

1 Error Model for Mass Spectrometry

1.1 Context

In order to understand the Nf- κ B signaling pathway of the cell a good model of the process has to be obtained. The state of the art approach is used which is to define a structure of the model with certain parameters left to be fitted such that the model agrees with the measured data. This structure is generated by pure thought and prior knowledge of the systems. A vital part of this pursuit is to determine the functional dependencies of values in the model and their degree of freedom represented by the number of parameters that can adjust these dependencies. It is of high interest to limit this number of parameters to a minimum that just allows the model to fit all realistic systems of the kind it is supposed to model but not more, as it could get “overfitted” which results in unrealistic predictions.

Since measured data is not free of noise this noise has to be accounted for when trying to fit the model. Thus the model should not predict the measured data exactly but the measured data should be distributed around the prediction just as the measurement is distributed around the real values due to the noise of measurement. Since these distributions are not known they have to be fitted as part of the model. The right type of distribution has to be picked and the parameters fitted such that it represents the distribution of the measurements around the prediction and therefore hopefully the real value.

With the error model obtained we can calculate the probability of a certain measurement to be taken and hence the probability to measure a set of certain values like the measurements already taken. This likelihood to measure the existing data will be used as the goodness of fit. Thus fitting the selected model means trying to find a set of parameters for the model that maximizes this likelihood.

1.2 Goal

Here we want to analyze the mechanics of the procedure to measure the data in order to obtain an understanding of the noise which is produced relative to the real values. We hope to derive a general functional dependency of the measured values to their errors with only a few parameters to be fitted. Experience in this field of science has shown that such mechanistic approaches usually do not work perfectly due to the lack of accurate knowledge about the underlying process. Hence alternative models will be worked out and compared by means of AIC, AIC_C, BIC, etc. If sufficient data is provided we

will also compute Shapiro-Wilk tests and the like to analyse the distribution of error around an established prediction, e.g. multiple measurements of the same dilution of a certain protein. If there is more than one of such data sets we could also analyze the errors dependency to properties of the protein as size or lipophilicity.

1.3 Mechanic Description

The cells which ought to be analyzed contains a discrete number n of a protein of interest.