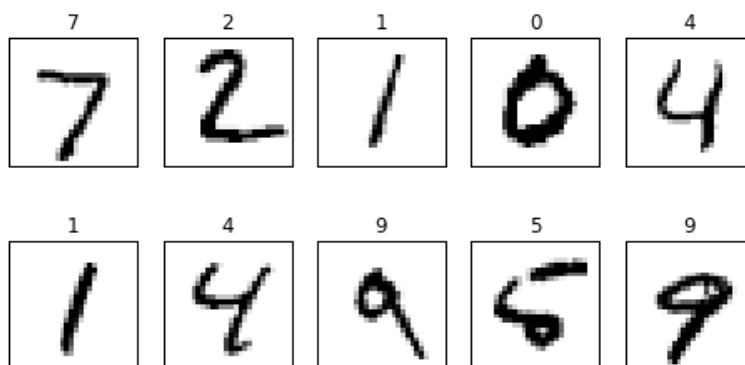


The MNIST Digits dataset



The MNIST (Modified National Institute of Standards and Technology) database is a large collection of handwritten digits. The MNIST database contains 60,000 training images and 10,000 testing images. The data-set was created by "re-mixing" samples of digits from NIST's original datasets taken from American Census Bureau employees and American high school students. Half of the training set and half of the test set were taken from NIST's training dataset, while the other half of the training set and the other half of the test set were taken from NIST's testing dataset.

The black and white images from NIST were normalized to fit into a 28x28 pixel bounding box and anti-aliased, which introduced gray-scale levels.

The data set may be downloaded from <http://yann.lecun.com/exdb/mnist/>