Class Debate #2

Ethics of Outsourcing Human Labour: MTurkers and Inmates

CS489 Computer Ethics and Social Issues

Outsourcing Human Labour

- Debate statement: Machine Learning is extremely hungry for labelled data - we can leave the market to control the supply and demand.

  - Pro: of course - how else will we control the flow of labelled data? Market is the answer.

  - Against: no, the market is exploitive, and can be borderline unethical.

Class Debate November 16th

An Attempt at Improvement :)

- You read the provided articles before the class.

- Introduction of the topic (5 minute by me)

- Debate: up to 3 people representing pro/against can SPEAK

  - +3 to your participation score

- Discussion: random breakout rooms (20 minutes), 4 people in each room.

  - Screen sharing will be enabled within each room

  - Each room should decide who will report

- Report: each room will report their conclusions and deliverables

  - +3 to your participation score

Scene 1: Data Labelling Jobs

- When you need manual labelling of data, there are a few different options:

  - Google Cloud provides human labelling: see the pricing at https://cloud.google.com/ai-platform/data-labeling/pricing

  - Amazon Mechanical Turk: you can create HIT (Human Intelligence Task) in MTurk and pay workers per label.

  - Private firms: there are private companies that will provide labelling - prices are not known.

Scene 2: Prison Inmates Labelling Data

- In Finland, a company is running a business of hiring inmates (prisoners) to do data labelling. The founder claims that they can learn useful skills doing this.

Discussion & Deliverable

- Suppose you are running a shiny new AI startup, and want to collect human labelled data to train your new product model. You can add detailed scenarios about what the product is ;)

  - Draft an ethical data labelling plan - who will you hire, at what price, in what type of employment?

  - Draft 1~2 paragraph of advertisement for your data labelling job.