Data scientists面试准备

Machine learning related questions

Statistics

Probability Question

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Business Questions

# Machine learning related questions

## Classification:

### Logistic regression

### Neural Net (classification/regression)

### SVM

### Decision tree

### Random forest

### Bayesian network

### Nearest neighbor classification

## Regression:

### Neural Net regression

### Linear regression

### Ridge regression

### Lasso regression

### Support Vector Regression

### Random forest regression

### Partial Least Squares

## Clustering:

### K-means

### EM

### Mean-shift

### Spectral clustering

### Hierarchical clustering

## Dimension Reduction:

### PCA

### ICA

### CCA

### LDA

### Isomap

### LLE

### Neural Network hidden layer

## SVM formulation. What is the decision boundary?

## Logistic regression. Write down the formula for logistic regression. How to determine the coefficients given the data?

## Regularization

## Cost function of neural network

## What is the difference between a generative and discriminative algorithm

## Relationship between kernel trick and dimension augmentation

## What is PCA projection and why it can be solved by SVD

## Bag of Words (BoW) feature

## Nonlinear dimension reduction (Isomap, LLE)

## Supervised methods for dimension reduction

## What is naive Bayes.

## What’s the formula for Naive Bayesian classifier? What’s the assumption in the formula? What kind of data is Naive Bayesian good at? What is not?

## Stochastic gradient / gradient descent

## Assumptions of simple linear regression

## Variance and Bias (a very popular question, watch Andrew’s class)

## Practices: When to collect more data / use more features / etc. (watch Andrew’s class)

## How to extract features of shoes

## What’s the difference between classification and regression?

## During linear regression, when using each attribute (dimension) independently to predict the target value, you get a positive weight for each attribute. However, when you combine all attributes to predict, you get some large negative weights, why? How to solve it?

## Cross Validation

## Reservoir sampling

## Explain the difference among decision tree, bagging and random forest

## What is collaborative filtering

## What is quantile regression

## How do you evaluate regression?

For example, in this particular case:

item click-through-rate predicted rate

1 0.04 0.06

2 0.68 0.78

3 0.27 0.19

4 0.52 0.57

How to evaluate classification result? What if the results are in probability mode? If I want to build a classifier, but the data is very unbalanced. I have a few positive samples but a lot of negative samples. What should I do?

# Statistics

## 44.3% vs 47.2% is it significant?

Need do t-test.

## Given a lot of data, I want to random sample 1% of them. How to do it efficiently?

## 1-sample proportion z-test

## Test equal variance among multiple groups

## What is the definition of odds? how to compute CI for odds?

## definition of standard error

## A/B testing, determine sample size. what will happen to p-value if sample sizes increase?

## hypothesis testing

# Probability Question

## Given a coin, how to pick 1 person from 3 persons with equal probability.

One person chooses HH, second person chooses TT, and third person chooses HT. If it is TH, start over again.

## How to compute the average of a data stream (very easy, different from moving average)

X = (X\*n+a)/(n+1) a: the new number X: average

## Given a coin you don’t know it’s fair or unfair. Throw it 6 times and get 1 tail and 5 head. Determine whether it’s fair or not. What’s your confidence value?

Probability = 6\*0.5^6 . It is very unlikely to be a fair coin

## A field with unknown number of rabbits. Catch 100 rabbits and put a label on each of them. A few days later, catch 300 rabbits and found 60 with labels. Estimate how many rabbits are there?

500

# Model Question

## Given Amazon data, how to predict which users are going to be top shoppers in this holiday season.

## Discuss how to predict the price of a hotel given data from previous years

## What is the real distribution of click-through rate of items? If you want to build a predictor/classifier for this data, how do you do it? How do you divide the data?

## You have a stream of data coming in, in the format as the following:

item\_id, views, clicks, time

1            100     10         2013-11-28

1            1000   350       2013-11-29

1            200     14         2013-11-30

2            127     13         2013-12-1

…

The same id are consecutive.

Click through rate = clicks / views.

On every day, I want to output the item id when its click through rate is larger than a given threshold.

For example, at day 1, item 1’s rate is 10/100=10%, day2, its (10+350)/(100+1000)=0.32. day3 it is (10+350+14)/(100+1000+200)=0.28.

If my threshold is 0.3, then at day 1, I don’t output. On day2 I output. Onday3, I don’t output.

## We want to add a new feature to our product. How to determine if people like it?

A/B testing. How to do A/B testing? How many ways? pros and cons?

## Design a function to calculate people’s interest to a place against the distance to the place.

## Given yelp data, how to find top 10 restaurants in America?

## Design a job search ranking algorithm on glassdoor

## How to identify review spam?

## How to predict the age of a person given everyone’s phone call

# Business Questions

## How to encourage people to write more reviews on Yelp? How to determine who are likely to write reviews? How to increase the registration rate of Yelp? What features to add for a better Yelp app? We are expanding to other countries. Which country we should enter first?

# Database & programming:

## We have a database of <product\_id, name, description, price>. When user inputs a product name, how to return results fast?

## If user gives a budget value, how to find the most expensive product under budget? Assume the data fits in memory. What data structure, or algorithm you use to find the product quickly? Write the program for it.

## Given a large file that we don’t know how many lines are there. It doesn’t fit into memory. We want to sample K lines from the file uniformly. Write a program for it.

## Write a function to compute sqrt(X)

## Write a function to compute pow(x, n)

## In a city where there are only vertical and horizontal streets. There are people on the cross point. These people want to meet. Please find a cross point to minimize the cost for all the people to move.

## Youtube has video play log like this:

Video ID, time

vid1        t1

vid2        t2

...           ...

The log is super large.

Find out the top 10 played videos on youtube in a given week.

## Write a program to copy a graph

Leetcode 原题

# GOOGLE:

1. Integral image . 其实就是生成一个2D矩阵，里面的每一个点

(i,j)都记录了从这个点到(0,0)所形成的矩形的元素之和。

2. 一条线段长度L，雨滴直径D，雨滴从不同位置等概率下降到线段上，模拟一下这个情况，求出多少雨滴可以把线段覆盖完全

3. 一个file里面有很多alarm，每个alarm有三个数值：起始时间、终止时间、优先度。把那些从没成为过最高优先度的alarm去除。

4. rotate array by k steps（leetcode），要最优解：reverse不能用

5. （1）俄罗斯方块，求出正在下落的物体和底部的最短距离。

（2）一幅图有一系列二围的点，判断此图是否对称

6. 一堆data, Bernoulli distribution, 40% = 1, 60% = 0, design test to see if 40% is significantly less than expected?

我说用chi-square, 因为是non-parametric, expected frequency = 0.5, 他又问chi-square的公式。

7. 另一堆data, 70% = 0， design a test to see if the two samples （和前面一道题的60%） are different, 我说用two sample t test, 这个对不？

8. 3 columns of data, two continuous variable, one boolean variable, design experiment to see relationship between response and variables

我说用linear regression, 他问要一步步怎么做要说清楚，我说先center and standardize continuous variable, 然后看boolean的frequency，是不是skewed.

还要要看有没有multicollinearity issue,和heteroskedasticity, 所有的assumption满足了才能做regression， 他又问有collinearity怎么办，不是perfect collinearity,我说用ridge regression.

8. additional links:

<http://www.datasciencecentral.com/profiles/blogs/66-job-interview-questions-for-data-scientists>

<http://alexbraunstein.com/2011/08/09/hire-data-scientist-statistician/>

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