

$\alpha_i > 0$ are called support vectors. These are the only examples that contribute to the classifier.

4. Conclusions

Data Mining has two major goals as stated below

- To generate descriptive models to solve problems.
- To generate predictive model to solve problems.

Descriptive models have already been developed in statistical methodology. It is predictive model building that caught attention because this is the activity that involves both supervised and unsupervised learning. Supervised learning is a generalization of many statistical methods. However, classical statistical methods do not have a separate test data set. The concept of dividing the available data into training, validation and test sets came about only due to machine learning and Data Mining. As consequences, predictive models are being used more and more in marketing, insurance, banking, manufacturing, supply chain management, customer relation management, and so on. This paper has avoided a discussion on linear and logistic regressions because they are classical statistical models. SVMs are discussed in the detail because they are the gift of Data Mining to statistics.

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