Sequential (Interactive) Testing in High Dimensions

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BIRS 2012 - Interactive Information Theory Joint work with Rob Nowak



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$$m := \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n J_i\right]/n$$

where J_i is a r.v. representing number of times index *i* is sampled.



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▶ This talk: find relationship between (n, s, m) such that $\mathbb{P}(\hat{S} = S) \rightarrow 1$.



Related work



A. Wald and J. Wolfowitz

Optimum character of the sequential probability ratio test. 1948. 1-dimensional simple binary hypothesis test



E. Posner

Optimal Search Procedures. 1963. AWGN, s = 1, SPRT



J. Haupt, R. Castro, and R. Nowak

Distilled Sensing: Adaptive Sampling for Sparse Detection and Estimation. 2010. AWGN,

 $Y_{i,j} = x_i + \gamma_{i,j}^{-1/2} W_{i,j}$, FDP/NDP

L. Lai, H. Vincent Poor, Y. Xin, and G. Georgiadis

Quickest Search Over Multiple Sequences. Trans. on Info Theory. 2011. Find one element in S



E. Bashan, G. Newstadt, and A. Hero

Two-Stage Multi-Scale Search for Sparse Targets. 2011. AWGN, two stage procedure



A. Tajer, R. Castro

Adaptive Spectrum Sensing for Agile Cognitive Radios. 2010. Spectrum Sensing



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• Y_i = noisy observed fluorescence levels of gene knockout *i*





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How much can we gain from sequential testing? What can we do with limited knowledge of distributions?



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 - sequential thresholding or coordinate-wise SPRT [A. Tajer 2010, W. Zhang 2010, M Malloy 2011]



$$T_i^{(m)} := rac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \log rac{p_1(Y_{i,j})}{p_0(Y_{i,j})}$$



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$$\mathbb{P}(\hat{S} \neq S) \leq (n-s) \mathbb{P}_0\left(T^{(m)} > \gamma\right) + s \mathbb{P}_1\left(T^{(m)} \le \gamma\right) \\ \lesssim n e^{-mD(P_1||P_0)}$$



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► How fast does *m* have to grow with *n* for exact recovery of *S*?



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is a necessary condition for exact recovery of S.



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$$s = n^{\frac{1}{4}}$$
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How much better can sequential methods do? [Wald, Wolfowitz, Optimum Char. of the SPRT, 1948] On a coordinate-wise basis, take additional measurement of index *i* if:





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How much better can sequential methods do? [Wald, Wolfowitz, Optimum Char. of the SPRT, 1948] On a coordinate-wise basis, take additional measurement of index *i* if:





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There exist thresholds A and B such that the SPRT recovers S exactly if

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for any $\epsilon_n \rightarrow 0$.



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Sketch of coordinate-wise lower bound



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Sketch of Lower Bound Sketch of coordinate-wise lower bound

 $m \approx \mathbb{E}_0[J]$

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$$m \approx \mathbb{E}_{0}[J] = \frac{\mathbb{E}_{0}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{J} \log \frac{p_{0}(y_{j})}{p_{1}(y_{j})}\right]}{D(P_{0}||P_{1})}$$

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SPRT Implementation issues

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SPRT not optimal for composite tests: consider $P_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ and $P_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1), \mu > 0$ unknown

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- thresholds depend on μ , number of samples
- What can we do without knowledge of P₁ or s?



- $K \approx \log n$ measurement passes
- threshold $\gamma : \mathbb{P}_0 \left(T^{(m/2)} \leq \gamma \right) = \frac{1}{2}$



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1) sample each index $\frac{m}{2}$ times





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2) re-measure only indices above threshold





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$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} J_i\right] \approx \frac{mn}{2} + \frac{mn}{4} + \frac{mn}{8}$$



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After $K \approx \log n$ passes, return remaining indices!



14/17

$$\mathbb{P}(\hat{\mathcal{S}} \neq \mathcal{S}) \quad = \quad \mathbb{P}\left(\left\{\bigcup_{i \notin \mathcal{S}} \bigcap_{k=1}^{K} T_{i,k} \geq \gamma\right\} \cup \left\{\bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{S}} \bigcup_{k=1}^{K} T_{i,k} \leq \gamma\right\}\right)$$



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Note: For certain levels of sparsity, ST is asymptotically optimal!



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Conclusion

Remaining questions: can procedures remove doubly logarithmic gap without full knowledge of distributions?

For further reading:



M. Malloy, R. Nowak Sequential Analysis in High Dimensional Multiple Testing and Sparse Recovery. *ISIT* 2011.



M. Malloy, R. Nowak On the limits of Sequential Testing in High Dimensions. *Asilomar* 2011.

