Machine Learning in Python

Unsupervised Learning - Clustering and Dimensionality Reduction

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Outline

- 1 Introduction to Unsupervised Learning
- Dimensionality Reduction
- Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
- Autoencoders

Introduction to Unsupervised Learning

What is Unsupervised Learning?

Definition

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3 / 14

In contrast to supervised learning, unsupervised learning does not use labeled data. Instead, it identifies patterns and structures in the data without predefined labels. This is particularly useful for clustering similar data points or reducing the dimensionality of the data.

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Types of Unsupervised Learning

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- Dimensionality Reduction: Techniques that reduce the number of features while preserving the essential structure of the data.
- Clustering: Algorithms that group similar data points together based on their features.
- Anomaly Detection: Identifying rare items, events, or observations that raise suspicions by differing significantly from the majority of the data.

Dimensionality Reduction

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Dimensionality Reduction

Dimensionality reduction techniques aim to reduce the number of features in a dataset while retaining its essential characteristics. Useful for visualizing high-dimensional data or improving the performance of machine learning models by reducing noise and computational complexity. Common dimensionality reduction techniques include:

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- Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA): A supervised technique that finds a linear combination of features that separates two or more classes.
- Autoencoders: Neural networks that learn to encode the input data into a lower-dimensional representation and then decode it back to the original space. They are particularly useful for learning complex, non-linear mappings.

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Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

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Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a widely used technique for dimensionality reduction. It transforms the data into a new coordinate system where the greatest variance by any projection lies on the first coordinate (principal component), the second greatest variance on the second coordinate, and so on. This allows us to reduce the number of dimensions while retaining most of the information in the data.

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Steps in PCA

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Introduction to Unsupervised Learning Dimensionality Reduction PCA Autoencoders

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- Selecting Principal Components: Choose the top k eigenvectors (principal components) based on their corresponding eigenvalues, which capture the most variance in the data.

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- **Transforming the Data**: Project the original data onto the selected principal components to obtain a lower-dimensional representation.

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Applications of PCA

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- Preprocessing for Machine Learning: Reducing dimensionality before applying machine learning algorithms to improve performance and reduce overfitting.

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Limitations of PCA

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While PCA is a powerful technique, it has some limitations:

• Linearity: PCA assumes linear relationships between features, which may not capture complex patterns in the data.

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- Loss of Information: Reducing dimensions may lead to loss of important information, especially if too many components are discarded.

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Evaluating PCA Results

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- Reconstruction Error: After transforming the data using PCA, we can reconstruct the original data and measure the error (e.g., mean squared error) to assess how well PCA captures the original structure of the data.

Autoencoders

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Autoencoders are a type of neural network used for unsupervised learning, particularly for dimensionality reduction and feature learning. They consist of two main parts: an encoder that compresses the input data into a lower-dimensional representation (latent space) and a decoder that reconstructs the original data from this representation.

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- Decoder: Reconstructs the original data from the latent space representation using one or more hidden layers. The decoder learns to reverse the encoding process.
- Loss Function: The autoencoder is trained to minimize the difference between the original input and the reconstructed output, typically using mean squared error or binary cross-entropy as the loss function.

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Applications of Autoencoders

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Jul 9th 2025

13 / 14

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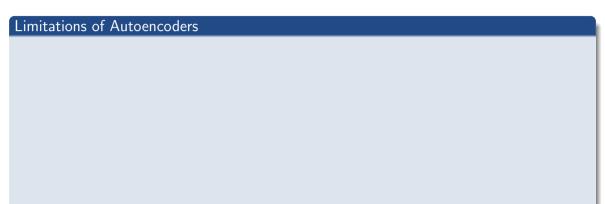
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- Generative Models: Variational autoencoders (VAEs) can generate new data samples by sampling from the latent space, making them useful for generative tasks.

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Limitations of Autoencoders

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- Non-Deterministic: The results can vary between runs due to the stochastic nature of training, especially if random initialization is used.

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14/14