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Pruning Decision Trees - Quiz

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Question 1

1/1 point (graded)

When fitting a decision tree, which of the following constraints could be made? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ a. Restricting the upper bound of points per leaf
- ☒ b. Increasing the lower bound of observations per leaf (node)
- ☒ c. Restricting the total number of leafs (nodes) in tree
- ☐ d. Increasing the number of data points for which you are training your algorithm with.



Explanation

B,C. As mentioned by Professor Mullainathan, Increasing the lower bound of points per leaf prevents you from putting one or two points in every leaf and exactly overfitting. Restricting the number of leafs in at tree as well helps in creating too many splits and creating a model that only works in your sample. Restricting the upper bound of points per leaf if anything would encourage overfitting since it

Functions of Random Variable

- ▶ Module 5: Moments of a Random Variable, Applications to Auctions, & Intro to Regression
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would lead to more splits in a decision tree instead of allowing for generality in other datasets. Increasing the number of data points for which you are training with will not regularize your tree since your tree will then over fit again in the new data.

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You have used 1 of 2 attempts

✓ Correct (1/1 point)

Question 2

1/1 point (graded)

Suppose you are doing a predictive model using regressions. Which of the following could you do to avoid overfitting your data?


- ☒ a. Limit the number of variables allowed in the regression. ✓
- ☐ b. Increase the number of variables allowed in your regression.
- ☐ c. Limit the number of data points in your regression.
- ☐ d. Increase the number of data points in your regression.

Explanation


Models

- ▶ Module 10: Practical Issues in Running Regressions, and Omitted Variable Bias
- ▼ Module 11: Intro to Machine Learning and Data Visualization


Machine Learning I

Finger Exercises due Dec 12, 2016
05:00 IST 

Machine Learning II

Finger Exercises due Dec 12, 2016
05:00 IST 

Visualizing Data

Finger Exercises due Dec 12, 2016
05:00 IST 

- ▶ Module 12: Endogeneity, Instrumental Variables, and Experimental Design
- ▶ Exit Survey

Limiting the number of variables allowed in your regression is a way of restricting the complexity of your model. As Prof. Mullainathan explained this will impose a constraint on your maximizer, and therefore help avoid over fitting. Note, however, that restricting the complexity of your model will increase the bias of your estimator (recall the bias-variance tradeoff). Changing the number of data points in your regression will not affect the overfitting problem in your functions because they will just keep overfitting any new data you give them. As a side note, the second method is exactly what LASSO (least absolute shrinkage and selection operators) regressions do in order to increase the predictive ability of your coefficients.

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✓ Correct (1/1 point)

Question 3

1/1 point (graded)

True or False: The complexity of your model is something that you need to decide on ex ante.

☐ a. True

☒ b. False ✓

Explanation

As Prof. Mullainathan explained, the complexity of your model (C), is decided by your algorithm. In practice, you run your model with different levels of complexity, and you use a separate dataset to choose the level of complexity that maximizes the accuracy of your predictions.

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Discussion

Topic: Module 11 / Pruning Decision Trees - Quiz

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