What Laws Act on the Mind? Large data, regularities, and illusions

> Kenneth W. Regan¹ University at Buffalo (SUNY)

RKMVERI, 5 Feb. 2019

 What Laws Act on the Mind?

Competitive Chess

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• Burgeoning popularity and participation

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- In 2018, I took data from 10.6 million positions in 240,000 games by 58,000 players in tournaments rated by the World Chess Federation (FIDE).
- This excluded the first 8 moves in any game—"book" openings.

Idea: The *points expectation* E for player P versus opponent(s) O should be a function of the difference(s) in ratings $\Delta = R_P - R_O$ alone.

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If your actual score exceeds (falls short of) your expectation then your rating goes up (down).

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Elo Rating Examples

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- Distribution of online players on Chess.com—skewed low:



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• (Will discuss IPRs later; focus on values now.)
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Logistic curve, $B = B_R$ depends on the rating R.

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$$v = 0 \implies E = 50\%$$

 $B, v = 1 \implies E = \frac{1}{1 + 1/e} = \frac{1}{1.368...} \approx 73\%$
 $v \to +\infty \implies E \to 100\%.$

Logistic curve, $B = B_R$ depends on the rating R.

Refined to include small probability A of blundering away a "completely winning" game, giving a "generalized logistic" (Richards) curve:

$$E=A+rac{1-2A}{1+\exp(-Bv)}.$$

Example For Elo 2000 Rating





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- In training by self-play it avoided the sliding-scale issue by "bootstrapping" its own B as it improved.
- But I have to model human players of all levels R in my tests.

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- The frequency A of game-blowing blunders also varies with R.
- Given the position has value v, ceteris paribus, is it better if it is your turn to move or the opponent's turn? A "Murphy's Law":



Conditioned on one of the top two moves being played, if their values in pawn units differ by...:

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 - Will leave explanation as a "teaser" until the end...

Law of Relative Perceived Differences in Value



Values can be scaled to flatten this out and conform more to E scale.

"Law" of Human Time Budgeting

Error By Move Number in Games



approach ing Move 17-32 between opening

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Chess and Tests

The _____ of drug-resistant strains of bacteria and viruses has _____ researchers' hopes that permanent victories against many diseases have been achieved.

- vigor . . corroborated
- b feebleness . . dashed

- c proliferation . . blighted
- destruction . . disputed
- e disappearance . . frustrated

(source: itunes.apple.com)



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What Laws Act on the Mind?

Item-Response Theory

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- IRT posits this as always a Richards curve whose slope *B* is the sharpness of level that the question *discriminates*.



Figure 3 Item Characteristic Curves
What Laws Act on the Mind?

Does Chess Conform to IRT?

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• Scale down extreme differences (justified above) to define $\delta_i = \delta(v_1, v_i).$

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- Or whether and how much partial credit is deserved for "close" answers.
- Use difference in value $v_1 v_i$ to judge the *i*th-best move m_i .
- Scale down extreme differences (justified above) to define $\delta_i = \delta(v_1, v_i).$
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- The analogue of getting a question right is playing exactly the move the computer judges best.
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- Also gives a *utility function* for possible moves.

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- Otherwise, use my model's MM% and ASD projections directly.

The MM% Projection, 1600-to-2700 Levels

Function f(x) = 19.654619721630443 + 0.014057033867393376x**R-Squared** $R^2 = 0.99303212012685$ Graph 57.535 55.98 54.425 52.87 51.315 49.76 48,205 46.65 45.095 43.54 1760 1980 2200 2420 2640

< 1[™] >

Now Including 1025–1600, 2725–2800:

Function

f(x) = 21.86511755244366 + 0.013085915894893769x

R-Squared

 $R^2 = 0.97835646846452$



Quadratic Not Linear Law?

Function

 $f(x) = 34.66026963709357 - 0.00024349241455471368x + 0.0000033522002997568x^2$

R-Squared

 $R^2 = 0.99779719205296$



Same With X,Y Axes Flipped...

Function

 $f(x) = -5224.3797654152 + 224.51739158320626x - 1.5285546730040955x^2$

R-Squared

 $R^2 = 0.99814244490643$



...And Extended...

Function

 $f(x) = -5224.3797654152 + 224.51739158320626x - 1.5285546730040955x^2$

R-Squared

 $R^2 = 0.99825130391887$



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- Analogy to catching particles with a river sieve.

Linear Law For ASD Looks Good...But...

Function f(x) = 3298.02376454243 - 10688.627382908597x**R-Squared** $R^2 = 0.99037759880581$ Graph 2662.5 2485 2307.5 2130 1952.5 1775 1597.5 1420 1242.5 1065 0.0735172 0.1102758 0.1470344 0.183793 0.2205516

Quadratic Law Has Higher "Rating of Perfection"

Function

 $f(x) = 3462.663010383108 - 13884.604914850042x + 13415.403252920698x^2$

R-Squared

 $R^2 = 0.99676481397797$


Multiplying By 4pq Recovers Good Linear Fit

Function

f(x) = 20.42277725109287 + 0.013578631028477313x

R-Squared

 $R^2 = 0.99732175601628$

Graph



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- Can we reward *depth-of-thinking* directly?

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- So which law holds in chess: linear or log-linear?

Evidence for Neither: Needs "LogLogRadical" Model

Log-log-linear equation:

$$\log\log(1/p_i) - \log\log(1/p_1) = eta u_i$$

yields

$$p_i=p_1^{L_i}=p_1^{e^{eta u_i}}.$$

My deployed model inverts β as 1/s where s stands for sensitivity, and makes utility nonlinear with a second parameter c (for consistency):

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Check of Log-Linear Model: London 1883 Tmt

Rk	ProjVal	Actual	Proj% /	Actual%	z-s	core
1	4870.99	4871.00	47.34%	47.34%	z =	+0.00
2	1123.22	1729.00	10.94%	16.85%	z =	+19.88
3	633.30	951.00	6.21%	9.32%	z =	+13.27
4	459.83	593.00	4.56%	5.88%	z =	+6.44
5	370.58	410.00	3.72%	4.11%	z =	+2.11
6	311.98	295.00	3.16%	2.99%	z =	-0.99
7	270.56	247.00	2.75%	2.51%	z =	-1.46
8	239.36	197.00	2.44%	2.01%	z =	-2.79
9	214.30	169.00	2.19%	1.73%	z =	-3.15
10	193.93	104.00	1.99%	1.07%	z =	-6.57

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With LogLog-Radical Model (first line is MM%)

Rk	ProjVal	Sigma	Actual	Proj%	Actual%	z-score
1	4871.02	47.02	4871.00	47.34%	47.34%	z = -0.00
2	1786.89	37.32	1729.00	17.41%	16.85%	z = -1.55
3	929.87	28.60	951.00	9.11%	9.32%	z = +0.74
4	589.93	23.29	593. 0 0	5.85%	5.88%	z = +0.13
5	419.35	19. <mark>8</mark> 4	410.00	4.21%	4.11%	z = -0.47
6	315.24	17.32	295.00	3.19%	2.99%	z = -1.17
7	246.68	15.39	247.00	2.51%	2.51%	z = +0.02
8	198.71	13.85	197.00	2.03%	2.01%	z = -0.12
9	161.54	12.52	169.00	1.65%	1.73%	z = +0.60
10	134.18	11.43	104.00	1.38%	1.07%	z = -2.64
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The Deepest Mental Influence?



Values by depth of search:

Move	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Nd2	103	093	087	093	027	028	000	000	056	-007	039	028	037	020	014	017	000	006	000
Bxd7	048	034	-033	-033	-013	-042	-039	-050	-025	-010	001	000	-009	-027	-018	000	000	000	000
Qg8	114	114	-037	-037	-014	-014	-022	-068	-008	-056	-042	-004	-032	000	-014	-025	-045	-045	-050
Nxd4	-056	-056	-113	-071	-071	-145	-020	-006	077	052	066	040	050	051	-181	-181	-181	-213	-213

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- And that the depth of exposing mistakes grows linearly with skill rating *R*.

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- Non-parapsychological explanation of 57–59% phenomenon.
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- And that the depth of exposing mistakes grows linearly with skill rating *R*. Better players commit deeper errors.

- A move that initially looks best but whose value *swings down* on deeper reflection is a powerful *trap*.
- This one caught out Vladimir Kramnik in 2008 loss to Anand.
- Note also two moves are tied for equal-top value (0.00 difference).
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- New model parameter h (for nautical "heave") multiplies ρ .

Interpretations and Modeling

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- Currently trying to have s, c touch components of ρ directly and add parameters that preserve the "canyon" shape.

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