

Classification using Generalized Partial Least Squares

Beiying Ding
Robert Gentleman

October 24, 2025

Introduction

The *gpls* package includes functions for classification using generalized partial least squares approaches. Both two-group and multi-group (more than 2 groups) classifications can be done. The basic functionalities are based on and extended from the Iteratively ReWeighted Least Squares (IRWPLS) by Marx (1996). Additionally, Firth's bias reduction procedure (Firth, 1992a,b, 1993) is incorporated to remedy the nonconvergence problem frequently encountered in logistic regression. For more detailed description of classification using generalized partial least squares, refer to Ding and Gentleman (2005).

The `glpls1a` function

The `glpls1a` function carries out two-group classification via IRWPLS(F). Whether or not to use Firth's bias reduction is an option (`br=T`). The X matrix shouldn't include an intercept term.

```
> library(gpls)
> set.seed(123)
> x <- matrix(rnorm(20),ncol=2)
> y <- sample(0:1,10,TRUE)
> ## no bias reduction
> glpls1a(x,y,br=FALSE)
```

Call:

NULL

Coefficients:

Intercept	X:1	X:2
-0.9044	1.0982	-1.6686

```
> ## no bias reduction and 1 PLS component
> glpls1a(x,y,K.prov=1,br=FALSE)
```

```
Call:
NULL
```

```
Coefficients:
Intercept      X:1      X:2
-0.77789      0.09363     -1.07866
```

```
> ## bias reduction
> glpls1a(x,y,br=TRUE)
```

```
Call:
NULL
```

```
Coefficients:
Intercept      X:1      X:2
-0.6268      0.6495     -0.9867
```

```
>
```

K.prov specifies the number PLS components to use. Note that when K.prov is no specified, the number of PLS components are set to be the smaller of the row and column rank of the design matrix.

The `glpls1a.cv.error` and `glpls1a.train.test.error` functions

The `glpls1a.cv.error` calculates leave-one-out classification error rate for two-group classification and `glpls1a.train.test.error` calculates test set error where the model is fit using the training set.

```
> ## training set
> x <- matrix(rnorm(20),ncol=2)
> y <- sample(0:1,10,TRUE)
> ## test set
> x1 <- matrix(rnorm(10),ncol=2)
> y1 <- sample(0:1,5,TRUE)
> ## no bias reduction
> glpls1a.cv.error(x,y,br=FALSE)

$error
[1] 0.7

$error.obs
[1] 1 2 3 5 6 7 8

> glpls1a.train.test.error(x,y,x1,y1,br=FALSE)
```

```

$error
[1] 0.2

$error.obs
[1] 5

$predict.test
      [,1]
[1,] 0.2431497
[2,] 0.8080362
[3,] 0.4357456
[4,] 0.3711988
[5,] 0.5295066

> ## bias reduction and 1 PLS component
> glpls1a.cv.error(x,y,K.prov=1,br=TRUE)

$error
[1] 0.7

$error.obs
[1] 1 2 3 5 6 7 8

> glpls1a.train.test.error(x,y,x1,y1,K.prov=1,br=TRUE)

$error
[1] 0.2

$error.obs
[1] 5

$predict.test
      [,1]
[1,] 0.3353178
[2,] 0.7190907
[3,] 0.4693587
[4,] 0.4142425
[5,] 0.5301092

>

```

The `glpls1a.mlogit` and `glpls1a.logit.all` functions

The `glpls1a.mlogit` carries out multi-group classification using MIRWPLS(F) where the baseline logit model is used as counterpart to `glpls1a` for two group case. `glpls1a.logit.all` carries out multi-group classification by separately fitting C two-group classification using `glpls1a` separately

for C group vs the same baseline class (i.e. altogether $C + 1$ classes). This separate fitting of logit is known to be less efficient but has been used in practice due to its more straightforward implementation.

Note that when using `glpls1a.mlogit`, the X matrix needs to have a column of one, i.e. intercept term.

```
> x <- matrix(rnorm(20),ncol=2)
> y <- sample(1:3,10,TRUE)
> ## no bias reduction and 1 PLS component
> glpls1a.mlogit(cbind(rep(1,10),x),y,K.prov=1,br=FALSE)
```

```
$coefficients
      [,1]      [,2]
[1,] -0.03450095  0.2576449
[2,] -0.03297966  0.1870636
[3,]  0.44086104 -0.9616921
```

```
$convergence
[1] TRUE
```

```
$niter
[1] 17
```

```
$bias.reduction
[1] FALSE
```

```
> glpls1a.logit.all(x,y,K.prov=1,br=FALSE)
```

```
$coefficients
      [,1]      [,2]
[1,] -0.01267859 -4.767809
[2,]  0.13961954  1.697853
[3,]  0.14704566 -8.006581
```

```
> ## bias reduction
> glpls1a.mlogit(cbind(rep(1,10),x),y,br=TRUE)
```

```
$coefficients
      [,1]      [,2]
[1,] 0.01065592 -2.2708140
[2,] 0.04390806  0.5831067
[3,] 0.37683985 -3.4895221
```

```
$convergence
[1] TRUE
```

```

$niter
[1] 20

$bias.reduction
[1] TRUE

> glpls1a.logit.all(x,y,br=TRUE)

$coefficients
      [,1]      [,2]
[1,] 0.01342249 -2.3759506
[2,] 0.04436200  0.5837605
[3,] 0.17532346 -4.0094383

>

```

The glpls1a.mlogit.cv.error function

The `glpls1a.mlogit.cv.error` calculates leave-one-out error for multi-group classification using (M)IRWPLS(F). When the `mlogit` option is set to be true, then `glpls1a.mlogit` is used, else `glpls1a.logit.all` is used for fitting.

```

> x <- matrix(rnorm(20),ncol=2)
> y <- sample(1:3,10,TRUE)
> ## no bias reduction
> glpls1a.mlogit.cv.error(x,y,br=FALSE)

$error
[1] 0.7

$error.obs
[1] 1 2 5 6 7 8 10

> glpls1a.mlogit.cv.error(x,y,mlogit=FALSE,br=FALSE)

$error
[1] 0.7

$error.obs
[1] 1 2 5 6 7 8 10

> ## bias reduction
> glpls1a.mlogit.cv.error(x,y,br=TRUE)

$error
[1] 0.7

```


- D. Firth. Bias reduction, the jeffreys prior and glm. In L. Fahrmeir, B. Francis, R. Gilchrist, and G. Tutz, editors, *Advances in GLIM and Statistical Modelling*, pages 91–100. Springer-Verlag, 1992a.
- D. Firth. Generalized linear models and jeffreys priors: an iterative weighted least-squares approach. In Y. Dodge and J. Whittaker, editors, *Computational statistics*, volume 1, pages 553–557. Physica-Verlag, 1992b.
- David Firth. Bias reduction of maximum likelihood estimates (Corr: 95V82 p66 7). *Biometrika*, 80:27–38, 1993.
- Brian D. Marx. Iteratively reweighted partial least squares estimation for generalized linear regression. *Technometrics*, 38:374–381, 1996.