

Student Growth Percentiles

Theory and Calculation

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For igdem & Silan, all of my love.

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Preface

The following provides a brief introduction to generalized additive models and some thoughts on getting started within the R environment. It doesn't assume much more than a basic exposure to regression, and maybe a general idea of R though not necessarily any particular expertise. The presentation is of a very applied nature, and such that the topics build upon the familiar and generalize to the less so, with the hope that one can bring the concepts they are comfortable with to the new material. The audience in mind is a researcher with typical applied science training.

As this document is more conceptual, a basic familiarity with R is all that is needed to follow the code, though there is much to be gained from simple web browsing on R if one needs it. And while it wasn't the intention starting out, this document could be seen as a vignette for the `mgcv` package, which is highly recommended.

This document was created with Rstudio and rmarkdown. Last modified 2017-03-30. Original draft August, 2012.

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Color guide:

- important term
- link
- package
- function
- object or class

¹ Damian W Betebenner. Norm- and criterion-referenced student growth. *Educational Measurement: Issues and Practice*, 28(4):42–51, 2009

R Info: **R version 3.3.2 (2016-10-31) Sincere Pumpkin Patch**

Conclusion

Generalized additive models are a conceptually straightforward tool that allows one to incorporate nonlinear predictor effects into their otherwise linear models. In addition, they allow one to keep within the linear and generalized linear modeling frameworks with which one is already familiar, while providing new avenues of model exploration and possibly improved results. As was demonstrated, it is easy enough with just a modicum of familiarity to pull them off within the R environment, and as such, it is hoped that this document provides the means to do so.

References

Damian W Betebenner. Norm- and criterion-referenced student growth. *Educational Measurement: Issues and Practice*, 28(4):42–51, 2009.