

Lemma 4.1. Let P be any distribution and consider a selection function g_θ with a threshold θ whose coverage is $c(\theta, P)$. Let $0 < \delta < 1$ be given and let $\hat{c}(\theta, S_m)$ be the empirical coverage w.r.t. the set S_m , sampled i.i.d. from P . Let $b^*(m, m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m), \delta)$ be the solution of the following equation:

$$\arg \min_b \left(\sum_{j=0}^{m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m)} \binom{m}{j} b^j (1-b)^{m-j} \leq 1 - \delta \right). \quad (4)$$

Then,

$$\Pr_{S_m} \{c(\theta, P) < b^*(m, m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m), \delta)\} < \delta. \quad (5)$$

Proof. We aim to establish an upper bound, b^* , for the coverage, $c(\theta, P)$, that holds with a probability of at most δ . The coverage $c(\theta, P)$ is equivalent to the probability that $g_\theta(x) = 1$ for a sample $x \sim P$, we will define this event as a 'success'. Define:

$$\text{Bin}(n, k, p) \triangleq \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{n}{j} p^j (1-p)^{n-j}, \quad (1)$$

$$b^* \triangleq \overline{\text{Bin}}(n, k, \delta) \triangleq \arg \min_b (\text{Bin}(n, k, b) \leq 1 - \delta). \quad (2)$$

Note that given n, k , the function $\text{Bin}(n, k, p)$ is a monotonically decreasing function in p . Therefore, the solution b^* of Eq. 2 exists as a result of the intermediate value theorem.

Let E_k be the event that at most $k = m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m)$ samples x satisfy $g_\theta(x) = 1$ (or at most k 'successes'), when considering $c(\theta, P)$ to be the probability of a single success. Thus,

$$\Pr\{E_k\} = \text{Bin}(m, m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m), c(\theta, P)). \quad (3)$$

By definition, for every number between $0 < \tilde{\delta} < 1$, there is a probability of at most $\tilde{\delta}$, that $k = m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m)$ 'successes' would fall into the right tail of size $\tilde{\delta}$ of the binomial. If this happens, then we get that the probability for at most $k = m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m)$ 'successes' is greater than $1 - \tilde{\delta}$. We can apply this claim using the value $\tilde{\delta} = \delta$ introduced in the lemma, using $c(\theta, P)$ as the probability for a single success. Mathematically,

$$\Pr\{E_k\} > 1 - \delta. \quad (4)$$

Let \hat{E}_k be the event that at most $k = m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m)$ samples x satisfy $g_\theta(x) = 1$ (or at most k 'successes'), when the probability for a single success is b^* . It holds (2) that,

$$\Pr\{\hat{E}_k\} = \text{Bin}(m, m \cdot \hat{c}(\theta, S_m), b^*) = 1 - \delta. \quad (5)$$

Therefore,

$$\Pr\{E_k\} > \Pr\{\hat{E}_k\}. \quad (6)$$

Consider the following statement,

let p_1, p_2 be two different probabilities for a single success. If the probability of at most k successes (out of n attempts) is more likely when considering p_1 as the probability of a single success, rather than p_2 , we can conclude that $p_1 < p_2$.

Therefore, since the event of E_k occurs with higher probability than the event \hat{E}_k , see Eq. (6), we can conclude that $c(\theta, P) < b^*$. This deduction is only true if we assume that $\Pr\{E_k\} > 1 - \delta$, and this assumption is true with probability at most δ . Hence, we get that with probability at most δ , it holds that $c(\theta, P) < b^*$. \square

