

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CIS 520: Machine Learning  
Sample Midterm, based on clicker questions

**Exam policy:** This exam allows one one-page, two-sided cheat sheet; No other materials.

**Time: 80 minutes.** Be sure to write your name and Penn student ID (the 8 bigger digits on your ID card) on the scantron form and fill in the associated bubbles *in pencil*.

If you think a question is ambiguous, mark what you think is the best answer. As always, we will consider written regrade requests if your interpretation of a question differed from what we intended. *We will only grade the scantron forms*

*For the “TRUE or FALSE” questions, note that “TRUE” is (a) and “FALSE” is (b). For the multiple choice questions, select exactly one answer.*

**these are the clicker questions from class, which are typical of the midterm you will get**

1. [0 points] This is version **A** of the exam. Please fill in the “bubble” for that letter.  
,
2. [2 points] If an event is certain, the entropy is
  - (a) 0
  - (b) between 0 and  $1/2$
  - (c)  $1/2$
  - (d) between  $1/2$  and 1
  - (e) 1

★ SOLUTION: A

3. [2 points] If two events are equally likely, the entropy is
  - (a) 0
  - (b) between 0 and  $1/2$
  - (c)  $1/2$
  - (d) between  $1/2$  and 1
  - (e) 1

★ SOLUTION: E

4. [2 points] Linear regression is
  - (a) Parametric
  - (b) Non-parametric

★ SOLUTION: A

5. [2 points] K-NN is
  - (a) Parametric
  - (b) Non-parametric

★ SOLUTION: B

6. [2 points] When, if ever does  $E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$
- (a) All the time?
  - (b) Only when X and Y are independent?
  - (c) It can fail even if X and Y are independent?

★ SOLUTION: A

7. [2 points] 1-nearest neighbors is a consistent estimation algorithm.
- (a) True
  - (b) False

★ SOLUTION: A

8. [2 points] Which is usually unbiased
- (a) MLE
  - (b) MAP

★ SOLUTION: A

9. [2 points] The conjugate prior to a Bernoulli is
- (a) Bernoulli
  - (b) Gaussian
  - (c) Beta
  - (d) none of the above

★ SOLUTION: C

10. [2 points] The conjugate prior to a Gaussian is

- (a) Bernoulli
- (b) Gaussian
- (c) Beta
- (d) none of the above

★ SOLUTION: B

11. [2 points] KL Divergence is a metric (distance)

- (a) True
- (b) False

★ SOLUTION: F

12. [2 points] KL divergence can be used in k-nn instead of a distance

- (a) True
- (b) False

★ SOLUTION: A

13. [2 points] If you are dividing up a data set that someone gives you into a training and test set

- (a) It is better to randomly select the observations into the two subsets
- (b) It is better to divide the data so that the first half is the training set and the second half is the testing set
- (c) It is unlikely to matter which one you do
- (d) It depends upon what sort of data and what you're doing with it

★ SOLUTION: D

14. [2 points] Ordinary least squares (OLS) and logistic regression are MLE estimators that minimize
- (a) bias
  - (b) variance
  - (c) bias + variance

★ SOLUTION: A

15. [2 points] Ridge regression is an MAP estimator that minimizes
- (a) bias
  - (b) variance
  - (c) bias + variance

★ SOLUTION: C

16. [2 points] Minimizing the first term in  $|y - w.x|_2^2 + \lambda|w|_2^2$ , reduces
- (a) bias
  - (b) variance
  - (c) neither

★ SOLUTION: A

17. [2 points] Minimizing the second term in  $|y - w.x|_2^2 + \lambda|w|_2^2$ , which can be viewed as the amount that the test error is expected to be bigger than the training error reduces
- (a) bias
  - (b) variance
  - (c) neither

★ SOLUTION: B

18. [2 points] Which norm most heavily shrinks large weights?

- (a)  $L_0$
- (b)  $L_1$
- (c)  $L_2$

★ SOLUTION: C

19. [2 points] Which norm, when used as a penalty for linear regression, most strongly encourages weights to be set to zero?

- (a)  $L_0$
- (b)  $L_1$
- (c)  $L_2$

★ SOLUTION: A

20. [2 points] Which norm, when used as a penalty for linear regression, is scale invariant?

- (a)  $L_0$
- (b)  $L_1$
- (c)  $L_2$

★ SOLUTION: A

21. [2 points] Which norm, when used as a penalty for linear regression, is called “LASSO”

- (a)  $L_0$
- (b)  $L_1$
- (c)  $L_2$

★ SOLUTION: B

22. [2 points] Which norm, when used as a penalty for linear regression, does **not** lead to convex optimization problems?

- (a)  $L_0$
- (b)  $L_1$
- (c)  $L_2$

★ SOLUTION: A

23. [2 points] Ridge regression (Tikhonov regularization) minimizes  $Err + \lambda|w|_2^2$ . Is Err here

- (a)  $\sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$
- (b)  $(1/n) \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$
- (c)  $\text{sqr}t((1/n) \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2)$
- (d)  $\text{sqr}t(\sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2)$

★ SOLUTION: A

24. [2 points] Elastic net regularization minimizes  $Err + \lambda_1|w|_1 + \lambda_2|w|_2^2$

- (a) True
- (b) False

★ SOLUTION: A

25. [2 points] Will  $Err + \lambda_1|w|_1 + \lambda_2|w|_2^2$  sometimes zero out some features?

- (a) yes
- (b) no

★ SOLUTION: A

26. [2 points] AIC, BIC and RIC Minimize  $Err/2\sigma + \lambda|w|_0$  Is this error

- (a)  $\sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$
- (b)  $(1/n) \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$
- (c)  $\text{sqr}t((1/n) \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2)$
- (d)  $\text{sqr}t(\sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2)$

★ SOLUTION: A

27. [2 points] Which penalty should you use if you expect 10 out of 100,000 features,  $n = 100$

- (a) *AIC*
- (b) *BIC*
- (c) *RIC*

★ SOLUTION: C

28. [2 points] Which penalty should you use if you expect 200 out of 1,000 features,  $n = 1,000,000$

- (a) *AIC*
- (b) *BIC*
- (c) *RIC*

★ SOLUTION: B

29. [2 points] Which penalty should you use if you expect 500 out of 1,000 features,  $n = 1,000$

- (a) *AIC*
- (b) *BIC*
- (c) *RIC*



★ SOLUTION: A

30. [2 points] You think maybe 10 out of 100,000 features will be significant. Use

- (a)  $L_2$  with CV
- (b)  $L_1$  with CV
- (c)  $L_0$  with AIC
- (d)  $L_0$  with BIC
- (e)  $L_0$  with RIC

★ SOLUTION: EB

31. [2 points] You think maybe 500 out of 1,000 features will be significant. Do not use

- (a)  $L_2$  with CV
- (b)  $L_1$  with CV
- (c)  $L_0$  with AIC
- (d)  $L_0$  with BIC
- (e)  $L_0$  with RIC

★ SOLUTION: E

32. [2 points] Which estimator is consistent?

- (a) AIC
- (b) BIC
- (c) RIC
- (d) none of them
- (e) all of the above

★ SOLUTION: B

33. [2 points] Does LOOCV systematically ----- test error

- (a) Overestimate
- (b) Underestimate
- (c) sometimes overestimate and sometimes underestimate

★ SOLUTION: C