

*Problem 1: No Free Lunch Theorem*

1. For a particular algorithm  $h$  and a given training set  $D$ , the expected error over all two-category problems can be represented as:

$$\epsilon[E|D, h] = \sum_F \sum_{x \notin D} P(x)[1 - \delta(F(x), h(x))]P(F|D)$$

where we suppose there are two categories  $\omega_1, \omega_2$ , if the majority in the dataset  $D$  is  $\omega_1$ , we will have  $h(x) = \omega_1$  for all  $x$ , thus,  $1 - \delta(F(x), h(x)) = 1$  iff  $F(x) = \omega_2$ . Therefore:

$$\epsilon[E|D, h] = \sum_F \sum_{x \notin D} P(x)P(F(x) = \omega_2|D)$$

Since we have no prior knowledge concerning  $P(F|D)$ ,  $\sum_F P(F(x) = \omega_2|D) = 0.5$ , thus we will have

$$\epsilon[E|D, h] = \sum_F \sum_{x \notin D} P(x)P(F(x) = \omega_2) = \sum_{x \notin D} P(x) \sum_F P(F(x) = \omega_2|D) = 0.5$$

Similarly, if the majority in  $D$  is  $\omega_2$ , we can still prove that  $\epsilon[E|D, h] = 0.5$ . Therefore, the averaged over all two-category problems of a given number of features, the off-training set error is 0.5.

2. Similar to the previous step, if the majority in the dataset  $D$  is  $\omega_2$ , we will have  $h(x) = \omega_1$  for all  $x$ , thus,  $1 - \delta(F(x), h(x)) = 1$  iff  $F(x) = \omega_2$ . Therefore:

$$\epsilon[E|D, h] = \sum_F \sum_{x \notin D} P(x)P(F(x) = \omega_2|D)$$

Since we have no prior knowledge of  $P(F|D)$ ,  $\sum_F P(F(x) = \omega_2|D) = 0.5$ , thus we will have

$$\epsilon[E|D, h] = \sum_F \sum_{x \notin D} P(x)P(F(x) = \omega_2) = \sum_{x \notin D} P(x) \sum_F P(F(x) = \omega_2|D) = 0.5$$

Similarly, if the majority in  $D$  is  $\omega_1$ , we can still prove that  $\epsilon[E|D, h] = 0.5$ . Therefore, the averaged over all two-category problems of a given number of features, the off-training set error is 0.5.

3. For any fixed training set  $D$ , both the majority learning algorithm and the minority learning algorithm have the same average off-training set error as 0.5, which is the same as random guess. For any given learning algorithm, the result can be regarded as a combination of these two algorithms: for some test data, the output is the same as the majority algorithm, while for others, the output is the same as the minority algorithm. If  $F$  is uniformly distributed, this illustrated the part 2 of the No Free Lunch Theorem: For any fixed training set  $D$ , uniformly averaged over  $F$ ,  $\epsilon_1(E|F, D) - \epsilon_2(E|F, D) = 0$ .