1}^N$ all iid distribution, and come from a Gaussian density mixture, i.e.,

$$p(x \mid \Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j} G(x_{t} m_{j}, \sum_{j})$$

Initialization

Given a specific $k (k \ge k^*)$, we initialize Θ . Then, at each time step t, we implement the following two steps:

Step B.1:

Fixing $\Theta^{(old)}$, and calculate

$$h(j \mid x_t, \Theta^{(old)}) = \frac{\alpha_j^{(old)} G(x_t \mid m_j^{(old)}, \sum_j^{(old)})}{p(x_t \mid \Theta^{(old)})}$$

$$g(j \mid x_t, \Theta) = 2\varphi(j \mid x_t, \Theta) - h(j \mid x_t, \Theta), 1 \le j \le k$$

Step B.2:
Fixing
$$h(j|x_t, \Theta^{(old)})s$$
, we update Θ using gradient ascent method.

$$\beta_j^{(new)} = \beta_j^{(old)} + \eta[g(j|x_t, \Theta^{(old)}) - \alpha_j^{old}]$$

$$m_j^{(new)} = m_j^{(old)} + \eta g(j|x_t, \Theta^{(old)}) \sum_j^{-1(old)} (x_t - m_j^{(old)})$$

$$m_1(i.e. m_o) * m_2$$

$$\sum_j^{-1(new)} = [1 + \eta g(j|x_t, \Theta^{(old)})] \sum_j^{-1(old)} - \eta g(j|x_t, \Theta^{(old)}) U_{t,j} * m_3(i.e. m_i)$$

where

$$U_{t,j} = \left[\sum_{j}^{-1(old)} (x_t - m_j^{(old)})(x_t - m_j^{(old)})^T \sum_{j}^{-1(old)}\right].$$

Note that, to simplify the computation $\sum_{j}^{-1} s$ update, we have updated $\sum_{j}^{-1} a$ long the direction of $\sum_{j}^{-1} \frac{\partial q_{i}(\Theta; x_{i})}{\partial \sum_{j}^{-1}} \sum_{j}^{-1} \frac{\partial q_{j}(\Theta; x_{i})}{\partial \sum_{j}^{-1}} \sum_{j}^{-1}$

EXPERIMENTAL SIMULATION EXPERIMENT I

The number k of seed points is 3



Suppose the number k of seed points is 7 rather than 3





True distribution of components

Results for RPEM

Results for EM

EXPERIMENT II

The data points are generated from the mixture Gaussian models, where the three clusters are overlapped.



For k = 25, the distribution of the convergent seed points



The performance of RPEM in more clusters





Learning Curve of Parameter $\alpha_i s$



Empirical investigation of robustness of RPEM





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UNSUPERVISED FEATURE SELECTION



Selecting the relevant features



- The feature X is relevant to the partitioning, while the feature Y is irrelevant.
- Our Claim: A feature is less relevant if, along this feature, the variance of observations in a cluster is closer to the global variance of observations in all clusters.

We propose a quantitative index to measure the relevance of each feature:

$$SCORE_{l} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} Score_{l,j} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} (1 - \frac{\delta_{l,j}^{2}}{\delta_{l}^{2}}), l = 1, \dots, d$$

 $\delta_{l,j}^{2}: \text{the variance of the } j^{\text{th}} \text{ cluster projected on the } l^{\text{th}} \text{ dimension (local):} \\ \delta_{l,j}^{2} = \frac{1}{N_{j} - 1} \sum_{t=1}^{N_{j}} (x_{l,t} - \mu_{l,j})^{2}, \mathbf{x}_{t} \in j^{\text{th}} \text{ cluster},$

 δ_{l}^{2} : the variance of the whole data on the lth dimension (global):

$$\delta_{l}^{2} = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{t=1}^{N} (x_{l,t} - \bar{\mu}_{l})^{2}, \ \bar{\mu} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} x_{l,t}.$$

the optimal case: SCORE₁ = 1; the worst case: SCORE₁ = 0.

the refined relevant feature subset:

$$R' = F - \{ F_l \mid S C O R E_l < \beta, F_l \in F \}$$

- Selecting the non-redundant features
- Markov Blanket (Pearl): Given a feature F_1 , let $M_1 \subset F(F_1 \notin M_1)$ M_1 is said to be the Markov Blanket for F_1 if:

$$P(F - M_{l} - F_{l}, C | F_{l}, M_{l}) = P(F - M_{l} - F_{l}, C | M_{l}).$$

- If a Markov Blanket M₁ for F₁ can be found in the feature set F, i.e. M₁ subsumes the information that F₁ has about C, we are able to eliminate the feature F₁ from F without affecting the class prediction accuracy.
- The closeness of candidate M_i to being a true Markov Blanket for F_i is measured by (Koller&Sahami):

$$\Delta(F_{l} \mid M_{l}) \sum_{f_{M_{l}}, f_{l}} P(M_{l} = f_{M_{l}}, F_{l} = f_{l}) \cdot KL(P(C \mid M_{l} = f_{M_{l}}, F_{l} = f_{l}) \parallel P(C \mid M_{l} = f_{M_{l}}))$$

• where *KL*(.||.) denotes the Kullback-Leibler divergence:

$$KL(P \parallel Q) = \sum_{z} P(z) \log(P(z) / Q(z)).$$

- **Exact Markov Blanket for** $F_l:\Delta(F_l|M_l)=0$;
- Approximate Markov Blanket for $F_l:\Delta(F_l|M_l)$ being small.

Algorithm 1: The Markov Blanket filtering algorithm.

Initialize

$$-G^{(1)} = F;$$

Iterate

- For each feature F_l ∈ G^(m) let M_l be the set of T features F_i ∈ G^(m) − F_l for which the correlation between F_l and F_i are the highest;
- Compute $\Delta(F_l|M_l)$ for each feature l;
- Choose the F_{l_m} that minimizes $\Delta(F_l|M_l)$, and define $G^{(m+1)} = G^{(m)} F_{l_m}$;

Until $|G^{(m+1)}| = T$.

non-redundant features (classes are replaced by clusters):

 $R'' = \{F_{l_m} \mid \min_{F_l \in G^{(m)}} \Delta(F_l \mid M_l) > \gamma \cdot \min_{F_l \in G^{(1)}} \Delta(F_l \mid M_l)\} \bigcup \{R' - \{F_{l_1}, F_{l_2}, \dots, F_{l_{|R|-T}}\}\}$ where $m = 1, 2, \dots, |R'| - T, F_{l_m} \in R', G^{(1)} = R'.$

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THE ITERATIVE FEATURE SELECTION AND CLUSTERING ALGORITHM

Algorithm 2: Iterative Feature Selection in RPEM clustering algorithm. input : $\mathbf{X}_N, k_{max}, \eta, epoch_{max}, \beta, \gamma, T$ output: the most relevant and non-redundant feature subset \hat{R} 1 $\hat{R} \leftarrow \{F\};$ 2 epoch_count $\leftarrow 0$; 3 while $epoch_count \le epoch_{max} do$ for $t \leftarrow 1$ to N do Step 1: Calculate $h(j|\mathbf{x}_t, \hat{\Theta})$'s to obtain $q(j|\mathbf{x}_t, \hat{\Theta})$'s on 5 \hat{R} : Step 2: Update parameters $\hat{\Theta}$ on F; 6 $\hat{\Theta}^{(new)} = \hat{\Theta}^{(old)} + \eta \left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}_t; \hat{\Theta})}{\partial \Theta} \right|_{\hat{\Theta}^{(old)}};$ 7 end $\bar{R} \leftarrow \text{FeatureSelection}(F, \beta, \gamma, T);$ $epoch_count \leftarrow epoch_count + 1;$ 9 10 end

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Procedure FeatureSelection} (F, \beta, \gamma, T) \\ \textbf{input} : F, \beta, \gamma, T \\ \textbf{output} : \hat{R} \\ \hline // \text{ Selecting the relevant features} \\ \textbf{1} \ Calculate \ SCORE_l, F_l \in F; \\ \textbf{2} \ R' \leftarrow F - \{F_l|SCORE_l < \beta, F_l \in F\}; \\ \hline // \ Selecting \ \text{the non-redundant features} \\ \textbf{3} \ Perform \ Markov \ Blanket \ filtering; \\ \textbf{4} \ R'' = \{F_{l_m} | \min_{F_l \in G^{(m)}} \Delta(F_l | M_l) > \\ \gamma \cdot \min_{F_l \in G^{(1)}} \Delta(F_l | M_l)\} \cup \{R' - \{F_{l_1}, F_{l_2}, \dots, F_{l_{|R'|-T}}\}\}; \\ \textbf{5} \ \hat{R} \leftarrow R''; \end{array}$

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EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The system parameters

Syl

	parameter	k _{max}	β	γ	Т
	value	10	0.4	2	2
nthet	ic data 1		6 5 4 3 2		
				3 4	5 6 7

- F₁ and F₂ are relevant features;
- F_3 ; F_4 are obtained by duplicating F_1 and F_2 ; (thus either { F_3 ; F_4 } or { F_1 ; F_2 } are redundant.)
- F₅ -F₁₀ were sampled from standard Gaussian, thus being unimodal (irrelevant to the clustering);

	0.45 0.4 0.35 0.35 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.05 0.0	50
epoch	ranking	selected features
1	$0.9(F_1) \ 0.9(F_4) \ 0.9(F_3) \ 0.9(F_2) \ 0.3(F_6) \ 0.3(F_7) \ 0.2(F_{10}) \ 0.1(F_8) \ 0.1(F_5) \ 0.1(F_9)$	{F ₁ ; F ₂ ; F ₃ ; F ₄ }
1	$O(F_1) O(F_2)$	{F ₃ ; F ₄ }
$0.8(F_1) \ 0.8(F_2) \ 0.8(F_4) \ 0.8(F_3) \ 0.2(F_7) \ 0.2(F_8) \ 0.2(F_6) \ 0.2(F_{10}) \ 0.2(F_5) \ 0.1(F_9)$		{F ₁ ; F ₂ ; F ₃ ; F ₄ }
$0(F_1) 0(F_2)$		{F ₃ ; F ₄ }
$0.9(F_2) \ 0.9(F_1) \ 0.9(F_4) \ 0.9(F_3) \ 0.0(F_7) \ 0.0(F_5) \ 0.0(F_8) \ 0.0(F_9) \ 0.0(F_{10}) \ 0.0(F_6)$		{F ₁ ; F ₂ ; F ₃ ; F ₄ }
30	$O(F_1) O(F_2)$	{F ₃ ; F ₄ }
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- The algorithm in (Law et al. 2004) assumes that the pdf of the irrelevant features is Gaussian;
- Let be uniformly distributed (irrelevant to the clustering); The distribution of the irrelevant features is bias from the pre-specified one in (Law et al. 2004).



 Remark: The algorithm in (Law et al. 2004) is sensitive to the assumed pdf for the irrelevant features;

	0.45 0.4 0.35 0.25 0.2 0.25 0.2 0.25 0.2 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.05 0.05 0.05 0.05	50
epoch	ranking	selected features
1	$0.9(F_1) \ 0.9(F_2) \ 0.9(F_3) \ 0.9(F_4) \ 0.3(F_6) \ 0.3(F_5) \ 0.2(F_9) \ 0.2(F_8) \ 0.1(F_{10}) \ 0.1(F_7)$	
$O(F_1) O(F_2)$		{F ₃ ; F ₄ }
$0.6(F_1) \ 0.6(F_4) \ 0.6(F_2) \ 0.6(F_3) \ 0.2(F_8) \ 0.1(F_6) \ 0.1(F_{10}) \ 0.1(F_7) \ 0.0(F_5) \ 0.0(F_9)$		{F ₁ ; F ₂ ; F ₃ ; F ₄ }
$O(F_1) O(F_2)$		{F ₃ ; F ₄ }
$0.9(F_1) \ 0.9(F_2) \ 0.9(F_3) \ 0.9(F_4) \ 0.0(F_{10}) \ 0.0(F_8) \ 0.0(F_9) \ 0.0(F_7) \ 0.0(F_5) \ 0.0(F_6)$		$\{F_1; F_2; F_3; F_4\}$
$O(F_1) O(F_2)$		{F ₃ ; F ₄ }
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IRRFS-RPEM: the proposed algorithm; IRFS-RPEM: a variant without redundancy analysis.

Data Set	Method	Model Order mean \pm std	Error Rate mean \pm std
Wdbc d=30 N=569 k* =2	RPEM GMClusFW IRFS-RPEM IRRFS-RPEM	1.7 ± 0.4 5.7 ± 0.3 2.3 ± 0.4 Fixed at 2	$\begin{array}{rrrr} 0.2610 \pm & 0.0781 \\ 0.1005 \pm & 0.0349 \\ 0.1021 \pm & 0.0546 \\ 0.0897 \pm & 0.0308 \end{array}$
Sonar d=30 N=569 k* =2	RPEM GMClusFW IRFS-RPEM IRRFS-RPEM	2.3 ± 0.8 1.0 ± 0.0 2.8 ± 0.6 2.7 ± 0.7	$\begin{array}{r} 0.4651 \pm 0.0532 \\ 0.5000 \pm 0.0000 \\ 0.3625 \pm 0.0394 \\ \textbf{0.3221} \pm \textbf{0.0333} \end{array}$
Wine d=30 N=569 k* =2	RPEM GMClusFW IRFS-RPEM IRRFS-RPEM	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	$\begin{array}{r} 0.0843 \pm 0.0261 \\ 0.0673 \pm 0.0286 \\ 0.0492 \pm 0.0182 \\ 0.0509 \pm 0.0248 \end{array}$
lonospher d=30 N=569 k* =2	e RPEM GMClusFW IRFS-RPEM IRRFS-RPEM	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	$\begin{array}{r} 0.4056 \pm \ 0.0121 \\ 0.2268 \ \pm \ 0.0386 \\ 0.2921 \ \pm \ 0.0453 \\ \textbf{0.2121} \ \pm \ \textbf{0.0273} \end{array}$

Data Set	Method	Model Order mean \pm std	Error Rate mean \pm std
wdbc	IRFS-RPEM IRRFS-RPEM	2.3 ± 0.4 Fixed at 2	0.1021 ± 0.0546 0.0897 ± 0.0308
sonar	IRFS-RPEM IRRFS-RPEM	2.8 ± 0.6 2.7 ± 0.7	0.3625 ± 0.0394 0.3221 ± 0.0333

Table: The proportions of the average selected features

Data	IRFS-RPEM	IRRFS-RPEM
wdbc	51.16%	50.33%
sonar	57%	55.83%

Data Set	Method	Model Order mean \pm std	Error Rate mean \pm std
wine	IRFS-RPEM	4.7 ± 1.7	0.0492 ± 0.0182
	IRRFS-RPEM	3.1 ± 0.5	0.0509 ± 0.0248
ionosphere	IRFS-RPEM	2.6 ± 0.8	0.2921 ± 0.0453
	IRRFS-RPEM	2.5 ± 0.5	0.2121 ± 0.0273

Table: The proportions of the average selected features

Data	IRFS-RPEM	IRRFS-RPEM
wine	83.65%	62.31%
ionosphere	68.13%	34.38%

Data Set	Method	Model Order mean \pm std	Error Rate mean std
wdbc	GMClusFW IRRFS-RPEM	$\frac{5.7 \pm 0.3}{\text{Fixed at 2}}$	$\begin{array}{r} 0.1005 \pm 0.0349 \\ \textbf{0.0897} \ \pm \ \textbf{0.0308} \end{array}$
sonar	GMClusFW IRRFS-RPEM	1.0 ± 0.0 2.7 ± 0.7	$\begin{array}{r} 0.5000 \ \pm \ 0.0000 \\ \textbf{0.3221} \ \pm \ \textbf{0.0333} \end{array}$
wine	GMClusFW IRRFS-RPEM	3.3 ± 1.4 3.1 ± 0.5	$\begin{array}{r} 0.0673 \ \pm \ 0.0286 \\ 0.0509 \ \pm \ 0.0248 \end{array}$
ionosphere	GMClusFW IRRFS-RPEM	3.2 ± 0.6 2.5 ± 0.5	0.2268 ± 0.0386 0.2121 ± 0.0273

CONCLUSION

- Develop RPEM algorithm from the MWL learning framework;
- A new feature relevance measurement index is proposed;
- The algorithm iterates between the clustering and feature selection, featuring that:
 - It does not particularly assume the pdf for the irrelevant features;
 - Effective in eliminating both irrelevant and redundant features;



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