Science Ex Machina: Extracting Science from Data Using Statistical Models



NIST Isotope Metrology Webinar Series

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Credit Where Credit Is Due



https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course/production-ml-systems



Why Can't I Just Use Excel?

Autocorrect errors in Excel still creating genomics headache

Despite geneticists being warned about spreadsheet problems, 30% of published papers contain mangled gene names in supplementary data.

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3	APR-3	35887	3-Apr	OCT-3	36070	3-Oct		SEP4	36041	4-Sep
4	APR-4	35888	4-Apr	OCT-4	36071	4-Oct		SEP5	36042	5-Sep
5	APR-5	35889	5-Apr	OCT-6	36073	6-Oct		SEP6	36043	6-Sep
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10	MAR1	35854	1-Mar	OCT4	36071	4-Oct		SEPT5	36042	5-Sep
11	MAR2	35855	2-Mar	OCT6	36073	6-Oct		SEPT6	36043	6-Sep
12	MAR3	35856	3-Mar	OCT7	36074	7-Oct		SEPT7	36044	7-Sep
13	NOV1	36099	1-Nov	SEP-1	36038	1-Sep		SEPT8	36045	8-Sep
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https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-5-80

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A GROWING PROBLEM

A 2016 analysis found that 20% of papers featuring gene names had errors created by spreadsheet autocorrect functions, but a bigger survey now finds the proportion is up to 30%. Since 2014, the number of papers with errors has increased significantly.



https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02211-4





The Problems with Blind Modeling



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https://christophm.github.io/interpretable-ml-book/agnostic.html

Our Approach

1. Collection



2. Analysis



3. (Feature-based) Explanations

INTRODUCTION





Tools Should Be Simple to Use





INTRODUCTION Coding to a Standard API N > 10 **(**N > 100) **Conventional Chemometrics Topological Methods** "Machine Learning"/AI Often linear dimensionality reduction "Non-linear dimensionality reduction" "Scores" $\longrightarrow X = TP^T + E$ "Embedding" $\longrightarrow T = f(X)$ e.g., Isomap, LLE, t-SNE, UMAP, PaCMAP e.g., PCA, PCR, PLS(-DA), SIMCA Only **global** properties considered **Local** properties now considered e.g., VAE, Deep NN, pyOD

Data Requirements	
Explainability	
Predictive Power	



ANALYSIS TOOLS

Meaningful Representations and Explanations







ANALYSIS TOOLS

A Multitude of Models and Explanations

A "**Rashomon set**" is an ensemble of almost equally high performing models.

• Can be **very different** black boxes with a different perspective or explanation of the same event or observation.

Which one(s), if any, is "correct"?

Large RS often appear when you have more information/measurements than you need.

• Large databases

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Correlated measurements

Under weak assumptions, a large RS must contain a simple (interpretable?) model.



Our Community Resource in Development

Python-based Chemometric Authentication

Pre-commit enabled code style black imports isort Python application passing DOI 10.5281/zenodo.7255251
This is a toolkit to perform chemometric analysis, though it is primarily focused on authentication. These methods are designed to follow scikit-learn's estimator API so that they can be deployed in pipelines used with GridSearchCV, etc. and are compatible with workflows involving other modern machine learning (ML) tools.
Wikipedia defines chemometrics as "the science of extracting information from chemical systems by data-driven means." Unlike other areas of science, technology and engineering, many chemical systems remain difficult to collect measurements on making data more scarce than in other arenas. As a result, conventional statistical methods remain the predominant tool with which chemometric analysis is performed. As instruments improve, databases are developed, and advanced algorithms become less data-intensive it is clear that modern machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) methods will be brought to bear on these problems. A consistent API enables many different models to be easily deployed and compared.

https://pychemauth.readthedocs.io/en/latest/ In 4th beta release

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ANALYSIS TOOLS







ANALYSIS TOOLS

Fundamentally Different Types of Models



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Interpretable Models of Pacific Seabirds





Mahynski et al., Env. Sci. & Tech. 56 (2022).





Material Authentication using PGAA

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Mahynski et al., J. Radioanl and Nucl. Chem. 332 (2023).

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Determining the Authenticity of Slovenian Strawberries





Which Model is More Useful?



Lundberg & Lee, NIPS (2017).

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Looking into the Future

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Standardized APIs enable many pipelines or models ("black boxes") to be easily compared.

- Enables continuous improvement of models and pipelines
- Ensures long-term interoperability as new models and techniques are developed
- Enables best-practices to be routinely evaluated
- Relies on continuous development of FAIR data(bases)

Chemical Informatics Group @NIST https://www.nist.gov/mml/csd/chemical-informatics-group

CONCLUSIONS







