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D-Optimal as an Alternative to Full Factorial Designs: A Case Study

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**D-Optimal as an Alternative to Full Factorial Designs:
A Case Study**

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Executive Summary

In planning an experiment, testers rely on experimental design to determine how to cover the operational space in an efficient way. Understanding which factors can affect a detector's performance can influence military tactics, techniques and procedures, and improve a commander's situational awareness when making decisions in an operational environment. A full factorial design ensures that every possible combination of levels across factors is tested, whereas a D-optimal design minimizes the parameter estimate variability by maximizing $\det[X'X]$. The D-optimal design can also account for the irregularities or constraints in the data.

Testing military systems includes evaluating the effectiveness of detectors (chemical or metal detector, radars, etc.) under different circumstances. Sometimes the operational space includes disallowed combinations. That is, some levels of one factor cannot be tested at the same time as some levels from another factor. While a tester could try to use a full factorial design for this type of situation, a D-optimal design might be a better alternative.

This document shows how the use of a D-optimal design could have reduced the amount of data needed when testing the effectiveness of a detector. We used an adequate D-optimal design to obtain a subset of the original dataset. In order to assess how the operational environment can affect the detector's performance, we used this subset of the data to fit frequentist and Bayesian logistic regression models. The results were similar to the ones obtained when fitting the models to the full dataset.

Summary

- Test goal was to determine an instrument's probability of detecting a target under different circumstances
- Data were collected using a full factorial design and Bayesian methods to determine the concentration level
- Future testing could use a D-optimal design, which might help reduce the number of runs

Data*

- 26% failed to detect vs 74% that detected the target
- Nine different types of solutions (S1, S2, ..., S9)
- 41 different organisms (O1, O2, ..., O41)
- Multiple solution-organism disallowed combinations
- Wide range of concentration levels

Concentration levels summary statistics					
Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3 rd Qu.	Max.
0.003	8	27	4,778	524	26,8918

Original design (snapshot)

	S2	S1	S7	S3	S4	S8	S6	S5	S9
O6	32	32	X	X	X	X	X	31	X
O10	X	23	X	X	19	X	14	X	21
O12	20	32	X	18	15	17	22	20	20
O20	19	X	21	19	18	X	23	19	X
O24	23	X	X	X	22	X	17	21	X
O31	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
O33	189	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
O41	21	21	X	X	X	X	X	4	X

- Full factorial design
- Two categorical factors (organism and solution) and one continuous factor (concentration; not shown)
- Binary outcome (detection: yes/no)
- Some scenarios have more runs than others (e.g., S2 and O31 has six runs, whereas S2 and O33 has 189 runs)
- Some solution-organism combinations only include high concentrations
- Power = 0.99

D-optimal design (snapshot)

	S2	S1	S7	S3	S4	S8	S6	S5	S9
O6	19	21	X	X	X	X	X	18	X
O10	X	13	X	24	X	25	X	12	X
O12	X	2	X	15	14	19	14	X	19
O20	8	X	37	17	14	X	14	8	X
O24	13	X	X	X	22	X	23	13	X
O31	54	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
O33	54	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
O41	18	21	X	X	X	X	X	19	X

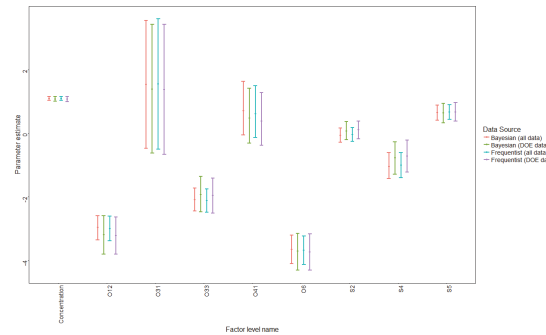
- Same factors and levels as the previous design (table shows organism and solution, not concentration)
- Total number of runs needed is 13% less than the original design
- More balanced design (e.g., O31 and O33 have the same number of runs)
- Power = 0.96

D-optimal design with available data (snapshot)

	S2	S1	S7	S3	S4	S8	S6	S5	S9
O6	19	21	X	X	X	X	X	18	X
O10	X	13	X	14	X	14	X	12	X
O12	X	2	X	15	12	17	11	X	19
O20	8	0	21	16	14	0	14	8	0
O24	13	X	X	X	20	X	17	13	X
O31	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
O33	54	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
O41	16	19	X	X	X	X	X	4	X

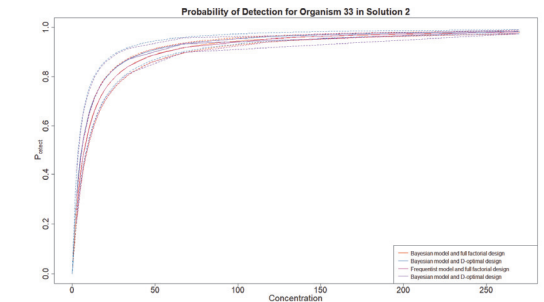
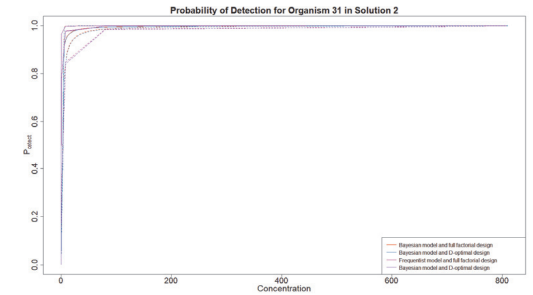
- Same factors and levels as previous tables
- Using the original data set and the D-optimal design, we obtained a subset of the data
- For some levels (e.g., O33) we had the runs the D-optimal design required, but for other levels (e.g., O31) we did not have the number of runs the D-optimal design required
- Sometimes we had enough runs for a specific solution and organism combination, but not enough high/low concentration levels within that combination (e.g., O41)
- Acceptable design with fewer runs (65% of the original data)
- Power = 0.77

Parameter estimates and intervals



- We fitted Bayesian and frequentist logistic models to the original data (from the full factorial design) and to the subset of the data (from the D-optimal design with available data)
- The resulting parameter estimates and credible and confidence intervals are shown in the above figure
- Results from the frequentist model are similar to the results using the Bayesian model
- Results when we had almost all the data required by the D-optimal design (e.g., O41, S5) were similar to the original design (full factorial)
- Levels that needed more runs (e.g., O31) had wider intervals

Detection curves examples*



- Figures show the detection curves obtained using the results from the four models fitted: frequentist model using the full factorial design, frequentist model using the D-optimal design, and two Bayesian models using those designs
- Top figure shows the detection curves obtained from the models' results when we did not have enough data collected
- Bottom figure shows the detection curves obtained from the models' results when we had all the runs needed for O33 and almost all the runs needed for S2 (according to the D-optimal design)
- Each figure shows similar detection curves regardless of the model (frequentist/Bayesian) or design used (full factorial/D-optimal)

Conclusions

- It is important to determine which data points to collect in order to obtain as much information as possible with each run
- The use of a D-optimal design is a good alternative to a full factorial design, because it produces similar results while saving resources
- Regardless of the experimental design used to collect the data, Bayesian and frequentist methods produce similar results when analyzing these data

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