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# Introduction

The goal of this report is to analyze the results of different machine learning algorithms applied to the HTRU2 Data Set [1].

Initially an analysis of the feature will be employed. Then will be applied gaussian, logistic regression, SVM and GMM models….

## HTRU2 Data Set

HTRU2 is a data set which describes a sample of pulsar candidates collected during the High Time Resolution Universe Survey (South) [2].

**Pulsars** are a rare type of Neutron star that produce radio emission detectable here on Earth.

As pulsars rotate, their emission beam sweeps across the sky, and when this crosses our line of sight, produces a detectable pattern of broadband radio emission. As pulsars rotate rapidly, this pattern repeats periodically. Thus pulsar search involves looking for periodic radio signals with large radio telescopes.

Each sample in the HTRU2 Data set is a **'candidate'**, a potential signal detection known averaged over many rotations of the pulsar, as determined by the length of an observation. In the absence of additional info, each candidate could potentially describe a real pulsar. However in practice almost all detections are caused by radio frequency interference (RFI) and noise, making legitimate signals (actual pulsar) hard to find.

This HTRU2 contains a set of pulsar candidates, the actual pulsar are labeled with 1, while the others samples are labeled with 0. More in details the HTRU2 data set contains 16,259 spurious examples caused by RFI/noise, and 1,639 real pulsar examples. These examples have all been checked by human annotators. The HTRU2 is thus **highly imbalanced**: the legitimate pulsar examples are a minority positive class, and spurious examples the majority negative class.

**Classification systems** which treat the candidate data sets as **binary classification problems** can be employed to automatically label pulsar candidates to facilitate rapid analysis. Results of these classifiers are reported in the next sections of this document.

Each candidate is described by 8 continuous variables. The first four are simple statistics obtained from the integrated pulse profile (folded profile). This is an array of continuous variables that describe a longitude-resolved version of the signal that has been averaged in both time and frequency (see [3] for more details). The remaining four variables are similarly obtained from the DM-SNR curve (again see [3] for more details). Each samples has the features (where the last one is the label) summarized below:

1. Mean of the integrated profile.

2. Standard deviation of the integrated profile.

3. Excess kurtosis of the integrated profile.

4. Skewness of the integrated profile.

5. Mean of the DM-SNR curve.

6. Standard deviation of the DM-SNR curve.

7. Excess kurtosis of the DM-SNR curve.

8. Skewness of the DM-SNR curve.

9. Class

The HTRU2 contains 17,898 total examples: 1,639 positive examples (labeled with 1) and 16,259 negative examples (labeled with 0).

The dataset has been split into **Train** and Evaluation (**Test**) data.

The training set contains 8108 negative examples and 821 positive examples.

The test set contains 8151 negative examples and 818 positive examples

# Analysis of the features

HTRU2 contains 8 continuous variables. The mean (µ) and standard deviation (σ) of each features for the training dataset are:

It can be observed that features of the data set have different scales, they have large differences between their ranges. So, in this case, **Z-normalization** on the data-set to bring all the features on the same scale could be useful. Z-normalization centers the feature columns at mean 0 with standard deviation 1. Thus before applying any operation each sample of the training set has been transformed through the expression:

Where **x’** is the sample after the Z-score normalization, while **x** is the original sample in the original data set.

## Histograms

The first thing we can do is plotting the different features of different classes for the entire training set. Below are shown the histograms of the features:



The 8 features result easy separable. The histograms shows that in the most of cases the features of the class 0 are concentrated around certain values. The shape of the histograms of features of class 0 is expected to be good for some classifiers that will be implemented (Gaussian classifiers). On the other hand the features of the class 1 results more spread and irregular. So, it could be worth to apply **Gaussianization** to the features. This is a pre-processing technique which helps to deal with the fact that some distributions are not Gaussian like. Since one of the technique we will apply is the Gaussian classifier, we will apply Gaussianization pre-processing stage which transforms our features sample as if they behave more likely as a Gaussian distribution.

Gaussianization allows to transform features in such a way that the empirical cumulative distribution of the transformed features is the same as that of a Gaussian distribution. In particularly we will consider as a target a Gaussian distribution with unit variance and zero mean. To perform Gaussianization we will compute empirical c.d.f on the features, we will map this c.d.f. to a uniform distribution and then we will transform it to Gaussian c.d.f.

For each feature x we have to compute the **rank** as:

the rank(x) basically counts the number of samples of the features that have a lower value than x and divide it by the number of samples N. The rank add 1 to the numerator and 2 to denominator for numerical reasons: rank(x)=0 should be avoided because it would lead to be mapped to minus infinity.

Rank(x) is basically the empirical cumulative distribution for the data. We replace each sample x with a sample that has the same value for the cumulative distribution but the new sample will have a cumulative distribution assumed to be taken from a Gaussian density. We want to find a value y such that the cumulative distribution of y is equal to the rank of x.

We assume that is the normal gaussian cumulative distribution. Solving with respect to y we obtain:

Where is called **percent point function (p.p.f)** and is the inverse of the cumulative distribution function of the standard normal distribution.

Scipy library’s implementation of p.p.f are used in the code [4]

Gaussianization is applied to both training and evaluation samples. The ranking is computed using only the training data; evaluation data are single samples, I can compute the ranking of the evaluation samples comparing them to the training samples.

Let’ see the histograms of each feature after Gaussianization.



Gaussianization process ignore the classes, it works considering the whole dataset, it makes the whole dataset more Gaussian like, so samples of one class could be quite different from a Gaussian distribution.

It can be observed that HTRU2 features of class 0 after Gaussianization have a shape vey similar to a Gaussian distribution. Features of class 1 after Gaussianization look more likely to a Gaussian distribution rather than before Gaussianization, though they are still quite asymmetrical.

In the following we will compare the results of classifiers applied to the samples Gaussianized and not Gaussianized. It is expected that some classifiers will be heavily affected by the Gaussianization while other will be less affected.

## Correlation

To analyze the interaction of features we can compute the **correlation** of features. This is useful because it suggest if PCA could be useful and how many features can be discarded.  
We can compute the **Pearson correlation coefficient** as:

Actually we will consider the absolute value of Pearson correlation because we are only interested to understand if there is correlation or not

Which basically is the covariance scaled by the square root of the variances. The abs Pearson correlation coefficient can take value between 0 and 1. If 0 it means that the 2 features are uncorrelated, while 1 means that the features are completely correlated: actually one feature is the scaled version of the other.  
To plot the correlation between features we use heatmap where darker color means high correlation between features, while lighter color means low correlation between 2 features.  
We plot the correlation considering: the whole data samples (grey); samples belonging to class 0 (orange); samples belonging to class 1 (green).

Correlation of features without Gaussianization. On the left all the data set is considered; in the center only samples of class 1 are considered; on the right only the samples of class 0 are considered.



The strongest correlation can be observed on couples of features 7-8, 6-7, 1-2, 3-4. It may be worth to map the features to a space with lower dimensionality than 8. In the following will be considered result of the classifiers after applying PCA up to m = 5.  
Furthermore these heatmaps suggest that Gaussian classifier with diagonal covariance matrix won’t perform better than full covariance Gaussian classifier; anyway we will evaluate also the Gaussian classifiers with diagonal covariance matrix to compare them with other Gaussian classifiers.   
We can also plot the correlation of Gaussianized features:

The observation made for the non-Gaussianized features are still valid and even strengthened for the Gaussianized features because the correlation of the previous quoted couple of features seems to be increased.

Correlation of features after Gaussianization. On the left all the data set is considered; in the center only samples of class 0 are considered; on the right only the samples of class 1 are considered.



# Validation approach

In the following different models for classification will be considered. For each of them training data is used to first train and then validate the models. We want to identify which kind of classifier performs better on HTRU2 data set and which is the best combination of hyperparameters.

For the binary problem the cost function can be separated in 2 components: the goodness of classifier itself and the goodness of the threshold chosen. At the beginning the threshold problem is not considered, we just need to know which classifier better discriminate the scores, for this reason **minimum detection cost min (DCF)** will be used to measure the performance.

The problem of selecting an optimal threshold will be considered afterward.

*Explain more what min DCF is and how is it computed?*

To validate the models we can extract a validation set from training set. We can use 2 different methods:

* Split the training set in 2 different set: one used for training the models actually; the other set used for validation (**single split**)
* Employ **K-fold cross-validation**

With the single split approach the final classifier will be the same evaluated on the validation set. In this case not all the samples available on of training data set will be used to build the final classifier. The big advantage of single split is that only one model need to be trained, but on the other hand fewer data for training and evaluation are used and this could lead to less robust results.  
The K-fold cross validation consists of splitting the training data set in K folds: K-1 folds are used for training the model, while the last one is used for validation. This process is repeated K times, at each iteration is computed the score and at the end of the operation……How to explain K-fold with few words??

The final trainer classifier will be obtained re-training over the whole training data set, so the K-fold cross validation has the advantage of having more data available for training and evaluation (at the end all the samples of training set have been used as training and validation samples). On the other hand decisions are made over the validation set for the models trained using folds and for this reason they may not be optimal for the mode learned from all training data. Furthermore K-fold cross-validation require to train and validate models K+1 time and this could require lot of computational time.

Generally if feasible the K-fold cross-validation leads to more robust results rather than single split, for this reason in the following we will consider K-fold cross-validation rather than single split. It is desirable to have a high value of K to have access to big amount of training data at each iteration. Thought the amount of time required to estimate model parameters increase with higher value of K, so in the following

K = 5/6/7 will be considered. Previous attempts with higher value of K have been tried but they required too much computation time especially for the SVM models.

The results with the single split have been computed just to verify that they are pretty consistent with the results of K-fold cross-validation, the results with single split are not reported in the following because it doesn’t make sense to compare the result of one validation approach with the other.

For each iteration of K-fold cross validation the scores relative to the evaluation set are computed. At the end these scores are put all together and a single min DCF is computed.

Furthermore data are shuffled before splitting, so that the data of different folds are homogeneous.

It has not been specified which application should be used and which conditions the models will be operating. In the next sections of this document we will consider different applications:

* Uniform prior application with (*π, Cfp, Cfn*) = (0.5, 1, 1)
* Unbalanced application with (*π, Cfp, Cfn*) = (0.1, 1, 1)
* Unbalanced application with (*π, Cfp, Cfn*) = (0.9, 1, 1)

# Gaussian Classifiers

First models considered are Gaussian classifiers. We will consider full, diagonal, tied full an tied diagonal covariance matrices. There is significant correlation between features, so the Gaussian classifier with diagonal hypothesis is expected to have poorer results than full covariance Gaussian classifier. Since full covariance Gaussian models require to estimate more parameters than diagonal covariance models, and this could lead to less robust estimates. So, it worth checking the results of the diagonal covariance Gaussian classifiers even if they are expected to be less powerful.  
The tied hypothesis is expected to have good performance because the training data set is highly unbalanced and the class 1 of pulsar samples have fewer samples

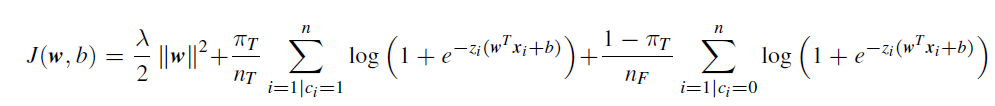
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Raw features – no PCA | | |  | Gaussianized features – no PCA | | |
| **π** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |  | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |
| Full-Cov | 0.141 | 0.284 | 0.669 | 0.153 | 0.246 | 0.697 |
| Diag-Cov | 0.193 | 0.314 | 0.746 | 0.153 | 0.276 | 0.606 |
| Tied Full-Cov | 0.112 | 0.223 | 0.574 | 0.131 | 0.232 | 0.534 |
| Tied Diag-Cov | 0.161 | 0.265 | 0.580 | 0.163 | 0.291 | 0.614 |
|  | Raw features – PCA m = 7 | | | Gaussianized features – PCA m = 7 | | |
| **π** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |
| Full-Cov | 0.139 | 0.301 | 0.643 | 0.153 | 0. 245 | 0.690 |
| Diag-Cov | 0.214 | 0.505 | 0.724 | 0.163 | 0.246 | 0.660 |
| Tied Full-Cov | 0.112 | 0.222 | 0.573 | 0.134 | 0.243 | 0.533 |
| Tied Diag-Cov | 0.138 | 0.270 | 0.599 | 0.137 | 0.253 | 0.562 |
|  | Raw features – PCA m = 6 | | | Gaussianized features – PCA m = 6 | | |
| **π** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |
| Full-Cov | 0.153 | 0.287 | 0.648 | 0.154 | 0.241 | 0.695 |
| Diag-Cov | 0.223 | 0.525 | 0.721 | 0.156 | 0.239 | 0.643 |
| Tied Full-Cov | 0.140 | 0.258 | 0.582 | 0.136 | 0.247 | 0.545 |
| Tied Diag-Cov | 0.164 | 0.297 | 0.590 | 0.141 | 0.255 | 0.588 |
|  | Raw features – PCA m = 5 | | | Gaussianized features – PCA m = 5 | | |
| **π** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |
| Full-Cov | 0.150 | 0.250 | 0.642 | 0.152 | 0.246 | 0.698 |
| Diag-Cov | 0.220 | 0.453 | 0.733 | 0.156 | 0.240 | 0.633 |
| Tied Full-Cov | 0.150 | 0.261 | 0.574 | 0.136 | 0.247 | 0.542 |
| Tied Diag-Cov | 0.171 | 0.311 | 0.604 | 0.141 | 0.256 | 0.594 |

# Logistic Regression

The attention is now turned to discriminative models.

We can expect that PCA has limited effects on this models, as well as Gaussianization, since Logistic Regression is a discriminative model and does not require specific assumptions on data distribution.

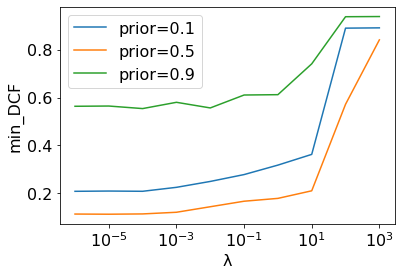
First we consider a **regularized linear Logistic Regression**. Since classes on training set are not balanced, cost of different classes in the logistic regression model is modified with the expression:



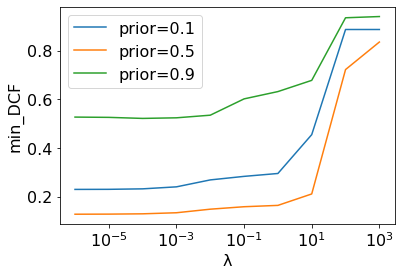
Initially is considered the main application, thus πT is set to 0.5. Then results with πT = 0.1 and

πT =0.9 will be explored.

To understand which is a good value for the regularization term λ, min\_DCF for logistic regression with different values of λ is computed. The results are reported for raw (left) and Gaussianized features:



Raw features



Gaussianized features

Values of λ ranging from 10-6 to 103 . The x-axis is reported in logarithm scale.

The Gaussianization does not affect the results, the plots remain quite similar both for raw and Gaussianized features.

From these plot we can observe that λ terms does not help in reducing the min\_DCF. Considering the plot of the application with prior π=0.5 the lowest value of min\_DCF corresponds to the lowest value of λ (10-6). So, it can be affirmed that best results are obtained with λ=0.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Raw features – no PCA | | |  | Gaussianized features – no PCA | | |
| **π** | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |  | **π= 0.5** | **π= 0.1** | **π=0.9** |
| LogReg(λ=0, πT=0.5 ) | 0.117 | 0.216 | 0.526 |  |  |  |
| LogReg(λ=0, πT=0.1 ) | 0.113 | 0.211 | 0.555 |  |  |  |
| LogReg(λ=0, πT=09 ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# References

[1] https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/HTRU2

[2] M. J. Keith et al., 'The High Time Resolution Universe Pulsar Survey - I. System Configuration and Initial Discoveries',2010, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, vol. 409, pp. 619-627. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2966.2010.17325.x

[3] R. J. Lyon, 'Why Are Pulsars Hard To Find?', PhD Thesis, University of Manchester, 2016.

[4] https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.stats.norm.html?highlight=norm%20ppf

[5] https://numpy.org/doc/stable/reference/generated/numpy.corrcoef.html