Homework 5 of Machine Learning

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1. Overfitting has many faces.

During the machine learning process, overfitting often occurs. Different learning methods applied to the same data can result in different reactions in terms of bias and variance. Therefore, using a powerful learner may not necessarily be the best solution. Hence, moderate reduction of overfitting can be achieved through techniques such as cross-validation, regularization, and significance testing.

2. Feature engineering is the key.

Feature engineering requires a significant amount of effort because the process of collecting, organizing, cleaning, and preprocessing data is time-consuming and involves continuous trial and error. Additionally, this task involves domain knowledge. Therefore, finding suitable features for prediction in a large amount of data, while avoiding overfitting or underfitting, is a challenging endeavor.

3. More data beats a clever algorithm.

If the classifier is not accurate enough, one can address this issue by designing better algorithms or collecting more data. However, collecting more data is often a preferable approach because more complex classifiers may be more time-consuming to operate and challenging to adapt to different situations. Therefore, simpler classifiers continue to be widely used to date.