



Why

We want to estimate the weights of a linear function.¹

Definition

The *probabilistic linear model*; *linear model*; *linear regression*

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ be a probability space. We have n precepts in \mathbf{R}^d . So let $a^1, \dots, a^n \in \mathbf{R}^d$ with data matrix $A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times d}$. We are modeling a relation between \mathbf{R}^d and \mathbf{R} .

Let $x : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^d$ and $e : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ be independent random vectors with zero mean and covariances given by Σ_x and Σ_e , respectively. For each $\omega \in \Omega$, define the map $f : \Omega \rightarrow (\mathbf{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbf{R})$ by $f(\omega)(a) = \sum_j a_j^i x_j(\omega) + e_i(\omega)$.

We call x the *signal*. We call e the *noise*. This class of models assumes the signal and noise are independent.

Define $y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ by $y(\omega) = Ax(\omega) + e(\omega)$. So,

$$y = Ax + e.$$

Proposition 1. $\mathbf{E}(y) = A\mathbf{E}(x) + \mathbf{E}(e)$

Proposition 2. $\text{cov}((x, y)) = A\text{cov}(x)A^\top + \text{cov } e$

¹Future editions will include this.

²By linearity. Full account in future editions.

³Full account in future editions.

