From noise to knowledge - how randomness generates novel phenomena and reveals information

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Abstract

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Noise, as the term itself suggests, is most often seen a nuisance to ecological insight, a inconvenient reality that must be acknowledged, a haystack that must be stripped away to reveal the processes of interest underneath. Yet despite this well-earned reputation, noise is often interesting in its own right: noise can induce novel phenomena that could not be understood from some underlying determinstic model alone. Nor is all noise the same, and close examination of differences in frequency, color or magnitude can reveal insights that would otherwise be inaccessible. Yet with each aspect of stochasticity leading to some new or unexpected behavior, the time is right to move beyond the familiar refrain of "everything is important" (Bjørnstad & Grenfell 2001). Stochastic phenomena can suggest new ways of inferring process from pattern, and thus spark more dialog between theory and empirical perspectives that best advances the field as a whole. I highlight a few compelling examples, while observing that the study of stochastic phenomena are only beginning to make this translation into empirical inference. There are rich opportunities at this interface in the years ahead.

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Preprint submitted to Arxiv (Cornell University) *January 8, 2024*

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Bibliography styles

Here are two sample references: **?** [**?** ; **?**].

By default, natbib will be used with the `authoryear` style, set in `classoption` variable in YAML and with `elsearticle-harv.bst` which is among provided style by `elsarticle` documentclass. Other available style are `elsarticle-num.bst` and `elsarticle-num-names.bst` — the first one can be used for the numbered scheme, second one for numbered with new options of natbib.sty.

You can sets extra options with `natbiboptions` variable in YAML header. Example

```
natbiboptions: longnamesfirst,angle,semicolon
```

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Using CSL

If `citation_package` is set to `default` in `elsevier_article()`, then pandoc is used for citations instead of `natbib`. In this case, the `csl` option is used to format the references. Alternative `csl` files are available from

`https://www.zotero.org/styles?q=elsevier`. These can be downloaded and stored locally, or the url can be used as in the example header.

Equations

Here is an equation:

$$f_X(x) = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)\left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha}}; \alpha, \beta, x > 0.$$

Here is another:

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2. \tag{1}$$

Inline equations: $\sum_{i=2}^{\infty}\{\alpha_i^{\beta}\}$

Figures and tables

Figure 1 is generated using an R chunk.

Tables coming from R

Tables can also be generated using R chunks, as shown in Table 1 for example.

```
knitr::kable(head(mtcars)[,1:4],
    caption = "\\label{tab1}Caption centered above table"
)
```

Table 1: Caption centered above table

	mpg	cyl	disp	hp
Mazda RX4	21.0	6	160	110
Mazda RX4 Wag	21.0	6	160	110
Datsun 710	22.8	4	108	93
Hornet 4 Drive	21.4	6	258	110
Hornet Sportabout	18.7	8	360	175
Valiant	18.1	6	225	105

References

List of Figures

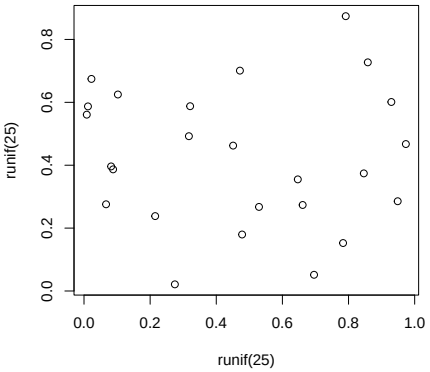

Figure 1: A meaningless scatterplot.