Abstract—This paper establishes a fully data-driven online estimation method of Gaussian kernel parameters for a kernel logistic regression. The kernel logistic regression is a nonlinear classification model that effectively uses kernel methods, which are one of the techniques to construct effective nonlinear systems with a reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS) induced from a positive semi-definite kernel. Since a performance of the kernel logistic regression with RKHS depends on the kernels to build the model, it is important to select appropriate kernel parameters. In this paper, we propose a method to optimize the precisions (the reciprocal of the variance) at learning for the kernel logistic regression using Gaussian kernels. In addition, the kernel means are also updated to increase the generalization ability. For up to date method of kernel coefficients, we introduce $\ell_1$-regularization to suppress the number of support vectors. A numerical experiment supports the validity of the proposed method.

I. INTRODUCTION

Machine learning is a technology for classifying or predicting unknown data based on observed data. In particular, supervised learning is a method for estimating labels from unknown data using pairs of an example data and the corresponding label. There are numerous research results on supervised learning. A representative example of machine learning method is the RBF support vector machine (RBF-SVM) [1] using the kernel method [2]. The potential advantage of kernel method is that a linear method can be directly applied to a nonlinear mapping of an input signal. Thus, inner product on high-dimensional space to which this mapping belongs to cannot be calculated explicitly, however, it can be calculated with a kernel function by transferring high-dimensional space to a reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS). It is known that Gaussian kernel, which is one of the representative kernel functions, can express continuous functions with high accuracy [3]. RBF-SVM achieves high estimation performance by expressing ability of nonlinear identification boundary and generalization ability based on geometric margin maximization [4], [5], [6], [7]. However RBF-SVM has a problem that the posterior probability of the class can not be obtained, and it can be used for two-class problems by nature.

On the other hand, a classical method which is widely used as a binary classifier is Logistic Regression (LR) [8]. It has been reported [9] that the kernel logistic regression (KLR) combining LR with a kernel function has the same discrimination performance as SVM. It is thus a powerful and flexible nonlinear classification model [10], [11], [12], [13]. As well as LR, KLR has the advantage of obtaining the posterior probability of the class, and it is easy to extend to multiple classes.

The composition of kernel logistic regression is expressed by the sum of weighted kernels corresponding to feature vectors of the training set. Therefore, since the discrimination performance for the training set is strengthened, they arises a problem of causing over learning. To solve this problem, many KLRs use an $\ell_2$-regularization to suppress over-learning [10], [11], [12]. Moreover, using an $\ell_1$-regularization, it is possible to construct a more sparse model [14].

In order to improve the estimation ability, selection of kernel parameters is one of the important issues. The Gaussian kernel is a widely used powerful kernel function for the KLR. The parameters of the Gaussian kernel is the kernel precision and mean. When using the Gaussian kernel for the kernel function of KLR, the kernel precision and the kernel mean are parameters. In the conventional KLR, the kernel precision is treated as a hyper parameter, and the kernel mean is identical to a sample in the training data [10]. In the classification problem, the kernel precision is generally determined by grid search. In the context of kernel adaptive regression, a method of updating the kernel precision [15] and a method of updating the kernel mean [16], [17], [18] have been proposed. Furthermore, a method of integrating these methods and simultaneously optimizing both the precision and the mean of the kernel has been proposed [19]. These methods are fully data-driven, and thus, the search in a finite set of points in the grid is no longer necessary. However, this method is applied only to on-line learning in regression models, and application methods to classification models have not been established.

In this paper, we propose a fully data-driven method for learning parameters of the Gaussian kernel in the KLR. In addition, to update the kernel coefficients, we use an $\ell_1$-regularization and prevent over-learning by constructing a sparse model. Numerical experiments support the efficacy of the proposed method. For the experiment, we use 18 datasets of binary classification available in UCI Machine Learning Repository [20]. We verify the effectiveness of the proposed kernel optimization method by comparing the classification performance of RBF-SVM and the proposed method.
II. KERNEL LOGISTIC REGRESSION AND SUPPORT VECTORS

In this section, we describe the kernel logistic regression and a construction method of support vectors using \( \ell_1 \)-regularization for describing the proposed method. Table I shows definitions of symbols used for explanation.

A. Kernel logistic regression in RKHS

Kernel logistic regression is a model extended by introducing the kernel method \([2], [21]\) into LR in order to solve nonlinear classification problem. In the construction of LR, the following sigmoid function:

\[
\phi(f(x)) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-f(x))}
\]

is defined as an activation function, where \( f(x) \) is expressed by the inner product of the feature vector and the weight vector \( w \) as:

\[
f(x) = w^T x.
\]

Let the \( f(x) \) be the elements in RKHS when extending LR to KLR. By representer theorem \([2]\), \( f(x) \) is described as:

\[
f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} h^{(i)} K(x, x^{(i)}). \tag{3}
\]

In KLR, the output of Eq. (1) is regarded as the probability \( P(y=0|x) \) that the feature vector \( x \) is classified to the class label \( y=0 \). Therefore, the probability \( P(y=0|x) \) is given by:

\[
P(y=0|x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-f(x))}.
\]

On the other hand, the probability \( P(y=1|x) \) is given by:

\[
P(y=1|x) = 1 - P(y=0|x) = \frac{\exp(-f(x))}{1 + \exp(-f(x))}.
\]

These probabilities are the model outputs of KLR. Thus, KLR is a model that inputs a feature vector and outputs classification probabilities. In this paper, we define the following classification rules to treat KLR as classifier:

\[
\hat{y} = \arg\max_{i \in \{0,1\}} P(y=i|x). \tag{6}
\]

By using Eq. (6) as a model predicted value of class label, KLR can be applied in the binary classification.

For parameter learning of KLR, cross-entropy which is the log-likelihood of the Bernoulli distribution is adopted as cost function:

\[
J = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ y^{(i)} \log(\phi(f(x))) + (1 - y^{(i)}) \log(1 - \phi(f(x))) \right].
\]

The fitting of KLR is equivalent to the minimization problem of the cost function \([22]\). In this case, the kernel coefficient \( h \) is an updated parameter.

B. Construction method of support vectors using \( \ell_1 \)-regularization

As can be seen in Eq. (3), the input of the activation function is expressed as the sum of the kernels determined by the feature vectors of all the training data. It means that larger the number \( N \) of training set is, the higher the calculation cost is. Therefore, a method of constructing a sparse model by deleting unimportant terms in the sum of the kernels has been proposed. Here we call the kernel functions that construct the model as support vectors and describe construction method using \( \ell_1 \)-regularization for the support vectors.

Define the data index set of the support vectors as:

\[
J := \{ j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_r \} \subset \{0,1, \ldots, N-1\}, \tag{8}
\]

the support vectors are a set of kernel functions expressed as \( \{K(., x^{(j)})\}_{j \in J} \). Therefore, Eq. (3) can be expressed as:

\[
f(x) = \sum_{j \in J} h^{(j)} K(x, x^{(j)}).
\]

In the \([14]\), an \( \ell_1 \)-regularization term is added into the cost function to promote the sparsity. The cost function in this case is given as:

\[
J_{\ell_1} = J + \lambda \sum_{j \in J} |h^{(j)}|, \tag{10}
\]

where \( \lambda \) is the regularization parameter. To minimize this cost function, we can apply the forward-backward splitting method \( \text{(FOBOS)} \) \([14]\), since Eq. (10) is a convex function. The update rule is then given as:

\[
h_{k+1}^{(j)} = \text{sign} \left( \alpha_k^{(j)} \right) \left[ \alpha_k^{(j)} - \lambda \eta h \right]_{+}, \tag{11}
\]

where

\[
\alpha_k^{(j)} = h_k^{(j)} - \eta h \frac{\partial J(h)}{\partial h} \bigg|_{h=h_k^{(j)}}.
\]

Also, \( \eta h \) is a learning rate for the kernel coefficient \( h \) and \( k \) is a number of current learning iteration, respectively. If \( h_{k+1}^{(j)} = 0 \), \( K(., x^{(j)}) \) is removed from the set of support vectors.

| \( N \) | Number of training set |
| \( i \) | Index for element of training set |
| \( j \) | Index for element of support vectors that constitute a model |
| \( k \) | Number of current learning iteration |
| \( x \in \mathbb{R}^m \) | \( m \)-dimensional feature vector |
| \( y \in \{0,1\} \) | True value of the class label to which the feature vector \( x \) belongs |
| \( \hat{y} \in \{0,1\} \) | Predicted value of the class label to which the feature vector \( x \) belongs |
| \( f(\cdot) \) | Sum of weighted feature vectors or weighted kernels |
| \( h \) | Kernel coefficient |
| \( \phi(\cdot) \) | Activation function |
| \( K(\cdot, \cdot) \) | Kernel function |

\[\text{TABLE I} \]

DEFINITIONS OF SYMBOLS
III. OPTIMIZATION OF KERNEL PARAMETERS FOR KLR FITTING

A widely-used kernel function is the Gaussian kernel which is a celebrated example of positive semi-definite kernels. With the Gaussian kernel, a set of support vectors is represented for \( j \in J \) as:

\[
K\left( \mathbf{x}^{(j)}, \mathbf{x} \right) = \exp \left( -\zeta \left\| \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(j)} \right\|^2 \right),
\]  

(12)

where \( \zeta \) and \( \mathbf{x}^{(j)} \) are the parameters called the precision and the mean of the Gaussian kernel function, respectively. In this section, we propose a method to optimize both the precisions and the means at fitting the KLR using the Gaussian kernel. By the proposed method, the precisions and the means are optimized simultaneously when the update of the kernel coefficients to increase the generalization ability. For learning of kernel coefficients, we introduce an \( \ell_1 \)-regularization to reduce the number of support vectors.

In the proposed fitting method, the kernel mean is updated. Therefore, the kernel mean represented as Eq. (12) can be different from the feature vector \( \mathbf{x} \) of the training set. Furthermore, in the proposed method, the kernel precision of the support vector is regarded as a variable. Therefore, in the proposed method, the sum \( f(\mathbf{x}) \) of kernel functions can be expressed as:

\[
f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j \in J} h^{(j)} K\left( \mathbf{x}^{(j)}, \mathbf{x} \right) \exp \left( -c_k^{(j)} \left\| \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(j)} \right\|^2 \right).
\]

(13)

where \( c_k^{(j)} \) and \( c_k \) are the kernel precision and kernel mean regarded as variables, respectively.

A. Updating the kernel precisions

The kernel precision \( \zeta \) must be an element of a manifold of the positive real numbers, which is denoted by \( \mathbb{R}^+ \). When applying the steepest descent (SD) method [23] which is an algorithm for optimization problem directly, the kernel precision is updated in \( \mathbb{R} \). In order to avoid this constraint, the proposed method converts to an optimization problem in \( \mathbb{R} \) given by:

\[
\zeta(\zeta) = \log \frac{\zeta}{\zeta_k},
\]

(14)

where \( \zeta_k \) is the current estimate value at the \( k \)th update.

Fig. 1. Update image of \( \zeta \) in \( \mathbb{R}^+ \) by variable transformation. Transform \( \zeta_k \) to \( \zeta_{k+1} \) and update it to \( \zeta_{k+1} \). Then inverse transform \( \zeta_{k+1} \) to \( \zeta_{k+1} \).

B. Updating the kernel means

The kernel mean \( \mathbf{e} \) of each support vector is updated to minimize the cost function as Eq. (7). By the SD method, the update rule for \( \mathbf{e} \) is obtained for \( j \in J \) as:

\[
\mathbf{e}^{(j)}_{k+1} = \mathbf{e}^{(j)}_k - \eta_e \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} = \mathbf{e}^{(j)}_k - \eta_e \left( \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} \right) = -\eta_e \mathbf{e}^{(j)}_k \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} = -\eta_e \mathbf{e}^{(j)}_k \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} \exp \left( \zeta^{(j)}_k \right).
\]

(15)

where

\[
\frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} = -\eta_e \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left[ y^{(i)} - \phi(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})) \right] h^{(j)} K(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \mathbf{x}^{(j)})(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \mathbf{c}^{(j)}_k) \right) \right),
\]

(16)

and \( \eta_e \) is a learning rate for \( \mathbf{e} \). By the normalization, \( \zeta=0 \) is the reference point for updating \( \eta_e \). Therefore, \( \zeta \) can be update stably even if it is small. By the inverse transformation given as \( \zeta(\xi) = c^{(j)}_{k+1} \), the update rule for \( \zeta \) is obtained as:

\[
\zeta^{(j)}_{k+1} = \zeta^{(j)}_k \exp \left( \zeta^{(j)}_{k+1} \right).
\]

(17)

\[
\frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} = -\eta_e \mathbf{e}^{(j)}_k \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{e})}{\partial \mathbf{e}} \bigg|_{h=h^{(j)},c=c^{(j)},\zeta=\zeta^{(j)}} \exp \left( \zeta^{(j)}_k \right).
\]

(18)

where

\[
-\frac{2}{N} \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left[ y^{(i)} - \phi(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})) \right] h^{(j)}_k \zeta^{(j)}_k K(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \mathbf{x}^{(j)})(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \mathbf{c}^{(j)}_k) \right).
\]

(19)
Algorithm 1 Model fitting of the KLR-PM

Input: Training set \( \{ (\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, y^{(i)}) \}_{i=1}^{N} \)

Output: Support vectors \( \{ \mathcal{K}(\cdot, \mathbf{c}^{(j)}; \zeta^{(j)}) \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \) and corresponding coefficients \( \{ h^{(j)} \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \)

// Initialize
\( \mathcal{J}_0 = \{0, 1, \ldots, N-1\} \);
\( \{ x^{(j)} \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}_0} \leftarrow \{ x^{(i)} \}_{i=1}^{N-1} \);
\( \{ c^{(j)} \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}_0} \leftarrow \{ 1, \ldots, 1 \} \);
\( \{ h^{(j)} \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}_0} \leftarrow \{ 1, \ldots, 1 \} \);

// Learn
\( k = 0 \)

while \( k \neq k_{\text{max}} \) do
  \( J_{k+1} \leftarrow \emptyset \);
  for \( j \in \mathcal{J}_k \) do
    if \( h^{(j)}_{k+1} = 0 \) then
      Remove \( c^{(j)}_{k+1} \) from \( \mathcal{J}_{k+1} \);
      Remove \( h^{(j)}_{k+1} \) from \( \mathcal{J}_{k+1} \);
    else
      \( J_{k+1} \leftarrow J_{k+1} \cup \{ \mathcal{J}_{k+1} \} \);
    end if
  end for
  \( k = k+1 \)
end while

Output Support vectors \( \{ \mathcal{K}(\cdot, \mathbf{c}^{(j)}; \zeta^{(j)}) \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}_{k_{\text{max}}}} \) and corresponding coefficients \( \{ h^{(j)} \}_{j \in \mathcal{J}_{k_{\text{max}}}} \)

C. Fitting the KLR

Before starting the process, the proposed method constructs a set of support vectors based on the feature vectors of training set for \( j \in \mathcal{J}_0 \) as follows:

\[
\mathcal{K}(\cdot, \mathbf{c}^{(j)}; \zeta^{(j)}) = \mathcal{K}(\cdot, \mathbf{c}^{(j)}; \zeta^{(j)})_{0},
\]

where \( \mathcal{J}_0 = \{0, 1, \ldots, N-1\} \).

In the fitting of KLR, we combine the update methods for the parameters in III-A and III-B into the kernel coefficient update method with the \( \ell_1 \)-regularization described in II-B. It is possible to reduce the number of support vectors and optimize the kernel parameters. The support vectors and the kernel coefficients are constructed for \( j \in \mathcal{J} \) as follows:

\[
h^{(j)}_{k+1} = \text{sign}(\alpha_k^{(j)}) \left[ \alpha_k^{(j)} - \lambda \eta_k \right]_+, \tag{22}
\]

where

\[
\alpha_k^{(j)} = h^{(j)}_{k} + \eta_k \frac{\partial J(h)}{\partial h},
\]

\[
= h^{(j)}_{k} + \eta_k \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left[ y^{(i)} - \phi\left( f^{(j)}\left( \mathbf{x}^{(i)} \right) \right) \right] \mathcal{K}\left( \mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \mathbf{c}^{(j)}; \zeta^{(j)} \right) \right).\]

When \( h^{(j)}_{k+1} \neq 0 \), remove \( \mathcal{K}(\cdot, \mathbf{c}^{(j)}; \zeta^{(j)}) \) from the set of support vectors. The KLR which is applied these update methods is named KLR-PM. The all of procedures are summarized in Algorithm 1.

IV. NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS

In order to verify the effectiveness of the proposed method, a numerical experiment is presented by using 18 datasets of binary classification published by UCI Machine Learning Repository [20]. Table II shows the datasets used for the experiment. For each dataset, half of the dataset are randomly selected for training and the rest are for test. And each dimension of the feature vector is normalized in the range of [0, 1] using the minimum value and the maximum value of the training set.

The models to be compared are the RBF-SVM [1], the LR [8] using an \( \ell_2 \)-regularization and the proposed KLR-PM. The \( \ell_1 \)-regularization parameter \( \lambda \) of KLR-PM is set as \( \lambda = 0.005 \) in all datasets. On the other hand, the kernel precision \( \gamma \) in the Gaussian kernel, the trade-off parameter \( C \) in RBF-SVM and the \( \ell_2 \)-regularization parameter in LR are respectively tuned by grid search over the range \( \{0.0001, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1, 10\} \). For adjusting the grid search, the five-fold cross validation.
with two subsets is used. One subset is used for validation and the remaining subset is used for training. For the evaluation, a mean accuracy and a mean sparsity by taking an average over 10 independent realizations are adopted. The accuracy and the sparsity are calculated by:

\[
\text{Accuracy} = 1 - \frac{1}{N_{test}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{test}} y(i) \oplus \hat{y}(i),
\]

\[
\text{Sparsity} = 1 - \frac{n_{sup}}{N},
\]

where \( \oplus \) is the operator that describes the exclusive-OR (XOR). Also, \( N_{test} \) and \( n_{sup} \) are a number of test set and a number of support vectors, respectively.

Table III and Fig. 2 show the results of experiment. It can be seen in Table III and Fig. 2(a) that the accuracies of the KLR-PM achieved almost comparable accuracies to the RBF-SVM, which had parameter tuning using grid search. However, it should be emphasized that the sparsities of the KLR-PM are mostly higher than those of the other methods in most datasets, as confirmed in Table III and Fig. 2(b). Therefore, KLR-PM can construct a classifier which has generalization performance as high as RBF-SVM with a small number of support vectors.

V. CONCLUSION

We proposed a new kernel optimization method for Kernel logistic regression. Our proposal method updated not only the kernel coefficients, but also the kernel precisions and the kernel means from training set. By using the \( \ell_1 \)-regularization for update of the kernel coefficients, it is possible to constitute a sparse model. The numerical experiment for various datasets demonstrated the effectiveness of the proposed method.

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