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DATASCI W203

Pre-Class Exercise - Week 5

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

The difference between the computer science algorithms from Anderson's article and the parametric statistical models discussed in our class thus far is that the computer science algorithms do not have explicit issues they are trying to address but rather are tasked to identify correlated variables in the vast amount of data companies like Google accumulated through their day-today operations. The goal of the algorithms is not to understand why certain variables behave the way they do. On the other hand, the parametric statistical models we are working with in this class are usually employed in analyzing and deriving conclusions about a very specific issue, usually involving previously identified variables that investigators are interested in. The models usually work with datasets that are more purposely collected and are often smaller compared to those processed by the computer science algorithms. In the end, the models aim to understand the relationships of the variables and derive some kind of meanings out of the datasets rather than just identifying correlations.