Decision and Estimation in Data Processing

Chapter II. Elements of Signal Detection Theory

II.1 Introduction

Introduction

- Signal detection = the problem of deciding which signal is present from 2 or more possibilities
  - one possibility may be that there is no signal
- Based on **noisy** observations
  - signals are affected by noise

The model for signal detection

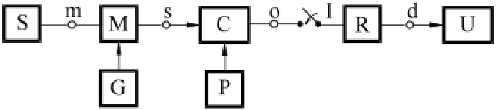

Figure 1: Signal detection model

- Contents:
  - Information source: generates messages a_n with probabilities $p(a_n)$
  - Modulator: transmits a signal $s_n(t)$ for message a_n
  - Channel: adds random noise
  - Sampler: takes samples from the signal $s_n(t)$
  - Receiver: **decides** what message a_n has been transmitted

Practical scenarios

- Data transmission
  - binary voltage levels (e.g. $s_n(t) =$ constant)
  - PSK modulation (Phase Shift Keying): $s_n(t) =$ cosine with same frequency but various initial phase
  - FSK modulation (Frequency Shift Keying): $s_n(t) =$ cosines with different frequencies
- Radar
  - a signal is emitted; if there is an obstacle, the signal gets reflected back
  - the receiver waits for possible reflections of the signal and must decide
    - no reflection is present -> no object
    - reflected signal is present -> object detected

Generalizations

- Decide between more than two signals
- Number of observations:
  - use only one sample
  - use multiple samples
  - observe the whole continuous signal for some time T

II.2 Detection of constant signals

Detection of a constant signal, white normal noise, 1 sample

- Simplest case: detection of a constant signal contaminated with white normal noise, using 1 sample
  - two messages a_0 and a_1
  - messages are encoded as constant signals
    - for a_0: send $s_0(t) = 0$
    - for a_1: send $s_1(t) = A$
  - over the signals there is white noise, normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
  - receiver takes just 1 sample
  - decision: compare sample with a threshold

Decision

- The value of the sample taken is $r = s + n$
  - s is the true underlying signal ($s_0 = 0$ or $s_1 = A$)
  - n is a sample of the noise
- n is a (continuous) random variable, with normal distribution
- r is a random variable also
  - what distribution does it have?
- Decision is taken by comparing with a threshold T:
  - if $r < T$, take decision D_0: decide the true signal is s_0
  - if $r \geq T$, take decision D_1: decide the true signal is s_1

Hypotheses

- Receiver chooses between **two hypotheses**:
  - H_0: true signal is s_0 (a_0 has been transmitted)
  - H_1: true signal is s_1 (a_1 has been transmitted)
- Possible results
  1. No signal present, no signal detected.
     - Decision D_0 when hypothesis is H_0
     - Probability is $P(D_0 \cap H_0)$
  2. **False alarm**: no signal present, signal detected (error)
     - Decision S_1 when hypothesis is H_0
     - Probability is $P(D_1 \cap H_0)$
  3. **Miss**: signal present, no signal detected (error)
     - Decision D_0 when hypothesis is H_1
     - Probability is $P(D_0 \cap H_1)$
  4. Signal detected correctly: signal present, signal detected
     - Decision D_1 when hypothesis is H_1
     - Probability is $P(D_1 \cap H_1)$

Maximum likelihood criterion

- Choose the hypothesis that **seems most likely** given the observed sample r
- The **likelihood** of an observation $r =$ the probability density of r given a hypothesis H_0 or H_1
- Likelihood in case of hypothesis H_0: $w(r|H_0)$
  - r is only noise, so value is taken from the noise distribution
- Likelihood in case of hypothesis H_1: $w(r|H_1)$
  - r is A + noise, so value is taken from the distribution of (A + noise)
- Likelihood test:

$$\frac{w(r|H_1)}{w(r|H_0)} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} 1$$

Graphical interpretation

- Consider noise having a normal distribution
- Plot the two density functions for H_0, H_1

Decision via threshold

- Decision via ML = comparing r with a threshold T
- The threshold = the cross-over point of the two distributions

Normal noise

- Particular case: the noise has normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
- Likelihood test is $\frac{w(r|H_1)}{r|H_0} = \frac{e^{\frac{(r-A)^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{e^{\frac{r^2}{2\sigma^2}}} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} 1$
    - this ratio is usually called **likelihood ratio**
- For normal distribution, it is easier to apply *natural logarithm* to the terms
    - logarithm is a monotonic increasing function, so it won't change the comparison
    - if A $<$ B, then $log(A) < log(B)$
- The **log-likelihood** of an observation $=$ the logarithm of the likelihood value
    - usually the natural logarithm, but any one can be used

Log-likelihood test for ML

- For normal noise, the ML decision means the log-likelihood test

$$\frac{(r-A)^2}{r^2} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} 1$$

- Applying square root

$$\frac{|r-A|}{|r|} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} 1$$

- $|r-A|$ = distance from r to A, $|r|$ = distance from r to 0
- ML decision with normal noise: choose the value 0 or A which is **nearest** to r
  - very general principle, encountered in many other scenarios
  - also known as **nearest neighbor** principle / decision
  - equivalent with setting a threshold $T = \frac{A}{2}$

Generalizations

- What if the noise has another distribution?
  - Threshold T is still the cross-over point, whatever that is
- What if the noise distributions are different for H_0 and H_1?
  - Threshold T is the cross-over point, whatever that is
- What if the signal $s_0(t)$ (for H_0) is not 0, but another constant value B?
  - T is the crossover point, the distributions are centered on B and A
  - In case of normal noise, choose B or A whichever is nearest (threshold is at middle point)

Generalizations

- What if we have more than two signal levels?
  - e.g. 4 possible signals: -6, -2, 2, 6
  - Just choose the most likely hypothesis, out of 4 likelihood functions
  - Not a single threshold value, now there are more

Pitfalls of ML decision

- The ML is based on comparing **conditional** probability density functions
  - conditioned by H_0 or by H_1
- Conditioning by H_0 and H_1 ignores the probability of H_0 or H_1 actually happening
- Reminder: the Bayes rule

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B|A) \cdot P(A))$$

- Interpretation
  - The probability $P(A)$ is taken out from $P(B|A)$
  - $P(B|A)$ gives no information on $P(A)$, the chances of A actually happening
  - Example: P(score | shoot)
- Practical: if $p(H_0) >> p(H_1)$, we may want to move the threshold towards H_1

The minimum error probability criterion

- Takes into account the probabilities $P(H_0)$ and $P(H_1)$
- Goal is to **minimize the total probability of error** P_e
  - errors = false alarms and misses
- Consider we have a threshold T such that
  - we decide D_0 when $r < T$
  - we decide D_1 when $r \geq T$
- We need to find T

Probability of error

- Probability of false alarm

$$\begin{aligned} P(D_1 \cap H_0) =& P(D_1|H_0) \cdot P(H_0) \\ =& \int_T^{\infty} w(r|H_0) dx \cdot P(H_0) \\ =& (1 - \int_{-\infty}^{T} w(r|H_0) dx \cdot P(H_0) \end{aligned}$$

- Probability of miss

$$\begin{aligned} P(D_0 \cap H_1) =& P(D_0|H_1) \cdot P(H_1) \\ =& \int_{-\infty}^{T} w(r|H_1) dx \cdot P(H_1) \end{aligned}$$

- The sum is

$$P_e = P(H_0) + \int_{-\infty}^{T} [w(r|H_1) \cdot P(H_1) - w(r|H_0) \cdot P(H_0)] dx$$

Minimum probability of error

- We want to minimize P_e, i.e. to minimize the integral
- To minimize the integral, we choose T such that for all $r < T$, the term below the integral is **negative**
  - because integrating over all the interval where the function is negative ensures minimum value of integral
- So, when $w(r|H_1) \cdot P(H_1) - w(r|H_0) \cdot P(H_0) < 0$ we have $r < T$, i.e. decision D_0
- Conversely, When $w(r|H_1) \cdot P(H_1) - w(r|H_0) \cdot P(H_0) > 0$ we have $r > T$, i.e. decision D_1
- Therefore

$$w(r|H_1) \cdot P(H_1) - w(r|H_0) \cdot P(H_0) \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} 0$$

$$\frac{w(r|H_1)}{w(r|H_0)} \underset{H_0}{\overset{H_1}{\gtrless}} \frac{P(H_0}{P(H_1)}$$

Interpretation

- Similar to ML, but threshold depends on probabilities of the two hypotheses
  - When one hypotheses is more likely than the other, the threshold is pushed in its favor, towards the other

Minimum risk (cost) criterion

- How to choose the threshold? We need criteria
  - In general: how to delimit regions R_i?
- Minimum risk (cost) criterion: assign costs to decisions, minimize average cost
  - C_{ij} = cost of decision D_i when symbol was a_j
  - C_{00} = cost for good a_0 detection
  - C_{10} = cost for false alarm
  - C_{01} = cost for miss
- The risk = the average cost

$$R = C_{00}P(D_0 \cap a_0) + C_{10}P(D_1 \cap a_0) + C_{01}P(D_0 \cap a_1) + C_{11}P(D_1 \cap a_1)$$

- Minimum risk criterion: **minimize the risk R**

Computations

- Proof on table:
  - Use Bayes rule
  - Notations: $w(r|a_j)$ (*likelihood*)
  - Probabilities: $\int_{R_i} w(r|a_j)dV$
- Conclusion, **decision rule is**

$$\frac{w(r|a_1)}{w(r|a_0)} \gtrless \frac{(C_{10} - C_{00})p(a_0)}{(C_{01} - C_{11})p(a_1)}$$

$$\Lambda(r) \gtrless K$$

- Interpretation: effect of costs, probabilities (move threshold)
- Can also apply logarithm (useful for normal distribution)

$$\ln \Lambda(r) \gtrless \ln K$$

- Example at blackboard: random noise with $N(0, \sigma^2)$, one sample

Ideal observer criterion

- Minimize the probability of decision error P_e
  - definition of P_e
- Particular case of minimum risk, with
  - $C_{00} = C_{11} = 0$ (good decisions bear no cost)
  - $C_{10} = C_{01}$ (pay the same in case of bad decisions)

$$\frac{w(r|a_1)}{w(r|a_0)} \gtrless \frac{p(a_0)}{p(a_1)}$$

Maximum likelihood criterion

- Particular case of above, with equal probability of messages

$$\frac{w(r|a_1)}{w(r|a_0)} \gtrless 1$$

$$\ln \frac{w(r|a_1)}{w(r|a_0)} \gtrless 0$$

- Example at blackboard: random noise with $N(0, \sigma^2)$, one sample
- Example at blackboard: random noise with $N(0, \sigma^2)$, **two** samples