

Machine Learning Project

Classification of news articles

Jakob Sahlström
jasa5691@student.uu.se

Anders Lindström
anli6945@student.uu.se

Jesper Dürebrandt
jedu6357@student.uu.se

Uppsala University

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

2 Theory

2.1 Naive Bayes classifier

Let c be the class and $A = a_1, \dots, a_n$ be the attributes of a document. Then with Bayes Theorem

$$p(c|A) = \frac{p(A|c)p(c)}{p(A)}, \quad (1)$$

the attributes A is classified as class C if and only if

$$f_b(A) = \frac{p(c|A)}{p(\neg c|A)} \geq 1, \quad (2)$$

where $f_b(A)$ is called a *Bayesian* classifier. Assuming all attributes are independent given the class,

$$p(A|c) = p(a_1, \dots, a_n|c) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(a_i|c)$$

the final classifier can be written as

$$f_{nb}(A) = \frac{p(c)}{p(\neg c)} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(a_i|c)}{p(a_i|\neg c)} \quad (3)$$

where f_{nb} is called the *Naive Bayesian* (NB) classifier.

Two models that uses the Naive Bayes assumption are the *multi-variate Bernoulli* model and the *multinomial* model. The main difference is that in the Bernoulli model the attributes are binary, indicating if a word from a vocabulary has occurred at least once or not. In the multinomial model the frequency of words are taken into account.

2.2 Random Forest

Random Forest (RF) is based on building several considerably small decision trees. Consider having a feature vector that is of length N , then randomly select $n \ll N$ of those features. Build the trees with some kind of algorithm (e.g. C4.5), where information gain is taken into consideration when splitting, and no pruning is done (i.e. expand the tree fully). Then repeat selecting n new variables from N until the wanted number of trees are built.

After all the trees are built, they can be used to let a new vector of data pass through all the trees and then letting each tree *vote* on what class the vector most probably should be a part

of.

Algorithm 1 Random Forest

Let $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$ be a set of features;
while *not enough trees* **do**
 Randomly pick with replacement a subset
 containing $n \ll N$ features;
 Use training set to build a decision tree us-
 ing a classification algorithm, e.g. C4.5, except
 no pruning is done.
end while

2.3 Support Vector Machine Classifier

Support vector machine classifiers (SVM's) clas-
sifies data belonging to two classes by finding the
hyperplane with the widest margin that separates
the classes. The data vectors that restrict the
margin of the hyperplane are referred to as suport
vectors. This results in a maximization problem,
where the objective function describes the width
of the margin. This is solved using quadratic pro-
gramming. An advantage with this approach is
that the maximization problem is convex, mean-
ing that the maximum found is guaranteed to
be the global maximum. This requires, however,
that the classes are linearly separable.

3 Method

4 Results

5 Related work

5.1 Naive Bayes Classifier

Naive Bayes models are widely used because of
it's simplicity and efficiency. A. McCallum and K.
Nigam compares the two most common models,
the multi-variate Bernoulli and the multinomial
model, in the realm of document classification.
They are explained in detailed both theoretically
and empirically and in general the multinomial
model outperforms the Bernoulli model [7].

5.2 Random Forest Classifier

Random Forest is a decision tree based classifica-
tion model. It has been used to classify web doc-

uments by keywords, where it for five and seven
topics performed better than e.g. Naive Bayes
and MLP [2]. In I. Kopriska, J. Poon, J. Clark,
J. Chan's paper, they use Random Forest for clas-
sifying e-mails. Random Forest was able to out-
perform other methods, such as DT, SVM and
NB[3].

5.3 Support Vector Machine Classifier

Support vector machine classifiers performs well
on data that is linearly separable and is guaran-
teed to find the optimal hyperplane that sepa-
rates the data. They can however only separate
data into two classes, but if combined they are
able to perform multi-class classification. A sim-
ple approach is to use k SVMs to solve a k -class
classification problem. The SVMs may also be
combined in a more sophisticated fashion, so that
less than k SVMs can be used. Both methods are
investigated in [5].

6 Conclusions & Future work

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