

T7: Statistical model comparison

Fundamentos del Aprendizaje Automático

Curso 2025/2026

Structure

① Introduction

Contextualization

Statistical hypothesis test

② Pairwise classifier comparison

Paired t -test

Wilcoxon signed-rank test

③ Multiple classifier comparison

ANOVA

Friedman test

Post-hoc tests

Outline

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Classifier B

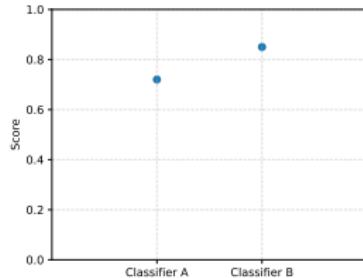
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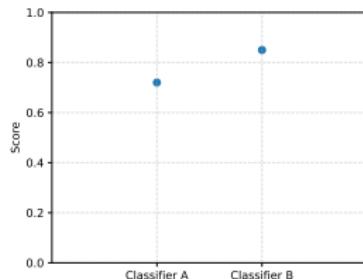
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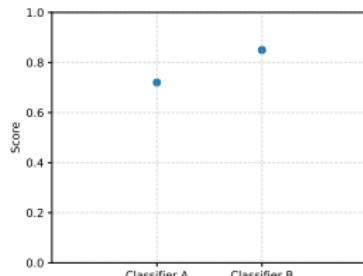
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(FAA)

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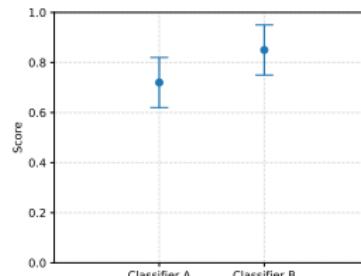
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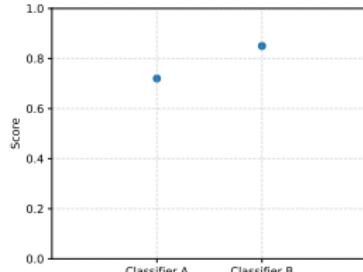
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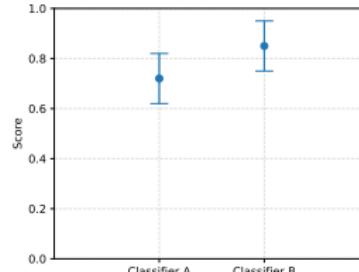
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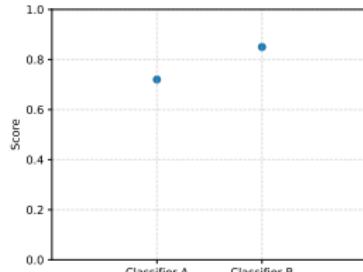
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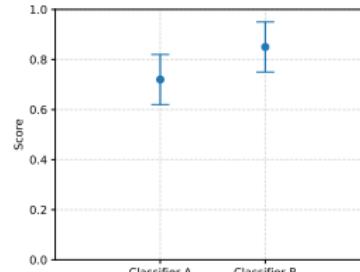
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*Performance difference is **not necessarily** a real difference*

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Comparison	Parametric	Non-parametric
Pairwise	Paired <i>t</i> -test	Wilcoxon signed-rank
Multiple	ANOVA	Friedman + post-hoc

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- **Probability** of obtaining **results** as **extreme as or more extreme** than the ones observed if H_0 were true
- The concept of **extremeness** depends on the test
- Smaller *p*-value \Rightarrow stronger evidence against H_0

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The **significance level** or α acts as threshold to accept/reject H_0 :

- **Maximum probability** of **rejecting** H_0 when it is actually **true**
- The **lower**, the more **strict**

Procedure

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2. Formulate hypotheses: H_0 and H_1
3. Compute the *p-value*
4. Compute the *p-value*
5. Compare *p-value* to significance level α :
 - If $p < \alpha \Rightarrow$ **reject H_0**
 - If $p \geq \alpha \Rightarrow$ **do not reject H_0**

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- Evaluation on the **same** data instances, folds, or datasets
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2. Considering independent data assortments ($\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_M$):

- Most statistical tests **assume independent** datasets
- Cross-validation strategies **violate** this independence **assumption**
 - Optimistic estimations
- Possible **solutions**:
 - a) Specific tests that compensate the bias
 - b) Averaging across **folds**

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Parametric case: the paired *t*-test

- Assumes **data** are approximately **normally distributed**
- **Types of tests:**

Type	Use case
One-sample t-test	Compare a sample mean to a known value
Independent two-sample t-test	Compare means of two independent groups
Paired t-test	Compare means of related or paired data

- We focus on the **paired *t*-test**:
 - Statistic t represents the ratio between **difference** and **variability**
 - Larger $|t|$ represents **more evidence** against H_0

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2. Compute mean (\bar{d}) and standard deviation (σ_d) as:

$$\bar{d} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M d_i, \quad \sigma_d = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{i=1}^M (d_i - \bar{d})^2}$$

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3. Compute test statistic:

$$t = \frac{\bar{d}}{\sigma_d / \sqrt{M}}$$

Formulation

4. Obtain the value of the *t*-student distribution as t_{stu} :

- Single / both directions:
 - Single-tail when H_0 states $f_A > f_B$ or $f_A < f_B$
 - Two-tail when H_0 states $f_A = f_B$
- Degrees of freedom: $M - 1$
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5. Compare $|t|$ with t_{stu} :

- If $|t| > t_{\text{stu}}$: **reject** H_0
- If $|t| \leq t_{\text{stu}}$: **accept** H_0

Example

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B
\mathcal{D}_1	85	87
\mathcal{D}_2	70	68
\mathcal{D}_3	79	85
\mathcal{D}_4	78	75
\mathcal{D}_5	83	83

Is **Classifier A** equivalent to **Classifier B** for $\alpha = 0.05^1$?

¹ $t_{\text{stu}} \approx 2.776$

Example (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference
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$$S5) \quad \underbrace{|-0.375|}_{|t|} \not> \underbrace{2.776}_{t_{\text{stu}}} \Rightarrow \text{Accept } H_0$$

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- Focus on **Wilcoxon signed-rank test** for paired data
 - No normality assumption
 - Robust to outliers

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 - Significance value α
6. **Reject** H_0 if:
 - **Single-tailed** test: $W \leq W_\alpha$
 - **Two-tailed** test: $W \leq W_{\alpha/2}$

Procedure

n	Two-Tailed			One-Tailed		
	$\alpha = .10$	$\alpha = .05$	$\alpha = .01$	$\alpha = .10$	$\alpha = .05$	$\alpha = .01$
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	2	2	0	2	2	1
7	3	3	1	4	3	2
8	5	4	2	6	5	3
9	8	6	3	8	7	5
10	10	8	5	11	9	6
11	13	10	7	14	11	8
12	17	13	9	18	14	11
13	21	16	11	22	18	13
14	25	19	14	26	21	16
15	30	23	17	31	25	19
16	35	27	21	36	29	22
17	40	31	24	41	33	26
18	46	36	28	47	38	29
19	52	40	32	53	42	33
20	59	45	37	60	47	38
21	66	51	41	67	53	43
22	73	56	46	74	58	48
23	81	62	51	82	64	53
24	89	68	56	90	70	58
25	98	75	62	99	77	64

Example

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B
\mathcal{D}_1	87	85
\mathcal{D}_2	68	70
\mathcal{D}_3	85	79
\mathcal{D}_4	75	78
\mathcal{D}_5	83	83
\mathcal{D}_6	90	85

Is **Classifier A** equivalent to **Classifier B** for $\alpha = 0.1$?

Example (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference	Rank
\mathcal{D}_1	87	85	+2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_2	68	70	-2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_3	85	79	+6	5
\mathcal{D}_4	75	78	-3	3
\mathcal{D}_5	83	83	0	-
\mathcal{D}_6	90	85	+5	4

Example (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference	Rank
\mathcal{D}_1	87	85	+2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_2	68	70	-2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_3	85	79	+6	5
\mathcal{D}_4	75	78	-3	3
\mathcal{D}_5	83	83	0	-
\mathcal{D}_6	90	85	+5	4

$$\text{S4)} W^+ = 1.5 + 4 + 5 = 10.5$$

$$\text{S4)} W^- = 1.5 + 3 = 4.5$$

Example (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference	Rank
\mathcal{D}_1	87	85	+2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_2	68	70	-2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_3	85	79	+6	5
\mathcal{D}_4	75	78	-3	3
\mathcal{D}_5	83	83	0	-
\mathcal{D}_6	90	85	+5	4

$$\text{S4)} \quad W^+ = 1.5 + 4 + 5 = 10.5$$

$$\text{S4)} \quad W^- = 1.5 + 3 = 4.5$$

$$\text{S4)} \quad W = \min(W^+, W^-) = \min(10.5, 4.5) = 4.5$$

Example (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference	Rank
\mathcal{D}_1	87	85	+2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_2	68	70	-2	1.5
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$$\text{S4)} \quad W^+ = 1.5 + 4 + 5 = 10.5$$

$$\text{S4)} \quad W^- = 1.5 + 3 = 4.5$$

$$\text{S4)} \quad W = \min(W^+, W^-) = \min(10.5, 4.5) = 4.5$$

$$\text{S5)} \quad W_{\alpha/2} = 0$$

Example (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference	Rank
\mathcal{D}_1	87	85	+2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_2	68	70	-2	1.5
\mathcal{D}_3	85	79	+6	5
\mathcal{D}_4	75	78	-3	3
\mathcal{D}_5	83	83	0	-
\mathcal{D}_6	90	85	+5	4

S4) $W^+ = 1.5 + 4 + 5 = 10.5$

S4) $W^- = 1.5 + 3 = 4.5$

S4) $W = \min(W^+, W^-) = \min(10.5, 4.5) = 4.5$

S5) $W_{\alpha/2} = 0$

S6) $\underbrace{4.5}_{W} \not\leq \underbrace{0}_{W_{\alpha/2}} \Rightarrow \textbf{Accept } H_0$

Exercise

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B
\mathcal{D}_1	95	80
\mathcal{D}_2	88	70
\mathcal{D}_3	90	80
\mathcal{D}_4	85	60
\mathcal{D}_5	92	78
\mathcal{D}_6	87	80
\mathcal{D}_7	91	85
\mathcal{D}_8	95	70
\mathcal{D}_9	82	60
\mathcal{D}_{10}	96	80
\mathcal{D}_{11}	88	85
\mathcal{D}_{12}	90	78
\mathcal{D}_{13}	85	80
\mathcal{D}_{14}	92	78
\mathcal{D}_{15}	87	80

Exercise (solution)

Dataset	Classifier A	Classifier B	Difference	Rank
\mathcal{D}_1	95	80	+15	1
\mathcal{D}_2	88	70	+18	2
\mathcal{D}_3	90	80	+10	3
\mathcal{D}_4	85	60	+25	4.5
\mathcal{D}_5	92	78	+14	4.5
\mathcal{D}_6	87	80	+7	6
\mathcal{D}_7	91	85	+6	7
\mathcal{D}_8	95	70	+25	8.5
\mathcal{D}_9	82	60	+22	8.5
\mathcal{D}_{10}	96	80	+16	10
\mathcal{D}_{11}	88	85	+3	11
\mathcal{D}_{12}	90	78	+12	12
\mathcal{D}_{13}	85	80	+5	13
\mathcal{D}_{14}	92	78	+14	14.5
\mathcal{D}_{15}	87	80	+7	14.5

- $W^+ = 120, W^- = 0 \Rightarrow \min(W^+, W^-) = 0$
- $n = 15$
- If $\alpha = 0.1 \Rightarrow W_{\alpha/2} = 23 \Rightarrow W < W_{\alpha/2} \Rightarrow \text{Reject}$

Exercise (solution)

One-tailed test:

- Is **A** > **B**?
- $W \leq W_\alpha \Rightarrow 0 \leq 25 \Rightarrow \text{Reject!}$

Classifier **A** is significantly better than **B** (with $\alpha = 0.1$)