Outline of Today

• Who we are?
  – Prof: Thorsten Joachims
  – TAs: Igor Labutov, Ian Lenz, Karthik Raman, Tobias Schnabel, Emma Kilfoyle
  – Consultants: Darren Voon, Ben Shulman, Wenhai Yang, Anthony Fu, Brook Du, Detian Shi, Steve Mandl

• What is learning?
  – Why should a computer be able to learn?
  – Examples of machine learning (ML).
  – What drives research in and use of ML today?

• Syllabus

• Administrivia
(One) Definition of Learning

• Definition [Mitchell]:

  A computer program is said to learn from
  • experience E with respect to some class of
  • tasks T and
  • performance measure P,

  if its performance at tasks in T, as measured by P, improves with experience E.
Syllabus

- Instance-Based Learning: k-nearest neighbor, collaborative filtering
- Decision Trees: TDIDT, attribute selection, pruning and overfitting
- Linear Rules: Perceptron, logistic regression, linear regression, duality
- Support Vector Machines: optimal hyperplane, margin, kernels, stability
- Generative Models: naïve Bayes, linear discriminant analysis
- Hidden Markov Models: probabilistic model, estimation, Viterbi
- Structured Output Prediction: predicting sequences, rankings, etc.
- Statistical Learning Theory: PAC learning, VC dimension, error bounds
- Online Learning: experts, bandits, online mistake bounds
- Clustering: HAC Clustering, k-means, mixture of Gaussians
- Recommendation: similarity-based methods, matrix factorization, etc.
- ML Experimentation: hypothesis tests, cross validation, resampling
Textbook and Course Material

• Main Textbooks
  – CS4780 Course Pack from Campus Store

• Additional References (optional)
  – See other references on course web page

• Course Notes
  – Writing on blackboard
  – Slides available on course homepage
  – Video of lecture available on course homepage
Pre-Requisites and Related Courses

• Pre-Requisites
  – Programming skills (e.g. CS 2110)
  – Basic linear algebra (e.g. MATH 2940)
  – Basic probability theory (e.g. CS 2800)
  → Short exam to test prereqs (via CMS)

• Related Courses
  – CS4700: Foundations of Artificial Intelligence
  – CS4758: Robot Learning
  – CS4300: Information Retrieval
  – CS4740: Natural Language Processing
  – CS6780: Advanced Machine Learning
  – CS6784: Advanced Topics in Machine Learning
  – CS6740: Advanced Language Technologies
  – CS6782: Probabilistic Graphical Models
Homework Assignments

• Assignments
  – 5 homework assignments
  – Some problem sets, some programming and experiments

• Policies
  – Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date in hardcopy. Code must be submitted via CMS by the same deadline.
  – Assignments turned in late will be charged a 1 percentage point reduction of the cumulated final homework grade for each period of 24 hours for which the assignment is late.
  – Everybody has 5 “free” late days. Use them wisely.
  – No assignments will be accepted after the solutions have been made available (typically 3-5 days after deadline).
  – Typically collaboration of two students (see each assignment for detailed collaboration policy).
  – We run automatic cheating detection. Must state all sources of material used in assignments or project. Please review Cornell Academic Integrity Policy!
Exams and Quizzes

• In-class Quizzes
  – A few per semester
  – No longer than 5 minutes

• Exams
  – Two Prelim exams
    • October 17 (week of fall break)
    • November 26 (week of thanksgiving break)
  – In class
  – No final exam
Final Project

• Organization
  – Self-defined topic related to your interests and research
  – Groups of 3-4 students
  – Each group has TA as advisor

• Deliverables
  – Project proposal (week after fall break)
  – Meetings with TA to discuss progress
  – Poster presentation (last week of classes)
  – Project report (December 11)
  – Peer review (December 18)
Grading

• Deliverables
  – 2 Prelim Exams (50% of Grade)
  – Final Project (15% of Grade)
  – Homeworks (~5 assignments) (25% of Grade)
  – Quizzes (in class) (5% of Grade)
  – PreReq Exam (2% of Grade)
  – Participation (3% of Grade)

• Outlier elimination
  – For homeworks and quizzes, the lowest grade is replaced by the second lowest grade.
How to Get in Touch

• Online
  – Course Homepage (slides, video, references, policies, office hours)
  – Piazza forum (questions and comments)
  – CMS (homeworks and grades)

• Email Addresses
  – Thorsten Joachims: tj@cs.cornell.edu
  – Igor Labutov: iil4@cornell.edu [homework and solutions]
  – Karthik Raman: kr339@cornell.edu [projects]
  – Tobias Schnabel: tbs49@cornell.edu [office hours, piazza, video]
  – Ian Lenz: inl3@cornell.edu [late submissions, CMS, regrades]

• Office Hours
  – Thorsten Joachims:
    • Thursdays 2:40pm – 4:00pm, 4153 Upson Hall
  – Other office hours:
    • See course homepage