

OPTIMAL CLASSIFIERS

Why

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Definition

Given two classifiers G_1 and G_2 and a dataset, we can associate to each its false positive and false negative rate on the dataset. For a finite dataset, these are two rational numbers. It is natural to prefer G_1 to G_2 if the former has a smaller false positive rate. Conversely, it is natural to prefer G_2 to G_1 if the former has a smaller false negative rate. Unfortunately, one may need to trade-off these two desiderata (see Combined Orders), since there is no total order.

¹Future editions will include.

