



**CSCIT 2021 - Lecture 3**

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Sydney)

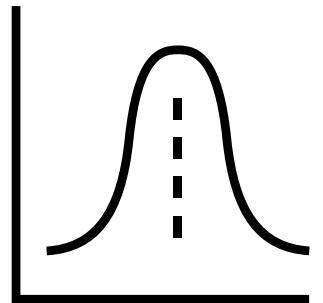
Estimation and hypothesis  
testing under information  
constraints

# Last lecture: recap

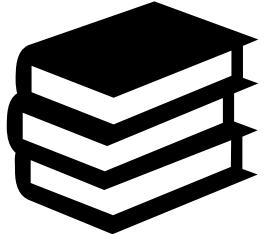
1. Learning and testing **discrete** distributions: upper bounds
  - Learning, under communication or local privacy (LDP) constraints
  - Testing, under communication or LDP constraints
2. Lower bounds
  - A general bound for learning and testing
  - Application to communication and LDP

# Contents of this lecture

1. Estimation for high-dimensional distributions: upper bounds
  - Mean estimation under communication or local privacy (LDP) constraints
2. Lower bounds
  - A general bound for estimation (in the interactive setting)
  - Application to communication and LDP



# Caveat: the Roads not Taken



- These 3 lectures cover specifically work from [arXiv:1812.11476](#), [arXiv:2007.10976](#), and [arXiv:2010.06562](#)
- There are others! See references at the end
- Only covers "local" constraints — e.g., not **central** differential privacy.  
See, for instance, [arXiv:2005.00010](#)

Recall: What are learning and testing? ~~estimating~~

Standard statistical setting:  $n$  iid samples from some unknown probability distribution  $p$

Goal: estimate something about  $p$

for instance,  
the mean of  $p$  

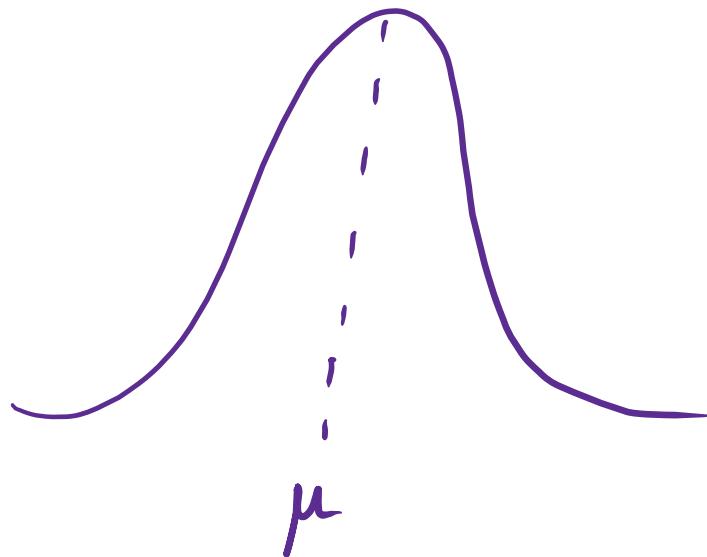
learn a parameter/functional  $\vartheta$  of  $p$   
output  $\hat{\theta}$  such that

$$\underset{P}{\mathbb{E}}[l(\hat{\theta}, \theta(p))] \leq \varepsilon$$

Recap: what are we learning?

High-dimensional Gaussians (with identity covariance)  
↑ dimension  $d$

Learning the mean under  
 $\ell_2$  loss



$$p = \mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$$
$$\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

# Recap: the "centralised" setting

$d \gg 1$

$\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$

Identity-covariance Gaussians

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \text{Id})$  to  $\ell_2$  loss  $\varepsilon^2$  has sample complexity  $\Theta\left(\frac{d}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$ .

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Proof. For the upper bound, the empirical mean works!

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left\|\bar{X} - \mu\right\|_2^2\right] = \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{E}\left[\left(\bar{X}_i - \mu_i\right)^2\right] = \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t,s} (X_{t,i} - \mu_i)(X_{s,i} - \mu_i)\right]$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n X_t$

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↑  
indep<sup>t</sup>

$\sigma^2 = 1$

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□

Now, under constraints?

$$d \gg 1$$

$$\epsilon \in (0, 1]$$

Identity-covariance Gaussians

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$  to  $\ell_2$  loss  $\epsilon^2$  under  $\ell$ -bit communication constraints has sample complexity   .

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$  to  $\ell_2$  loss  $\epsilon^2$  under  $\rho$ -local privacy (LDP) constraints has sample complexity   .

Now, under constraints?

$$d \gg 1$$
$$\epsilon \in (0, 1]$$

Identity-covariance Gaussians

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$  to  $\ell_2$  loss  $\epsilon^2$  under  $\ell$ -bit communication constraints has sample complexity  $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\ell \epsilon^2}\right)$ .

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, I_d)$  to  $\ell_2$  loss  $\epsilon^2$  under  $\rho$ -Local privacy (LDP) constraints has sample complexity  $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\rho^2 \epsilon^2}\right)$ .

Now, under constraints?

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Identity - covariance Gaussians

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Now, under constraints?

$$d \gg 1$$
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Identity-covariance Gaussians

Some remarks:

- \* Dependence is  $\frac{1}{\ell}$ , not  $\frac{1}{2^\ell}$
- \* Generalises to  $s$ -sparse mean estimation (but private-coin  $\ll$  interactive)
- \* For simplicity, will consider related Bernoulli mean estimation:

Now, under constraints?

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Some remarks:

- \* Dependence is  $\frac{1}{\ell}$ , not  $\frac{1}{2^\ell}$
- \* Generalises to **s-sparse** mean estimation (but private-coin  $\ll$  interactive)
- \* For simplicity, will consider related **Bernoulli** mean estimation:

$$P = P_1 \otimes P_2 \otimes \dots \otimes P_d \quad \text{on } \{-1, 1\}^d$$

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}_P[X] \in [-1, 1]^d$$

Now, under constraints?

$$d \gg 1$$
$$\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$$

Product Bernoulli distributions

Some remarks:

- \* Dependence is  $\frac{1}{e}$ , not  $\frac{1}{2^e}$
- \* Generalises to  $s$ -sparse mean estimation (but private.com << interactive)
- \* For simplicity, will consider related Bernoulli mean estimation:

$$P = P_1 \otimes P_2 \otimes \dots \otimes P_d \text{ on } \{-1\}^d$$

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}_P[X] \in [-1, 1]^d$$

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Application of a general lower bound framework (generalising  
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$\mathcal{P}$

- ① Come up with family  $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1\}^d}$  of hard instances
- ② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

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Application of a **general** lower bound framework (generalising the learning part from lecture 2):  $\mathcal{P}$

- ① Come up with family  $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1\}^d}$  of **hard instances**
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- ③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive protocols**

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Application of a **general** lower bound framework (generalising the learning part from lecture 2):  $\mathcal{P}$

- ① Come up with family  $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1\}^d}$  of **hard instances**
- ② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions
- ③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive** protocols
- ④ (Compare the lower bound to the known upper bound(s).)

How to prove the lower bound?

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"Perturbation around uniform": each coordinate has mean  $\pm \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$

$$\mu_z = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}} z, \quad z \in \{-1\}^d$$

②  $\|\mu_z\|_2 = \varepsilon$

③  $P_z = \bigotimes_{i=1}^d \text{Rademacher}\left(\frac{\mu_{z,i} + 1}{2}\right)$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 1. For all  $z, z' \in \{-1\}^d$ ,

$$\ell_2(\mu_z, \mu_{z'}) \geq 8\varepsilon^2 \frac{\text{Ham}(z, z')}{d}$$

→ “Additive loss”

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Satisfied ( $\mu = \text{cst. } \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}} z$ )

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 2. For all  $z \in \{-1\}^d$  and  $1 \leq i \leq d$ ,  $\exists \alpha_{z,i}, \phi_{z,i}$

$$\frac{d\mathbb{P}_z \Theta^i}{d\mathbb{P}_z} = 1 + \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$$

with  $|\alpha_{z,i}| \leq \alpha$ .

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$z^{\Theta^i}$ :  $z$  with  $i$ -th coordinate flipped

with  $|\alpha_{z,i}| \leq \alpha$ .

↑ indep of  $z, i$

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→ “**Densities exist**”

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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$$\frac{d\mathbb{P}_z \theta_i}{d\mathbb{P}_z} = 1 + \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$$

with  $|\alpha_{z,i}| \leq \alpha$ .

Satisfied\* with  $\alpha = \alpha_{z,i} = \frac{2\gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$   
and

$$\phi_{z,i}(x) = -\frac{\alpha_i z_i - \gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 3. For all  $1 \leq i, j \leq d$  and  $z \in \{-1\}^d$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{P_z} [\phi_{z,i}(x) \phi_{z,j}(x)] = \mathbb{I}_{i=j}.$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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“Orthonormality”

Note that  $\mathbb{E}_{P_z} [\phi_{z,i}(x)] = 0$  by Assumption 2.

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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Satisfied\* with  $\alpha = \alpha_{z,i} = \frac{2\gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$

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“Orthonormality”

\*This is why we chose to divide  $\alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}$  this way.

Checking why. For  $z \in \{-1\}^d$ ,

$$\forall x \in \{-1\}^d \quad P_z(x) = \frac{1}{2^d} \prod_{i=1}^d (1 + \gamma x_i z_i)$$

and so

$$\frac{P_z^{(i)}}{P_z}(x) = \underbrace{\left( \prod_{j \neq i} \frac{1 + \gamma x_j z_j}{1 + \gamma x_j z_j} \right)}_{=1} \cdot \frac{1 - \gamma x_i z_i}{1 + \gamma x_i z_i} = 1 - \underbrace{\frac{2 \gamma x_i z_i}{1 + \gamma x_i z_i}}_{\text{gives us } \alpha_{z,i} \phi_{z,i}(x)}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}_{P_z} \left[ \left( \frac{-2 \gamma x_i z_i}{1 + \gamma x_i z_i} \right)^2 \right] = [\dots] = \frac{4 \gamma^2}{1 - \gamma^2}.$$

$\rightarrow$  gives us  $\alpha_{z,i}$ .

$$\gamma = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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How to prove the lower bound?

② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Assumption 4.  $\exists \sigma$  s.t., for all  $z \in \{-1\}^d$ ,

$$\phi_z(x) := (\phi_{z,1}(x), \dots, \phi_{z,d}(x)) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

is  $\sigma^2$ -subgaussian with indep<sup>t</sup> coordinates when  $X \sim p_z$ .

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$\uparrow$   
 $\langle u, \phi_z(x) \rangle$  is  $\sigma^2$ -subgaussian  
 for every fixed unit vector  $u$ .

“Subgaussianity”

$$\gamma = \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$$

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“Subgaussianity”

Satisfied for  $\sigma^2 := \frac{1+\gamma}{1-\gamma}$  (Hoeffding's lemma)

# How to prove the lower bound?

Application of a general lower bound framework (generalising the learning part from lecture 2):  $\mathcal{P}$

① Come up with family  $\{P_z\}_{z \in \{-1\}^d}$  of hard instances

② Check that  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies 3 (or 4) assumptions

Satisfied with  $\alpha = \alpha_{z,i} = \frac{2\gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}}$   $\sigma^2 := \frac{1+\gamma}{1-\gamma}$   
and

$$\phi_{z,i}(x) = -\frac{\alpha_i z_i - \gamma}{\sqrt{1-\gamma^2}}$$

where  $\gamma = \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{d}}$

How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a *lower bound* against *interactive protocols*

Theorem. If  $\Pi$  is an interactive protocol using  $\mathcal{W}$  with  $n$  users under  $L_2$  loss satisfying Assumptions 1, 2, 3, then

$$\Omega(1) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2}{d} \cdot \max_z \max_{w \in \mathcal{W}} \sum_{y \in Y} \frac{\text{Var}_{P_z}[w(y|x)]}{E_{P_z}[w(y|x)]}$$

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since  $w(y|x) \in [0, 1]$ ,  
 $\text{Var } w \leq E[w^2] \leq E[w]$

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and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(1) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2\sigma^2}{d} \max_z \max_{w \in \mathcal{W}} H(P_z^w)$$

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③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive protocols**

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$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2}{d} \cdot \max_z \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \sum_{y \in Y} \frac{\text{Var}_{P_z}[W(y|x)]}{E_{P_z}[W(y|x)]}$$

and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2\sigma^2}{d} \cdot \max_z \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}} H(P_z^W)$$

entropy

induced distribution  
on  $Y$  (by  $P_z$  and  $W$ )

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$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2}{d} \cdot \rho^2 \quad \text{for privacy } \mathcal{W}_e$$

and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\alpha^2\sigma^2}{d} l \quad \text{for communication } \mathcal{W}_p$$

# How to prove the lower bound?

③ Get a **lower bound** against **interactive protocols**

Theorem. If  $\Pi$  is an interactive protocol using  $\mathcal{W}$  with  $n$  users under  $\ell_2^2$  loss satisfying Assumptions 1, 2, 3, then

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\epsilon^2}{d^2} \cdot \rho^2 \quad \text{for privacy } \mathcal{W}_e$$

recalling  
 $\alpha \asymp \frac{\epsilon^2}{d}$

and, under 1, 2, 4,

$$\Omega(I) \leq \frac{n\epsilon^2}{d^2} l \quad \text{for communication } \mathcal{W}_p$$

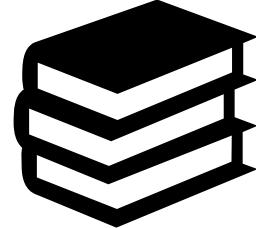
Now, under constraints?

$$d \gg 1$$
$$\epsilon \in (0, 1]$$

Product Bernoulli distributions

Theorem. Learning the mean of an unknown product Bernoulli to  $\ell_2^2$ ,  
loss  $\epsilon^2$  under  $\ell$ -bit communication constraints has sample  
complexity  $\Theta\left(\frac{d^2}{\ell \epsilon^2}\right)$ .

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# Further reading

▼ 2021 (6)

**On Learning Parametric Distributions from Quantized Samples.** Septimiu Sarbu; and Abdellatif Zaidi. In *Proceedings of the 2021 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT'21)*, June 2021.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Inference Under Information Constraints III: Local Privacy Constraints.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; Cody Freitag; Ziteng Sun; and Himanshu Tyagi. *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Inf. Theory*, 2(1): 253–267. 2021.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Unified lower bounds for interactive high-dimensional estimation under information constraints.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; Zuteng Sun; and Himanshu Tyagi. *CoRR*, abs/2010.06562. 2021.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Information-constrained optimization: can adaptive processing of gradients help?** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; Prathamesh Mayekar; and Himanshu Tyagi. *CoRR*, abs/2104.00979. 2021.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Optimal Rates for Nonparametric Density Estimation under Communication Constraints.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; Aditya Vikram Singh; and Himanshu Tyagi. *CoRR*, abs/2107.10078. 2021.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Local Differential Privacy Is Equivalent to Contraction of  $\$E_{\gamma}$ -Divergence.** Shahab Asoodeh; Maryam Aliakbarpour; and Flávio P. Calmon. *CoRR*, abs/2102.01258. 2021.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

▼ 2020 (12)

**Interactive Inference under Information Constraints.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; Yuhan Liu; Ziteng Sun; and Himanshu Tyagi. *CoRR*, abs/2007.10976. 2020.  
[Paper](#) [bibTeX](#) ▾

**Fisher Information Under Local Differential Privacy.** Leighton Pate Barnes; Wei-Ning Chen; and Ayfer Özgür. *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Inf. Theory*, 1(3): 645–659. 2020.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Geometric Lower Bounds for Distributed Parameter Estimation under Communication Constraints.** Yanjun Han; Ayfer Özgür; and Tsachy Weissman. *ArXiv e-prints*, abs/1802.08417v3. September 2020.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Inference under information constraints I: Lower bounds from chi-square contraction.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; and Himanshu Tyagi. *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, 66(12): 7835–7855. 2020. Preprint available at arXiv:abs/1812.11476.  
[Paper](#) [doi](#) [bibTeX](#) ▾

**Inference Under Information Constraints II: Communication Constraints and Shared Randomness.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; and Himanshu Tyagi. *IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory*, 66(12): 7856–7877. 2020.  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

**Domain Compression and its Application to Randomness-Optimal Distributed Goodness-of-Fit.** Jayadev Acharya; Clément L. Canonne; Yanjun Han; Ziteng Sun; and Himanshu Tyagi. In *COLT*, volume 125, of *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, pages 3–40. 2020. PMLR  
[bibTeX](#) ▾

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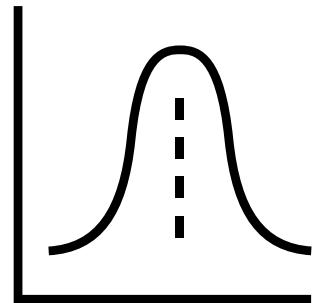
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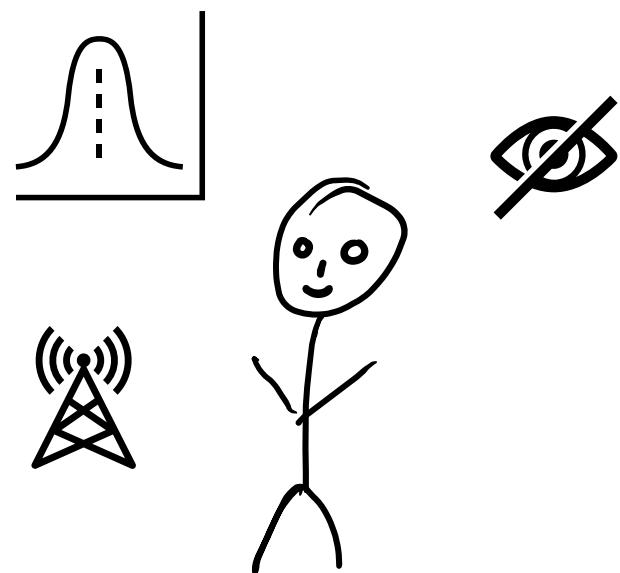
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# Recap: this lecture

1. Estimation for high-dimensional distributions: upper bounds 
  - Mean estimation under communication or local privacy (LDP) constraints
2. Lower bounds 
  - A general bound for estimation (in the interactive setting)
  - Application to communication and LDP



The End



More: [arXiv:2010.06562](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.06562)