

Discovering signals in fMRI data; a Bayesian nonparametric approach

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March 12, 2017

Project Goal

- ▶ Formulate a method which can adaptively identify clusters of signals in functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data.
- ▶ Evaluate the proposed method by drawing comparison between it and the existing p-filter algorithm.

What is fMRI data?

- ▶ fMRI data measures the change in brain blood flow associated with mental activity [HSM04].
- ▶ fMRI data is in the form (voxel, time, intensity of reading).
- ▶ Example: To identify regions of the brain associated with hunger, fMRI readings can be taken while hungry subjects are shown pictures of food.
- ▶ Multiple comparison problem due to hundreds of thousands of voxels
- ▶ Identify significant clusters (not just individual voxels)

What's our method

- ▶ Inspired by Stephens (2000), we describe a bayesian nonparametric method by creating a Markov birth-death process with stationary distribution to detect clusters of signals.
- ▶ View each cluster as a point in parameter space.
- ▶ Posterior distribution of the parameters being stationary distribution.
- ▶ Theoretically, this method works for multiple-dimensional data which incorporates spatial and temporal information.

Details of the Method: Priors

- ▶ number of signal clusters: $k \sim \text{Truncated Poisson}(\lambda, 1, k_{max})$.
- ▶ signal centers: $c_j \sim U(\mathcal{D})$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$.
- ▶ signal radius:
 $r_j \sim \text{Truncated Normal}(\mu, \sigma, r_{min}, r_{max})$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$.
- ▶ signal strength: $\beta_j \sim U(\beta_{min}, \beta_{max})$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$.
- ▶ p-values in signal clusters: $p_i \sim \text{Beta}(\frac{1}{\beta_j}, \beta_j)$, when x_i is in cluster j .
- ▶ p-values not in signal clusters: $p_i \sim U(0, 1)$.

Details of the Method (continued): inventing the chain

- ▶ Birth: generating a new cluster.
- ▶ Death: "killing" an existing cluster.
- ▶ Birth rate: constant λ is pre-defined and independent of clusters.
- ▶ Death rate: μ_i depends on "current" clusters and is updated each step.
- ▶ Flip a weighted coin to decide birth (w/ prob $\frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \mu_i}$) or death (w/ prob $\frac{\mu_i}{\lambda + \mu_i}$).

Details of the Method (continued): death rate calculation using likelihoods

- ▶ K clusters with prior $Beta(\frac{1}{\beta_j}, \beta_j)$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, K$. K itself is random with prior F_K .
- ▶ Label specify which cluster each data point belongs.
- ▶ Current cluster likelihood: $l = \log L(\text{data} | Beta(\frac{1}{\beta_j}, \beta_j)'s, \text{labels});$
 $c = \log L(K | F_K)$
- ▶ Cluster likelihood after "killing" cluster j :
 $l_{-j} = \log L(\text{data} | Beta(\frac{1}{\beta_j}, \beta_j)'s, \text{labels}_{-j});$ $c_{-j} = \log L(K - 1 | F_K)$
- ▶ $u_j = \log(\lambda) + (l_{-j} - l) + (c_{-j} - \log(K) - c)$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, K$.
- ▶ $u = \sum_{j=1}^K e^{u_j}.$

Details of the Method (continued)

- ▶ At the end of each step, run metropolis-hasting algorithm to sample from the posterior of the beta distribution
- ▶ Purpose: TODO

Details of the Method (continued)

- ▶ Run the chain long enough before starting collect sample labels.
- ▶ Sample labels from evenly space grid along the chain to avoid autocorrelation.
- ▶ Average over sample labels to determine if it is signal or null.

Toy Data: Preliminaries

- ▶ 100-by-100 grid with $k=5$ clusters of signals and the rest is null.
- ▶ The centers $C_k \sim$ uniform from the grid while being distinct for $k = 1, 2, \dots, 5$
- ▶ The radius $R_k \sim TN(7, 2, 5, 10)$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, 5$
- ▶ Signals in clusters $p_{ki} \sim Beta(1, \beta_k)$ where $\beta_k \sim U(2, 5)$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, 5$

Toy Data (continued): Performance

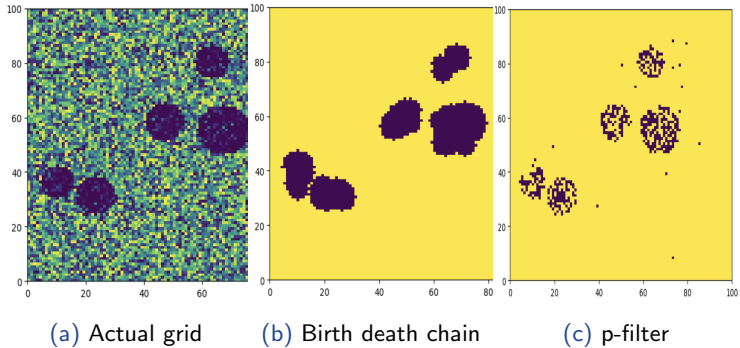
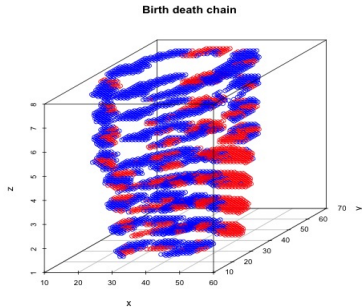
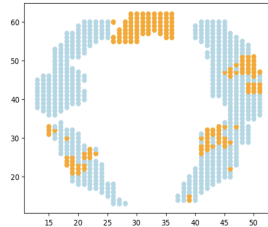


Figure: Simulated data

Performance on real fMRI data



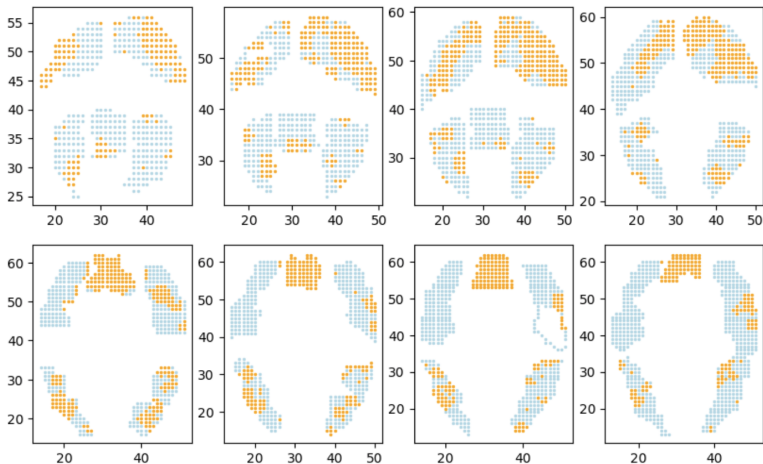
(a) 3-D view



(b) 2-D view: one slice

Figure: fMRI data

Performance on real fMRI data (continued)



Performance on real fMRI data (continued): Comparison to p-filter

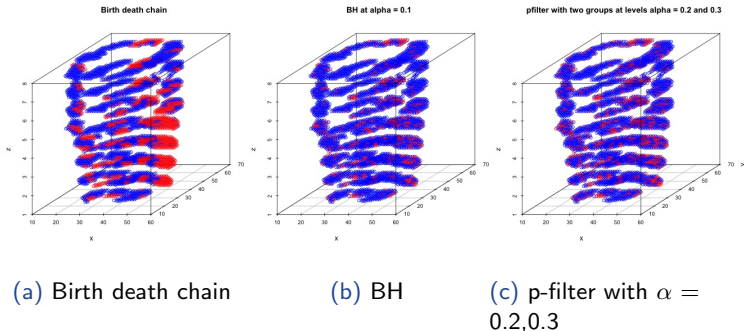


Figure: fMRI data

Conclusion and Future Work

- ▶ Formulated and tested a nonparametric bayesian method to adaptively identify clusters of signals.
- ▶ Showed promising results on both simulation and real fMRI data.
- ▶ Extend from p-values to intensities directly by specifying appropriate priors for null distributions and for signal distributions.
- ▶ Put priors on the hyper-parameters and maximize this priors using EM. That is uniform prior over hyper-parameters.

Thanks!