SVM - Letter Recognition

October 22, 2020

1 Letter Recognition Using SVM

Let's now tackle a slightly more complex problem - letter recognition. We'll first explore the dataset a bit, prepare it (scale etc.) and then experiment with linear and non-linear SVMs with various hyperparameters.

1.1 Data Understanding

Let's first understand the shape, attributes etc. of the dataset.

```
In [1]: # libraries
        import pandas as pd
        import numpy as np
        from sklearn.svm import SVC
        from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
        from sklearn import metrics
        from sklearn.metrics import confusion_matrix
        from sklearn.model_selection import KFold
        from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
        from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV
        import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
        import seaborn as sns
        from sklearn.preprocessing import scale
        # dataset
        letters = pd.read_csv("letter-recognition.csv")
In [2]: # about the dataset
        # dimensions
        print("Dimensions: ", letters.shape, "\n")
        # data types
        print(letters.info())
        # head
        letters.head()
```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'> RangeIndex: 20000 entries, 0 to 19999 Data columns (total 17 columns): letter 20000 non-null object 20000 non-null int64 xbox 20000 non-null int64 ybox width 20000 non-null int64 20000 non-null int64 height 20000 non-null int64 onpix xbar 20000 non-null int64 20000 non-null int64 ybar 20000 non-null int64 x2bar 20000 non-null int64 y2bar xybar 20000 non-null int64 x2ybar 20000 non-null int64 xy2bar 20000 non-null int64 xedge 20000 non-null int64

> 20000 non-null int64 20000 non-null int64

> 20000 non-null int64

Dimensions: (20000, 17)

memory usage: 2.6+ MB

dtypes: int64(16), object(1)

None

xedgey

yedge

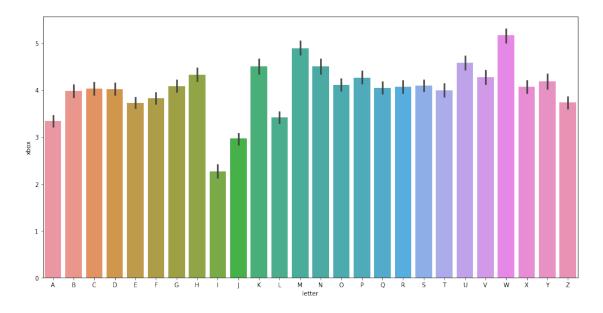
yedgex

```
xbar
Out [2]:
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In [3]: # a quirky bug: the column names have a space, e.g. 'xbox ', which throws and error wh
 print(letters.columns)

```
In [4]: # let's 'reindex' the column names
        letters.columns = ['letter', 'xbox', 'ybox', 'width', 'height', 'onpix', 'xbar',
               'ybar', 'x2bar', 'y2bar', 'xybar', 'x2ybar', 'xy2bar', 'xedge',
               'xedgey', 'yedge', 'yedgex']
       print(letters.columns)
Index(['letter', 'xbox', 'ybox', 'width', 'height', 'onpix', 'xbar', 'ybar',
       'x2bar', 'y2bar', 'xybar', 'x2ybar', 'xy2bar', 'xedge', 'xedgey',
       'yedge', 'yedgex'],
      dtype='object')
In [5]: order = list(np.sort(letters['letter'].unique()))
       print(order)
['A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H', 'I', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'M', 'N', 'O', 'P', 'Q', 'R', 'S'
In [6]: # basic plots: How do various attributes vary with the letters
       plt.figure(figsize=(16, 8))
        sns.barplot(x='letter', y='xbox',
                    data=letters,
                    order=order)
```

Out[6]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x104cca5f8>



Out[7]:		xbox	ybox	width	height	onpix	xbar	ybar	\
	letter								
	A	3.337136	6.975919	5.128010	5.178707	2.991128	8.851711	3.631179	
	В	3.985640	6.962141	5.088773	5.169713	4.596606	7.671018	7.062663	
	C	4.031250	7.063859	4.701087	5.296196	2.775815	5.437500	7.627717	
	D 4.02360		7.244720	5.170186	5.288199	4.026087	7.539130	6.806211	
	E	3.727865	6.944010	4.756510	5.201823	3.679688	5.966146	7.352865	
		x2bar	y2bar	xybar	x2ybar	xy2bar	xedge	xedgey	\
	letter								
	A	2.755387	2.043093	7.802281	2.338403	8.465146	2.771863	6.321926	
	В	5.366841	5.571802	7.954308	5.506527	6.652742	3.117493	7.919060	
	C	5.927989	7.177989	8.773098	7.494565	11.947011	1.991848	8.876359	
	D	5.921739	6.508075	8.166460	5.111801	5.750311	3.365217	7.813665	
	Е	4.223958	7.585938	8.507812	6.242188	10.341146	2.127604	8.298177	
		yedge	yedgex						
	letter								
	A	2.875792	7.468948						
	В	6.612272	9.100522						
	C	4.080163	8.555707						
	D	3.971429	7.628571						
	E	6.022135	8.506510						

1.2 Data Preparation

Let's conduct some data preparation steps before modeling. Firstly, let's see if it is important to **rescale** the features, since they may have varying ranges. For example, here are the average values:

```
In [9]: # average feature values
        round(letters.drop('letter', axis=1).mean(), 2)
Out[9]: xbox
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        ybox
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        height
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        onpix
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        ybar
        x2bar
                  4.63
                  5.18
        y2bar
        xybar
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        x2ybar
                  6.45
                  7.93
        xy2bar
                  3.05
        xedge
        xedgey
                  8.34
        yedge
                  3.69
```

```
yedgex 7.80 dtype: float64
```

In this case, the average values do not vary a lot (e.g. having a diff of an order of magnitude). Nevertheless, it is better to rescale them.

1.3 Model Building

Let's fist build two basic models - linear and non-linear with default hyperparameters, and compare the accuracies.

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In [12]: # linear model
         model_linear = SVC(kernel='linear')
         model_linear.fit(X_train, y_train)
         # predict
         y_pred = model_linear.predict(X_test)
In [13]: # confusion matrix and accuracy
         # accuracy
         print("accuracy:", metrics.accuracy_score(y_true=y_test, y_pred=y_pred), "\n")
         # cm
         print(metrics.confusion_matrix(y_true=y_test, y_pred=y_pred))
accuracy: 0.85233333333333334
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The linear model gives approx. 85% accuracy. Let's look at a sufficiently non-linear model with randomly chosen hyperparameters.

```
# model
          non_linear_model = SVC(kernel='rbf')
          # fit
          non_linear_model.fit(X_train, y_train)
          # predict
          y_pred = non_linear_model.predict(X_test)
In [15]: # confusion matrix and accuracy
          # accuracy
          print("accuracy:", metrics.accuracy_score(y_true=y_test, y_pred=y_pred), "\n")
          # cm
          print(metrics.confusion_matrix(y_true=y_test, y_pred=y_pred))
accuracy: 0.93833333333333334
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The non-linear model gives approx. 93% accuracy. Thus, going forward, let's choose hyperparameters corresponding to non-linear models.

1.4 Grid Search: Hyperparameter Tuning

Let's now tune the model to find the optimal values of C and gamma corresponding to an RBF kernel. We'll use 5-fold cross validation.

```
param_grid = hyper_params,
                                  scoring= 'accuracy',
                                  cv = folds,
                                  verbose = 1,
                                  return train score=True)
         # fit the model
         model_cv.fit(X_train, y_train)
Fitting 5 folds for each of 12 candidates, totalling 60 fits
[Parallel(n_jobs=1)]: Done 60 out of 60 | elapsed: 10.0min finished
Out[16]: GridSearchCV(cv=KFold(n_splits=5, random_state=101, shuffle=True),
                error score='raise',
                estimator=SVC(C=1.0, cache_size=200, class_weight=None, coef0=0.0,
           decision_function_shape='ovr', degree=3, gamma='auto', kernel='rbf',
           max_iter=-1, probability=False, random_state=None, shrinking=True,
           tol=0.001, verbose=False),
                fit_params=None, iid=True, n_jobs=1,
                param_grid=[{'gamma': [0.01, 0.001, 0.0001], 'C': [1, 10, 100, 1000]}],
                pre_dispatch='2*n_jobs', refit=True, return_train_score=True,
                scoring='accuracy', verbose=1)
In [17]: # cv results
         cv_results = pd.DataFrame(model_cv.cv_results_)
         cv results
Out[17]:
             mean_fit_time mean_score_time mean_test_score mean_train_score param_C
                                                                        0.844679
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                                    1.421701
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                             {'C': 1, 'gamma': 0.001}
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                             {'C': 10, 'gamma': 0.01}
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```

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                  {'C': 100, 'gamma': 0.0001}
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        0.0001
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         [12 rows x 22 columns]
In [18]: # converting C to numeric type for plotting on x-axis
         cv_results['param_C'] = cv_results['param_C'].astype('int')
         # # plotting
         plt.figure(figsize=(16,6))
         # subplot 1/3
         plt.subplot(131)
         gamma_01 = cv_results[cv_results['param_gamma']==0.01]
         plt.plot(gamma_01["param_C"], gamma_01["mean_test_score"])
         plt.plot(gamma_01["param_C"], gamma_01["mean_train_score"])
         plt.xlabel('C')
         plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
         plt.title("Gamma=0.01")
         plt.ylim([0.60, 1])
         plt.legend(['test accuracy', 'train accuracy'], loc='upper left')
         plt.xscale('log')
         # subplot 2/3
         plt.subplot(132)
         gamma_001 = cv_results[cv_results['param_gamma']==0.001]
         plt.plot(gamma_001["param_C"], gamma_001["mean_test_score"])
         plt.plot(gamma_001["param_C"], gamma_001["mean_train_score"])
         plt.xlabel('C')
         plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
         plt.title("Gamma=0.001")
         plt.ylim([0.60, 1])
```

```
plt.legend(['test accuracy', 'train accuracy'], loc='upper left')
   plt.xscale('log')
    # subplot 3/3
   plt.subplot(133)
    gamma_0001 = cv_results[cv_results['param_gamma']==0.0001]
   plt.plot(gamma_0001["param_C"], gamma_0001["mean_test_score"])
   plt.plot(gamma_0001["param_C"], gamma_0001["mean_train_score"])
   plt.xlabel('C')
   plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
   plt.title("Gamma=0.0001")
   plt.ylim([0.60, 1])
   plt.legend(['test accuracy', 'train accuracy'], loc='upper left')
   plt.xscale('log')
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```

The plots above show some useful insights: - Non-linear models (high gamma) perform *much better* than the linear ones - At any value of gamma, a high value of C leads to better performance - None of the models tend to overfit (even the complex ones), since the training and test accuracies closely follow each other

This suggests that the problem and the data is **inherently non-linear** in nature, and a complex model will outperform simple, linear models in this case.

In [19]: # printing the optimal accuracy score and hyperparameters

Let's now choose the best hyperparameters.

```
best_score = model_cv.best_score_
best_hyperparams = model_cv.best_params_

print("The best test score is {0} corresponding to hyperparameters {1}".format(best_score)
```

The best test score is 0.9517142857142857 corresponding to hyperparameters {'C': 1000, 'gamma'

1.4.1 Building and Evaluating the Final Model

Let's now build and evaluate the final model, i.e. the model with highest test accuracy.

```
In [20]: # model with optimal hyperparameters
           # model
          model = SVC(C=1000, gamma=0.01, kernel="rbf")
          model.fit(X_train, y_train)
          y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
           # metrics
          print("accuracy", metrics.accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred), "\n")
          print(metrics.confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred), "\n")
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1.5 Conclusion

The accuracy achieved using a non-linear kernel (\sim 0.95) is mush higher than that of a linear one (\sim 0.85). We can conclude that the problem is highly non-linear in nature.