

The False Discovery Rate

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Do Not Reject H_0	U	W	$m - R$
Total	m_0	$m - m_0$	m

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- This is a tough ask when m is large! It will cause us to be super conservative (i.e. to very rarely reject).
- Instead, we can control the *false discovery rate*:

$$\text{FDR} = \mathbb{E}(V/R).$$

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- She wants to identify a smaller set of promising candidates to investigate further.
- She wants reassurance that this smaller set is really “promising”, i.e. not too many falsely rejected H_0 ’s.
- FWER controls $\Pr(\text{at least one false rejection})$.
- FDR controls the fraction of candidates in the smaller set that are really false rejections. This is what she needs!

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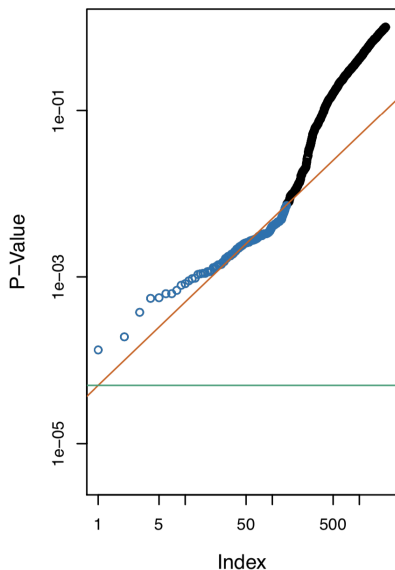
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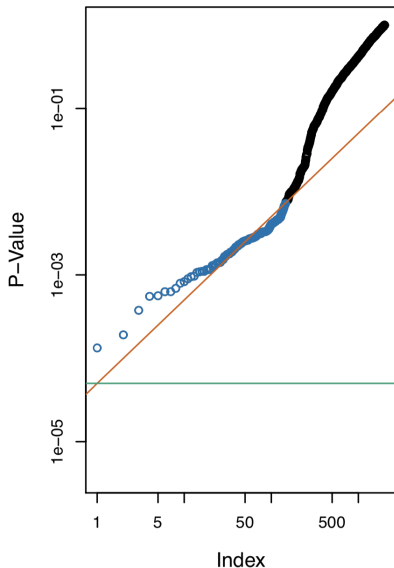
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Then, $\text{FDR} \leq q$.

A Comparison of FDR Versus FWER, Part 1

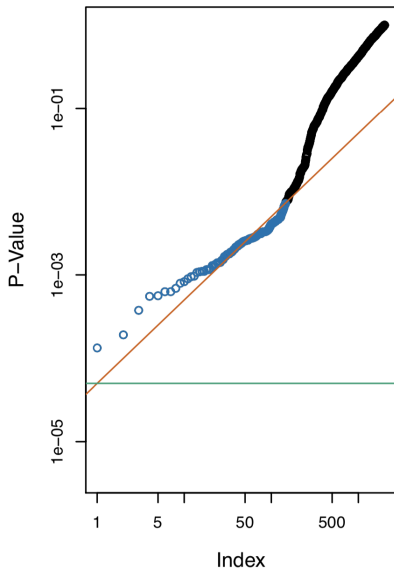


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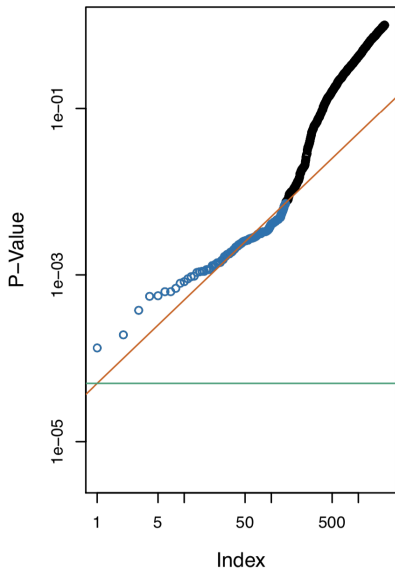
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- To control FWER at level $\alpha = 0.1$ with Bonferroni: reject hypotheses below green line. (*No rejections!*)
- To control FDR at level $q = 0.1$ with Benjamini-Hochberg: reject hypotheses shown in blue.

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 $p_1 = 0.006, p_2 = 0.918, p_3 = 0.012, p_4 = 0.601, p_5 = 0.756$.

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- Then $p_{(1)} = 0.006, p_{(2)} = 0.012, p_{(3)} = 0.601, p_{(4)} = 0.756$,
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- Then $p_{(1)} = 0.006, p_{(2)} = 0.012, p_{(3)} = 0.601, p_{(4)} = 0.756$,
and $p_{(5)} = 0.918$.
- To control FDR at level $q = 0.05$ using Benjamini-Hochberg:
 - Notice that $p_{(1)} < 0.05/5, p_{(2)} < 2 \times 0.05/5$,
 $p_{(3)} > 3 \times 0.05/5, p_{(4)} > 4 \times 0.05/5$, and $p_{(5)} > 5 \times 0.05/5$.
 - So, we reject H_{01} and H_{03} .

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 - Notice that $p_{(1)} < 0.05/5, p_{(2)} < 2 \times 0.05/5$,
 $p_{(3)} > 3 \times 0.05/5, p_{(4)} > 4 \times 0.05/5$, and $p_{(5)} > 5 \times 0.05/5$.
 - So, we reject H_{01} and H_{03} .
- To control FWER at level $\alpha = 0.05$ using Bonferroni:
 - We reject any null hypothesis for which the p -value is less than $0.05/5$.
 - So, we reject only H_{01} .