BAYESIALAB

The webinar will start at: **13:00:00** The current time is: **13:00:49**

> Central Daylight Time UTC-5

Product Cannibalization

A Prototypical Marketing Science Problem

Introduction

Your Hosts Today

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Today's Program

Motivation & Background

- Definitions
- Introductory Example

Representation

- Conceptual Framework: Bayesian Networks
- Probabilistic Reasoning

Learning, Estimation, and Inference

- Causal Reasoning?
- Unsupervised Learning
- Disjunctive Cause Criterion
- Assign Utilities
- Evaluate Policies



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Webinar Slides & Recording Available



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Motivation & Background

Definitions

- Typically, a new product adversely affects the sales of existing products:
 - If it affects your competitor's products, it's



• If it affects your own products, it's













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Motivation & Background

Introductory Example: 2000 BMW X5

• First SUV in the BMW product portfolio.



Motivation & Background

Introductory Example: New BMW X3 vs. Existing BMW X5

• New, smaller X3 launched in 2004



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Bayesian Network Representation



Inference

Obvious, as we encoded that as our domain knowledge into the network.

- Computing the cannibalization effect C of Product B on Product A:
 - $C(B \rightarrow A) = -0.3$ (unit effect)



Can't we do this in Excel?



Motivation & Background

Example: BMW Portfolio of "Utility-Type" Vehicles in 2018



A Fully Connected Network?



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Learning & Estimating Cannibalization

Learning & Estimating Cannibalization

Couldn't we just ask auto buyers?

Learning & Estimating Cannibalization

Understanding Cannibalization by Other Means?

- Trade-Ins
 - New and old product not comparable
- Auto Buyer Surveys (2nd Choice)
 - Respondents tend to exaggerate their counterfactual choice ("I would have bought the convertible, but we need the third row.")
- Choice Experiments
 - Hypothetical choices are noncommittal
 - Expensive to conduct









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Learning & Estimating Cannibalization

A Fictional Case Study

Learning & Estimating Cannibalization

Case Study Question:

• What is the cannibalization effect of B on A, C, and D?



Learning & Estimating Cannibalization

Daily Sales Data









A desktop software for:

- encoding
- learning
- editing
- performing inference
- analyzing
- simulating
- optimizing

with Bayesian networks.

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Variable Type Definition



Discretization



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Unsupervised Learning Using the EQ Algorithm

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Network Data Edit View Learning Inference Analysis Monitor Tools Window Help

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Disjunctive Cause Criterion



NIH Public Access Author Manuscript

Biometrics. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2012 December 1.

Published in final edited form as: *Biometrics.* 2011 December ; 67(4): 1406–1413. doi:10.1111/j.1541-0420.2011.01619.x.

A new criterion for confounder selection

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Abstract

We propose a new criterion for confounder selection when the underlying causal structure is unknown and only limited knowledge is available. We assume all covariates being considered are pretreatment variables and that for each covariate it is known (i) whether the covariate is a cause of treatment, and (ii) whether the covariate is a cause of the outcome. The causal relationships the covariates have with one another is assumed unknown. We propose that control be made for any covariate that is either a cause of treatment or of the outcome or both. We show that irrespective of the actual underlying causal structure, if any subset of the observed covariates suffices to control

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Disjunctive Cause Criterion

VanderWeele and Shpitser (2011)

"We propose that control be made for any [pre-treatment]
 covariate that is either a cause of treatment or of the outcome or both."
 Confounder
 Confounder

Implementation in BayesiaLab:
 Likelihood Matching on Confounders in
 Direct Effects Analysis
 → Causal Effect, i.e., the Cannibalization Rate

IMPORTANT ASSUMPTION: NO UNOBSERVED CONFOUNDERS

Cannibalized Product





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In Conclusion...

Webinar Series: Friday at 1 p.m. (Central)

Upcoming Webinars:

- March 30 Good Friday No Webinar
- April 6 t.b.d.
- April 13 t.b.d.

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November 5-7, 2018: Chicago Advanced BayesiaLab Course

What is Ravesial ah? ww.bayesia.com/2018-04-11-intro-course-sydney-nsw? hstc=22 889& hsfp=3344690374

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 New Delhi, India
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 Chicago, IL
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Introductory BayesiaLab Course in San Francisco, California July 23–25, 2018

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6th Annual BayesiaLab Conference in Chicago November 1–2, 2018

Thank You!



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