Machine Learning

MSE FTP MachLe

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Lab 11, A6: Feature Engineering using PCA

First, let's make sure this notebook works well in both python 2 and 3, import a few common modules, ensure MatplotLib plots figures inline and prepare a function to save the figures:

Setup

```
In [1]: ▶ # To support both python 2 and python 3
            from __future__ import division, print_function, unicode_literals
            # Common imports
            import numpy as np
            import os
            # to make this notebook's output stable across runs
            np.random.seed(42)
            # To plot pretty figures
            %matplotlib inline
            import matplotlib
            import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
            plt.rcParams['axes.labelsize'] = 14
            plt.rcParams['xtick.labelsize'] = 12
            plt.rcParams['ytick.labelsize'] = 12
            # Where to save the figures
            PROJECT_ROOT_DIR = ".
            CHAPTER_ID = "dim_reduction"
            def save_fig(fig_id, tight_layout=True):
                path = os.path.join(PROJECT_ROOT_DIR, "images", CHAPTER_ID, fig_id + ".png")
                print("Saving figure", fig_id)
                if tight_layout:
                    plt.tight_layout()
                plt.savefig(path, format='png', dpi=300)
```

(a) Loading the MINST Dataset

Exercise: Load the MNIST dataset (introduced in chapter 3) and split it into a training set and a test set (take the first 60,000 instances for training, and the remaining 10,000 for testing).

```
In [19]:  X_train = mnist['data'][:60000].values
             y_train = mnist['target'][:60000].astype(int).values
             X_test = mnist['data'][60000:].values
             y_test = mnist['target'][60000:].astype(int).values
In [20]: ► X_train
             y_train
   Out[20]: array([5, 0, 4, ..., 5, 6, 8], dtype=int64)
In [10]: | #we save the data to disk so that we can fetch it fast if we need it using the next cell:
             import pandas as pd
             #mnist.data.to pickle('mnist data 784.pkl')
             #mnist.target.to_pickle('mnist_label_784.pkl');
             #read data from pickle file if there is no internet connection
             X=pd.read_pickle('mnist_data_784.pkl').values
             y=pd.read_pickle('mnist_label_784.pkl').values
             X_{train} = X[:60000:,:]
             y_{train} = y[:60000].astype(int)
             X_{\text{test}} = X[60000:,:]
             y_{\text{test}} = y[60000:].astype(int)
```

(b) Training a Random Forest classifier on the dataset

Exercise: Train a Random Forest classifier on the dataset and time how long it takes, then evaluate the resulting model on the test set.

(c) Use PCA to reduce the dataset's dimensionality, with an explained variance ratio of 95%

Exercise: Next, use PCA to reduce the dataset's dimensionality, with an explained variance ratio of 95%.

Exercise: Train a new Random Forest classifier on the reduced dataset and see how long it takes. Was training much faster?

```
In [22]: In [22]: In rnd_clf2 = RandomForestClassifier(random_state=42)
t0 = time.time()
rnd_clf2.fit(X_train_reduced, y_train)
t1 = time.time()
```

```
In [23]: ▶ print("Training took {:.2f}s".format(t1 - t0))
```

Training took 92.38s

Oh no! Training is actually more than twice slower now! How can that be? Well, as we saw in this chapter, dimensionality reduction does not always lead to faster training time: it depends on the dataset, the model and the training algorithm. See figure 8-6 (the manifold_decision_boundary_plot* plots above). If you try a softmax classifier instead of a random forest classifier, you will find that training time is reduced by a factor of 3 when using PCA. Actually, we will do this in a second, but first let's check the precision of the new random forest classifier.

(d) Evaluate the classifier on the test set: how does it compare to the previous classifier?

```
In [24]: N X_test_reduced = pca.transform(X_test)

y_pred = rnd_clf2.predict(X_test_reduced)
accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
```

Out[24]: 0.9481

It is common for performance to drop slightly when reducing dimensionality, because we do lose some useful signal in the process. However, the performance drop is rather severe in this case. So PCA really did not help: it slowed down training and reduced performance. :(

Let's see if it helps when using softmax regression:

Increase the number of iterations (max_iter) or scale the data as shown in:
 https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/preprocessing.html (https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/preprocessing.html)

Please also refer to the documentation for alternative solver options:

https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/linear_model.html#logistic-regression (https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/linear_model.html#logistic-regression)
extra_warning_msg=_LOGISTIC_SOLVER_CONVERGENCE_MSG)

```
In [26]: ▶ print("Training took {:.2f}s".format(t1 - t0))
```

Training took 165.93s

Okay, so softmax regression takes much longer to train on this dataset than the random forest classifier, plus it performs worse on the test set. But that's not what we are interested in right now, we want to see how much PCA can help softmax regression. Let's train the softmax regression model using the reduced dataset:

Training took 86.67s

Nice! Reducing dimensionality led to a 4× speedup. :) Let's the model's accuracy:

A very slight drop in performance, which might be a reasonable price to pay for a 4× speedup, depending on the application.

So there you have it: PCA can give you a formidable speedup... but not always!