CS156b Project1

Letter Recognition — Setup

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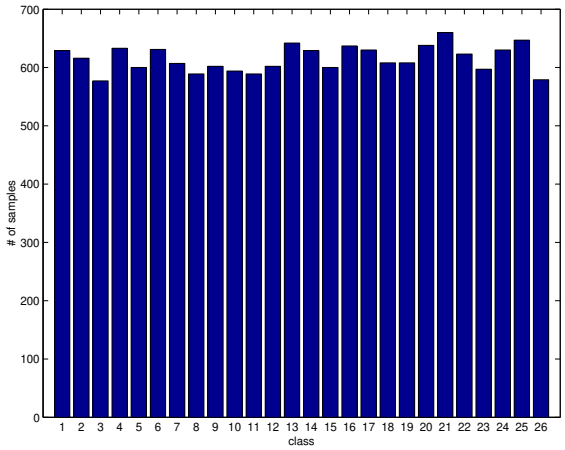
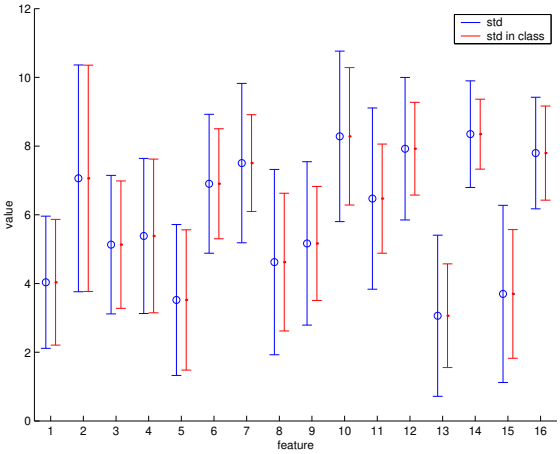
Data Summary

- Letter Image Recognition Data (denoted by $\mathcal{D}$).
- $N = |\mathcal{D}| = 15997$ samples.
- 16 integer features (range 0–15).
- 26 classes (A–Z, 26 capital letters).



distribution of samples



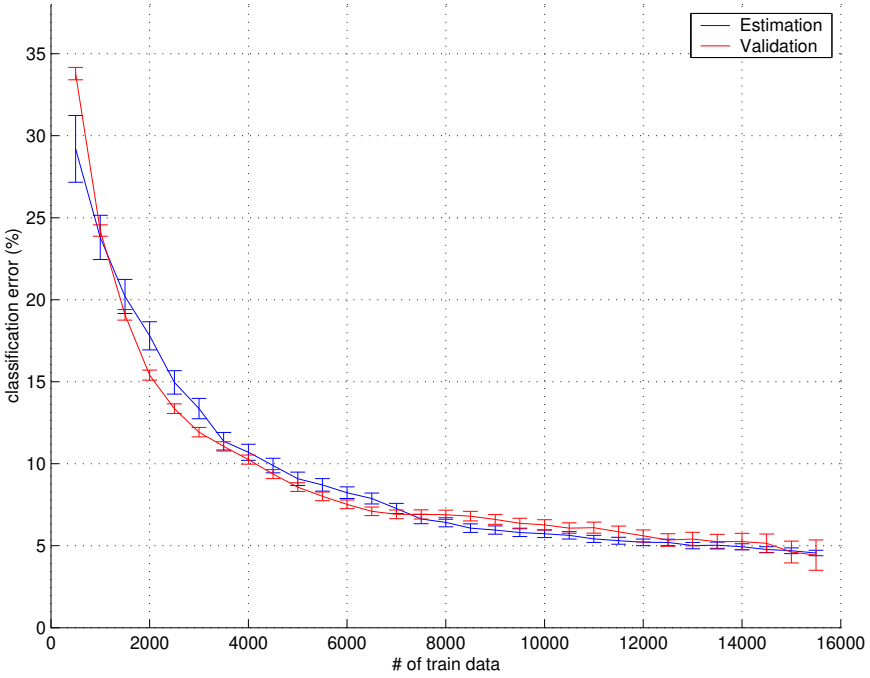
mean/std of features

$\mathcal{D}$ can be normalized by its mean and standard deviation.

Nearest-Neighbor

Divide $\mathcal{D}$ into two parts: $\mathcal{D}^{(1)} = \mathcal{D}_{1\sim n}$ and $\mathcal{D}^{(2)} = \mathcal{D}_{n+1\sim N}$.

Use $\mathcal{D}^{(1)}$ as the training set and $\mathcal{D}^{(2)}$ the validation set. The in-sample leave-one-out errors (to estimate the oos errors) and the validation errors were plot.



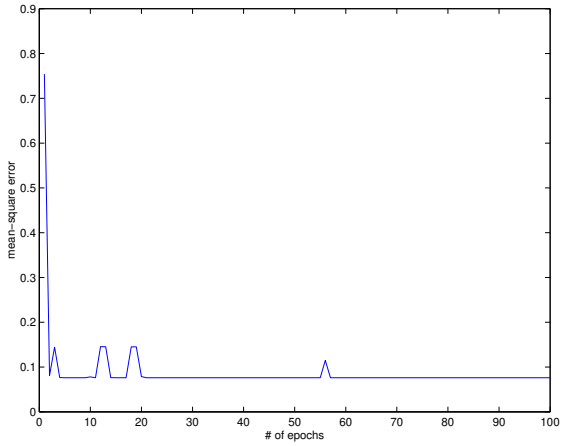
- Runtime: $\sim$ 4min/run (Matlab, 1G Hz PIII).
- 3 or 5-neighbor: similar curves, higher errors when n is small or large.
- If normalized data is used, the error usually increased by 0.5 $\sim$ 0.8 percents.

Neural Networks

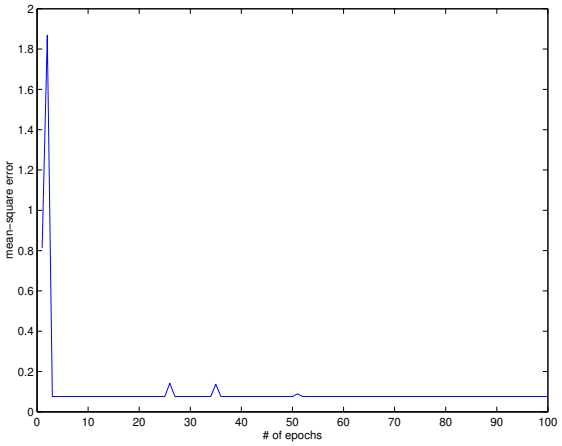
For this problem, Schwenk *et al*. used a 16-70-50-26 architecture, in "Boosting Neural Networks." With boosting, they got error rate 1.5%.

I tried casually:

- train input: scaled to $-0.95 \sim 0.95$.
- class i output: 0.99 for the i^{th} output, -0.99 for rest.
- runtime: $\sim$ 2sec/epoch (16-70-50-26) and $\sim$ 0.5sec/epoch (16-60-26)
- momentum was adopted.
- error: within 10 epochs, reduced to ~ 0.076. ($\sqrt{2 \times 0.076} \approx 0.39$)



16-70-50-26



16-60-26