

The MLE Scoring Rule

Abstract When groups of individuals need to settle questions regarding collective aggregates individual preferences into a collective social decision. One class of voting rules are scoring rules. Common scoring rules are the Borda rule, and the Plurality rule, and there are infinitely many other scoring rules. In this article we present a new scoring method. The novelty of this rule is expressed not only in the selected rule, which so far is unknown in the literature, but also in the optimization approach. While standard approaches in selecting scoring rules are all proposed prior to the election, we propose to select the scoring rule based on the votes received. By doing so, we can interpret the scores as a maximum likelihood estimator and thus may solve some of the flaws of standard scoring rules.