Projects
Data Representation
Basic testing and evaluation schemes
Programming Your Project Models

- Program in Python, the most popular language for ML
  - NumPy – Great with arrays, etc.

- Project Code MUST be your own! – Better learning
  - Don't use code from web/book to do your code development

- Optional tools and libraries
  - Pandas – Data Frames
  - Matplotlib
  - Jupyter Notebooks
Gathering a Data Set

Data Types
- Nominal (aka Categorical, Discrete)
- Continuous (aka Real, Numeric)
- Linear (aka Ordinal) – Is usually just treated as continuous, so that ordering info is maintained

Consider a Task: Classifying the quality of pizza
- What features might we use?

How to represent those features?
- Will usually depend on the learning model we are using

Classification assumes the output class is nominal. If output is continuous, then we are doing regression.
Fitting Data to the Model

- **Continuous -> Nominal**
  - Discretize into bins – more on this later

- **Nominal -> Continuous (Perceptron expects continuous)**
  a) One input node for each nominal value where one of the nodes is set to 1 and the other nodes are set to 0 – One Hot
    - Can also *explode* the variable into \(n-1\) input nodes where the most common value is not explicitly represented (i.e. the all 0 case)
  b) Use 1 node but with a different continuous value representing each nominal value
  c) Distributed – \(\log_b n\) nodes can uniquely represent \(n\) nominal values (e.g. 3 binary nodes could represent 8 values)
  d) If there is a very large number of nominal values, could cluster (discretize) them into a more manageable number of values and then use one of the techniques above

- **Linear data is already in continuous form**
Data Normalization

What would happen if you used two input features in an astronomical task as follows:
- Weight of the planet in grams
- Diameter of the planet in light-years
Data Normalization

- What would happen if you used two input features in an astronomical task as follows:
  - Weight of the planet in grams
  - Diameter of the planet in light-years
- Normalize the Data between 0 and 1 (or similar bounds)
  - For a specific instance, could get the normalized feature as follows:
    \[ f_{\text{normalized}} = \frac{(f_{\text{original}} - \text{Minvalue}_{TS})}{(\text{Maxvalue}_{TS} - \text{Minvalue}_{TS})} \]
- Use these same Max and Min values to normalize data in novel instances
- Note that a novel instance may have a normalized value outside 0 and 1
  - Why? Is it a big issue?
ARFF Files

An ARFF (Attribute-Relation File Format) file is an ASCII text file that describes a Machine Learning dataset (or relation).

- Developed at the University of Waikato (NZ) for use with the Weka machine learning software (http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/~ml/weka).
- We will commonly use the ARFF format for CS 472

ARFF files have two distinct sections:

- Metadata information
  - Name of relation (Data Set)
  - List of attributes and domains
- Data information
  - Actual instances or rows of the relation

Optional comments may also be included which give information about the Data Set (lines prefixed with %)
Sample ARFF File

% 1. Title: Pizza Database
% 2. Sources:
%      (a) Creator: BYU CS 472 Class…
%      (b) Statistics about the features, etc.

@RELATION Pizza

@ATTRIBUTE Weight CONTINUOUS
@ATTRIBUTE Crust {Pan, Thin, Stuffed}
@ATTRIBUTE Cheesiness CONTINUOUS
@ATTRIBUTE Meat {True, False}
@ATTRIBUTE Quality {Good, Great}

@DATA
.9, Stuffed, 99, True, Great
.1, Thin, 2, False, Good
?, Thin, 60, True, Good
.6, Pan, 60, True, Great

- Any column could be the output, but we will assume that the last column(s) is the output
- What would you do to this data before using it with a perceptron and what would the perceptron look like? – Show updated ARFF row
ARFF Files

- More details and syntax information for ARFF files can be found at our website
- Also have a small arff library to help you out
- Data sets that we have already put into the ARFF format can also be found at our website and linked to from the LS content page
  
  http://axon.cs.byu.edu/data/

- You will use a number of these in your simulations throughout the semester – Always read about the task, features, etc, rather than just plugging in the numbers
- You will create your own ARFF files in some projects, and particularly with the group project
Performance Measures

- There are a number of ways to measure the performance of a learning algorithm:
  - Predictive accuracy of the induced model (or error)
  - Size of the induced model
  - Time to compute the induced model
  - etc.

- We will focus here on accuracy

- Fundamental Assumption:

  *Future novel instances are drawn from the same/similar distribution as the training instances*
Training/Testing Alternatives

Four methods that we will use:
- Training set method
- And mostly 3 cross-validation (CV) methods
  - Static split test set CV
  - Random split test set CV
  - N-fold cross-validation

Cross-Validation (CV) – Validate results using data not used for training (i.e. cross-validate)
Training Set Method

Procedure
- Build model from the training set
- Compute accuracy on the same training set

Simple but least reliable estimate of future performance on unseen data (a rote learner could score 100%!)  
Not used as a performance metric but it is often important information in understanding how a machine learning model learns
This is information which you will report in your write-ups and then compare it with how the learner does on a test set/CV method
Static Training/Test Set

Static Split Approach – A type of CV

- The data owner makes available to the machine learner two distinct datasets:
  - One is used for learning/training (i.e., inducing a model), and
  - One is used exclusively for testing

Note that this gives you a way to do repeatable tests

Can be used for challenges (e.g. to see how everyone does on one particular unseen set, method we use for helping grade your labs.)

Be careful not to overfit the Test Set ("Gold Standard")
Random Training/Test Set Approach

Random Split CV Approach (aka holdout method)
- The data owner makes available to the machine learner a single dataset
- The machine learner splits the dataset into a training and a test set, such that:
  - Instances are randomly assigned to either set
  - The distribution of instances (with respect to the target class) is hopefully similar in both sets due to randomizing the data before the split
    - Stratification is an option to ensure proper distribution
  - Typically 60% to 90% of instances is used for training and the remainder for testing – the more data there is the more that can be used for training and still get statistically significant test predictions
- Useful quick estimate for computationally intensive learners
- Not statistically optimal (high variance, unless lots of data)
  - Could get a lucky or unlucky test set
- Best to do multiple training runs with different splits. Train and test $m$ different splits and then average the accuracy over the $m$ runs to get a more statistically accurate prediction of generalization accuracy
N-fold Cross-validation

- Use all the data for both training and testing
  - Statistically more reliable
  - All data can be used which is good, especially for small data sets

Procedure
- Partition the randomized dataset (call it $D$) into $N$ equally-sized subsets $S_1, \ldots, S_N$
- For $k = 1$ to $N$
  - Let $M_k$ be the model induced from $D - S_k$
  - Let $a_k$ be the accuracy of $M_k$ on the instances of the test fold $S_k$
- Return $(a_1+a_2+\ldots+a_N)/N$
N-fold Cross-validation (cont.)

- The larger $N$ is, the smaller the variance in the final result.
- The limit case where $N = |D|$ is known as leave-one-out and provides the most reliable estimate. However, it is typically only practical for small instance sets.
- Commonly, a value of $N=10$ is considered a reasonable compromise between time complexity and reliability.
- Still must choose an actual model to use during execution – how?
N-fold Cross-validation (cont.)

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- Still must choose an actual model to use during execution - how?
  - Could select the one model that was best on its fold?
  - All data! With any of the approaches.
- Note that N-fold CV is just a better way to estimate how well we will do on novel data, rather than a way to do model selection.
Perceptron Project

- Content Section of LS (Learning Suite) for project specifications
  - Review carefully the introductory part regarding all projects
- Carefully read instructions for the perceptron lab and start
scikit-learn

- One of the most used and powerful machine learning toolkits out there
- Lots of implemented models and tools to use for machine learning applications
- Python Library to call from your Python code
- Familiarize yourself with the scikit-learn website as you will be using it for all labs