

Optimal multiple change-point detection and Localization

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<https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.11470>

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.07818>

First Aim

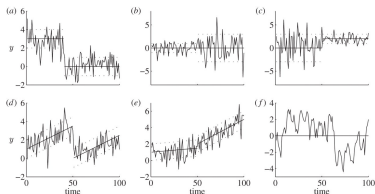
In the **mean change-point univariate setting** :

- 1 understand the **information-theoretical** scalings.
- 2 set up **specifications** for change-point procedures
- 3 exhibit several procedures achieving them.

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Beaulieu et al.('12)

Second Aim

Start a **roadmap** towards more general models with e.g. **sparse multivariate change point** models.

(Sub)-Gaussian univariate mean change-point Model

Data : Time series $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$y_i = \theta_i + \epsilon_i, \quad \text{where } \epsilon_i \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \mathcal{SG}(1),$$

where we assume that $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is piece-wise constant.

We leave aside possible time dependencies

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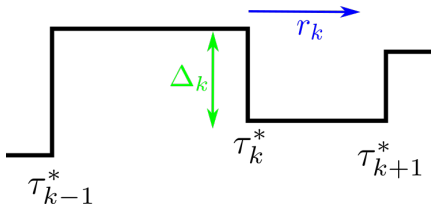
Notation : change-point vector τ^*

$$1 < \tau_1^* < \dots < \tau_K^* \leq n$$

s.t. θ is constant over $[\tau_k^*, \tau_{k+1}^*)$.

Height $\Delta_k = \theta_{\tau_k^*} - \theta_{\tau_{k-1}^*}$

Radius $r_k = \frac{(\tau_{k+1}^* - \tau_k^*)(\tau_k^* - \tau_{k-1}^*)}{\tau_{k+1}^* - \tau_{k-1}^*}$
 $\asymp (\tau_{k+1}^* - \tau_k^*) \wedge (\tau_k^* - \tau_{k-1}^*).$



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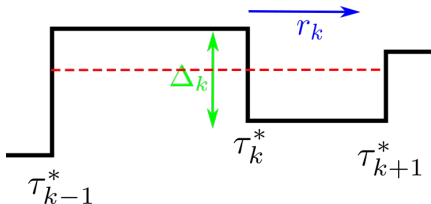
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Definition of the Energy of τ_k^*

The **Square Energy** of τ_k^* is $E_k^2 = r_k \Delta_k^2$

l_2 distance between θ and best approximation by a piece-wise constant vector on

$$\tau^{(-k)} = (\tau_1^*, \dots, \tau_{k-1}^*, \tau_{k+1}^*, \dots).$$

Two mathematical perspectives on change-point detection

- **Denoising/Estimation** : Estimating $\theta \rightsquigarrow$ small risk $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{\theta} - \theta\|_2^2]$
- **Clustering/Segmentation** : Recover the change-points τ^* .

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Denoising perspective :

Minimax-Optimal rates (for $K \geq 2$) $K \left[1 + \log\left(\frac{n}{K}\right)\right]$

achieved e.g. by penalized least-squares [Birgé and Massart, 2001, Gao et al., 2020]

Quadratic computational complexity by dynamic programming...

Change-point detection as a clustering problem

Several lines of literature :

- **At Most One Change-point (AMOC)** [$K \leq 1$]. **Least-square** estimator detects $\widehat{K} = 1$ if $E_1 \gg \sqrt{\log \log(n)}$ and $|\widehat{\tau}_1 - \tau_1^*| = O(\Delta_1^{-2})$ [Csorgo and Horváth, 1997].
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- **Greedy or Aggregation methods**
Binary segmentation [Scott and Knott, 1974] = iterative bisection.
Many recent variants [Fryzlewicz, 2014, Fryzlewicz, 2018, Wang and Samworth, 2018] [Wang et al., 2020, Kovács et al., 2020, Cho and Kirch, 2019]

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computational complexity $O(n \log(n))$.

Typical Results in the literature

Theorem (Typical modern result. *sloppy version* ;
[Wang et al., 2020, Fryzlewicz, 2018, Kovács et al., 2020])

If $\min_k E_k^2 \gtrsim \log(n)$, then whp $\widehat{K} = K$ and

$$d_H(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\tau}}, \boldsymbol{\tau}^*) = \max_{k=1, \dots, K} |\widehat{\tau}_k - \tau_k^*| \lesssim \frac{\log(n)}{\min_k \Delta_k^2}$$

But see [Frick et al., 2014] and [Cho and Kirch, 2019] for tighter results in different senses.

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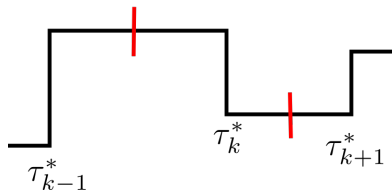
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Questions :

- Is $\min_k E_k^2 \gtrsim \log(n)$ really necessary ?
- What if a few change-points have a small energy ?
- Is the second $\log(n)$ necessary ?

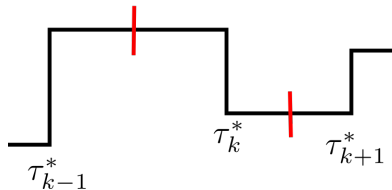
Two sub-problems

Change-Point **Detection**
= Detecting the existence of the
change-point

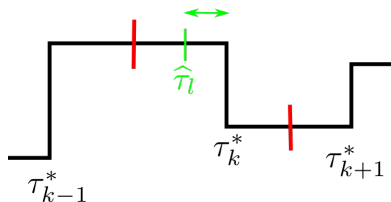


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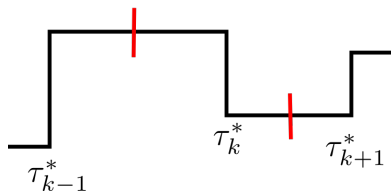


Change-Point **Localization**
= small estimation error
 $d_{H,1}(\hat{\tau}, \tau_k^*) = \min_l |\hat{\tau}_l - \tau_k^*|$

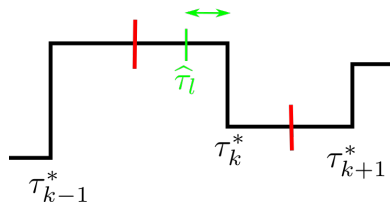


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Questions

- What is the **energy requirement** for detection?
- How is the **transition** between detection and localization?
- Is penalized least-square optimal? For which penalty?

1 Some Impossibility Results

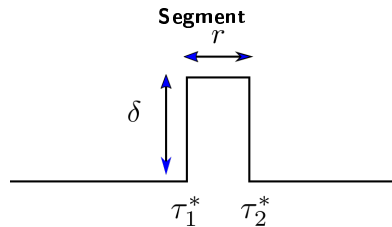
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Gaussian Change-point Detection

Simpler problem : testing $\theta = 0$ versus

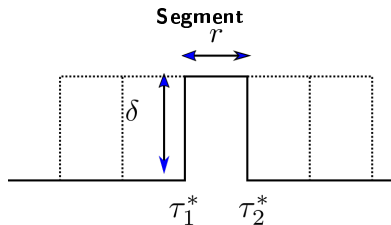
$$\theta \in \Theta[r, \delta] = \left\{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists \tau \text{ such that } \theta_i = \delta \mathbf{1}_{i \in [\tau, \tau+r)} \right\} .$$



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$\lfloor \frac{n}{2r} \rfloor$ possible positions

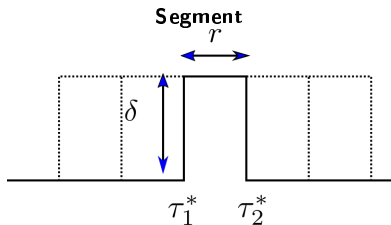
For each τ , sufficient statistic

$$Z_\tau = r^{-1/2} \sum_{i=\tau}^{\tau+r-1} y_i \sim \begin{cases} \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \\ \mathcal{N}(r^{1/2}\delta, 1) \end{cases}$$

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If $r \ll n$, then $r = r_1(1 + o(1)) = r_2(1 + o(1))$.

Proposition (Segment Detection \approx [Arias-Castro et al., 2011])

If $\delta\sqrt{r} \leq \sqrt{2(1 - o(1)) \log[n/(2r)]}$, then testing **better than random guess is impossible**,

$$\inf_T \mathbb{P}_0[T = 1] + \sup_{\theta \in \Theta[\delta, r]} \mathbb{P}_\theta[T = 0] \geq 1 - o(1) .$$

$\kappa > 1$; $q > 0$.

Definition

τ_k^* is a (κ, q) -**high-energy** change-point if $\mathbf{E}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}) > \kappa \sqrt{2 \log\left(\frac{n}{r_k}\right) + q}$.

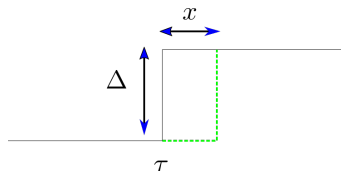
Remarks :

- For small r_k , then $\log(n/r_k) \asymp \log(n)$.
- For small $r_k \asymp n$, then $\log(n/r_k) \asymp 1$
- The additive term q will play the role of a global probability.

Gaussian Change-point Localization

Simplified setting :

- one change-point with known means $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2)$
- Two possible positions for τ^* : τ or $\tau + x$.



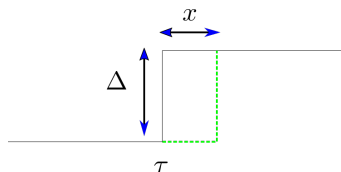
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Lemma (Lower bound for Localization \approx [Wang and Samworth, 2018])

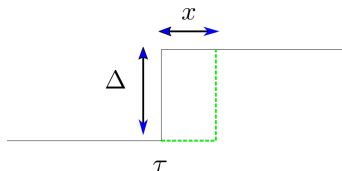
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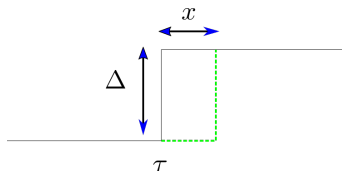
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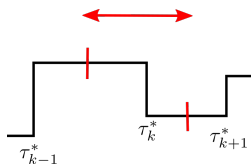
Large Δ : At best, $\hat{\tau} = \tau^*$ with proba higher than $1 - c'e^{-c\Delta^2}$.

Desiderata for a suitable change-point procedure

Under an event \mathcal{A} of high (*to be discussed*) probability, then $\tilde{\tau}$

(NoSp). No **spurious** change-point is detected :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} |\{\tilde{\tau}\} \cap \left(\frac{\tau_{k-1}^* + \tau_k^*}{2}, \frac{\tau_k^* + \tau_{k+1}^*}{2} \right)| \leq 1, \text{ for all } k \text{ in } \{2, \dots, K-1\}; \\ |\{\tilde{\tau}\} \cap \left[2, \frac{\tau_1^* + \tau_2^*}{2} \right]| \leq 1; \quad |\{\tilde{\tau}\} \cap \left(\frac{\tau_{K-1}^* + \tau_K^*}{2}, n \right]| \leq 1. \end{array} \right.$$



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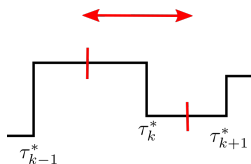
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(Detec). All **high-energy** change-points are **detected**.

For all k in $[K]$, if τ_k^* is a (κ, q) -high-energy change-point then

$$d_{H,1}(\tilde{\tau}, \tau_k^*) \leq \min \left\{ \frac{\tau_{k+1}^* - \tau_k^*}{2}, \frac{\tau_k^* - \tau_{k-1}^*}{2}, c \frac{\log(1 \vee n \Delta_k^2) + q}{\Delta_k^2} \right\}.$$



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(Loc). High-energy change-points are **localized** at the optimal rate.

Any high-energy change-point τ_k^* satisfies

$$\mathbb{P} \left(d_{H,1}(\tilde{\tau}, \tau_k^*) \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{A}} \geq c \frac{x}{\Delta_k^2} \right) \lesssim e^{-x}, \quad \forall x \geq 1 .$$

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Penalized least-square estimator

τ = vector of tentative change-points

$\mathbf{\Pi}_\tau$ = projector onto the space of piece-wise constant vectors with changes at τ

$$\hat{\tau} = \arg \min_{\tau} \text{Cr}_0(\mathbf{Y}, \tau) = \arg \min_{\tau} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{\Pi}_\tau \mathbf{Y}\|^2 + L \text{pen}_0(\tau, q) ,$$

BIC Penalty $\text{pen}_{BIC}(\tau, q) = 2|\tau| \log(n)$

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Remarks :

- Additive Penalty \leadsto dynamic programming (and its refinements [Killick et al., 2012])
- Over-penalizes **small** segments.
- Differs from complexity penalties $\text{pen}_{BM}(\tau, q) = (|\tau| + 1)(1 + \log(n/|\tau|))$.

Definition (CUSUM Statistic)

$$\text{For } \mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, t_3), \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{t}) = [\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{[t_2, t_3]} - \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{[t_1, t_2]}] \sqrt{\frac{(t_2 - t_1)(t_3 - t_2)}{t_3 - t_1}}$$

Connection between CUSUM and Least-square penalty

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Lemma (deletion of a change-point e.g. [Wang et al., 2020])

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}^{(-l)} = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{l-1}, \tau_{l+1}, \dots)$$

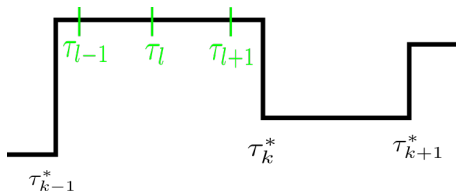
$$\|\mathbf{Y} - \Pi_{\boldsymbol{\tau}} \mathbf{Y}\|^2 - \|\mathbf{Y} - \Pi_{\boldsymbol{\tau}^{(-l)}} \mathbf{Y}\|^2 = -\mathbf{C}^2[\mathbf{Y}, (\tau_{l-1}, \tau_l, \tau_{l+1})] .$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cr}_0(\mathbf{Y}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) - \text{Cr}_0(\mathbf{Y}, \boldsymbol{\tau}^{(-l)}) &= -\mathbf{C}^2(\mathbf{Y}, (\tau_{l-1}, \tau_l, \tau_{l+1})) \\ &+ L \left[2 \log \left(\frac{n(\tau_{l+1} - \tau_{l-1})}{(\tau_{l+1} - \tau_l)(\tau_l - \tau_{l-1})} \right) + q \right] . \end{aligned}$$

Local Optimality and uniform Control of the CUSUM

Consider τ such that
 θ is constant on $[\tau_{l-1}, \tau_{l+1})$

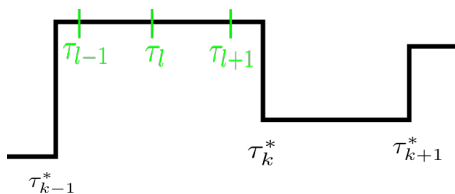
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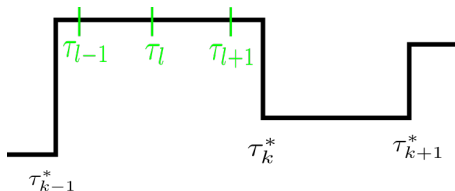
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cr}_0(\mathbf{Y}, \tau) - \text{Cr}_0(\mathbf{Y}, \tau^{(-l)}) &= -\mathbf{C}^2(\epsilon, (\tau_{l-1}, \tau_l, \tau_{l+1})) \\ &\quad + L \left[2 \log \left(\frac{n(\tau_{l+1} - \tau_{l-1})}{(\tau_{l+1} - \tau_l)(\tau_l - \tau_{l-1})} \right) + q \right]. \end{aligned}$$

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Local Optimality \rightsquigarrow **Uniform bound for the CUSUM**

Lemma (Multi-scale chaining ; in the spirit of [Dumbgen and Spokoiny, 2001])

$$\mathcal{A}_q = \left\{ |\mathbf{C}(\epsilon, \mathbf{t})| \leq 2 \sqrt{2 \log \left(\frac{n(t_3 - t_1)}{(t_3 - t_2)(t_2 - t_1)} \right) + q}, \quad \forall \mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, t_3) \right\}.$$

We have $\mathbb{P}[\mathcal{A}_q] \geq 1 - ce^{-c'q}$.

First Analysis of Penalized Least-square

High Energy condition : $E_k(\theta) \gtrsim \sqrt{\log(\frac{n}{r_k}) + q}$

Proposition (V. et al. ('20))

For any L and q large enough, under \mathcal{A}_q , the penalized least-square estimator $\widehat{\tau}$ satisfies

- (a) **(NoSp)** No Spurious Jump is detected.
- (b) **(Detec)** All high-energy change-points τ_k^* are detected

$$d_{H,1}(\widehat{\tau}, \tau_k^*) \leq \min \left\{ \frac{\tau_{k+1}^* - \tau_k^*}{2}, \frac{\tau_k^* - \tau_{k-1}^*}{2}, \kappa_L \frac{\log(n\Delta_k^2) + q}{\Delta_k^2} \right\}$$

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Remarks :

- Allow arbitrarily low-energy jumps.
- Local condition for high energy $\rightsquigarrow \log(n/r_k)$ (see also [Frick et al., 2014, Chan and Chen, 2017])
- Dependency in q is optimal with respect to the probability $1 - ce^{-c'q}$
- Complexity-based penalties are highly suboptimal.

Localization (**Loc**) by Penalized Least-squares

Proposition (V. et al. ('20))

Fix any L and q large enough. For any high-energy change-point τ_k^* , we have

$$\mathbb{P}\left(d_{H,1}(\widehat{\tau}, \tau_k^*) \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{A}_q} \geq c \frac{x}{\Delta_k^2}\right) \lesssim e^{-x} \quad \forall x \geq 1 .$$

Remarks :

- Recovers the optimal subexponential rate of order Δ_k^{-2} for a specific change-point
- **Regional to Local** phenomenon :
Detection= High-Energy **Localization** only depends on Δ_k !

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- Localization errors of high-energy change-points behave nearly **independently**.

If $|\widehat{\tau}| = |\tau^*|$, define

$$d_W(\widehat{\tau}, \tau^*) = \sum_{k=1}^K |\widehat{\tau}_k - \tau_k^*|$$

$$d_H(\widehat{\tau}, \tau^*) = \max_{k=1}^K |\widehat{\tau}_k - \tau_k^*|$$

Corollary

Assuming that all change-points have high-energy, we deduce

$$\mathbb{E}[d_W(\widehat{\tau}, \tau^*) \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{A}_q}] \lesssim \sum_{k=1}^K \left(e^{-c'' \Delta_k^2} \wedge \frac{1}{\Delta_k^2} \right),$$

$$\mathbb{E}[d_H(\widehat{\tau}, \tau^*) \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{A}_q}] \lesssim \max_{k \in \{1, \dots, K\}} \left(K e^{-c'' \Delta_k^2} \wedge \frac{\log K}{\Delta_k^2} \right).$$

Remark : Hausdorff and Wasserstein rates are minimax optimal.

Wrap-up :

- **Regional** to **Local** phenomenon.
- Low-energy change-points are (almost) unarmful.
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When $K = 1$, $\log(n/r_k)$ conditions are replaced by $\log \log(n/r_1)$ conditions.

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Possible Extensions/ Open Questions :

- Heavier **tail** distribution, **time dependencies** :
 \leadsto uniform control of the CUSUM (e.g. [Cho and Kirch, 2019])
- **Exact constant** for detection?
- Similar results for two-steps bottom-up approach.

- 1 Some Impossibility Results
- 2 Analysis of penalized least-square estimators
- 3 A Recipe for general Change-point Models

A general change-point framework

Data : Random sequence $Y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ in some measured space \mathcal{Y}^n .

Notation : $\mathbb{P}_i \in \mathcal{P}$ marginal distribution of y_i .

Change-point Functional : $\Gamma : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$.

Change-Points : changes in the sequence $(\Gamma(\mathbb{P}_1), \Gamma(\mathbb{P}_2), \dots, \Gamma(\mathbb{P}_n))$

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Examples :

- **Gaussian mean Univariate change-point** :
 $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{P} = \{\mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2), \theta \in \mathbb{R}\}$, $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}) = \int x\mathbb{P}(dx)$
- **Gaussian mean multivariate change-point** [Chan and Chen, 2017, Wang and Samworth, 2018] :
 $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}^p$, $\mathcal{P} = \{\mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_p), \theta \in \mathbb{R}^p\}$, $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}) = \int x\mathbb{P}(dx)$
- **Semi-parametric median (or quantile) univariate change-point** : [Jula Vanegas et al., 2021]
 $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{P} = \{\text{Probability measure on } \mathbb{R}\}$, $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}) = \text{median}(\mathbb{P})$
- **Non-parametric univariate change-point** : [Padilla et al., 2019]
 $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{P} = \{\text{Probability measure on } \mathbb{R}\}$, $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}) = \mathbb{P}$
- **Gaussian Covariance multivariate change-point** : [Wang et al., 2017]
 $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}^p$, $\mathcal{P} = \{\mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma), \Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_p^+\}$, $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}) = \int xx^T \mathbb{P}(dx)$

Goal : **Detecting** the change-points $\tau_1^*, \dots, \tau_K^*$
(leave aside the problem of localization)

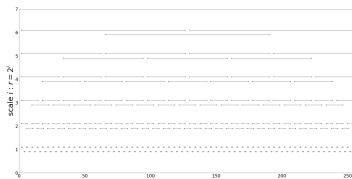
A generic bottom-up algorithm

We are given :

- A collection (called a **grid**) \mathcal{G} of (l, r) (location, scale) corresponding to segments $(l - r, l + r) \subset [1, n + 1]$

E.g. **Complete Grid** $\mathcal{G}_F = \{(l, r) : (l - r, l + r) \subset [1, n + 1]\}$;

Dyadic Grid \mathcal{G}_D .

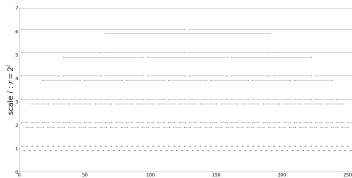


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Data: Local test $(T_{l,r})$

$\mathcal{CI} = \emptyset$; $\mathcal{CP} = \emptyset$;

For $r \in \text{Scales}$

For $l \in \text{Locations s.t. } T_{l,r} = 1$

if $[l-r+1, l+r-1] \cap \mathcal{CI} = \emptyset$

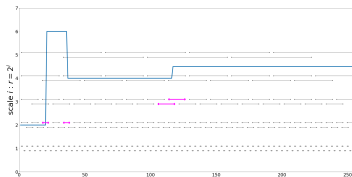
then

$\mathcal{CI} \leftarrow \mathcal{CI} \cup [l-r+1, l+r-1]$;

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return $\hat{\tau}_{ag} = \mathcal{CP}$



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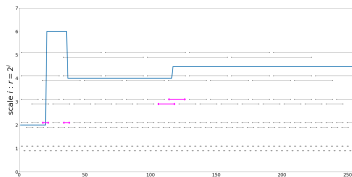
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Dyadic grid

$O(n)$ tests for dyadic grids

Differs e.g. from [Chan and Chen, 2017, Kovács et al., 2020] because **intervals** of detected change-points are not allowed to intersect.

Proposition

- 1 If $FWER(\mathcal{T}) \leq \delta$, then $\widehat{\tau}_{a,g}$ satisfies **(NoSp)** with probability higher than $1 - \delta$.
- 2 Any change-point τ_k^* detected by a local test T_{l, \bar{r}_k} with $\bar{r}_k < r_k/4$, is **detected** by $\widehat{\tau}_{a,g}$ and

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General recipe :

- Introducing a sensible notion of **Energy**
- **Optimal testing** with respect to that energy.
- Proper multiple testing correction to account for all tests in \mathcal{G}_D .

Gaussian Multivariate Change-point Model

$$y_i = \theta_i + \epsilon_i, \quad \text{where } \theta_i \in \mathbb{R}^p \text{ and } \epsilon_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_p).$$

Objective : Detecting **times** $\tau_1^*, \dots, \tau_K^*$ such that $\theta_{\tau_k^*} \neq \theta_{\tau_k^*-1}$
(side information $\theta_{\tau_k^*} - \theta_{\tau_k^*-1}$ is possibly sparse)

[Wang and Samworth, 2018, Chan and Chen, 2017, Enikeeva and Harchaoui, 2019, Liu et al., 2019]

Energy of a Change-Point

$$E_k^2 = r_k \frac{\|\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\tau_k^*} - \boldsymbol{\theta}_{\tau_k^*-1}\|^2}{\sigma^2}$$

Local Homogeneity tests on $[l-r, l+r)$

1st Simplification : two-sample tests over data in $[l-r, l)$ versus $[l, l+r)$.

2nd Simplification : (possibly-sparse) signal detection test with multivariate CUSUM statistics

$$\mathbf{C}_{l,r} = [\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{[l,l+r)} - \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{[l-r,l)}] \frac{\sqrt{2r}}{\sigma} \sim \mathcal{N}\left[(\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{[l,l+r)} - \bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{[l-r,l)}) \frac{\sqrt{2r}}{\sigma}, \mathbf{I}_p\right]$$

Energy of a Change-Point

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Old toy detection Problem : [Baraud, 2002, Donoho and Jin, 2004, Collier et al., 2015]

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Not Sufficient : $\Omega(n)$ tests are considered

\rightsquigarrow one also needs optimal dependencies wrt Types I and II error probabilities :
e.g. variants of HC [Liu et al., 2019] ; see also Pilliat et al. ('20).

$\delta \in (0, 1)$; s_k sparsity of change-point τ_k^* .

High-energy change-point

τ_k^* is a **high-energy change-point** if $E_k^2 \geq c\psi_{n,p,s_k,\delta}$ where

$$\psi_{n,p,s_k,\delta} = s_k \log \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{p}}{s_k} \sqrt{\log \left(\frac{n}{r_k \delta} \right)} \right) + \log \left(\frac{n}{r_k \delta} \right) .$$

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Theorem (Pilliat et al. ('20))

With probability higher than $1 - \delta$, $\widehat{\tau}_{ag}$ achieves **(NoSp)** and **(Detects)** all **high-energy change-points** τ_k^* with $E_k^2 \geq c_+ \psi_{n,p,s_k,\delta}$.

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Conversely, no procedure achieving **(NoSp)** is able to **(Detect)** high-energy change-points τ_k^* with $E_k^2 \geq c_- \psi_{n,p,s_k,\delta}$

Remark : Generalizes asymptotic result of [Chan and Chen, 2017]. For $K \leq 1$, see [Liu et al., 2019].

Application 2 : Covariance change-point detection

Gaussian covariance Change-point Model [Wang et al., 2017]

$$y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_i) , \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Objective : Detecting **times** $\tau_1^*, \dots, \tau_K^*$ such that $\Sigma_{\tau_k^*} \neq \Sigma_{\tau_k^*-1}$

Side information : $\max_i \|\Sigma_i\|_{op} \leq B^2$ (for some known B)

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Energy $E_k^2 := r_k \|\Sigma_{\tau_k^*} - \Sigma_{\tau_{k-1}^*}\|_{op}^2$.

Local test $T_{l,r} = \mathbb{1} \left\{ \|\widehat{\Sigma}_{l,r} - \widehat{\Sigma}_{l,-r}\|_{op} \geq c_0 B^2 \left[\sqrt{\frac{p}{r}} + \frac{p}{r} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(\frac{2n}{\delta r})}{r}} + \frac{\log(\frac{2n}{\delta r})}{r} \right] \right\} ,$

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With probability higher than $1 - \delta$, $\widehat{\tau}_{ag}$ achieves **(NoSp)** and **(Detects)** all **high-energy change-points** τ_k^* , with $E_k^2 \geq c_+ \psi_{n,p,r_k}$

Conversely, no procedure achieving **(NoSp)** is able to **(Detect)** high-energy change-points τ_k^* with $E_k^2 \geq c_- \psi_{n,p,r_k}$

(Improves over the $p \log(n)$ condition of [Wang et al., 2017])

Main message

A simple reduction of change-point detection problems to multiple testing problems

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Sloppy optimality statement

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Open Questions

Localization rates require model-specific techniques.

For (sparse) high-dimensional change-points, there seem to exist several phase transitions from **regional** to **local**

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