

Chapter 4: Classification

The linear model in Ch. 3 assumes the response variable Y is quantitative. But in many situations, the response is categorical.

e.g. eye color
cancer diagnosis
whether a car's hwy mpg is above or below the median ...

In this chapter we will look at approaches for predicting categorical responses, a process known as *classification*.

Classification problems occur often, perhaps even more so than regression problems. Some examples include

1. A person arrives at an ER w/ set of symptoms that could possibly be attributed to three medical conditions. Which of these three conditions does the person have?
2. An online banking service must be able to determine if a transaction is fraudulent based on user's IP address, past transaction history, etc...
3. Something is in the street in front of the self-driving car you are riding in. The car must decide if it is a human or not.

As with regression, in the classification setting we have a set of training observations $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ that we can use to "build a classifier". We want our classifier to perform well on the training data and also on data not used to fit the model (**test data**).

fit a model
↓
get parameter estimates most likely.

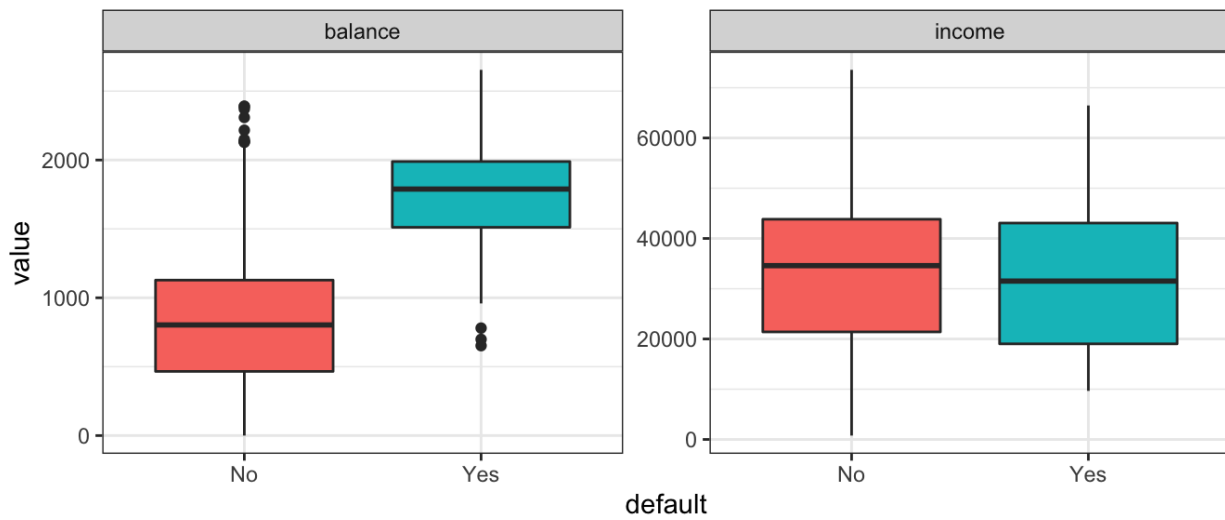
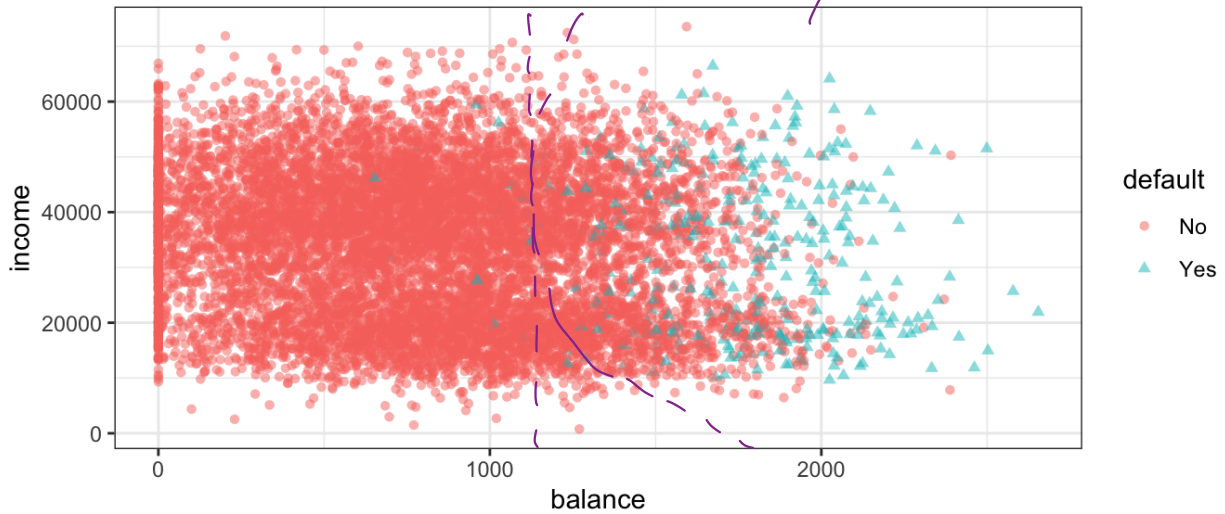
most importantly.

We will use the `Default` data set in the `ISLR` package for illustrative purposes. We are interested in predicting whether a person will default on their credit card payment on the basis of annual income and credit card balance.

↓
yes or no \Rightarrow categorical predictor \Rightarrow classification

head (default)

##	default	student	balance	income
## 1	No	No	729.5265	44361.625
## 2	No	Yes	817.1804	12106.135
## 3	No	No	1073.5492	31767.139
## 4	No	No	529.2506	35704.494
## 5	No	No	785.6559	38463.496
## 6	No	Yes	919.5885	7491.559



pronounced relationship between balance and default

in most real world problems the relationship between predictor is not so clear.

1 Why not Linear Regression?

I have said that linear regression is not appropriate in the case of a categorical response. Why not?

Let's try it anyways. We could consider encoding the values of `default` in a quantitative response variable Y

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if default} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Using this coding, we could then fit a linear regression model to predict Y on the basis of `income` and `balance`. This implies an ordering on the outcome, not defaulting comes first before defaulting and insists the difference between these two outcomes is 1 unit. In practice, there is no reason for this to be true.

We could let $Y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if default} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if default} \\ 10 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

There is no natural reason for 0/1 encoding, but it does have an advantage:

Using the dummy encoding, we can get a rough estimate of $P(\text{default}|X)$, but it is not guaranteed to be scaled correctly.



doesn't have to be between 0 and 1. but will provide us an ordering.

Real problem: this cannot be extended to more than 2 classes.

We can instead use methods specifically formulated for categorical responses.

2 Logistic Regression

Let's consider again the `default` variable which takes values `Yes` or `No`. Rather than modeling the response directly, logistic regression models the probability that Y belongs to a particular category.

e.g. $P(\text{default} = \text{Yes} | \text{balance})$, which we can abbreviate $p(\text{balance}) \in [0, 1]$.

For any given value of `balance`, a prediction can be made for `default`.

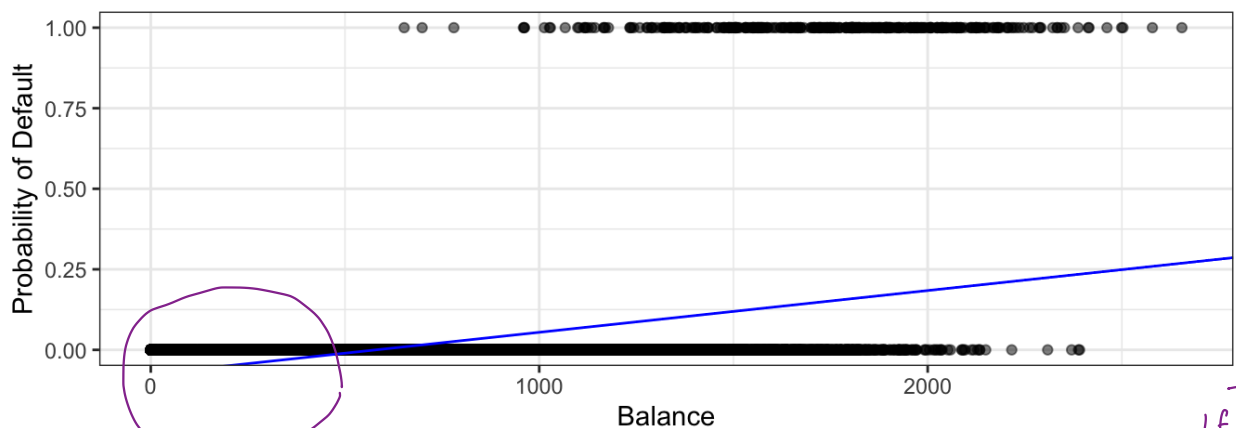
e.g. predict `default = Yes` if $p(\text{balance}) > 0.5$.

or the company could be more conservative and predict `default = Yes` if $p(\text{balance}) > 0.1$.

2.1 The Model

How should we model the relationship between $p(X) = P(Y = 1 | X)$ and X ? We could use a linear regression model to represent those probabilities

$$p(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x.$$

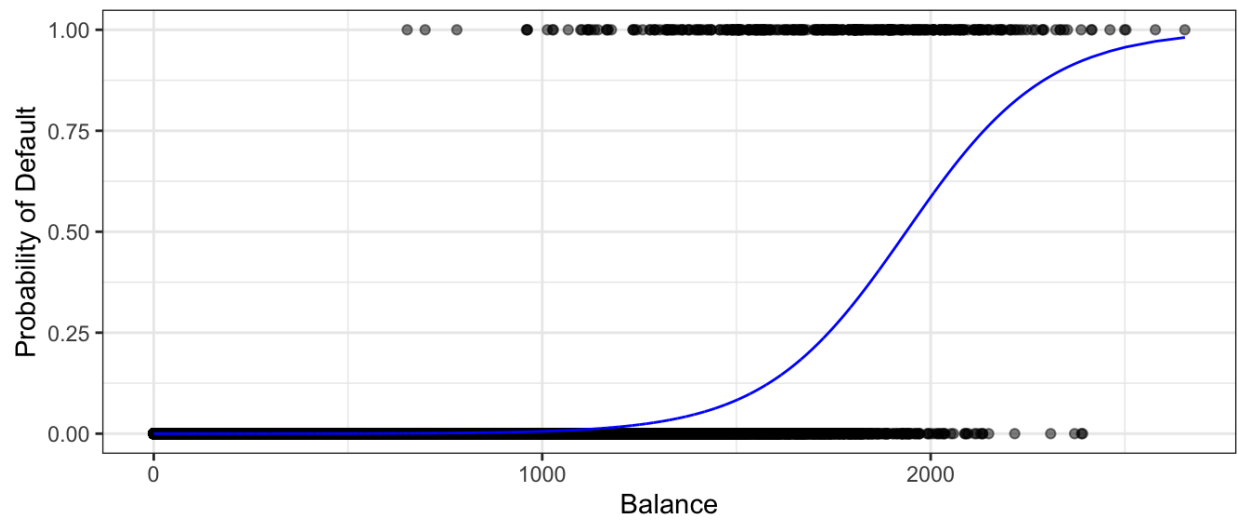


problem:
for balances close
to zero, we predict
negative probability of
default

neither of these
make sense!

if we had
a huge balance
we would have probability
> 1 of defaulting.

To avoid this, we must model $p(X)$ using a function that gives outputs between 0 and 1 for all values of X . Many functions meet this description, but in *logistic* regression, we use the *logistic* function,



After a bit of manipulation,

By taking the logarithm of both sides we see,

Recall from Ch. 3 that β_1 gives the “average change in Y associated with a one unit increase in X .” In contrast, in a logistic model,

However, because the relationship between $p(X)$ and X is not linear, β_1 does **not** correspond to the change in $p(X)$ associated with a one unit increase in X . The amount that $p(X)$ changes due to a 1 unit increase in X depends on the current value of X .

2.2 Estimating the Coefficients

The coefficients β_0 and β_1 are unknown and must be estimated based on the available training data. To find estimates, we will use the method of *maximum likelihood*.

The basic intuition is that we seek estimates for β_0 and β_1 such that the predicted probability $\hat{p}(x_i)$ of default for each individual corresponds as closely as possible to the individual's observed default status.

```
m1 <- glm(default ~ balance, family = "binomial", data = Default)

summary(m1)

##
## Call:
## glm(formula = default ~ balance, family = "binomial", data = Default)
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -2.2697  -0.1465  -0.0589  -0.0221   3.7589
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) -1.065e+01  3.612e-01  -29.49  <2e-16 ***
## balance      5.499e-03  2.204e-04   24.95  <2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
##      Null deviance: 2920.6  on 9999  degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 1596.5  on 9998  degrees of freedom
## AIC: 1600.5
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 8
```

2.3 Predictions

Once the coefficients have been estimated, it is a simple matter to compute the probability of `default` for any given credit card balance. For example, we predict that the default probability for an individual with `balance` of \$1,000 is

In contrast, the predicted probability of default for an individual with a balance of \$2,000 is

2.4 Multiple Logistic Regression

We now consider the problem of predicting a binary response using multiple predictors. By analogy with the extension from simple to multiple linear regression,

Just as before, we can use maximum likelihood to estimate $\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$.

```
m2 <- glm(default ~ ., family = "binomial", data = Default)
summary(m2)
```

```
##
## Call:
## glm(formula = default ~ ., family = "binomial", data = Default)
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -2.4691  -0.1418  -0.0557  -0.0203   3.7383
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) -1.087e+01  4.923e-01 -22.080  < 2e-16 ***
## studentYes  -6.468e-01  2.363e-01  -2.738  0.00619 **
## balance      5.737e-03  2.319e-04  24.738  < 2e-16 ***
## income      3.033e-06  8.203e-06   0.370  0.71152
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
##      Null deviance: 2920.6  on 9999  degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 1571.5  on 9996  degrees of freedom
## AIC: 1579.5
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 8
```

By substituting estimates for the regression coefficients from the model summary, we can make predictions. For example, a student with a credit card balance of \$1,500 and an income of \$40,000 has an estimated probability of default of

A non-student with the same balance and income has an estimated probability of default of

2.5 Logistic Regression for > 2 Classes

We sometimes wish to classify a response variable that has more than two classes. There are multi-class extensions to logistic regression (“multinomial regression”), but there are far more popular methods of performing this.