CPSC 440: Advanced Machine Learning Structured Prediction Motivation

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Motivation: Structured Prediction

Classic supervised learning focuses on predicting single discrete/continuous label:



Output: "P"

Structured prediction allows general objects as labels:



Output: "Paris"

"Classic" ML for Structured Prediction



Output: "Paris"

Two ways to formulate as "classic" machine learning:

- **1** Treat each word as a different class label.
 - Problem: there are too many possible words (huge numbers "coupons" to collect).
 - You will never recognize new words.
- Predict each letter individually:
 - Works if you are really good at predicting individual letters.
 - But some tasks don't have a natural decomposition.
 - Ignores dependencies between letters.

Motivation: Structured Prediction

• What letter is this?



• What are these letters?

Vancouver

• Predict each letter using "classic" ML and features from neighbouring images?

- Can be good or bad depending on goal:
 - Good if you want to predict individual letters.
 - Bad if goal is to predict entire word.

Examples of Structured Prediction





Examples of Structured Prediction



Examples of Structured Prediction



Does the brain do structured prediction?

DO YUO FNID TIHS SMILPE TO RAED?

Bceuase of the phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mind, msot plepoe do. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr what oerdr the ltteres are in. The olnv iproamtnt thing is that the frsit and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Takl abuot cool.

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/jumbled-words-letters-puzzle-cambridge-a6889811.html

Does the brain do structured prediction?

Gestalt effect: "whole is other than the sum of the parts".





What do you see? By shifting perspective you might see an old woman or a young woman.

Summary

- "How much data do you need" question.
- Stochastic gradient descent on the training error or test error (with one pass).
- O(1/n) error rate when you have n training examples.
- Structured prediction: supervised learning with complicated "labels".
- Next time: everyone's favourite distributions...