**Assignment 1**

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1. Machine learning is often referred to as an ill-posed problem. **(1)** What does **ill-posed problem** mean? **(2)** How do machine learning algorithms deal with the fact that machine learning is an ill-posed problem?

**Solution**

An ill-posed problem mean for which a unique solution cannot be determined using only the information that is available. These types of problems lack one or more of the fundamental properties required to have a unique and stable solution.

In terms of Machine Learning, there may be multiple solutions or no solution at all which perfectly fits the problem.

**Dealing with this problem in Machine Learning:**

We can use ensemble learning where we can combine the outputs of multiple model to get one final result. Different models could work effectively on different aspects of problem and dataset and hence improve the accuracy of result.

Also, we can try implementing domain based knowledge while training the input. Providing additional information while training can provide reasonable improvement, especially when the information is originated after years of experience.

1. In machine learning, **(1)** what is meant by the term **inductive bias**? **(2)** What can go wrong when an inappropriate inductive bias is used?

Solution

Inductive bias is a bias which occurs at the time of training a model. It is a set of assumptions, expectations, or prior beliefs that influence the learning algorithm's choice of a particular hypothesis or model over others when faced with ambiguous or incomplete data.

Problem with Inductive Bias:

**Overfitting**: If the bias is too strong towards one outcome and doesn’t capture the true data distribution, the model might be overfitted.

**Failure to Generalize:** An inappropriate inductive bias can lead to models that are overly specialized to the training data, making them unable to generalize well to unseen or new data. This is detrimental for the model's real-world applicability.

**Difficulty in Learning:** The learning algorithm may struggle to find an appropriate model or hypothesis due to conflicting or misleading inductive biases. This can lead to prolonged training times, convergence issues, or failure to converge.

**3. (1)** What is meant by the term **consistent model**? **(2)** Why might a consistent model not **generalize** well?

Solution:

A consistent model is a model that can perfectly fit the training data. It can achieve zero training error by learning the true underlying pattern or function that generated the data.

Problem with generalization:

A consistent model may end up fitting not only the true underlying pattern in the data but also the noise or random fluctuations present in the training data. Therefore this complex model won’t generalize well to new/unseen data as it has kind of memorized the noise.

**4. Consider the following set of training examples:**

This dataset shows a set of stroke risk factors and their probability of suffering a stroke in the next five years (*low*, *medium*, and *high*). All the descriptive features are Boolean, taking two levels: *true* or *false*.

How many possible models exist for the scenario described by the features in this dataset? Explain your answer.

Solution:

The dataset contains a total of 4 features and one target variable. The four features each can have two possible values, true or false. So one single feature can have a total of 2 outcomes. But since we have four features, the possible outcomes will be 2 to power of 4. i.e, 24 = 32.

And since each of these 32 possible outcomes can result in 3 possible outcomes to our target variable, the total number of possible model that could exist is = 3 to power of 32 = 332 = 1853020188851841

**5.** Briefly explain **mathematical optimization** for machine learning.

Solution:

It involves finding the best solution for a mathematical function under given constraints. In the context of machine learning, optimization is crucial for training models and adjusting their parameters to minimize the error or loss function, ultimately leading to a better predictive performance.

The process of determining proper parameters for a model relies on a set of tools known as mathematical optimization.

Suppose a line model. The machine needs to find the right values for its two parameters – a slope and vertical intercept.

For example:

Objective Function (Cost/Loss Function):

The first step is defining an objective function, often referred to as a cost or loss function. This function measures the discrepancy between the predicted output of the model and the actual ground truth. The goal here is to minimize this function.