

Chapter 1

Machine Learning framework

We begin with the description of a formal model in order to capture what could be the learning tasks. The fundamental points are:

- **The learner's input:**
 - A domain set \mathcal{X} , whose points are the instances we want to label.
 - A label set Y .
 - The training dataset $S = X \times Y$. It is a finite sequence of label domain points.
- **The learner's output:**
 - A prediction rule $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ (also called predictor or hypothesis or classifier). It is used to predict the label of new domain points. Therefore $A(S)$ is the hypothesis, where A represents the algorithm.
 - **Simple data-generation model:**
Assume that the training data are generated by a probability distribution \mathbb{D} (over \mathcal{X}). Moreover, suppose that the learner doesn't know anything about the distribution and that there exists some