

Appropriation

Abstract—What is the probability of a public good problem?

There are N objects with different values. Suppose we randomly choose one, clearly the probability of choosing the largest one is $\frac{1}{N} = P_{\geq}(\text{sampling largest})$. Suppose now that after we pick an object we put it back into its place and sample again, if we do this k times, what is the probability that all our samples are smaller than the largest one? $P(\text{sampling largest with } k \text{ draws}) = P_{<}(\text{sampling largest})^k$

$$P_{\geq}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{N} \quad (1)$$

$P_{\geq}(\lambda)$:Probability that we sample the largest value

$P_{<}(\lambda)$:Probability we don't sample the largest value

$\Pi_{<}(\lambda)$:Prob that we fail to sample the largest value after taking the max of N samples

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{<}(\lambda) &= P_{<}(\lambda)^N \\ &= \exp^{N \ln[1 - P_{\geq}(\lambda)]} \\ &\approx \exp^{-N P_{\geq}(\lambda)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{<}(\lambda_{\frac{1}{2}}) &= \frac{1}{2} \\ P_{\geq}(\lambda_{\frac{1}{2}}) &= 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\approx \frac{\ln 2}{N} \end{aligned}$$

more generally the probability of sampling a value that exceeds or is equal to λ_p is

$$P_{\geq}(\lambda_p) \approx \frac{\ln \frac{1}{p}}{N}$$

$$E[X^p] < \infty \leftrightarrow R_n^p = \frac{\max(X_1^p, \dots, X_n^p)}{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^p} \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$