

Topic	Volume ok?	Presentation feed-back	Topic feed-back
This paper uses machine-learning method to study the impact of parental resource on children's later income.	Yes	Although the presenter skipped some slides, I felt that the presentation was quite smooth.	I felt that the machine learning method is a little bit oversold. If there is no evidence that tree model is general enough to cover/approximate all possible functions, isn't the tree model another functional form assumption (R ² was pretty low)?
Intergenerational issues and the use of machine learning to validate models	Yes	The presentation was very well done. For someone who does not know anything about the literature was not easy to really get into that as the presentation presumed you know what was the existing framework.	The project is nice and the methodology interesting. Would be if Jack can do some follow-up project taking a stand on the mechanism of intergenerational mobility
Relationship between parental factors and child outcomes	Yes	Great time management and humor!	Interesting question and results! Let's do more machine learning in economics!

<p>Find a machine learning model that predicts the child outcome (income) from parents' outcomes well</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The presentation style is very nice, the presenter makes nice jokes and engages the audience well; I don't find any issue with the slides, maybe one bit is how to make the two slides with equations more accessible, since in a very short amount of time non-econometricians might find it hard to understand; in terms of the structure, the presenter does a good job laying out the roadmap so the audience know what to expect, and also paces well</p>	<p>I think one question I had is whether this is an economic paper or a machine learning paper. Personally I think of econ papers as trying to get at the economic relationships among variables (like income, edu, etc.) that either helps us understand better the underlying mechanism of the world or guides us to better policies; in this paper, we are able to know which variables we observe on the parents have better predictive power for the child outcome, but we don't know *how* those variables affect child outcome (i.e. mechanism) and as a result, it's hard to derive policy implications from it. I'm very far away from the econometric literature so it's completely possible that this is totally fine with the current standards of this field in which case you should ignore my comment :) but I felt like if you are to market it as a more general-interest paper instead of just a method-paper, it's worthwhile to think a bit about what kind of economic lessons we can take away from it</p>
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<p>Explanatory power of parent attributes on child income</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>- I saw there were 71 PDF pages in your deck and had a panic attack, probably best to be less ambitious in the amount of info to communicate in a 40m talk</p>	<p>- It's a well-posed question whose answer is of clear intrinsic importance - I am less convinced the upper bound, "True" R^2 is 0.05, unless norwegian society is dramatically different than any other western society. Maybe sell it more as "this is the best the current ML toolkit can do" instead of "this is the theoretical upper bound, no one will get more out of these variables in 20 years"</p>
<p>Using ML tools to predict income ranking mobility</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Overall presentation skills are great!</p>	<p>Very relevant topic and interesting approach. Maybe you could motivate better why we care about predicting better this relationship. Let's say you have a model with 99% completeness. Why you think it would be relevant to have this model?</p>
<p>Using machine learning methods to identify what parental factors are important for income mobility of children and evaluating the completeness of existing models</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The presentation slides are very polished and easy to follow. The speaker made the contribution of the paper clear at the beginning, facilitating thinking about the paper for someone who is not well versed in related literature. The speaker understands the advantages and potential caveats of the methodology well.</p>	<p>It will be interesting to see what machine learning says about different parental factors, even if the estimates are just predictive and not causal -- this will help understand what the existing models lack and also interesting in itself to know about if any nonlinearities exist. Look forward to seeing results related to other children's outcome for a more comprehensive understanding of mobility.</p>

<p>Use machine learning method to predict child outcome using parental characters and evaluate the performance of traditional OLS method</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Very audience-friendly in providing a high-level introduction on the machine learning method used in the study.</p>	<p>I was expecting that the flexible model can do much better than the traditional one. It would be interesting to discuss more why this is. Some correlation between regional completeness ratio and local characteristics that you don't have time to go through is probably doing this.</p>
<p>Relationship between parents rank and childrens rank using machine learning methods</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>clear and easy to understand.</p>	<p>Honestly, it seemed like a first lecture in a machine learning class (but a good one!). Maybe de-emphasize methodology part, and put more weight in analysis? also it'd be good to show the process of how you got to choose extremely simple features</p>
<p>Effect of Parental factors on child outcome in the context of Norway, using ML random tree method.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Having a preview on the questions, and results was very useful. Sense of humor and good relationship with the audience made it pleasant to listen to the talk. I liked that Jack was clear in what are the advantage and disadvantages in the way they are doing the identification.</p>	<p>I am curious how the research results can be generalized to a broader class of countries. Given the institutional details in Norway, do the estimations in this study provide an upper or lower bound for the effect of interest?</p>
<p>Do simple mobility measures capture parental influence on children's income</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Very accessible to the general audience. The structure of presentation leads to the important points.</p>	<p>The methodology is interesting and original. I think the exact setting might not lend itself to the power of the suggested methodology. The R2's are all very low, should that be a concern?</p>

Improving measurement of the relationship between parents' and childrens' economic outcomes	Yes	The presentation was fantastic. It was clear, well-organized and even funny!	The project is interesting. I think the key is finding the right framing.
Using machine learning to understand better the statistical relationship between parental and child outcomes	Yes	Great style of presenting - using humor appropriately	It'd be great if you could expand this to other geographical areas
Comparing the R^2 of different models that try to predict child income ranks	Yes	I thought you spoke at a great pace. I enjoyed Jack's presentation. He has excellent communication skills and good sense of humor. You could insist more in the general idea/question of the paper in your introduction. It was hard for me to understand the big picture of the project (but I was not familiar with that literature, so probably that's the reason!)	I thought you nailed the mini-intro to machine learning! The intro/motivation was the only part that I thought could be improved - i.e., try to pitch this paper as something that helps us learn about the determinants of social mobility.
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<p>Applying machine learning methods to linking multiple parental factors to child outcomes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I couldn't understand what the different machine learning methods did, and what the differences were among those methods.</p>	<p>Applying machine learning methods instead of using regressions is interesting, but is it possible to tease out the significance of each parental factor?</p>
<p>Using ML methods to uncover fuller set of predictors for children's income mobility</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Good voice projection, body language, tone, pace. Handled questions well. I felt it was a little bit of an oversell to go for "as close as possible to true model" and then have a relatively "classical" set up with very few parameters relative to N, even when considering highly flexible functional forms.</p>	<p>Given questions about related topics of inequality, absolute mobility, etc., is it feasible to show off your methodological contribution by applying to other categories than rank-rank mobility? Relatedly, could you check other versions of relative mobility? In that sense, can you contribute to the literature over what the "right" model of relative inequality is by saying how they do relative to best case / comparatively equally well across a country?</p>
<p>Applying ML methods to study intergenerational economic mobility</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>(Rose) Giving a high-level overview of the machine learning part in the beginning of the presentation may reduce the number of clarification questions that you get.</p>	<p>(Rose) Topic is interesting and methodology is novel - I like it a lot at a high level. In terms of details, I'm not sure how to think about y_hat vs beta_hat and the flexibility of the model - happy to chat more offline.</p>

<p>Jack presents a methodology for analyzing how close a simple model comes to capturing the "maximum" explicable variation of a given regressand.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Jack is a very strong presenter, and mostly needs to work better on managing his time. In a longer presentation to a (maybe older) audience, he would probably need to explain the machine learning methods in greater detail.</p>	<p>The general "completeness score" framework seems incredibly useful, and the specific context (income mobility in Norway) is interesting (although not particularly satisfying, for showing the strength of the completeness score framework). It may already be this way in the paper itself, but in general I personally think the framework should be emphasized more as the major contribution (rather than validating Raj's work) - although perhaps the latter might initially perform better in citations.</p>
<p>Finding better statistical model for predicting children's income from characteristics of parents (?)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The manner of speech was great. I was a bit confused about the research interests -- at first I thought you wanted to find a good predictive model, but the conclusion seemed to be about how the simple rank-rank model did well compared to conditional expectation function (approximated by a model using ML techniques).</p>	<p>Related to the comment above -- what would be a topic of bigger interest (finding a better model or assessing how good a simple model is)? I know you ran out of time, but it would be great if you could elaborate on what you think will be a fruitful path.</p>
<p>The degree of intergenerational mobility beyond just parental income</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Very clear presentation, and very easy to follow. Despite not understanding anything about machine learning, I was able to follow the empirical strategy clearly</p>	<p>A very interesting question that has a lot of back-up literature. It is clear what the contribution is in terms of understanding the degree of completeness of existing models</p>

<p>The talk uses machine learning on administrative data to assess whether a simple income mobility measure (rank-rank slope) captures broader parental influences on child income in the context of Norway.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Trevor: You argue that the project is a methodological contribution and indeed could swap out relative mobility to assess completeness in another domain, but I suspect there is greater appetite for this work from people who know mobility well than from people who know machine learning well. Thinking in terms of general accessibility, then, you need (and are right) to spend some time explaining machine learning approaches, which you might compare and contrast in a summary table of their properties to motivate the particular choice of elastic net and gradient-boosted regression trees.</p>	<p>Trevor: Given the low R-squared of the rank-rank model in your context, a high completeness might be interpreted not as a success of rank-rank but as inability of your best machine learning model specification to approximate G() well and thereby explain a full predictive relationship. Given your very rich data, I'döm optimistic that you can go beyond very flexibly using the current handful of variables to search over a larger set of variables, potentially unveiling subtler relationships with child outcomes to explore more fully in future causal research.</p>
<p>By how much would including non-income factors on the parent side improve measures of inter-generational mobility</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I really enjoyed the talk - Jack shows a great grasp of the literature, handles questions well, has a great sense of humor, and I particularly like the very clear toy example. My only suggestion is to state upfront that you are not including a large set of parent characteristics and chiefly leveraging machine learning method to relax the linearity assumption - since I have been expecting the opposite for most of the talk.</p>	<p>I find this an elegant project pushing the frontier of a very hot (and important) topic. Maybe as a next step it could be interesting to examine where the gains from your more flexible specification chiefly comes from (i.e. let the data tell a story (or stories) similar to the example you gave).</p>