

# DeGroot Learning

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Suppose there is a vote matrix,  $V$ , of size  $c \times p$ , where  $c$  is the number of choices made and  $p$  is the number of people making each of these choices. Every choice,  $c_i$ , made by person,  $p_j$ , amounts to a vote  $v_{ij}$ . Where  $\forall(v_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\})$  and  $0 \leq i \leq c, 0 \leq j \leq p$ :

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} v_{00} & \cdots & v_{0c} \\ \vdots & v_{ij} & \vdots \\ v_{p0} & \cdots & v_{pc} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

To find the similarity,  $s$ , between any two people, say  $l$  and  $k$  where  $0 \leq l, k \leq p$ , we compute:

$$s_{lk} = |\bar{p}_l \bar{p}_k| \quad (2)$$

for all  $l, k \mid l \neq k$ . Such that,

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} s_{00} & \cdots & s_{0p} \\ \vdots & s_{lk} & \vdots \\ s_{p0} & \cdots & s_{pp} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

To find the trust,  $t$ , between any two people, say  $l$  and  $k$  where  $0 \leq l, k \leq p$ , we compute:

$$t_{lk} = \frac{s_{lk}}{\sum_{m=0}^p s_{lm}} \quad (4)$$

Then, for any number of people,  $p$ , the trust matrix,  $T$ , is a right stochastic  $p \times p$  matrix:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} t_{00} & \cdots & t_{0p} \\ \vdots & t_{lk} & \vdots \\ t_{p0} & \cdots & t_{pp} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

to which the DeGroot Learning algorithm can be applied.

From there, every future choice,  $f_c$ , can be calculated as:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T^t p^c = f_c \quad (6)$$

where  $p^c$  is the  $1 \times p$  array of votes made by persons,  $p$ , regarding choice  $c$ .

Those votes are then averaged out to find the ultimate ranking of choices:

$$r = \frac{f}{|f|} \quad (7)$$

Such that:

$$r = [r_0, \cdots, r_c] \quad (8)$$

is the ranking for each choice  $c$ .

More info can be got at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeGroot\\_learning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeGroot_learning).  
Python implementation can be found at <https://github.com/benvolioo/DeGroot>.