Evaluation and comparison of set-valued estimators: empirical and structural aspects



Evaluation

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Evaluation in an empirical sense:



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is able to solve the problem at hand:



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Properties in a structural sense:

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Properties in a structural sense: has to have a similar structure like truth.

Trueness



Trueness "nearly" true:



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• true only with a certain probability



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 - true in a fuzzy sense

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informativeness:

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informativeness: Statements/predictions have to be non-tautological.

How to formalize?





• fixed informativeness:



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- fixed trueness (e.g. covering probability): find estimator with fixed covering-probability and best informativeness compared to other estimators with the same covering probability.
- "mixtures" of the first and the second approach?

Often there is no best estimator, only undominated estimators



second approach:



second approach: how to measure informativeness?



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Which estimate is more informative?

maybe no one, but in practice we are forced to choose one estimator. one possible (naive) answer: the estimate with the lowest area (if this exists) or the estimator with the lower expected area (independent from the true parameter) respectively. Problem with the area



Problem with the area

• no good interpretation (especially with more than one covariate)



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- no good interpretation (especially with more than one covariate)
- not invariant under nonlinear transformations of the covariates



Another way of measuring the informativeness:



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• first problem:

• first problem: loss-function



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- second problem:

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- second problem: for which covariates the prediction is evaluated?

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• also not invariant under nonlinear transformations of the dependend variable

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idea:

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idea: an estimator, as an "approximation of the truth" should have a "similar structure like the truth". simple example:

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Structural Properties

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Most location parameters (e.g. median, linearly weighted mean, winsorized mean, Hodges-Lehmann-estimator) also meet the properties a') till d).



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Generalization to set-valued location estimators:



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Generalization to set-domained, set-valued location estimators



Generalization to set-domained, set-valued location estimators $e:2^{\mathbb{R}^n}\longrightarrow 2^{\mathbb{R}^n}$

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c) idempotence:

Evaluation and comparison of imprecise methods and models

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c) idempotence: e(e(X)) = X

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$$\{x\} \subseteq \bigcup_{x \in X} \{x\} = X$$

$$\implies e(\{x\}) \subseteq e(X)$$

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- b) (elementwise) monotone: $x \le y \Longrightarrow \underline{e}(\{x\}) \le \underline{e}(\{y\}) \& \overline{e}(\{x\}) \le \overline{e}(\{y\})$
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$$\Rightarrow e \text{ could not be undominated on } \binom{D}{1}.$$

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Applicability to fuzzy-set-estimation:



Applicability to fuzzy-set-estimation: A fuzzy set defined by its membership-function



Applicability to fuzzy-set-estimation: A fuzzy set defined by its membership-function $\mu_A: D \longrightarrow [0, 1]$

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$$e'(A): [0,1] \longrightarrow 2^P : \alpha \mapsto e(A_{\alpha}).$$

Observation: all α -cuts of a fuzzy set are building a chain with respect to the set-inclusion



Evaluation and comparison of imprecise methods and models

Observation: all α -cuts of a fuzzy set are building a chain with respect to the set-inclusion $A_{\alpha_1} \subseteq A_{\alpha_2}$ or $A_{\alpha_1} \supseteq A_{\alpha_2}$.

Observation: all α -cuts of a fuzzy set are building a chain with respect to the set-inclusion $A_{\alpha_1} \subseteq A_{\alpha_2}$ or $A_{\alpha_1} \supseteq A_{\alpha_2}$. So if the estimator is not set-monotone, the constructed fuzzy set e'(X) is in general no well defined fuzzy set.