

Unit 5 Pre-Class Warm-up

w203 Instructional Team

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What's a Model?

Please read “The End of Theory: The Data Deluge Makes the Scientific Method Obsolete” by Chris Anderson, which is discussed in the async.

http://archive.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-07/pb_theory

Answer the following question (just one paragraph please):

1. Compare the computer science algorithms that Anderson focuses on to the parametric statistics models in our class. How do the goals of these approaches differ?

Parametric statistics models assume the statistics distributions of sample data coming from their population. And by using parametric statistics models, scientists have a simplified way to summarize and predict behaviors/numbers. However, in the article we read, Chris Anderson claimed that the typical modeling and hypothesis testing approach is becoming obsolete. Since we have massively abundant data, Chris Anderson suggests that we don't make assumptions and let the data tell us the stories, shifting from fitting data into a presumed model to letting data show us its true form.