

A STATISTICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Cultural Differences

The subject matter of this course is very important in the field of statistics. The subjects of Estimation and Detection are likely to be covered in a course on "statistical inference," while Filtering and Spectral Estimation will be taught in the context of "time series analysis."

A statistician will emphasize certain topics more so than an engineer (and vice versa). A successful statistician/engineer should have command of the material/terminology in both fields. This set of notes is intended to help the engineer bridge that gap.

The two fields often use different terminology. Here are some examples.
Often both terms will be used but one is usually preferred.

Engineering	Statistics
Statistical signal processing	Statistical data analysis
Estimation theory	Point estimation
Detection theory	Hypothesis testing
Filtering	Time series analysis
Gaussian distribution	Normal distribution
False alarm	Type I error, false positive
Miss	Type II error, false negative
Detector	Test
False alarm rate	Size, significance level
Detection rate	Power
GLRT	LRT

The Multivariate Gaussian: Composite Testing and Sampling Distributions

One sample problems

$$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

Two sample problems

$$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(\mu_x, \sigma_x^2)$$

$$Y_1, \dots, Y_m \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(\mu_y, \sigma_y^2)$$

COMPOSITE HYPOTHESES IN THE UNIVARIATE GAUSSIAN MODEL

TESTS ON THE MEAN: σ^2 KNOWN

CASE III: $H_0: \mu = \mu_o, H_1: \mu \neq \mu_o$

TESTS ON THE MEAN: σ^2 UNKNOWN

CASE I: $H_0: \mu = \mu_o, \sigma^2 > 0, H_1: \mu > \mu_o, \sigma^2 > 0$

CASE II: $H_0: \mu \leq \mu_o, \sigma^2 > 0, H_1: \mu > \mu_o, \sigma^2 > 0$

CASE III: $H_0: \mu = \mu_o, \sigma^2 > 0, H_1: \mu \neq \mu_o, \sigma^2 > 0$

TESTS ON VARIANCE: KNOWN MEAN

CASE I: $H_0: \sigma^2 = \sigma_o^2, H_1: \sigma^2 > \sigma_o^2$

CASE II: $H_0: \sigma^2 \leq \sigma_o^2, H_1: \sigma^2 > \sigma_o^2$

CASE III: $H_0: \sigma^2 = \sigma_o^2, H_1: \sigma^2 \neq \sigma_o^2$

TESTS ON VARIANCE: UNKNOWN MEAN

CASE I: $H_0: \sigma^2 = \sigma_o^2, H_1: \sigma^2 > \sigma_o^2$

CASE II: $H_0: \sigma^2 < \sigma_o^2, \mu \in \mathbb{R}, H_1: \sigma^2 > \sigma_o^2, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$

CASE III: $H_0: \sigma^2 = \sigma_o^2, \mu \in \mathbb{R}, H_1: \sigma^2 \neq \sigma_o^2, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$

TESTS ON EQUALITY OF MEANS: UNKNOWN VARIANCE

CASE I: $H_0: \mu_x = \mu_y, \sigma^2 > 0, H_1: \mu_x \neq \mu_y, \sigma^2 > 0$

CASE II: $H_0: \mu_y \leq \mu_x, \sigma^2 > 0, H_1: \mu_y > \mu_x, \sigma^2 > 0$

TESTS ON EQUALITY OF VARIANCES

CASE I: $H_0: \sigma_x^2 = \sigma_y^2, H_1: \sigma_x^2 \neq \sigma_y^2$

CASE II: $H_0: \sigma_x^2 = \sigma_y^2, H_1: \sigma_y^2 > \sigma_x^2$

TESTS ON CORRELATION

CASE I: $H_0: \rho = \rho_o, H_1: \rho \neq \rho_o$

CASE II: $H_0: \rho = 0, H_1: \rho > 0$

GLRT

N

t

t

t

χ^2

χ^2

χ^2

χ^2

χ^2

χ^2

t

t

F

F

t

t

These basic tests are widely used in applied statistics, and therefore it is customary to catalogue them and study them together. The tests are usually named according to the sampling distribution, that is, the distribution of the test statistic.

Gaussian Sampling Distributions

The GLRT test statistics have one of four different sampling distributions.

Definitions

1. Chi-square : If $Z_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0,1)$, $i=1, \dots, r$

and $Y = \sum_{i=1}^r Z_i^2$ then $Y \sim \chi_r^2$

2. Student t : If $Z \sim N(0,1)$ and

$Y \sim \chi_r^2$ (independent), and $X = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{Y/r}}$

then $X \sim t_r$.

3 Fisher F : If $U \sim \chi_p^2$ and $V \sim \chi_q^2$

(independent) and $W = \frac{U/p}{V/q}$,

then $W \sim F_{p,q}$

It turns out that the GLRTs are very intuitive, as is usually the case when Gaussianity is assumed.

In particular, they tend to involve the sample mean

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i$$

the sample variance

$$s^2 := \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

or the sample correlation coefficient $\hat{\rho}$.

This is why the distributions just discussed are important, because

$$\bar{X} \sim N(0, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$$

$$\frac{(n-1)s^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2_{n-1}$$

and \bar{X}, s^2 are independent.

Example] One-sample t-test

Suppose a company produces 5 pound bags of sugar for retail. They have a new packaging process and want to test whether their bags have the correct weight. So they measure the weights of n bags, X_1, \dots, X_n , selected at random. Assume $X_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ with μ, σ^2 unknown.

$$H_0 : \mu = \mu_0 \quad (\mu_0 = 5)$$

$$H_1 : \mu \neq \mu_0$$

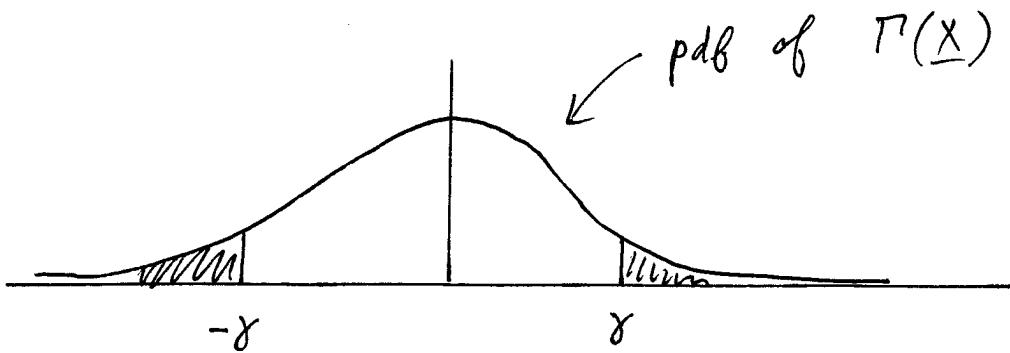
It can be shown (through routine steps) that the GLRT reduces to

$$|\Gamma(\underline{x})| = \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu_0|}{s/\sqrt{n}} \begin{matrix} H_1 \\ \geq \\ H_0 \end{matrix} \gamma$$

Claim: $\Gamma(\underline{x}) \sim t_{n-1}$ under H_0 .

To see this, note

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\underline{x}) &= \frac{(\bar{x} - \mu_0)}{s/\sqrt{n}} = \frac{\frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}}{\sqrt{\frac{(n-1)s^2}{\sigma^2}/(n-1)}} \\ &= \frac{\mathcal{N}(0, 1)}{\sqrt{\chi_{n-1}^2/(n-1)}} \end{aligned}$$



$$Q_{t_{n-1}}(\gamma) = \frac{\alpha}{2} \Rightarrow \gamma = Q_{t_{n-1}}^{-1}\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

Example | Two sample unpaired t-test.

To test the effect of two treatments for blood pressure, n_1 patients are given one treatment and n_2 patients are given another. Their blood pressures are measured

$$x_1, \dots, x_{n_1} \sim N(\mu_x, \sigma^2)$$

$$y_1, \dots, y_{n_2} \sim N(\mu_y, \sigma^2)$$

$$H_0 : \mu_x = \mu_y$$

$$H_1 : \mu_x \neq \mu_y$$

The GLRT can be reduced to

$$|\Gamma(x, y)| = \left| \frac{\bar{y} - \bar{x}}{S_p \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}} \right| \begin{array}{c} H_1 \\ \geq \\ H_0 \end{array} \gamma$$

where

$$S_p^2 = \frac{1}{n-2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (y_i - \bar{y})^2 \right)$$

$$= \frac{(n_1-1) S_x^2 + (n_2-2) S_y^2}{n-2}$$

Exercise 1 Use the fact that $\frac{n-2}{\sigma^2} s_p^2 \sim \chi_{n-2}^2$

to show $\Gamma(\underline{X}, \underline{Y}) \sim t_{n-2}$ under H_0 .

Solution $\bar{X} \sim N(\mu_x, \frac{\sigma^2}{n_1}), \bar{Y} \sim N(\mu_y, \frac{\sigma^2}{n_2})$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{Y} - \bar{X} \sim N(\mu_y - \mu_x, \sigma^2 \left(\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2} \right))$$

So under H_0

$$\frac{\bar{Y} - \bar{X}}{\sigma \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}} \sim N(0, 1).$$

Thus, under H_0 ,

$$\begin{aligned} T(X, Y) &= \frac{\bar{Y} - \bar{X}}{S_p \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}} \\ &= \frac{\bar{Y} - \bar{X} / (\sigma \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}})}{\sqrt{\frac{(n-2) S_p^2}{\sigma^2}} / (n-2)} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{N(0, 1)}{\sqrt{\chi_{n-2}^2 / (n-2)}} \sim t_{n-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma = Q_{t_{n-2}}^{-1} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2} \right)$$

Example | Two - sample paired t-test.

Suppose we measure a patient's blood pressure before and after a treatment

$$\begin{aligned} X_1, \dots, X_n &\sim N(\mu_x, \sigma^2) \\ Y_1, \dots, Y_n &\sim N(\mu_y, \sigma^2) \end{aligned} \quad \left. \right\} \text{dependent!}$$

We may be able to gain information from the natural pairing of the measurements.

$$H_0: \mu_x = \mu_y$$

$$H_1: \mu_x \neq \mu_y$$

This leads to the paired t-test

$$|\Gamma(x, y)| = \left| \frac{(\bar{y} - \bar{x})}{s_d / \sqrt{n}} \right| \begin{array}{c} H_1 \\ \geq \\ H_0 \end{array} \gamma$$

where

$$s_d^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - x_i - (\bar{y} - \bar{x}))^2$$

is the sample variance of the pairwise differences.

It can be shown that $\Gamma \sim t_{n-1}$ under H_0 .

In essence, the paired t-test is a one-sample t-test with $\mu_0=0$ for the differences $Z_i := Y_i - X_i$.

Remark Both two sample problems assumed $\sigma_x^2 = \sigma_y^2$. If this cannot be assumed, the problem becomes more challenging.

For the unpaired problem (independent samples), the problem is called the Behrens-Fisher problem.

The natural statistic is

$$T = \frac{\bar{x} - \bar{y}}{\sqrt{\frac{s_x^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_y^2}{n_2}}}$$

but it's distribution depends on σ_x/σ_y under H_0 !

The most common solution is Welch's approximation,

$$T \sim t_v$$

where

$$v = \frac{\left(\frac{s_x^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_y^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{\left(\frac{s_x^2}{n_1} \right)^2 / (n_1 - 1) + \left(\frac{s_y^2}{n_2} \right)^2 / (n_2 - 1)}$$

Hypothesis Falsification

In our discussion of hypothesis testing thus far, we have said we need to either choose H_0 or choose H_1 .

However, in many situations, our real objective is to prove the alternative hypothesis H_1 to be true. For this purpose we introduce the null hypothesis H_0 , and our goal is to falsify H_0 .

This philosophical distinction reflects the scientific viewpoint that it is easier to falsify a hypothesis (H_0) than to prove another (H_1).

H_0 : coin is fair

H_1 : coin is unfair

If we toss the coin 100 times and observe only 7 heads, we choose H_1 because the data falsifies H_0

For this reason, we can say that the outcome of a test is either to accept H_0 or to reject H_0 .

There is a distinction between accepting H_0 and proving H_0 / rejecting H_0 .

If we observe 49 heads of 100 it doesn't prove H_0 , we just allow that H_0 might be true.

Said another way, the possible outcomes of a test are

- There is enough evidence to reject H_0
- There is insufficient evidence to reject H_0 .

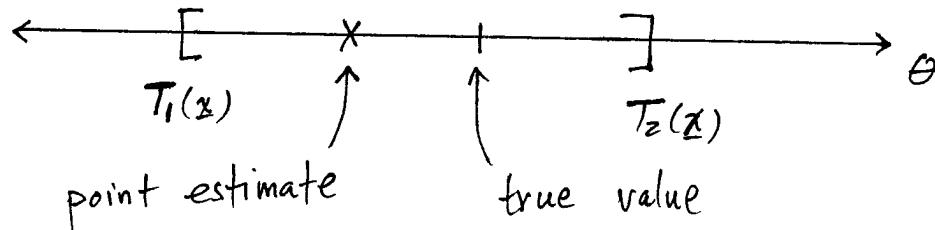
In other words, the null hypothesis is "innocent until proven guilty."

Confidence Intervals

Our study of estimation theory thus far has centered on "point estimation." An alternative is interval estimation.

Rather than outputting a single "point" in the parameter space, an interval estimator outputs an entire interval, called a confidence interval.

$$\underline{x} \mapsto [T_1(\underline{x}), T_2(\underline{x})]$$



Definition | A $100(1-\alpha)\%$ confidence interval for a scalar parameter θ is defined by

endpoints $T_1(\underline{x}), T_2(\underline{x})$ such that

$$P\left\{ \theta \in [T_1(\underline{x}), T_2(\underline{x})] \right\} = 1 - \alpha.$$

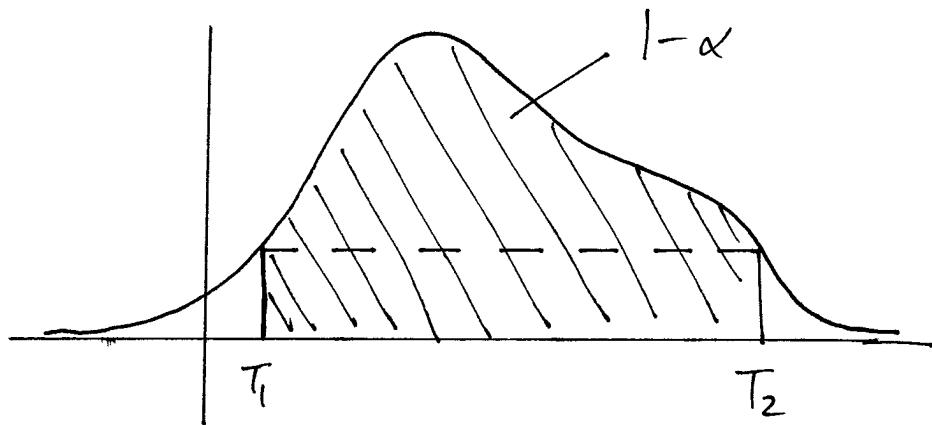
Bayesian confidence intervals

Bayesian estimation specifies a prior and likelihood and returns a posterior distribution.

A Bayesian confidence interval should satisfy

$$\int_{T_1(x)}^{T_2(x)} f(\theta|x) d\theta = 1 - \alpha.$$

However, there are many such intervals. Therefore, we can impose an additional restriction, for example requiring the confidence interval to have minimal length.



The corresponding interval is a level set of the posterior:

$$[T_1, T_2] = \{ \theta : f(\theta|x) \geq \lambda \} \quad \text{for some } \lambda.$$

Classical confidence intervals

In classical estimation, the parameter is nonrandom, so what does it even mean to say

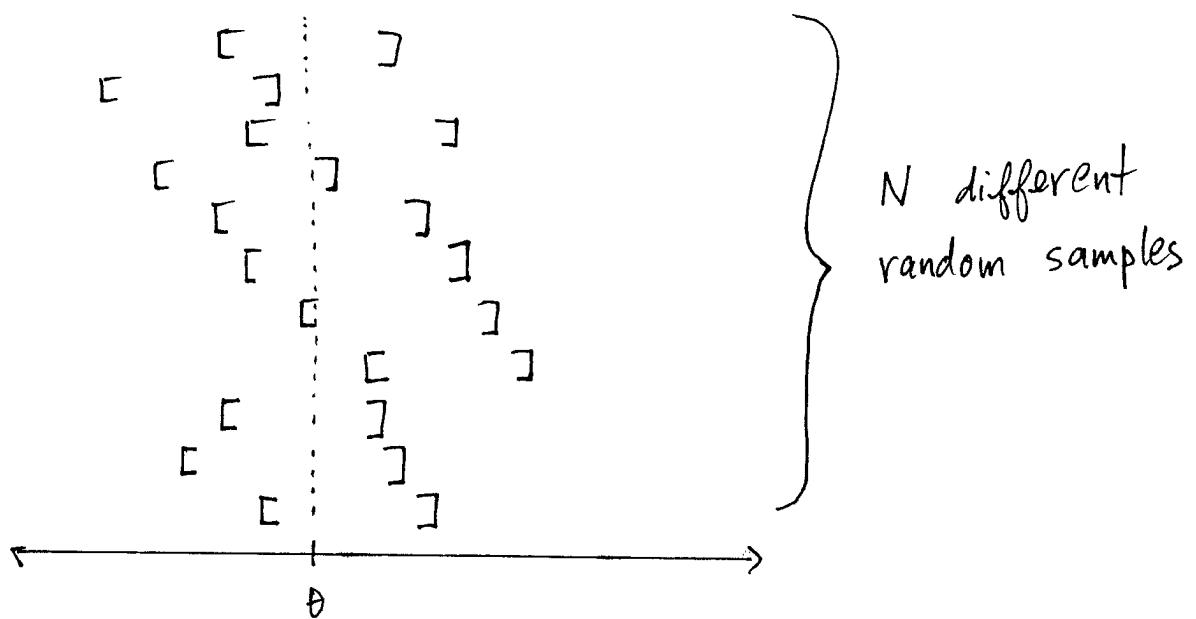
"I'm 95% sure that $\theta \in [T_1, T_2]$?"

Well, we must adjust our thinking. We view the measurement \underline{x} as random so that

$$P\left\{ \theta \in [T_1(\underline{x}), T_2(\underline{x})] \right\}$$

is defined with respect to the randomness of \underline{x} .

What does this even mean?



For large N , we expect that at least $N(1-\alpha)$ of the interval estimates contain the true θ .

If turns out that we may derive confidence intervals using results about hypothesis tests.

Example Suppose $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(\mu_0, \sigma^2)$ with μ_0, σ^2 unknown. Find a $100(1-\alpha)\%$ confidence interval for μ_0 .

Recall the testing problem

$$H_0: \mu = \mu_0, \sigma^2 > 0$$

$$H_1: \mu \neq \mu_0, \sigma^2 > 0$$

We saw that the test

$$\left| \frac{\bar{X} - \mu_0}{S/\sqrt{n}} \right| \begin{matrix} \geq \\ H_1 \\ H_0 \end{matrix} \gamma_\alpha := Q_{t_{n-1}}^{-1}\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

has size α .

In other words

$$P\left\{ -\gamma_\alpha \leq \frac{\bar{X} - \mu_0}{S/\sqrt{n}} \leq \gamma_\alpha \right\} = 1 - \alpha.$$

when $\mu = \mu_0$.

That is,

$$1-\alpha = P \left\{ -\gamma_\alpha \leq \frac{\bar{X} - \mu_0}{S/\sqrt{n}} \leq \gamma_\alpha \right\}$$

$$= P \left\{ -\gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \bar{X} - \mu_0 \leq \gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \right\}$$

$$= P \left\{ -\gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \mu_0 - \bar{X} \leq \gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \right\}$$

$$= P \left\{ \bar{X} - \gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \mu_0 \leq \bar{X} + \gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \right\}$$

Therefore,

$$\left[\bar{X} - \gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}, \bar{X} + \gamma_\alpha \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \right]$$

is a $100(1-\alpha)\%$ confidence interval for the mean.

Example | $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, μ, σ^2 unknown.

Find $100(1-\alpha)\%$ CI for σ^2 .

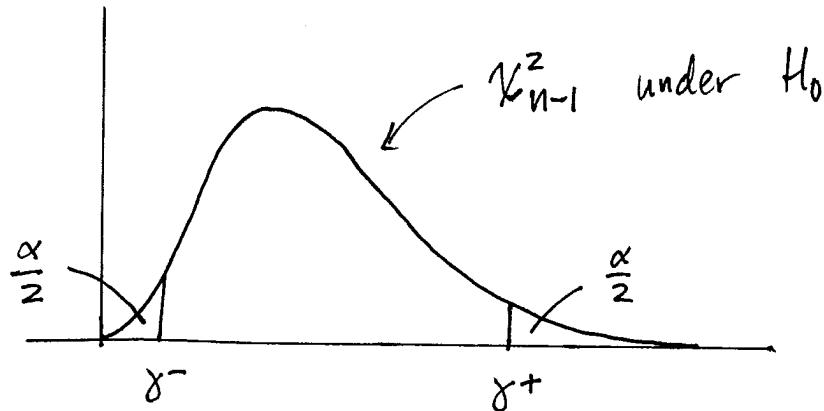
For the testing problem

$$H_0: \sigma^2 = \sigma_0^2$$

$$H_1: \sigma^2 \neq \sigma_0^2$$

the GLRT reduces to

$$\text{declare } H_0 \iff \gamma^- \leq \frac{(n-1)S^2}{\sigma_0^2} \leq \gamma^+$$



$$\gamma_\alpha^+ = Q_{\chi_{n-1}^2}^{-1}\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

$$\gamma_\alpha^- = Q_{\chi_{n-1}^2}^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

↖ "equal tail" thresholds; other choices are possible, e.g. minimal length

Exercise | Find a $100(1-\alpha)\%$ CI for σ^2 .

Solution

$$1-\alpha = P \left\{ \frac{s^2}{\sigma_0^2} \leq \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\delta_\alpha^+} \right\}$$

$$= P \left\{ \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\delta_\alpha^+} \leq \sigma_0^2 \leq \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\delta_\alpha^-} \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\frac{(n-1)s^2}{\delta_\alpha^+}, \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\delta_\alpha^-} \right] \text{ is a } 100(1-\alpha)\% \text{ CI.}$$

The basic mechanism for constructing CI's presented here can be generalized using the concept of pivots.

p-values

The size or false alarm rate of a test is sometimes called the significance level.

Our general approach has been to set the significance level α in advance, and to make a hard binary decision (H_0 or H_1) depending on α .

Such "hard decisions" do not convey how close the observation was to the opposite decision.

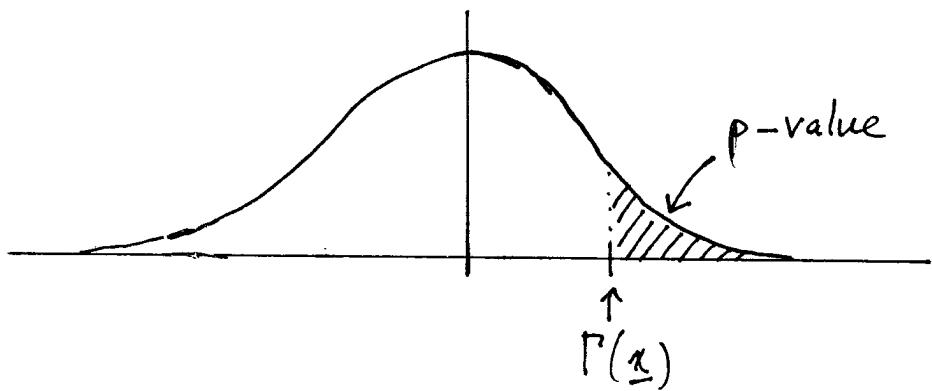
Definition] Consider testing a simple null hypothesis against some alternative. The p-value of a measurement \underline{x} is the probability, under the null hypothesis, of observing a measurement at least as extreme as \underline{x}

Example | $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, σ^2 known

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} H_0: \mu = \mu_0 \\ H_1: \mu > \mu_0 \end{array} \right\} \xrightarrow{\text{GLRT}} T(\underline{x}) = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \stackrel{H_1}{\geq} \gamma_{H_0}$$

Ignore the threshold for the moment.

The distribution of $T(\underline{x})$ is $N(0, 1)$ under H_0 .



The probability (under H_0) of $T(\underline{x})$ being more extreme than $T(\underline{x})$ is

(a)

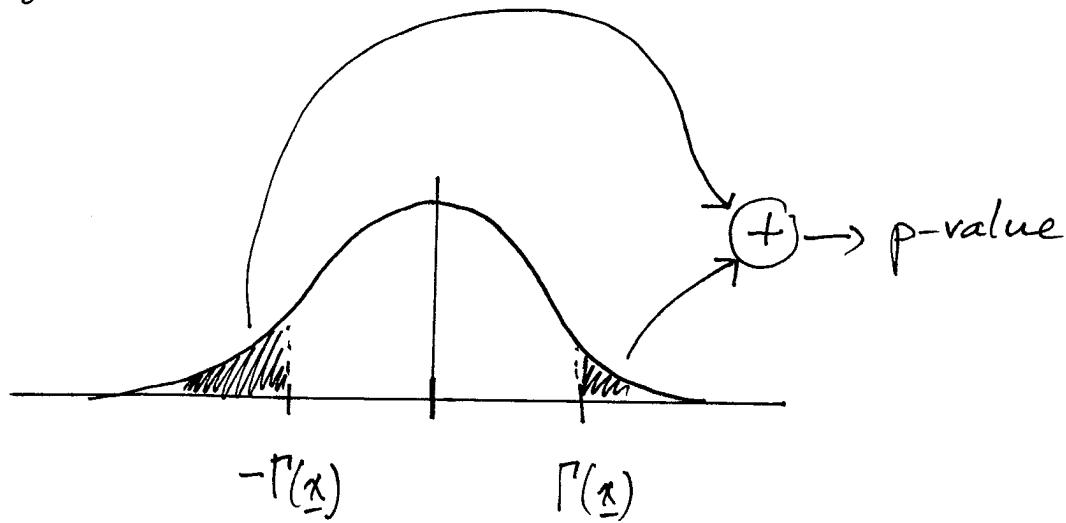
If we want a hard decision at level α we can express this in terms of the p-value as

(b)

Now consider the two-sided problem

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} H_0: \mu = \mu_0 \\ H_1: \mu \neq \mu_0 \end{array} \right\} \xrightarrow{\text{GLRT}} |\Gamma(\underline{x})| = \left| \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \right| \stackrel{H_1}{\geq} \gamma_{H_0}$$

Again, $\Gamma(\underline{x}) \sim N(0, 1)$ under H_0 , but now "extreme" takes on a new meaning



(c) $\Rightarrow p\text{-value} =$

Typically a $p\text{-value} \leq .05$ is considered grounds for rejecting the null hypothesis. $p\text{-values}$ are especially useful for addressing the multiple testing problem.

Multiple Testing

Suppose you want to decide whether a certain coin is fair.

$$H_0: \theta = \frac{1}{2}$$

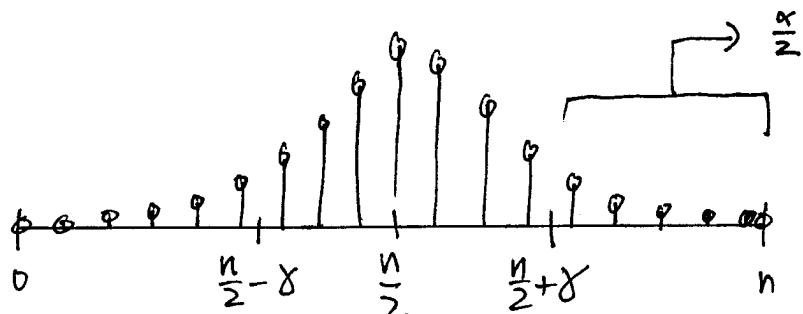
$$H_1: \theta \neq \frac{1}{2}.$$

So you toss the coin n times and observe the number x of heads. A natural test is

$$\left| x - \frac{n}{2} \right| \begin{matrix} H_1 \\ \geq \gamma \\ H_0 \end{matrix}$$

To ensure a false alarm rate of α , we know to choose γ such that

$$2 \cdot \sum_{k=\lceil \frac{n}{2} + \gamma \rceil}^n \binom{n}{k} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \approx \alpha$$



Now suppose you are presented with N different coins, and you must determine which of them are fair.

If you perform the test we just discussed, even if all the coins are fair, we expect to "discover" about $N \cdot \alpha$ unfair coins.

Example] If $N = 1000$, $\alpha = .05$, and we discover 50 unfair coins, would you really believe those coins are unfair?

A solution to this conundrum is to adopt an alternative notion of "size." A common choice is the family-wise error rate

$$FWER = P(\geq 1 H_0 \text{ rejected} \mid \text{all } H_0 \text{ true})$$

Sidak correction

Suppose all measurements are independent.

Denote Ω_i = event that i^{th}

$$\Omega = \bigcup_{i=1}^N \Omega_i$$

Then

$$\text{FWER} = P_{\text{all } H_0}(\Omega)$$

$$= 1 - P_{\text{all } H_0}(\Omega^c)$$

$$= 1 - P_{\text{all } H_0}\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^N \Omega_i^c\right)$$

[by independence]

α = size of individual test

$$= 1 - \prod_{i=1}^N P_{H_0}(\Omega_i^c)$$

$$= 1 - (1 - \alpha)^N$$

Thus, if we desire $\text{FWER} \leq \alpha'$, it

suffices to set $\alpha = 1 - (1 - \alpha')^{1/N}$
in each individual test.

Bonferroni Correction

If $\{\Omega_i\}_{i=1}^N$ are not independent, the union bound implies

$$\begin{aligned}\text{FWER} &= P_{\text{all } H_0}(\Omega) \\ &= P_{\text{all } H_0}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^N \Omega_i\right) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N P_{H_0^i}(\Omega_i) \\ &= N \cdot \alpha\end{aligned}$$

So $\alpha = \frac{\alpha'}{N} \implies \text{FWER} \leq \alpha'$.

This "adjustment" is more conservative than the Sidak correction, but also more general.

Equivalently, if p_1, \dots, p_N are the p-values of the N tests, we may define the "adjusted p-values" $p'_i = N \cdot p_i$ and decide by comparing p'_i to α' .

False Discovery Rate

Many think the FWER is too conservative.

It is often worthwhile to allow a few false alarms if the number of correct detections increases significantly.

This led Benjamini and Hochberg to study the false discovery rate (FDR)

$$FDR = E \left[\frac{FD}{D} \right]$$

where

D = # of "discoveries", i.e. H_0 rejected

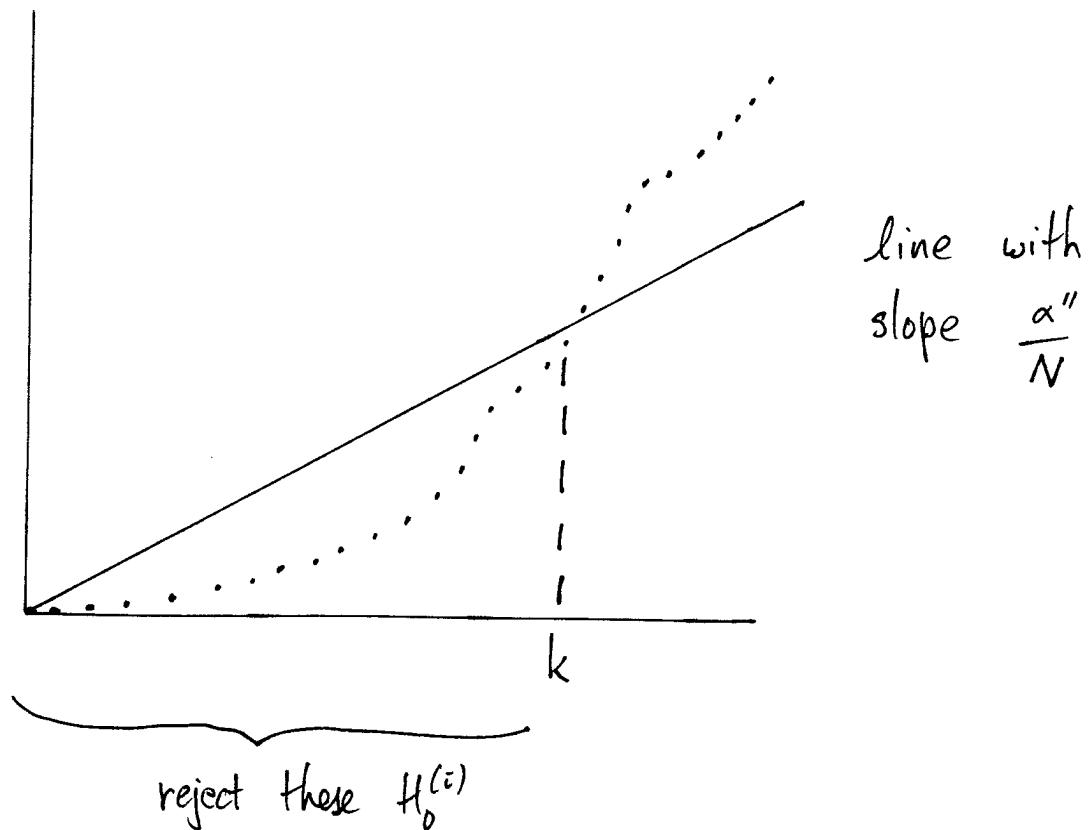
FD = # of "false discoveries", i.e. H_0 incorrectly rejected.

B & H showed how to ensure $FDR \leq \alpha''$

Let $p_{(1)} \leq p_{(2)} \leq \dots \leq p_{(N)}$ be the ordered p-values, and let $H_0^{(i)}$ be the hypothesis corresponding to $p_{(i)}$. Let k be the largest i such that

$$p_{(i)} \leq \frac{i}{N} \alpha''.$$

Reject all $H_0^{(i)}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$.



$$\Rightarrow FDR \leq \alpha''$$

Summary

- Statisticians study similar problems to those encountered in statistical signal processing, but often with different terminology and emphases.
- Composite testing with multivariate normal data:
 - GLRT yields intuitive tests
 - tests named after distribution of test stat. under H_0
- Classical confidence intervals : equivalence with classical hypothesis testing
- p-values : hypothesis testing with "soft" decisions, convenient for addressing multiple testing problem

Key

a. $Q(\Gamma(\underline{x}))$

H_0

b. $p\text{-value}(\underline{x}) = Q(\Gamma(\underline{x})) \begin{matrix} > \\ < \end{matrix} \alpha$

H_1

c. $2Q(\Gamma(\underline{x}))$