

Machine Learning (機器學習)

Lecture 09: Wisdom on Using Machine Learning

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Roadmap

- ① When Can Machines Learn?
- ② Why Can Machines Learn?
- ③ How Can Machines Learn?
- ④ How Can Machines Learn **Better?**

Lecture 09: Wisdom on Using Machine Learning

- Occam's Razor
- Sampling Bias
- Data Snooping
- Power of Three

Occam's Razor

An explanation of the data should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.—Albert Einstein? (1879-1955)

entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem
(entities must not be multiplied **beyond necessity**)
—William of Occam (1287-1347)

‘Occam’s razor’ for trimming down unnecessary explanation

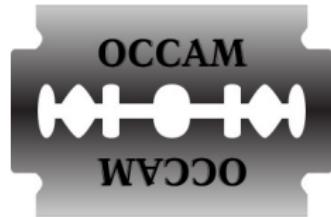
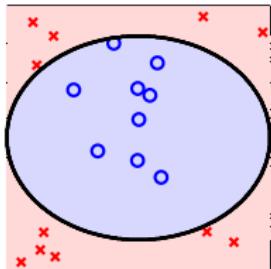


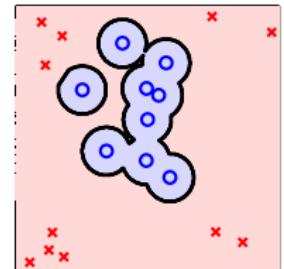
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Occam's Razor for Learning

The simplest model that fits the data is also the most plausible.



which one do you prefer? :-)



two questions:

- ① What does it mean for a model to be simple?
- ② How do we know that simpler is better?

Simple Model

simple hypothesis h

- small $\Omega(h)$ = ‘looks’ simple
- specified by **few parameters**

simple model \mathcal{H}

- small $\Omega(\mathcal{H})$ = not many
- contains **small number of hypotheses**

connection

h specified by ℓ bits $\Leftarrow |\mathcal{H}|$ of size 2^ℓ

small $\Omega(h) \Leftarrow$ small $\Omega(\mathcal{H})$

simple: **small hypothesis/model complexity**

Simple is Better

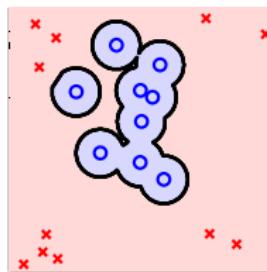
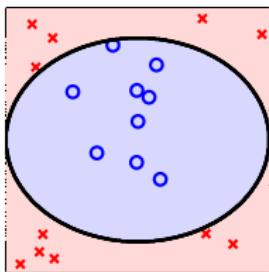
in addition to **math proof** that you have seen, philosophically:

simple \mathcal{H}

\Rightarrow smaller $m_{\mathcal{H}}(N)$

\Rightarrow less 'likely' to fit data perfectly $\frac{m_{\mathcal{H}}(N)}{2^N}$

\Rightarrow more significant when fit happens



direct action: **linear first**;
always ask whether **data over-modeled**

Questions?

Presidential Story

- 1948 US President election: Truman versus Dewey
- a newspaper phone-poll of how people **voted**,
and set the title '**Dewey Defeats Truman**' based on polling



who is this? :-)

The Big Smile Came from ...



Truman, and **yes he won**

suspect of the mistake:

- editorial bug?—**no**
- bad luck of polling (δ)?—**no**

hint: phones were **expensive :-)**

Sampling Bias

If the data is sampled in a biased way, learning will produce a similarly biased outcome.

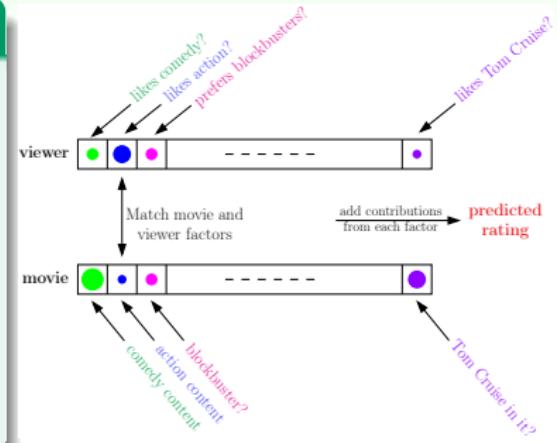
- technical explanation:
data from $P_1(\mathbf{x}, y)$ but test under $P_2 \neq P_1$: **VC fails**
- philosophical explanation:
study **Math** hard but test **English**: **no strong test guarantee**

‘minor’ VC assumption:
data and testing **both iid from P**

Sampling Bias in Learning

A True Personal Story

- Netflix competition for movie recommender system:
10% improvement = 1M US dollars
- formed \mathcal{D}_{val} ,
in my **first shot**,
 $E_{\text{val}}(g)$ showed **13% improvement**
- **why am I still teaching here? :-)**



validation: **random examples** within \mathcal{D} ;
test: '**last**' user records '**after**' \mathcal{D}

Dealing with Sampling Bias

If the data is sampled in a biased way, learning will produce a similarly biased outcome.

- practical rule of thumb:
match test scenario as much as possible
- e.g. if test: 'last' user records 'after' \mathcal{D}
 - training: emphasize later examples (KDDCup 2011)
 - validation: use 'late' user records

experience: hard to **avoid** sampling bias,
but can **systematically correct some**

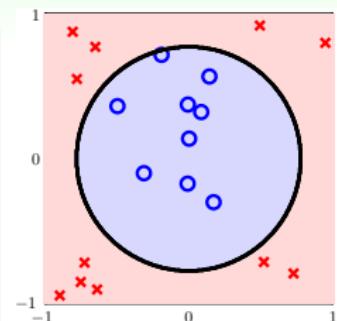
Questions?

Visual Data Snooping

Visualize $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^2$

- full Φ_2 : $\mathbf{z} = (1, x_1, x_2, x_1^2, x_1x_2, x_2^2)$, $d_{VC} = 6$
- or $\mathbf{z} = (1, x_1^2, x_2^2)$, $d_{VC} = 3$, **after visualizing?**
- or better $\mathbf{z} = (1, x_1^2 + x_2^2)$, $d_{VC} = 2$?
- or even better $\mathbf{z} = (\text{sign}(0.6 - x_1^2 - x_2^2))$?

—careful about **your brain's 'model complexity'**

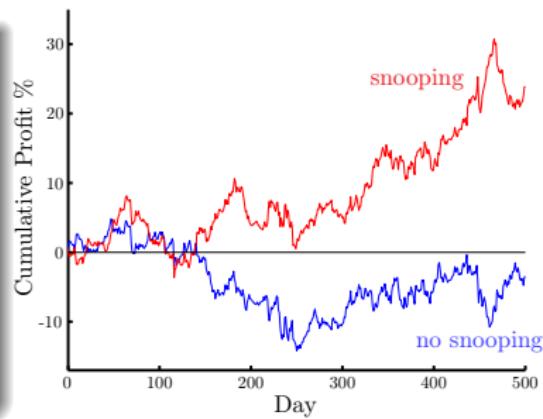


for VC-safety, Φ shall be
decided **without 'snooping'** data

Data Snooping by Mere Shifting-Scaling

If a data set has affected any step in the learning process, its ability to assess the outcome has been compromised.

- 8 years of currency trading data
- first 6 years for **training**, last two 2 years for **testing**
- x = previous 20 days, y = 21th day
- **snooping** versus **no snooping**: superior profit possible



- **snooping**: shift-scale all values by **training + testing**
- **no snooping**: shift-scale all values by **training** only

Data Snooping by Data Reusing

Research Scenario

benchmark data \mathcal{D}

- paper 1: propose \mathcal{H}_1 that works well on \mathcal{D}
- paper 2: find room for improvement, propose \mathcal{H}_2
—and **publish only if better** than \mathcal{H}_1 on \mathcal{D}
- paper 3: find room for improvement, propose \mathcal{H}_3
—and **publish only if better** than \mathcal{H}_2 on \mathcal{D}
- ...

- if all papers from the same author in **one big paper**:
bad generalization due to $d_{VC}(\cup_m \mathcal{H}_m)$
- step-wise: later author **snooped** data by reading earlier papers,
bad generalization worsen by **publish only if better**

if you torture the data long enough, it will confess :-)

Dealing with Data Snooping

- truth—**very hard to avoid**, unless being extremely honest
 - extremely honest: **lock your test data in safe**
 - less honest: **reserve validation and use cautiously**
-
- be blind: avoid **making modeling decision by data**
 - be suspicious: interpret research results (including your own) by proper **feeling of contamination**

one secret to winning KDDCups:

careful balance between
data-driven modeling (snooping) and
validation (no-snooping)

Questions?

Three Related Fields

Power of Three

Data Mining

- use **(huge)** data to **find property** that is interesting
- difficult to distinguish ML and DM in reality

Artificial Intelligence

- compute something that shows **intelligent behavior**
- ML is one possible route to realize AI

Statistics

- use data to **make inference** about an unknown process
- statistics contains many useful tools for ML

Three Theoretical Bounds

Power of Three

Hoeffding

$$\begin{aligned} P[\text{BAD}] \\ \leq 2 \exp(-2\epsilon^2 N) \end{aligned}$$

- one hypothesis
- useful for **verifying/testing**

Multi-Bin Hoeffding

$$\begin{aligned} P[\text{BAD}] \\ \leq 2M \exp(-2\epsilon^2 N) \end{aligned}$$

- M hypotheses
- useful for **validation**

VC

$$\begin{aligned} P[\text{BAD}] \\ \leq 4m_{\mathcal{H}}(2N) \exp(\dots) \end{aligned}$$

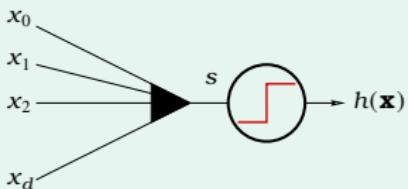
- all \mathcal{H}
- useful for **training**

Three Linear Models

Power of Three

PLA

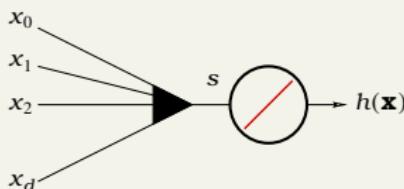
$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \text{sign}(s)$$



plausible err = 0/1
 (small flipping noise)
 minimize **specially**

linear regression

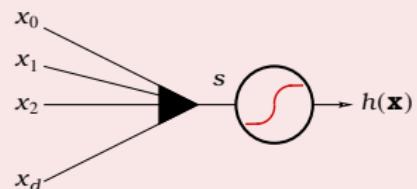
$$h(\mathbf{x}) = s$$



friendly err = squared
 (easy to minimize)
 minimize **analytically**

logistic regression

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \theta(s)$$



plausible err = CE
 (maximum likelihood)
 minimize **iteratively**

Three Key Tools

Power of Three

Feature Transform

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{w}) &\rightarrow E_{\text{in}}(\tilde{\mathbf{w}}) \\ d_{\text{VC}}(\mathcal{H}) &\rightarrow d_{\text{VC}}(\mathcal{H}_\Phi) \end{aligned}$$

- by using **more complicated Φ**
- **lower E_{in}**
- higher d_{VC}

Regularization

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{w}) &\rightarrow E_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{w}_{\text{REG}}) \\ d_{\text{VC}}(\mathcal{H}) &\rightarrow d_{\text{EFF}}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{A}) \end{aligned}$$

- by augmenting **regularizer Ω**
- **lower d_{EFF}**
- higher E_{in}

Validation

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{in}}(h) &\rightarrow E_{\text{val}}(h) \\ \mathcal{H} &\rightarrow \{g_1^-, \dots, g_M^-\} \end{aligned}$$

- by reserving K examples as \mathcal{D}_{val}
- **fewer choices**
- fewer examples

Three Learning Principles

Power of Three

Occam's Razer

simple is good

Sampling Bias

class matches exam

Data Snooping

honesty is best policy

Questions?

Summary

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- ④ How Can Machines Learn **Better?**

Lecture 09: Wisdom on Using Machine Learning

- Occam's Razor
simple, simple, simple!
- Sampling Bias
match test scenario as much as possible
- Data Snooping
any use of data is 'contamination'
- Power of Three
relatives, bounds, models, tools, principles