

**Note: Feel free to add questions, please ensure there is no redundancy and the questions are under the correct group.**

## **Machine Learning**

- **Mathematics**

- Insightful Basics
  - How would you fit a curve to data?  
What assumptions would you make in the above process
  - What tricks could you use to normalise a distribution?
- Ultra Basic Stuff
  - Tensors and vectors difference?
  - What is a matrix?
- Basic Statistics
  - What is standard deviation?
  - What is the empirical relation between mean, median and mode?
  - What is descriptive statistics vs inferential statistics?
  - Give type of variables?
  - What is Bessel's correction?
  - What are skewness and kurtosis and their effects?
  - Explain Law of large numbers
  - Correlations and covariance difference
  - Normalisation and standardization difference?  
And in which situation would you use which one?
- Slightly more advanced statistics
  - How would one add two normal distributions
  - How to find multicollinearity between features in linear regression
  - Homoskedastic
    - If error residuals are symmetrical in nature, how would that affect linear regression?
- Hypothesis testing
  - What is a hypothesis?
  - A test is administered annually. The test has a mean score of 150 and a standard deviation of 20. If Ravi's z-score is 1.50, what was his score on the test?
- Probability and Bayes Theorem
- P values
- Types of distributions
  - What is Chebyshev's theorem?
  - Formula for a normal and multi-normal distribution?
- Law of large numbers/ central limit theorem
  - What are the different types of Sampling methods that you have used?
- Cosine Similarity, Correlations and covariance
  - Difference between correlation and covariance?
- Eigen vectors and their utility [advanced]
- Statistical Tests [advanced]

- How to test multicollinearity?
  - Singular Value Decomposition [Advanced]
  - Principal Component Analysis [Advanced]
- **Metrics and model selection**
  - Bias - Variance [\[link\]](#) [link1](#)
    - Explain Bias - variance for KNN
    - Explain Bias - variance for linear regression
    - What is overfitting, why does it happen?
    - How to go about solving overfitting?
    - How would you go about reducing overfitting using deep neural networks?
    - Which types of algos are more likely to have overfitting?
    - What is underfitting, why does it happen and how to solve it?
    - What is generalization?
  - Model evaluation?
    - Explain the different ways you would evaluate a classification model?
      - What is a confusion matrix and how is it used?
      - What is precision?
      - What is recall?
      - When are they used and why, give example scenarios?
      - What is F1 score?
      - What is lift?
      - What is the expected value? And when would it be preferred as an evaluation metric?
      - What is leverage?
      - Difference between ROC curve and AUC curve?
      - Why do you use harmonic mean over normal mean for F1 score?
      - What is an F-beta score? Where can it be used ?
    - Regression
      - How to evaluate a model in case of regression?
    - Ranking
      - How to evaluate a model in case of ranking?
      - What happens to the confusion matrix if the threshold is changed?
  - Regression: MAE, MSE, r2 score, Adjusted r2 score
    - What is a statistical fit?
  - **L1 and L2 regularization**
    - Difference between L1 and L2 regularization, when to use what?
  - Cross validation
    - What are some issues with K fold CV?
    - What is K-fold cross validation?
  - **Curse of Dimensionality?**
  - Bayes Error/ Irreducible Error [\[link1\]](#) [advanced]

- How can you estimate the max attainable accuracy/performance of your model?
  - Explain five different model evaluation techniques?
- **Unsupervised learning models**
  - Given data that has been clustered using two different clustering algorithms, how would you measure which one is better?
- **Supervised Learning Models**
  - **Linear Regression**
    - Assumptions of Linear Regression problem?[\[link\]](#)
    - Difference between Ridge, Lasso and elasticnet?
  - **SVM** [\[link1\]](#) [\[link2\]](#)
    - Loss function in SVM?
    - How to deal with non linearity?
    - Kernel Function? ]
  - Decision Trees
    - Methods to improve Decision Trees?
    - Node splitting criteria?
    - What is entropy?
  - Logistic regression
    - How does a logistic regression model know what the coefficients are?
    - What is the loss function in logistic regression?
    - Why is sigmoid used in logistic regression?
    - What happens if you use mean square instead of log odds?
  - Random Forests
    - Explain how it works?
  - Naive Bayes
    - Assumptions in Naive Bayes?
    - Multinomial vs Bernoulli?
  - Nearest Neighbours
    - Do we need feature scaling/normalization for KNN? [\[link\]](#)
  - MLP
  - Bayes Classifier [Advanced]
  - Kernel Density estimation [Advanced]
  - Ensemble Models
    - Difference between weak learners and strong learners?
    - Bagging vs Boosting?
    - What is blending?
    - What is adaboost?
    - What is xgboost?
    - Gradient boosting?
  - Case
    - Given two different datasets, one of size 5000 rows and another with a billion rows, on which would you use xgboost and on which random forest?

- **Loss Function and related things** [link](#)

- Cross entropy
- Hinge loss
- Huber loss
- MSE
  - Can we use MSE for logistic regression? [link](#)
- Gradient Descent, SGD etc
  - What is the exploding gradient and the vanishing gradient? [Link](#) [link](#)
  - Difference between GD and SGD?
  - ADAGRAD, ADAM and momentum
  - In deep learning, why do we NOT take the derivative of the loss function and equate it to zero to find the minimum loss and the corresponding weights?

- **Deep Learning**

- When should one typically **not** prefer deep learning models?
- What are manifolds and how are they related to deep learning?
- What is Batch Normalization?
- Weight Initialization (Xavier, Standard Normal etc)
- What happens if you initialize all weights to zero?
- Activation function
  - Softmax vs Sigmoid
  - In a Neural Network, why does one need to have an activation function?
  - How sigmoid activation ensures non-linear decision boundary ? ie. Explain UAT through activation function.
  - What if we don't use an activation function in NN?
  - Tan h, relu and leaky relu properties, usages and comparisons and the types of data they may be used with. [Link](#)
- Backpropagation & Regularization
  - Explain Back Propagation mathematically.
  - Why do gradient explode happen what are some regularization methods [Link](#)
  - Is Gradient clipping scalable ? If not, what are some effective ways?
  - What makes the concept of Drop out this significant?
  - Explain neuron co-dependence
  - Where should you use a Dropout layer in the dense layers ? In Top bunk or Bottom bunk ? Why there ?
- Universal Approximator
  - Implement boolean gates using MLP [Link](#)
  - How would you go about designing a neural network?
- CNN
  - What is the major difference between MLP and CNN models? OR Why did we move from MLP to CNNs? [Link](#)
  - Find the complexity of the CNN system?
  - What is the pooling layer?

- Dropout?
  - Talk about positional invariance?
  - What is stride? How does it affect the output features size?
- RNN
  - What activation function is generally used in RNNs and why?
  - How would different activation functions behave in RNNs? (Tanh vs sigmoid vs Relu vs Linear)
  - What kind of problems can RNN tackle which MLP fails to?
  - Backprop of RNN?
  - What is the utility of a bi-directional RNN?
- LSTMs
  - Explain LSTMs in layman terms
- **NLP**
  - Bag of words
  - N gram
  - Named entity recognition
  - Topic modelling?
    - LDA
    - Probabilistic topic models
  - Text representation- Tf-idf
    - Relation between IDF and entropy
  - Word2vec
    - Why do we use a linear activation function in the hidden layer?
    - Skipgram vs CBOW?
    - How is w2v better than tfidf?
  - How would you build a spell checker for chatbot?
  - <https://medium.com/modern-nlp/nlp-interview-questions-f062040f32f7>
  - [BERT](#)
- **Generative Models**
  - Autoencoder
  - Variational Autoencoder [Advanced]
  - GANs [Advanced]
    - Tell me a peculiar difference between a normal error function and a GANs' error function
- **SQL**
- **Programming**
  - Incoming stream of numbers, how would you split them, so that they go into different machines and then rejoin them back again?
- **Other Analytical Questions**
  - What is co-occurrence grouping?
  - What is profiling?
  - What is market basket analysis?
  - What is causal modelling?

- In which kinds of cases would you use data reduction techniques and how would it affect analysis
- **Random Questions**
  - What's the kernel trick?
  - Discriminative vs generative?
  - Difference between regression and classification?
  - Supervised learning vs unsupervised learning?
  - What is inductive learning?
  - What is deductive learning?
  - What is the violin plot and what does it show us?
  - What are the different methods of visualizing data?
  - What is a recommendation system?
  - How does collaborative filtering work?
  - Parametric vs Non- Parametric modelling? [advanced]
  - Transfer Learning [advanced]

#### Cases

- How would you go about profiling wait times of customers who call into a call center?
  - Sub question - how would your answer change if the distribution of wait times vs proportions of calls is not normal? How could you go about normalising it?
- How would you go about finding latent dimensions of a particular data?
- What are the different ways to recommend movies to people, think in terms of link prediction?
- How would you target customers for search advertising?
- How would you target customers for display advertising? How are your customers different from search advertising ones and what groups of customers do you have?
- A hurricane hit and a Walmart executive decided it's an opportunity. How would you use your data science skills to narrow down on the precise opportunity?

