Machine Learning Project report

ECE 100-003

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Due Date: 30/06/2018

Introduction

The dataset that we decided to analyse is from the Forest Cover Type competition. The goal of the competition is to predict the type of forest given a set of features, hence It is a classification problem. Kaggle provides a training set of data with the forest cover type, in total there are 15120 observations, and a test data set with only the observed features with 565892 samples. There are 7 type of forest cover used in the competition, each assigned an integer number:

- 1. Spruce/Fir
- 2. Lodgepole Pine
- 3. Ponderos Pine
- 4. Cottonwood/Willow
- 5. Aspen
- 6. Douglas-fir
- 7. Krummholz

There are 13 type of features which describe a $30 \mathrm{m} \times 30 \mathrm{m}$ area in each sample, the features are:

- Elevation:
- Aspect:
- Slope:
- Horizontal_Distance_To_Hydrology:
- Vertical_Distance_To_Hydrology:
- Horizontal_Distance_to_Roadways:
- Hillshade_9am:
- Hillshade_Noon:
- Hillshade_3pm:
- Horizontal_Distance_To_Fire_Points:
- Wilderness_Area:
- Soil_Type:
- Cover_Type :

Few of those terms are clear like elevation, however there some of them need further explanation. The Slope and Aspect identify respectively the land inclination and the direction of the inclination in degrees. The hydrology distance reports the distance from the closest water source. The hill shade is a grayscale representation value of the illumination of the surface, which takes into account the position of the sun at different times. The values returned range from 0 to 255.

Wilderness area is divided into 4 groups: Rawah, Neota, Comanche Peak and Cache la Poudre. For simplicity in the dataset each is assigned an integer number. As the name suggests wilderness area are reservations which are untouched by humans in order to prevent natural conditions and wildlife. Finally the Soil type is also divided into subgroups, the data identifies 40 of them. Every feature is of integer type except the wilderness area and soil type columns which are binary.

Data Analysis

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Interesting Features

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Data Processing Findings

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Conclusion

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References

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