



CSCIT 2021 - Lecture 3

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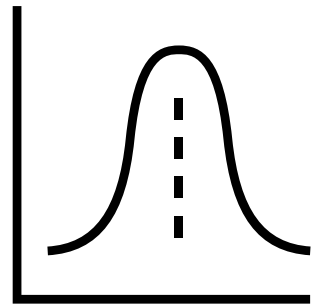
Estimation and hypothesis testing under information constraints

Last lecture: recap

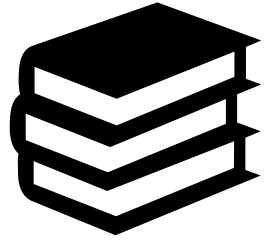
1. Learning and testing **discrete** distributions: upper bounds
 - Learning, under communication or local privacy (LDP) constraints
 - Testing, under communication or LDP constraints
2. Lower bounds
 - A general bound for learning and testing
 - Application to communication and LDP

Contents of this lecture

1. Estimation for high-dimensional distributions: upper bounds
 - Mean estimation under communication or local privacy (LDP) constraints
2. Lower bounds
 - A general bound for estimation (in the interactive setting)
 - Application to communication and LDP



Caveat: the Roads not Taken



- These 3 lectures cover specifically work from [arXiv:1812.11476](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.11476), [arXiv:2007.10976](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.10976), and [arXiv:2010.06562](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.06562)
- There are others! See references at the end
- Only covers "local" constraints — e.g., not **central** differential privacy. See, for instance, [arXiv:2005.00010](https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.00010)

Recall: What are ~~learning~~^{estimating} and testing?

Standard statistical setting: n iid samples from some unknown probability distribution p

Goal: estimate something about p

for instance,
the mean of p

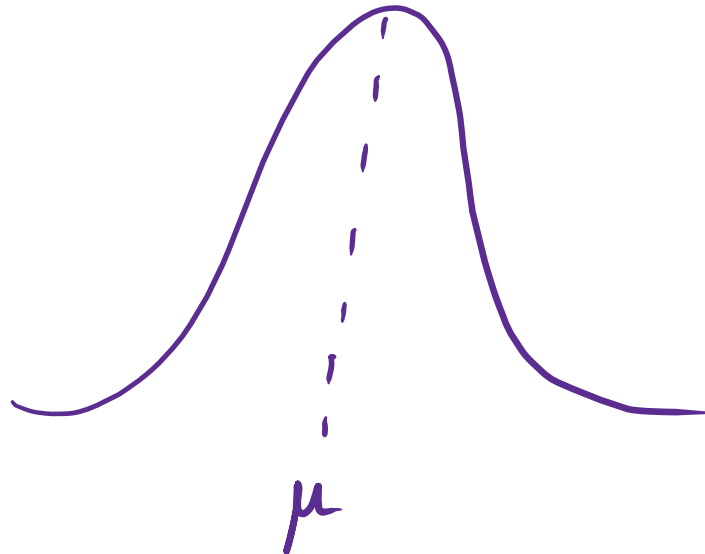
↳ learn a parameter/functional θ of p
output $\hat{\theta}$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}_p[\ell(\hat{\theta}, \theta(p))] \leq \varepsilon$$

Recap: **what** are we learning?

High-dimensional Gaussians (with identity covariance)
 \uparrow dimension d

Learning the mean under
 l_2^2 loss



$$p = \mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$$

$\uparrow \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Recap: the "centralised" setting

Identity-covariance Gaussians

$d \gg 1$
 $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \text{Id})$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ε^2 has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$.

Recap: the "centralised" setting

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Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \text{Id})$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ε^2 has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$.

Proof. For the upper bound, the empirical mean works!

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\bar{X} - \mu\|_2^2] = \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{E}[(\bar{X}_i - \mu_i)^2] = \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t,s} (X_{t,i} - \mu_i)(X_{s,i} - \mu_i)\right]$$

$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n X_t$

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\uparrow
indep^t

$\sigma^2 = 1$
 \downarrow

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Now, under constraints?

$d \gg 1$
 $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$

Identity-covariance Gaussians

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under ℓ -bit communication constraints has sample complexity .

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Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under ℓ -bit communication constraints has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\ell \epsilon^2}\right)$.

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under ρ -local privacy (LDP) constraints has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\rho^2 \epsilon^2}\right)$.

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Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under ℓ -bit communication constraints has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\ell \epsilon^2}\right)$. Further, attained by a private-coin protocol.

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$ to ℓ_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under ρ -local privacy (LDP) constraints has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\rho^2 \epsilon^2}\right)$. Further, attained by a private-coin protocol.

Now, under constraints?

$d \gg 1$
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Identity-covariance Gaussians

Some remarks:

- * Dependence is $\frac{1}{e}$, not $\frac{1}{2^e}$
- * Generalises to s -sparse mean estimation (but private-coin \ll interactive)
- * For simplicity, will consider related **Bernoulli** mean estimation:

Now, under constraints?

$d \gg 1$
 $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$

Identity-covariance Gaussians

Some remarks:

* Dependence is $\frac{1}{e}$, not $\frac{1}{2^e}$

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* For simplicity, will consider related **Bernoulli** mean estimation:

$$P = p_1 \otimes p_2 \otimes \dots \otimes p_d \quad \text{on } \{-1, 1\}^d$$
$$\mu = \mathbb{E}_P[X] \in [-1, 1]^d$$

Now, under constraints?

$d \gg 1$
 $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$

Product Bernoulli distributions

Some remarks:

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* For simplicity, will consider related Bernoulli mean estimation:

$$P = p_1 \otimes p_2 \otimes \dots \otimes p_d \quad \text{on } \{\pm 1\}^d$$
$$\mu = \mathbb{E}_p[X] \in [-1, 1]^d$$

How to prove the lower bound?

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Application of a **general lower bound framework** (generalising the learning part from lecture 2):

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- ② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

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- ① Come up with family $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{\pm 1\}^d}$ of **hard instances**
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- ③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive protocols**

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- ① Come up with family $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{\pm 1\}^d}$ of **hard instances**
- ② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions
- ③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive protocols**
- ④ (Compare the lower bound to the known upper bound(s).)

How to prove the lower bound?

① Come up with family $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1\}^d}$ of *hard instances*

How to prove the lower bound?

① Come up with family $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1, 1\}^d}$ of *hard instances*

"Perturbation around uniform": each coordinate has mean $\pm \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$

$$\mu_z = \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{d}} z, \quad z \in \{-1, 1\}^d$$

① $\|\mu_z\|_2 = \epsilon$

② $P_z = \bigotimes_{i=1}^d \text{Rademacher}\left(\frac{\mu_{z,i} + 1}{2}\right)$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 1. For all $z, z' \in \{-1\}^d$,

$$l_2^2(\mu_z, \mu_{z'}) \geq 8\varepsilon^2 \frac{\text{Ham}(z, z')}{d}$$

→ "Additive loss"

How to prove the lower bound?

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$$\ell_2^2(\mu_z, \mu_{z'}) \geq 8\varepsilon^2 \frac{\text{Ham}(z, z')}{d}$$

→ "Additive loss"

Satisfied $(\mu = \text{cst. } \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}} z)$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 2. For all $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$ and $1 \leq i \leq d$, $\exists \alpha_{z,i}, \phi_{z,i}$

$$\frac{d p_{z \oplus i}}{d p_z} = 1 + \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$$

with $|\alpha_{z,i}| \leq \alpha$.

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$$\frac{dP_{z^{\oplus i}}}{dP_z} = 1 + \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$$

$z^{\oplus i}$: z with i -th coordinate flipped

with $|\alpha_{z,i}| \leq \alpha$.
↑ indep^t of z, i

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↑ indep^t of z, i

→ "Densities exist"

How to prove the lower bound?

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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Assumption 2. For all $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$ and $1 \leq i \leq d$, $\exists \alpha_{z,i}, \phi_{z,i}$

$$\frac{dP_{z \oplus i}}{dP_z} = 1 + \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$$

with $|\alpha_{z,i}| \leq \alpha$.

Satisfied* with $\alpha = \alpha_{z,i} = \frac{2\gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}}$
and

$$\phi_{z,i}(x) = -\frac{x_i z_i - \gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 3. For all $1 \leq i, j \leq d$ and $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{P_z} [\phi_{z,i}(x) \phi_{z,j}(x)] = \mathbb{1}_{i=j}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 3. For all $1 \leq i, j \leq d$ and $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{P_z} [\phi_{z,i}(x) \phi_{z,j}(x)] = \mathbb{1}_{i=j}$$

“Orthonormality”

Note that $\mathbb{E}_{P_z} [\phi_{z,i}(x)] = 0$ by Assumption 2.

$$\gamma = \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

How to prove the lower bound?

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Assumption 3. For all $1 \leq i, j \leq d$ and $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$,

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Satisfied* with $\alpha = \alpha_{z,i} = \frac{2\gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}}$

and

$$\phi_{z,i}(x) = -\frac{x_i z_i - \gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$$

“Orthonormality”

*This is why we chose to divide $\alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$ this way.

Checking why. For $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$,

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

$$\forall x \in \{\pm 1\}^d \quad p_z(x) = \frac{1}{2^d} \prod_{i=1}^d (1 + \gamma x_i z_i)$$

and so

$$\frac{p_{z \oplus i}(x)}{p_z(x)} = \underbrace{\left(\prod_{j \neq i} \frac{1 + \gamma x_j z_j}{1 + \gamma x_j z_j} \right)}_{=1} \cdot \frac{1 - \gamma x_i z_i}{1 + \gamma x_i z_i} = 1 - \underbrace{\frac{2\gamma x_i z_i}{1 + \gamma x_i z_i}}_{\text{gives us } \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}(x)}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_z} \left[\left(\frac{-2\gamma x_i z_i}{1 + \gamma x_i z_i} \right)^2 \right] = [\dots] = \frac{4\gamma^2}{1 - \gamma^2} \cdot \rightarrow \text{gives us } \alpha_{z,i}.$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 4. $\exists \sigma$ s.t., for all $z \in \{\pm 1\}^d$,

$$\phi_z(X) := (\phi_{z,1}(X), \dots, \phi_{z,d}(X)) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

is σ^2 -subgaussian with indep^t coordinates when $X \sim p_z$.

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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\uparrow
 $\langle u, \Phi_z(X) \rangle$ is σ^2 -subgaussian
for every fixed unit vector u .

“Subgaussianity”

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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is σ^2 -subgaussian with indep^t coordinates when $X \sim p_z$.

“Subgaussianity”

Satisfied for $\sigma^2 := \frac{1+\gamma}{1-\gamma}$ (Hoeffding's lemma)

How to prove the lower bound?

Application of a **general lower bound framework** (generalising the learning part from lecture 2):

① Come up with family $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1\}^d}$ of **hard instances**

② Check that \mathcal{P} satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Satisfied with $\alpha = \alpha_{z,i} = \frac{2\gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}}$ and $\sigma^2 := \frac{1+\gamma}{1-\gamma}$

$$\phi_{z,i}(x) = -\frac{x_i z_i - \gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$$

where $\gamma = \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$

How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive** protocols

Theorem. If Π is an interactive protocol using \mathcal{W} with n users under ℓ_2^2 loss satisfying Assumptions 1, 2, 3, then

$$\Omega(1) \leq \frac{n \alpha^2}{d} \cdot \max_z \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \frac{\text{Var}_{P_z}[W(y|X)]}{\mathbb{E}_{P_z}[W(y|X)]}$$

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since $W(y|X) \in [0, 1]$,
 $\text{Var } W \leq \mathbb{E}[W^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[W]$

How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive** protocols

Theorem. If Π is an interactive protocol using \mathcal{W} with n users under \mathcal{L}_2^2 loss satisfying Assumptions 1, 2, 3, then

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2}{d} \max_z \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \frac{\text{Var}_{P_z}[W(y|X)]}{\mathbb{E}_{P_z}[W(y|X)]}$$

and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2\sigma^2}{d} \max_z \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}} H(P_z^W)$$

How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a lower bound against interactive protocols

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and, under 1, 2, 4,

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entropy \rightarrow $H(P_z^W)$ induced distribution on \mathcal{Y} (by P_z and W)

How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a lower bound against interactive protocols

Theorem. If Π is an interactive protocol using \mathcal{W} with n users under ℓ^2_2 loss satisfying Assumptions 1, 2, 3, then

$$\Omega(1) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2}{d} \cdot \epsilon^2 \quad \text{for privacy } \mathcal{W}_\epsilon$$

and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(1) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2\sigma^2}{d} \ell \quad \text{for communication } \mathcal{W}_\ell$$

How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a lower bound against interactive protocols

Theorem. If Π is an interactive protocol using \mathcal{W} with n users under ℓ^2_2 loss satisfying Assumptions 1, 2, 3, then

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n \varepsilon^2}{d^2} \cdot \rho^2 \quad \text{for privacy } \mathcal{W}_e$$

and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n \varepsilon^2}{d^2} \ell \quad \text{for communication } \mathcal{W}_e$$

recalling
 $\alpha \approx \frac{\varepsilon^2}{d}$

Now, under constraints?

$d \gg 1$
 $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$

Product Bernoulli distributions

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown product Bernoulli to l_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under l -bit communication constraints has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{l\epsilon^2}\right)$.

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown product Bernoulli to l_2^2 loss ϵ^2 under ρ -local privacy (LDP) constraints has sample complexity $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\rho^2\epsilon^2}\right)$.



Further reading

∨ 2021 (6)

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Lecture notes on: Information-theoretic methods for high-dimensional statistics. Yihong Wu. 2020.
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Private Identity Testing for High-Dimensional Distributions. Clément L. Canonne; Gautam Kamath; Audra McMillan; Jonathan Ullman; and Lydia Zakynthinou. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 33*, 2020. Preprint available at [arXiv:abs/1905.11947](#)
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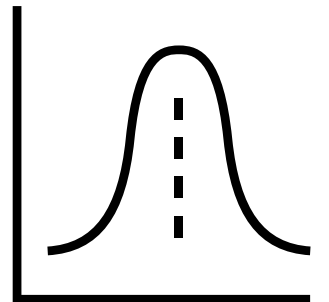
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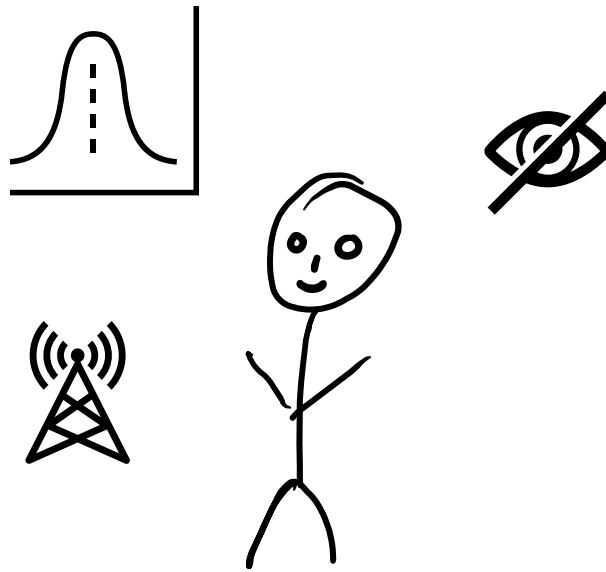
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Recap: this lecture

1. Estimation for high-dimensional distributions: upper bounds ✓
 - Mean estimation under communication or local privacy (LDP) constraints ✓
2. Lower bounds ✓
 - A general bound for estimation (in the interactive setting) ✓
 - Application to communication and LDP ✓



The End



More: [arXiv:2010.06562](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.06562)