

Project 2: Supervised Learning

Building a Student Intervention System

1. Classification vs Regression

Your goal is to identify students who might need early intervention - which type of supervised machine learning problem is this, classification or regression? Why?

Ans: In this assignment, we have to predict whether a student will 'pass' or 'fail' from a given set of features. This is a classification problem because we have to classify students into distinct classes. If it is a regression problem, we have to predict continuous output. Therefore it could be a regression problem if we want to predict the score of final exam.

2. Exploring the Data

Let's go ahead and read in the student dataset first.

To execute a code cell, click inside it and press **Shift+Enter**.

```
In [1]: # Import Libraries
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
from sklearn.cross_validation import train_test_split
from sklearn.cross_validation import StratifiedShuffleSplit
```

```
In [3]: # Read student data
student_data = pd.read_csv("C:/Users/Mohammad/git/nanodegree/1603student_intervention/student-data.csv")
print "Student data read successfully!"
# Note: The last column 'passed' is the target/label, all other are feature columns
```

Student data read successfully!

Now, can you find out the following facts about the dataset?

- Total number of students
- Number of students who passed
- Number of students who failed
- Graduation rate of the class (%)
- Number of features

Use the code block below to compute these values. Instructions/steps are marked using **TODOs**.

```
In [5]: #student_data.describe()
#student_data.shape[0]
#print len(student_data)
x = student_data.passed.value_counts()
x['yes']
#student_data.head(1)
```

Out[5]: 265

```
In [6]: # TODO: Compute desired values - replace each '?' with an appropriate ex
pression/function call
n_students = student_data.shape[0]
n_features = student_data.shape[1]

x = student_data.passed.value_counts()

n_passed = x['yes']
n_failed = x['no']
grad_rate = 100*float(n_passed)/float(n_students)
print "Total number of students: {}".format(n_students)
print "Number of students who passed: {}".format(n_passed)
print "Number of students who failed: {}".format(n_failed)
print "Number of features: {}".format(n_features)
print "Graduation rate of the class: {:.2f}%".format(grad_rate)
```

```
Total number of students: 395
Number of students who passed: 265
Number of students who failed: 130
Number of features: 31
Graduation rate of the class: 67.09%
```

3. Preparing the Data

In this section, we will prepare the data for modeling, training and testing.

Identify feature and target columns

It is often the case that the data you obtain contains non-numeric features. This can be a problem, as most machine learning algorithms expect numeric data to perform computations with.

Let's first separate our data into feature and target columns, and see if any features are non-numeric.

Note: For this dataset, the last column ('passed') is the target or label we are trying to predict.

```
In [7]: # Extract feature (X) and target (y) columns
feature_cols = list(student_data.columns[:-1]) # all columns but last are features
target_col = student_data.columns[-1] # last column is the target/label
print "Feature column(s):-\n{}".format(feature_cols)
print "Target column: {}".format(target_col)

X_all = student_data[feature_cols] # feature values for all students
y_all = student_data[target_col] # corresponding targets/labels
print "\nFeature values:-"
print X_all.head() # print the first 5 rows
print y_all.describe()
```

Feature column(s):-

```
['school', 'sex', 'age', 'address', 'famsize', 'Pstatus', 'Medu', 'Fedu', 'Mjob', 'Fjob', 'reason', 'guardian', 'traveltime', 'studytime', 'failures', 'schoolsup', 'famsup', 'paid', 'activities', 'nursery', 'higher', 'internet', 'romantic', 'famrel', 'freetime', 'goout', 'Dalc', 'Walc', 'health', 'absences']
```

Target column: passed

Feature values:-

	school	sex	age	address	famsize	Pstatus	Medu	Fedu	Mjob	Fjob
0	GP	F	18	U	GT3	A	4	4	at_home	teacher
1	GP	F	17	U	GT3	T	1	1	at_home	other
2	GP	F	15	U	LE3	T	1	1	at_home	other
3	GP	F	15	U	GT3	T	4	2	health	services
4	GP	F	16	U	GT3	T	3	3	other	other

	...	higher	internet	romantic	famrel	freetime	goout	Dalc	Walc	h
0	...	yes	no	no	4	3	4	1	1	
1	...	yes	yes	no	5	3	3	1	1	
2	...	yes	yes	no	4	3	2	2	3	
3	...	yes	yes	yes	3	2	2	1	1	
4	...	yes	no	no	4	3	2	1	2	

absences

0	6
1	4
2	10
3	2
4	4

[5 rows x 30 columns]

count 395

unique 2

top yes

freq 265

Name: passed, dtype: object

Preprocess feature columns

As you can see, there are several non-numeric columns that need to be converted! Many of them are simply yes/no, e.g. internet. These can be reasonably converted into 1/0 (binary) values.

Other columns, like Mjob and Fjob, have more than two values, and are known as *categorical variables*. The recommended way to handle such a column is to create as many columns as possible values (e.g. Fjob_teacher, Fjob_other, Fjob_services, etc.), and assign a 1 to one of them and 0 to all others.

These generated columns are sometimes called *dummy variables*, and we will use the `pandas.get_dummies()` (http://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/generated/pandas.get_dummies.html?highlight=get_dummies#pandas.get_dummies) function to perform this transformation.

```
In [8]: # Preprocess feature columns
def preprocess_features(X):
    outX = pd.DataFrame(index=X.index) # output dataframe, initially empty

    # Check each column
    for col, col_data in X.iteritems():
        # If data type is non-numeric, try to replace all yes/no values with 1/0
        if col_data.dtype == object:
            col_data = col_data.replace(['yes', 'no'], [1, 0])
        # Note: This should change the data type for yes/no columns to int

        # If still non-numeric, convert to one or more dummy variables
        if col_data.dtype == object:
            col_data = pd.get_dummies(col_data, prefix=col) # e.g. 'school' => 'school_GP', 'school_MS'

        outX = outX.join(col_data) # collect column(s) in output dataframe

    return outX

X_all = preprocess_features(X_all)
print "Processed feature columns ({}):-\n{}".format(len(X_all.columns), list(X_all.columns))
```

Processed feature columns (48):-

```
['school_GP', 'school_MS', 'sex_F', 'sex_M', 'age', 'address_R', 'address_U', 'famsize_GT3', 'famsize_LE3', 'Pstatus_A', 'Pstatus_T', 'Medu', 'Fedu', 'Mjob_at_home', 'Mjob_health', 'Mjob_other', 'Mjob_services', 'Mjob_teacher', 'Fjob_at_home', 'Fjob_health', 'Fjob_other', 'Fjob_services', 'Fjob_teacher', 'reason_course', 'reason_home', 'reason_other', 'reason_reputation', 'guardian_father', 'guardian_mother', 'guardian_other', 'traveltime', 'studytime', 'failures', 'schoolsup', 'famsup', 'paid', 'activities', 'nursery', 'higher', 'internet', 'romantic', 'famrel', 'free time', 'goout', 'Dalc', 'Walc', 'health', 'absences']
```

Split data into training and test sets

So far, we have converted all *categorical* features into numeric values. In this next step, we split the data (both features and corresponding labels) into training and test sets.

```
In [10]: # First, decide how many training vs test samples you want
num_all = student_data.shape[0] # same as len(student_data)
num_train = 300 # about 75% of the data
num_test = num_all - num_train

# TODO: Then, select features (X) and corresponding labels (y) for the t
raining and test sets
# Note: Shuffle the data or randomly select samples to avoid any bias du
e to ordering in the dataset
#student_data['passed'] = format(student_data['passed'])
y = student_data['passed']

def shuffle_split_data(X,y,num_train):
    s = StratifiedShuffleSplit(y, 1, train_size=num_train)

    # only one iteration
    for train_index, test_index in s:
        X_train, X_test = X.iloc[train_index], X.iloc[test_index]
        y_train, y_test = y.iloc[train_index], y.iloc[test_index]

    return X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = shuffle_split_data(X_all, y,num_train
)

print "Training set: {} samples".format(X_train.shape[0])
print "Test set: {} samples".format(X_test.shape[0])
# Note: If you need a validation set, extract it from within training da
ta
```

Training set: 300 samples

Test set: 40 samples

4. Training and Evaluating Models

Choose 3 supervised learning models that are available in scikit-learn, and appropriate for this problem. For each model:

- What is the theoretical $O(n)$ time & space complexity in terms of input size?
- What are the general applications of this model? What are its strengths and weaknesses?
- Given what you know about the data so far, why did you choose this model to apply?
- Fit this model to the training data, try to predict labels (for both training and test sets), and measure the F_1 score. Repeat this process with different training set sizes (100, 200, 300), keeping test set constant.

Produce a table showing training time, prediction time, F_1 score on training set and F_1 score on test set, for each training set size.

Note: You need to produce 3 such tables - one for each model.

Ans:

Data characteristics: The dataset contains data from 395 students. Every student data contain 31 features. Target label 'Passed' contains categorical variable: 'yes' and 'no'. Among the students, 265 passed and 135 failed. Graduation rate of the class is around 67.09%.

There are several issues with the dataset.

- The number of features is pretty large compare to number of students. In order to classify accurately, the number of training instances needed to increase exponentially as the number of features increase. Therefore, the prediction model will suffer from the curse of dimensionality [1] and the prediction/classification might be overfitted.
- The number students passed and failed are not equal. Some models might be performed poorly under this imbalanced condition. Furthermore, when we just simply split data into test and training sets, there are possibilities when the training set might contain very failed student data and as a result, the prediction model will perform poorly. In order overcome this issue, we applied Stratified Shuffle Split from scikit-learn. Stratified shuffle split ensures the constant ratio of passed and failed students in test and training datasets.

Accuracy measurement: Accuracy of this prediction model is measured by F_1 score. F_1 score takes into account both precision and recall scores.

For this problem, we choose Random Forest, Naive Bayes and Support vector machine classifier.

Random forest classifier is an ensemble learning method that operates by constructing a number of decision trees on various sub-sample of input dataset and use average of the prediction as the final prediction output. Strengths:

1. Random forest can deal with unbalanced data.

2. Runs efficiently on large dataset with numerous number of input features
3. Robust against outliers.
4. Do not overfit like decision tress.

Weakness:

1. The process is very computation intensive.
2. Usually require large dataset.
3. Prone to overfitting when it is applied outside the range of training dataset.

Why random forest? Although the dataset is small, I decided to apply Random Forest for following reasons:

1. To check Random Forest classifier's performance on small datasets with large number of features.
2. To check whether a computation intensive Random Forest classifier is a viable option against other simple classifier under given budget constraints.

Naive Bayes Classifier The Naive Bayesian classifier is based on Bayes' theorem with naïve assumptions of independence between the features. Strengths:

1. Extremely fast even with very large dataset.
2. Can work with small dataset.
3. Easy to implement.
4. Robust to noise

Weakness:

1. In practice, naïve assumptions of independence between the features is very rare.
2. Shows poor performance in case of nonlinear classification problems.

Why Naive Bayes:

1. Small dataset
2. Compare the performance between simple solution to computational intensive solution

Support vector machine (SVM) classifier SVM classifier is a non-probabilistic parametric based classifier for supervised learning. It constructs linear hyperplane or set of hyperplanes for separating data points. Linear hyperplanes are used through the kernels for nonlinear classification problems.

Strengths:

1. High accuracy.
2. Works well with unbalanced data.
3. Do not suffer from multicollinearity.

Weakness:

1. Time consuming process
2. Picking/finding the right kernel can be a challenge

Why SVM: SVM is chosen because:

1. SVM can produce highly accurate result with unbalanced small data.
2. Compare the performance of SVM with computation intensive Random Forest classifier and simple Naive Baayes. Find a balance between accuracy and expense of computation.

```
In [46]: # Train a model
import time

def train_classifier(clf, X_train, y_train):
    print "Training {}...".format(clf.__class__.__name__)
    start = time.time()
    clf.fit(X_train, y_train)
    end = time.time()
    print "Done!\nTraining time (secs): {:.3f}".format(end - start)
    return end-start

# TODO: Choose a model, import it and instantiate an object
from sklearn.svm import SVC
svc_clf = SVC(kernel='rbf')

# Fit model to training data
train_classifier(svc_clf, X_train, y_train) # note: using entire training set here
#print clf # you can inspect the learned model by printing it
```

```
Training SVC...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.005
```

Out[46]: 0.004999876022338867

```
In [12]: # Predict on training set and compute F1 score
from sklearn.metrics import f1_score

def predict_labels(clf, features, target):
    print "Predicting labels using {}...".format(clf.__class__.__name__)
    start = time.time()
    y_pred = clf.predict(features)
    end = time.time()
    print "Done!\nPrediction time (secs): {:.3f}".format(end - start)
    return f1_score(target.values, y_pred, pos_label='yes'), end-start

train_f1_score, train_time = predict_labels(svc_clf, X_train, y_train)
print "F1 score for training set: {}".format(train_f1_score)
```

```
Predicting labels using SVC...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.016
F1 score for training set: 0.863930885529
```

```
In [13]: # Predict on test data
test_f1_score,test_time = predict_labels(svc_clf, X_test, y_test)
print "F1 score for test set: {}".format(test_f1_score)
```

Predicting labels using SVC...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.004

F1 score for test set: 0.825396825397

```
In [14]: # Train and predict using different training set sizes
def train_predict(clf, X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test):
    print "-----"
    print "Training set size: {}".format(len(X_train))
    x=train_classifier(clf, X_train, y_train)
    f1_score_train,train_time= predict_labels(clf, X_train, y_train)
    print "F1 score for training set: {}".format(f1_score_train)
    f1_score_test,test_time= predict_labels(clf, X_test, y_test)
    print "F1 score for training set: {}".format(f1_score_test)
    return (f1_score_train, f1_score_test, x,test_time)

# TODO: Run the helper function above for desired subsets of training data
# Note: Keep the test set constant
```

```
In [15]: # TODO: Train and predict using two other models

from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

rf_clf = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=200)

# Fit model to training data
#train_classifier(rf_clf, X_train, y_train) # note: using entire training set here
#print rf_clf
train_predict(rf_clf, X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test)
```

```
-----
Training set size: 300
Training RandomForestClassifier...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.228
Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.047
F1 score for training set: 1.0
Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.016
F1 score for training set: 0.838709677419
```

```
Out[15]: (1.0, 0.83870967741935487, 0.22799992561340332, 0.016000032424926758)
```

```
In [16]: from sklearn.naive_bayes import MultinomialNB
nb_clf = MultinomialNB(alpha=30)
print nb_clf
train_predict(nb_clf, X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test)
```

```
MultinomialNB(alpha=30, class_prior=None, fit_prior=True)
-----
Training set size: 300
Training MultinomialNB...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.320
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.017
F1 score for training set: 0.817610062893
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.016
F1 score for training set: 0.857142857143
```

```
Out[16]: (0.81761006289308169,
0.8571428571428571,
0.31999993324279785,
0.016000032424926758)
```

```
In [17]: #X_train  
#train_predict(nb_clf, x1, y1, X_test, y_test)
```

In [47]: *### Run the helper function above for desired subsets of training data*
Note: Keep the test set constant

```
def compare_algorithm(algorithm, size):
    for i in algorithm:
        training_time = []
        prediction_time = []
        f1_train_score = []
        f1_test_score = []
        z = ['train_size', 'train_time', 'f1_train', 'test_time', 'f1_test']
        for j in size:
            x1,x2,y1,y2 = shuffle_split_data(X_all, y, j )
            total_f1_train_score,total_f1_test_score,total_training_time, total_prediction_time =train_predict(i, x1, y1, X_test, y_test)
            training_time.append(total_training_time)
            prediction_time.append(total_prediction_time)
            f1_train_score.append(total_f1_train_score)
            f1_test_score.append(total_f1_test_score)

        tab= [size,training_time,f1_train_score,prediction_time,f1_test_score]
        tab = pd.DataFrame(tab)
        tab[' ']=z
        tab = tab[[' ',0,1,2]]
        print "-----"
        print "Summary Table"
        print "-----"
        print tab

compare_algorithm([nb_clf,rf_clf,svc_clf],[100,200,300])
```



```

-----
Training set size: 100
Training MultinomialNB...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.000
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.802395209581
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.805970149254
-----

```

```

-----
Training set size: 200
Training MultinomialNB...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.000
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.806060606061
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.805970149254
-----

```

```

-----
Training set size: 300
Training MultinomialNB...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.000
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.803347280335
Predicting labels using MultinomialNB...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.830769230769
-----

```

Summary Table

```

-----
              0              1              2
0  train_size  100.000000  200.000000  300.000000
1  train_time   0.000000   0.000000   0.000000
2    f1_train   0.802395   0.806061   0.803347
3  test_time   0.000000   0.000000   0.000000
4    f1_test    0.805970   0.805970   0.830769
-----

```

```

-----
Training set size: 100
Training RandomForestClassifier...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.158

```

Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.012

F1 score for training set: 1.0

Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.015

F1 score for training set: 0.885245901639

Training set size: 200

Training RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Training time (secs): 0.147

Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.016

F1 score for training set: 1.0

Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.019

F1 score for training set: 0.9

Training set size: 300

Training RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Training time (secs): 0.132

Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.018

F1 score for training set: 1.0

Predicting labels using RandomForestClassifier...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.010

F1 score for training set: 0.947368421053

Summary Table

		0	1	2
0	train_size	100.000000	200.000	300.000000
1	train_time	0.158000	0.147	0.132000
2	f1_train	1.000000	1.000	1.000000
3	test_time	0.015000	0.019	0.010000
4	f1_test	0.885246	0.900	0.947368

Training set size: 100

Training SVC...

Done!

Training time (secs): 0.001

Predicting labels using SVC...

Done!

Prediction time (secs): 0.001

F1 score for training set: 0.91156462585

Predicting labels using SVC...

```

Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.754098360656
-----
Training set size: 200
Training SVC...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.003
Predicting labels using SVC...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.002
F1 score for training set: 0.864516129032
Predicting labels using SVC...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.000
F1 score for training set: 0.857142857143
-----

```

```

Training set size: 300
Training SVC...
Done!
Training time (secs): 0.007
Predicting labels using SVC...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.005
F1 score for training set: 0.854700854701
Predicting labels using SVC...
Done!
Prediction time (secs): 0.001
F1 score for training set: 0.870967741935
-----

```

Summary Table

		0	1	2
0	train_size	100.000000	200.000000	300.000000
1	train_time	0.001000	0.003000	0.007000
2	f1_train	0.911565	0.864516	0.854701
3	test_time	0.000000	0.000000	0.001000
4	f1_test	0.754098	0.857143	0.870968

5. Choosing the Best Model

- Based on the experiments you performed earlier, in 1-2 paragraphs explain to the board of supervisors what single model you chose as the best model. Which model is generally the most appropriate based on the available data, limited resources, cost, and performance?

From the experiments, we can conclude that all three models (Naive Bayes, Random Forest and SVM) performed reasonably well. F1 score shows that the Random forest classifiers is the most accurate and Naive Bayes is the least accurate. However, from time comparison, Random forest classifiers required most time to train models. In contrast of Naive Bayes and Random Forest, SVM classifier produces very good accuracy ($f1_test=0.870$) with very small training time. Therefore, I think SVM will be the best one for this problem based on the available data, limited resources and budget constraints.

- In 1-2 paragraphs explain to the board of supervisors in layman's terms how the final model chosen is supposed to work (for example if you chose a Decision Tree or Support Vector Machine, how does it make a prediction).
- Fine-tune the model. Use Gridsearch with at least one important parameter tuned and with at least 3 settings. Use the entire training set for this.

SVM is a linear classification technique which assume that your data are linearly separable. In layman's terms, it involves finding the hyperplane that best separates two classes of points with the maximum margin. Essentially, it is a constrained optimization problem where the margin is maximized subject to the constraint. Maximized margin makes the probability of misclassifying test data lower.

For example let's consider a 2-D case, where we have to classify points distributed in x-y plane. In order to classify points, SVM will search for an optimum hyperplane (i.e. a line for a 2-D problem) that separates the instances by a maximum margin. For 3-D problem, SVM will search for plane; and for higher dimensional problems, SVM will search for hyperplane higher dimension.

Since we are dealing with a multidimensional problem, SVM will try to find the hyperplane that maximizes the differences between graduated and non-graduated students.

- Fine-tune the model. Use Gridsearch with at least one important parameter tuned and with at least 3 settings. Use the entire training set for this.
- What is the model's final F_1 score?

After a thorough grid-search, final F_1 score is 0.871, which is very small improvement over the previous model.

```
In [43]: # TODO: Fine-tune your model and report the best F1 score
from sklearn.grid_search import GridSearchCV
from sklearn.metrics import make_scorer
from sklearn.svm import SVC
svc_clf = SVC()

parameters = {'kernel': ['linear', 'rbf'], 'C': (0.01, 0.05, 0.15, 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.50, 0.75, 1, 2),
              'gamma': (0, 0.001, 0.01, 0.02, 0.1, 0.5, 0.75)}
f1_scorer = make_scorer(f1_score, pos_label="yes")

clf = GridSearchCV(svc_clf, parameters, scoring = f1_scorer)

clf.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

```
Out[43]: GridSearchCV(cv=None, error_score='raise',
                      estimator=SVC(C=1.0, cache_size=200, class_weight=None, coef0=0.0,
                      degree=3, gamma=0.0,
                      kernel='rbf', max_iter=-1, probability=False, random_state=None,
                      shrinking=True, tol=0.001, verbose=False),
                      fit_params={}, iid=True, loss_func=None, n_jobs=1,
                      param_grid={'kernel': ['linear', 'rbf'], 'C': (0.01, 0.05, 0.15,
                      0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 2), 'gamma': (0, 0.001, 0.01, 0.02, 0.1,
                      0.5, 0.75)},
                      pre_dispatch='2*n_jobs', refit=True, score_func=None,
                      scoring=make_scorer(f1_score, pos_label=yes), verbose=0)
```

```
In [48]: best_F1_score = '{0:.3f}'.format(f1_score(clf.predict(X_test), y_test, pos_label='yes'))

print "Best F1 Score: " + best_F1_score
print "\nBest model parameter: " + str( clf.best_params_)
print "\nBest estimator:\n{}".format(clf.best_estimator_)
```

Best F1 Score: 0.871

Best model parameter: {'kernel': 'linear', 'C': 0.05, 'gamma': 0}

Best estimator:

```
SVC(C=0.05, cache_size=200, class_weight=None, coef0=0.0, degree=3, gamma=0.0,
    kernel='linear', max_iter=-1, probability=False, random_state=None,
    shrinking=True, tol=0.001, verbose=False)
(300, 48)
```