Love this question!

Let's restrict the "game" of Numerai to maximizing NMR return on the classic tourney (I don't do signals so can't speak to that one, and I don't want to consider the separate "game" of maximizing fiat returns on our hard-earned NMR).

The normal game of course is to build the best model(s) you can. What's the metagame? Aka, what things can you do outside the normal structure that will up your return?

The first thing I think of relates to the flow of model-building information readily available in chat/forum.

One reactive metagame idea is to read what everyone else is doing, then deliberately move in a different direction in order to maximize your mmc relative to them.

Whenever I see a post, for example, that says "these are the features that my analysis determined were the best" I immediately assume that some large percentage of participants will just adopt those things into their models, no questions asked, thus nudging the metamodel in that specific direction. I of course try to learn from the posts - some amazing strategies come up every now and then - but I try to give them my own secret sauce rather than just using them verbatim.

A related proactive idea is to post some amazing model-building tech/research to the chat/forum… and then move in the opposite direction for the same reasons as above. AKA: get everyone to use these a certain set of features or eras or whatever and then do something deliberately different.

One more metagaming idea is to try and reverse engineer the dataset to try and find things to exploit in order to maximize corr or mmc. I'm sure everyone has pondered this at some point and I've learned a few things myself from trying to find patterns, but nothing that I'd consider actionable/advantageous.

Very curious to hear other ideas!

prc