

1. The file `4newsgroups.csv` contains the text of 3874 messages originating from four newsgroups,

`rec.autos, rec.motorcycles, rec.sport.hockey, rec.sport.baseball,`

labelled by the newsgroup to which it belongs. Our goal is to identify the newsgroup in which a message was posted, given the message text. You'll need to R or Python for this. Use whatever packages you want.

We generated a list of words occurring in these messages and removed commonly occurring *stop words* (e.g., the, a, an, in, of), yielding a vocabulary of size 3392:

`aaa, ab, abc, abilities, ability, ..., zero, zhitnik, zombo, zone, zx`

The file `4newsgroups-binary.csv` contains a 0/1 matrix indicating whether word  $j$  occurs in a message  $i$ . The file `4newsgroups-multinomial.csv` contains a matrix counting the number of occurrences of word  $j$  of message  $i$ . Messages are listed in the same order as in `4newsgroups.csv`.

- (a) For each of the two data files, construct logistic regression classifiers with your choice of softmax loss or binary cross-entropy together combined with a one-versus-rest strategy like in HW2. Approximate the predictive accuracy of your classifiers using 5-fold cross validation. Should you normalize your features?
- (b) Construct a Naïve bayes classifiers for each of the two data files. Approximate their predictive accuracies using 5-fold cross validation. Should you normalize your features?
- (c) Construct a random forest classifiers for each of the two data files. Explain how you chose the number of trees in your forests. Use out-of-box data to estimate prediction accuracy. Which ten words have the highest feature importances?
- (d) Compare your results from the two data files the various classifiers you constructed. Report on any interesting phenomena you observe.
- (e) **[Bonus]** Can you improve on any of the above results using more sophisticated techniques, either at the preprocessing or the classification stage?

Remark: The dataset used in this problem is a subset of the 20newsgroups dataset available at <https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Twenty+Newsgroups>.