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BAYESIAN INFERENCE AND MAXIMUM ENTROPY
METHODS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

1073

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BAYESIAN INFERENCE AND MAXIMUM ENTROPY METHODS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

28th International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and
Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering

Boracéia, São Paulo, Brazil 6 – 11 July 2008

EDITORS

Marcelo de Souza Lauretto
Carlos Alberto de Bragança Pereira
Julio Michael Stern

AMERICAN
INSTITUTE
OF PHYSICS

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All papers have been peer reviewed

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CONTENTS

Preface	ix
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FOUNDATIONS

General and Continuous Solutions of the Entropy Equation	3
A. E. Abbas, E. Gselmann, G. Maksa, and Z. Sun	
The Gambler's Fallacy: A Bayesian Approach	8
F. V. Bonassi, R. B. Stern, and S. Wechsler	
Recent Theoretical Progress on an Information Geometrodynamical Approach to Chaos	16
C. Cafaro	
From Inference to Physics	23
A. Caticha	
The Origin of Probability and Entropy	35
K. H. Knuth	
Gibbs Paradox and Similarity Principle	49
S.-K. Lin	
About the Upper Bound of the Chiral Index of Multivariate Distributions	61
M. Petitjean	
The Canvas of Rationality	67
J. Skilling	
On the Formal Expression of Observational Data in Scientific Inference: Ambiguities and Confusions	80
A. Solana-Ortega and V. Solana	
A Possible Foundation for Blackwell's Equivalence	90
R. B. Stern and C. A. de B. Pereira	
Birnbaum's Theorem Redux	96
S. Wechsler, C. A. de B. Pereira, and P. C. Marques F.	

METHODS

The Empirical Bayes Estimator and Mixed Distributions	103
N. R. Barraza	
A New Lifetime Distribution with Bathtub and Unimodal Hazard Function	111
G. D. C. Barriga, F. Louzada-Neto, and V. G. Cancho	
Annealed Adaptive Importance Sampling	119
J. L. Center, Jr.	
Combining Moments and Samples—A Bayesian Approach	127
J. L. Center, Jr.	
Sparse Factorization Methods for Inference in Bayesian Networks	136
E. C. Colla and J. M. Stern	

The Use of Several Link Functions on a Beta Regression Model: A Bayesian Approach	144
T. C. M. Dias and C. A. R. Diniz	
The Lag Length of a Dynamic Regression Model: A Comparative Study	150
C. A. R. Diniz and C. P. Rodrigues	
FBST for Cointegration Problems	157
M. Diniz, C. A. B. Pereira, and J. M. Stern	
Maximum-Entropy Moments-Based Approximations of the Cramér- Rao Bound	165
N. von Ellenrieder and C. H. Muravchik	
A New Measure of Bivariate Asymmetry and Its Evaluation	173
F. H. Ferreira and N. V. Kolev	
Maximizing the Entropy Rate of State-Dependent M/M/1 Queues	181
V. Girardin and A. Sesboué	
Quality Control in Small Groups	189
L. F. Lemmens	
Dirichlet or Potts ?	197
A. Mohammad-Djafari	
Drift Estimation from a Simple Field Theory	207
F. M. Mendes and A. Figueiredo	
Parallel Systems Using the Weibull Model	215
A. Polpo, M. A. Coque, Jr., and C. A. de B. Pereira	
The Dimension of Information	224
L. Preuss	
Full Bayesian Significance Test for a Class of Jump-Diffusion Models	232
L. L. R. Rifo and S. Torres	

APPLICATIONS

Variational Bayes Approach for Tomographic Reconstruction	243
H. Ayasso, S. Fekih-Salem, and A. Mohammad-Djafari	
Maximum Entropy Principle for Transportation	252
F. Bilich and R. DaSilva	
Maxent-Burg Applications to Muon-Spin Resonance	260
C. Boekema and M. C. Browne	
On the Estimation of Process Parameters in the Taguchi's Approach to the On-Line Control Procedure for Attributes	268
W. S. Borges, L. G. Esteves, and S. Wechsler	
Robust Bayesian Priors with Applications to Clinical Trials: Information and Cross-Entropic Approaches	278
J. D. Cook and L. R. Pericchi G.	
Characterization of Interstellar Organic Molecules	286
D. Gençağa, D. F. Carbon, and K. H. Knuth	
Antenna Array Design as Inference	294
P. M. Goggans and C.-Y. Chan	

Proscriptive Bayesian Programming and Maximum Entropy: A Preliminary Study.....	301
C. C. Koike	
Bayesian Analysis of the Dynamic Structure in China's Economic Growth.....	309
K. Kyo and H. Noda	
Hierarchical Forecasting with Functional Trees.....	317
M. Lauretto, F. Nakano, C. A. B. Pereira, and J. M. Stern	
Analyzing Trade Dynamics from Incomplete Data in Spatial Regional Models: A Maximum Entropy Approach	325
R. Bernardini Papalia	
On the Black-Scholes European Option Pricing Model Robustness and Generality.....	332
H. H. Takada and J. de O. Siqueira	
Inference on the Univariate Frailty Model: A Bayesian Reference Analysis Approach	340
V. L. D. Tomazella, C. B. Martins, and J. M. Bernardo	
Optimizing Nuclear Reaction Analysis (NRA) Using Bayesian Experimental Design	348
U. von Toussaint, T. Schwarz-Selinger, and S. Gori	

TUTORIAL BOOKS
(Tables of Contents)

Lectures on Probability, Entropy and Statistical Physics.....	361
A. Caticha	
Cognitive Constructivism and the Epistemic Significance of Sharp Statistical Hypotheses.....	364
J. M. Stern	
Symmetry Studies of Entropy: An Introduction to Canonical Decompositions	368
M. A. G. Viana	
Group Photos.....	371
Photo Gallery	373
Author Index.....	383

PREFACE

The Twenty-eighth International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering, MaxEnt 2008, was held at Boraceia Beach, São Paulo, Brazil, from July 6-11, 2008.

The workshop had 4 tutorials, 9 invited speakers, 26 oral presentations and 35 poster presentations and was attended by participants from institutions of 13 countries, namely, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, with citizens of the former and 8 more countries, namely, Bulgaria, China, Iran, Nepal, Russia, Spain, Syria and Turkey.

Like the previous MaxEnt Workshops, this meeting encompassed all aspects of information theory, probability, statistical inference and statistical physics, including research on foundations and theoretical developments, as well as modeling techniques for several specific application areas.

The MaxEnt workshops are unique in several aspects and, we hope, MaxEnt 2008 was no different. The strong attendance of these workshops by both masters and novices alike and the ease with which they mix and intermingle is critical in the transmission of ideals across generations. The organizers would like to extend a special thank to the experienced professionals who throughout the years have spent time with and have inspired the new generation of scientists at this workshop. This is perhaps one of the greatest strengths of this conference, and has led to a coherence and exchange of ideas that is unparalleled in the scientific community. MaxEnt also exhibits a great diversity of techniques and applications all presented in a single-track format. In this sense, these meetings are truly interdisciplinary.

The aim of the MaxEnt workshops is to push at the forefront of our understanding. We contend that this is impossible unless diverse and possibly controversial points of view are deliberately encouraged. Just as the impressionist painters found their work rejected at the annual exhibitions of the Salon de l'Académie, we feel that some of the papers collected at MaxEnt could very well be rejected by established scientific journals. We hope MaxEnt 2008 was able to play the essential role of a Salon des Refusés. Some ideas may be controversial, and may eventually be proven wrong, but at an early stage they need to be nurtured rather than prematurely dismissed. Just as the impressionists did not compromise quality as they explored esthetic frontier, we hold that these papers do not compromise on quality as they explore the scientific frontier.

Unlike previous years, this year no participant was unable to attend due to difficulties obtaining visas. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity to see a scientific meeting bringing together, in a spirit of tolerance and cooperation, people from all ages, races, religions, ideologies and nationalities (and cheering for “almost” all football clubs).

For the first time in the MaxEnt meetings, we have asked the authors of the tutorial sections to prepare real text books. The objective of these text books is to provide an in

depth analysis of important subjects introduced at the tutorial presentations. The tables of contents of these books, at the end of the proceedings, give a good idea of the scope of each tutorial.

This meeting would not have been possible without the sponsorship of several institutions. First and foremost we acknowledge Boise State University and the E.T. Jaynes Foundation. We have also had the sponsorship from IME-USP - Institute of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of São Paulo and its graduate programs in Statistics and Applied Mathematics; IF-USP - Institute of Physics; FIA - Fundação Instituto de Administração; FIPE - Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas; CAPES - Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior; FAPESP - Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo; CNPq – Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico; and IM-AGIMB - Instituto de Milênio Avanço Global e Integrado da Matemática Brasileira. We also had the support from IPTI - Instituto de Pesquisas em Tecnologia e Inovação; Supremum Assessoria e Consultoria; Uniersia; and MaxEnt Workshops Inc.

We hope that all the participants of MaxEnt 2008 had the opportunity to work hard (building science and breaking dogmas), enjoy the beach, make friends, and have fun!

MaxEnt 2008 Editors,

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