Homework 1 Questions

Question 1: You are asked to train a classifier to predict the probability that a patient has cancer, given his cellular images. Which classifier are you most likely to use?

a. kNN

b. SVM

c. GNB

Question 2: Let there be 900 images without cancer and 100 with cancer in the previous example. A given classifier achieves 85% accuracy on the training set. Is this a good classifier?

a. Yes

b. No

Question 3: Which of these classifiers will be the least likely to classify the following data points correctly?

a. kNN

b. SVM

c. GNB



Model selection and evaluation of results

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Some figures derived from slides by Alona Fyshe

How can ML help neuroscientists?

Deal with large number of sensors/recording sites





- investigate high-dimensional representations
 - □ classification (what does this high-dimensional data represent?)
 - regression (how does it represent it? can we predict a different representation?)
 - model selection (what model would best describe this high dimensional data?)

How can ML help neuroscientists?

Evaluate results

nearly assumption-free significance testing (are the results significantly different from chance?)



Today: model selection and evaluation

Model selection

- overfitting
- cross validation
- □ feature selection
- regularization

Evaluation of results

- significance testing
 - permutation test
 - □ multiple comparison corrections

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underfitting is generally easier to detect than overfitting because it performs poorly on the training set

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 - Demo -> split iris data set in half; train on half of the data, test on same half. Then, test on other half, compare accuracy
 - Yes! But we just can't evaluate how much overfitting there is if we test on the training set.
 Ignorance is not bliss.

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 - the more complex a model is, the more likely it is to suffer from overfitting

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Step 3: repeat step 2 with a different split

train validation

> Step 4: average errors from all cross-validation folds = cross-validation (CV)

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- □ Note that we never used the final test set in the model selection stage!

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demo!

Cross-validation takeaways

CV can be used to select the most generalizable model

Cross-validation takeaways

- CV can be used to select the most generalizable model
- There is a trade-off between speed and accuracy in splitting the training data into validation and CV training sets

Ways to prevent overfitting

- Select the model that performs best on a third data set that is distinct from the training and testing data sets
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Feature selection as a way to reduce overfitting in complex models

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- □ So we can remove some irrelevant features!

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Feature selection takeaways

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- □ Mutual information is one way to select informative features

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 - U What happens if λ is negative? Now, we're not penalizing, but rewarding large elements of W $=^{74}$

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 - Con: reduced interpretability because all features have weights

Regularization takeaways

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How can ML help neuroscientists?

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ML offers a test statistic that does not make assumptions about the data distribution

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Evaluating significance: example

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- Run a classifier, obtain 80% accuracy
- □ What is the null hypothesis? No difference between the representations





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- Shuffle (permute) the order of the labels in the data set, while keeping the order of the data instances the same => recalculate results





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the unpermuted accuracy is 80%
let us run 500 permutations
5 permutations above 80%
p-value = 5/500 = 0.01

How many permutations should we run?

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 - □ but computation can be parallelized!

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- But if we're using α = 0.05, there is a 5% chance of incorrectly rejecting the null hypothesis, so what happens when we test multiple hypotheses?

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 - **G** first test equivalent to Bonferroni correction, others slightly less stringent

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- The most common multiple comparison correction is FDR, and there are many types of FDR procedures
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- Permutation test is one significance test that does not make assumptions about the data distribution
- When we wish to evaluate several hypotheses, we must correct for the multiple comparison in order to control the rate of incorrectly rejecting the null hypothesis

Next time: dimensionality reduction & clustering

Deal with large number of sensors/recording sites





- □ investigate high-dimensional representations
 - □ classification (what does this high-dimensional data represent?)
 - regression (how does it represent it? can we predict a different representation?)
 - model selection (what model would best describe this high dimensional data?)
- uncover few underlying processes that interact in complex ways
 - dimensionality reduction techniques