

ENG EC 503 (Ishwar) Learning from Data

Assignment 6

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Due: 5pm Wed 8 Nov 2017 in box outside PHO440 + **Blackboard**

Required reading: Your notes from lectures and additional notes on website on SVMs.

- **Advise:** This homework assignment requires a **large** amount of time and effort. We urge you to start right away. This assignment cannot be finished by staying up all night just before the deadline.
- This homework assignment requires programming in MATLAB. If you are new to MATLAB programming, please refer to the following link for a primer:
<http://www.math.ucsd.edu/~bdriver/21d-s99/matlab-primer.html>
- You will be making two submissions: (1) A paper submission in the box outside PHO440. (2) An electronic submission of all your matlab code to blackboard (in a single zipped file appropriately named as described below).
- **Paper submission:** This must include all plots, figures, tables, numerical values, derivations, explanations (analysis of results and comments), and also printouts of all the matlab .m files that you either created anew or modified. Submit color printouts of figures and plots whenever appropriate. Color printers are available in PHO305 and PHO307. Be sure to annotate figures, plots, and tables appropriately: give them suitable *titles* to describe the content, label the *axes*, indicate *units* for each axis, and use a *legend* to indicate multiple curves in the plots. Please also explain each figure properly in your solution.
- **Blackboard submission:** All the matlab .m files (and only .m files) that you either create anew or modify must be appropriately named and placed into a **single** directory which should be zipped and uploaded into the course website. Your directory must be named as follows:
<yourBUemailID>_assignment6. For example, if your BU email address is mary567@bu.edu you would submit a single directory named: mary567_assignment6.zip which contains all the matlab code (and only the code).
- **File naming convention:** Instructions for file names to use are provided for each problem. As a general rule, each file name must begin with your BU email ID, e.g., mary567_<filename>.m. The file name will typically contain the problem number and subpart, e.g., for problem 6.1b, the file name would be mary567_assignment6.1b.m. Note that the dot . in 6.1 is replaced with an underscore (this is important).

Problem 6.1 SVM Classifier for Text Documents: (less than 1 hr run time)

In this problem we will use SVMs to classify documents in the 20 Newsgroup dataset which we have encountered before in Assignment 4. The dataset provided in `data_20news.zip` contains the following files:

1. `vocabulary.txt` : a list of all the words that can appear in the documents. The line number is the Word_ID.

2. `newsgrouplabels.txt` : the names of the 20 classes. The line number is the label_ID.
3. `train.label` and `test.label`: the labels of all the training and test documents.
4. `train.data` and `test.data` : files containing words along with their counts appearing in training and test documents. Each line in the files is of the form: “Document_ID, Word_ID, word count”. Word count is the number of times the word: Word_ID appears in document: Document_ID.
5. `stoplist.txt` : a list of commonly used “stop words” such as “the”, “is”, “on”, etc.

For this problem, we will **remove** all the stop words from the original documents. We represent the j -th document as a **word-count vector** $\mathbf{n}_j \in \mathbb{R}^W$ over the entire vocabulary of size W : where $n_{w,j}$ is the number of times word w appears in document j . We will use the following built-in MATLAB implementations for SVM training and testing: `svmtrain` and `svmclassify`.

Binary Classification:

- (a) Train a *binary* SVM classifier using the linear kernel to distinguish between the following two classes: *alt.atheism* (class 1) and *talk.religion.misc* (class 20). Here the so-called “boxconstraint” parameter C is unspecified and needs to be determined via cross-validation. This is typically done through an exhaustive grid-search. Create one 5-fold cross-validation (CV) partitioning by splitting the training data into 5 equal-sized disjoint parts uniformly at random. Then for different choices of C ’s in the range $2^{-9}, 2^{-8}, \dots, 2^{10}$, calculate the CV-CCR. For one value of C , the CV-CCR is calculated by first successively training on 4 out of the 5 folds and testing on the remaining one to obtain a CCR value, and then averaging the 5 CCR values (one CCR for each test fold).
 - (i) **Plot** of the CV-CCR (y-axis) as function of C (x-axis, use log-scale).
 - (ii) **Report** the best C^* , i.e., the value of C that achieves the maximum CCR.
 - (iii) Use C^* to train a linear SVM classifier on all the training data, and test it on the test dataset. **Report** the test CCR.
 - (iv) **Submit** your script with name `<yourBUemailID>_assignment6_1a.m`.

Recommendations: Set ‘autoscale’ to be ‘false’ so that `svmtrain` does not automatically re-scale each feature dimension. For the ‘boxconstraint’ in MATLAB, set it to be a vector $C * \text{ones}(n, 1)$ where n is the number of training samples.

- (b) Train a *binary* SVM classifier using the RBF kernel to distinguish between the *alt.atheism* and *talk.religion.misc* classes. Here you will have to determine two free parameters: the “boxconstraint” C and the “rbf-sigma”. You should choose the best pair of parameters through an exhaustive search on a 2-D grid. As described in part (a), create a 5-fold cross-validation partitioning and calculate the CV-CCR for all combinations of values of the boxconstraint (values: $2^{-7}, 2^{-6}, \dots, 2^{13}$) and rbf-sigma (values: $2^{-7}, 2^{-6}, \dots, 2^9$).
 - (i) **Plot** the CV-CCRs as a function of the boxconstraint (x-axis) and the rbf-sigma (y-axis) using a 2-D contour plot. Use a log-scale for both the boxconstraint and rbf-sigma. Remember to include the colorbar in your figure.
 - (ii) **Report** the best (boxconstraint, rbf-sigma) pair.
 - (iii) Use the best pair of parameters that you found in the previous part to train an RBF kernel SVM classifier on the entire training set and test it on the test dataset. **Report** the test CCR.
 - (iv) **Submit** your script with name `<yourBUemailID>_assignment6_1b.m`.

Useful MATLAB functions: `cvpartition`, `contour`, `colorbar`.

Recommendations: Set ‘autoscale’ to be ‘false’. For the ‘boxconstraint’ in MATLAB, set it to be a vector $C * \text{ones}(n, 1)$ where n is the number of training samples. Be patient; it might take a long time. You can use the following code snippet for 2-D contour plot.

```
% cv-ccr plot
figure;
[c,h] = contour(log2(C_values),log2(sigma_values),cv_ccr'), clabel(c,h);
colorbar
xlabel('regularization parameter in log scale (base 2)')
ylabel('rbf-sigma in log scale (base 2)')
```

- (c) We will now train a *binary* SVM (using a `linear` kernel) to separate class #7 (positive samples) from the remaining classes (the remaining 19 classes taken together are the negative samples). One practical issue here is that the number of samples in the positive class is far less than the number of samples in the negative class, i.e., the dataset is inherently unbalanced. Recall from class that the SVM solution can be reformulated as the unconstrained minimizer of the following objective function:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, b} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + C_+ \sum_{j: y_j = "+" } (1 - y_j(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_j + b))_+ + C_- \sum_{j: y_j = "-" } (1 - y_j(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_j + b))_+ \right]$$

As discussed in the class, the training objective function will be dominated by samples from the negative class if we follow the standard setting where $C_+ = C_- = C$. A commonly used practical strategy to mitigate this problem is to set different penalties C_+ and C_- for different classes. Specifically, $C_+ = n \times C / n_+$ and $C_- = n \times C / n_-$, where n_+ and n_- are number of positive and negative samples and $n = n_+ + n_-$ is the total number of training samples. Use this strategy and the same setting as in part (a), i.e., use a linear kernel and set `autoscale = false`. **Report** the same results as required in part (a). **In addition, report** the 2×2 confusion matrix of test data. **Comment on** what you observe about the confusion matrix.

Useful facts: if you set the ‘boxconstraint’ to be a *scalar* in `svmtrain`, then C_+ and C_- are automatically scaled as described above by default. Parts (c) and (d) can be run together to save time.

- (d) The CCR in part (c) might not be a good performance metric since the dataset is highly unbalanced. For the same setting as part (c):
- Plot** the cross-validation **precision**, **recall**, and **F-score** as functions of the regularization (penalty) parameter C (on the same plot).
 - Report** the best values of C in terms of both **recall** and **F-score**. Also **report** the confusion matrices associated with these two best values of C .

One-versus-one (OVO) multi-class classification: We will next build a multi-class SVM classifier using the following strategy: Train $m(m - 1)/2$ binary SVMs for all the class pairs. At test time, apply all these $m(m - 1)/2$ binary SVMs to the test sample and predict the label as the one with the most votes.

- (e) Apply OVO to the entire 20 News Group dataset using the `linear` kernel with the *default* regularization parameter C in MATLAB.
- Report** the overall CCR.
 - Report** your training and test times (use MATLAB functions `tic`, `toc` for this part).

- (iii) **Report** the confusion matrix of the test set.
 - (iv) **Submit** your script with name <yourBUemailID>_assignment6_1e.m
- (f) Apply OVO to the entire 20 News Group data using the rbf kernel and set $C = 16$, $\sigma = 16$ in MATLAB svmtrain.
- (i) **Report** the overall CCR.
 - (ii) **Report** your training and test times (use MATLAB functions `tic,toc`).
 - (iii) **Report** the confusion matrix of the test set.
 - (iv) **Submit** your script with name <yourBUemailID>_assignment6_1f.m