

Classification and Regression under Statistical Parity

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Table of contents

1. Introduction
2. The awareness framework
 - (Short reminders on) fair regression
 - Fair classification
3. The unawareness framework
 - Fair regression
 - Fair classification

Introduction to statistical fairness

Setting

Observations: $(\underbrace{X}_{\text{feature}} ; \underbrace{S}_{\text{sensitive attribute}} ; \underbrace{Y}_{\text{outcome}})$ P on $X \times S \times Y$.

Setting	Regression
Outcome	$Y = \mathbb{R}$
Predictions	$F, f : X \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^g$
Risk	$R = \mathbb{E} (f(x, s) - Y)^2$
Fairness criteria	$(;) \text{ ? } \mathcal{P}$ (Statistical Parity)

Setting

Observations: $(\{z\}; \{z\}; \{z\})$ P on $X \times S \times Y$.
feature sensitive attribute outcome

Setting

Regression

Classification

Outcome

$$Y = \mathbb{R}$$

$$Y = \{0, 1\}$$

Predictions

$$F, f : X \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$G, g : X \times S \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

Risk

$$R = \mathbb{E} [\ell (;)]^2$$

$$R^{0-1} = \mathbb{E} [\ell (;)]$$

Fairness
criteria

$$\ell (;) \text{ ?}$$

(Statistical Parity)

$$\mathbb{E} [\ell (;)] \text{ ?}$$

(Demographic Parity)

Setting

Observations: $(\underbrace{|\{z\}|}_{\text{feature}}; \underbrace{|\{z\}|}_{\text{sensitive attribute}}; \underbrace{|\{z\}|}_{\text{outcome}})$ P on $X \times S \times Y$.

Setting

Regression

Classification

Outcome

$$Y = \mathbb{R}$$

$$Y = \{0, 1\}$$

Predictions

$$F, f : X \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$G, g : X \times S \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

Risk

$$R = \mathbb{E} \left[\left(f(x, s) - y \right)^2 \right]$$

$$R^{0,1} = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{1}_{g(x, s) \neq y} \right]$$

Fairness
criteria

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(f(x, s) - f(x, s') \right)^2 \right] \text{ ?}$$

(Statistical Parity)

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{1}_{g(x, s) \neq j} \right] \text{ ?}$$

(Demographic Parity)

This is the **awareness** framework... in the **unawareness** framework, f and g cannot depend on s .

Setting

Observations: $(\underbrace{Z}_{\text{feature}} ; \underbrace{S}_{\text{sensitive attribute}} ; \underbrace{Y}_{\text{outcome}})$ P on $X \times S \times Y$.

Setting	Regression	Classification
Outcome	$Y = \mathbb{R}$	$Y = \{0, 1\}$
Predictions	$F, f : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	$G, g : Z \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$
Risk	$R = E [(f(Z) - Y)^2]$	$R^{0,1} = E [\ell(g(Z))]$
Fairness criteria	$(f) \text{ ?}$ (Statistical Parity)	$E [(g(Z) - Y)^j] \text{ ?}$ (Demographic Parity)

Awareness framework: $Z = X \times S, P = (P_X; P_S)$

Unawareness framework: $Z = X, P = P_X$

Reminders on unconstrained classification

Without fairness constraint, the L_2 solution to

$$\underset{\mathbf{G}}{\text{minimize}} \quad P[\hat{y} \neq y]$$

is given by

$$\hat{y}_i = \mathbf{1}(\hat{f}_i > \frac{1}{2})$$

where $\hat{f}_i = E[f_i]$ is the solution to

$$\underset{\mathbf{F}}{\text{minimize}} \quad E[(\hat{f}_i - y_i)^2]$$

This relationship between classification and regression can be used to design and study classifiers [Yang, 1999], [Massart and Nédélec, 2006], [Audibert and Tsybakov, 2007], [Biau et al., 2008]

Reminders on unconstrained classification

Consider the risks

$$R(\theta) = P[\hat{y} = 0; (y) = 1] + (1 - \lambda)P[\hat{y} = 1; (y) = 0]:$$

We have

$$R(\theta) = (1 - \lambda)E[\hat{y}] + E[(y) - \hat{y}](\lambda):$$

=> The Bayes classifier \hat{y}^* is given by

$$\hat{y}^*(x) = \mathbf{1}_{f(x) > g(x)}$$

There is an equivalence between solving the regression problem and solving the classification problem for all λ .

What about fair classification?

Let f^* be the solution to

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && E (f^* (X))^2 \\ & \text{such that} && f^* \in \mathcal{F} : \end{aligned}$$

We can define $\tau : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $\tau(f) = E (f (X) - g)^2$.

- | Is f^* optimal for some threshold τ ?
- | Does f^* verify Demographic Parity?

What about fair classification?

Let f^* be the solution to

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- | Does f^* verify Demographic Parity? **Yes... it verifies Strong Demographic Parity**

What about fair classification?

Let f be the solution to

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && E (f(x) - g(x))^2 \\ & \text{such that} && (f(x)) \in \mathcal{F} : \end{aligned}$$

We can define $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ as follows:

- | Is f optimal for some threshold τ ?
- | Does f verify Demographic Parity? **Yes... it verifies Strong Demographic Parity**

Strong Demographic parity [JPSJC19]: A classifier f verifies **Strong Demographic parity** if $(f(x)) = \mathbf{1} f(x) - g(x)$ for some threshold τ , and verifies Statistical Parity.

What about fair classification?

Let f be the solution to

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && E (f (X) - g)^2 \\ & \text{such that} && (f) \in \mathcal{F} : \end{aligned}$$

We can define $\epsilon : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $\epsilon(f) = E (f (X) - g)^2$.

- | Is f optimal for some threshold ϵ ? **It depends...**
- | Does f verify Demographic Parity? **Yes... it verifies Strong Demographic Parity**

Strong Demographic parity [JPSJC19]: A classifier f verifies **Strong Demographic parity** if $(f) = \mathbb{1} f (X) - g$ for some threshold ϵ , and verifies Statistical Parity.

The awareness framework

Fair regression

Reminders from Nicolas's talk

Assumption (A1)

$$\textcircled{c} \quad \mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \epsilon_j^2 \right) = O(n)$$

Theorem (Chzhen et al., 2020, Le Gouic et al., 2020)

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$$\mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \epsilon_j^2 \right)^2 = O(n^2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_j &= o_p(1) \\ o_p(1) &= P \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \epsilon_j^2 \leq n \right] \rightarrow 1 \quad o_p^{-1}(1) = P \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \epsilon_j^2 > n \right] \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

Fair classification

First results

Assumption (A2)

$$\textcircled{c} \quad ((;)_j =)$$

Theorem (G., Schreuder and Chzhen, 2023)

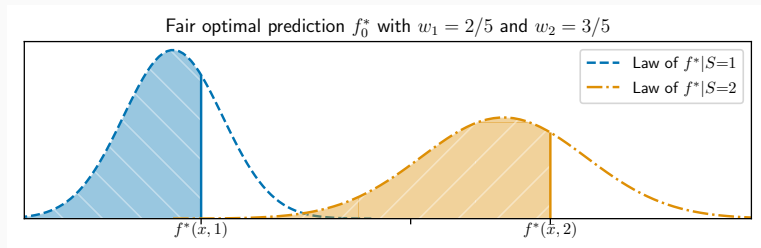
©

$$P[\notin (;)]$$

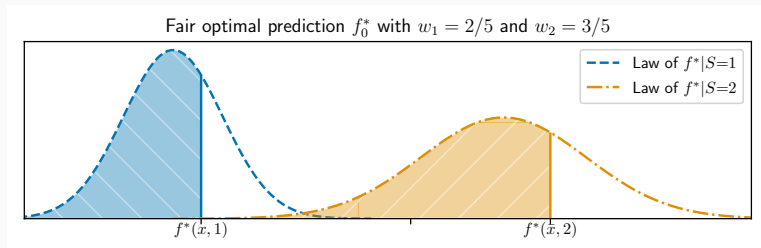
$$(;) \text{ ? } :$$

$$(;) = 1 \quad (;) \frac{1}{2} :$$

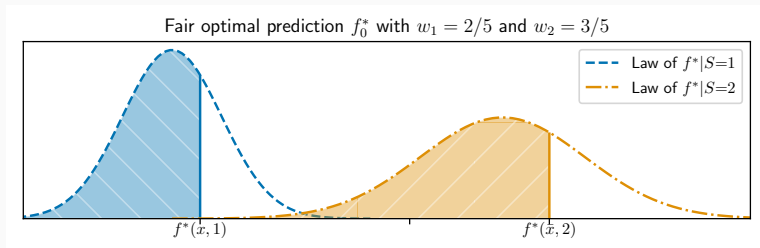
We look for classifiers $(;) = 1 f (;)$ $g:$



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General performance measures

We consider general performance measures

$$U_{n;d}(\cdot), \frac{n_0 + n_1 P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1; \cdot = 1] + n_2 P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1]}{d_0 + d_1 P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1; \cdot = 1] + d_2 P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1]}$$

where n, d can depend on $P[\cdot = 1]$ (but not on \cdot).

I Accuracy $U_{n;d}(\cdot) = P[(\cdot; \cdot) \notin \cdot]$:

I o-score $U_{n;d}(\cdot) = \frac{(1 + \cdot^2) P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1; \cdot = 1]}{2 P[\cdot = 1] + P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1]}$.

I Jaccard Index $U_{n;d}(\cdot) = \frac{P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1; \cdot = 1]}{P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1; \cdot = 0] + P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1]}$.

I AM Measure $U_{n;d}(\cdot) = \frac{1}{2} (P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 1; \cdot = 1] + P[(\cdot; \cdot) = 0; \cdot = 0])$:

Theorem (G., Schreuder and Chzhen, 2023 - Informal)

© $n;d$

$$U_{n;d}(\cdot)$$
$$(\cdot; \cdot) \text{ ? } :$$

n d $n;d$

$$n;d(\cdot; \cdot) = \mathbf{1} \quad (\cdot; \cdot) \quad n;d :$$

Assumption (A3)

1. $d_0 + (d_1 + (d_2)_+)_+ = 0$
2. $d_2 n_1 > n_2 d_1$ $d_0 n_1 > n_0 d_1$ $(n_0 d_2 > d_0 n_2)_+$
 $\left(\frac{n_0 d_2}{n_2 d_1} > \frac{d_0 n_2}{d_2 n_1} \right) P[= 1]$
3. $d_2 n_1 = n_2 d_1$ $n_1 d_0 > d_1 n_0$
 $\frac{d_0 n_2}{n_0 d_1} > \frac{n_0 d_2}{d_0 n_1} \mathcal{L} [0; 1]$

Theorem (G., Schreuder and Chzhen, 2023)

$$n; d \left(\frac{\cdot}{\cdot} ; \frac{\cdot}{\cdot} \right) = 1 - \left(\frac{\cdot}{\cdot} ; \frac{\cdot}{\cdot} \right)_{n; d} ;$$

| $n; d$

$$E \left[\left(\frac{\cdot}{\cdot} ; \frac{\cdot}{\cdot} \right)_{n; d} \right] = \frac{n_0 d_1}{n_2 d_1} \frac{d_0 n_1}{d_2 n_1} + \frac{n_0 d_2}{n_2 d_1} \frac{d_0 n_2}{d_2 n_1}$$

| $(n; d) = \frac{d_0 n_2}{n_0 d_1} \frac{n_0 d_2}{d_0 n_1}$

Algorithm:

1. Estimate
2. Estimate
3. Estimate n and d
4. Estimate threshold $b_{n;d}$ (explicit formula or fixed-point equation)
5. Use double-plug-in estimator

$$b_{n;d}(\cdot) = \mathbf{1}^{n, b}(\cdot) \circ b_{b; \theta}$$

Summary

In the awareness framework, DP-fair optimal classification with performance measure $U_{n;d}$

- | is given by $U_{n;d}(\cdot; \cdot) = \mathbb{1}_{\text{DP-fair}}(\cdot; \cdot) \circ U_{n;d}$
- | has desirable properties :
 - **does no harm to the protected group**
 - preserves **rational ordering**
 - preserves **monotonicity**

Summary

In the awareness framework, DP-fair optimal classification with performance measure $U_{n;d}$

- | is given by $U_{n;d}(f; g) = \mathbb{1}_{\text{DP-fair}}(f; g) \circ U_{n;d}$
- | has desirable properties :
 - **does no harm to the protected group**
 - preserves **rational ordering**
 - preserves **monotonicity**

(Informal) A family of classifiers \mathcal{F} preserves **monotonicity** if -almost-surely,

$$f \succ g \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}[f(\cdot) = 1] > \mathbb{P}[g(\cdot) = 1] \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}[f(\cdot) = 1] > \mathbb{P}[g(\cdot) = 1].$$

The unawareness framework

Fair regression

Fair regression under unawareness

Problem: We want to solve

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && E (\quad ())^2 \\ & \text{such that} && () \text{ ? } : \end{aligned}$$

In the following, we assume $S = f1;2g$.

Notations: $\quad , \quad j = 1 \quad 1, \quad j = 2 \quad 2$.

An equivalent fairness constraint

Jordan decomposition We write $\mu_1 - \mu_2 = (\mu_+ - \mu_-)$, where

- | μ_+ and μ_- are positive measures
- | $X_+ = \text{supp}(\mu_+)$ and $X_- = \text{supp}(\mu_-)$ are disjoint.

An equivalent fairness constraint

Jordan decomposition We write $\mu_1 - \mu_2 = \mu_+ - \mu_-$, where

- | μ_+ and μ_- are **probability** measures
- | $X_+ = \text{supp}(\mu_+)$ and $X_- = \text{supp}(\mu_-)$ are disjoint.

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- μ_+ and μ_- are probability measures
- $X_+ = \text{supp}(\mu_+)$ and $X_- = \text{supp}(\mu_-)$ are disjoint.

Lemma (Chzhen and Schreuder, 2020)

$$\begin{aligned} & : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ & \int_{X_+} f = \int_{X_-} f : \end{aligned} \quad \tilde{\mu}$$

An equivalent fairness constraint

Jordan decomposition We write $\mu_1 - \mu_2 = \mu_+ - \mu_-$, where

- μ_+ and μ_- are **probability** measures
- $X_+ = \text{supp}(\mu_+)$ and $X_- = \text{supp}(\mu_-)$ are disjoint.

Lemma (Chzhen and Schreuder, 2020)

$$f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \tilde{f} \\ J_{\mu_+} = J_{\mu_-} : f$$

Consequence We can look for functions

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} g_+(x) & \text{if } x \in X_+ \\ g_-(x) & \text{if } x \in X_- \end{cases} \quad f : \mu_1 = \mu_2$$

such that $J_{\mu_+} = J_{\mu_-}$.

$$R(x) = \begin{cases} Z & \text{if } x \in X \\ \infty & \text{if } x \in X^c \end{cases}$$

where $Z \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ and $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a cost, and $\chi_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in X \\ +\infty & \text{if } x \in X^c \end{cases}$.

$$R(x) = \begin{cases} Z & \text{if } x \in X \\ \infty & \text{if } x \notin X \end{cases}$$

where $Z : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a cost, and $\infty = \begin{cases} +\infty & \text{if } x \in X \\ -\infty & \text{if } x \notin X \end{cases}$.

I should depend only on Z ; ∞ : $I = \tilde{I}(Z, \infty)$.

$$R(x) = \min_{x_+} \left(c(x); c(x) + c(x) \right) + \min_x \left(c(x); c(x) \right) + c(x)$$

where $c: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a cost, and $c(x) = \begin{cases} c_+(x) & \text{if } x \in X_+ \\ c_-(x) & \text{if } x \in X_- \end{cases}$.

I c_+ should depend only on c : $c_+(x) = \min_{x_+} (c(x); c(x) + c(x))$.

I Let $\tilde{c} = \text{Law}(c_+; c_-)$. \tilde{c} should solve:

$$\min_{\tilde{c}} \left(\tilde{c}(x); \tilde{c}(x) + \tilde{c}(x) \right) + \min_x \left(\tilde{c}(x); \tilde{c}(x) \right) = \min_x (c(x); c(x) + c(x))$$

such that $\tilde{c}_+ \tilde{c}_- = \tilde{c}$

I Let $\tilde{X} = \text{Law} ((X); (Y))$. \tilde{X} should solve:

$$\text{minimize } \int (X; Y) \tilde{X}_+(X; Y) + \int (X; Y) \tilde{X}_-(X; Y)$$

such that $\tilde{X}_+ \tilde{X}_- = \tilde{X} \tilde{X}$

I Let $\tilde{\mu} = \text{Law}(\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y})$. $\tilde{\mu}$ should solve:

$$\text{minimize}_{\tilde{\mu}} \int (\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y}) \tilde{\mu}_+(\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y}) + \int (\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y}) \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y}) - \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y})$$

such that $\tilde{\mu}_+ \tilde{\mu} = \tilde{\mu} \tilde{\mu}$

I $\tilde{\mu}_+ \tilde{\mu} = \tilde{\mu} \tilde{\mu}$ should solve the barycenter problem:

$$\min_{\tilde{\mu}} \zeta(\tilde{\mu}_+; \tilde{\mu}) + \zeta(\tilde{\mu}; \tilde{\mu})$$

where

$$\zeta(\tilde{\mu}; \tilde{\mu}) = \int_2 \inf_{(\tilde{\mu}; \tilde{\mu})} ((\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y}); \tilde{\mu}) ((\tilde{X}; \tilde{Y}); \tilde{\mu})$$

Result

Assumption (A4)

$$\tilde{+} \quad \sim$$

$$1$$

Theorem (Divol and G., 2024)

$$\min_{\tilde{+}} \zeta(\tilde{+}; \mu) + \zeta(\tilde{-}; \mu)$$

$$\zeta(\tilde{+}; \mu) = \zeta(\tilde{-}; \mu)$$

$$\zeta(\tilde{+}; \mu) = \sum_{\tilde{+}} \zeta(\tilde{+}; \mu) \quad 2X_+$$

$$\zeta(\tilde{-}; \mu) = \sum_{\tilde{-}} \zeta(\tilde{-}; \mu) \quad 2X$$

$$\zeta(\tilde{-}; \mu) = \sum_{\tilde{-}} \zeta(\tilde{-}; \mu) \quad :$$

Remarks:

- | Under Assumptions (A1) and (A4), the optimal prediction is **deterministic**.
- | The optimal prediction tries to guess the sensitive attribute.
- | Unless \mathcal{A} verifies Statistical Parity, the optimal fair prediction does not verify **rational ordering** within group.

Fair classification

Fair classification under unawareness

We want to solve

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && R(\gamma), && P[\omega = 0; (\gamma) = 1] + (1 - \gamma)P[\omega = 1; (\gamma) = 0] \\ & \text{such that} && (\gamma) \in \mathcal{C} : \end{aligned}$$

Remark:

$$R(\gamma) = (1 - \gamma)E[\ell_0] + E[\ell_1(\gamma) - \ell_0(\gamma)]:$$

=> The Bayes classifier γ^* is given by

$$\gamma^* = \mathbf{1}_{f(\gamma) \leq g}:$$

I Family of risks R with corresponding thresholds γ^* .

Lemma (Chzhen and Schreuder, 2020)

$$: X \neq \mathbb{R} \quad \tilde{n}$$
$$J_+ = J_- :$$

I verifies Demographic Parity if and only if

$$E_+ [()] = E_- [()]:$$

Lemma (Chzhen and Schreuder, 2020)

$$: X \neq \mathbb{R} \quad \tilde{n}$$

$$J_+ = J : \quad :$$

I verifies Demographic Parity if and only if

$$E_+ [()] = E [()] :$$

$$\approx \begin{matrix} \infty \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} + () \\ + () \\ + () \end{matrix} \text{ if } \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} X_+$$

I We can look for $() = \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} () \\ () \\ () \end{matrix} \text{ if } \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} X$

$\cdot \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 f () \\ 1 f () \\ 1 f () \end{matrix} \quad g \text{ else:}$

Lemma (Chzhen and Schreuder, 2020)

$$: X \neq \mathbb{R} \quad \tilde{n}$$

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I verifies Demographic Parity if and only if

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I We can look for $() = \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} () \\ () \\ () \end{matrix} \text{ if } \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} X$

$$\cdot \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 f () \\ 1 f () \\ 1 f () \end{matrix} \quad g \text{ else:}$$

Decomposition + change of measure:

$$R () = E_+ \left[\frac{()}{()} \right] + () + E \left[\frac{()}{()} \right] () + :$$

We should choose $() = 1 \begin{matrix} \approx \\ \approx \\ \approx \end{matrix} \frac{()}{()} \quad \circ :$

Optimal fair classification under unawareness

Theorem (G., Schreuder and Chzhen, 2023)

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R

D

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \approx \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(\cdot)}{(\cdot)} \quad (\cdot)^{\circ} \quad 2X_+ \\
 (\cdot) & = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(\cdot)}{(\cdot)} \quad (\cdot)^{\circ} \quad 2X \\
 & \quad \cdot \quad 1 f(\cdot) \quad g
 \end{aligned}$$

(\cdot)

$$P_+ \frac{(\cdot)}{(\cdot)} \quad (\cdot) = E \quad \frac{(\cdot)}{(\cdot)} \quad (\cdot) :$$

Remarks: In the unawareness framework, DP-fair optimal classification with risk measure \mathcal{R}

- | tries to guess the sensitive attribute;
- | **harms** some individuals from **protected group**;
- | does not preserve **rational ordering**

Remarks: In the unawareness framework, DP-fair optimal classification with risk measure \mathcal{R}

- | tries to guess the sensitive attribute;
- | **harms** some individuals from **protected group**;
- | does not preserve **rational ordering**
- | **may not preserve monotonicity**

Original question: Is $1_{f(\cdot) \geq g}$ optimal?

- | Without monotonicity, no! (The optimal classifier cannot be of the form $1_{f(\cdot) \geq g}$.)
- | (Divol and G., 2024 - Informal) With monotonicity, yes!
- | Both behaviours can be observed.

Conclusion

In the awareness framework:

- | Optimal fair classifier verifies desirable properties : does no harm to the protected group, preserves rational ordering, preserves monotonicity.
- | For general performance measures, $(\cdot; \cdot) = \mathbf{1} f(\cdot; \cdot) \quad g$

In the unawareness framework:

- | Both the optimal fair classifier and the optimal fair regression function rely on guessing the sensitive attribute;
- | Neither of them preserve rational ordering, fair classification harms individual from the protected group.
- | If monotonicity is verified, $(\cdot) = \mathbf{1} f(\cdot) \quad g$
- | If monotonicity is not verified, $(\cdot) \notin \mathbf{1} f(\cdot) \quad g$.