

Machine Learning

Scoping and Feasibility

Mostafa S. Ibrahim

Teaching, Training and Coaching for more than a decade!

Artificial Intelligence & Computer Vision Researcher

PhD from Simon Fraser University - Canada

Bachelor / MSc from Cairo University - Egypt

Ex-(Software Engineer / ICPC World Finalist)



© 2023 All rights reserved.

Please do not reproduce or redistribute this work without permission from the author

Scoping and Feasibility

- Software **scoping** is the process of understanding the underlying business need and specifying a list of specific project goals, deliverables, tasks, costs and deadlines
 - Developed by the **project team**, often in consultation with the client
 - It involves determining what is **included** in the project and what is **out of its scope**.
 - Addresses how the **customer requirements** will be fulfilled
 - Carefully documented
- **Feasibility** is about the **possibility** of something being accomplished
- In ML Context, scoping starts with clearly **defining the problem(s)** that will satisfy the business needs

Question!

- What is the difference between these 2 given business requests:
- 1) Honda is asking for an ML module that determines if the driver **hand is on the wheel**
- 2) Toyota is asking for software AI features to add into a car's in-cabinet systems to improve both the **driving experience and safety**

Identifying the problems

- What are the possible ML features for cars **in-cabinet** systems for driving experience and safety?
- Driver Assistance & Safety
 - **Driver Monitoring:** monitor driver attentiveness (drowsiness or distraction), HOW
 - **Passengers Monitoring:** child monitoring (on seat / seat belt)
 - **Gesture Control:** music, air conditioning, and navigation through hand gestures
 - **Adaptive Cruise Control:** based on driving conditions and behavior of other cars
 - **Emergency Response:** Detect collision and automatically contact emergency services
 - **Parking Assistance:** finding a parking spot / auto-parking
 - **Personalized Experience:** driver preferences for seating, climate control and music
 - **Automated Entry:** keyless entry
 - **Object Detection:** Alert for left Mobile / Key

Scoping

- As you see, there could be many problems to solve!
- We need to carefully select the problems we will work on
- You need to ask and investigate several points about each problem
 - **Data:** All concerns we learned (data size, quality, labels quality, imbalance, etc)
 - **Technical Constraints:** Are there limitations on the model's size, inference speed?
 - **Maintenance:** How frequently does it need to be updated? Who will own it?
 - **Timeline:** How long do you expect the project to take?
 - **Budget & Resources:** Money? Team size? hardware and software?
 - **Business Metrics:** What are the needed metrics

Feasibility

- Now, we know the problems and customer needs
- Can we do it?
 - **Technical Feasibility:** Current ML capabilities can do it? Achieve these business KPIs?
 - Is it an ML problem? Given data, can human solve it?
 - Do we have predictive features?
 - You may prepare POC first before finalizing KPIs
 - Utilize recent research progress on similar topics
 - **Resource Feasibility:** available resources enough for the project / within timeline
 - **Data Feasibility:** Is enough quality data available? If not, can it be collected within time and budget constraints?
 - **Scalability:** Assess if the solution will scale effectively, both in terms of data size and model complexity.
 - **Competitive Analysis:** Look at existing solutions to the problem. How will your project differ and improve upon them?

Your Turn: Define possible ML problems

- Ecommerce retailer is asking for using ML to increase the revenue
- **Customer Experience**
 - **Recommendation Systems**: better personalization (user behavior, preferences)
 - **Search Engine** (relevant results) / **Chatbots**: handle more queries
- **Marketing**
 - **Customer Segmentation**: personalized marketing strategie per segment
 - **Churn Prediction**: proactive steps to retain these customers
 - **Email Marketing**: Find best time to send emails / to whom / which content
 - **Dynamic Pricing**: based on various factors like demand, supply, competitor prices
- **Sales Forecasting**: Demand Forecasting / Market Analysis / Promotion Effectiveness
- **Operations**: Fraud Detection / Inventory Management / Optimized Shipping / Quality Control
- **User Behavior**: Sentiment Analysis, Click-Through Rate Prediction, Behavioral Email Targeting

Relevant Materials

- [Andrew NG - MLOps](#)

“Acquire knowledge and impart it to the people.”

“Seek knowledge from the Cradle to the Grave.”

