

BAYESIAN A/B/C TESTING

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A/B/C testing is experiment of showing three variants of landing page to website visitors, and statistical analysis is used to determine which one performs better for a given conversion aim.

Problem formulation. Bernoulli trials with probabilities $\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C$ of success are implemented in three groups of visitors (A, B, C). Probabilities $\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C$ of success are unknown random variables. The loss function $L(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, \cdot)$ describes the loss under decision making about choosing landing page variant which can be published on website. Loss function is $L(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, A) = \max\{\theta_B - \theta_A, \theta_C - \theta_A, 0\}$ for group A, and $L(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, B) = \max\{\theta_A - \theta_B, \theta_C - \theta_B, 0\}$ for group B, and $L(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, C) = \max\{\theta_A - \theta_C, \theta_B - \theta_C, 0\}$ for group C [1]. Our goal is to compute the expected loss $EL(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, \cdot)$ with analytical approach, to find Bayesian estimators $\hat{\theta}_A, \hat{\theta}_B, \hat{\theta}_C$ for probabilities $\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C$ of success concerning the loss function $L(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, \cdot)$, and compute probabilities $P\{\theta_A > \max\{\theta_B, \theta_C\}\}$, $P\{\theta_B > \max\{\theta_A, \theta_C\}\}$, $P\{\theta_C > \max\{\theta_A, \theta_B\}\}$.

Results. The expected loss is computed with analytical approach for groups A, B, C [2].

$$\begin{aligned}
 EL(\theta_A, \theta_B, \theta_C, A) = & \frac{B(c+1, d)}{B(c, d)} (1 - h(a, b, c+1, d)) - \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} (1 - h(a+1, b, c, d)) - \\
 & - \frac{B(c+1, d)}{B(c, d)} \sum_{i=0}^{e-1} \frac{B(c+1+i, d+f)}{(f+i)B(1+i, f)B(c+1, d)} (1 - h(a, b, c+i+1, d+f)) + \\
 & + \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} \sum_{i=0}^{e-1} \frac{B(c+i, d+f)}{(f+i)B(1+i, f)B(c, d)} (1 - h(a+1, b, c+i, d+f)) + \\
 & + \frac{B(e+1, f)}{B(e, f)} (1 - h(a, b, e+1, f)) - \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} (1 - h(a+1, b, e, f)) - \\
 & - \frac{B(e+1, f)}{B(e, f)} \sum_{i=0}^e \frac{B(a+i, b+f)}{(i+f)B(1+i, f)B(a, b)} (1 - h(a+i, b+f, c, d)) + \\
 & + \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} \sum_{i=0}^{e-1} \frac{B(a+1+i, b+f)}{(i+f)B(1+i, f)B(a+1, b)} (1 - h(a+1+i, b+f, c, d)) + \\
 & + \frac{B(e+1, f)}{B(e, f)} \sum_{i=0}^e \frac{B(c+i, d+f)}{(i+f)B(1+i, f)B(c, d)} (1 - h(a, b, c+i, d+f)) - \\
 & - \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} \sum_{i=0}^{e-1} \frac{B(c+i, d+f)}{(i+f)B(1+i, f)B(c, d)} (1 - h(a+1, b, c+i, d+f)),
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$h(a, b, c, d) = 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} \frac{B(a+i, b+d)}{(d+i)B(1+i, d)B(a, b)}.$$

References

- C. Stucchio, Bayesian A/B Testing at VWO, Whitepaper, Visual Website Optimizer, 2015.
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