

Algorithms and Data Analysis

-演算法與資料分析-

Classification

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- In this chapter we will be using the MNIST dataset, which is a set of 70,000 small images of digits handwritten by high school students and employees of the US Census Bureau.
- Each image is labeled with the digit it represents. This set has been studied so much that it is often called the "hello world" of Machine Learning: whenever people come up with a new classification algorithm they are curious to see how it will perform on MNIST, and anyone who learns Machine Learning tackles this dataset sooner or later.

Scikit-Learn provides many helper functions to download popular datasets. MNIST is one of them. The following code fetches the MNIST dataset:

- Datasets loaded by Scikit-Learn generally have a similar dictionary structure, including the following:
- □ A DESCR key describing the dataset
- □ A data key containing an array with one row per instance and one column per feature
- A target key containing an array with the labels

Let's look at these arrays:

```
>>> X, y = mnist["data"], mnist["target"]
>>> X.shape
(70000, 784)
>>> y.shape
(70000,)
```

There are 70,000 images, and each image has 784 features. This is because each image is 28 × 28 pixels, and each feature simply represents one pixel's intensity, from 0 (white) to 255 (black). Let's take a peek at one digit from the dataset. All you need to do is grab an instance's feature vector, reshape it to a 28 × 28 array, and display it using Matplotlib's imshow() function:

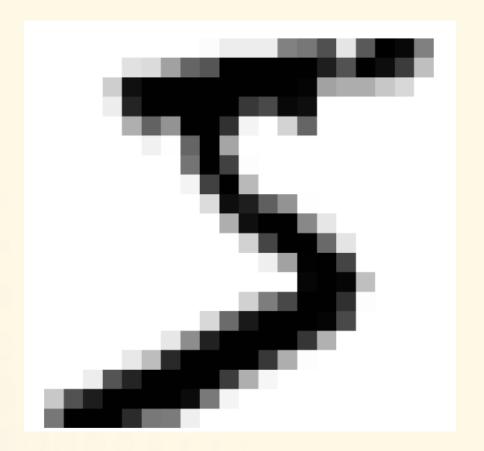
```
import matplotlib as mpl
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

some_digit = X[0]
some_digit_image = some_digit.reshape(28, 28)

plt.imshow(some_digit_image, cmap="binary")
plt.axis("off")
plt.show()
```

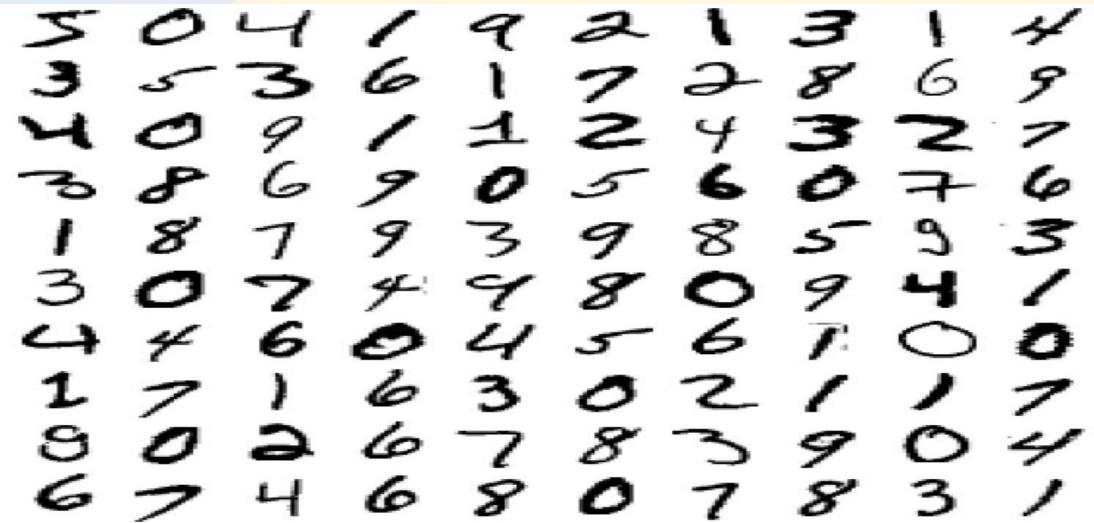
This looks like a 5, and indeed that's what the label tells us:





Note that the label is a string. Most ML algorithms expect numbers, so let's cast y to integer:

To give you a feel for the complexity of the classification task, Figure 3-1 shows a few more images from the MNIST dataset.



But wait! You should always create a test set and set it aside before inspecting the data closely. The MNIST dataset is actually already split into a training set (the first 60,000 images) and a test set (the last 10,000 images):

```
X_{\text{train}}, X_{\text{test}}, y_{\text{train}}, y_{\text{test}} = X[:60000], X[60000:], y[:60000], y[60000:]
```

The training set is already shuffled for us, which is good because this guarantees that all cross-validation folds will be similar (you don't want one fold to be missing some digits). Moreover, some learning algorithms are sensitive to the order of the training instances, and they perform poorly if they get many similar instances in a row. Shuffling the dataset ensures that this won't happen.



Training a Binary Classifier

Let's simplify the problem for now and only try to identify one digit—for example, the number 5. This "5-detector" will be an example of a binary classifier, capable of distinguishing between just two classes, 5 and not-5. Let's create the target vectors for this classification task:

```
y_train_5 = (y_train == 5) # True for all 5s, False for all other digits
y_test_5 = (y_test == 5)
```

Training a Binary Classifier

- Now let's pick a classifier and train it. A good place to start is with a Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) classifier, using Scikit-Learn's SGDClassifier class. This classifier has the advantage of being capable of handling very large datasets efficiently.
- This is in part because SGD deals with training instances independently, one at a time (which also makes SGD well suited for online learning), as we will see later. Let's create an SGDClassifier and train it on the whole training set:

from sklearn.linear_model import SGDClassifier

sgd_clf = SGDClassifier(random_state=42)
sgd_clf.fit(X_train, y_train_5)

TIP

The SGDClassifier relies on randomness during training (hence the name "stochastic"). If you want reproducible results, you should set the random_state parameter.



Training a Binary Classifier

Now we can use it to detect images of the number 5:

```
>>> sgd_clf.predict([some_digit])
array([ True])
```

The classifier guesses that this image represents a 5 (True). Looks like it guessed right in this particular case! Now, let's evaluate this model's performance.

Performance Measures

- Evaluating a classifier is often significantly trickier than evaluating a regressor, so we will spend a large part of this chapter on this topic. There are many performance measures available, so grab another coffee and get ready to learn many new concepts and acronyms!
- Measuring Accuracy Using Cross-Validation

Let's use the cross_val_score() function to evaluate our SGDClassifier model, using K-fold cross-validation with three folds. Remember that Kfold cross-validation means splitting the training set into K folds (in this case, three), then making predictions and evaluating them on each fold using a model trained on the remaining folds (see previous topic):

Performance Measures

Wow! Above 93% accuracy (ratio of correct predictions) on all crossvalidation folds?

```
>>> from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
>>> cross_val_score(sgd_clf, X_train, y_train_5, cv=3, scoring="accuracy")
array([0.96355, 0.93795, 0.95615])
```

This looks amazing, doesn't it? Well, before you get too excited, let's look at a very dumb classifier that just classifies every single image in the "not-5" class:

from sklearn.base import BaseEstimator

```
class Never5Classifier(BaseEstimator):
    def fit(self, X, y=None):
        pass
    def predict(self, X):
        return np.zeros((len(X), 1), dtype=bool)
```

Performance Measures

■Can you guess this model's accuracy? Let's find out:

```
>>> never_5_clf = Never5Classifier()
>>> cross_val_score(never_5_clf, X_train, y_train_5, cv=3, scoring="accuracy")
array([0.91125, 0.90855, 0.90915])
```

That's right, it has over 90% accuracy! This is simply because only about 10% of the images are 5s, so if you always guess that an image is not a 5, you will be right about 90% of the time.

This demonstrates why accuracy is generally not the preferred performance measure for classifiers, especially when you are dealing with skewed datasets (i.e., when some classes are much more frequent than others).

- A much better way to evaluate the performance of a classifier is to look at the confusion matrix. The general idea is to count the number of times instances of class A are classified as class B. For example, to know the number of times the classifier confused images of 5s with 3s, you would look in the fifth row and third column of the confusion matrix.
- To compute the confusion matrix, you first need to have a set of predictions so that they can be compared to the actual targets. You could make predictions on the test set, but let's keep it untouched for now (remember that you want to use the test set only at the very end of your project, once you have a classifier that you are ready to launch). Instead, you can use the cross_val_predict() function:

```
from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_predict

y_train_pred = cross_val_predict(sgd_clf, X_train, y_train_5, cv=3)
```

Just like the cross_val_score() function, cross_val_predict() performs K-fold cross-validation, but instead of returning the evaluation scores, it returns the predictions made on each test fold. This means that you get a clean prediction for each instance in the training set ("clean" meaning that the prediction is made by a model that never saw the data during training).

Now you are ready to get the confusion matrix using the confusion_matrix() function. Just pass it the target classes (y_train_5) and the predicted classes (y_train_pred):

Each row in a confusion matrix represents an actual class, while each column represents a predicted class. The first row of this matrix considers non-5 images (the negative class): 53,057 of them were correctly classified as non-5s (they are called true negatives), while the remaining 1,522 were wrongly classified as 5s (false positives). The second row considers the images of 5s (the positive class): 1,325 were wrongly classified as non-5s (false negatives), while the remaining 4,096 were correctly classified as 5s (true positives).

A perfect classifier would have only true positives and true negatives, so its confusion matrix would have nonzero values only on its main diagonal (top left to bottom right):

The confusion matrix gives you a lot of information, but sometimes you may prefer a more concise metric. An interesting one to look at is the accuracy of the positive predictions; this is called the precision of the classifier (Equation 3-1).

Equation 3-1. Precision

$$precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

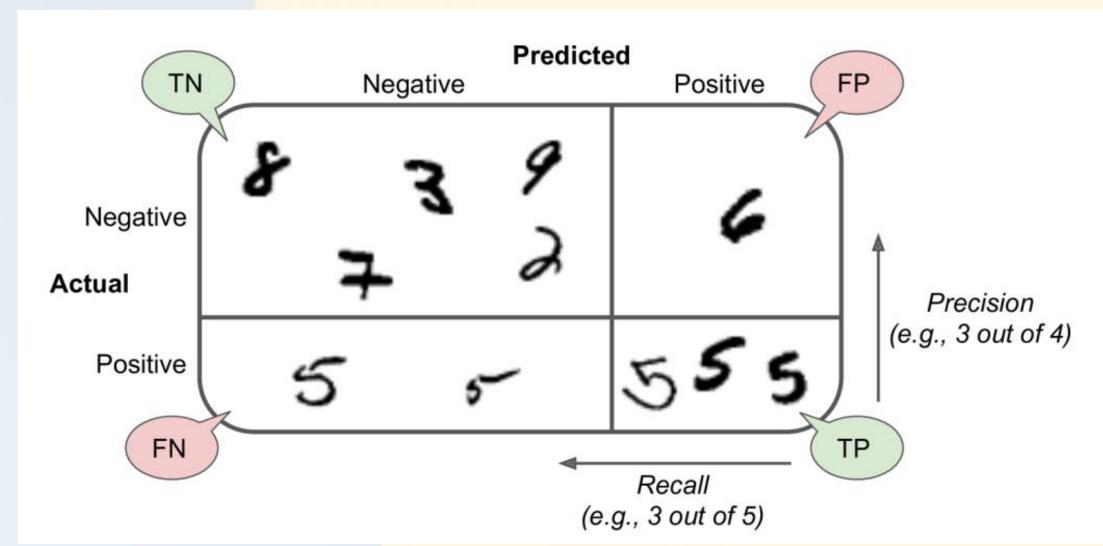
TP is the number of true positives, and FP is the number of false positives.

■A trivial way to have perfect precision is to make one single positive prediction and ensure it is correct (precision = 1/1 = 100%). But this would not be very useful, since the classifier would ignore all but one positive instance. So precision is typically used along with another metric named recall, also called sensitivity or the true positive rate (TPR): this is the ratio of positive instances that are correctly detected by the classifier (Equation 3-2).

Equation 3-2. Recall

$$ext{recall} = rac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

■If you are confused about the confusion matrix, Figure 3-2 may help.



Precision and Recall

Scikit-Learn provides several functions to compute classifier metrics, including precision and recall:

```
>>> from sklearn.metrics import precision_score, recall_score
>>> precision_score(y_train_5, y_train_pred) # == 4096 / (4096 + 1522)
0.7290850836596654
>>> recall_score(y_train_5, y_train_pred) # == 4096 / (4096 + 1325)
0.7555801512636044
```