

# BAYES RISK DETECTION

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Consider a binary hypothesis testing problem involving simple hypotheses:

$$H_0: \underline{X} \sim f_0(\underline{x})$$

$$H_1: \underline{X} \sim f_1(\underline{x})$$

We assume for every observation  $\underline{x}$ , exactly one of the two models is true.

Let's view the "active hypothesis" as a random event:

$\pi_0 :=$  probability that  $H_0$  is in effect

$\pi_1 :=$  " "  $H_1$  " " "

Obviously we have

$$\pi_0 + \pi_1 = 1.$$

## The Bayes Risk

How should we measure the performance of a decision rule?

Suppose we have a decision rule defined by the decision regions  $R_0$  and  $R_1$ .

$\underline{x} \in R_0 \iff$  declare  $H_0$  is in effect

$\underline{x} \in R_1 \iff$  declare  $H_1$  is in effect

There are four possible outcomes:

decision	$\underline{x} \in R_0$	(0,0)	(0,1)
	$\underline{x} \in R_1$	(1,0)	(1,1)
		$H_0$	$H_1$
		truth	

Suppose we are able to specify

$c_{i,j} :=$  cost of declaring  $H_i$  when  $H_j$  true

To be sensible, we should have

$$c_{i,i} < c_{i,j}, \quad i \neq j$$

Define the Bayes Risk

$\bar{c}$  = expected cost of a decision

$$= \sum_{i,j=0}^1 c_{ij} \cdot P(\text{declare } H_i, H_j \text{ true})$$

$$= \sum_{i,j=0}^1 c_{ij} \cdot P(H_j \text{ true}) \cdot P(\text{declare } H_i | H_j \text{ true})$$

$$= \sum_{i,j=0}^1 c_{ij} \pi_j P(H_i | H_j)$$

where

$P(H_i | H_j) :=$  probability that  $\underline{X} \in R_i$   
when  $\underline{X} \sim f_j(\underline{x})$

Remark 1

It is helpful to think of (declared hypothesis, true hypothesis) as a jointly distributed random pair.

Example | Consider a scalar observation

$$H_0: X \sim \mathcal{N}(-1, 1)$$

$$H_1: X \sim \mathcal{N}(1, 1)$$

If our decision regions are

$$R_0 = (-\infty, 0]$$

$$R_1 = (0, \infty)$$

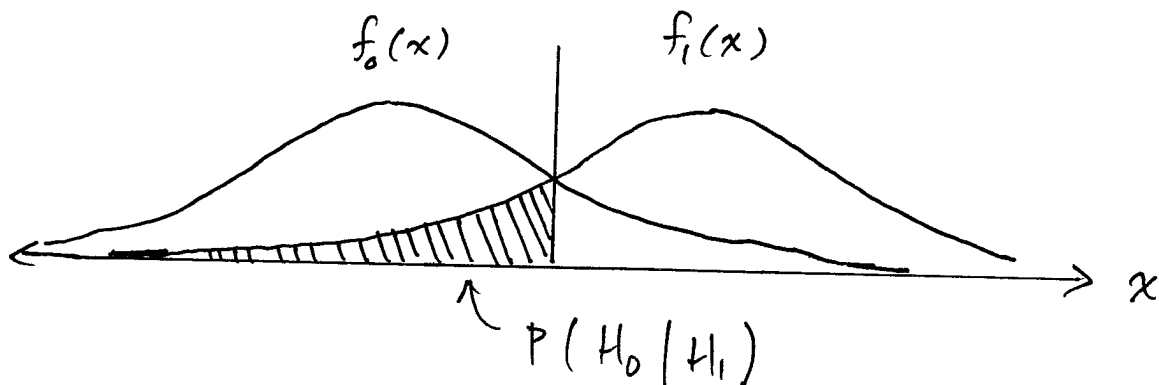
then

$$P(H_0 | H_1) = P(X \in R_0 | H_1)$$

(a)

=

Picture :



The decision rule minimizing the Bayes risk is called the Bayes risk detector

### Bayes Risk Detector: Continuous Case

Assume  $\underline{X}$  is continuous under both  $H_0$  and  $H_1$ . That is, assume  $f_0(\underline{x})$  and  $f_1(\underline{x})$  are densities.

We may write

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{c} &= \sum_{i,j=0}^1 c_{ij} \pi_j P(H_i | H_j) \\ &= \sum_{i,j} c_{ij} \pi_j \int_{R_i} f_j(\underline{x}) d\underline{x} \\ &= \int_{R_0} (c_{00} \pi_0 f_0(\underline{x}) + c_{01} \pi_1 f_1(\underline{x})) d\underline{x} \\ &\quad + \int_{R_1} (c_{10} \pi_0 f_0(\underline{x}) + c_{11} \pi_1 f_1(\underline{x})) d\underline{x}\end{aligned}$$

How should we choose  $R_0$  and  $R_1$  to minimize this expression?

Recall:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} R_0 \cap R_1 &= \emptyset \\ R_0 \cup R_1 &= \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Partition of } \mathbb{R}^N$$

So every  $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is in one and only one  $R_i$ .

To minimize the Bayes risk, therefore, choose  $\underline{x} \in R_i$  when the corresponding integrand is smaller.

That is, choose

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{x} \in R_0 &\Leftrightarrow c_{00} \pi_0 f_0(\underline{x}) + c_{01} \pi_1 f_1(\underline{x}) \\ &< c_{10} \pi_0 f_0(\underline{x}) + c_{11} \pi_1 f_1(\underline{x}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{f_1(\underline{x})}{f_0(\underline{x})} < \frac{\pi_0}{\pi_1} \cdot \frac{(c_{10} - c_{00})}{(c_{01} - c_{11})}$$

More concisely, we may express the Bayes risk detector as:

$\frac{f_1(\underline{x})}{f_0(\underline{x})}$	$H_1$	$\frac{\pi_0}{\pi_1} \cdot \frac{(c_{10} - c_{00})}{(c_{01} - c_{11})}$
	$\gtrless$	
	$H_0$	

## Likelihood Ratio Tests

The Bayes risk detector is an example of a likelihood ratio test (LRT)

A LRT has the form

$$\Lambda(\underline{x}) \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} \eta$$

where

$$\Lambda(\underline{x}) := \frac{f_1(\underline{x})}{f_0(\underline{x})}$$

is the likelihood ratio and  $\eta > 0$  is a threshold.

## Bayes Risk Detector: Discrete Case

Now suppose  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  are mass functions, and let  $\mathcal{X}$  denote the domain of  $\underline{x}$ .

Then

$$\bar{c} = \sum_{i,j} c_{ij} \pi_j P(H_i | H_j)$$

(b) 
$$= \sum_{i,j} c_{ij} \pi_j$$

$$= \sum_{\underline{x} \in \mathcal{X} \cap R_0} (c_{00} \pi_0 f_0(\underline{x}) + c_{01} \pi_1 f_1(\underline{x}))$$

$$+ \sum_{\underline{x} \in \mathcal{X} \cap R_1} (c_{10} \pi_0 f_0(\underline{x}) + c_{11} \pi_1 f_1(\underline{x}))$$

Choosing  $R_0, R_1$  to minimize this expression we once again obtain

$\frac{f_1(\underline{x})}{f_0(\underline{x})}$	$\begin{matrix} H_1 \\ \geq \\ < \\ H_0 \end{matrix}$	$\frac{\pi_0}{\pi_1} \cdot \frac{(c_{10} - c_{00})}{(c_{01} - c_{11})}$
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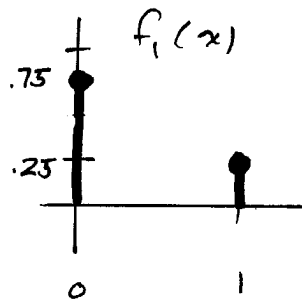
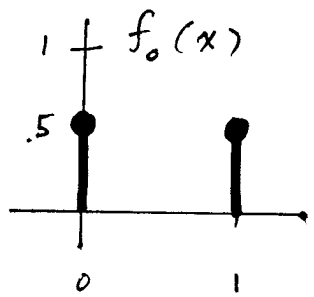


## Exercise

(a) Give an example of a discrete problem where  $\Lambda(\underline{x}) = \eta$  occurs with probability  $> 0$ . (b) Same as (a), but for a continuous problem (c) What is the optimal decision in such cases?

Solution | (a) Essentially any discrete problem will suffice provided  $n$  is chosen appropriately.

For example, suppose  $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}$



$$\pi_1 = \frac{2}{5}, \quad \pi_0 = \frac{3}{5}, \quad \text{and} \quad c_{ij} = 1 - \delta_{ij}$$

Then

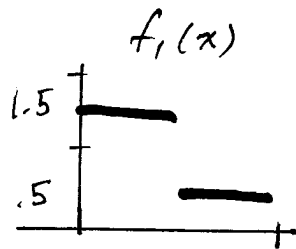
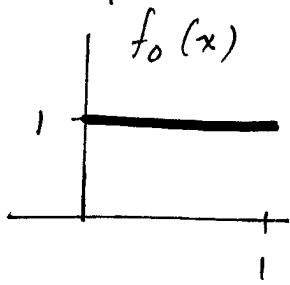
$$\frac{f_1(0)}{f_0(0)} = \frac{.75}{.5} = \frac{3}{2} =: n$$

occurs with probability

$$\frac{3}{5} \cdot (.5) + \frac{2}{5} \cdot (.75) > 0$$

(b) Taking  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_0(x)$  to be piecewise constant does the trick, although there are other ways.

For example



Then  $\forall x \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$  we have

$$\frac{f_1(x)}{f_0(x)} = \frac{1.5}{1} = \frac{3}{2}$$

Now select  $\pi_1 = \frac{2}{5}$ ,  $\pi_0 = \frac{3}{5}$ ,  $c_{ij} = 1 - \delta_{ij}$ .

Then  $\eta = \frac{3}{2}$ , so

$$\frac{f_1(x)}{f_0(x)} = \eta$$

occurs with probability

$$\frac{2}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{4} > 0$$

(c) It doesn't matter what you decide. Either decision contributes equally to the Bayes risk.

## Minimum Probability of Error Detector

An important special case of the Bayes detector occurs when

$$c_{ij} = 1 - \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ 0 & \text{if } i = j. \end{cases}$$

Then the Bayes risk is

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{C} &= \sum_{i,j} c_{ij} P(\text{declare } H_i, H_j \text{ true}) \\ &= P(\text{declare } H_0, H_1 \text{ true}) \\ &\quad + P(\text{declare } H_1, H_0 \text{ true}) \\ &= P(\text{decision} \neq \text{truth}) \\ &= \underline{\text{probability of error}} =: P_E \end{aligned}$$

The "min  $P_E$ " detector is therefore

(c)

Example 1 Consider the problem of detecting a DC signal with amplitude  $A > 0$  in additive white Gaussian noise.

$$H_0: X_i = W_i, \quad i=1, \dots, N$$

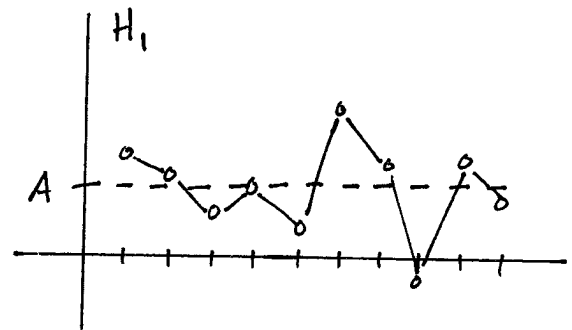
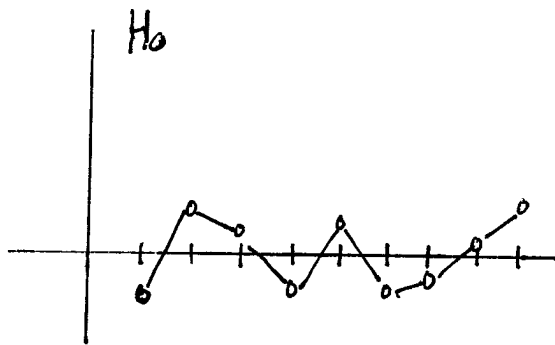
$$H_1: X_i = A + W_i, \quad i=1, \dots, N$$

where  $W_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2)$  and  $A, \sigma^2$  are known.

Equivalently we could write

$$H_0: \underline{X} \sim N(\underline{0}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$$

$$H_1: \underline{X} \sim N(A \cdot \underline{1}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$$



What is the Bayes risk detector? Any guesses?

We have

$$\Lambda(\underline{x}) = \frac{f_1(\underline{x})}{f_0(\underline{x})} = \frac{\prod_{n=1}^N f_1(x_n)}{\prod_{n=1}^N f_0(x_n)}$$

$$= \frac{\prod_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x_n - A)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}}{\prod_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{x_n^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}}$$

$$= \frac{\exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - A)^2\right\}}{\exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2\right\}}$$

$$= \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (-2x_n A + A^2)\right\}$$

$$= \exp\left\{\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n - \frac{NA^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \begin{array}{l} H_1 \\ \gtrless \eta \\ H_0 \end{array}$$

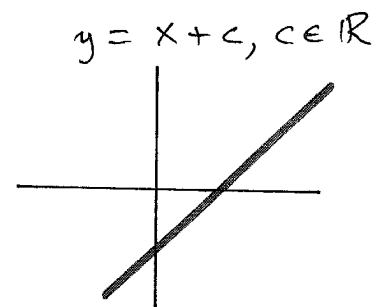
Can we simplify the detector further?

# Monotonic Transformations

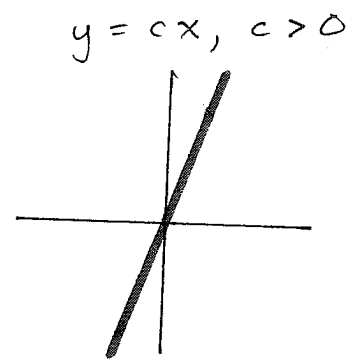
If we apply a monotonically increasing function to both sides of the LRT, the decision regions remain the same.

## Examples

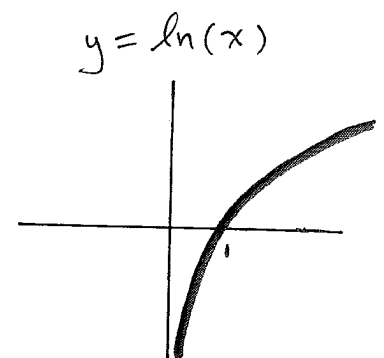
1. adding a number



2. multiplying by a positive number



3. natural logarithm



Commonly used, since many densities and mass functions have an exponential form

(DC signal detection, continued)

$$\exp\left\{\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n - \frac{NA^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\ll}} \eta$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n - \frac{NA^2}{2\sigma^2} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\ll}} \ln(\eta)$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\ll}} \frac{\sigma^2}{NA} \ln(\eta) + \frac{A}{2} \equiv \gamma$$

Thus, the detector reduces to a simple thresholding test involving the sample mean.

Note | If  $\eta = 1$  ( $\pi_0 = \pi_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ ), then  $\gamma = \frac{A}{2}$ ,  
and  $\sigma^2$  need not be known.

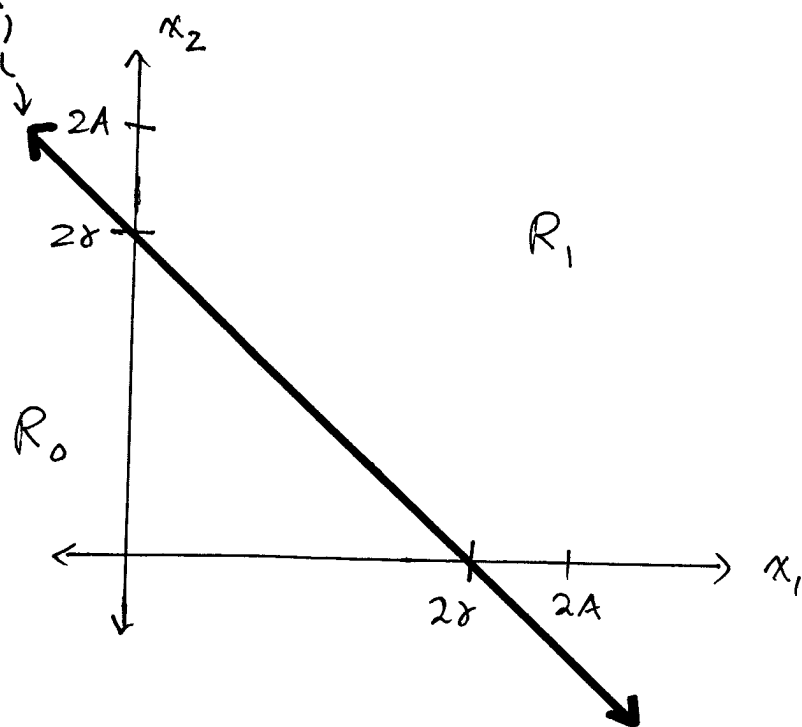
Where did we use the assumption  $A > 0$ ?



Note that the Bayes risk detector is a linear detector, meaning it is obtained by thresholding a linear function of the data.

Equivalently, the decision boundary is a hyperplane

$$\text{decision boundary} = \left\{ \underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N : \left\langle \underline{x}, \frac{1}{N} \underline{1} \right\rangle = \delta \right\}$$



## Calculating Error Probabilities

How can we calculate  $P(H_i | H_j)$  to assess the performance of a detector?

For example, the probability of error is

$$\begin{aligned} P_E &= P(H_0, H_1) + P(H_1, H_0) \\ &= \pi_1 P(H_0 | H_1) + \pi_0 P(H_1 | H_0) \\ &= \pi_1 \int_{R_0} f_1(\underline{x}) d\underline{x} + \pi_0 \int_{R_1} f_0(\underline{x}) d\underline{x} \end{aligned}$$

We must compute N-dimensional integrals.

This is a daunting task, even for the relatively simple case of Gaussian noise and linear decision boundaries.

Fortunately, we can use

- simplified test statistics
- monotone transformations

to make our lives easier.

In the previous example

$$t = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$$

is an example of a test statistic.

More generally, a test statistic is simply a statistic (i.e., a function of the data) that is used in a test/detector.

The importance of test statistics for error calculation is that often they

- are 1-dimensional
- have known distributions

and can therefore be used in place of the  $N$ -dimensional data.

## Example (continued)

We had

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n = t \begin{matrix} H_1 \\ \gg \\ H_0 \end{matrix} \quad \delta = \frac{\sigma^2}{NA} \ln(\eta) + \frac{A}{2}$$

Recall

$$\underline{x} \sim N(\underline{0}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \quad \text{under } H_0$$

$$\underline{x} \sim N(A \underline{1}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \quad \text{under } H_1$$

Now

$$t = \underline{B} \underline{x}, \quad \underline{B} = \left[ \frac{1}{N} \cdots \frac{1}{N} \right]$$

(d)

so

$$T \sim$$

$\sim$

under  $H_0$

and

$$T \sim$$

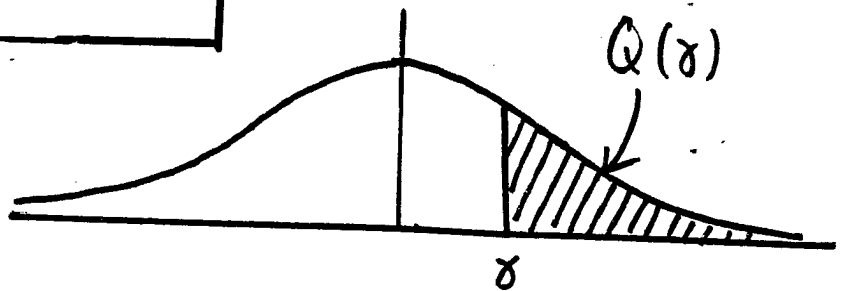
$\sim$

under  $H_1$

## The Q-function

Let  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\delta) &\equiv P(X \geq \delta) \\ &= \int_{\delta}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} dx \end{aligned}$$



If  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , then

$$P(X \geq \delta) = Q\left(\frac{\delta - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

← show this by  
change of  
variables  
argument

Note:  $Q: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, 1)$  is monotonically decreasing,  
so it has an inverse.

In Matlab

$$Q(\delta) = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \right)$$

$$Q^{-1}(\alpha) = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{erfinv}(1 - 2\alpha)$$

Under  $H_0$ ,  $T \sim N(0, \frac{\sigma^2}{N})$ , so

so

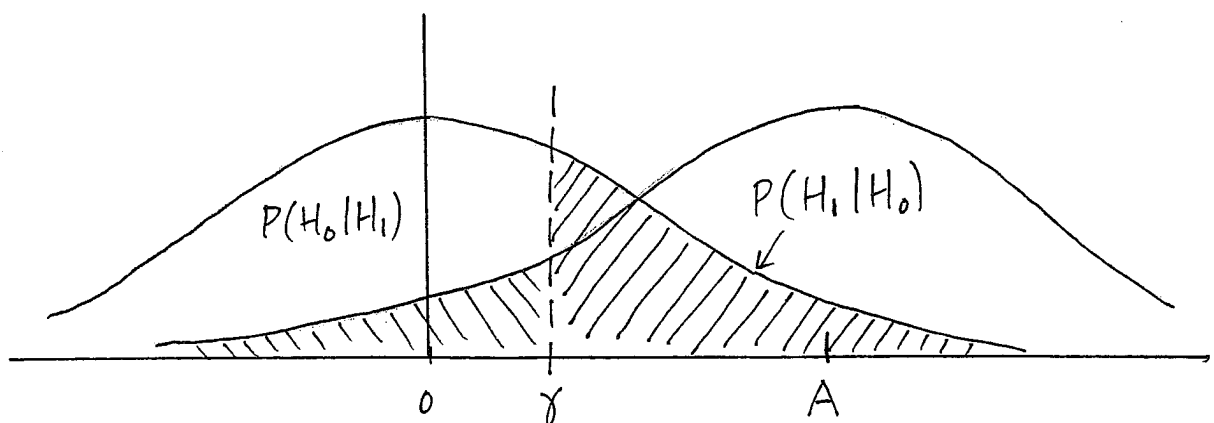
$$\begin{aligned} P(H_1 | H_0) &= P(T > \gamma | H_0) \\ &= Q\left(\frac{\gamma}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Under  $H_1$ ,  $T \sim N(A, \frac{\sigma^2}{N})$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} P(H_0 | H_1) &= P(T < \gamma | H_1) \\ &= 1 - Q\left(\frac{\gamma - A}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} P_E &= \pi_0 P(H_1 | H_0) + \pi_1 P(H_0 | H_1) \\ &= \pi_0 Q\left(\frac{\gamma}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}\right) + \pi_1 \left(1 - Q\left(\frac{\gamma - A}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$



Recall  $\delta = \frac{\sigma^2}{NA} \ln(\gamma) + \frac{A}{2}$ .

If  $\pi_0 = \pi_1 = 1/2$  ( $\gamma = 1$ ), then

$$P_E = Q\left(\frac{A\sqrt{N}}{2\sigma}\right)$$

For this problem we may define the signal to noise ratio

$$\text{SNR} = \frac{A^2 N}{\sigma^2}$$

Then

smaller  $P_E \iff$  larger SNR

## The MAP Detector

Instead of minimizing  $P_E$ , we could maximize  $P_c$ :

$P_c$  = probability of a correct decision

$$= P(H_0, H_0) + P(H_1, H_1)$$

$$= \pi_0 \int_{R_0} f_0(\underline{x}) d\underline{x} + \pi_1 \int_{R_1} f_1(\underline{x}) d\underline{x}$$

So we would choose

$$\underline{x} \in R_i \Leftrightarrow \pi_i f_i(\underline{x}) \text{ is maximal}$$

Note: this just another way of writing the LRT



By Bayes rule,

$$P(\mathcal{H}_i | \underline{x}) = \frac{P(\mathcal{H}_i) \cdot f(\underline{x} | \mathcal{H}_i)}{f(\underline{x})}$$
$$= \frac{\pi_i f_i(\underline{x})}{f(\underline{x})}$$

same thing,  
different  
notation

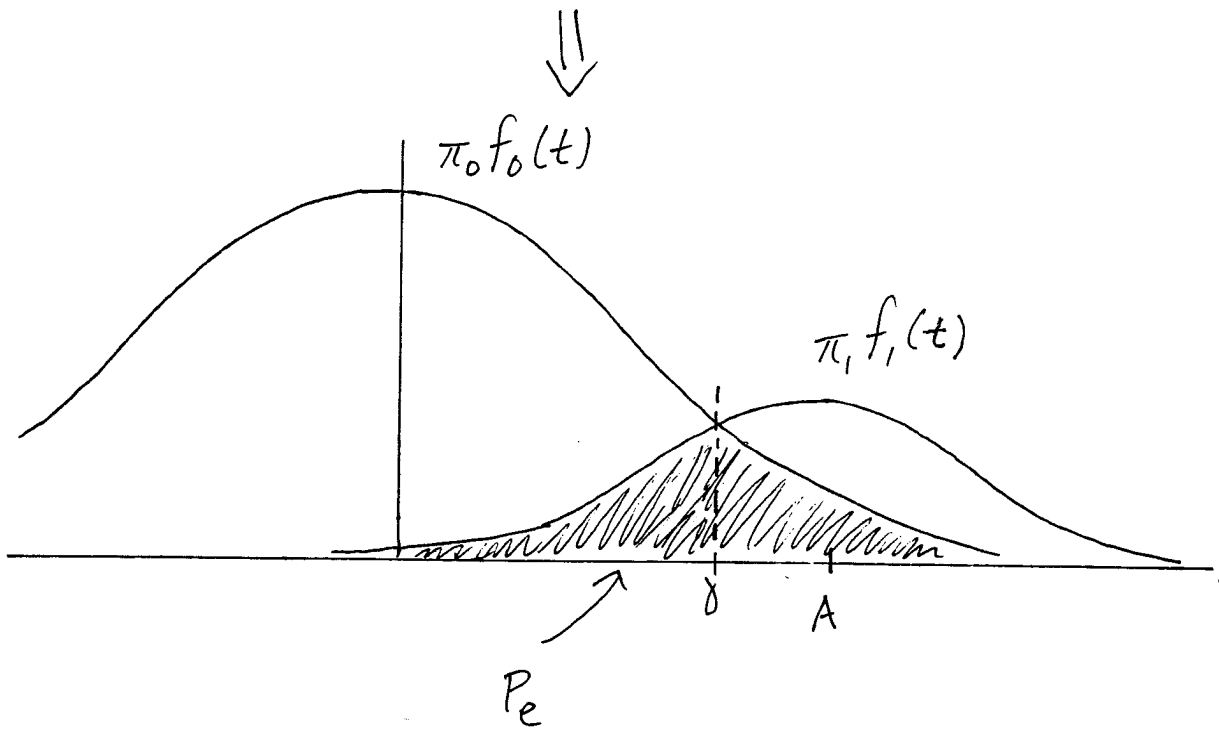
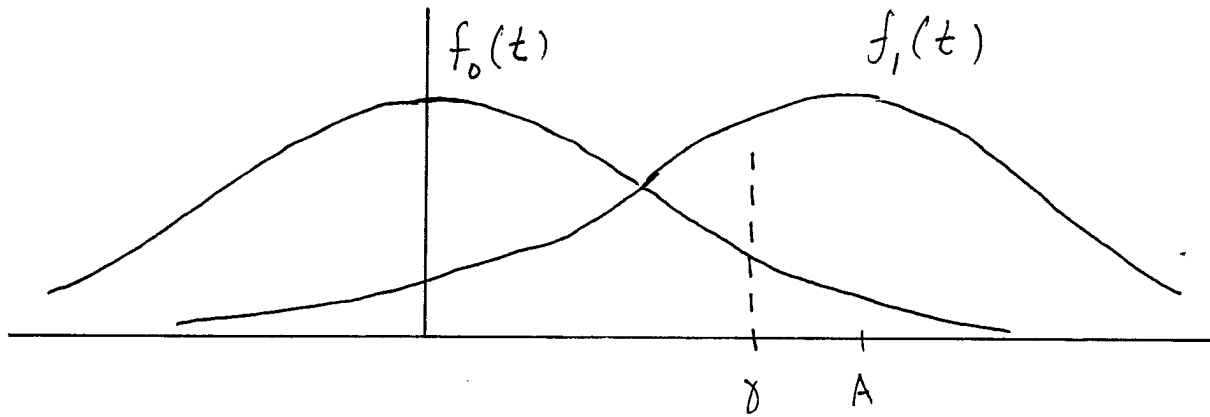
We call  $P(\mathcal{H}_i | \underline{x})$  the a posteriori  
(or posterior) probability of hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_i$ .

Since  $f(\underline{x})$  is independent of  $i$ ,  
maximizing  $\pi_i f_i(\underline{x})$  is equivalent to  
maximizing  $P(\mathcal{H}_i | \underline{x})$ . This gives  
rise to the maximum a posteriori probability  
(MAP) detector:

$$\underline{x} \in R_i \iff P(\mathcal{H}_i | \underline{x}) \text{ is maximal}$$

# Example

Assume  $\pi_0 > \pi_1$



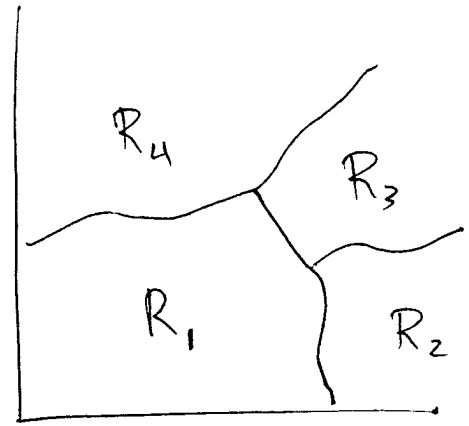
# Multiple Hypotheses

Consider

$$\mathcal{H}_1: \underline{x} \sim f_1(\underline{x})$$

⋮

$$\mathcal{H}_M: \underline{x} \sim f_M(\underline{x})$$



$$\text{Then } P_e = 1 - P_c = 1 - \left( \sum_i \int_{R_i} \pi_i f_i(\underline{x}) d\underline{x} \right)$$

⇒ MAP detector is optimal:

$$x \in R_i \iff \pi_i f_i(\underline{x}) \text{ is maximal}$$

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}(\underline{m}_i, \mathbf{I}), \quad \pi_i = \frac{1}{3}$$

$m_1$

$m_3$

$m_2$

## Remark

The MAP detector is a special case of the MAP estimator.

Here,  $\theta = H_0$  or  $\theta = H_1$ ,  
and  $\pi_0, \pi_1$ , determine the prior.

This illustrates a more general fact: detection is a special case of estimation where the range of possible parameter values is finite.

## Summary

- Bayes detector: minimizes Bayes risk  
= expected cost of a decision
- Min  $P_e$  detector = special case of Bayes detector
- LRT = form of Bayes detector for binary tests
- MAP rule: form of Min  $P_e$  detector for  $M \geq 2$  hypotheses
- All the above rules assume  $\pi_i = P(H_i)$  is known.
- Next lecture: what if  $\pi_i$  is not known?

Key

a.  $\int_{-\infty}^0 f_1(x) dx$

b.  $\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X} \cap R_i} f_j(x)$

c.  $\frac{f_1(x)}{f_0(x)} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{>}} \frac{\pi_0}{\pi_1}$

d.  $T \sim N(B \cdot \underline{0}, B \cdot \sigma^2 I \cdot B^T)$   
 $\sim N(0, \frac{\sigma^2}{N})$  under  $H_0$

$T \sim N(B \cdot A \underline{1}, B \cdot \sigma^2 I \cdot B^T)$   
 $\sim N(A, \frac{\sigma^2}{N})$  under  $H_1$