

Assignment 3: Classification, Logistic Regression, and Gradient Descent

Machine Learning

Fall 2019

💡 Learning Objectives

- Learn about the framing of the classification problem in machine learning.
- Learn about the logistic regression algorithm.
- Learn about gradient descent for optimization.

🔗 Prior Knowledge Utilized

- Supervised learning problem framing.
- Training / testing splits.

1 The Classification Problem

So far in this class we've looked at supervised learning problems where the responses y_i are continuous-valued and the loss function is quadratic ($\ell(y, \hat{y}) = (y - \hat{y})^2$). This is an example of a regression problem. There are many times, however, where it is unnatural to frame a problem as a regression. For instance, it may be the case that y_i does not come from a continuous range but instead can only take on a few different values. This sort of problem is known as a classification problem. For instance, you might want to have a system that takes in an image of a person and predicts their identity. The identity could be thought of as the output, y_i , and it would only make sense for y_i to be one of several values (e.g., each value might represent a particular person the system was trained to recognize). In this assignment you'll learn about a special case of the classification problem known as binary classification (where y_i is either 0 or 1, e.g., a Paul versus Sam recognizer).

In this assignment we will formalize the binary classification problem and see a very useful algorithm for solving it called *logistic regression*. You will also see that the logistic regression algorithm is a very natural extension of linear regression. Our plan for getting there is going to be pretty similar to what we did for linear regression.

- Build some mathematical foundations
- Introduce logistic regression from a top-down perspective
- Learn about logistic regression from a bottom-up perspective

2 Formalizing the Classification Problem

Let's start by making the binary classification problem more formal. Suppose, we are given a training set, $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), (\mathbf{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$, where each \mathbf{x}_i is an element of the input space (e.g., a vector) and each y_i is a binary number (either 1 or 0). In this setting we will attempt to use the training data to determine a function, \hat{f}^* , that predicts the corresponding output, y , for any possible input, \mathbf{x} . For example, \mathbf{x} could be an image and y_i could be 1 when the picture contains a puppy and 0 otherwise.

Exercise 1 (10 minutes)

- (a) Given this partial setup of the binary classification problem, we still need to specify the loss function, ℓ . Recall that ℓ takes as input the actual output y , and the predicted output \hat{y} . What function could you use for ℓ that would result in the learning algorithm choosing a good model? If the choice of ℓ depends on the application, how so?

☆ Solution

An easy choice is to output a 1 if the values don't match and a 0 otherwise (essentially counting the number of mistakes the model makes). Alternatively, you could have different penalties for a false positive (the model says $\hat{y} = 1$, but the actual value is $y = 0$) or false negatives (the model says $\hat{y} = 0$, but the actual value is $y = 1$).

- (b) One natural choice for ℓ , which you may have already come up with, is to define our loss function as $\ell(y, \hat{y}) = \mathbb{I}[y \neq \hat{y}]$ (the funny looking \mathbb{I} is the indicator function that takes on value 1 when the condition inside is true and 0 otherwise). Given this choice the supervised learning problem becomes:

$$\hat{f}^* = \arg \min_f \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}[\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq y_i] \quad . \quad (1)$$

Convert Equation 1 to English to make sure you understand it.

☆ Solution

The equation says that \hat{f}^* is the function that minimizes the number of mistakes it makes on the training set.

While the loss function given in Exercise 2(b) (minimizing mistakes on the training set) is a totally reasonable choice for the loss function, it turns out that it has a number of drawbacks.

- It is all or nothing. Either we are completely right or completely wrong.

- It is not a particularly easy function to work with mathematically. In fact, for many common classes of models, it will be difficult for the learning algorithm to find the best possible model¹.

It turns out that we can create a more natural loss function by thinking about predictions in terms of probabilities.

3 Probability and the log loss

Imagine that instead of our model, \hat{f} , spitting out either 0 or 1, it outputs a confidence that the input \mathbf{x} has an output $y = 1$. In other words, rather than giving us its best guess (0 or 1), the classifier would indicate to us its degree of certainty regarding its prediction. This notion of “certainty” can be formalized using the concept of a probability.

We haven’t formally defined probability in this class, and we won’t do so here (we’ll be working with probabilities extensively in module 2). Here are a few things to keep in mind about probabilities.

- A probability, p , specifies the chance that some event occurs. $p = 0$ means that the event will definitely not occur and $p = 1$ means that it will definitely occur.
- A probability, p , must be between 0 and 1 ($0 \leq p \leq 1$).
- If the probability an event occurs is p , then the probability that the event doesn’t occur is $1 - p$.

¹ One of the key challenges that must be met in machine learning, and modeling in general, is balancing computational considerations (e.g., how long does it take to find the best possible model) with the realism of the model (e.g., how directly does the task you pose to the learning algorithm match the problem you are solving). Sometimes these things are in conflict and you must make tradeoffs.

✓ Understanding Check

Note: these sorts of boxes are here to help you test your understanding of a concept you have just read. We are trying to use these to breakup long blocks of reading. These need not be submitted and we won’t ask about them on the Canvas quiz.

For these questions, assume that for a given input the classifier outputs a probability that the output will be 1.

- (a) If a classifier has no clear idea of whether the output for a particular input is 1 or 0, what probability should the classifier output?

☆ Solution

The output would be about 0.5.

- (b) If a classifier is relatively certain that the output for a particular input is 1, what probability should the classifier output?

☆ Solution

The output would be close to 1 (e.g., 0.99). The degree of closeness to 1 would depend on how certain the classifier was.

- (c) If a classifier is relatively certain that the output for a particular input is 0, what probability should the classifier output?

☆ Solution

The output would be close to 0 (e.g., 0.01). The degree of closeness to 0 would depend on how certain the classifier was.

3.1 Log loss

If our model outputs a probability p when supplied with an input \mathbf{x} (i.e., $\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}) = p$), we might then ask ourselves what loss function we should choose in order to select the best possible model? This loss function will be used to quantify how bad a prediction p is given the actual output y (recall that for binary classification the output is either 0 or 1). To make this more intuitive, consider the task of quantifying the quality of a weatherperson's predictions. Let's assume that on the i th day the weather is either sunny ($y_i = 1$) or rainy ($y_i = 0$). Suppose that each night the weatherperson gives the probability of it being sunny the next day. Here are two potential choices for quantifying the loss of each prediction compared to the outcome (the actual weather).

1. **0-1 loss:** we will extract from the weatherperson's prediction the most likely output (e.g., if $p = 0.75$, that would be sunny, if $p = 0.4$, that would be rainy). If the most likely output matches the actual output we give a loss of 0, otherwise we give a loss of 1 (this is similar to Equation 1).
2. **squared loss:** one downside of 0-1 loss is that it doesn't take into account the certainty expressed by the weatherperson. The weatherperson gets the same loss if it is rainy and they predicted $p = 0.51$ or $p = 1$. For squared loss we compute the difference between the outcome and p and square it to arrive at the loss. For example if the weatherperson predicts $p = 0.51$ and it is sunny the loss is $(1 - 0.51)^2$. If it was rainy in this same example, the loss is $(0 - 0.51)^2$.

As an example, here are hypothetical predictions from two forecasters, the actual weather, and the resulting loss with either 0-1 loss or squared loss.

actual weather	forecast 1	0-1 loss	squared loss	forecast 2	0-1 loss	squared loss
sunny ($y = 1$)	$p = 0.3$	1	$(1 - 0.2)^2 = 0.64$	$p = 0.9$	0	$(1 - 0.9)^2 = 0.01$
rainy ($y = 0$)	$p = 0.6$	1	$(0 - 0.6)^2 = 0.36$	$p = 0.999$	1	$(0 - 0.999)^2 = 0.998$
sunny ($y = 1$)	$p = 0.8$	0	$(1 - 0.8)^2 = 0.16$	$p = 0.99$	0	$(1 - 0.99)^2 = 0.0001$
sum		2	1.16		1	1.01

✓ Understanding Check

According to the table above, which forecaster is better with regards to *0-1 loss*?
Which forecaster is better with regards to *squared loss*?

☆ Solution

Forecaster 2 is better with respect to both loss functions (the losses are, on average, smaller).

One entry in the table above is particularly interesting. In the third row the second forecaster assigned a probability of 0.999 to it being sunny. It turned out to rain (boo!!!). The forecaster was almost certain it would be sunny and it wasn't. The 0-1 loss of course doesn't capture this at all. The squared loss seems to assign a fairly large loss. One might argue, though, that this loss does not fully capture how bad the prediction was (for one thing the loss can never be above 1). This last observation motivates a third loss function that we can use to evaluate probabilistic predictions: the log loss.

🔗 External Resource(s) (30 minutes)

wiki.fast.ai has some nice resources on a number of topics. They have a nice concise writeup that explains the concept of log loss. We ask that you read about [log loss on NB](#) so you can ask questions. If you want the original page (e.g., to click on the links), you can access the [log loss page on wiki.fast.ai](#).

Exercise 2

Revisit the example from before with the two weather forecasters. Compute the log loss for each forecaster. Who makes better predictions according to the log loss?

☆ Solution

actual weather	forecast 1	log loss	forecast 2	log loss
sunny ($y = 1$)	$p = 0.3$	$-\ln 0.3$	$p = 0.9$	$-\ln 0.9$
rainy ($y = 0$)	$p = 0.6$	$-\ln 0.4$	$p = 0.999$	$-\ln 0.001$
sunny ($y = 1$)	$p = 0.8$	$-\ln 0.2$	$p = 0.99$	$-\ln 0.99$
sum		3.73		7.02

The first forecaster is better according to log loss.

4 Logistic Regression (top-down)

Now that we have built up some understanding of how probabilities can be used as a way of quantifying confidence in predictions, you are ready to learn about the logistic

regression algorithm.

As always, we assume we are given a training set of inputs and outputs. As in linear regression we will assume that each of our inputs is a d -dimensional vector \mathbf{x}_i and since we are dealing with binary classification, the outputs, y_i , will be binary numbers (indicating whether the input belongs to class 0 or 1). Our hypothesis functions, \hat{f} , output the probability that a given input has an output of 1. What's cool is that we can borrow a lot of what we did in the last couple of assignments when we learned about linear regression. In fact, all we're going to do in order to make sure that the output of \hat{f} is between 0 and 1 is pass $\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}$ through a function that "squashes" its input so that it outputs a value between 0 and 1. This idea is shown graphically in Figure 1.

To make this intuition concrete, we define each \hat{f} as having the following form (note: this equation looks daunting. We have some tips for interpreting it below).

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}) &= \text{probability that output, } y, \text{ is } 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}}}\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

Here are a few things to notice about this equation:

1. The weight vector that we saw in linear regression, \mathbf{w} , has made a comeback. We are using the dot product between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{w} (which creates a weighted sum of the x_i 's), just as we did in linear regression!
2. As indicated in Figure 1, the dot product $\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}$ has been passed through a squashing function known as the [sigmoid function](#). The graph of $\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-u}}$ is shown in Figure 2. $\sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x})$ is exactly what we have in Equation 2.

4.1 Motivating Example: Sensor Networks

⚠ Notice

Pretty much every writeup of logistic regression contains a simple two-independent variable example. Usually these examples involve things like predicting who would be approved for a credit card or who will be admitted to a college. We are going to do something a little messier and bit different. If you want the admission to college example, you can read about it in [Building a Logistic Regression in Python](#).

🔗 External Resource(s) (60 minutes)

Switch on over to the [Assignment 3 Companion Notebook](#) for a presentation of the motivating example.

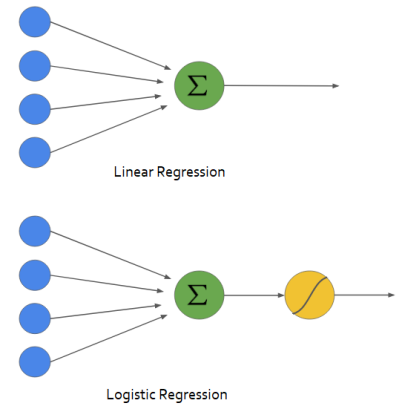


Figure 1: Graphical representation of both linear and logistic regression. The key difference is the application of the squashing function shown in yellow. [Original source](#).

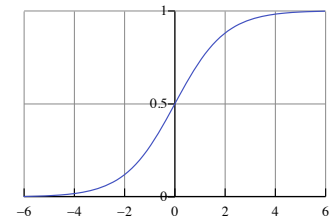


Figure 2: a graph of the sigmoid function $\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$.

5 Putting it All Together: Deriving the Logistic Regression Learning Rule

Let's summarize what we've done thus far in this assignment.

- We motivated the binary classification problem.
- We presented a particular useful loss function (log loss).
- We met the logistic regression model and tried it out on a real dataset.

Next, we're going to build on these pieces and formalize the logistic regression problem and derive a learning rule to solve it (i.e., compute the optimal weights). The formalization of logistic regression will combine Equation 2 with the selection of ℓ to be log loss. This choice of ℓ results in the following objective function.

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(-y_i \ln \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i) - (1 - y_i) \ln(1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \right) \quad (3)$$

$$= \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(-y_i \ln \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i}} \right) - (1 - y_i) \ln \left(1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i}} \right) \right) \quad \text{expanded out if you prefer this form} \quad (4)$$

While this looks a bit crazy, since y_i is either 0 or 1, the multiplication of the expressions in the summation by either y_i or $1 - y_i$ are essentially acting like a switch—depending on the value of y_i we either get one term or the other. Our typical recipe for finding \mathbf{w}^* has been to take the gradient of the expression inside the arg min, set it to 0, and solve for \mathbf{w}^* (which will be a critical point and hopefully a minimum). The last two steps will be a bit different for reasons that will become clear soon, but we will need to find the gradient. We will focus on finding the gradient in the next couple of parts.

5.1 Useful Properties of the Sigmoid Function

Looking at Equation 4 it looks really, really hairy! We see that in order to compute the gradient we will have to compute the gradient of $\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{w}$ with respect to \mathbf{w} (we just wrapped our minds around this last assignment). Additionally, we will have to take into account how the application of the sigmoid function and the log function changes this gradient. In this section we'll learn some properties for manipulating the sigmoid function and computing its derivative.

Exercise 3 (60 minutes)

The sigmoid function, σ , is defined as

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \quad (5)$$

(a) Show that $\sigma(-x) = 1 - \sigma(x)$.

☆ Solution

$$\sigma(-x) = \frac{1}{1+e^x} \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{e^{-x}}{e^{-x}+1} \quad \text{multiply by top and bottom by } e^{-x} \quad (7)$$

$$\sigma(-x) - 1 = \frac{e^{-x}}{e^{-x}+1} - \frac{1+e^{-x}}{1+e^{-x}} \quad \text{subtract } -1 \text{ on both sides} \quad (8)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{1+e^{-x}} \quad (9)$$

$$= -\sigma(x) \quad (10)$$

$$\sigma(-x) = 1 - \sigma(x) \quad (11)$$

(b) Show that the derivative of the logistic function $\frac{d}{dx}\sigma(x) = \sigma(x)(1 - \sigma(x))$

☆ Solution

Two solutions for the price of 1!

Solution 1:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\sigma(x) = -e^{-x}\sigma(x)^2 \quad \text{apply quotient rule} \quad (12)$$

$$= \sigma(x) \left(\frac{-e^{-x}}{1+e^{-x}} \right) \quad \text{expand out one of the } \sigma(x)\text{'s} \quad (13)$$

$$= \sigma(x) \left(\frac{-1}{e^x+1} \right) \quad \text{multiply top and bottom by } e^x \quad (14)$$

$$= \sigma(x)(-\sigma(-x)) \quad \text{substitute for } \sigma(-x) \quad (15)$$

$$= \sigma(x)(\sigma(x) - 1) \quad \text{apply } \sigma(-x) = 1 - \sigma(x) \quad (16)$$

Solution 2:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\sigma(x) = \frac{-e^{-x}}{(1+e^{-x})^2} \quad \text{apply quotient rule} \quad (17)$$

$$= \frac{-e^{-x}}{1+2e^{-x}+e^{-2x}} \quad \text{expand the bottom} \quad (18)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{e^x+2+e^{-x}} \quad \text{multiply top and bottom by } e^x \quad (19)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{(1+e^x)(1+e^{-x})} \quad \text{factor} \quad (20)$$

$$= -\sigma(x)\sigma(-x) \quad \text{decompose using definition of } \sigma(x) \quad (21)$$

$$= -\sigma(x)(1 - \sigma(x)) \quad \text{apply } \sigma(-x) = 1 - \sigma(x) \quad (22)$$

$$= \sigma(x)(\sigma(x) - 1) \quad \text{distribute the } -1 \quad (23)$$

5.2 Chain Rule for Gradients

We now know how to take derivatives of each of the major pieces of Equation 4. What we need is a way to put these derivatives together. You probably remember that in the case of single variable calculus you have just such a tool. This tool is known as the chain rule. The chain rule tells us how to compute the derivative of the composition of two single variable functions f and g .

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= g(f(x)) & h(x) \text{ is the composition of } f \text{ with } g \\ h'(x) &= g'(f(x))f'(x) & \text{this is the chain rule!} \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Suppose that instead of the input being a scalar x , the input is now a vector, \mathbf{w} . In this case h takes a vector input and returns a scalar, f takes a vector input and returns a scalar, and g takes a scalar input and returns a scalar.

$$\begin{aligned} h(\mathbf{w}) &= g(f(\mathbf{w})) & h(\mathbf{w}) \text{ is the composition of } f \text{ with } g \\ \nabla h(\mathbf{w}) &= g'(f(\mathbf{w}))\nabla f(\mathbf{w}) & \text{this is the multivariable chain rule} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Exercise 4 (60 minutes)

- (a) Suppose $h(x) = \sin(x^2)$, compute $h'(x)$ (x is a scalar so you can apply the single-variable chain rule).

☆ Solution

Applying the chain rule gives

$$h'(x) = \cos(x^2)2x. \quad (26)$$

- (b) Define $h(\mathbf{v}) = (\mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{v})^2$. Compute $\nabla_{\mathbf{v}} h(\mathbf{v})$ (the gradient of the function with respect to \mathbf{v}).

☆ Solution

We can see that $h(\mathbf{v}) = g(f(\mathbf{v}))$ with $g(x) = x^2$ and $f(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{v}$. The gradient can now easily be found by applying the chain rule.

$$\nabla h(\mathbf{v}) = 2(\mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{v})\mathbf{c} \quad (27)$$

- (c) Compute the gradient of the expression from Equation 4 (reproduced below for your convenience).

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -y_i \ln \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i) - (1 - y_i) \ln (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) . \quad (28)$$

You can either use the chain rule and the identities you learned about sigmoid, or expand everything out and work from that.

☆ Solution

Applying the chain rule gives us

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -y_i \frac{\nabla \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)}{\sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)} - (1 - y_i) \frac{-\nabla \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)}{1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)} . \quad (29)$$

Applying the chain rule again gives us

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n -y_i \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)(1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \nabla \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i}{\sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)} - (1 - y_i) \frac{-\sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)(1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \nabla \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i}{1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n -y_i (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \mathbf{x}_i + (1 - y_i) \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{x}_i \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

You could certainly stop here, but if you plug in $y = 0$ and $y = 1$ you'll find that the expression can be further simplified to:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -(y_i - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \mathbf{x}_i$$

5.3 Gradient Descent for Optimization

If we were to follow our derivation of linear regression we would set our expression for the gradient to 0 and solve for \mathbf{w} . It turns out this equation will be difficult to solve due to the σ function. Instead, we can use an iterative approach where we start with some initial value for \mathbf{w} (we'll call the initial value \mathbf{w}^0 , where the superscript corresponds to the iteration number) and iteratively adjust it by moving down the gradient (the gradient represents the direction of fastest increase for our function, therefore, moving along the negative gradient is the direction where the loss is decreasing the fastest).

External Resource(s) (45 minutes)

There are tons of great resources that explain gradient descent with both math and compelling visuals.

- Recommended: [Gradient descent, how neural networks learn | Deep learning, chapter 2](#) (start at 5:20)
- An Introduction to Gradient Descent ([on NB](#), [original](#))
- The Wikipedia page on Gradient Descent ([on NB](#), [original](#))
- [Ahmet Sacan's video on gradient descent](#) (this one has some extra stuff, but it's pretty clearly explained).
- There are quite a few resources out there, do you have some suggestions? (suggest so on NB)

Exercise 5 (10 minutes)

To test your understanding of these resources, here are a few diagnostic questions.

- (a) When minimizing a function with gradient descent, which direction should you step along in order to arrive at the next value for your parameters?

☆ Solution

The negative gradient (since we are minimizing)

- (b) What is the learning rate and what role does it serve in gradient descent?

☆ Solution

The learning rate controls the size of the step that you take along the negative gradient.

- (c) How do you know when an optimization performed using gradient descent has converged?

☆ Solution

There are a few options. One popular one is to check if the objective function is changing only a minimal amount each iteration, the algorithm has converged. You could also look at the magnitude of the gradient (which tells us the slope) to see if it is really small.

- (d) True or false: provided you tune the learning rate properly, gradient descent guarantees that you will find the global minimum of a function.

☆ **Solution**

False, the best gradient descent can do, in general, is converge to a local minimum. If you know that the function you are optimizing has only one minimum, then this would also be the global minimum (this is the case for both linear and logistic regression).

If we take the logic of gradient descent and apply it to the logistic regression problem, we arrive at the following learning rule. Given some initial weights \mathbf{w}^0 , and a learning rate η , we can iteratively update our weights using the formula below.

$$\mathbf{w}^{n+1} = \mathbf{w}^n - \eta \sum_{i=1}^n -(y_i - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \mathbf{x}_i \quad \text{applying the result from exercise 4} \quad (31)$$

$$= \mathbf{w}^n + \eta \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i)) \mathbf{x}_i \quad \text{distribute the negative} \quad (32)$$

This beautiful equation turns out to be the recipe we need to implement logistic regression.

Exercise 6 🧠 (10 minutes)

Now that you've had a second round of working with an in-class partner, we want to hear more about how it's going.

- (a) Did you and your partner work well together? To help us understand how this better, provide a concrete examples to illustrate what went well and what didn't. If you want to avoid working with you partner in the future, say so (make sure to include the person's name). Only use this option in extenuating circumstances.
- (b) We are assigning partners as an experiment. Our rationale for this choice is that finding a partner is potentially stressful and it may be difficult to work with folks you don't normally socialize with. With this rationale in mind, do you think we should continue to assign class work partners? Should we tweak this somehow?

Assignment 3 Companion Notebook: Analysis of Data from a Sensor Network to Determine Room Occupancy

A [wireless sensor network](#) consists of a bunch of sensors (e.g., light meters, barometers, microphones, cameras) that send data throughout a network. Oftentimes, the sensor data is aggregated on a central server where algorithms may be running to make sense of what's happening in the environment. While this sounds an awful lot like surveillance (and it is), the data can also be used for other purposes. For instance, we may be able to optimize energy usage in a building if we know whether particular rooms are occupied (e.g., by adjusting climate control systems). It may be difficult to design a system to process the raw sensor data and convert it into actionable information (such as the occupancy of various rooms). A machine learning model can help by automatically extracting such information after being trained on an appropriate training set.

As a quick example of this sort of problem, we downloaded the [occupancy detection dataset](#) from the UCI Machine Learning repository (if you're interested, you can read about the [original analysis of the data](#)). The dataset consists of 20,560 data instances each with the following information:

- date time year-month-day hour:minute:second*
- Temperature, in Celsius
- Relative Humidity, %
- Light, in Lux
- CO2, in ppm
- Humidity Ratio, Derived quantity from temperature and relative humidity, in kgwater-vapor/kg-air
- Occupancy, 0 or 1, 0 for not occupied, 1 for occupied status

Predicting Occupancy (Examining Single Variables)

In this example, we're going to see if we can predict whether there is someone in the room (occupancy) using the data above.

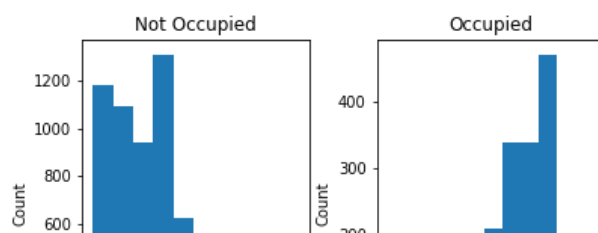
To get started, we'll read the data and create some plots that show the values that some of the features take on when the occupancy is either 0 or 1.

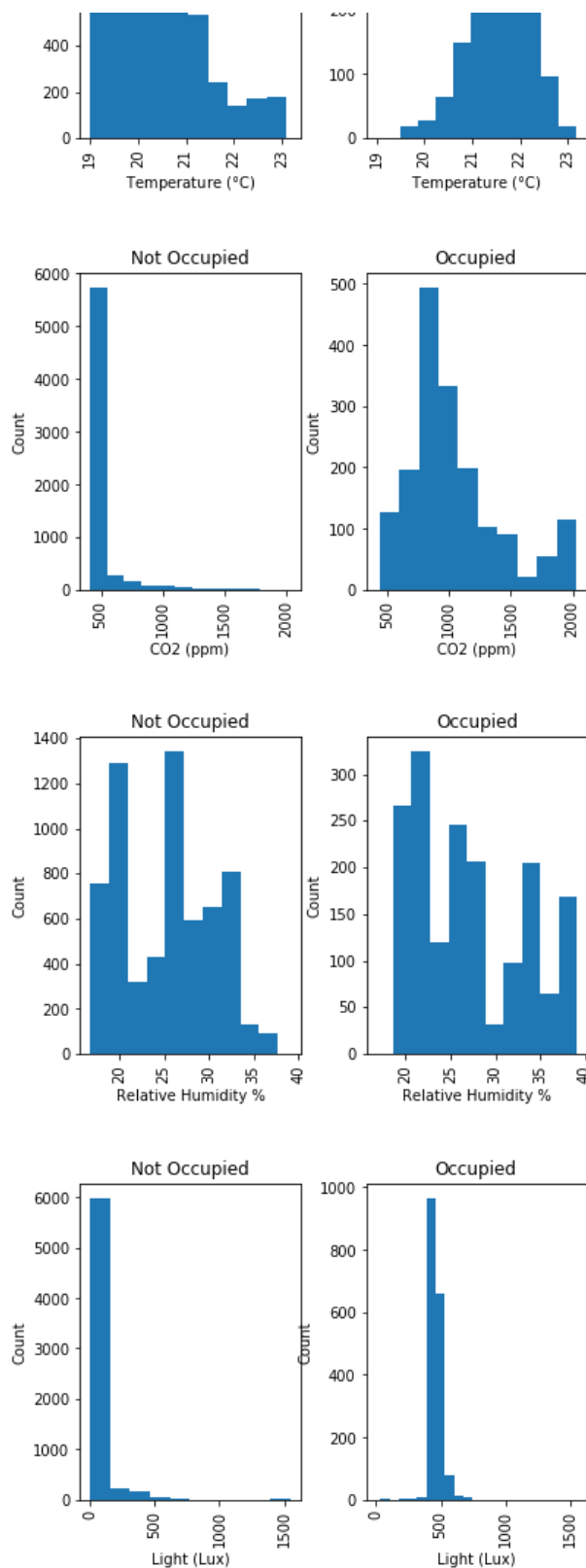
In [1]:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
import pandas as pd
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
df = pd.read_csv('https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1DX5L9-e7I5B18RW2-DFTORhk4O27WyR0')
# For simplicity we'll just look at these four columns
df = df[['CO2', 'Light', 'Humidity', 'Temperature', 'Occupancy']]

def make_dual_histogram(df, column, xlabel):
    subplots = df.hist(by='Occupancy', column=column, sharex=True)
    [subplot.set_xlabel(xlabel) for subplot in subplots]
    [subplot.set_ylabel('Count') for subplot in subplots]
    subplots[0].set_title('Not Occupied')
    subplots[1].set_title('Occupied')
    plt.show()

make_dual_histogram(df, 'Temperature', 'Temperature ($\degree$C)')
make_dual_histogram(df, 'CO2', 'CO2 (ppm)')
make_dual_histogram(df, 'Humidity', 'Relative Humidity %')
make_dual_histogram(df, 'Light', 'Light (Lux)')
```





Notebook Exercise 1 (15 minutes)

The plots shown above are known as histograms. They specify the count of the number of times a value in a particular range was seen in the dataset. The histograms in the left column correspond to the case where *the room was not* occupied and those on the right correspond to the case where *the room was* occupied. For example, if you look at the bottom row of plots, they tell us that there were about 1,000 instances where the room was occupied and the light value was just below 5,000. In contrast, there were only about 100 instances where the light value was just below 5,000.

Based on the plots above, which of these features looks like it will be useful for building a model to determine when the room is occupied? Are there any features that look like they will not be very useful? Justify your answers.

Solution

Light looks like a very good indicator of occupancy of the room (observe that the light value seldom goes near 5,000 unless the room is occupied). Temperature also looks to be a pretty good indicator of occupancy (warmer temperatures seem to be correlated with the room being occupied). CO2 also looks pretty good for reasons similar to those already outlined for other predictors. Humidity doesn't seem to be all that useful of an indicator since the two histograms look relatively similar.

Predicting Occupancy With Logistic Regression

Now that we've looked at the variables one-by-one (always a good idea), we're going to use logistic regression to create a predictor for occupancy that considers multiple variables. As a first cut, let's try to create a model that considers two of the independent variables we examined previously. We'll start out by looking at using temperature and light to predict occupancy.

Before we actually fit the model, we'll create a scatter plot so you can see how the occupancy status varies across both light and temperature.

In [2]:

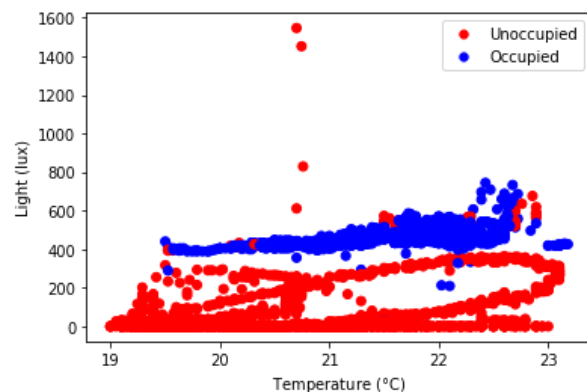
```
from matplotlib.lines import Line2D

plt.scatter(df['Temperature'], df['Light'], c=df['Occupancy'].map(lambda x: 'b' if x else 'r'))
plt.xlabel('Temperature ($^\circ$C)')
plt.ylabel('Light (lux)')

custom_lines = [Line2D([0], [0], marker='.', label='Unoccupied',
                        markerfacecolor='r', color='w', markersize=15),
                 Line2D([0], [0], marker='.', label='Occupied',
                        markerfacecolor='b', color='w', markersize=15)]

plt.legend(custom_lines, ['Unoccupied', 'Occupied'])

plt.show()
```



Recall that logistic regression models the probability of the output being 1 (which in our problem corresponds to the room being occupied) as:

$$\sigma(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}}}$$

If we think of \mathbf{x} as consisting of x_1 = temperature, x_2 = light, and x_3 = 1 (the feature with value 1 allows us to compute a bias) then the equation becomes:

$$\sigma(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_1 \times \text{temperature} + w_2 \times \text{light} + w_3)}}$$

In order to determine \mathbf{w} we will be using the logistic regression algorithm. Later in the assignment document we will precisely define the objective that is optimized by the logistic regression algorithm. Here, we can simply think of logistic regression as trying to find a line that best divides the blue points from the red points in the figure above. For now, we'll use an off-the-shelf implementation of logistic regression that is built into scikit learn.

The output shows the learned weights (w_1 , w_2 , w_3) along with the accuracy of the model on both a training and a test set (50% of the data was used for training and 50% was used for test).

data was used for training and 50% was used for test).

In [3]:

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

def fit_model(columns_to_use):
    # Note: this is might not really be a fair way to do a training / testing split
    # since it will result in instances that were very close in time falling in
    # both the training and testing set
    X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = \
        train_test_split(df[columns_to_use], df['Occupancy'])

    model = LogisticRegression()
    model.fit(X_train, y_train)
    for i, c in enumerate(columns_to_use):
        print('w_{}d (the weight for temperature) = {}'.format(i+1, model.coef_[0, i]))

    print('Accuracy on training set', (model.predict(X_train) == y_train).mean())
    print('Accuracy on testing set', (model.predict(X_test) == y_test).mean())
    return model

fit_model(['Temperature', 'Light']);
```

```
w_1 (the weight for temperature) = -0.408866
w_2 (the weight for temperature) = 0.024963
Accuracy on training set 0.9873915179302439
Accuracy on testing set 0.9896856581532416
```

```
/anaconda3/lib/python3.6/site-packages/sklearn/linear_model/logistic.py:432: FutureWarning:
Default solver will be changed to 'lbfgs' in 0.22. Specify a solver to silence this warning.
FutureWarning)
```

Notebook Exercise 2 (20 minutes)

- (a) Interpret the values for the fitted weights w_1 and w_2 (w_3 is tricky to interpret in the way we are currently using the data. When we talk about normalization, you'll learn how to interpret the bias term). What do they mean in terms of how the model would make predictions on new data?
- (b) For a given temperature, $temp$, and light value, l , what would the model say is the probability of the room being occupied.
- (c) Try different combinations of features. In terms of accuracy, what seems to be the best model?

Solution

(a) The weight w_1 demonstrates that as temperature goes up, the probability of occupancy goes down. The weight w_2 also shows that as the light value goes up, the probability of occupancy goes up.

(b)

Note: your numbers won't match exactly due to randomness in the train / test split.

$$p(\text{occupancy}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(-0.44 \times \text{temp} + 0.027 \times \text{light} - 0.019)}}$$

(c) Most any feature and light seems to do about the same in terms of performance. Adding all of the features may do slightly better, but it's tough to tell (you'll learn more precise ways of figuring this out later in this module). If you don't include light the performance goes down dramatically. Using just light is slightly worse than light with another feature.

Predicting Occupancy (Visualizing the Model)

To put a cap on this example, we're now going to visualize the model predictions as a function of the model inputs. This visualization should further reinforce how logistic regression maps from inputs to the probability of the output being 1. The visualization shows the probabilities (represented as a heat map) for various temperature / light combinations. Shown for convenience is the data used to create the model.

In [4]:


```
import numpy as np

model = fit_model(['Temperature', 'Light']);

xx, yy = np.mgrid[18:24:.01, 0:800:1]
grid = np.c_[xx.ravel(), yy.ravel()]
probs = model.predict_proba(grid)[: , 1].reshape(xx.shape)

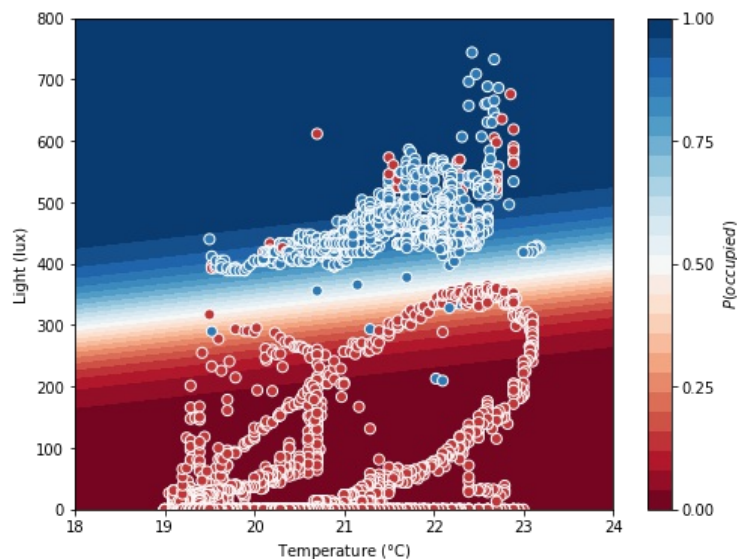
f, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 6))
contour = ax.contourf(xx, yy, probs, 25, cmap="RdBu",
                     vmin=0, vmax=1)
ax_c = f.colorbar(contour)
ax_c.set_label("$P(occupied)$")
ax_c.set_ticks([0, .25, .5, .75, 1])

ax.scatter(df['Temperature'], df['Light'], c=df['Occupancy'], s=50,
          cmap="RdBu", vmin=-.2, vmax=1.2,
          edgecolor="white", linewidth=1)

ax.set(xlim=(18, 24), ylim=(0, 800),
      xlabel="Temperature ($\degree$C)", ylabel="Light (lux)")
plt.show()
```

/anaconda3/lib/python3.6/site-packages/sklearn/linear_model/logistic.py:432: FutureWarning: Default solver will be changed to 'lbfgs' in 0.22. Specify a solver to silence this warning.
FutureWarning)

w₁ (the weight for temperature) = -0.407487
w₂ (the weight for temperature) = 0.024466
Accuracy on training set 0.9857540527263796
Accuracy on testing set 0.9945972495088409



Notebook Exercise 3 (20 minutes)

Explain how the weights affect the visualization above. You might consider explaining how the signs of the weights influence the orientation of the lines of equal probability.

Solution

As you move along the positive y-axis the probability of occupancy goes up (this is consistent with w_2 being positive). As you move along the positive x-axis the probability of occupancy goes down (this is consistent with w_1 being negative). The vector w_1, w_2 is perpendicular to the lines of equal probability.