Lab 5 - SVMs

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12:46 PM

PURPOSE

Goal: By the end of this lab, you will understand the how to build and test with a SVM model.

SECTION 1: BUILDING AN SVM

FEATURE EXTRACT

Since we need data that we can assign LABELS to, feature extract a collection of instrument samples (as many features as you want).

Labels in SVM format take the format of {-1 or 1} for negative and positive examples respectively.

For variety, choose instruments based on samples in:
You can choose to classify based on artists or instrument examples for files posted in:
/audio/Miscellaneous Loops Samples and SFX/Instrument Samples

Don't forget to scale the feature data, save the scaling coefficients so we can scale the test data to be in the same range.

Create a label vector using class labels {1,-1}

To build an SVM:

Type **svmtrain** in Matlab to review all of the myriad of options for it. (If you cannot find svmtrain, then make sure to add the folder libsvm-mat-2.86 to your Matlab path)

An example of how to train it on your feature data using the parameters returned by the grid search:

```
model = svmtrain(labels,features,'-t 2')
```

The "-t 2" specifies RBF kernel. "-g" species the value of **gamma** and "-c" specifies **C**.

To test with your SVM:

Feature extract some examples, and don't forget to **rescale** the data to the same mf and sf (scale factors) as before.

Now, to evaluate, all you do is:

```
svmpredict(testlabels,  features,  model)
```

"Test Labels?", you ask.
Yes, if you know the labels for your testing data, insert them into this vector. So, for example, you can insert the training labels and training feature data into this function, and svmpredict will automatically calculate the accuracy for you.

If you do not know the labels for your test data (likely the case), then insert a vector of zeros equal to the number of test samples that you have.

To test with your SVM:

Feature extract some examples, and don't forget to **rescale** the data to the same mf and sf (scale factors) as before.

Now, to evaluate, all you do is:

[predict_label , accuracy] = svmpredict(labels, features, model)

RE: input labels

"**Labels**?", you ask. Yes, if you know the labels for your testing data, insert them into this vector. So, for example, you can insert the training labels and training feature data into this function, and svmpredict will automatically calculate the accuracy for you.

If **you do not know the labels** for your test data (likely the case), then insert a vector of zeros equal to the number of test samples that you have.

SECTION 3: HAVING FUN

Try redoing some of the previous labs' instrument classifiers or artist/genre classifiers using an SVM.

Recommended reading

A Practical Guide to Support Vector Classification
http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/papers/guide/guide.pdf

It provides an introduction to the libsvm tools, and motivations for why they were developed. It also highlights common mistakes.

Additional Resources

SVM Practical (How to get good results without cheating)
http://www.kyb.tuebingen.mpg.de/bs/people/weston/svmpractical/

Libsvm and Libsvm Tools
http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/libsvm/
http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/libsvmtools/

The interactive Matlab SVM Demo that I demonstrated on Day 5:
http://homepages.cae.wisc.edu/~ece539/matlab/
http://homepages.cae.wisc.edu/~ece539/matlab/svmdemo.m

HELP!

Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing really bizarre results, it's sometimes worthwhile to double-check that the labels are set correctly. ("1" for positive example and "0" for negative example.) Not indicating the correct label will gravely affect the model.

Also, try deleting the temporary output feature file. Sometimes, the file isn't updated by Matlab -- but it's a silent error...

OPTIONAL : How to Build libSVM from source code.
Hopefully, you do NOT need to do this step - I've done the work for you. But for the curious...

The following steps will build the libsvm executables from their source - this is necessary to run them on our Linux machines.

1. Download the folder libsvm to your local Matlab folder.
2. Within the libsvm folder, open the file Makefile with a text editor.
3. On the 2nd line, change /usr/local/matlab to /opt/matlabR2006b (Or whatever your version of Matlab is)
4. Save the file.

5. Open a Terminal window and cd to the folder containing the Makefile
6. Type make