Predicting a Pulsar Star with Deep Learning

December 13, 2019

1 Predicting a Pulsar Star with Deep Learning

1.0.1 1. Motivation

Pulsar stars are a very rare type of Neutron star that produce radio emission detectable on Earth and they are of considerable scientific interest as probes of space-time and states of matter. Their emission spreads across the sky and produces a detectable pattern of broadband radio emission. However in practice almost all detections are caused by radio frequency interference and noise, making legitimate signals hard to find.

Having said that, the main purpose of this problem is to build a simple classifier using deep learning tools in order to predict wether a detected signal comes from a pulsar star or from other sources such as noises, interferences, etc.

All information and data related to this problem can be found here: https://www.kaggle.com/pavanraj159/predicting-a-pulsar-star

1.0.2 2. Data Information

Each signal is described by eight continuous variables, and a single class variable. The first four are simple statistics obtained from the integrated pulse profile and the remaining four variables are similarly obtained from the DM-SNR curve. These variables are:

Mean of the integrated profile.

Standard deviation of the integrated profile.

Excess kurtosis of the integrated profile.

Skewness of the integrated profile.

Mean of the DM-SNR curve.

Standard deviation of the DM-SNR curve.

Excess kurtosis of the DM-SNR curve.

Skewness of the DM-SNR curve.

Class

The data set shared here contains 17898 total samples.

1.0.3 3. Dependences

Here we can find the libraries we will use in order to develop a solution for this problem: **numpy|pandas:** Will help us treat and explore the data, and execute vector and matrix operations. **matplotlib|seaborn:** Will help us plot the information so we can visualize it in different ways and have a better understanding of it. **keras:** Will provide us all the necessary deep learning

tools to develop a solution for the problem. **sklearn:** We are using this library since it gives us access to some tools to divide our dataset into training and test and some metrics we can use to evaluate our models.

```
import pandas as pd
                                 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
                                 import seaborn as sns
                                import keras
                                from prettytable import PrettyTable
                                from keras.models import Sequential
                                from sklearn.metrics import confusion_matrix, accuracy_score, recall_score, f1_score
                                from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
                                from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
                                from keras.layers import Dense, Dropout
Using TensorFlow backend.
\verb|C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\framework\dtypes.py:526: Future Weight of the packages of th
         _np_qint8 = np.dtype([("qint8", np.int8, 1)])
C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\framework\dtypes.py:527: FutureWard C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\frame\framework\dtypes.py:527: FutureWard C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\frame\fram
         _np_quint8 = np.dtype([("quint8", np.uint8, 1)])
_np_qint16 = np.dtype([("qint16", np.int16, 1)])
C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\framework\dtypes.py:529: FutureW
         _np_quint16 = np.dtype([("quint16", np.uint16, 1)])
C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\framework\dtypes.py:530: FutureWe
         _np_qint32 = np.dtype([("qint32", np.int32, 1)])
```

1.0.4 4. Data Exploration

In [1]: import numpy as np

Since this is a deep learning solution we do not want to make any feature selection or special treatment to our data. However let's take a quick look to our data and understand it first!

np_resource = np.dtype([("resource", np.ubyte, 1)])

```
In [2]: #read the csv that contains our data and print the first 5 rows of it
        df = pd.read_csv("pulsar_stars.csv")
        df.head()
Out[2]:
            Mean of the integrated profile \
                                140.562500
        0
        1
                                102.507812
                                103.015625
        3
                                136.750000
        4
                                 88.726562
            Standard deviation of the integrated profile \
        0
                                                55.683782
```

```
1
                                         58.882430
2
                                         39.341649
3
                                         57.178449
4
                                         40.672225
    Excess kurtosis of the integrated profile
0
                                      -0.234571
1
                                       0.465318
2
                                       0.323328
3
                                      -0.068415
4
                                       0.600866
    Skewness of the integrated profile
                                           Mean of the DM-SNR curve \
0
                              -0.699648
                                                            3.199833
                              -0.515088
1
                                                            1.677258
2
                               1.051164
                                                            3.121237
3
                              -0.636238
                                                            3.642977
4
                               1.123492
                                                            1.178930
    Standard deviation of the DM-SNR curve \
0
                                  19.110426
1
                                  14.860146
2
                                  21.744669
3
                                  20.959280
4
                                  11.468720
                                            Skewness of the DM-SNR curve \
    Excess kurtosis of the DM-SNR curve
0
                                7.975532
                                                                74.242225
1
                               10.576487
                                                               127.393580
2
                                7.735822
                                                                63.171909
3
                                6.896499
                                                                53.593661
4
                               14.269573
                                                               252.567306
   target_class
0
              0
1
              0
2
              0
3
              0
```

First of all we observe the name of these columns is quite long and full of spaces, let's rename them:

Now let's check for null values and object datatypes we might want to transform into numerical values:

```
In [4]: #Looking for null values
        df.isna().sum()
Out[4]: mean_profile
                            0
        std_profile
       kurtosis_profile
        skewness_profile
       mean_dmsnr
        std_dmsnr
       kurtosis_dmsnr
                           0
        skewness_dmsnr
                            0
        target
                            0
        dtype: int64
In [5]: #Looking for object datatypes
       df.info()
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 17898 entries, 0 to 17897
Data columns (total 9 columns):
mean_profile
                  17898 non-null float64
                  17898 non-null float64
std_profile
kurtosis_profile 17898 non-null float64
skewness_profile 17898 non-null float64
                  17898 non-null float64
mean_dmsnr
                   17898 non-null float64
std_dmsnr
                  17898 non-null float64
kurtosis_dmsnr
skewness_dmsnr
                   17898 non-null float64
                   17898 non-null int64
target
dtypes: float64(8), int64(1)
memory usage: 1.2 MB
```

After having checked there are no null values and all columns contain numerical values, let's take a look at some information about our data:

Out[6]:		mean_profile	std_profile	kurtosis_profile	skewness_profile	\
	count	17898.000000	17898.000000	17898.000000	17898.000000	
	mean	111.079968	46.549532	0.477857	1.770279	
	std	25.652935	6.843189	1.064040	6.167913	
	min	5.812500	24.772042	-1.876011	-1.791886	
	25%	100.929688	42.376018	0.027098	-0.188572	
	50%	115.078125	46.947479	0.223240	0.198710	
	75%	127.085938	51.023202	0.473325	0.927783	
	max	192.617188	98.778911	8.069522	68.101622	

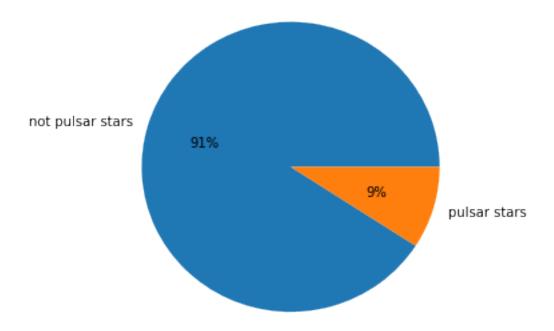
	mean_dmsnr	${\tt std_dmsnr}$	kurtosis_dmsnr	skewness_dmsnr	\
count	17898.000000	17898.000000	17898.000000	17898.000000	
mean	12.614400	26.326515	8.303556	104.857709	
std	29.472897	19.470572	4.506092	106.514540	
min	0.213211	7.370432	-3.139270	-1.976976	
25%	1.923077	14.437332	5.781506	34.960504	
50%	2.801839	18.461316	8.433515	83.064556	
75%	5.464256	28.428104	10.702959	139.309331	
max	223.392140	110.642211	34.539844	1191.000837	
	target				
count	17898.000000				
mean	0.091574				
std	0.288432				
min	0.000000				
25%	0.000000				
50%	0.000000				
75%	0.000000				
max	1.000000				

Just by looking at this table we can extract some important information of our data, for example if we take a look at the target column we can see the max value is 1 (pulse star) and the minimum value is 0 (not a star) while the mean of this column tends to 0, which lets us know there are more "false pulse stars" than actual stars. Additionally we clearly see this data needs some scaling since the difference between values is noticeable.

1.0.5 5. Data Visualization

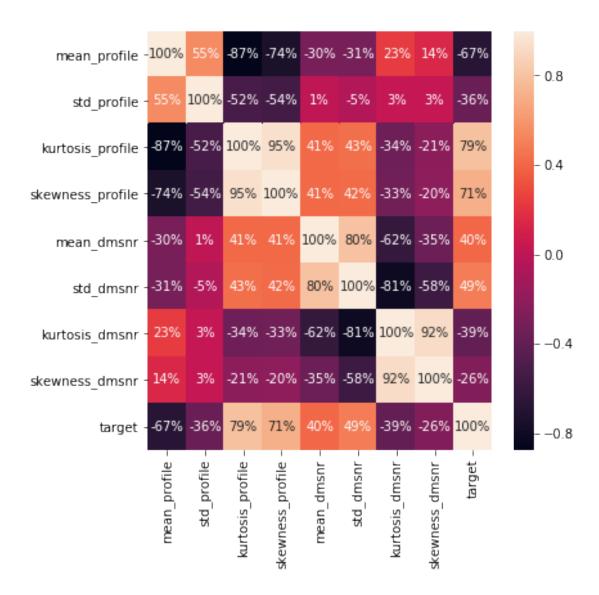
At this point we are going to plot some things that might be of our interest from this dataset. First of all knowing our target variable let's see the difference between values, or better said, the proportion between them:

Proportion of target variable in dataset

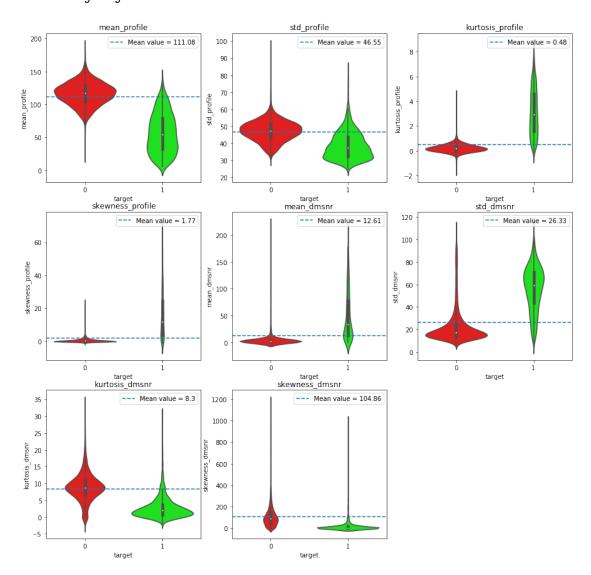


There are 1639 signals that belong to pulsar stars and 16259 signals that aren't from pulsars

From the graph above we see that approximately the 10% of our samples are real Pulsar Stars while the other 90% detected signals belong to something else such as noise. Now let's have a look at how features correlate with each other.



Something curious we can see from this correlation matrix is that four of the eight features we have in our dataset correlate positively with our target variable whilst the other four correlate negatively and this is really going to help when training our model since the separation between classes becomes clear. Having said that let's go deeper into investigating these features!



Thanks to these violin plots we are able to extract information about the distribution of values for each of the features our database contain. Furthermore we can view these distributions for the different values our target variable has, plus having this dashed line being the mean value of the feature might help us understand this data better. That said, let's comment some of the features for which we see the separation between classes becomes more clear:

mean_profile. From the correlation matrix we observed the higher the values the less change of the signal coming from a pulsar star, in our violinplot we clearly see it. Additionally, by looking at the mean we could say that if a mean_profile value is above the mean value, that signal might probably to come from another source than a star.

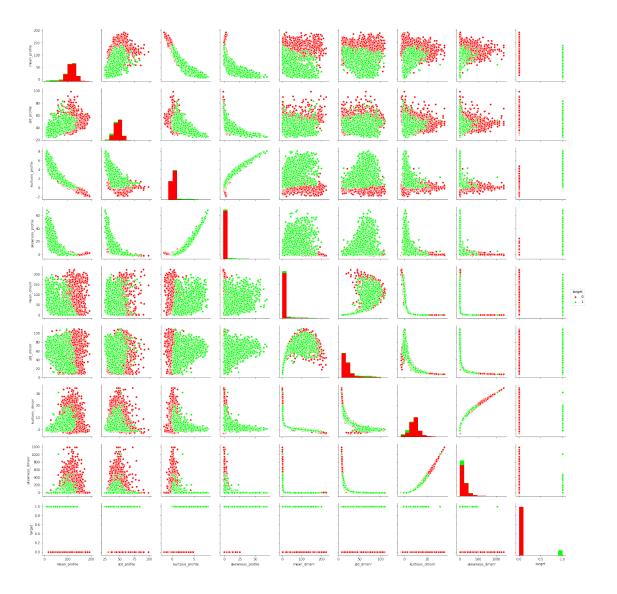
kurtosis_profile. Like mean profile, this feature is also pretty interesting. We clearly observe how the majority of samples whose kurtosis_profile value is above the mean value belong to the group of pulsar stars while, with some outliers that break the rules, lower values than the mean

come from other signals. In addition, the distribution of values from the "non pulsar" group is pretty similar, meaning the range of kurtosis_profile values for those signals is quite narrow and the opposite happens to the pulsar group, values tend to be in a range between 0.48-8.

skewness_profile. From skewness_profile we can extract a quite interesting information. It actually seems weird the mean value is just 1.77 when we have values higher than 60 in our dataset. The reason for that is that in our dataset we have approximately 10 times more "non-pulsar" than actual pulsar stars and the majority of skewness values for the non pulsar are pretty close to 0; since the pulsar group is proportionally smaller the mean value is penalized. However that gives us a very important information, the majority of samples whose skewness_profile value is higher than the mean will probably belong to the pulsar group and, we could say almost 100% samples whose value is higher than 23~ are stars!

mean_dmsnr/skewness_dmsnr. These features are pretty similar in terms of data distribution with the difference being that in mean_dmsn the vast majority of negative star values lay under the mean and in skewness_dmsnr it's exactly the oppositive, pulsar stars are located under the mean value. That said, these distributions look very similar to the one we commented before (skewness_profile) but with one exception: here we can't surely affirm that from "x" value above or below the mean value each sample will belong to a pulsar or not pulsar star, since the range of values for these features is pretty wide.

In order to make sure our hypotesis of data being easily separable for the majority of features is true, we are going to create a pairplot between columns and check if we can visually make that separation.



Thanks to pairplotting it's clear that our data seems to be split in two huge separated groups that can be easily differentiated by just looking at the graphic above.

1.0.6 6. Preparing and Fitting Our Deep Learning Model

Now it's time to prepare our Deep Learning model and, unlike in Machine Learning, we are not going to select any specific features, we are going to set some parameters that we think are going to make the neural network perform and its best and then feed it with all our data. That said, we may still have to split our data into training and set (validation might be OK as well) and scale our data too, if needed.

```
In [12]: #Separing our features from target variable
     X = df.iloc[:,0:8].values
     y = df.iloc[:,8].values
```

Now that we have our data scaled and split into training and test, it's time to define our deep learning model. We are going to use a Sequential model since we want to create our model layer by layer. We are going to be creating a simple fully-connected neuronal network with 3 total layers (2 of them as hidden layers and 1 output layer). Between these layers we are going to use Dropout layers in order to reduce overfitting and we're setting the rate as 0.3.

The input dimension is 8 since we're using eight features and output dimension as 1 since we're only receiving one label. The number of neurons per layer has been chosen randomly without being excessively high. Also important to mention that we're using relu as activation function for the hidden layers since it usually provides better results and sigmoid for the output layer since this is a binary classification problem.

WARNING:tensorflow:From C:\Users\Ferran\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\tensorflow\python\ops\resorrance
Instructions for updating:
Colocations handled automatically by placer.

Having already our model defined there comes the time to compile it. As loss function we're using binary_crossentropy since, as we've already said, this is a binary classification problem. We're aso using adam as optimizer since adapts the learning rate as the training progresses and as far as metrics is concerned we're using accuracy.

Model: "sequential_1"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 16)	144
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 16)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 8)	136
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 8)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 1)	9
Total params: 289 Trainable params: 289 Non-trainable params: 0		

Non-trainable params: 0

Now it usually comes the time to fit our model. However before doing that it might be interesting to adjust the weight of our different output classes, in other words since our database has way more values that don't belong to pulsar stars, we really want to set a higher importance rate to those samples who really come from starts. That's something called handling imbalanced datasets and might help our model to predict, hopefully, our positive pulsar stars samples better.

```
In [18]: #Adjusting class weights
    weight = {0 : 1., 1 : 2.}
```

Epoch 5/100

Epoch 6/100

Having done that, let's fit our model!

```
Epoch 7/100
Epoch 8/100
Epoch 9/100
Epoch 10/100
Epoch 11/100
Epoch 12/100
Epoch 13/100
Epoch 14/100
Epoch 15/100
Epoch 16/100
Epoch 17/100
Epoch 18/100
Epoch 19/100
Epoch 20/100
Epoch 21/100
Epoch 22/100
Epoch 23/100
Epoch 24/100
Epoch 25/100
Epoch 26/100
Epoch 27/100
Epoch 28/100
Epoch 29/100
Epoch 30/100
```

```
Epoch 31/100
Epoch 32/100
Epoch 33/100
Epoch 34/100
Epoch 35/100
Epoch 36/100
Epoch 37/100
Epoch 38/100
Epoch 39/100
Epoch 40/100
Epoch 41/100
Epoch 42/100
Epoch 43/100
Epoch 44/100
Epoch 45/100
Epoch 46/100
Epoch 47/100
Epoch 48/100
Epoch 49/100
Epoch 50/100
Epoch 51/100
Epoch 52/100
Epoch 53/100
Epoch 54/100
```

```
Epoch 55/100
Epoch 56/100
Epoch 57/100
Epoch 58/100
Epoch 59/100
Epoch 60/100
Epoch 61/100
Epoch 62/100
Epoch 63/100
Epoch 64/100
Epoch 65/100
Epoch 66/100
Epoch 67/100
Epoch 68/100
Epoch 69/100
Epoch 70/100
Epoch 71/100
Epoch 72/100
Epoch 73/100
Epoch 74/100
Epoch 75/100
Epoch 76/100
Epoch 77/100
Epoch 78/100
```

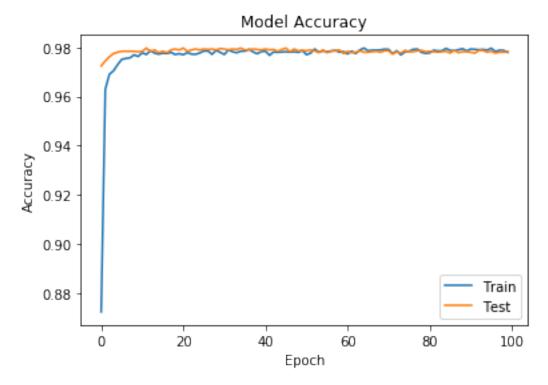
```
Epoch 79/100
Epoch 80/100
Epoch 81/100
Epoch 82/100
Epoch 83/100
Epoch 84/100
Epoch 85/100
Epoch 86/100
Epoch 87/100
Epoch 88/100
Epoch 89/100
Epoch 90/100
Epoch 91/100
Epoch 92/100
Epoch 93/100
Epoch 94/100
Epoch 95/100
Epoch 96/100
Epoch 97/100
Epoch 98/100
Epoch 99/100
Epoch 100/100
```

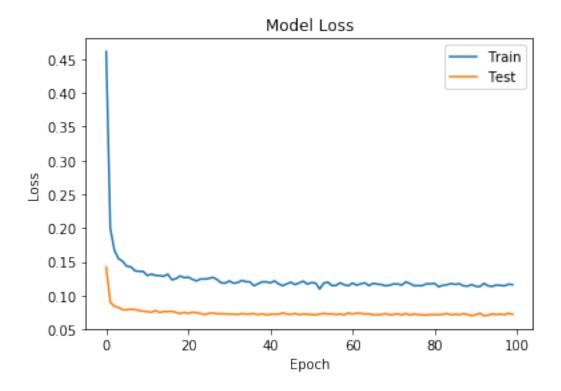
As we can see, our model works pretty well! We get an accuracy score of 98% approximately

1.0.7 7. Evaluating Our Model

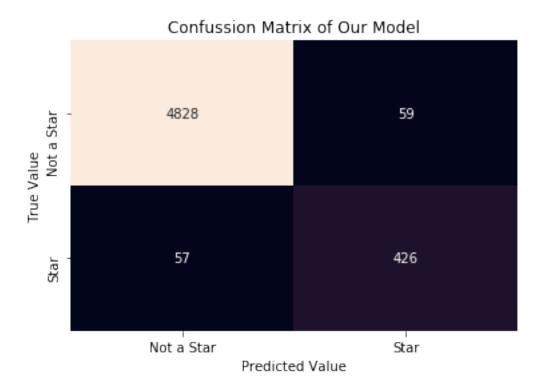
In order to do this evaluation we're going to do two things. First of all we're going to plot the model accuracy and loss for each the training and validation data, and afterwards we're going to make a prediction and, through a confussion matrix, see how it goes.

```
In [20]: #Visualizing accuracy for both training and test data
    plt.plot(history.history['accuracy'])
    plt.plot(history.history['val_accuracy'])
    plt.title('Model Accuracy')
    plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
    plt.xlabel('Epoch')
    plt.legend(['Train', 'Test'], loc='lower right')
    plt.show()
```





With our two graphics already here let's make a prediction and see the confussion matrix:



1.0.8 8. Conclusions

After solving this problem using Deep Learning we have come to the following conclusions: - Our Deep Learning model predicts very well wether a signal comes from a pulsar star or another external source. - Thanks to data being clearly separable in two groups (pulsar and not pulsar), our model has worked very well. - Had we happened to have used a Machine Learning algorithm instead of Deep Learning techniques, feature engineering would have been clear since there is a strong correlation on this dataset. - The number of Epochs (iterations) in our Neural Network could have been reduced since results were pretty much the same after the first 40 iterations. - There are some features that are really well separated as we have explained when plotting the

0.9783985102420857 | 0.8819875776397516 | 0.8801652892561982 |

violins. It could be easy to predict the target class just by looking at a sample if some values where below or above the mean value. - This dataset is quite imbalance since there are only 10% of samples that belong to pulsar class; adjusting weights before feeding data to our neural network might help us detecting True Positives, which is what we're interested in.

In case someone wants to know how to solve this particular problem using different Machine Learning algorithms, this following link will take you to a very interesting Kernel where the author solves it using different techniques explaining the algorithms he uses as well as what he is doing each step.