

CSE 518A: Assignment 1

Due: Midnight, Feb 9 (Friday), 2024

Notes:

- Please submit your assignments using Gradescope. There will be two separate submission links for reports and codes.
- The assignment is due **by 11:59 PM on the due date**. Remember that you may not use more than 2 late days on any one homework, and you only have a budget of 4 in total.
- You can use any programming language you like. **The grades will be based on your reports**. By default, we won't look at your codes. Your codes might be checked when we have confusions about the reported results. Your codes will also be used to run plagiarism tests.
- Please keep in mind the collaboration policy as specified in the course syllabus. You can (and are encouraged to) discuss with other students, however, you **must write down the solutions on your own**. You must also write, in the beginning of the submission, the names of students you discuss the questions with and any external sources you used in a significant manner in solving the problem.

Assignment Description:

This is a programming assignment. The goal is to implement label aggregation algorithms on the provided dataset.

- Download the Recognizing Textual Entailment (RTE) dataset at the following link:
<https://chienjuho.com/course/cse518a/assignment1/rte.standardized.tsv>
You will be implementing label aggregation algorithms on the dataset.
- In the RTE dataset, for each question, the worker is presented with two sentences and is asked to answer/annotate if the second hypothesis sentence can be inferred from the first. This dataset contains 800 sentence pairs and 164 workers. Each sentence pair has 10 annotations.
- Description on the fields of the file:
 - *!amt_worker_ids*: The IDs of workers.
 - *orig_id*: The IDs of sentence pairs.
 - *response*: The worker's answer (annotation) to the sentence pair (0 or 1).
 - *gold*: Ground truth of the sentence pair.

- **Instructions:**
 You goal is to implement three label aggregation algorithms, (simple) majority voting, EM (the simplest version assuming unknown worker skills as we discussed in class), and SVD, on the provided dataset. In this dataset, there are 10 annotations/labels per task. You will be asked to randomly sub-sample the datasets and create scenarios as if each task has $k = 1, \dots, 10$ labels. You will then examine how the aggregation algorithms perform when k increases.
 1. Implement random sub-sampling procedures that you can create datasets that each task contains $k = 1, 2, \dots, 10$ annotations.
 2. Implement the following three aggregation algorithms: majority voting, EM, and SVD and run them on datasets with $k = 1, \dots, 10$ annotations per task
 3. Calculate the aggregation error (the ratio of wrong predictions) across all 800 tasks for $k = 1, \dots, 10$. (If the votes are equal, randomly break ties.)
 4. Repeat the above process multiple times and calculate the average error.
 5. Draw a plot showing how increasing the number of annotations per task decreases the aggregation error (for example, you can have a plot with x-axis being the value of k and y-axis being the average aggregation error). You should have one curve for the performance of each algorithm.
 6. Provide a brief discussion on what you have observed.
 7. You should see that the performance of SVD is not ideal. Please perform “extrapolation” and generate datasets with $k > 10$. (You know the true label, and you know the empirical worker skill. So you can *generate* additional labels assuming the probability of workers providing correct labels are known). Increase k and see until when SVD performs well.
- **Additional Note #1:** In this dataset, the labels are either 1 or 0. However, in the algorithms we introduced in class, we assume the labels are either +1 or -1. You might want to do the label conversions to make them consistent.
- **Additional Note #2:** When performing (weighted) majority voting, if there is a tie (i.e., equal votes for both labels), please break the tie uniformly at random (i.e., treating it as making an error of 0.5).