

Coding and Decoding Design of ECOCs for Multi-class Pattern and Object Recognition

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9/7/2008



Introduction

Error-Correcting Output Codes (ECOC)

- Coding
- Decoding
- Applications
- Conclusions

Classifiers

- Main families of classifiers
 - Similarity Maximization Methods
 - **Probabilistic Methods**
 - Geometric Classifiers



- \rightarrow Similarity measure
- → Bayesian Decision Theory
- → Decision boundaries [Jain00]

- Multi-class versus binary classification

 - Discriminative classifiers are binary-defined by default Most discriminative multi-class classifiers are defined as a combination of binary problems

[[]Jain00] Anil K. Jain, Robert P.W. Duin, Jianchang Mao, Statistical Pattern Recognition: A Review, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 2000.

Applications Conclusions

Combining strategies

- Multi-class as a combination of binary classifiers (dichotomizers)
 - One-versus-all





Error-Correcting Output Codes

[Dietterich95] Thomas G. Dietterich, Ghulum Bakiri, Solving Multiclass Learning Problems via Error-Correcting Output Codes, Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, 1995

Error-Correcting Output Codes



Error-Correcting Output Codes - Coding



Error-Correcting Output Codes - Decoding



Error-Correcting Output Codes

Properties

- The information among dichotomizers is used jointly to make a classification decision
- If the minimum distance among codewords is d, y_3 then, (d-1)/2 errors can be corrected at the $y_4 \rightarrow$ decoding step [Dietterich95]



ECOC method reduces the bias and the variance of the learning algorithm [Kong95]

[Dietterich95] Thomas G. Dietterich, Ghulum Bakiri, Solving Multiclass Learning Problems via Error-Correcting Output Codes, Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, 1995.

[Kong95] E.B. Kong and T.G. Dietterich, Error-Correcting Output Coding Corrects Bias and Variance, Proc. 12th Int'l Conf. Machine Learning, pp. 313-321, 1995.

ECOC - Shortcomings

ECOC Coding:

- Pre-defined ECOC designs
 - Do not use the knowledge of the problem-domain

ECOC Decoding:

- Ternary ECOC framework [Allwein02]
 - Décoding strategies should be readjusted





ECOC coding – Classical strategies



[Hastie98] T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani, Classification by pairwise grouping, The annals of statistics, vol. 26, issue 5, pp. 451–471, 1998.

[Nilsson65] N. J. Nilsson, Learning Machines, McGraw-Hill, 1965.

[Allwein02] E. Allwein, R. Schapire, and Y. Singer, Reducing multiclass to binary: A unifying approach for margin classifiers, Journal of Machine Learning Research, vol. 1, pp. 113-141, 2002.

ECOC coding – Our proposal

Introduction



ECOC

Motivation

Introduction

Use the knowledge of the problem-domain to design the ECOC matrix

ECOC coding

ECOC decoding

Applications

Conclusions

 Take advantage of the embedding of a tree structure in the ECOC matrix to embed a Forest of trees [Pujol06]



[PujolO6] O. Pujol, P. Radeva, J. Vitrià, Discriminant ecoc: A heuristic method for application dependent design of error correcting output codes, Transactions on PAMI 28 (6), pp. 1001–1007, 2006.

ECOC

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ECOC coding

ECOC decoding

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Forest-ECOC

ECOC

Introduction

UCI Machine Learning Repository classification



ECOC coding

ECOC decoding

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- Small codewords
- Information of tree nodes is shared among classes in the ECOC matrix

Applications

ECOC coding – Our proposal

Introduction



Properties

- Problem-dependent extension of any initial coding (even empty)
 - It focuses on difficult classes



- It increases the distance between difficult to classify classes while preserving the rest
- A validation subset is used to increase generalization and prevent or delay overfitting

Coding (Finding a new dichotomy)



(Embedding) Coding {C₁,C₂,C₃,C₄} dichotomy $\{C_2\}$ vs $\{C_3, C_1\}$ $\{C_2, C_4\}$ {C1,C3} N_2 N_3 **Embedding** • Embed the new dichotomy in the matrix $M(r,i) = \begin{cases} 0 & if \quad c_r \notin C_i \\ +1 & if \quad c_r \in C_{i1} \\ -1 & if \quad c_r \in C_{i2} \end{cases}$ {C₃} {C₁} {C₄} {C₂} h₃ h₂ h₁ Weighting • Update the dichotomy importance C₁ 1 -1 0 C_2 -1 0 -1 $w_i = 0.5 \log \left(\frac{1 - e_i}{e_i} \right)$ C₃ 1 1 0 C₄ 0 weights 1.0 original code extended code

h₄

1

-1

1

0



Boundaries resulted after one iteration of training. (a) ECOC-ONE, (b) one-versus-one, (c) one-versus-all and, (d) and (e) two different matrices of Dense Random with the same minimal distance, respectively. Dark line corresponds to the real boundary and grey regions correspond to learning errors.



- Error evolution using ECOC-ONE with FLDA for:
 - (a) **Glass** data set
 - (b) Dermathology data set



- The length of the codeword is increased in the way that a better solution for the training data is obtained
- It can be applied to any initial coding matrix, yielding a small code length

ECOC coding – Our proposal

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ECOC coding ECOC decoding

Applications Conclusions

Sub-class ECOC



ECOC coding ECOC decoding

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Sub-class ECOC



ECOC decoding ECOC coding

Applications Conclusions

Sub-class ECOC











h₂

1

0

-1

0

(C)

h₁

1

1

1

-1

C₁₁

C₁₂

 C_2

C₃

h₂

-1

0

h₁

1

1

-1

(b)

h₃

0

1

-1

0





ECOC coding ECOC decoding

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Sub-class ECOC



- Sub-class ECOC splits the original set of classes into sub-classes until the base classifier is able to learn the training data
- Useful when ECOC base classifier is not able to model the binary problems
- It avoids the requirement of using complex classifiers

Learning boundaries evolution



Applications

ECOC decoding – Our proposal

Introduction



ECOC decoding – Classical strategies

Hamming decoding [Nilsson65]
$$HD(x, y_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n (1 - \operatorname{sign}(x^j \cdot y_i^j))/2$$

 $IHD(x, y_i) = \max(\Delta^{-1}D^T), \ \Delta(i_1, i_2) = HD(y_{i_1}, y_{i_2})$

$$ED(x, y_i) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} (x^j - y_i^j)^2}$$

n

Inverse Hamming decoding [Windeatt03]

Euclidean decoding [Hastie98]

Introduction

Loss-based decoding
[Allwein02]

ECOC

Probabilistic-based decoding [Passerini04]

$$LB(\rho, y_{i}) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} L(y_{i}^{j} \cdot f^{j}(\rho)) \qquad L(\theta) = -\theta , \ L(\theta) = \mathbf{e}^{-\theta}$$

$$PD(y_{i}, F) = -log \left(\prod_{j \in [1, \dots, n]: M(i, j) \neq 0} P(x^{j} = M(i, j) | f^{j}) + K\right)$$

$$P(x^{j} = y_{i}^{j} | f^{j}) = \frac{1}{1 + \mathbf{e}^{y_{i}^{j}(v^{j} f^{j} + \omega^{j})}}$$

[Nilsson65] N. J. Nilsson, "Learning Machines", McGraw-Hill, 1965.

[Windeatt03] T. Windeatt and R. Ghaderi, "Coding and decoding for multi-class learning problems", Information Fusion, vol. 4, pp. 11-21, 2003.

[Hastie98] T.Hastie and R.Tibshirani, "Classification by pairwise grouping", In proc. NIPS , vol. 26, pp. 451-471, 1998.

[Allwein02] E. Allwein, R. Schapire, and Y. Singer, Reducing multiclass to binary: A unifying approach for margin classifiers, Journal of Machine Learning Research, vol. 1, pp. 113-141, 2002.

[Passerini04] A. Passerini, M. Pontil, and P. Frasconi, "New results on error correcting output codes of kernel machines", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, vol. 15(1), pp. 45-54, 2004.

Conclusions

Applications

Taxonomy



Definition 1: Decoding bias is the value introduced by the comparison of two codewords on positions containing the zero symbol (being the magnitude of the value proportional to the number of zero positions).

Definition 2: A dynamic range bias corresponds to the difference among the ranges of values associated to the decoding process of each codeword.

Taxonomy

Definition 3: A general decoding decomposition to represent decoding strategies is defined as follows:

$$d = \underbrace{\sum_{k \in I_b} b_k}_{k \in I_a} + \underbrace{\sum_{k \in I_a} a_i}_{k \in I_e} + \underbrace{\sum_{k \in I_e} e_j}_{k \in I_e}$$

b – Value of a zero comparison a – Value of a maching e – Value of a failure I_b, I_a, I_e - Index

Hypothesis I: The bias induced by a zero position applying a particular decoding strategy should be zero (b=0)

Hypothesis II: The dynamic range should be constant for all the codewords



Taxonomy

	$b \neq 0$	b = 0
Different dynamic ranges	Type 0	Type I
Same dynamic ranges	Type II	Type III

$$d = \sum_{k \in I_b} b_k + \sum_{i \in I_a} a_i + \sum_{j \in I_e} e_j$$

b – value of a zero comparison, a – value of a maching, e – value of a failure

Strategy	b	a	e	
HD	1/2	0	1	Type 0
IHD	$\frac{-1}{2} W_1 + \sum_{i=2}^{N} \frac{W_i z_i}{z_1}$	0	$-1 W_1 + \sum_{i=2}^N \frac{W_i \beta_i}{\beta_1}$	Type 0
ED	1	0	4	Type 0
LLB_C	0	$- f(\rho) $	$ f(\rho) $	Type I
LLB_D	0	-1	1	Type I
ELB_C	1	$1/\mathbf{e}^{ f(\rho) }$	$\mathbf{e}^{ f(\rho) }$	Type 0
ELB_D	1	1/ e	e	Type 0
PD_C	0	$\log \frac{1}{1+e^{ f(\rho) }}$	$\log \frac{1}{1+1/e^{ f(\rho) }}$	Type I
PD_D	0	$\log \frac{1}{1+e}$	$\log \frac{1}{1+1/e}$	Type I

ECOC decoding – Our proposal

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Attenuated Euclidean decoding

Motivation: Avoid the zero bias

ECOC

Introduction



Still the dynamic ranges differ

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ECOC decoding – Our proposal



Laplacian decoding

 Motivation: Avoid the zero bias and make the dynamic ranges comparable

$$d = \sum_{k \in I_b} b_k + \sum_{i \in I_a} a_i + \sum_{j \in I_e} e_j$$

- b Value of a zero comparison a – Value of a maching e – Value of a failure I_b, I_a, I_e - Index
- Define a measure that counts the number of coincidences between the input codeword and the class codeword
- In order to get constant dynamic ranges, the measure is normalized by the total number of positions coded by {-1,+1}:

$$d(x, y_i) = \frac{\alpha_i}{\alpha_i + \beta_i}$$
 Number of matches
Number of failures

Applications

Laplacian decoding



- The main drawback of this definition is that it is not robust when there is a small number of coded positions in one word
- We introduce a prior bias, known as the Laplace Correction:

$$LAP(x, y_i) = \frac{\alpha_i + 1}{\alpha_i + \beta_i + K}$$

where K is an integer value that codifies the number of classes considered by the classifier – two in this case

Applications

ECOC decoding – Our proposal

Introduction



Pessimistic Beta-Density Distribution decoding

- Motivation: introduce confidence to the previous Laplacian decoding approximation
- Based on PDF estimation between two codewords
- Model the accuracy and uncertainty based on a pessimistic score
- We use an extension of the continuous binomial distribution, the Beta-distribution:

$$\psi_i(\nu, \alpha_i, \beta_i) = \frac{1}{K} \nu^{\alpha_i} (1 - \nu)^{\beta_i}$$

 The class which achieves the highest score s, defined as the pessimistic score, is assigned to the test codeword:

$$s_i : \int_{\nu_i - s_i}^{\nu_i} \psi_i(\nu, \alpha_i, \beta_i) d\nu = u$$

where υ is a threshold parameter. We fixed $\upsilon = 1/3$ to govern the uncertainty influence



1-V

Applications

Pessimistic Beta-Density Distribution decoding



- The approach correctly classifies the example
- The confidence grows with the sharpeness of the PDF

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ECOC decoding – Our proposal



Loss-Weighted decoding

Motivation : decoding decomposition, defining a matrix that weights the decoding process to assure that the hypotheses are fulfilled

 $d=M_{W} \cdot T$, T decoding measure $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ •Compute the matrix of Step 1 hypothesis H 0.955 0.955 1.000 0.000 $H = 0.900 \ 0.800 \ 0.000 \ 0.000$ 1.000 0.905 0.805 0.805 • Normalize *H* to Step 2 0.328 0.328 0.344 0.000 obtain a matrix M_W of $M_W = 0.529\ 0.471\ 0.000\ 0.000$ **PDF**-rows 0.285 0.257 0.229 0.229 • Use M_{W} to weight the $d(\wp,i) = \sum M_W(i,j) L(M(i,j) \cdot f(\wp,j))$ Step 3 decoding process in a Loss-based decoding j=1

Summary

	$b \neq 0$	b = 0
Different dynamic ranges	Type 0	Type I
Same dynamic ranges	Type II	Type III

$$d = \sum_{k \in I_b} b_k + \sum_{i \in I_a} a_i + \sum_{j \in I_e} e_j$$

b – Value of a zero comparison a – Value of a maching e – Value of a failure I_b, I_a, I_e - Index

Strategy	b	a	e	
AED	0	0	4	Type I
$\beta - DEN$	0	$\log(\nu)$	$\log(1-\nu)$	Type III
LLW_C	0	$-M_W(_,i) f(\rho) $	$M_W(_,j) f(\rho) $	Type III
LLW_D	0	$-M_W(., i)$	$M_W(_, j)$	Type III
ELW_C	0	$\frac{M_W(-,i)}{\mathbf{e} f(\rho) }$	$M_W(,j)\mathbf{e}^{ f(\rho) }$	Type III
ELW_D	0	$\frac{M_W(_,i)}{\mathbf{e}}$	$M_W(\neg, j)\mathbf{e}$	Type III

Decoding evaluation



Applications

Conclusions

Decoding evaluation



Gentle Adaboost without considering the intersection of the confidence intervals Gentle Adaboost considering the intersection of the confidence intervals Linear SVM without considering the intersection of the confidence intervals Linear SVM considering the intersection of the confidence intervals

Ranking	Ge	ntle Adab	oost	L	inear SV.	M
	Type 0	Type I	Type III	Type 0	Type I	Type III
Discrete	5.5000	4.9844	3.3715	5.6042	5.3880	3.2951
Continuous	3.0799	2.7839	1.7813	3.2778	3.0469	1.8681

Applications



Mobile Mapping System



[Baro04] X. Baró and J. Vitrià, "Fast Traffic Sign Detection on greyscale images". 7è Congrés Català d'Intel·ligència Artificial, Barcelona. In press: Recent Advances in Artificial Intelligence Research and Development, Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications, 113:209-216. IOS Press, ISBN: 978-1-58603-466-5. October 2004.

Mobile Mapping – Forest-ECOC



TD – Tangent Distance PCA-KNN FLDA – Fisher+PCA SVM – Linear SVM BR – Gentle & Haar-like JB – Joint Boosting BS – Boosting Sampling NB – Naive Bayes Adaboost Forest-ECOC

Mobile Mapping – Forest-ECOC



Mobile Mapping – Sub-class ECOC



Mobile Mapping – Decodings



Linear SVM without considering the intersection of the confidence intervals

Linear SVM considering the intersection of the confidence intervals

- Coding: one-versus-one, one-versus-all, dense random, sparse random, decoc, ecoc-one
- Decoding: HD, ED, IHD, LLB, ELB, PD, AED, LAP, BDEN, LLW, ELW.
 Validation: stratified ten-fold cross-validation and test for the confidence interval with
- Validation: stratified ten-fold cross-validation and test for the confidence interval with a two-tailed t-test

Applications



Aibo



- Sony Aibo robot
- Multi-class syntethic detection by signs means of Adaboost with a Cascade of weak classifiers
- **ECOC** classification





Applications





IVUS



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IVUS

Features

- RF, Slope, and Texture-based features [Karla06]
- Data set
 - We used the RF signals and their reconstructed images from a set of 10 different patients with Left Descent Artery pullbacks acquired in Hospital "German Trias i Pujol" from Badalona, Spain.



 Statistical significance of sub-class strategy using Friedman and Nemenyi tests

[Karla06] K. Caballero, J. Barajas, O. Pujol, N. Salvatella, and P. Radeva. In-vivo ivus tissue classification: a comparison between rf signal analysis and reconstructed images. In Progress in Pattern Recognition, pp. 37–146. Springer Berlin / Heidelberg, 2006.

Applications







(a) (b) (a) Triatoma and (b) adult Rhodnius prolixus, a kissing bug.

QRS Slope features [Pueyo07]

107 individuals grouped based on their degree of coronary damage

Introduction ECOC ECOC coding ECOC decoding

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Tripomastigote and bloodstream trypomastigotes.

[Pueyo07] E. Pueyo, E. Anzuola, E. Laciar, P. Laguna, and R. Jane, Evaluation of QRS slopes for determination of myocardial damage in chronic chagasic patients. Computers in Cardiology, 2007.

Applications

Conclusions

- Problem-dependent methodology to deal with the ECOC coding step:
 - Problem-dependent ECOC approaches yield compact codewords and thus lead to fast and robust classification rate avoiding overfitting
 - Forest-ECOC and ECOC-ONE extend the coding process based on the ensemble performance
 - Sub-class ECOC enriches the problem of ECOC design from the point of the view of the data
- Zero-bias free methodology to deal with the ECOC decoding:
 - Common taxonomy defined for all existing decoding strategies
 - Novel decoding strategies free from the zero bias proper to the classical ternary codewords that significantly improve the ECOC performance
 - Pessimistic Beta-Density Distribution decoding that gives a prediction based on modelling accuracy and uncertainty
 - Loss-Weighted decoding that overperforms other decoding strategies due to a weighting matrix applicable to any existing decoding strategy
- Viability on real-life applications

Future work

- Correspondence ECOC design versus base classifier
- Continuous ECOC construction
 - Binary → ternary → continuous
- Faster alternatives to ECOC coding designs constructions
- ECOC Public-domain toolbox

Relevant publications









Coding:

S. Escalera, D. Tax, O. Pujol, P. Radeva, and R. Duin, **Subclass** Problemdependent Design of Error-Correcting Output Codes. In TPAMI, vol. 8, issue 6, pp. 1041-1054, 2008,

S. Escalera, O. Pujol, and P. Radeva. Boosted Landmarks of Contextual Descriptors and Forest-ECOC: a novel framework to detect and classify objects in cluttered scenes. In PRL, vol 28/13, pp 1759-1768, 2007.

O. Pujol, S. Escalera, and P. Radeva. **Optimal Node Embedding** in Error Correcting Output Codes. In PR, vol. 14, issue 2, pp.713-725, 2008.

Decoding:

S. Escalera, O. Pujol, and P. Radeva, Traffic Sign Recognition System with **Beta-Correction**. In Machine Vision and Applications.

Applications:

X. Baró, S. Escalera, J. Vitrià, O. Pujol, and P. Radeva, Traffic Sign Recognition using Evolutionary Adaboost detection and Forest-ECOC classification. In IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems.

S. Escalera, O. Pujol, J. Mauri, and P. Radeva, Intravascular Ultrasound Tissue Characterization with **Sub-class** Error-Correcting Output Codes Article, Journal of Signal Processing Systems.

S. Escalera, O. Pujol, and P. Radeva, **Complex Salient Regions** for Computer Vision Problems. In EURASIP, ID 451389, 2008.

And more than 15 conference papers...





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Thank you!!

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9/7/2008