Selective Inference for Deep Learning Model-driven Hypotheses

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Brief self-introduction

- Professor at Nagoya Institute of Technology
- Team leader of data-driven biomedical science team at RIKEN AIP
- Mission: develop AI and ML methods for data-driven science and their applications to biology, medicine, and material science













AI and ML in practice

ELSI (Ethical, Legal and Social Issues)

- Fairness
- SDG
- Interpretability
 - Visualization
 - Rule Extraction
- Reliability
 - Robustness
 - Statistical Significance

Reliability in Al

Robustness: the complexity of Al increases the risk that a small change in the data leads to a big change in the result.



Goodfellow et al. (ICLR2015) Fig.1

Statistical significance: The flexibility of AI increases the risk of finding false positive (FP) results (which seems meaningful but is just an artifact).

An example of medical image segmentation



(Traditional) Naive *p*-value = 0.000 (statistically significant)

Uncertainty quantification

For evaluating statistical reliability of the knowledge obtained by AI, uncertainty quantification of the knowledge is needed.



Frequentist approach (sampling distribution)

- Exact inference (deriving exact sampling distribution)
- Randomized inference
- Asymptotic inference
- Bayesian approach (posterior distribution)
 - Exact Bayesian inference
 - MCMC
 - Variational inference
- Uncertainty quantification approaches in deep neural network (DNN)
 - Dropout
 - Ensemble learning
 - Bayesian NN

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Probabilistic data generation model

(Frequentist) statistical inference framework (parallel world interpretation)



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(Frequentist) statistical inference framework (parallel world interpretation)



Knowledge-driven science and data-driven science







- Part 1: Hypothesis selection bias and multiple comparison
- Part 2: Conditional Selective Inference (SI)
- Part 3: Conditional SI for deep neural network (DNN)



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Problem 1: medical image segmentation

Goal: Identify the attention (object) region in a medical image by segmentation



An image is represented as an *n*-dimensional random vector of pixel values $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as

 ε ,

Segmentation algorithm \mathcal{A}

lgorithm

random) image

pixels in objec

kels in background

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Data-driven knowledge discovery

Data-driven hypothesis



Statistical hypothesis testing

- Statistical hypothesis testing
 - Null hypothesis



 Test statistic: Difference of mean pixel values between object and background regions

$$\Delta_{\boldsymbol{X}} := \frac{1}{|\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}}} X_i - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}}} X_i$$

Statistical significance (two-sided p-value)

$$p = \Pr\left(\underbrace{|\Delta_{\mathbf{X}}|}_{\text{random variable}} \geq \underbrace{|\Delta_{\mathbf{x}}|}_{\text{observation}}\right)$$

Knowledge-driven vs. data-driven hypotheses

Knowledge-driven hypothesis: object/background regions do not depend on the data ⇒ (traditional) z-test or t-test



Data-driven hypothesis: object/background regions are determined by the data
data/algorithm dependent



Multiple comparison, hypothesis selection, and selection bias

The data-driven hypothesis is interpreted as the result of multiple comparison with all possible 2^{#pixels} segmentation results.



Correction of the selection bias is indispensable in multiple comparison.

Problem 2: feature selection in linear models

▶ Goal: select a subset of 10,000 genes that are useful for predicting drug effects

High-dimensional data and feature selection



Linear model with the selected features by least-square method

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} + \hat{\beta}_5 x_{i5} + \hat{\beta}_7 x_{i7},$$

where

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\beta}_2\\ \hat{\beta}_5\\ \hat{\beta}_7 \end{bmatrix} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\beta_2,\beta_5,\beta_7} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (\beta_2 x_{i2} + \beta_5 x_{i5} + \beta_7 x_{i7}))^2$$

Problem 2: feature selection in linear models (problem formulation)

• Data (n = 50, d = 10000 in the example)

$$\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n imes d}, \boldsymbol{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$$

Probabilistic model



Feature selection algorithm A

 $\mathcal{A}: \mathbf{Y} \mapsto \mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},$

where $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}$ is the set of selected features ($\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}} = \{2, 5, 7\}$ in the example)

Linear model with the selected features by least-square method

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}|}} \|\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}\|^{2} = (\boldsymbol{X}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}}^{\top} \boldsymbol{X}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}})^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}}^{\top} \boldsymbol{Y}$$

AI and data-driven hypotheses

Data-driven hypothesis



Statistical hypothesis testing

- Statistical hypothesis testing
 - Population least-square solution

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}} = (X_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}}^{\top} X_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}})^{-1} X_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}}}^{\top} \underbrace{\boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{X})}_{\text{true drug effect}}$$

Null hypothesis

$$H_0: \underbrace{\beta_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}},j}}_{\text{effect of the selected feature } j} = 0$$

Alternative hypothesis

$$\mathbf{H}_1: \qquad \underbrace{\beta_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}}_{\neq 0} \qquad \neq 0$$

effect of the selected feature j

$$\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j} = (X_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}}^{\top} X_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}})^{-1} X_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}}^{\top} \underbrace{\mathbf{Y}}_{\mathbf{Y}}$$

observed drug effect

Statistical significance (two-sided *p*-value)

$$p = \Pr\left(\underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}|}_{\text{random var.}} \geq \underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}},j}|}_{\text{observation}}\right)$$

Knowledge-driven hypotheses and data-driven hypotheses

Knowledge-driven hypothesis: the set of features are selected without looking at the data (traditional) z-test or t-test

$$\underbrace{\beta_{\mathcal{M},j}}_{j} \qquad \qquad = \text{ or } \neq 0$$

effect of the selected feature j for the fixed model

▶ Data-driven hypothesis: the set of features are selected by the data ⇒ data/algorithm dependent

$$\underbrace{\beta_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}}_{\mathbf{Y},j} \qquad = \text{ or } \neq 0$$

effect of the selected feature \boldsymbol{j} for the selected model

Multiple comparison, hypothesis selection, and selection bias

This data-driven hypothesis is interpreted as the result of multiple comparison with 2^{#features×#selected feature} hypotheses.

Correction of the selection bias is indispensable in multiple comparison.

Multiple comparison

In the context of traditional multiple hypothesis testing, only a handful of tests are considered.



In the context of genetic data analysis (2000~), large-scale multiple comparison with tens of thousands of hypotheses were considered.



The number of all possible hypotheses that AI/ML can produce is much more than the existing methods can handle.

Three approaches for multiple comparison correction

- Family-wise error rate (FWER) control: controlling the probability of finding a false positive (FP) < α (e.g., 0.05)</p>
- False discover rate (FDR): controlling the expected proportion of discoveries that are false < α (e.g., 0.05)</p>
- Conditional selective inference (SI): controlling the probability of finding a FP conditional on the hypothesis selection event $< \alpha$ (e.g., 0.05)

Summary of part 1

- Knowledge obtained by AI/ML algorithm is considered as data-driven hypotheses.
- Statistical reliability of data-driven hypotheses cannot be properly evaluated with traditional statistical inference due to the selection bias.
- This problem can be interpreted as a huge-scale multiple comparison problem where the one is selected from all possible hypotheses that AI/ML can produce.



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The key idea of conditional SI is to consider only the cases (parallel worlds) where the same hypothesis is selected.



Intuitively, by considering only the randomness where the same hypothesis is selected, the hypothesis selection bias disappears.

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Conditional SI for medical image segmentation problem

Ordinary statistical significance (*p*-value)

$$p = \Pr\left(\underbrace{\left|\Delta_{\boldsymbol{X}}\right|}_{\text{random var.}} \geq \underbrace{\left|\Delta_{\boldsymbol{x}}\right|}_{\text{observation}}\right)$$

Conditional statistical significance (selective *p*-value)

$$p = \Pr\left(\underbrace{|\Delta_{\boldsymbol{X}}|}_{\text{random var.}} \geq \underbrace{|\Delta_{\boldsymbol{x}}|}_{\text{observation}} \middle| \underbrace{\{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}}\} = \{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}}\}}_{\text{the same object/background are selected}}\right)$$

The main challenge of conditional SI is to characterize the selection event and compute the conditional probability.

A simple example of conditional SI for image segmentation

 \blacktriangleright A simple segmentation algorithm based on a threshold θ

$$\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}} = \{ X_i \ge \theta \},\\ \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}} = \{ X_i < \theta \}$$

Selection event

$$X_i \ge \theta, i \in \mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, \\ X_i < \theta, i \in \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$$

Selective *p*-value

$$p = \Pr\left(\begin{array}{c|c} |\Delta_{\boldsymbol{X}}| & \geq & |\Delta_{\boldsymbol{x}}| \\ \text{random var.} & \text{observation} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} \{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}}\} = \{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}}\} \\ \text{the same object/background are selected} \end{array}\right)$$
$$= \Pr\left(\begin{array}{c} |\Delta_{\boldsymbol{X}}| & \geq & |\Delta_{\boldsymbol{x}}| \\ \text{random var.} & \text{observation} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} X_i \ge \theta, i \in \mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, X_i < \theta, i \in \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \\ \text{the same object/background are selected} \end{array}\right)$$

Conditional SI for feature selection

► Naive *p*-value:

$$p = \Pr\left(\underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}|}_{\text{random var.}} \geq \underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}},j}|}_{\text{observation}}\right)$$

Selective *p*-value:

$$p = \Pr\left(\underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}},j}|}_{\text{random var.}} \geq \underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{y}},j}|}_{\text{observation}}\right)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{Y} = \mathcal{M}_{y}$$

the same set of features are selected /

A simple example of conditional SI for feature selection

• Marginal screening: select k features whose correlation between $Y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $x_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are large:

$$\underbrace{\boldsymbol{x}_{(1)}^{\top}\boldsymbol{Y} \geq \boldsymbol{x}_{(2)}^{\top}\boldsymbol{Y} \geq \boldsymbol{x}_{(3)}^{\top}\boldsymbol{Y}}_{\text{selected (when } k = 3)} \geq \underbrace{\boldsymbol{x}_{(4)}^{\top}\boldsymbol{Y} \geq \boldsymbol{x}_{(5)}^{\top}\boldsymbol{Y} \geq \ldots \geq \boldsymbol{x}_{(D)}^{\top}\boldsymbol{Y}}_{\text{not selected (when } k = 3)}$$

Note that the correlation is represented as an inner product when variables are standardized.

Hypothesis selection event

Selective *p*-value

$$p = \Pr\left(\begin{array}{c} |\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}| \geq |\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}},j}| \\ \text{random var.} \end{array} > \underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}},j}| \\ \text{observation}}_{\text{observation}} \end{array} \right| \qquad \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}}}_{\text{the same set of features are selected}}\right)$$
$$= \Pr\left(\begin{array}{c} |\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}| \\ |\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j}| \\ \text{random var.} \end{array} > \underbrace{|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{y}},j}| \\ \text{observation}}_{\text{observation}} \end{array} \right| \qquad \underbrace{\left\{x_{(\ell)}^{\top} \mathbf{Y} \geq \mathbf{x}_{(m)}^{\top}^{\top} \mathbf{Y}\right\}_{(\ell,m) \in \{1,\dots,k\} \times \{k+1,\dots,d\}}}_{\text{the same set of features are selected}}\right\}$$

Segmentation problem

Hypothesis selection event

 $X_i \geq \theta$ if $x_i \in \mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, X_i < \theta$ if $x_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$

Feature selection problem

Hypothesis selection event

 $\left\{oldsymbol{x}_{\left(\ell
ight)}^{ op}oldsymbol{Y}\geqoldsymbol{x}_{\left(m
ight)}^{ op}oldsymbol{Y}
ight\}_{\left(\ell,m
ight)\in\{1,...,k\} imes\{k+1,...,d\}}$

Segmentation problem

Hypothesis selection event

 $X_i > \theta$ if $x_i \in \mathcal{O}_r, X_i < \theta$ if $x_i \in \mathcal{B}_r$

Feature selection problem

Hypothesis selection event

 $\left\{ {{oldsymbol{x}}_{\left(\ell
ight)}}^{ op} oldsymbol{Y} \geq {oldsymbol{x}}_{\left(m
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ight\}_{\left(\ell ,m
ight) \in \left\{ 1,...,k
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ight\}}$ Data space $oldsymbol{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ Data space $\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Segmentation problem

Hypothesis selection event

 $X_{i} \geq \theta \text{ if } x_{i} \in \mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, X_{i} < \theta \text{ if } x_{i} \in \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \qquad \left\{ \boldsymbol{x}_{(\ell)}^{\top} \boldsymbol{Y} \geq \boldsymbol{x}_{(m)}^{\top} \boldsymbol{Y} \right\}_{(\ell,m) \in \{1,...,k\} \times \{k+1,...,d\}}$ Data space $\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ Data space $\boldsymbol{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ O

Feature selection problem

Segmentation problem

Hypothesis selection event

 $X_i \geq$

Feature selection problem

$$\geq \theta \text{ if } x_i \in \mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, X_i < \theta \text{ if } x_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \qquad \big\{ \boldsymbol{x}_{(\ell)}^\top \boldsymbol{Y} \geq \boldsymbol{x}_{(m)}^\top \boldsymbol{Y} \big\}_{(\ell,m) \in \{1,\ldots,k\} \times \{k+1,\ldots,d\}}$$

Segmentation problem

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Feature selection problem

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Polyhedral lemma (Lee+16)

- Conditional SI has been actively studied after the seminal work by (Lee+2016)
- Conditional SI for Lasso feature selection was studied in (Lee+2016)
- Brief summary of polyhedral lemma: If
 - 1. the selection event is represented by a polyhedron (a set of linear inequalities) in the data space, and
 - 2. the test-statistic is linear function of the data,

then the exact selective p-values can be computed based on truncated Normal distribution.

By further conditioning on the sufficient statistic of the nuisance component, we have the sampling distribution on a line in the data space truncated by a polyhedron.



Conditional SI for the selected features by Lasso (Lee+16)

Consider Lasso is an algorithm to select a set of features and their signs

$$\mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{Lasso}}: \boldsymbol{Y} \mapsto \{\mathcal{M}, \boldsymbol{s}\},$$

where $\mathcal M$ is the set of selected features and s is the set of their signs.

Test-statistic of the selected features

$$\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}},j} = (X_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}}^{\top} X_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}})^{-1} X_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{Y}}}^{\top} \mathbf{Y} = \boldsymbol{\eta}^{\top} \mathbf{Y}$$

Selective *p*-value

$$p = \Pr\left(|\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}},j}| \ge |\hat{\beta}_{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}},j}| \ \left| \ \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}} = \mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{y}}}_{\text{features}}, \underbrace{\boldsymbol{s}_{\boldsymbol{Y}} = \boldsymbol{s}_{\boldsymbol{y}}}_{\text{signs}}, \underbrace{\boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\perp} \boldsymbol{Y} = \boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\perp} \boldsymbol{y}}_{\text{nuisance component}} \right)$$

Selective *p*-values follow uniform distribution

$$\Pr_{\mathbf{H}_{0}}\left(p \leq \alpha \mid \mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{Y}} = \mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{y}}, \boldsymbol{s}_{\boldsymbol{Y}} = \boldsymbol{s}_{\boldsymbol{y}}\right) = \alpha \quad \forall \alpha \in (0, 1)$$





- Conditional SI has been actively studied as a promising approach for hypothesis selection bias correction.
- By polyhedral lemma, if the selection event is represented by a polyhedron, the selective *p*-values can be computed.
- Selection event depends on each algorithm it is challenging to apply conditional SI to complicated algorithms such as DNN.



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Image segmentation by DNN

U-net is one of the most-commonly used CNN for image segmentation task:



Basic structure of U-Net (Wikipedia)

U-net is fully convolutional network and has U-shape.

Basic components of CNN



 CNN is a complicated function as a whole, but it consists of several basic simple components.

Selection event for DNN

CNN-based segmentation algorithm

$$\mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{CNN}}: \boldsymbol{X} \mapsto \{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}}\}$$

Conditional SI for CNN-based segmentation

$$p = \Pr\left(\left| \Delta_{\boldsymbol{X}} \right| \geq \left| \Delta_{\boldsymbol{x}} \right| \quad \left| \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{A}^{\text{CNN}}(\boldsymbol{X}) = \mathcal{A}^{\text{CNN}}(\boldsymbol{x}) \\ \text{the same CNN outputs are selected} \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{P}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\perp} \boldsymbol{X} = \mathcal{P}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\perp} \boldsymbol{x} \\ \text{nuisance component} \end{array} \right)$$

Q. Can we characterize the complicated selection event of CNN?

$$\{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{X}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{X}}\} = \{\mathcal{O}_{\boldsymbol{x}}, \mathcal{B}_{\boldsymbol{x}}\} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{CNN}}(\boldsymbol{X}) = \mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{CNN}}(\boldsymbol{x})$$

Unfortunately, the selection event cannot be represented as a polyhedron.



- Our idea is to consider solving a sequence of segmentation problems for a parametrized data in the direction of the test-statistic:
 - 1. Consider multiple finer selection events with additional conditions;
 - 2. Run the segmentation algorithm for each finer selection event on the line;
 - 3. Identify the truncation region at which the same result is obtained;
 - 4. Combine the probability mass of multiply truncated Normal distributions;



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Additional conditioning by finer events regarding basic components of CNN

By additionally conditioning on finer selection events regarding the basic components of CNN, the selection event is characterized as a union of polhedra.

| Component | Operations |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Convolution | linear |
| ReLU transfer function | piecewise-linear |
| Max-pooling | comparison |
| Upsampling | linear |
| Thresholding | comparison |



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Examples of brain tumor image segmentation

Positive cases (with true brain tumors)



Summary

- Knowledge obtained by AI is a data-driven hypothesis, which cannot be properly evaluated by traditional statistical inference.
- Conditional SI is a promising approach for exact inference for data-driven hypotheses.
- The main technical challenge of conditional SI is how to characterize the selection event.
- Polyhedral lemma enables us to handle selection event represented as a polyhedron.
- Our parametric programming approach can be used for more complicate selection event such as DNN-driven hypotheses.
- We applied this parametric programming approach to several other problems such change point detection, outlier detection, clustering etc.



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