



Machine Learning/Data Science Interview Cheat sheets

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This document contains cheat sheets on various topics asked during a Machine Learning/Data science interview. This document is constantly updated to include more topics.

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Cheat Sheet – Bias-Variance Tradeoff

What is Bias?

$$\text{bias} = \mathbb{E}[f'(x)] - f(x)$$

- Error between average model prediction and ground truth
- The bias of the estimated function tells us the capacity of the underlying model to predict the values

What is Variance?

$$\text{variance} = \mathbb{E}[(f'(x) - \mathbb{E}[f'(x)])^2]$$

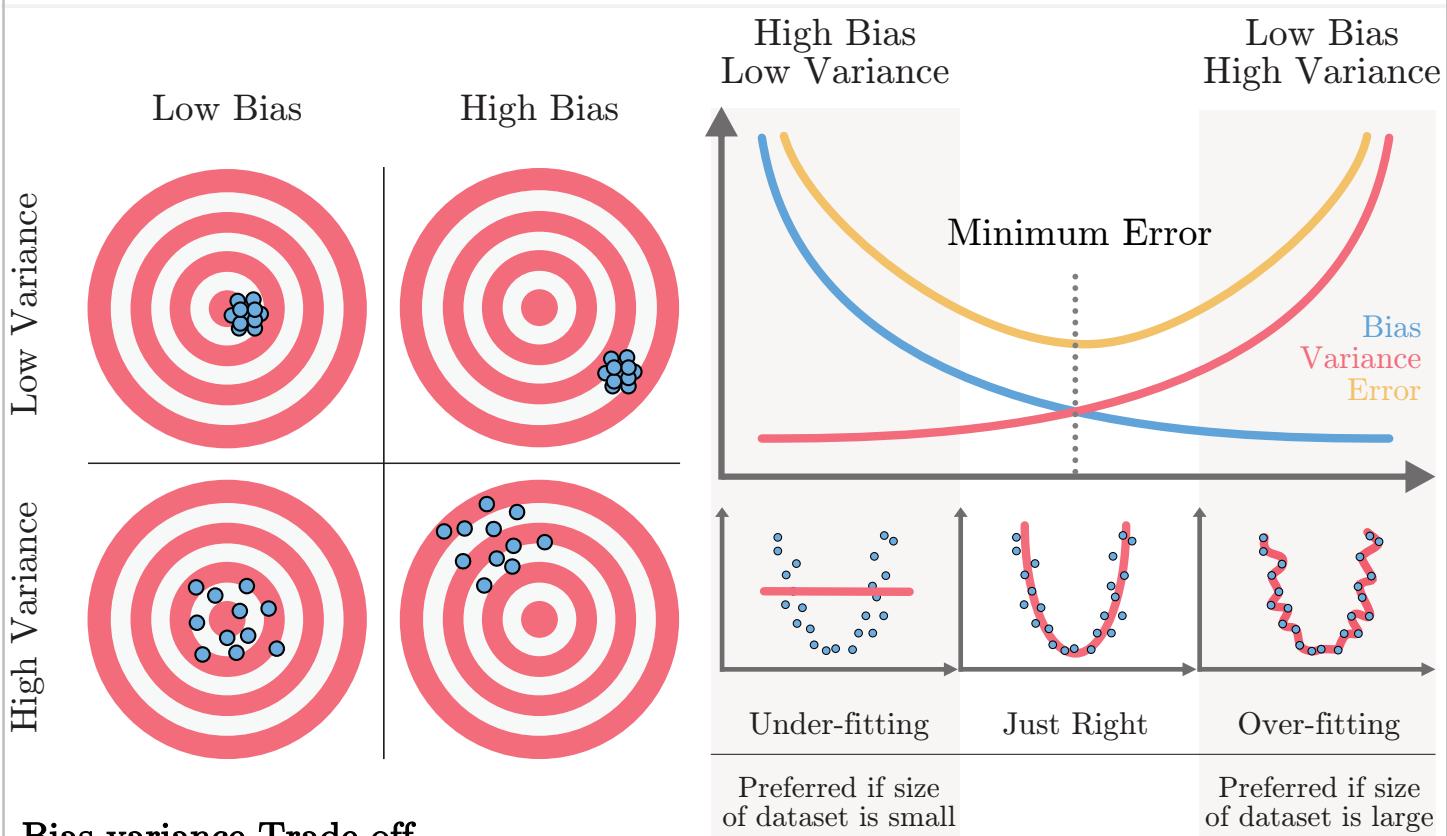
- Average variability in the model prediction for the given dataset
- The variance of the estimated function tells you how much the function can adjust to the change in the dataset

High Bias

- Overly-simplified Model
- Under-fitting
- High error on both test and train data

High Variance

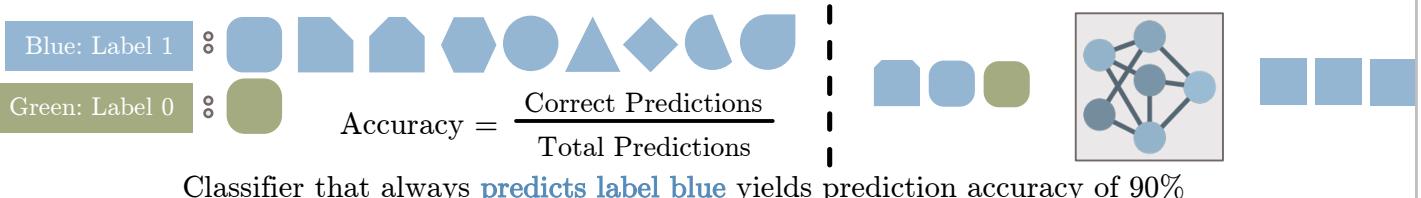
- Overly-complex Model
- Over-fitting
- Low error on train data and high on test
- Starts modelling the noise in the input



Bias variance Trade-off

- Increasing bias reduces variance and vice-versa
- Error = bias² + variance + irreducible error
- The best model is where the error is reduced.
- Compromise between bias and variance

Cheat Sheet – Imbalanced Data in Classification



Accuracy doesn't always give the correct insight about your trained model

Accuracy: %age correct prediction	Correct prediction over total predictions	One value for entire network
Precision: <u>Exactness</u> of model	From the detected cats, how many were actually cats	Each class/label has a value
Recall: <u>Completeness</u> of model	Correctly detected cats over total cats	Each class/label has a value
F1 Score: Combines Precision/Recall	Harmonic mean of Precision and Recall	Each class/label has a value

Performance metrics associated with Class 1

		Actual Labels	
		1	0
Predicted Labels	1	True Positive	False Positive
	0	False Negative	True Negative

(Is your prediction correct?) (What did you predict)	
	True Negative
(Your prediction is <u>correct</u>)	
	(You predicted <u>0</u>)
Precision = $\frac{TP}{TP + FP}$	False +ve rate = $\frac{FP}{TN + FP}$
F1 score = $2x \frac{(Prec \times Rec)}{(Prec + Rec)}$	Accuracy = $\frac{TP + TN}{TP + FN + FP + TN}$
Specificity = $\frac{TN}{TN + FP}$	Recall, Sensitivity = $\frac{TP}{TP + FN}$
True +ve rate	

Possible solutions

- Data Replication:** Replicate the available data until the number of samples are comparable
 - Synthetic Data:** Images: Rotate, dilate, crop, add noise to existing input images and create new data
 - Modified Loss:** Modify the loss to reflect greater error when misclassifying smaller sample set
 - Change the algorithm:** Increase the model/algorithm complexity so that the two classes are perfectly separable (Con: Overfitting)

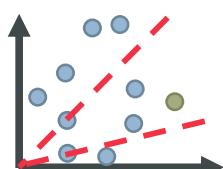
Blue: Label 1 : 

Green: Label 0 : 

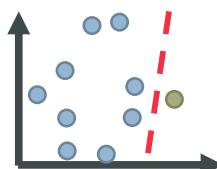
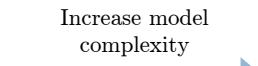
Blue: Label 1 : 

Green: Label 0 : 

$$loss = a * \text{loss}_{green} + b * \text{loss}_{blue}$$



No straight line ($y=ax$) passing through origin can perfectly separate data. **Best solution:** line $v=0$, predict all labels blue



Straight line ($y=ax+b$) can perfectly separate data.
Green class will no longer be predicted as blue



Cheat Sheet – PCA Dimensionality Reduction

What is PCA?

- Based on the dataset find a new set of orthogonal feature vectors in such a way that the data spread is maximum in the direction of the feature vector (or dimension)
- Rates the feature vector in the decreasing order of data spread (or variance)
- The datapoints have maximum variance in the first feature vector, and minimum variance in the last feature vector
- The variance of the datapoints in the direction of feature vector can be termed as a measure of information in that direction.

Steps

- Standardize the datapoints
- Find the covariance matrix from the given datapoints
- Carry out eigen-value decomposition of the covariance matrix
- Sort the eigenvalues and eigenvectors

$$X_{new} = \frac{X - \text{mean}(X)}{\text{std}(X)}$$

$$C[i, j] = \text{cov}(x_i, x_j)$$

$$C = V\Sigma V^{-1}$$

$$\Sigma_{sort} = \text{sort}(\Sigma) \quad V_{sort} = \text{sort}(V, \Sigma_{sort})$$

Dimensionality Reduction with PCA

- Keep the first m out of n feature vectors rated by PCA. These m vectors will be the best m vectors preserving the maximum information that could have been preserved with m vectors on the given dataset

Steps:

- Carry out steps 1-4 from above
- Keep first m feature vectors from the sorted eigenvector matrix
- Transform the data for the new basis (feature vectors)
- The importance of the feature vector is proportional to the magnitude of the eigen value

Figure 1

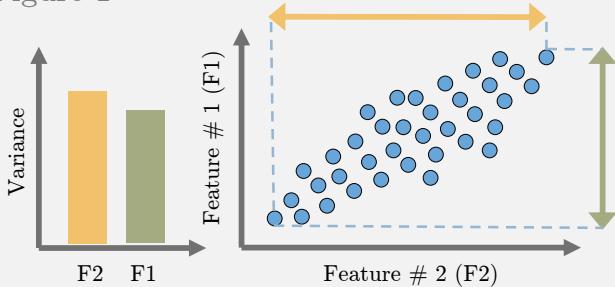


Figure 2

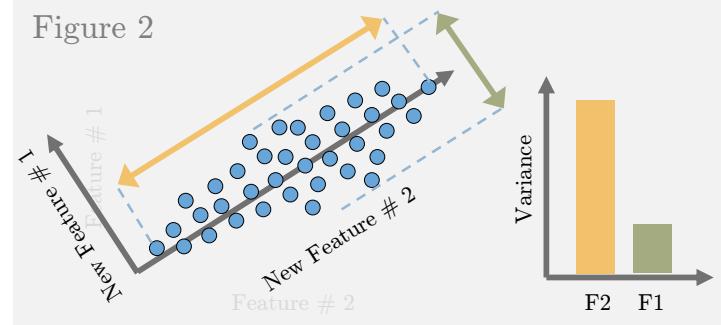


Figure 3

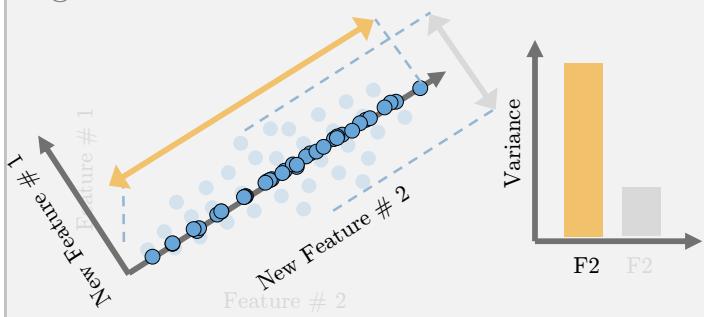


Figure 1: Datapoints with feature vectors as x and y-axis

Figure 2: The cartesian coordinate system is rotated to maximize the standard deviation along any one axis (new feature # 2)

Figure 3: Remove the feature vector with minimum standard deviation of datapoints (new feature # 1) and project the data on new feature # 2

Cheat Sheet – Bayes Theorem and Classifier

What is Bayes' Theorem?

- Describes the probability of an event, based on prior knowledge of conditions that might be related to the event.

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)(\text{likelihood}) \times P(A)(\text{prior})}{P(B)(\text{evidence})}$$

- How the probability of an event changes when we have knowledge of another event

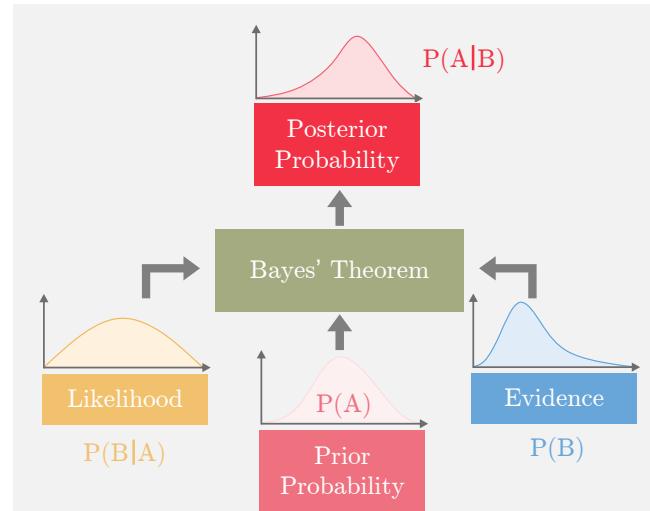
$$P(A) \rightarrow P(A|B)$$

Usually, a better estimate than $P(A)$

Example

- Probability of fire $P(F) = 1\%$
- Probability of smoke $P(S) = 10\%$
- Prob of smoke given there is a fire $P(S|F) = 90\%$
- What is the probability that there is a fire given we see a smoke $P(F|S)$?

$$P(F|S) = \frac{P(S|F) \times P(F)}{P(S)} = \frac{0.9 \times 0.01}{0.1} = 9\%$$



Maximum Aposterior Probability (MAP) Estimation

The MAP estimate of the random variable y , given that we have observed iid (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) , is given by. We try to accommodate our prior knowledge when estimating.

$$\hat{y}_{\text{MAP}} = \underset{y}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(y) \prod_i P(x_i|y)$$

y that maximizes the product of prior and likelihood

Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

The MAP estimate of the random variable y , given that we have observed iid (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) , is given by. We assume we don't have any prior knowledge of the quantity being estimated.

$$\hat{y}_{\text{MLE}} = \underset{y}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_i P(x_i|y)$$

y that maximizes only the likelihood

MLE is a special case of MAP where our prior is uniform (all values are equally likely)

Naïve Bayes' Classifier (Instantiation of MAP as classifier)

Suppose we have two classes, $y=y_1$ and $y=y_2$. Say we have more than one evidence/features (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) , using Bayes' theorem

$$P(y|x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = \frac{P(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots | y) \times P(y)}{P(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)}$$

Bayes' theorem assumes the features (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) are i.i.d. i.e $P(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots | y) = \prod_i P(x_i|y)$

$$P(y|x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = \prod_i P(x_i|y) \frac{P(y)}{P(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)}$$

$$\hat{y} = y_1 \text{ if } \frac{P(y_1|x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)}{P(y_2|x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)} > 1 \text{ else } \hat{y} = y_2$$

Cheat Sheet – Regression Analysis

What is Regression Analysis?

Fitting a function $f(\cdot)$ to datapoints $y_i = f(x_i)$ under some error function. Based on the estimated function and error, we have the following types of regression

1. Linear Regression:

Fits a **line** minimizing the **sum of mean-squared error** for each datapoint.

$$\min_{\beta} \sum_i \|y_i - f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i)\|^2$$

$$f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i$$

2. Polynomial Regression:

Fits a **polynomial** of order k ($k+1$ unknowns) minimizing the **sum of mean-squared error** for each datapoint.

$$\min_{\beta} \sum_{i=0}^m \|y_i - f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i)\|^2$$

$$f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \beta_2 x_i^2 + \dots + \beta_k x_i^k$$

3. Bayesian Regression:

For each datapoint, fits a **gaussian distribution** by minimizing the **mean-squared error**. As the number of data points x_i increases, it converges to point estimates i.e. $n \rightarrow \infty, \sigma^2 \rightarrow 0$

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \rightarrow \text{Gaussian with mean } \mu \text{ and variance } \sigma^2$$

4. Ridge Regression:

Can fit either a **line**, or **polynomial** minimizing the **sum of mean-squared error** for each datapoint **and** the weighted L2 norm of the function parameters beta.

$$\min_{\beta} \sum_{i=0}^m \|y_i - f_{\beta}(x_i)\|^2 + \sum_{j=0}^k \beta_j^2$$

$$f_{\beta}(x_i) = f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) \text{ or } f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i)$$

5. LASSO Regression:

Can fit either a **line**, or **polynomial** minimizing the **sum of mean-squared error** for each datapoint **and** the weighted L1 norm of the function parameters beta.

$$\min_{\beta} \sum_{i=0}^m \|y_i - f_{\beta}(x_i)\|^2 + \sum_{j=0}^k |\beta_j|$$

$$f_{\beta}(x_i) = f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) \text{ or } f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i)$$

6. Logistic Regression:

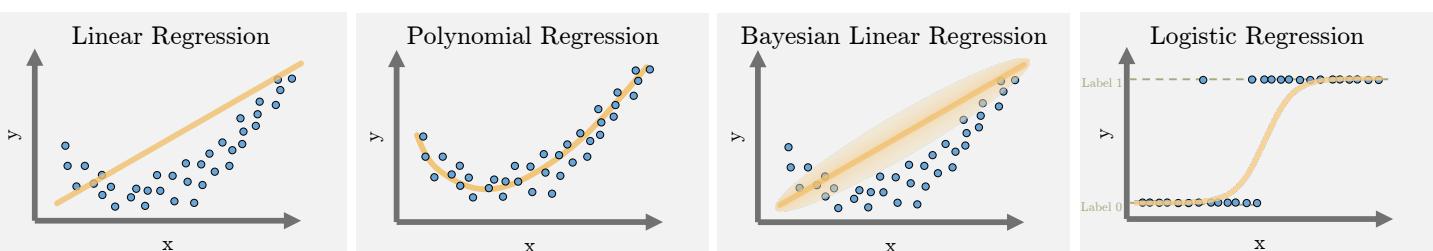
Can fit either a **line**, or **polynomial with sigmoid activation** minimizing the **binary cross-entropy loss** for each datapoint. The labels y are binary class labels.

$$\min_{\beta} \sum_i -y_i \log(\sigma(f_{\beta}(x_i))) - (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \sigma(f_{\beta}(x_i)))$$

$$f_{\beta}(x_i) = f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) \text{ or } f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i)$$

$$\sigma(t) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-t}}$$

Visual Representation:



Summary:

	What does it fit?	Estimated function	Error Function
Linear	A line in n dimensions	$f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i$	$\sum_{i=0}^m \ y_i - f_{\beta}(x_i)\ ^2$
Polynomial	A polynomial of order k	$f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \beta_2 x_i^2 + \dots$	$\sum_{i=0}^m \ y_i - f_{\beta}(x_i)\ ^2$
Bayesian Linear	Gaussian distribution for each point	$\mathcal{N}(f_{\beta}(x_i), \sigma^2)$	$\sum_i \ y_i - \mathcal{N}(f_{\beta}(x_i), \sigma^2)\ ^2$
Ridge	Linear/polynomial	$f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) \text{ or } f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i)$	$\sum_{i=0}^m \ y_i - f_{\beta}(x_i)\ ^2 + \sum_{j=0}^n \beta_j^2$
LASSO	Linear/polynomial	$f_{\beta}^{\text{poly}}(x_i) \text{ or } f_{\beta}^{\text{linear}}(x_i)$	$\sum_{i=0}^m \ y_i - f_{\beta}(x_i)\ ^2 + \sum_{j=0}^n \beta_j $
Logistic	Linear/polynomial with sigmoid	$\sigma(f_{\beta}(x_i))$	$\min_{\beta} \sum_i -y_i \log(\sigma(f_{\beta}(x_i))) - (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \sigma(f_{\beta}(x_i)))$

Cheat Sheet – Regularization in ML

What is Regularization in ML?

- Regularization is an approach to address over-fitting in ML.
- Overfitted model fails to generalize estimations on test data
- When the underlying model to be learned is low bias/high variance, or when we have small amount of data, the estimated model is prone to over-fitting.
- Regularization reduces the variance of the model

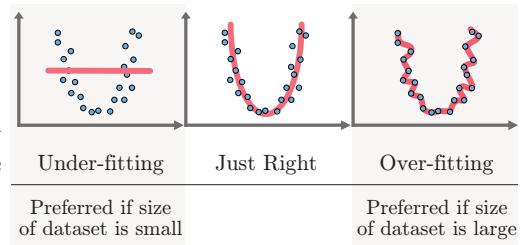


Figure 1. Overfitting

Types of Regularization:

1. Modify the loss function:

- **L2 Regularization:** Prevents the weights from getting too large (defined by L2 norm). Larger the weights, more complex the model is, more chances of overfitting.

$$\text{loss} = \text{error}(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda \sum_j \beta_j^2 \quad \lambda \geq 0, \lambda \propto \text{model bias}, \lambda \propto \frac{1}{\text{model variance}}$$

- **L1 Regularization:** Prevents the weights from getting too large (defined by L1 norm). Larger the weights, more complex the model is, more chances of overfitting. L1 regularization introduces sparsity in the weights. It forces more weights to be zero, than reducing the average magnitude of all weights

$$\text{loss} = \text{error}(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda \sum_j |\beta_j| \quad \lambda \geq 0, \lambda \propto \text{model bias}, \lambda \propto \frac{1}{\text{model variance}}$$

- **Entropy:** Used for the models that output probability. Forces the probability distribution towards uniform distribution.

$$\text{loss} = \text{error}(p, \hat{p}) - \lambda \sum_i \hat{p}_i \log(\hat{p}_i) \quad \lambda \geq 0, \lambda \propto \text{model bias}, \lambda \propto \frac{1}{\text{model variance}}$$

2. Modify data sampling:

- **Data augmentation:** Create more data from available data by randomly cropping, dilating, rotating, adding small amount of noise etc.
- **K-fold Cross-validation:** Divide the data into k groups. Train on (k-1) groups and test on 1 group. Try all k possible combinations.

3. Change training approach:

- **Injecting noise:** Add random noise to the weights when they are being learned. It pushes the model to be relatively insensitive to small variations in the weights, hence regularization
- **Dropout:** Generally used for neural networks. Connections between consecutive layers are randomly dropped based on a dropout-ratio and the remaining network is trained in the current iteration. In the next iteration, another set of random connections are dropped.

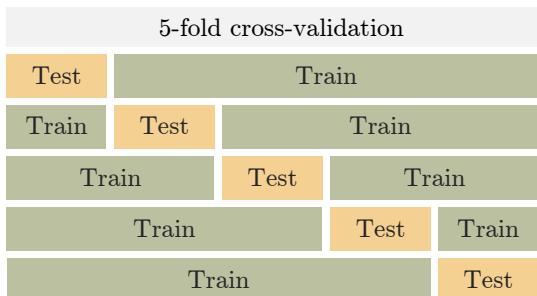


Figure 2. K-fold CV

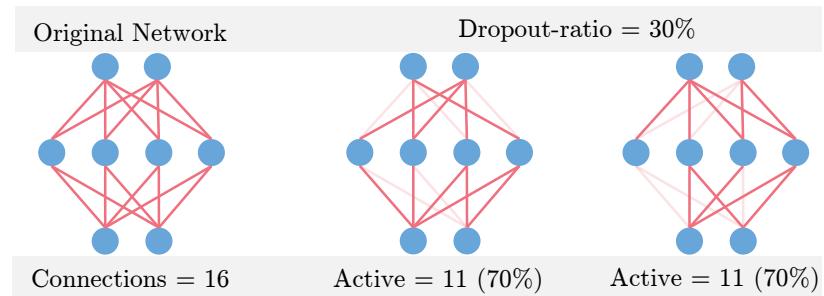


Figure 3. Drop-out

Cheat Sheet – Famous CNNs

AlexNet – 2012

Why: AlexNet was born out of the need to improve the results of the ImageNet challenge.

What: The network consists of 5 Convolutional (CONV) layers and 3 Fully Connected (FC) layers. The activation used is the Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU).

How: Data augmentation is carried out to reduce over-fitting, Uses Local response normalization.

		AlexNet Network		Structural Details								
Input	Output	Layer	Stride	Pad	Kernel size	in	out	# of Param				
227	227	3	55 ⁵⁵	96	conv1	4	0	11	3	96	34944	
55	55	27	27	96	maxpool1	2	0	3	96	96	0	
27	27	27	27	256	conv2	2	2	5	96	256	614656	
27	27	13	13	256	maxpool2	2	0	3	256	256	0	
13	13	256	13	13	384	conv3	1	1	3	256	384	885120
13	13	384	13	13	384	conv4	1	1	3	384	384	1327488
13	13	384	13	13	256	conv5	1	1	3	384	256	884992
13	13	256	6	6	256	maxpool5	2	0	3	256	256	0
		f6				1	1	9216	4096	37752832		
		f7				1	1	4096	4096	16781312		
		f8				1	1	4096	1000	4097000		
Total										62,378,344		

VGGNet - 2014

Why: VGGNet was born out of the need to reduce the # of parameters in the CONV layers and improve on training time

What: There are multiple variants of VGGNet (VGG16, VGG19, etc.)

How: The important point to note here is that all the conv kernels are of size 3x3 and maxpool kernels are of size 2x2 with a stride of two.

ResNet - 2015

Why: Neural Networks are notorious for not being able to find a simpler mapping when it exists. ResNet solves that.

What: There are multiple versions of ResNetXX architectures where 'XX' denotes the number of layers. The most used ones are ResNet50 and ResNet101. Since the vanishing gradient problem was taken care of (more about it in the How part), CNN started to get deeper and deeper.

How: ResNet architecture makes use of shortcut connections to solve the vanishing gradient problem. The basic building block of ResNet is a Residual block that is repeated throughout the network.

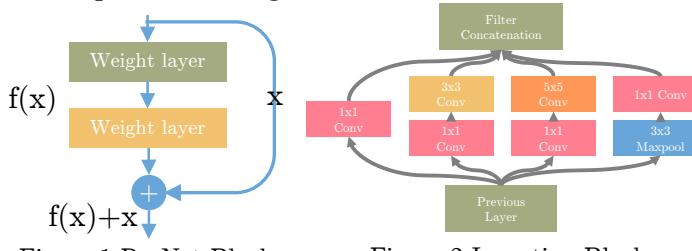


Figure 1 ResNet Block

Figure 2 Inception Block

Inception – 2014

Why: Lager kernels are preferred for more global features, on the other hand, smaller kernels provide good results in detecting area-specific features. For effective recognition of such a variable-sized feature, we need kernels of different sizes. That is what Inception does.

What: The Inception network architecture consists of several inception modules of the following structure. Each inception module consists of four operations in parallel, 1x1 conv layer, 3x3 conv layer, 5x5 conv layer, max pooling

How: Inception increases the network space from which the best network is to be chosen via training. Each inception module can capture salient features at different levels.

Comparison					
Network	Year	Salient Feature	top5 accuracy	Parameters	FLOP
AlexNet	2012	Deeper	84.70%	62M	1.5B
VGGNet	2014	Fixed-size kernels	92.30%	138M	19.6B
Inception	2014	Wider - Parallel kernels	93.30%	6.4M	2B
ResNet-152	2015	Shortcut connections	95.1%	60.3M	11B

GoogLeNet - Structural Details															
Input Image		output		Layer		Input Layer		Stride		Pad Kernel					
Input	Image	output	Image	Type	Filter	Input	Filter	Stride	Pad	Kernel	in	out	Param		
127	227	3	112	[112]	64	conv1	input	2	1	7	7	3	64	9472	
112	112	64	56	56	64	maxpool1	conv1	2	0	5	3	3	64	4160	
56	56	64	28	28	64	conv2-1	maxpool2	1	1	3	3	3	64	4160	
56	56	64	28	28	192	conv2-2	maxpool2	1	0	5	3	3	192	110784	
inception (sa)	28	28	192	28	28	96	conv3-1	maxpool2	1	0	1	1	192	96	18528
	28	28	96	28	28	16	conv3-2	maxpool2	1	0	1	1	96	16	3088
	28	28	16	28	28	16	conv3-3	maxpool2	1	0	1	1	96	16	3088
	28	28	192	28	28	64	conv4-1	maxpool2	1	0	1	1	192	64	12352
	28	28	96	28	28	128	conv4-3	conv3-1	1	1	3	3	96	128	110720
	28	28	16	28	28	32	conv4-4	conv3-2	1	2	5	5	16	32	392
	28	28	192	28	28	32	conv4-5	conv3-3	1	0	1	1	192	32	6176
	28	28	256	28	28	128	conv5-1	depth-concat	1	0	1	1	256	128	28960
	28	28	128	28	28	32	conv5-2	depth-concat	1	0	1	1	256	32	8224
inception (bb)	28	28	192	28	28	256	maxpool3	depth-concat	1	1	3	3	256	256	30768
	28	28	96	28	28	192	conv5-3	depth-concat	1	1	3	3	192	192	221376
	28	28	16	28	28	96	conv5-5	conv5-1	1	2	5	5	32	96	70896
	28	28	192	28	28	64	conv5-6	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	256	64	16448
	28	28	256	28	28	64	depth-concat	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	256	64	16448
	28	28	192	28	28	64	depth-concat	depth-concat	1	0	1	1	192	64	16448
	28	28	256	28	28	128	conv6-1	depth-concat	1	0	1	1	256	128	28960
	28	28	128	28	28	32	conv6-2	depth-concat	1	0	1	1	256	32	8224
	28	28	192	28	28	256	maxpool3	depth-concat	1	1	3	3	256	256	30768
inception (aa)	14	14	14	14	14	14	conv7-1	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	480	64	46176
	14	14	14	14	14	16	conv7-1b	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	480	16	7696
	14	14	14	14	14	16	conv7-2	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	480	16	7696
	14	14	14	14	14	192	conv7-3	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	480	192	92352
	14	14	14	14	14	208	conv7-4	conv7-1	1	1	3	3	96	208	179920
	14	14	14	14	14	208	conv7-5	conv7-2	1	2	5	5	32	208	35840
	14	14	14	14	14	192	conv7-6	conv7-3	1	0	1	1	480	192	92352
	14	14	14	14	14	64	depth-concat	maxpool3	1	0	1	1	480	64	46176
	14	14	14	14	14	480	depth-concat	depth-concat	1	0	1	1	480	480	0

Cheat Sheet – Convolutional Neural Network

Convolutional Neural Network:

The data gets into the CNN through the input layer and passes through various hidden layers before getting to the output layer. The output of the network is compared to the actual labels in terms of loss or error. The partial derivatives of this loss w.r.t the trainable weights are calculated, and the weights are updated through one of the various methods using backpropagation.

CNN Template:

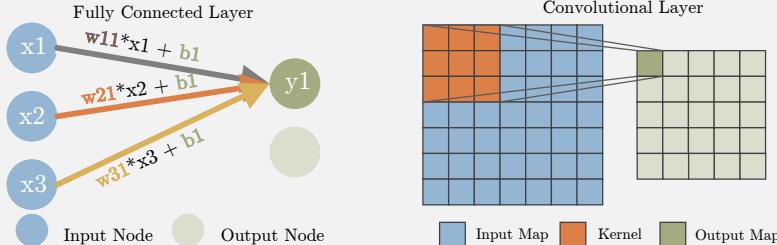
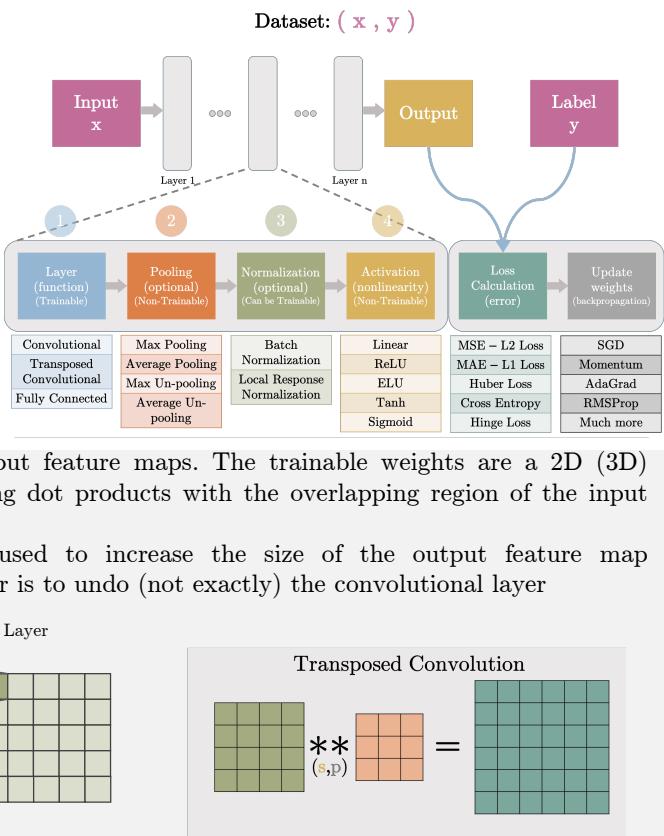
Most of the commonly used hidden layers (not all) follow a pattern

1. Layer function: Basic transforming function such as convolutional or fully connected layer.

a. Fully Connected: Linear functions between the input and the

a. Convolutional Layers: These layers are applied to 2D (3D) input feature maps. The trainable weights are a 2D (3D) kernel/filter that moves across the input feature map, generating dot products with the overlapping region of the input feature map.

b. Transposed Convolutional (DeConvolutional) Layer: Usually used to increase the size of the output feature map (Upsampling) The idea behind the transposed convolutional layer is to undo (not exactly) the convolutional layer



2. Pooling: Non-trainable layer to change the size of the feature map

a. Max/Average Pooling: Decrease the spatial size of the input layer based on selecting the maximum/average value in receptive field defined by the kernel

b. UnPooling: A non-trainable layer used to increase the spatial size of the input layer based on placing the input pixel at a certain index in the receptive field of the output defined by the kernel.

3. Normalization: Usually used just before the activation functions to limit the unbounded activation from increasing the output layer values too high

a. Local Response Normalization LRN: A **non-trainable layer** that square-normalizes the pixel values in a feature map within a local neighborhood.

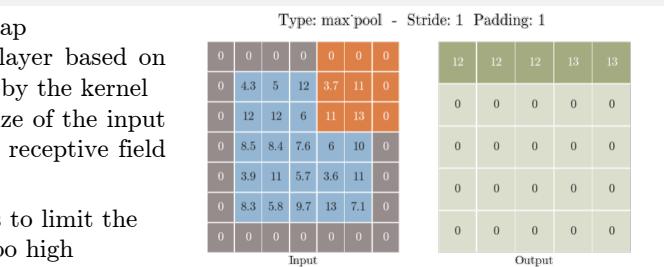
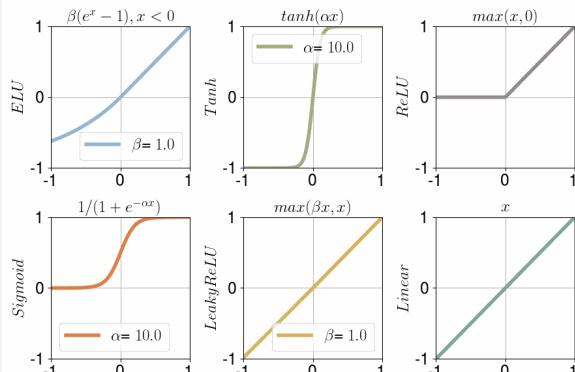
b. Batch Normalization: A trainable approach to normalizing the data by learning scale and shift variable during training.

3. Activation: Introduce non-linearity so CNN can efficiently map non-linear complex mapping.

a. Non-parametric/Static functions: Linear, ReLU

b. Parametric functions: ELU, tanh, sigmoid, Leaky ReLU

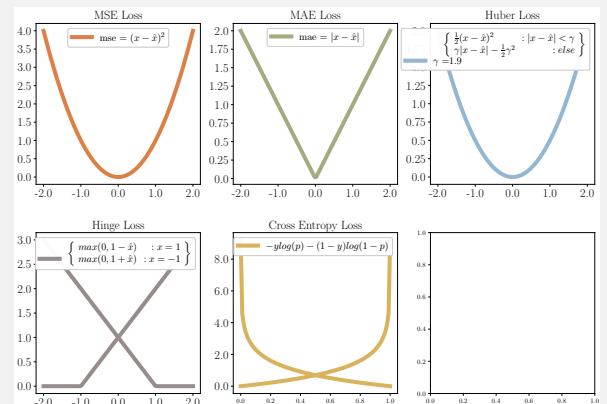
c. Bounded functions: tanh, sigmoid



5. Loss function: Quantifies how far off the CNN prediction is from the actual labels.

a. Regression Loss Functions: MAE, MSE, Huber loss

b. Classification Loss Functions: Cross entropy, Hinge loss



Cheat Sheet – Ensemble Learning in ML

What is Ensemble Learning? Wisdom of the crowd

Combine multiple weak models/learners into one predictive model to reduce bias, variance and/or improve accuracy.

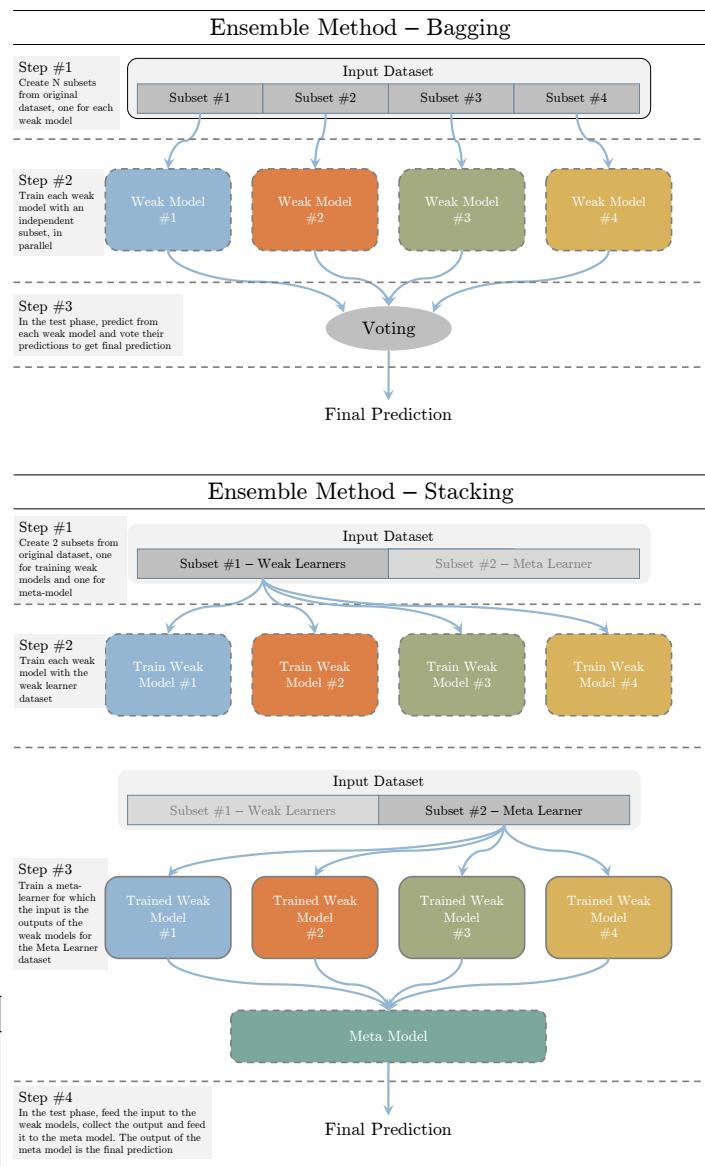
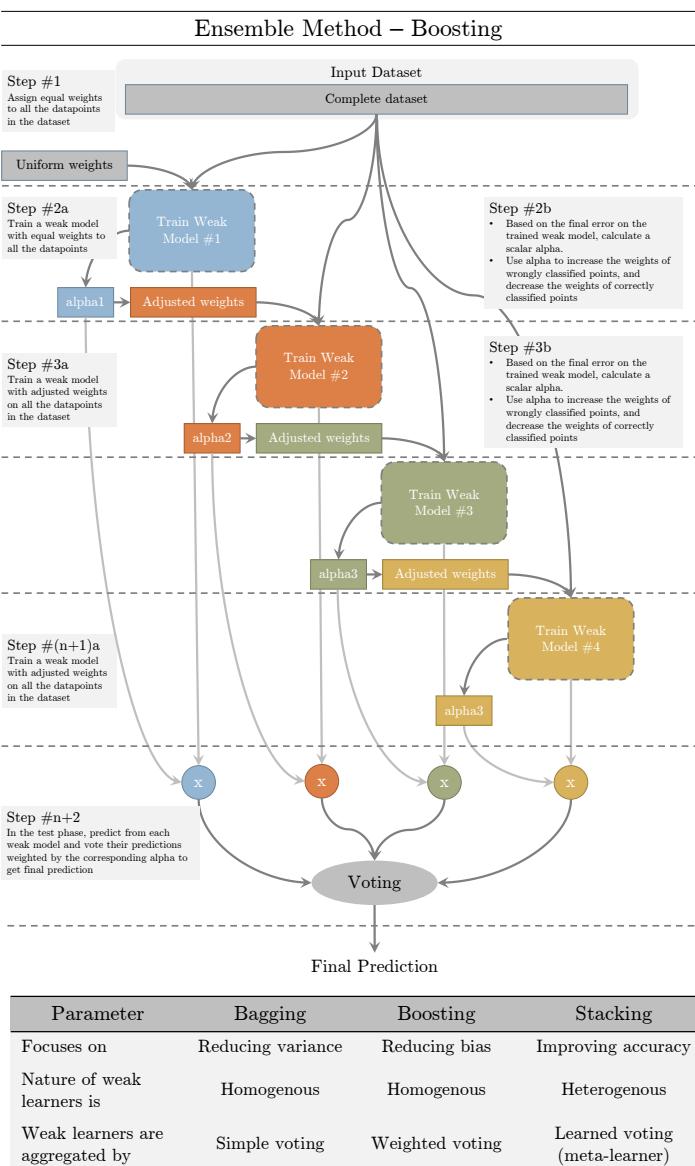
Types of Ensemble Learning: N number of weak learners

1.Bagging: Trains N different weak models (usually of same types – homogenous) with N non-overlapping subset of the input dataset in parallel. In the test phase, each model is evaluated. The label with the greatest number of predictions is selected as the prediction. Bagging methods reduces variance of the prediction

2.Boosting: Trains N different weak models (usually of same types – homogenous) with the complete dataset in a sequential order. The datapoints wrongly classified with previous weak model is provided more weights to that they can be classified by the next weak learner properly. In the test phase, each model is evaluated and based on the test error of each weak model, the prediction is weighted for voting. Boosting methods decreases the bias of the prediction.

3.Stacking: Trains N different weak models (usually of different types – heterogenous) with one of the two subsets of the dataset in parallel. Once the weak learners are trained, they are used to train a meta learner to combine their predictions and carry out final prediction using the other subset. In test phase, each model predicts its label, these set of labels are fed to the meta learner which generates the final prediction.

The block diagrams, and comparison table for each of these three methods can be seen below.



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How to prepare for behavioral interview?

Collect stories, assign keywords, practice
the STAR format



Keywords

List important keywords that will be populated with your personal stories. Most common keywords are given in the table below

Conflict Resolution	Negotiation	Compromise to achieve goal	Creativity	Flexibility	Convincing
Handling Crisis	Challenging Situation	Working with difficult people	Another team priorities not aligned	Adjust to a colleague style	Take Stand
Handling -ve feedback	Coworker view of you	Working with a deadline	Your strength	Your weakness	Influence Others
Handling failure	Handling unexpected situation	Converting challenge to opportunity	Decision without enough data	Conflict Resolution	Mentorship/ Leadership

Stories

1. List all the organizations you have been a part of. For example
 1. Academia: BSc, MSc, PhD
 2. Industry: Jobs, Internship
 3. Societies: Cultural, Technical, Sports
2. Think of stories from step 1 that can fall into one of the keywords categories. The more stories the better. You should have at least 10-15 stories.
3. Create a summary table by assigning multiple keywords to each stories. This will help you filter out the stories when the question asked in the interview. An example can be seen below

Story 1:	[Convincing] [Take Stand] [influence other]
Story 2:	[Mentorship] [Leadership]
Story 3:	[Conflict resolution] [Negotiation]
Story 4:	[decision-without-enough-data]

STAR Format

Write down the stories in the STAR format as explained in the 2/4 part of this cheat sheet. This will help you practice the organization of story in a meaningful way.

Icon Source: www.flaticon.com

2/4

How to prepare for behavioral interview?

Direct*, meaningful*, personalized*, logical*

*(Respective colors are used to identify these characteristics in the example)



Example: "Tell us about a time when you had to convince senior executives"

Situation

Explain the situation and provide necessary context for your story.

S

"I worked as an intern in XYZ company in the summer of 2019. The project details provided to me was elaborate. After some initial brainstorming, and research I realized that the project approach can be modified to make it more efficient in terms of the underlying KPIs. I decided to talk to my manager about it."

Task

Explain the task and your responsibility in the situation

T

"I had an hour-long call with my manager and explained him in detail the proposed approach and how it could improve the KPIs. I was able to convince him. He asked me if I will be able to present my proposed approach for approval in front of the higher executives. I agreed to it. I was working out of the ABC(city) office and the executives need to fly in from XYZ(city) office."

Action

Walk through the steps and actions you took to address the issue

A

"I did a quick background check on the executives to know better about their area of expertise so that I can convince them accordingly. I prepared an elaborate 15 slide presentation starting with explaining their approach, moving onto my proposed approach and finally comparing them on preliminary results."

Result

State the outcome of the result of your actions

R

"After some active discussion we were able to establish that the proposed approach was better than the initial one. The executives proposed a few small changes to my approach and really appreciated my stand. At the end of my internship, I was selected among the 3 out of 68 interns who got to meet the senior vice president of the company over lunch."

3/4

How to answer a behavioral question?

Understand, Extract, Map, Select and Apply



Example: "Tell us about a time when you had to convince senior executives"

Understand

Understand the question

Example: A story where I was able to convince my seniors. Maybe they had something in mind, and I had a better approach and tried to convince them

Extract

Extract keywords and tags

Extract useful keywords that encapsulates the gist of the question

Example:

[Convincing], [Creative], [Leadership]

Map

Map the keyword to your stories

Shortlist all the stories that fall under the keywords extracted from previous step

Example:

Story1, Story2, Story3, Story4, ... , Story N

Select

Select the best story

From the shortlisted stories, pick the one that best describes the question and has not been used so far in the interview

Example: Story3

Apply

Apply the STAR method

Apply the STAR method on the selected story to answer the question

Example: See Cheat Sheet 2/3 for details

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Behavioral Interview Cheat Sheet

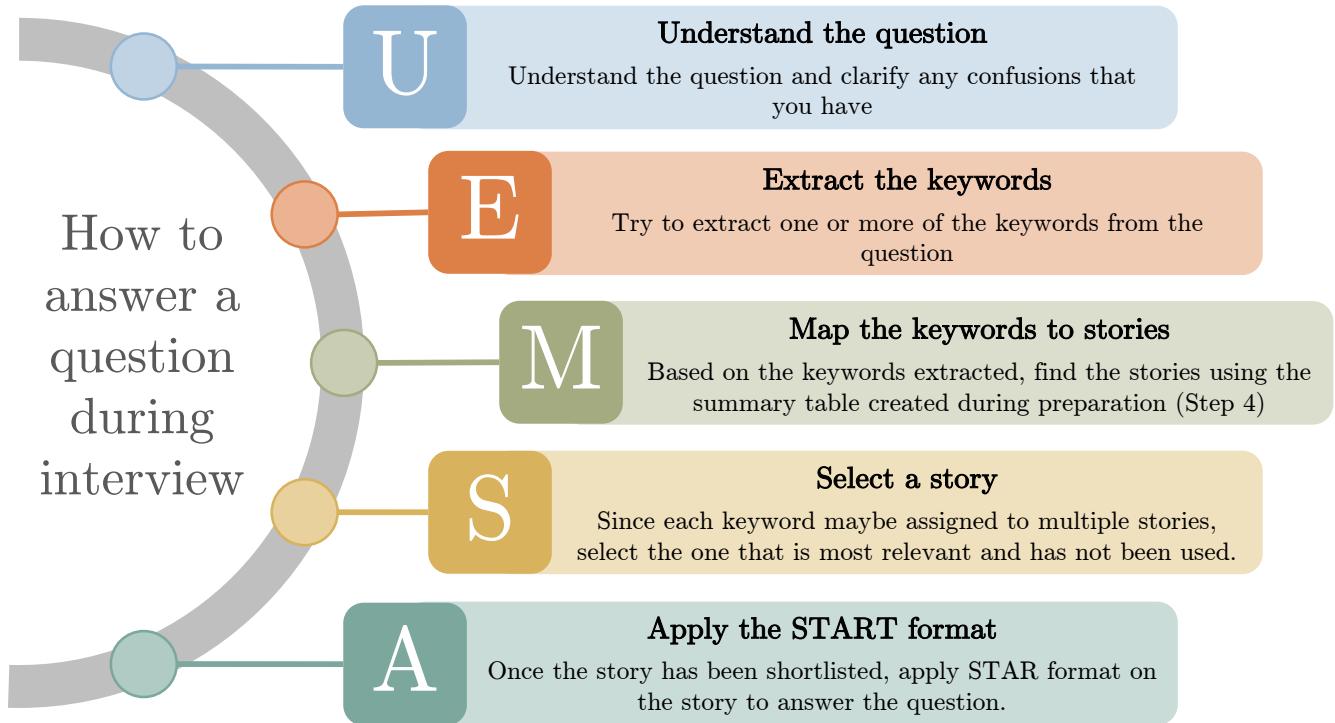
Summarizing the behavioral interview



How to prepare for the interview



How to answer a question during interview



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Version History

- **Version 0.1.0.1 - Apr 05, 2021**

Fixed minor typo issues in Baye's Theorem, Regression analysis and Classifier and PCA dimensionality reduction cheat sheets.

- **Version 0.1.0.0 - Mar 30, 2021**

Initial draft with nine basics of ML and two behavioral interview cheat sheets.