

Decision Theory

João Mota

UDRC Summer School, 2023

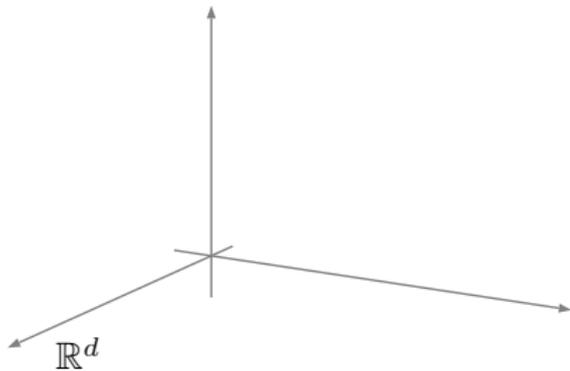
Heriot-Watt University

Decision theory

Decision theory

Problem

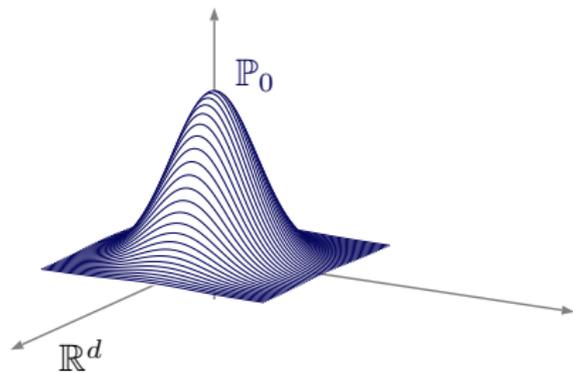
Decision theory



Problem

We observe $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Decision theory

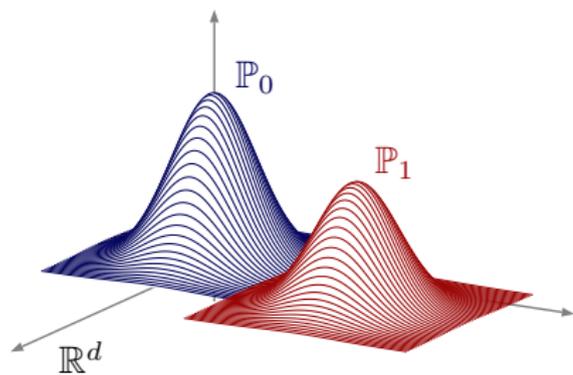


Problem

We observe $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbb{P}_0$$

Decision theory

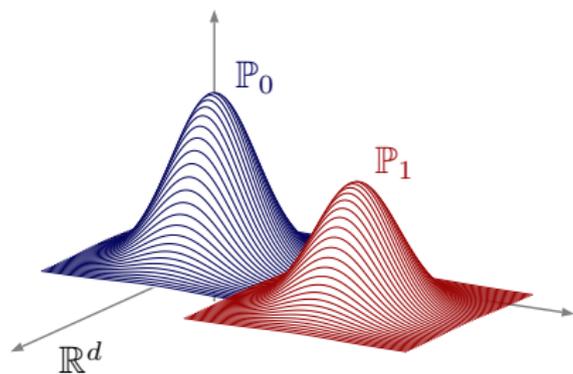


Problem

We observe $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$\mathbf{X} \sim P_0$ or $\mathbf{X} \sim P_1$?

Decision theory



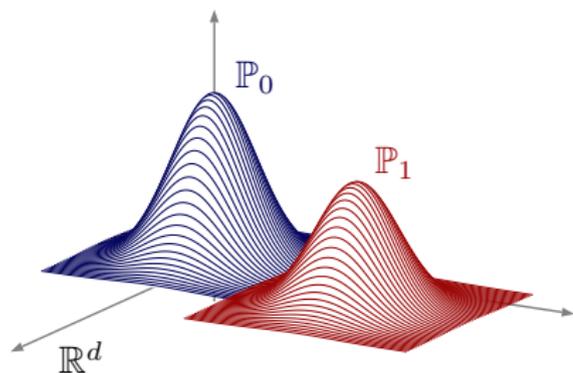
Problem

We observe $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbb{P}_0$ or $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbb{P}_1$?

In classical *decision theory*, we *know* the distributions \mathbb{P}_0 and \mathbb{P}_1

Decision theory



Problem

We observe $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$\mathbf{X} \sim P_0$ or $\mathbf{X} \sim P_1$?

In classical *decision theory*, we *know* the distributions P_0 and P_1

In *machine learning*, we *have to estimate* P_0 and P_1 from data

Example in 1D: Spam

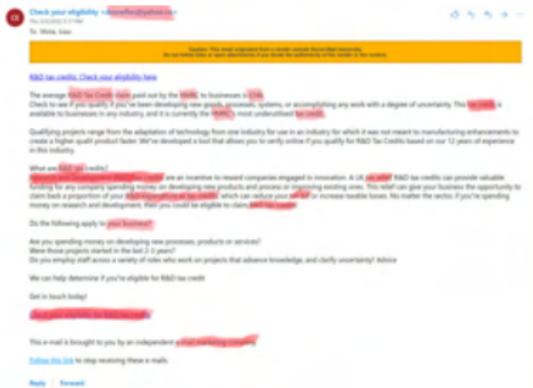
Example in 1D: Spam



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$X \in \mathbb{R}$: number of **spam words** in a message

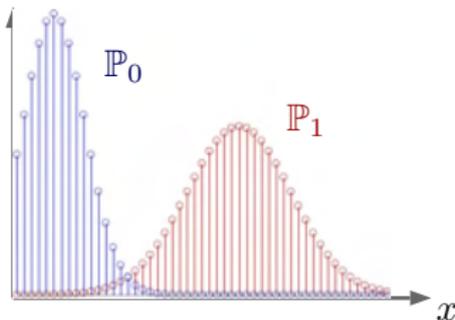
Example in 1D: Spam



$X \in \mathbb{R}$: number of **spam words** in a message

Null Hypothesis

H_0 : message isn't spam



Signal vs Noise

Signal vs Noise

Consider a test for detecting:
if given email is spam

Signal vs Noise

Consider a test for detecting:

if given email is spam

presence of aircraft in radar

Signal vs Noise

Consider a test for detecting:

if given email is spam

presence of aircraft in radar

if defendant is guilty

presence of tumor in an image

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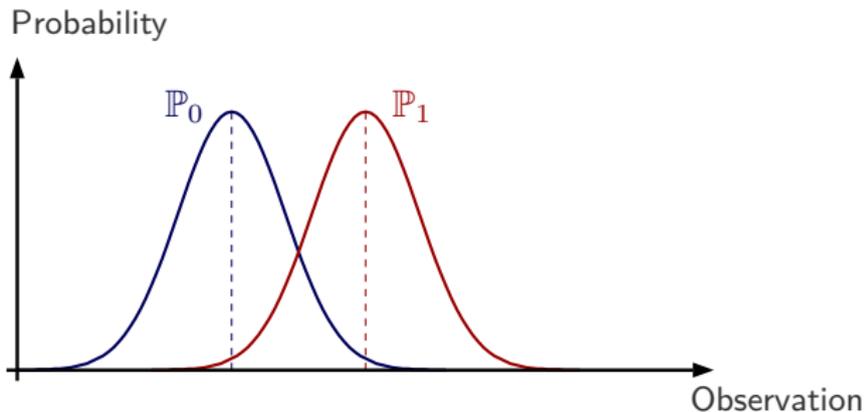
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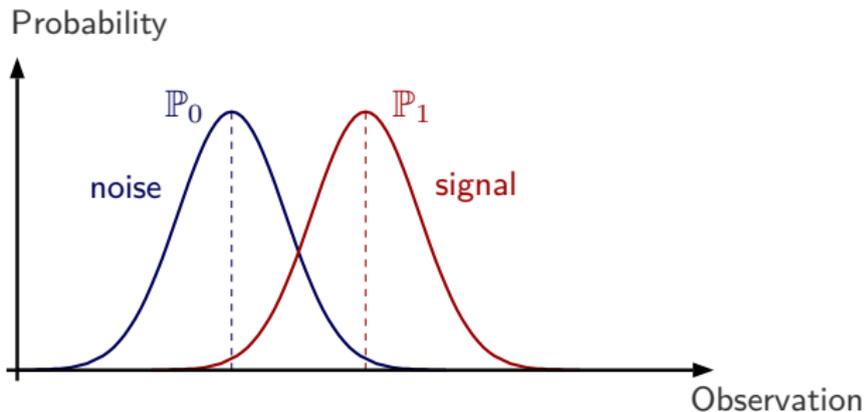
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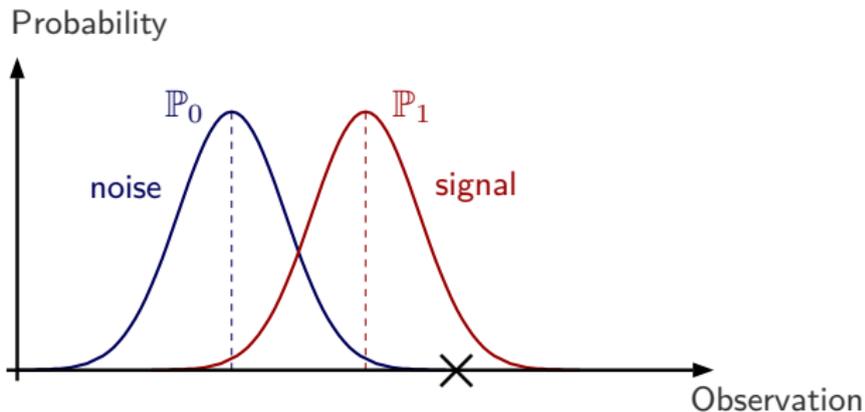
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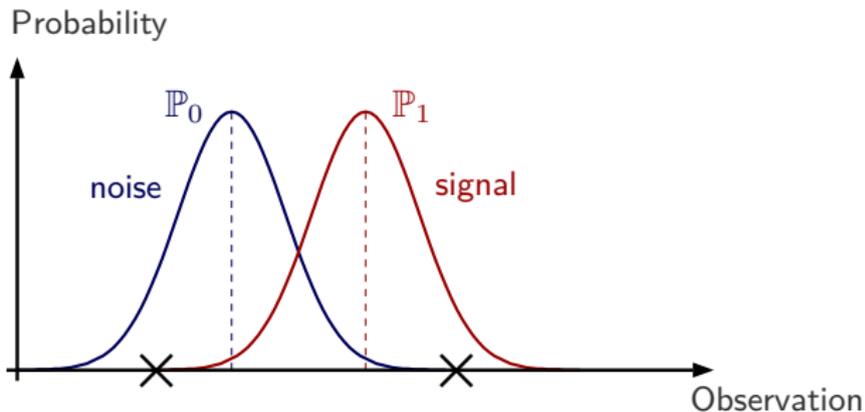
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Signal vs Noise

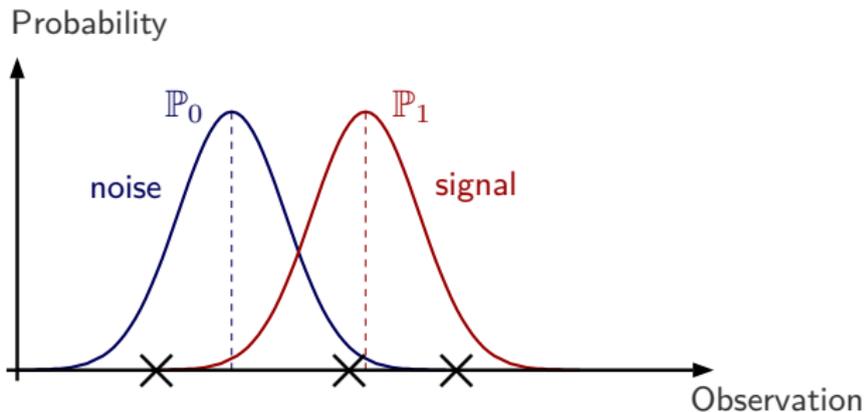
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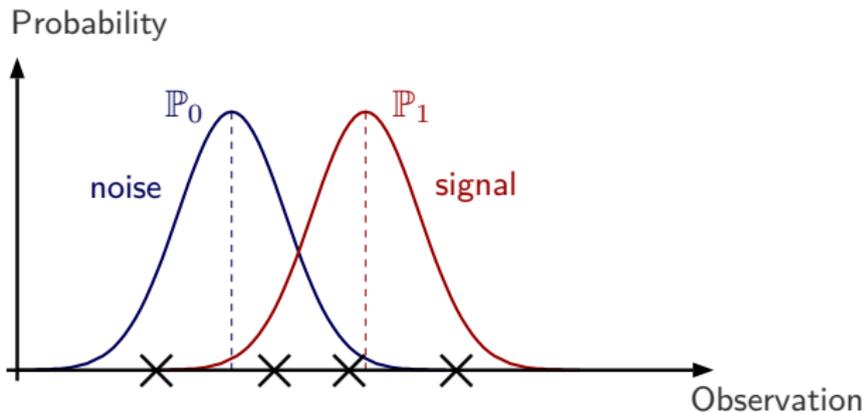
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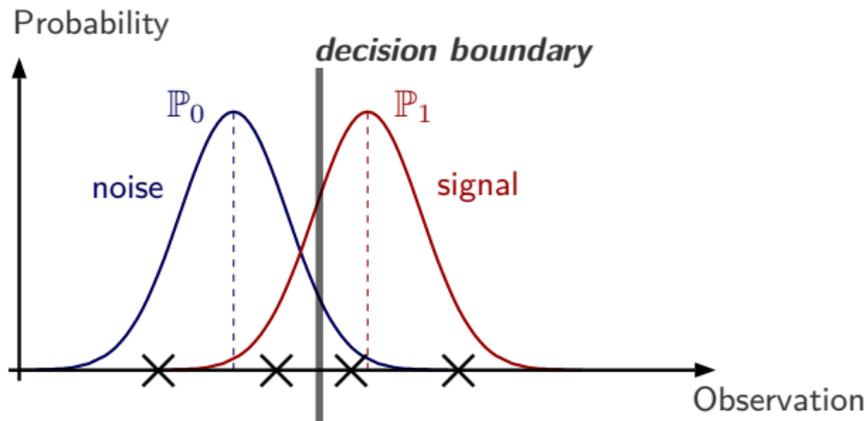
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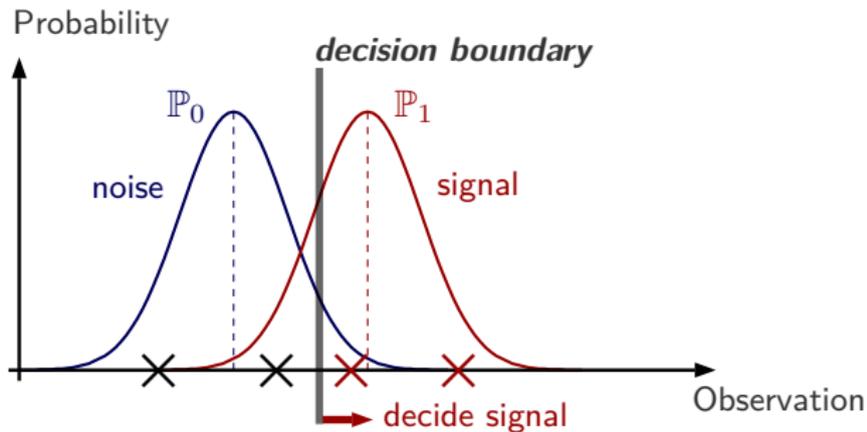
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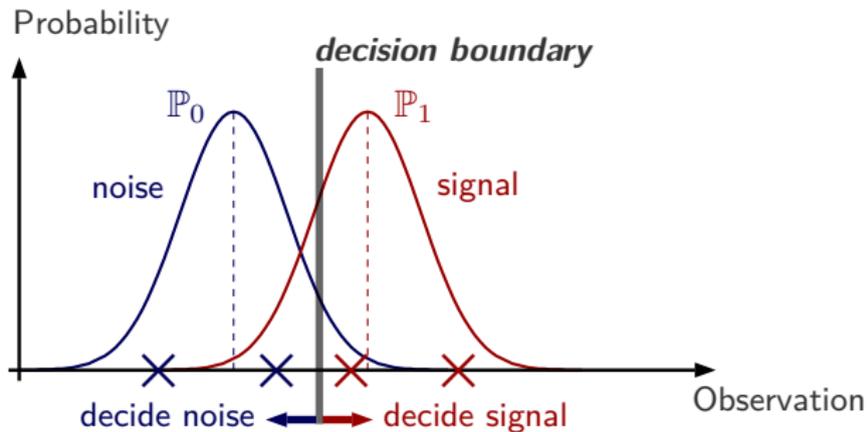
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The Decision Tradeoff

The Decision Tradeoff

True hypothesis

Decide noise

Decide signal

noise

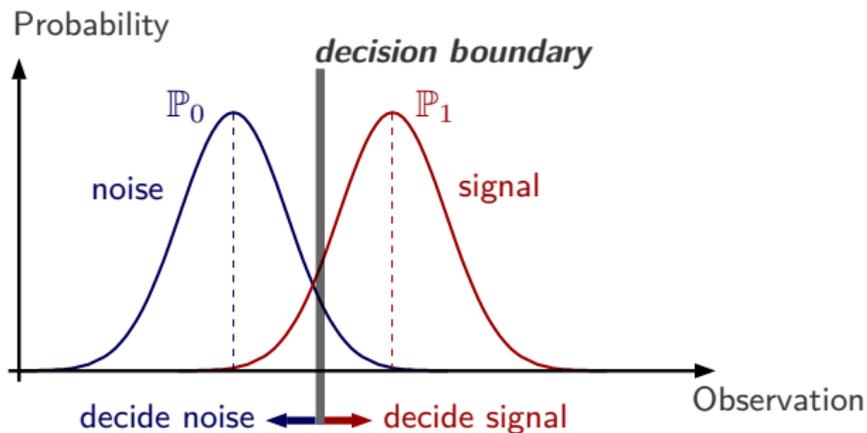
signal

The Decision Tradeoff

True hypothesis Decide noise Decide signal

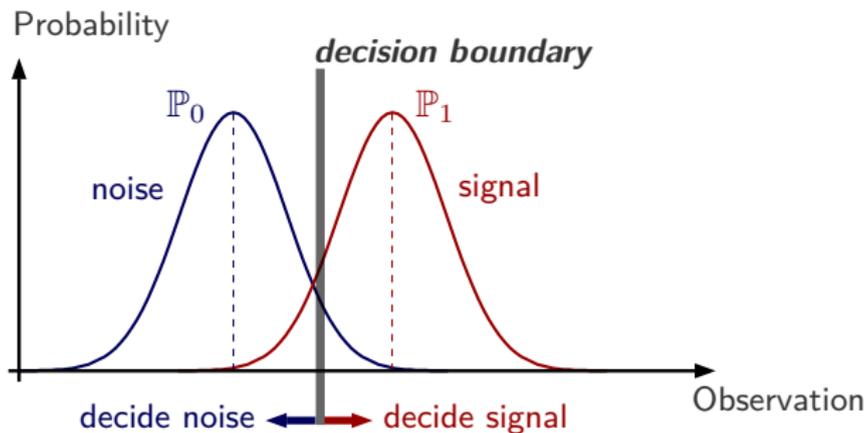
noise

signal



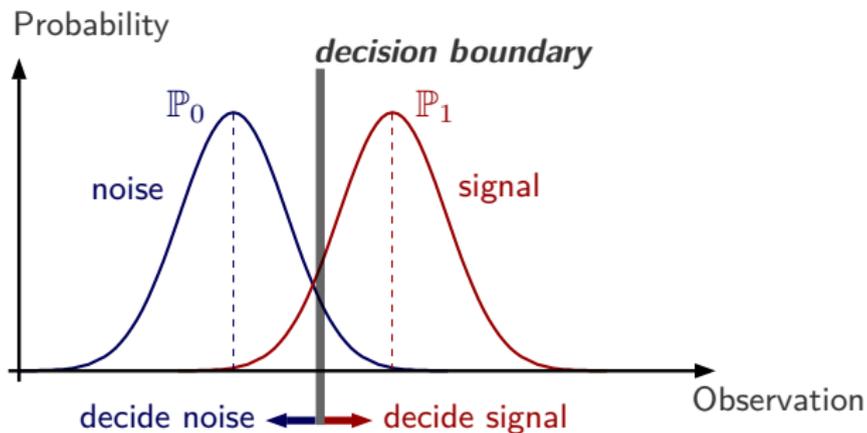
The Decision Tradeoff

True hypothesis	Decide noise	Decide signal
noise	✓	
signal		



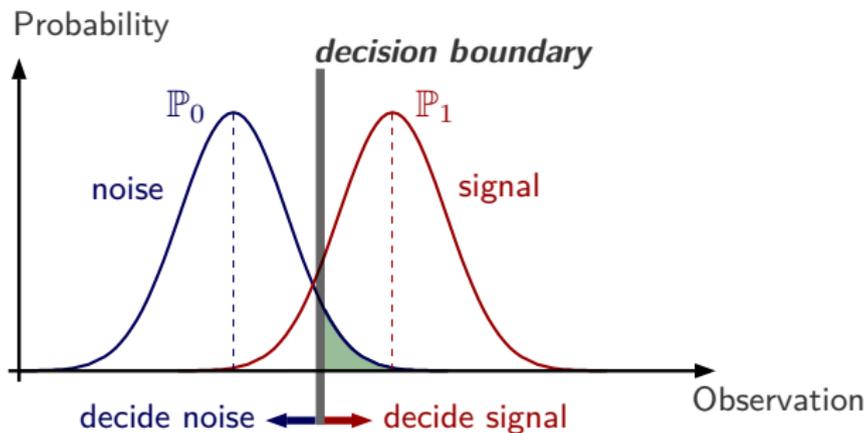
The Decision Tradeoff

True hypothesis	Decide noise	Decide signal
noise	✓	
signal		✓



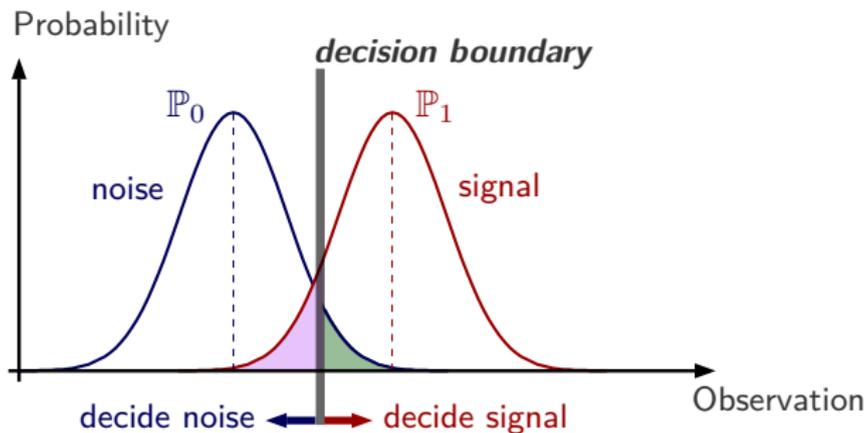
The Decision Tradeoff

True hypothesis	Decide noise	Decide signal
noise	✓	false alarm
signal		✓



The Decision Tradeoff

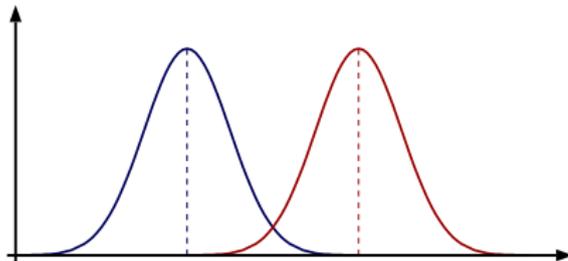
True hypothesis	Decide noise	Decide signal
noise	✓	false alarm
signal	missed detection	✓



Improving the Tradeoff

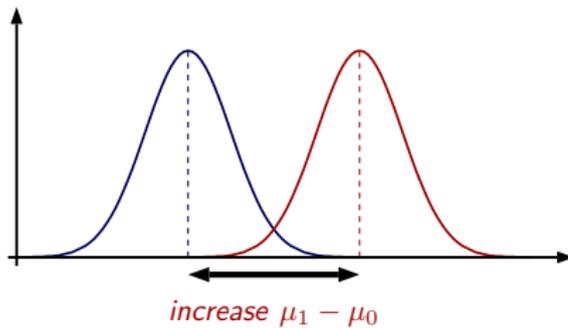
Improving the Tradeoff

Larger effect size



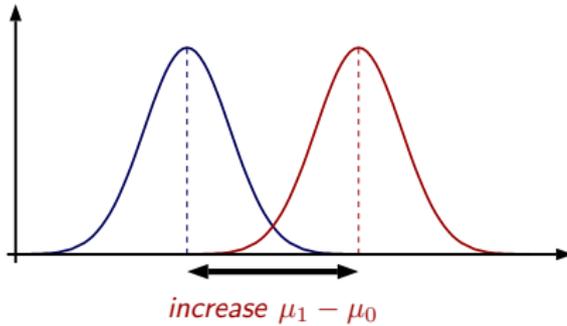
Improving the Tradeoff

Larger effect size

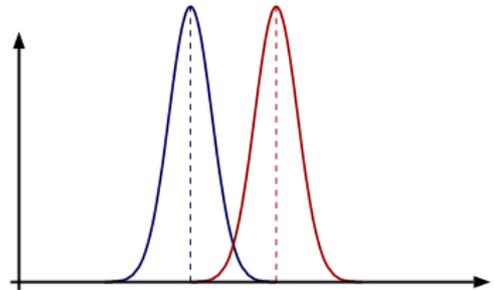


Improving the Tradeoff

Larger effect size

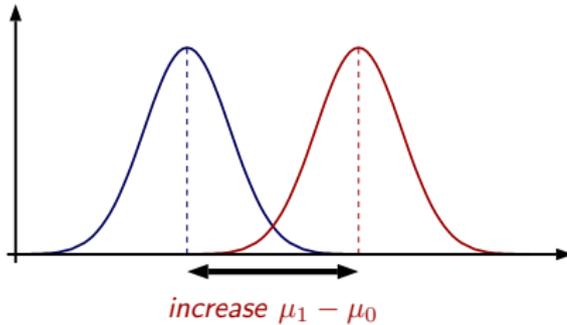


Better/more measurements

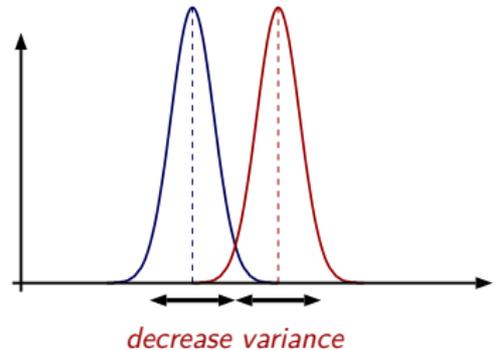


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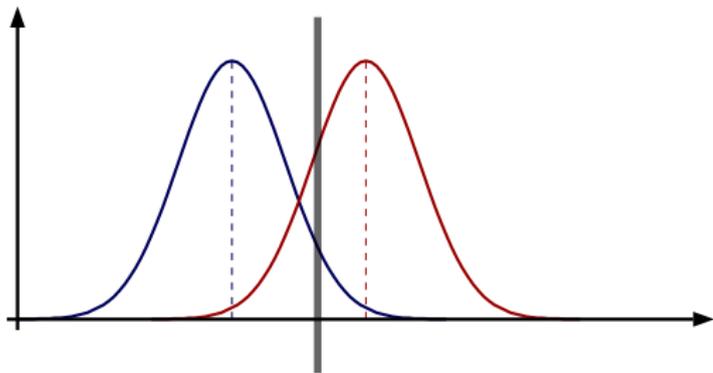
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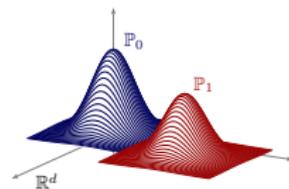
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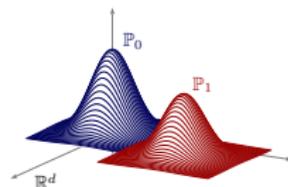
Where to place the decision boundary?



Decision and loss functions



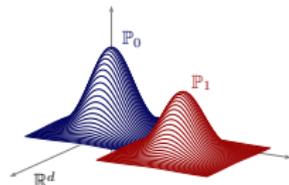
Decision and loss functions



True label

$$Y = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } H_0 \text{ is true} \\ 1 & , \text{ if } H_1 \text{ true} \end{cases}$$

Decision and loss functions



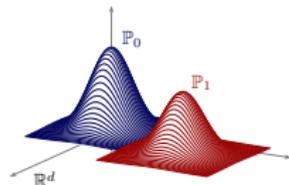
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Decision function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if we } \underline{\text{decide}} H_0 \\ 1 & , \text{ if we } \underline{\text{decide}} H_1 \end{cases}$$

Decision and loss functions



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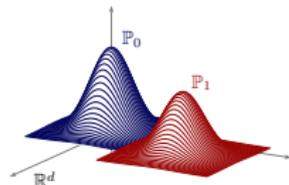
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Loss function $\ell : \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Decision and loss functions



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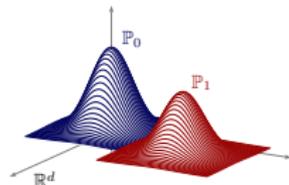
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Loss function $\ell : \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ $\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)$

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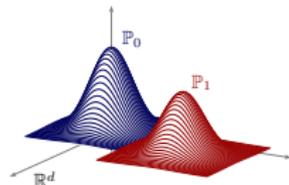
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True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
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H_0 is true

H_1 is true

Decision and loss functions



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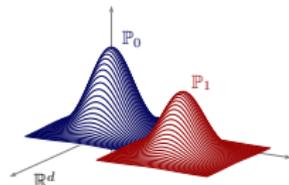
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H_0 is true	$\ell(0, 0)$	
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H_1 is true		
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Decision and loss functions



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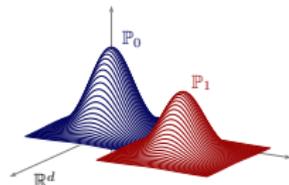
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Decision and loss functions



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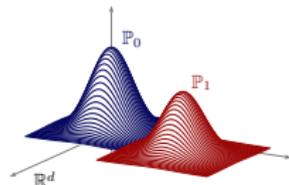
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Risk and Optimal Decision

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Given *decision function* $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ and *loss* $\ell : \{0, 1\}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

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Risk:

Risk and Optimal Decision

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Risk:

$$R[f] := \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

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where $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y}[\cdot]$ is the expectation with respect to \mathbf{X} and Y

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Optimal decision problem:

Risk and Optimal Decision

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Optimal decision problem: Given ℓ , find f that minimizes the risk:

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$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0, 1\}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

... infinite-dimensional problem

$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

Recall that $f(\mathbf{X})$ and Y are binary

$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

Recall that $f(\mathbf{X})$ and Y are binary

Conditioning on \mathbf{X} ,

$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

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Recall that $f(\mathbf{X})$ and Y are binary

Conditioning on \mathbf{X} ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)] = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}} \left[\mathbb{E}_Y [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y) \mid \mathbf{X}] \right]$$

$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

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If $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$,

$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

Recall that $f(\mathbf{X})$ and Y are binary

Conditioning on \mathbf{X} ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)] &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}} \left[\mathbb{E}_Y [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y) \mid \mathbf{X}] \right] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{E}_Y [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y) \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}] f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

If $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$,

$$\mathbb{E}_Y [\ell(0, Y) \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}] = \ell(0, 0) \mathbb{P}(Y = 0 \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}) + \ell(0, 1) \mathbb{P}(Y = 1 \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})$$

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If $f(\mathbf{x}) = 1$,

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Conditioning on \mathbf{X} ,

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Optimal decision

Optimal decision

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \mathbb{E}_Y \left[\ell(0, Y) \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} \right] < \mathbb{E}_Y \left[\ell(1, Y) \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} \right]$$

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Optimal decision

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Bayes rule

Optimal decision

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \mathbb{E}_Y \left[\ell(0, Y) \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} \right] < \mathbb{E}_Y \left[\ell(1, Y) \mid \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} \right]$$

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Optimal decision

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Optimal decision

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$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x})$: likelihood ratio

Likelihood ratio test

$$\underset{f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} [\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y)]$$

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The decision that minimizes the risk in a binary hypothesis test is

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The decision that minimizes the risk in a binary hypothesis test is

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{1}_{\{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}) \geq \eta\}}(\mathbf{x})$$

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$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{1}_{\{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}) \geq \eta\}}(\mathbf{x})$$

- Indicator function of set \mathcal{S} :
$$\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{S}}(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{ if } s \in \mathcal{S} \\ 0 & , \text{ if } s \notin \mathcal{S} \end{cases}$$

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- *Likelihood ratio*:
$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f_{\mathbf{X}|H_1}(\mathbf{x} | H_1)}{f_{\mathbf{X}|H_0}(\mathbf{x} | H_0)}$$

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- Likelihood ratio:*
$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f_{\mathbf{X}|H_1}(\mathbf{x} | H_1)}{f_{\mathbf{X}|H_0}(\mathbf{x} | H_0)}$$

- Decision threshold:*
$$\eta = \frac{\ell(1, 0) - \ell(0, 0)}{\ell(0, 1) - \ell(1, 1)} \cdot \frac{\mathbb{P}(H_0)}{\mathbb{P}(H_1)}$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Example in \mathbb{R}

$$H_0 : X = W$$

$$H_1 : X = c + W$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

$$H_0 : X = W$$

no aircraft/tumor/spam
innocent defendant

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$$W \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

$$f_W(w) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{w^2}{2}}$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

$$H_0 : X = W$$

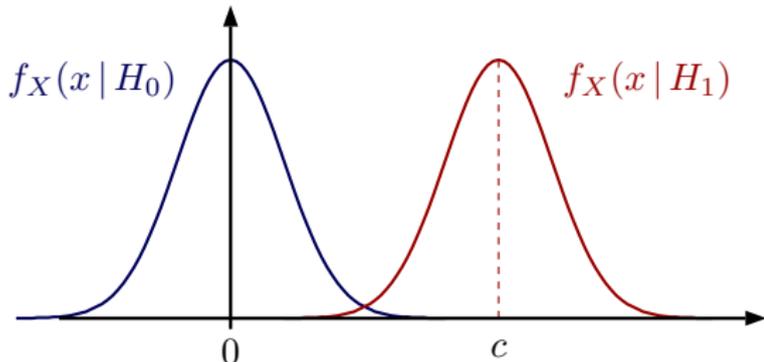
no aircraft/tumor/spam
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$$H_1 : X = c + W$$

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Example in \mathbb{R}

Assume

Example in \mathbb{R}

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- $c = 1$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Assume

- $c = 1$
- Loss values

True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
H_0 is true	0	1
H_1 is true	25	0

Example in \mathbb{R}

Assume

- $c = 1$
- Loss values

True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
H_0 is true	0	1
H_1 is true	25	0

- Base rates: $\mathbb{P}(H_0) = 0.95$ $\mathbb{P}(H_1) = 0.05$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Assume

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True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
H_0 is true	0	1
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Compute the decision threshold

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta \quad \iff \quad \log \mathcal{L}(x) = \log \eta$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta \quad \iff \quad \log \mathcal{L}(x) = \log \eta$$

with

$$\mathcal{L}(x)$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta \quad \iff \quad \log \mathcal{L}(x) = \log \eta$$

with

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{f_{X|H_1}(x | H_1)}{f_{X|H_0}(x | H_0)}$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta \quad \iff \quad \log \mathcal{L}(x) = \log \eta$$

with

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{f_{X|H_1}(x | H_1)}{f_{X|H_0}(x | H_0)} = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{(x-1)^2}{2}\right)}{\exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right)}$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta \quad \iff \quad \log \mathcal{L}(x) = \log \eta$$

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Example in \mathbb{R}

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$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \eta \quad \iff \quad \log \mathcal{L}(x) = \log \eta$$

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$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{f_{X|H_1}(x | H_1)}{f_{X|H_0}(x | H_0)} = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{(x-1)^2}{2}\right)}{\exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right)} = \exp\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$\eta = \frac{\ell(0,0) - \ell(1,0)}{\ell(1,1) - \ell(0,1)} \cdot \frac{\mathbb{P}(H_0)}{\mathbb{P}(H_1)}$$

Example in \mathbb{R}

Decision threshold occurs for

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$$c = 1$$

True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
H_0 is true	0	1
H_1 is true	25	0

$$\mathbb{P}(H_0) = 0.95$$

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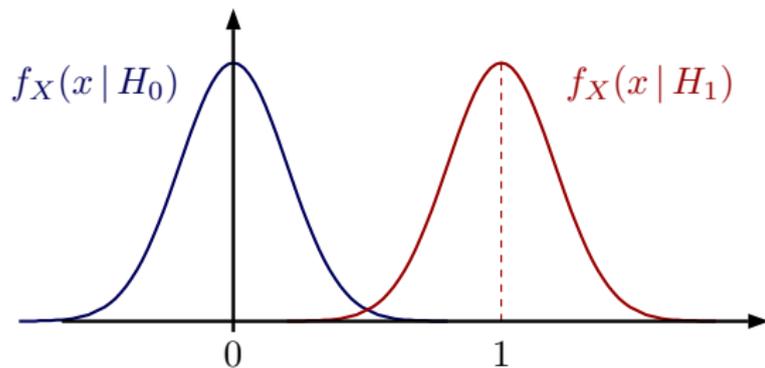
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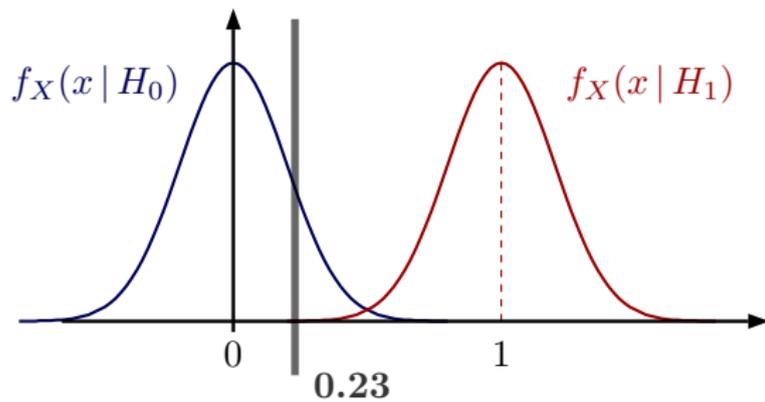
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Particular cases

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$$\underset{f:\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}Y} \left[\ell(f(\mathbf{X}), Y) \right]$$

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- Maximum a posteriori (MAP)
- Maximum likelihood (ML)

can be seen as *likelihood ratio tests*

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Recall that MAP rule minimizes probability of incorrect decision:

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This corresponds to a likelihood ratio test with $\eta = 1$

Types of errors and successes

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Table of probabilities

True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
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H_0 is true

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Types of errors and successes

True Positive Rate (TPR)

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Types of errors and successes

True Positive Rate (TPR)

power, sensitivity, recall

$$\text{TPR} = \mathbb{P}(f(\mathbf{X}) = 1 \mid H_1)$$

False Positive Rate (FPR)

type I error, false alarm

$$\text{FPR} = \mathbb{P}(f(\mathbf{X}) = 1 \mid H_0)$$

True Negative Rate (TNR)

specificity

Table of probabilities

True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
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True hypothesis	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$	$f(\mathbf{X}) = 1$
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H_1 is true	FNR β	TPR

α and β are in *conflict*:

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It turns out that likelihood ratio tests are *Pareto optimal*

Neyman-Pearson Lemma

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Theorem

Let $f(x)$ be a decision rule (det. or prob.)

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Let $f(\mathbf{x})$ be a decision rule (det. or prob.) with FPR and FNR

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And the same relations hold with strict inequalities ($<$, $>$)

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That is, $(\alpha - \alpha_{\text{MAP}}) \mathbb{P}(H_0) + (\beta - \beta_{\text{MAP}}) \mathbb{P}(H_1) \geq 0$

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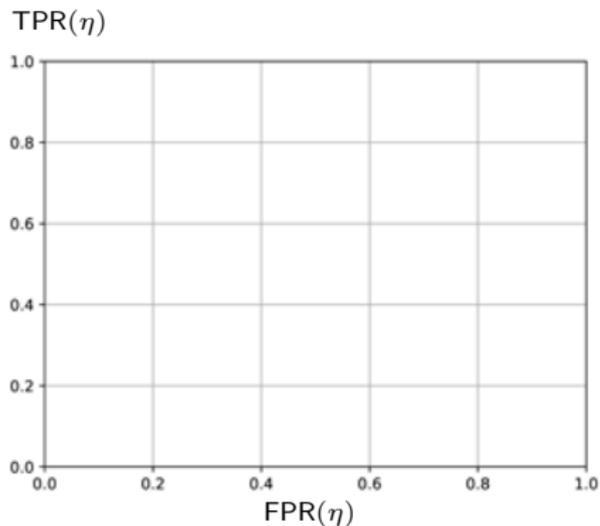
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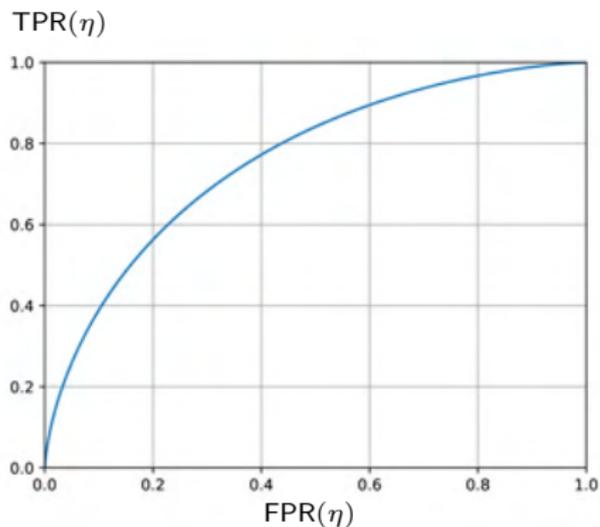
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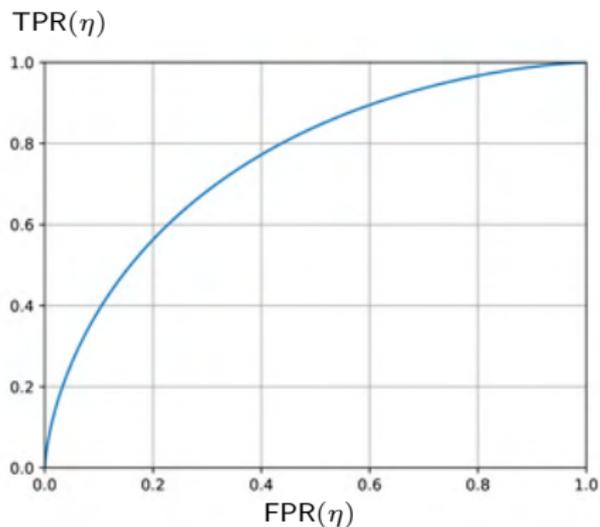
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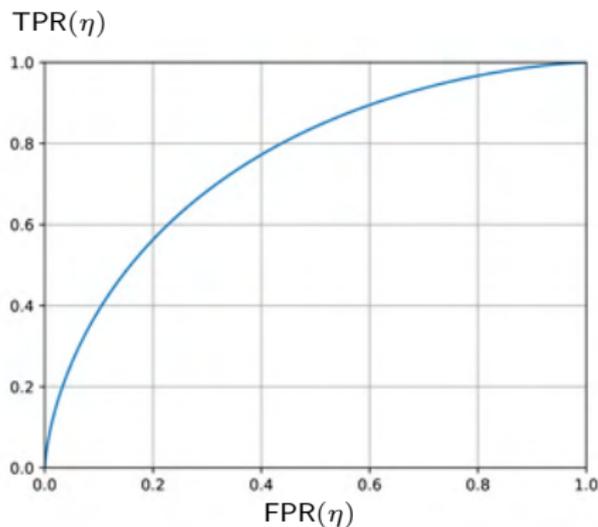


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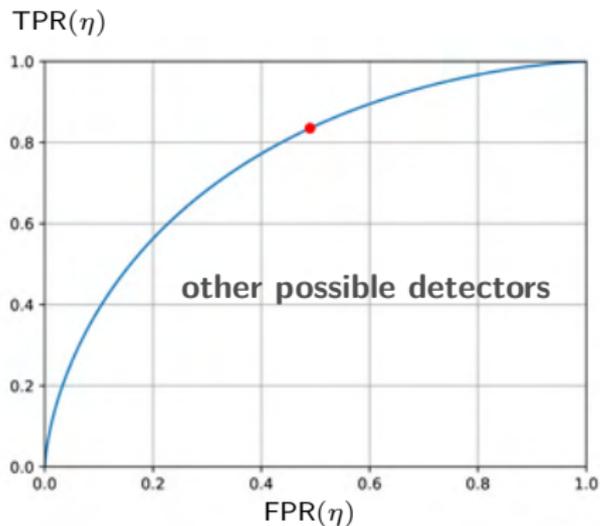
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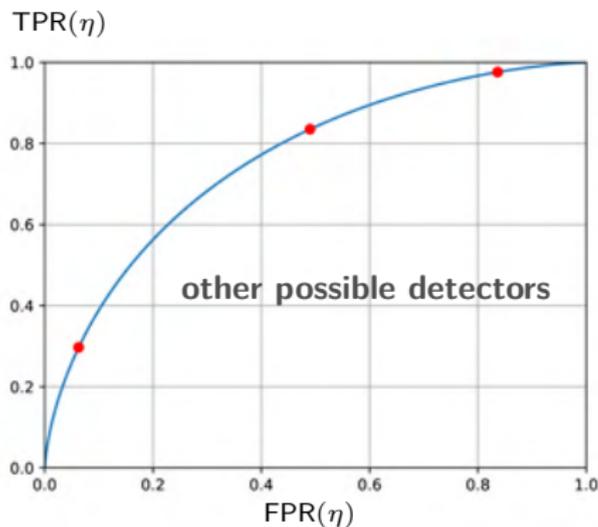
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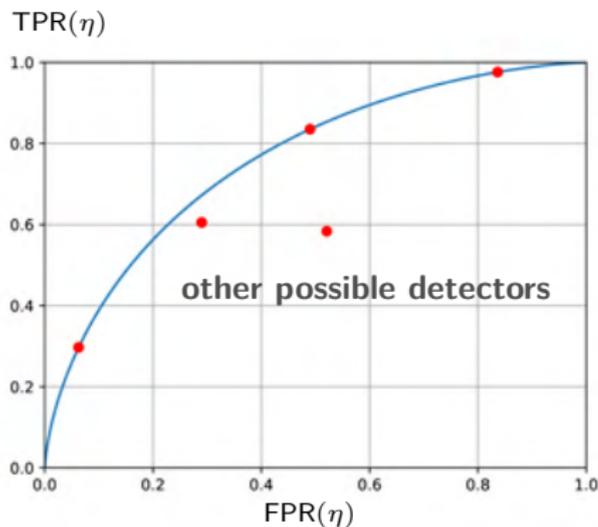
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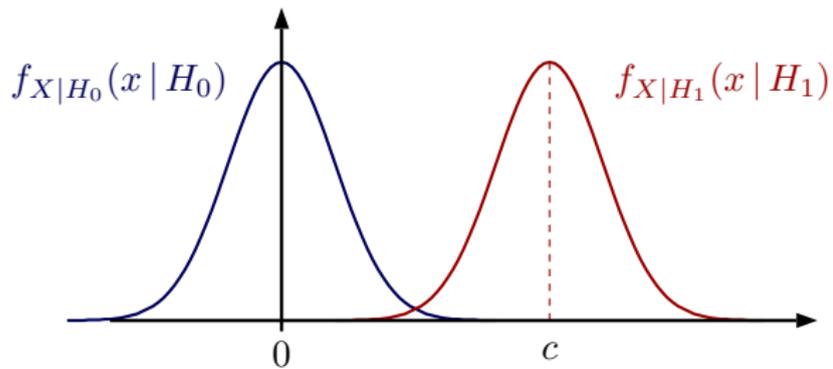


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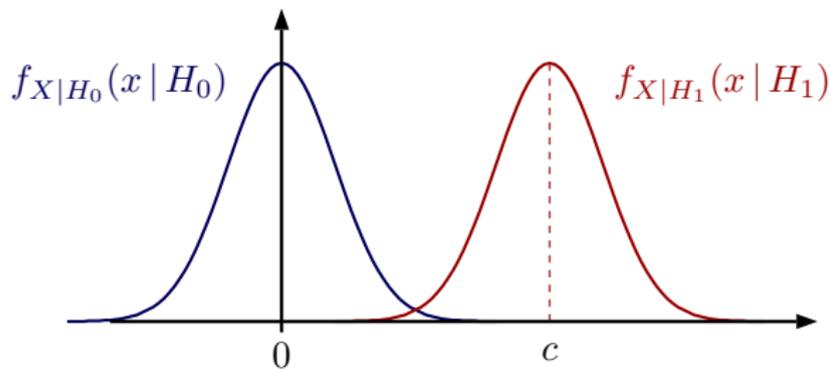
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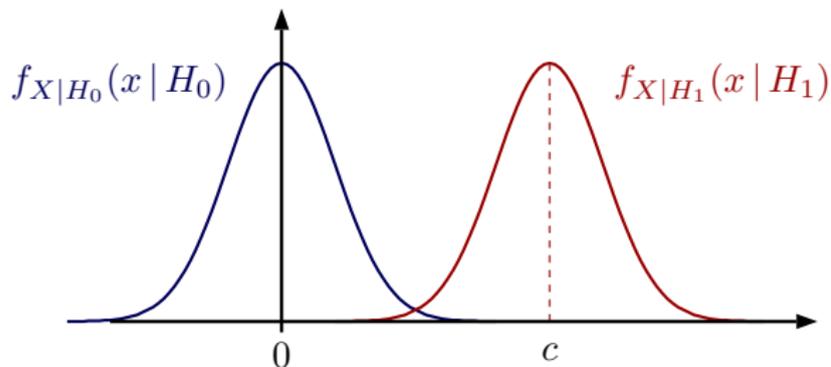


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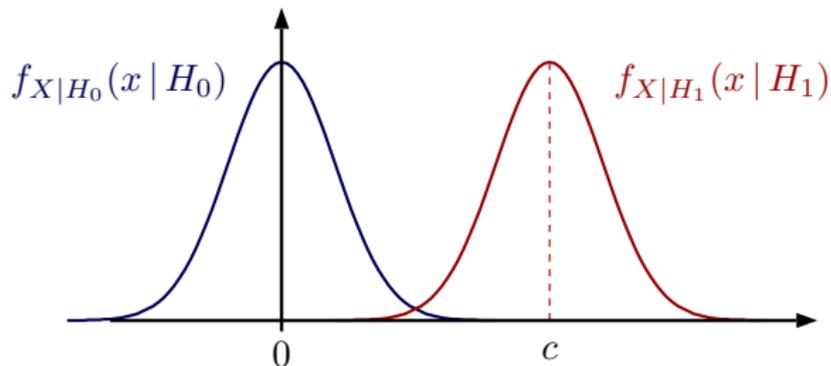
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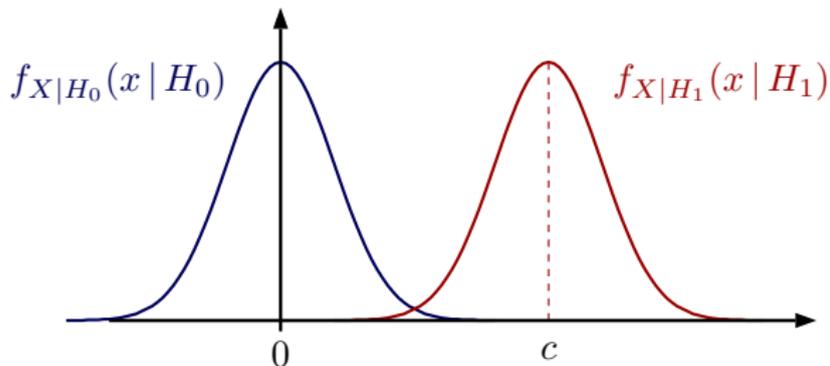


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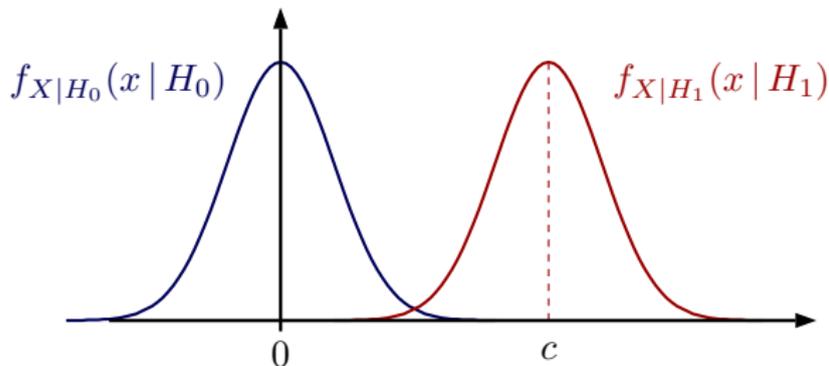
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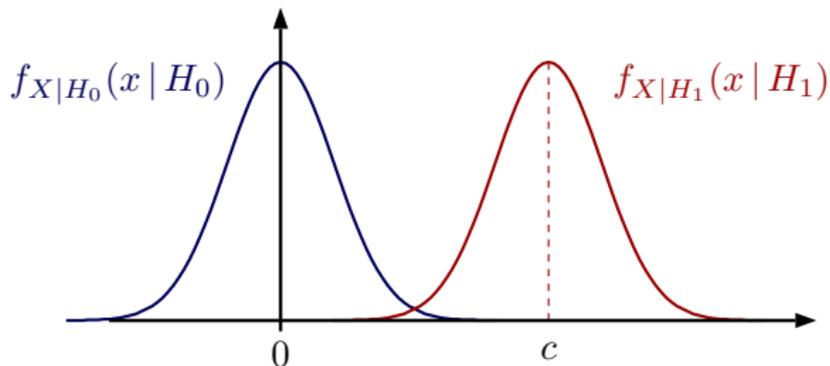
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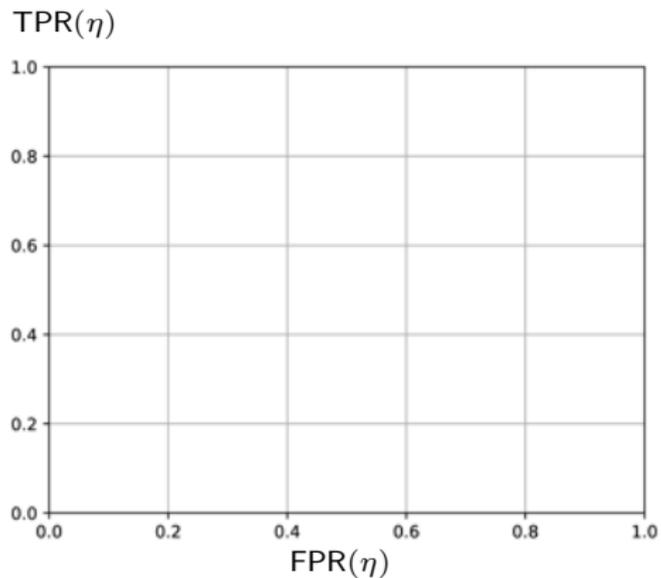
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ROC curve for different values of SNR

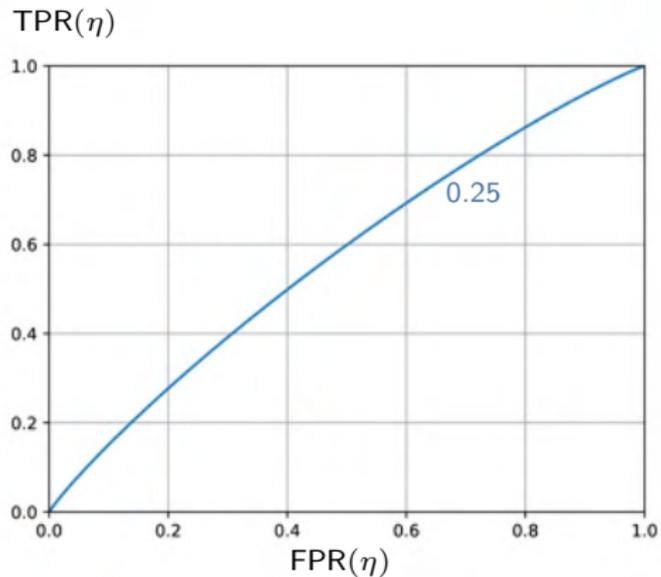
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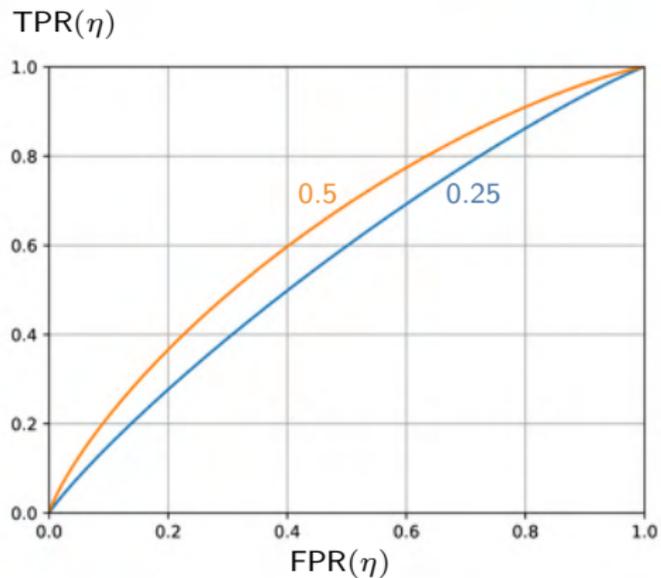
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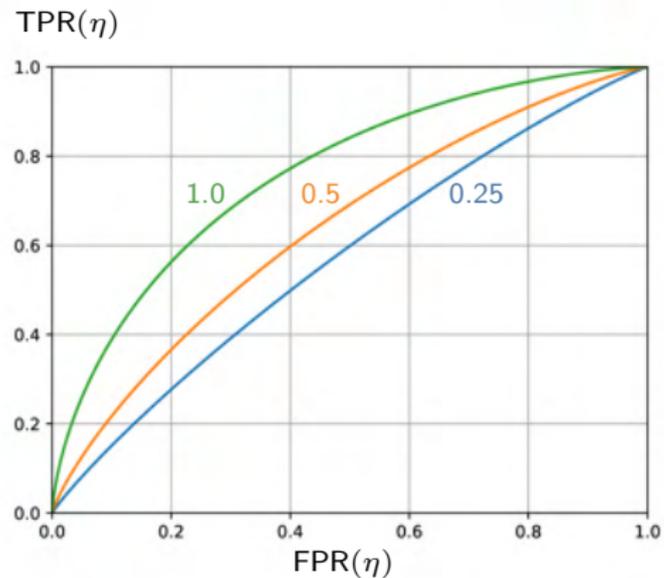
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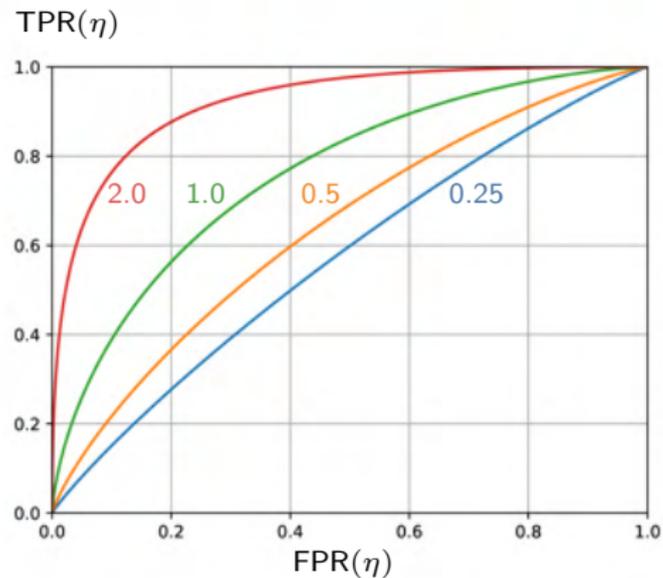
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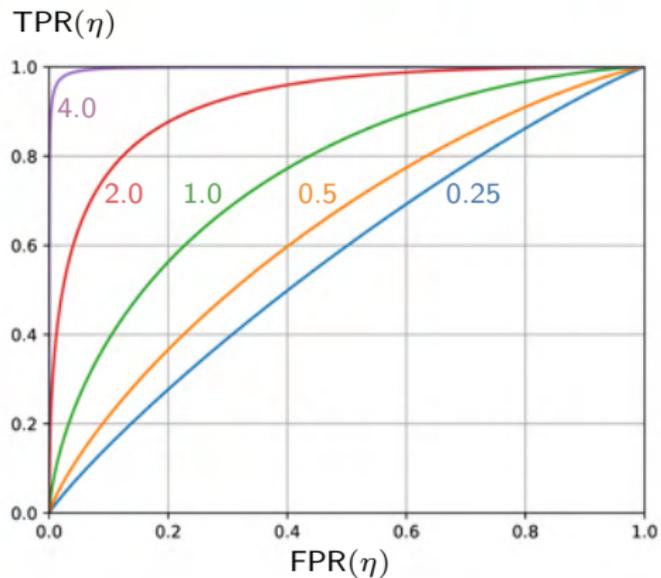
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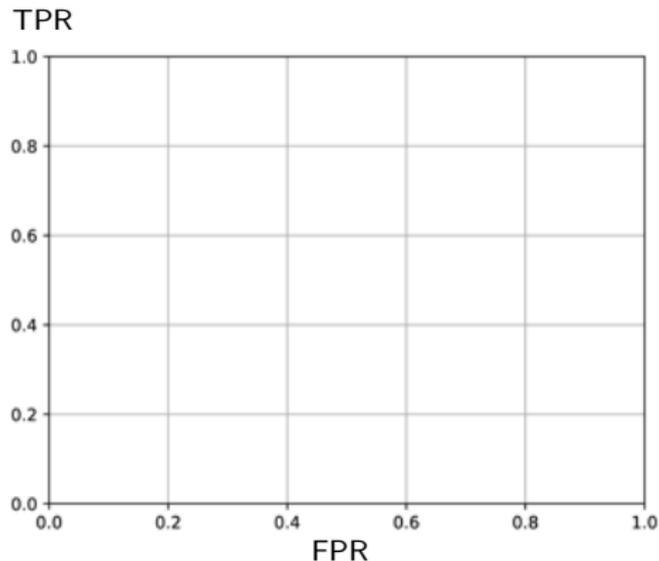
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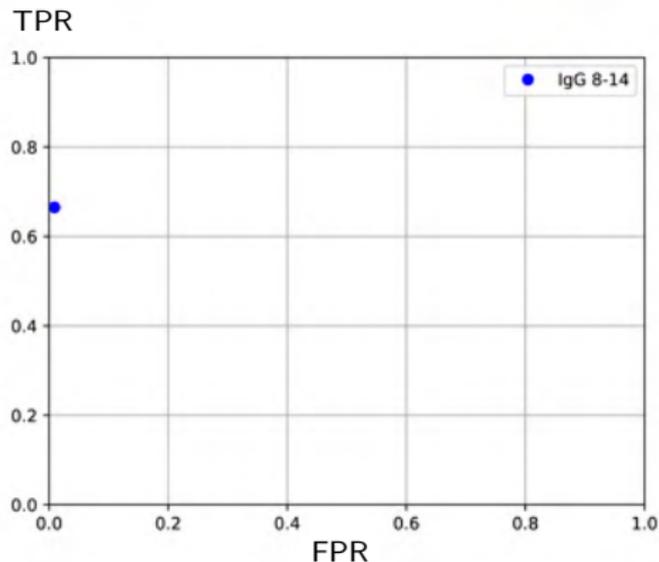
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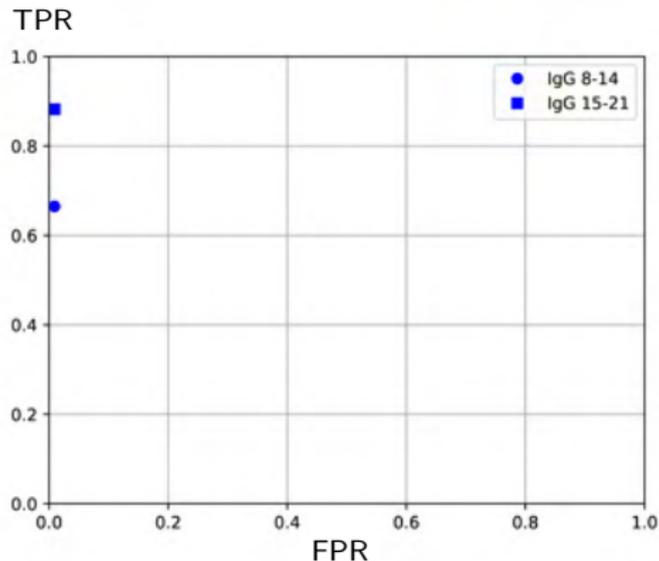
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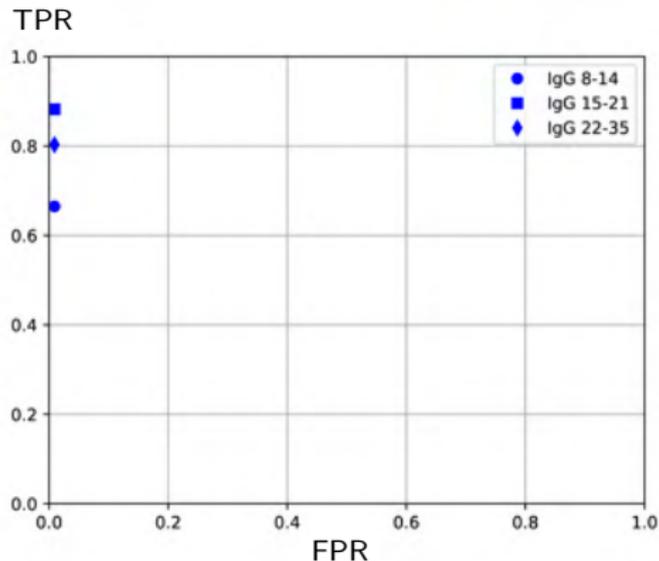
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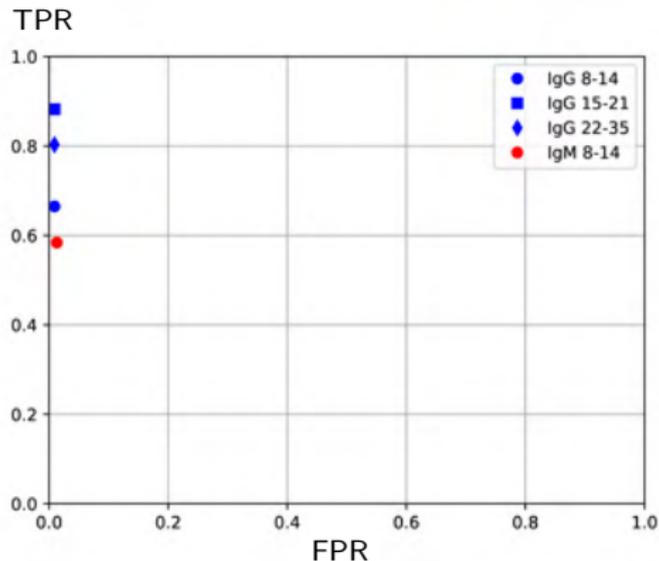
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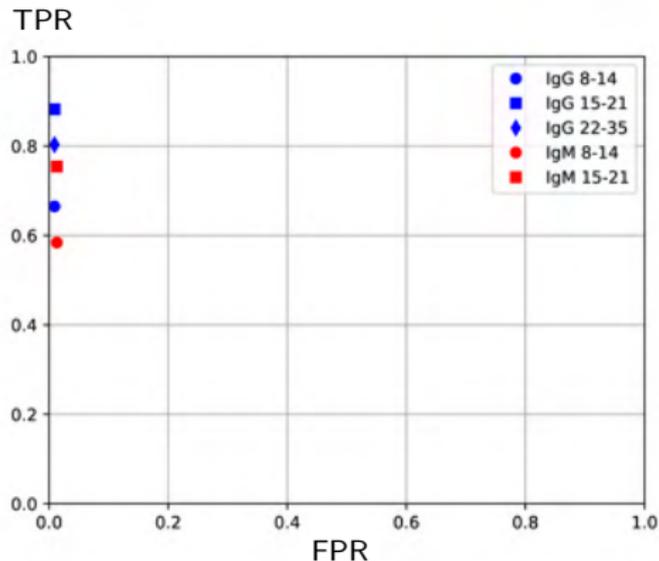
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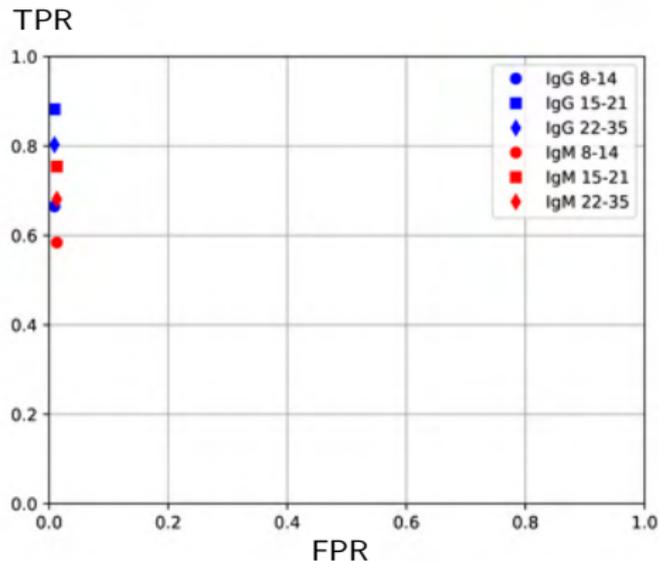
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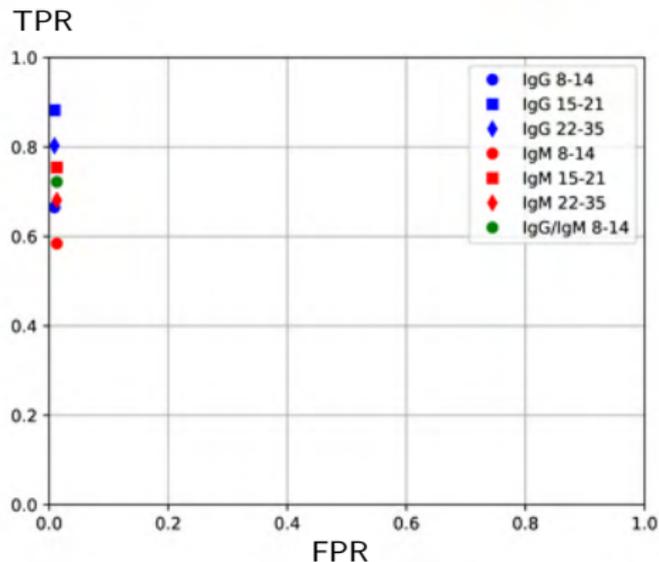
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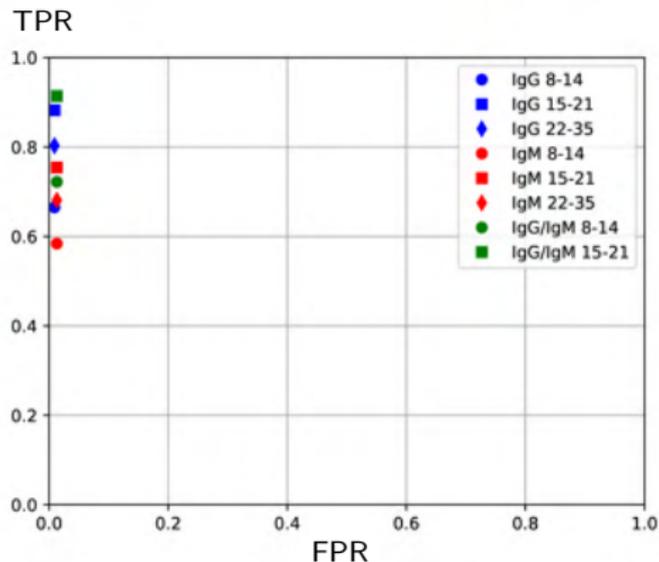
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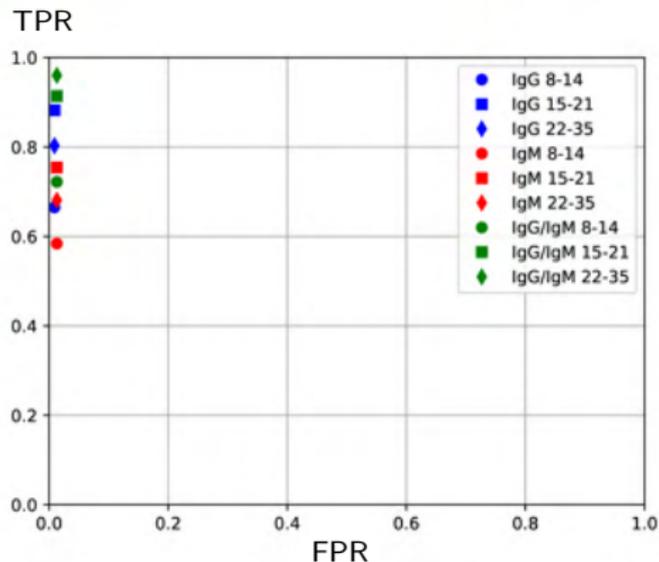
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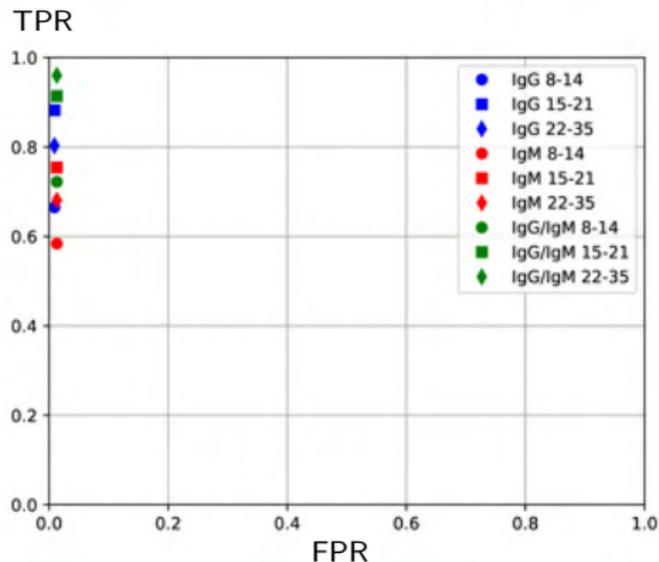
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Deeks et al, **Antibody tests for identification of current and past infection with SARSCoV2**, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 6, 2020

Looking Ahead: Empirical Risk Minimization

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We studied a (binary) decision problem:

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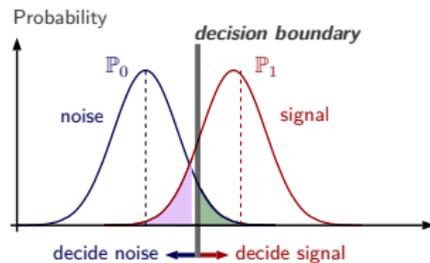
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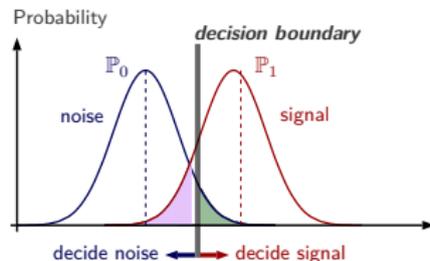
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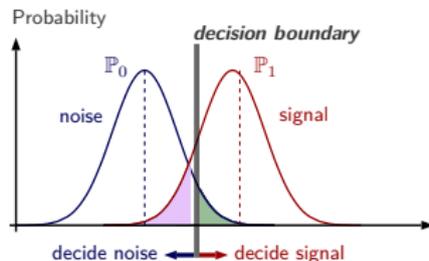


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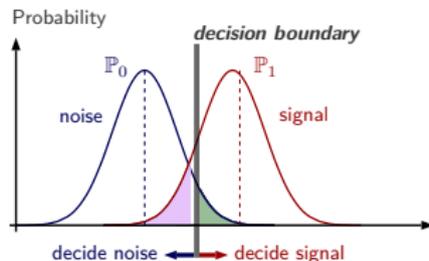
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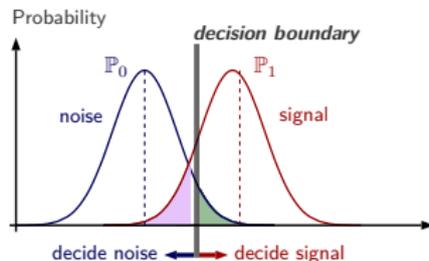
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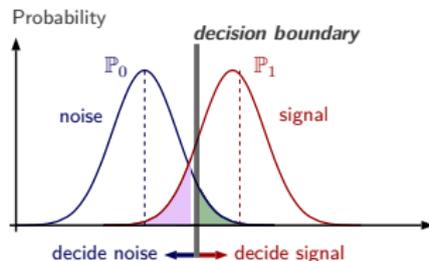
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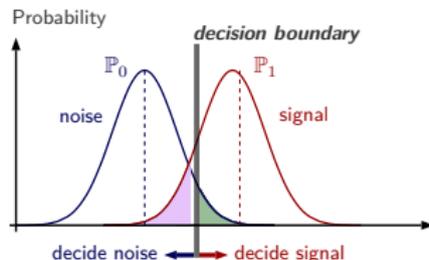
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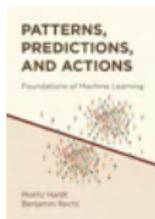
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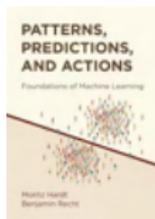


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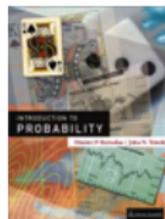
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