

41. Machine learning - System design

Prioritizing what to work on:

Building a spam classifier:

- Supervised learning
- x = Features of mail
- y = spam (1), no spam (0)

Features: choose 100 word indicative of spam/not spam
e.g. deal, discount, buy, andrew, now ...

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{andrew} \\ \text{buy} \\ \text{deal} \\ \text{discount} \\ \vdots \\ \text{now} \end{array} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{verify if this words occur} \\ \text{in mail} \end{array} \right\}$$

$x \in \mathbb{R}^{100}$

Note:
In practice, take most frequently occurring n words
(10'000-50'000) in training set, rather than picking
100 words manually.

$$x_j = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{- if word does not} \\ 1 & \text{appear in email, 1 otherwise} \end{cases}$$

How to spend your time to make it have low error?

- Collect lots of data (e.g. Honeypot project)
- Develop sophisticated features based on email routing information (from email header)
- Develop sophisticated features for messages body, should "discount" and "discounts" be treated as the same word? How about "deal" and "Dealer"? Features about punctuation?
- Develop sophisticated features to detect misspellings (e.g. mortgages, medicine, w4tches.)

Recommended approach:

- Start with an algorithm that you can implement quickly. Implement it and test it on your cross validation data.
- Plot learning curves to decide if more data, more features etc. are likely to help.
- Error analysis: Manually examine the examples (in cross-validation) that your algorithm made errors on. See if you spot any systematic trend in what type of examples it is making errors on.
 - let evidence guide your decisions.
 - try to spot systematic errors!

Error analysis

$m_{cv} = 800$ examples in cross validation set

Algorithm misclassifies 100 emails

Manually examine the 100 errors, and categorize them based on:

- 1) what type of email it is → eg. pharma, replica, steal pw...
- 2) what cues (features) you think would have helped the algorithm classify them correctly.

Pharma:	12	Deliberately misspelling:	5
Replica/fake:	4	Unusual email routing:	16
Steal pw:	53	Unusual punctuation:	32
Others:	31		

→ target this problem

The importance of numerical evaluation:

Use cross validation error for numerical evaluation

- Should discount / discounted / discounting to be treated as the same word?
 - ↳ Can use "stemmer" software → eg. "Porter stemmer", but this can also be misleading universe / university
- Error analysis might not be helpful for deciding if this is likely to improve performance. Only solution is to try and see if it works.
- Need numerical evaluation (e.g. cross val. error) of algorithms with and without stemming.
 - without stemming: 5% err. with stemming: 3% err.
 - Distinguish upper vs. lower case (How / now) → 3% → 2% ..

Cancer classification example

Train logistic regression problem model $h_\theta(x)$. $y=1$ if cancer, $y=0$ if no.
 Find that you get 1% error on the test set. (99% correct diagnoses)
 \Rightarrow only 0.5% of patients have cancer.

\hookrightarrow **skewed classes**

\Rightarrow a lot more $y=0$ classes as $y=1$

function $y = \text{predictCancer}(x)$

$y = 0$; % ignore x !

return

\Rightarrow Error 0.5%

\hookrightarrow not a good approach

Precision / Recall

$y=1$ in presence of rare classes that we want to detect.

Predicted class	Actual class	
	1	0
1	True positive	False positive
0	False negative	True negative

$y = 0$

Recall = 0

Precision

Of all patients where we predicted $y=1$, what fraction actually has cancer?

$$\frac{\text{True pos.}}{\text{\#predict. pos.}} = \frac{\text{True positives}}{\text{True pos.} + \text{False pos.}}$$

Recall

\hookrightarrow high precision would be good

Of all patients that actually have cancer, what fraction did we correctly detect as having cancer?

$$\frac{\text{True pos.}}{\text{\#actual pos.}} = \frac{\text{True positives}}{\text{True pos.} + \text{False neg.}}$$

$y=1$ by presence of rare class?

Logistic regression: $0 \leq h_{\theta}(x) \leq 1$

Predict 1 if $h_{\theta}(x) \geq 0.5 \Rightarrow 0.7 \Rightarrow 0.9$

Predict 0 if $h_{\theta}(x) < 0.5 \Rightarrow 0.7 \Rightarrow 0.9$

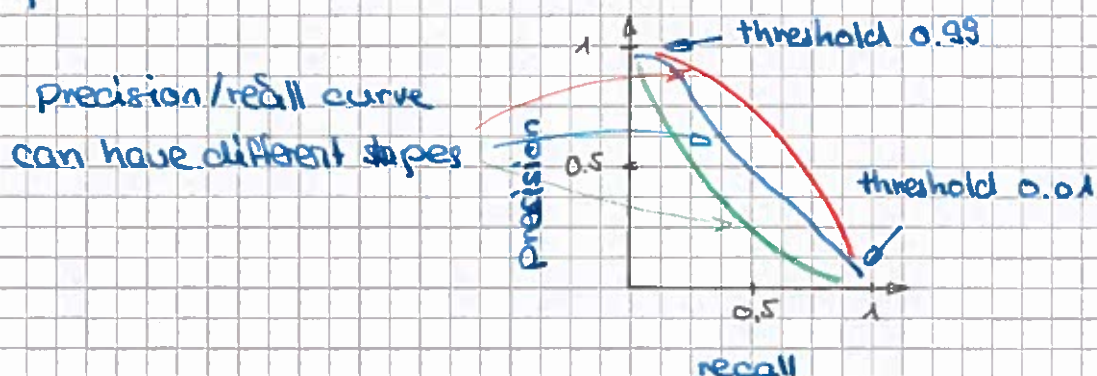
Suppose we want to predict $y=1$ (cancer) only if very confident.

↳ setting thresholds to 0.7 or 0.9 \Rightarrow higher precision, lower recall

Suppose we want to avoid missing too many cases of cancer (avoid false negative)

↳ setting thresholds to 0.3 \Rightarrow higher recall, lower precision

More generally: Predict 1 if $h_{\theta}(x) \geq \text{threshold}$



F₁ Score (F score)

How to compare precision/recall numbers?

	Precision (P)	Recall (R)	Average	F ₁ Score
Algorithm 1	0.5	0.4	0.45	0.444
Algorithm 2	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.175
Algorithm 3	0.02	1.0	0.51	0.0392

$$\text{Average} = \frac{P+R}{2}$$

$$\text{F}_1 \text{ Score} = 2 \cdot \frac{PR}{P+R}$$

$P = \emptyset$ or $R = \emptyset \Rightarrow \text{F Score} = \emptyset$

$P = 1$ and $R = 1 \Rightarrow \text{F Score} = 1$

\Rightarrow predict $y=1$ all the time \Rightarrow not very good

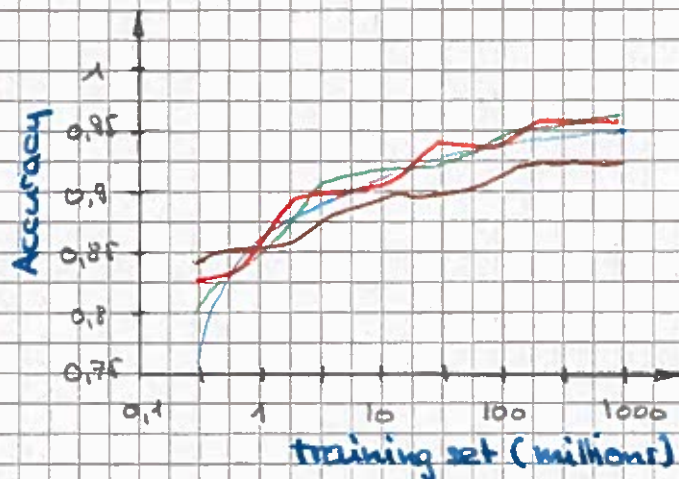
Designing a high accuracy learning system

e.g. Classify between confusable words $\{to, two, too\}$, $\{then, than\}$

→ For breakfast I ate _____ eggs.

Algorithms:

- Perceptron —
- Winnow —
- Memory based —
- Naïve Bayes —



“It's not who has the best algorithm that wins. It's who has the most data.”

Large data rationale

Assume feature $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ has sufficient information to predict y accurately.

Example: For breakfast I ate to / two / too eggs.

Counterexample: Predict housing prices from only size (feet²) and no other features.

Useful test: Given the input x , can a human expert confidently predict y ?

Large data rationale

Use a learning algorithm with many parameters
(e.g. logistic regression / linear regression with many features;
neural network with many hidden units).

\Rightarrow low bias algorithm

$\Rightarrow J_{\text{train}}(\theta)$ will be small.

Use a very large training set (unlikely to overfit) low variance

$J_{\text{train}}(\theta) \approx J_{\text{test}}(\theta)$

$\Rightarrow J_{\text{test}}(\theta)$ will be small