



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

# Μηχανική μάθηση

## Ενότητα 3: Hypothesis testing basics

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# Hypotheses in Machine Learning

- Regarding the application of a model
  - ▣ Is the model really predictive?
  - ▣ Is the performance of the model above a certain threshold?
- Regarding model and algorithm comparison
  - ▣ Is model  $A$  more predictive than model  $B$ ?
  - ▣ Is algorithm  $A$  more predictive than algorithm  $B$ ?
- Within algorithms?
  - ▣ Is variable  $A$  independent of the target  $Y$ ?
  - ▣ Does the Naïve Bayes assumption holds for variables  $X, Z$  and class  $Y$ ?
- Etc.

# Stochasticity of Hypotheses

- May always hold, but there is uncertainty about it unless we check all cases
  - ▣ Algorithm  $A$  is always better than algorithm  $B$  in all problems we have seen, but what are the chances this is true for all problems?
  - ▣ Naïve Bayes assumption holds for variables  $X, Z$  and class  $Y$  but we have not checked of the data population
- May only hold probabilistically
  - ▣ Algorithm  $A$  is most often better than algorithm  $B$

# Hypotheses in Science



- Mathematics:
  - Is  $P=NP$ ?
- Natural Sciences and Other Sciences
  - Pharmacology: Does medicine A help patients recover more quickly from disease B?
  - Biology: Does gene A “cause” disease B?
  - Computer Science: Is algorithm A more time-efficient than algorithm B?

# Proving Your Hypothesis

- By Reaching a contradiction in mathematics
  - We already know a set of axioms and theorems, say  $K$
  - We want to show the theorem (hypothesis)  $H$ , e.g., “ $H$ :  $P=NP$ ”
  - We show  $K, \neg H \Rightarrow \text{False}$  (contradiction)
  - Thus, if we trust that  $K$  holds indeed
    - $\neg H$  cannot hold
    - $H$  must hold

# “Proving Your Hypothesis”

## □ Mathematics

1. We already know a set of axioms and theorems, say  $K$
2. We want to show the theorem (hypothesis)  $H$ , e.g., “ $H$ :  $P=NP$ ”
3. We show  $K, \neg H \Rightarrow \text{False}$  (contradiction)
4. Thus, if we trust that  $K$  holds indeed,  $\neg H$  cannot hold and  $H$  must hold

## □ Physical World or Stochastic Situations in General

1. We already “know”  $K$
2. We want to show a hypothesis  $H$ , e.g., “ $H$ : medicine  $A$  reduces the mortality of disease  $B$ ”
3. We gather data from the real world. We show that  $K, \neg H$  makes it very unlikely to observe our data
4. We conclude that  $\neg H$  is very unlikely. We reject  $\neg H$ , we accept  $H$

# Example

- Ternary predictors  $\{X_1, X_2\}$ , binary target output  $Y$
- Should we use the predictors or not?
  - ▣ We decide to use them only if they are dependent with  $Y$
  - ▣ Is this always correct?
- Form the Hypothesis
  - ▣ H:  $X_1$  is dependent of  $Y$
- Data gathering:
  - ▣ Observe sample  $\{\langle a, b, y \rangle_i, a \in \text{Domain}(X_1), b \in \text{Domain}(X_2), y \in \text{Domain}(Y)\}$

# Example (hypothetical) Data

Example	$X_1$	$X_2$	Y
1 ( $x_1$ )	0	1	1
2	0	1	1
3	1	2	2
4	1	0	1
5	0	0	1
6	2	0	2
7	1	1	1
8	2	1	2
9	2	2	2
10	0	0	1
11	1	1	1
12	2	2	2
13	2	0	2
14	0	1	1
15 ( $x_{15}$ )	1	2	2



# Do We Accept Our Hypothesis?

- Seems they are dependent (why?)
- Well, maybe. But, maybe we are just unlucky. Maybe  $\neg H$  does hold and still got these numbers.
- Statistics to the rescue:
  - ▣ If  $\neg H$  then we have a 0.0009 chance to observe these means in our data
- We conclude to accept  $H$

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2
0	5	0
1	3	2
2	0	5

# The Null Hypothesis

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- The hypothesis we hope to accept is called the *Alternative Hypothesis*
  - ▣ Sometimes denoted as  $H_1$
  
- The hypothesis we hope to reject, the negation of the *Alternative Hypothesis*, is called the *Null Hypothesis*
  - ▣ Usually denoted by  $H_0$

# A Bit of Notation



- Random variables are denoted with a capital letter, e.g.,  $X$
- Observed quantities of random variables are denoted with their corresponding small letter  $x$

# The Need for a Test Statistic

- Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be the vectors with our data (e.g., each patient vector)
  - $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$
  - $x$  is the matrix with our data
- Ideally, we would like to calculate:
  - $P(\text{obtaining data similar to } x \mid H_0)$
  - (Why not calculate  $P(x \mid H_0)$ ?)
- This is typically very difficult

# Test Statistics

- A test statistic is a function of our data:  $T(X)$ ,
  - e.g., if  $X$  contains a single quantity (variable)  $T(X)$  the mean value of  $X$
- $T$  is a random variable (since it depends on our random variables, the data)
- We denote with  $t_o = T(x)$  is the observed value of  $T$  in our data
- Instead of calculating
  - $P(\text{obtaining data similar to } X \mid H_0)$
- we calculate
  - $P(T \text{ similar to } t_o \mid H_0)$
- If  $P(T \text{ similar to } t_o \mid H_0)$  is very low, while  $P(T \text{ similar to } t_o \mid H_1)$  is high, we reject  $H_0$

# Standard Single Hypothesis Testing

1. Form the Null and Alternative Hypothesis
2. Gather related data
3. Find a suitable test statistic  $T$
4. Find the distribution of  $T$
5. Depending on the distribution of  $T$  and the observed  $t_o = T(x)$ 
  - decide to reject or not  $H_0$

# 1. Form the Null Hypothesis

- $H_0$  :  $X_1$  is independent of  $Y$
- $H_1$  :  $X_1$  is dependent of  $Y$
- Mathematically?
  - $p_{ij} = P(X_1 = i, Y=j)$
  - $p_{i+} = P(X_1 = i)$
  - $p_{+j} = P(Y = j)$
- $H_0$  :  $\forall i,j, p_{ij} = p_{i+} \cdot p_{+j}$ ,
- $H_1$  :  $\exists i,j$  s.t.,  $p_{ij} \neq p_{i+} \cdot p_{+j}$

## 2. Gather Related Data



- If you don't have data ...
  - Well, then become a philosopher



### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

- Let's have another look at the data

Counts

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
0	5	0	5
1	3	2	5
2	0	5	5
	8	7	15

Estimated Probs

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2
0	5/15	0/15
1	3/15	2/15
2	0/15	5/15

### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

Actual Data

Expected under  $H_0$ ?

Counts

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
0	5	0	5
1	3	2	5
2	0	5	5
	8	7	15

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
0			
1			
2			

Estimated Probs

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	
0	5/15	0/15	5/15
1	3/15	2/15	5/15
2	0/15	5/15	5/15
	8/15	7/15	

?



### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

Actual Data

Counts	$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
	0	5	0	5
	1	3	2	5
	2	0	5	5
		8	7	15

Expected under  $H_0$ ?

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
0			
1			
2			

Estimated Probs

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	
0	5/15	0/15	5/15
1	3/15	2/15	5/15
2	0/15	5/15	5/15
	8/15	7/15	

$$\frac{7}{15} \cdot \frac{5}{15} \cdot 15$$

### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

- Observed counts of cases falling in cell  $i,j$ :  $O_{ij}$
- Observed counts of cases falling in row  $i$ :  $O_{i+}$
- Observed counts of cases falling in column  $j$ :  $O_{+j}$
- Expected counts of cases falling in cell  $i,j$ :  $E_{ij}$
- Under the Null Hypothesis:  $E_{ij} = n(O_{i+} / n)(O_{+j} / n)$

### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

Actual Data

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
<b>0</b>	$5=O_{01}$	$0=O_{02}$	$5=O_{0+}$
<b>1</b>	$3=O_{11}$	$2=O_{12}$	$5=O_{1+}$
<b>2</b>	$0=O_{21}$	$5=O_{22}$	$5=O_{2+}$
	$8=O_{+1}$	$7=O_{+2}$	$15=n$

Expected under  $H_0$

$X_1 \setminus Y$	1	2	Out of
<b>0</b>	$O_{0+}O_{+1}/n$ $40/15$	$O_{0+}O_{+2}/n$ $35/15$	$5=O_{0+}$
<b>1</b>	$nO_{1+}O_{+1}/n$ $40/15$	$O_{1+}O_{+2}/n$ $35/15$	$5=O_{1+}$
<b>2</b>	$O_{2+}O_{+1}/n$ $40/15$	$O_{2+}O_{+2}/n$ $35/15$	$5=O_{2+}$
	$8=O_{+1}$	$7=O_{+2}$	$15=n$

### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

- Is there a way to summarize how close our observed data match what we expected assuming  $H_0$  ?
  - ▣ The larger the difference  $O_{ij}$  to  $E_{ij}$  the less likely  $H_0$  seems
  - ▣ Any ideas?

### 3. Find a suitable test statistic $T$

- Is there a way to summarize how close our observed data match what we expected assuming  $H_0$  ?
  - ▣ The larger the difference  $O_{ij}$  to  $E_{ij}$  the less likely  $H_0$  seems
  - ▣ Any ideas? Yes two!

$$T(X) = \sum_{i,j} \frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} \quad (\text{called } X^2)$$

$$T(X) = 2 \sum_{i,j} O_{ij} \log \frac{O_{ij}}{E_{ij}} \quad (\text{called } G^2)$$

# 4. Find the distribution of $T$

- Go to your statistician friend and ask him, open a statistics book, prove it yourself (!) etc.
- **if**
  - a) Each example was sampled independently
  - b) and **THE NULL HYPOTHESIS HOLDS**
- **then**



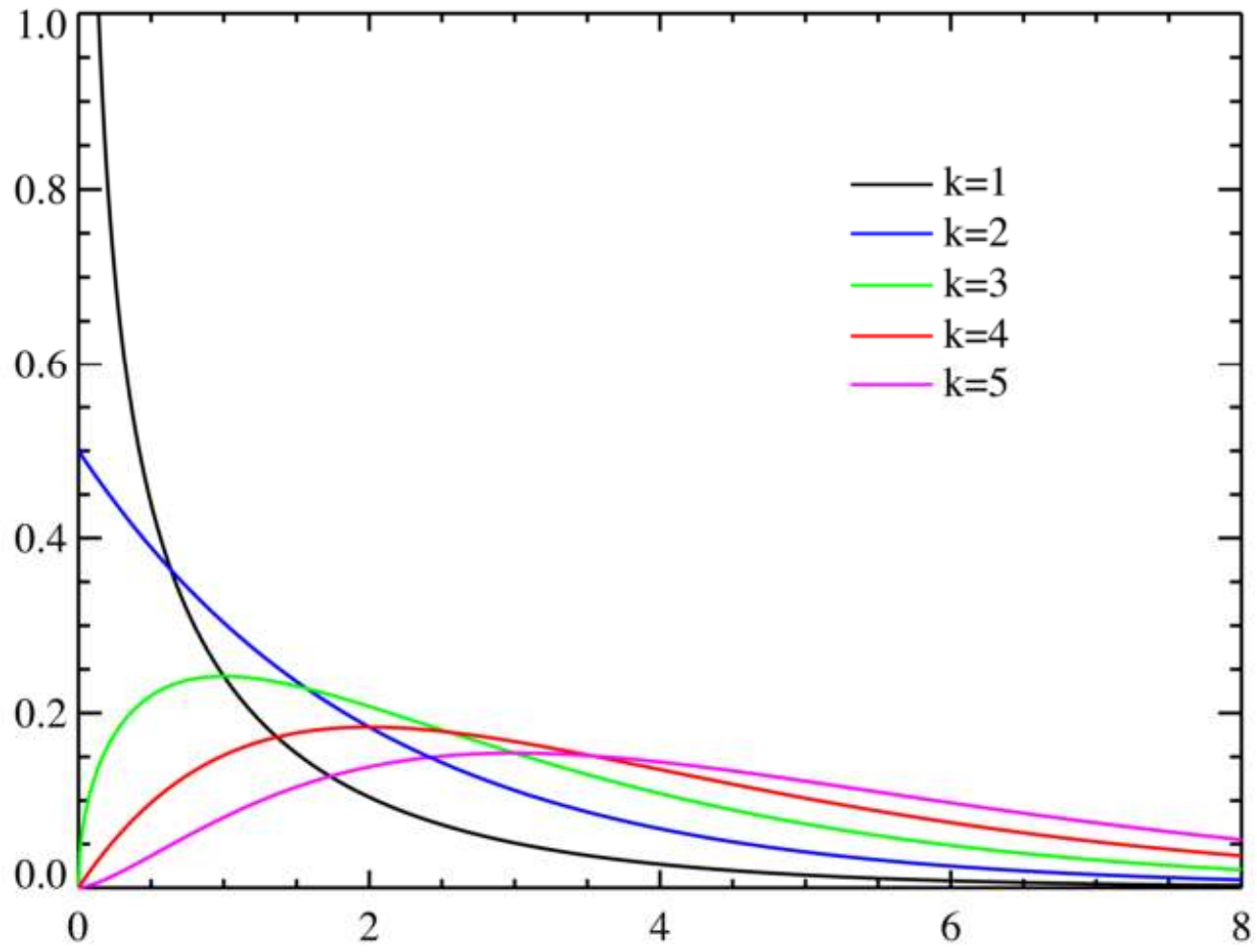
## 4. Find the distribution of $T$

- $T(X)=t$  (both for  $G^2$  and for  $X^2$ ) has a probability density function of:

$$p(t | H_0) = \frac{x^{(df-2)/2} e^{-x/2}}{2^{df/2} \Gamma(df/2)}$$

- where  $df$  is called the degrees of freedom of the test
  - ▣ the number of parameters that are free to vary
  - ▣ in our case it is  $(I-1) \cdot (J-1) = (3-1) \cdot (2-1) = 2$ 
    - $I =$  the number of possible values of  $X_1$
    - $J =$  the number of possible values of  $Y$

# The $\chi^2$ distribution



# 5. Decide to Reject Or NOT

- Depending on the distribution of  $T$  and the observed  $t_o = T(x)$ 
  - decide to reject or not  $H_0$
- Should we or should we not
  - In our example the observed  $G^2$ ,  $T(x) = 13.9976$
- If yes, what's the probability we err?

# Decide on a Rejection Region

- Decide on a rejection region  $\Gamma$  in the range of our statistic
- If  $t_o \in \Gamma$ , then reject  $H_0$
- If  $t_o \notin \Gamma$ , then do not reject  $H_0$ 
  - ▣ accept  $H_1$  ?
- Since we know the pdf of  $T$  **when the null hypothesis holds** we can calculate  $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_0)$

# Decide on a Rejection Region



- If  $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_0)$  is too low, we know we are safely rejecting  $H_0$
- However, we would also like  $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_1)$  to be high
- What should be our rejection region in our example?

# Decide on a Rejection Region

- where extreme values of  $t_o$  are:
  - ▣ unlikely to come from when  $H_0$  is true
  - ▣ could come with high probability, when  $H_0$  is false
- $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_0)$  is the area of the shaded region (can be calculated)

# Typical Rejection Regions



- Typically, test statistics get extreme (too high or too low) values with low probability, when  $H_0$  holds

# Rejection Procedure

- We pre-select a probability threshold  $\alpha$
- We find a rejection region  $\Gamma = \{t: |t| > c\}$  such that
  - ▣  $P(T \in \Gamma | H_0) = \alpha$
- We decide
  - ▣ Reject  $H_0$  if  $t_o \in \Gamma$  (recall:  $t_o$  is the observed  $T$  in our data)
  - ▣ Accept  $H_0$  otherwise
- What values do we usually use for  $\alpha$  in science?
  - ▣ 0.05 is the most typical
  - ▣ smaller ones are also used: 0.01 , 0.001 etc.
- When  $t_o \in \Gamma$  we say the finding is statistically significant at significance level  $\alpha$
- In our example for  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $df=2$ , the rejection region is any observed  $G^2$  greater than 5.9915



# How to Construct a Test

- Find a test statistic  $T$  that easily takes extreme values when  $H_0$  is not true
- Find how to theoretically calculate the distribution of  $T$ 
  - ▣ hopefully, without too many other assumptions
- Our example described the application of what is called a  $\chi^2$  test of independence

# Statistical Errors

- Assuming all the other assumptions of the test hold what types of errors can we make?

Decision	Accept $H_0$	Reject $H_0$
Truth		
$H_0$		Type I error
$H_1$	Type II error	

Decision	Accept $H_0$	Reject $H_0$
Truth		
$H_0$	True Positive	False Positive
$H_1$	False Negative	True Negative

# Statistical Errors

Decision	Accept $H_0$	Reject $H_0$
Truth		
$H_0$	$P(T \notin \Gamma, H_0)$	$P(T \in \Gamma, H_0)$
$H_1$	$P(T \notin \Gamma, H_1)$	$P(T \in \Gamma, H_1)$

- Out of these, which ones can we compute?

# Statistical Errors

Decision	Accept $H_0$	Reject $H_0$
Truth		
$H_0$	$P(t \notin \Gamma \mid H_0) P(H_0)$	$P(t \in \Gamma \mid H_0) P(H_0)$
$H_1$	$P(t \notin \Gamma \mid H_1) P(H_1)$	$P(t \in \Gamma \mid H_1) P(H_1)$

- We showed we can compute  $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_0)$
- Under additional assumptions, we can calculate  $P(T \notin \Gamma \mid H_1)$
- We could compute the rest under more assumptions
- Requires a different semantic interpretation of probability, called Bayesian Statistics

# Statistical Errors

- Type I error  $\leq P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_0)$
- Type II error  $\leq P(T \notin \Gamma \mid H_1)$
- $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_1) = 1 - P(T \notin \Gamma \mid H_1)$  is called the statistical power of the test:
  - ▣ probability of accepting  $H_1$  given that  $H_1$  is true

# Minimize Statistical Error



- Problem 1: minimize the total number of errors
- Problem 2: minimize a weighted sum of errors
  - ▣ desirable if one type of error is more serious than another
- Problem 3 (standard statistics):
  - ▣ minimize Type II errors
  - ▣ while Type I errors are below a threshold

# Minimize Statistical Errors

- Find test statistics and rejection regions s.t.
- Guarantee Type I errors are below a given level  $\alpha$ 
  - ▣ Type I error  $\leq P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_0) = \alpha$
  - ▣ we say the test controls Type I error rate
- While minimizing Type II errors
  - ▣ that is maximizing power :  $P(T \in \Gamma \mid H_1)$

# Statistical Significance

- We set a threshold  $\alpha$  ( $=0.05$  often)
- We find a value  $c$ , s.t.  $P(|T| \geq c \mid H_0) = \alpha$ 
  - ▣ this defines our rejection region
- We reject  $H_0$  if  $|t_o| \geq c$ , thus we control the Type I error rate to be less than  $\alpha$
- $\alpha$  is called the significance level of the test procedure



# p-values

- For a significance level  $\alpha$ , we report whether we reject  $H_0$  or not
- Or better,
- We calculate the minimum  $\alpha$  that would still have rejected  $H_0$  (p-value)
  
- $p = P(|T| \geq |t_0| \mid H_0)$
  
- In the example,
  - ▣ we can reject the hypothesis of independence at level 0.05
  - ▣ the *p-value* is 0.0009

# p-value



- The probability of obtaining a test statistic as extreme **or more** as the one we have obtained, **given  $H_0$**

# Regarding the Choice of a Test

- When we cannot reject  $H_0$  does not mean  $H_1$  holds
- It could be that we don't have enough power, i.e.,
  - ▣  $H_1$  is not that “different enough” from  $H_0$  to distinguish it with the given sample size we have
- At of all possible tests for a hypothesis choose the one with the maximum power
- tests with more assumptions are typically more powerful
  - ▣ and less likely to be applicable

# Disclaimer



- We have simplified certain aspects of hypothesis testing
- What we said holds for what is called simple tests

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2015. «Μηχανική Μάθηση. Hypothesis testing basics».  
Έκδοση: 1.0. Ηράκλειο 2015. Διαθέσιμο από τη δικτυακή  
διεύθυνση:  
<https://opencourses.uoc.gr/courses/course/view.php?id=362>.

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- το Σημείωμα Αδειοδότησης
- τη δήλωση Διατήρησης Σημειωμάτων
- το Σημείωμα Χρήσης Έργων Τρίτων (εφόσον υπάρχει)

μαζί με τους συνοδευόμενους υπερσυνδέσμους.