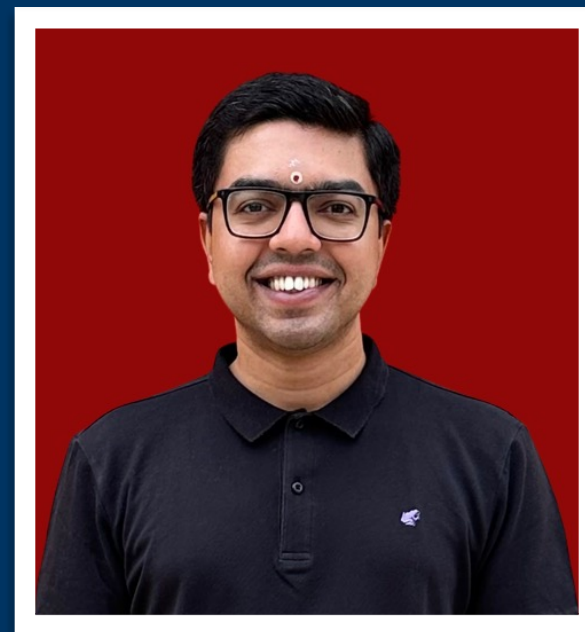


# Decisions on the Fly: A Short, Surprising Journey Through Sequential Hypothesis Testing

Winter Workshop on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Kanpur



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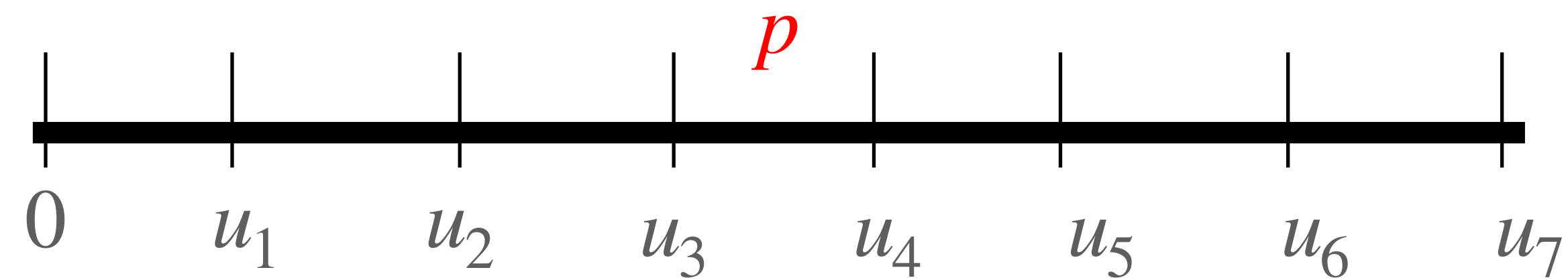
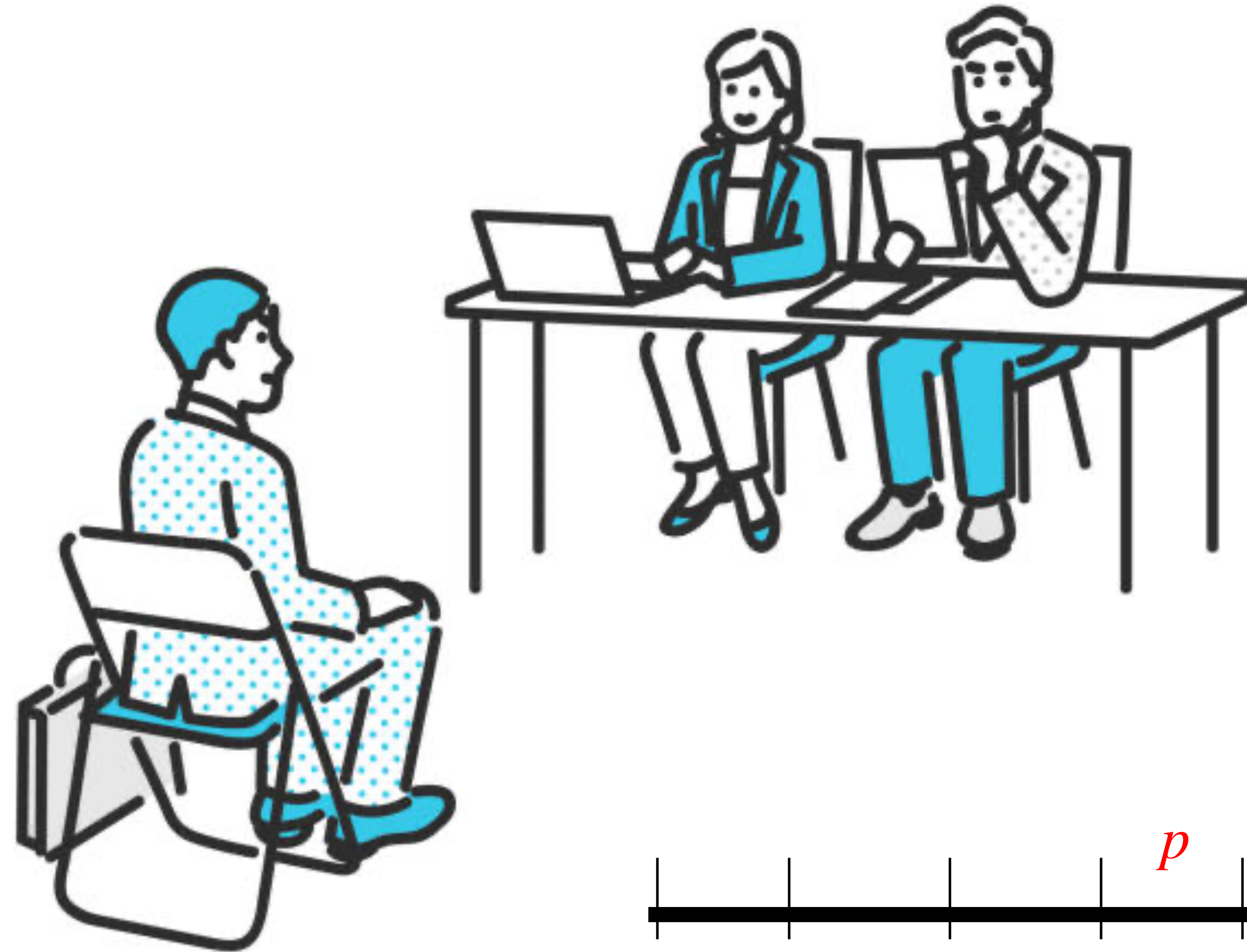
Web: <https://karthikpn.com>



**05 December 2025**

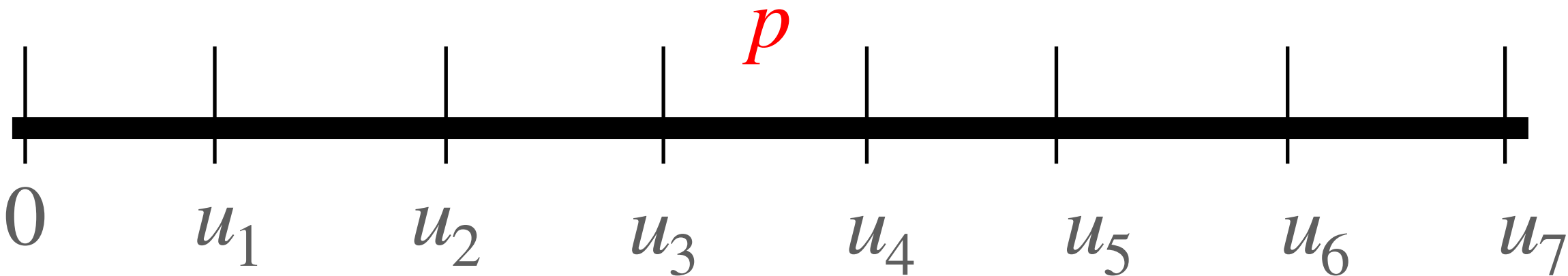






Difficulty Levels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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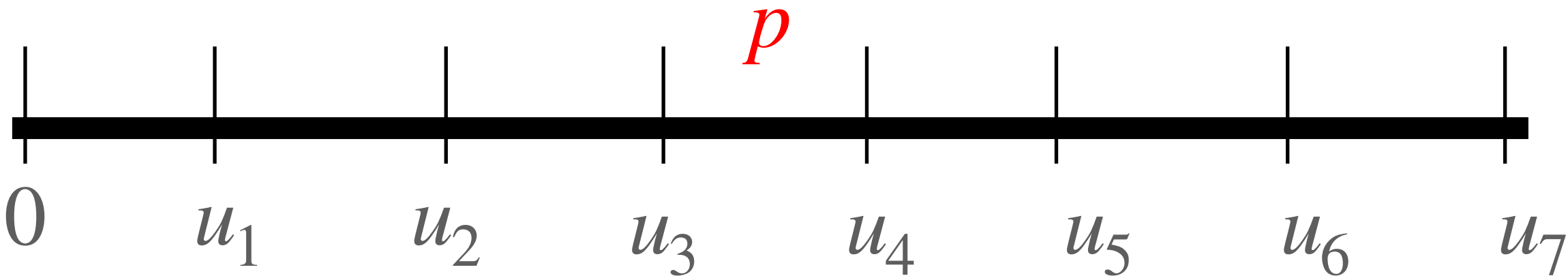




Difficulty Levels

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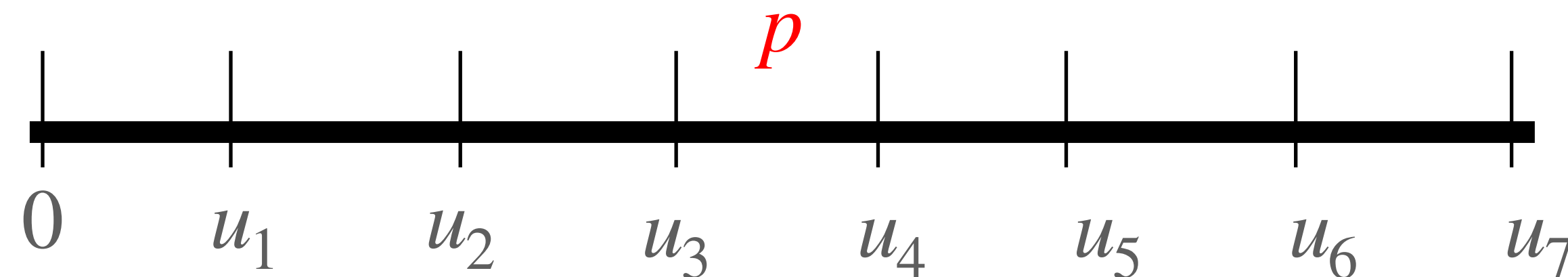
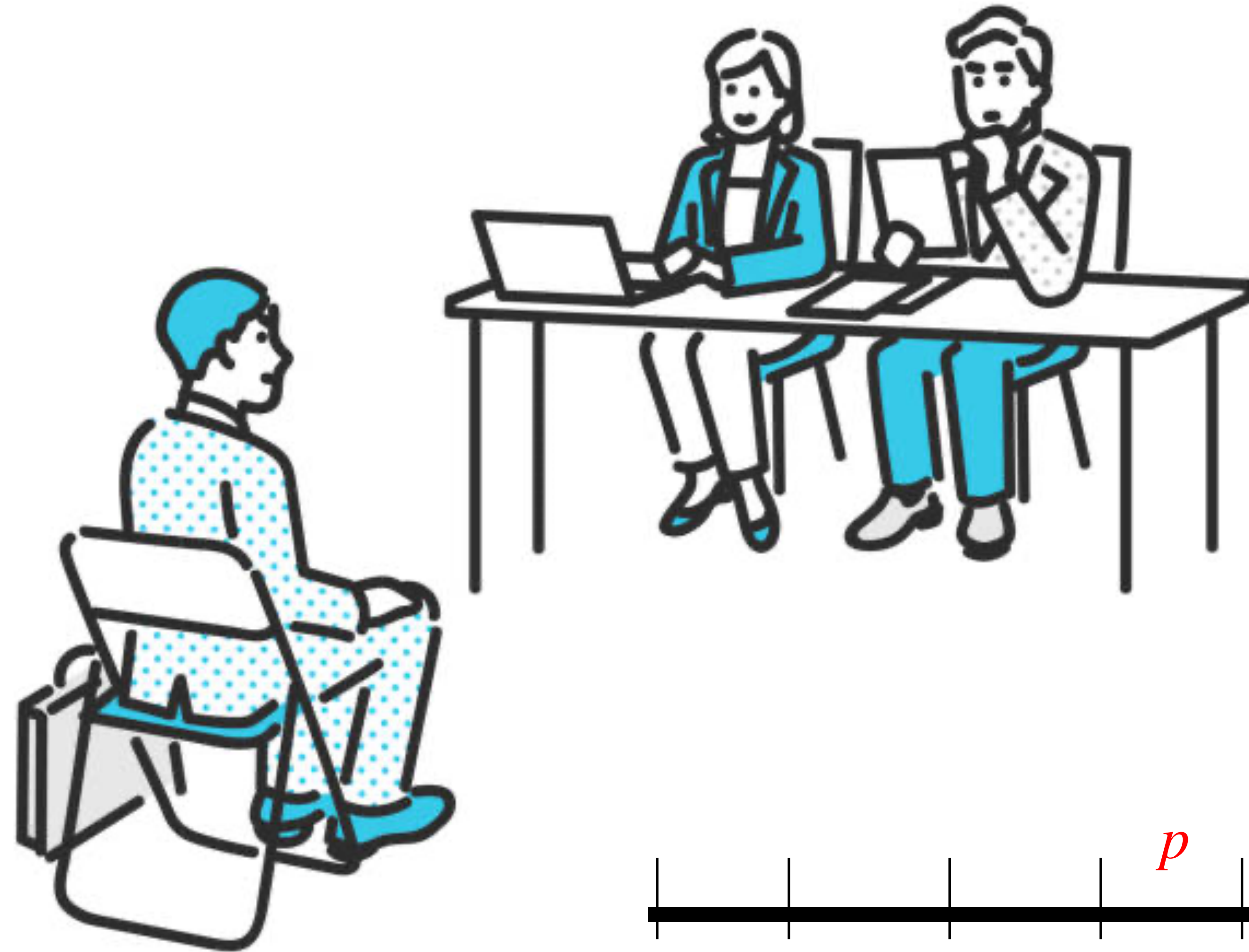
- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially



## Difficulty Levels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially
- Binary reward: 1 if candidate answers correctly, 0 o.w.

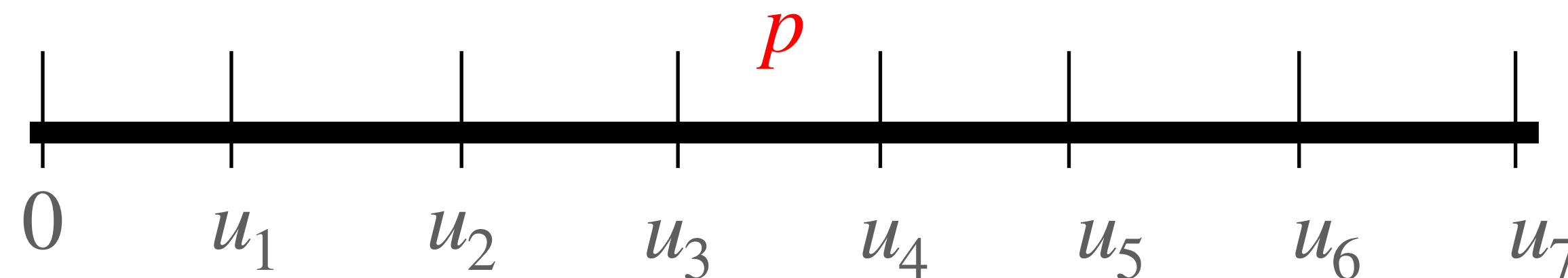
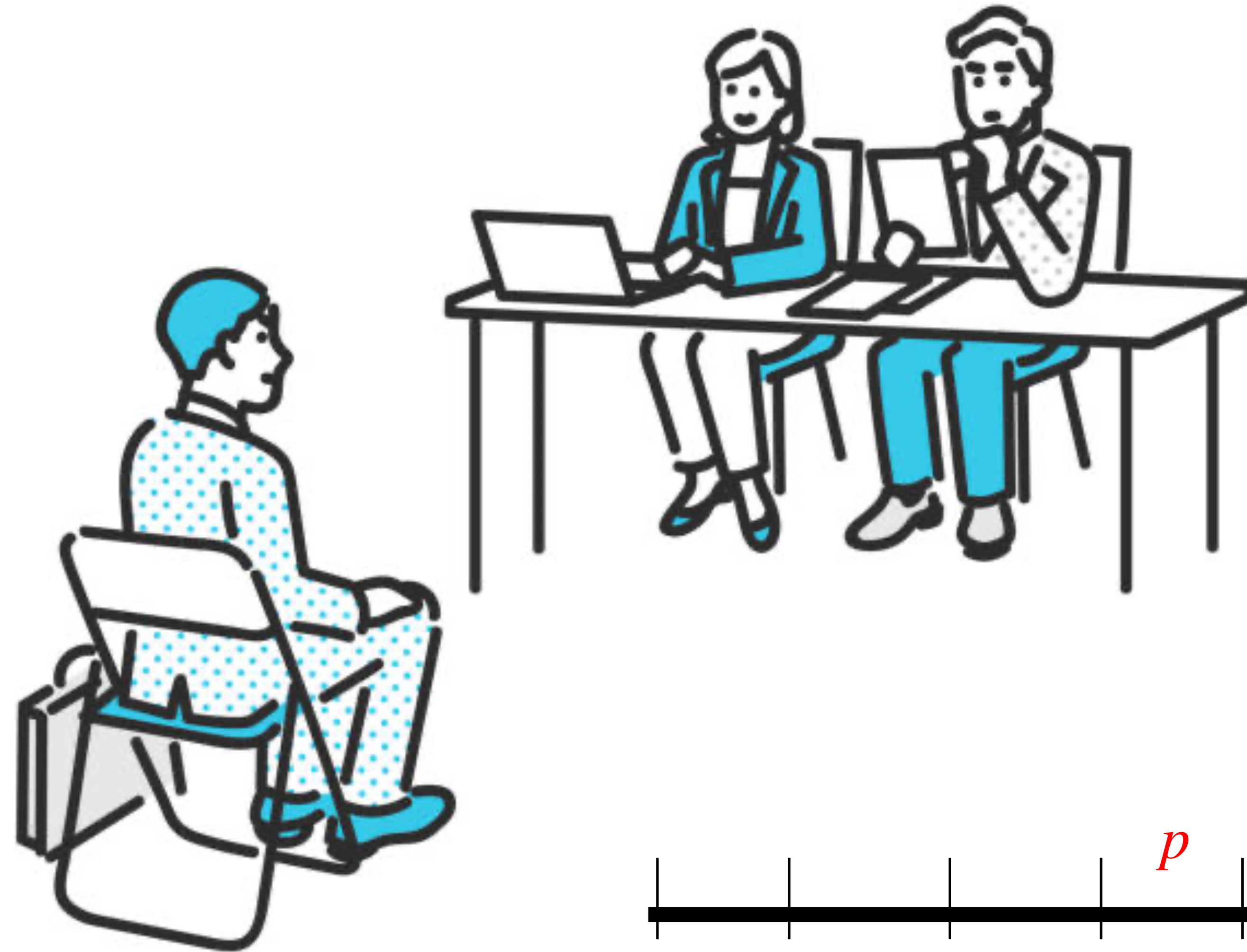




## Difficulty Levels

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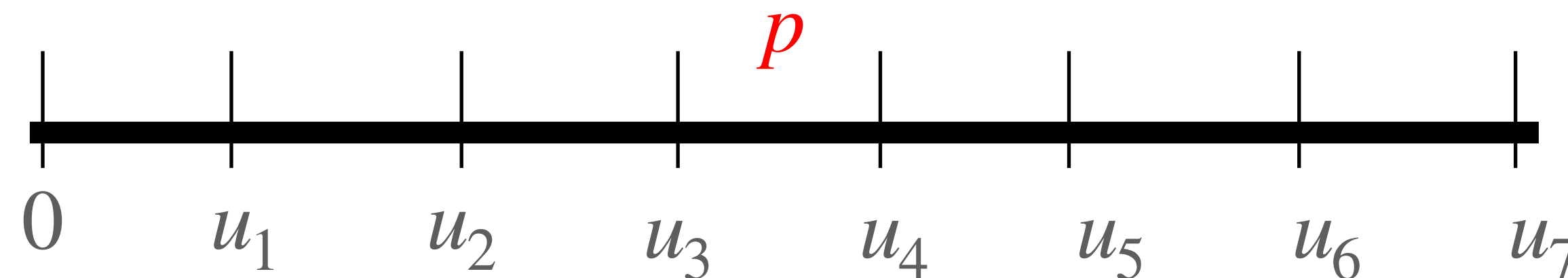
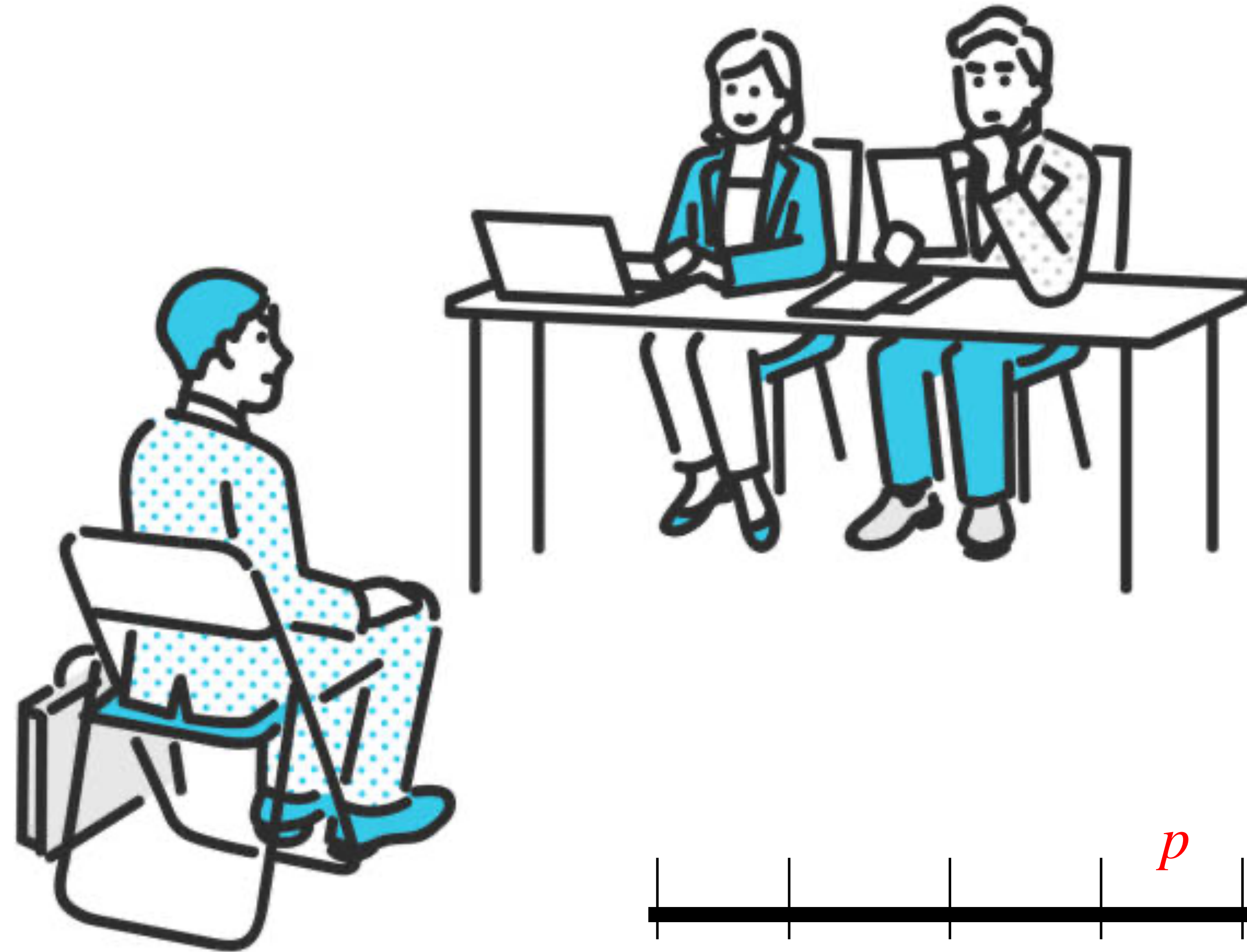
- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially
- Binary reward: 1 if candidate answers correctly, 0 o.w.
- Goal: to determine the partition in which candidate's ability lies up to a desired accuracy



## Difficulty Levels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially
- Binary reward: 1 if candidate answers correctly, 0 o.w.
- Goal: to determine the partition in which candidate's ability lies up to a desired accuracy
- How many questions need to be asked (on an average)?





# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$



# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data
unknown

**batch** HT:  $\tau$  deterministic,  $X_1, \dots, X_\tau$  available at start

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known



# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data
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$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

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**batch** HT:  $\tau$  deterministic,  $X_1, \dots, X_\tau$  available at start

**sequential** HT:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  available on demand,  $\tau$  random

# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$|\mathcal{P}_j| = 1$ : simple

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

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**batch** HT:  $\tau$  deterministic,  $X_1, \dots, X_\tau$  available at start

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# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$|\mathcal{P}_j| = 1$ : simple

$|\mathcal{P}_j| > 1$ : composite

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data
unknown

**batch** HT:  $\tau$  deterministic,  $X_1, \dots, X_\tau$  available at start

**sequential** HT:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  available on demand,  $\tau$  random

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

# Hypothesis Testing (HT)

$|\mathcal{P}_j| = 1$ : simple

$|\mathcal{P}_j| > 1$ : composite

error probability

$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}), \quad j \neq i$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data

unknown

**batch** HT:  $\tau$  deterministic,  $X_1, \dots, X_\tau$  available at start

**sequential** HT:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  available on demand,  $\tau$  random



# Batch vs Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1) \quad \text{IID}$$

$$H_1 : \mu = 0$$

$$H_2 : \mu = 0.5$$

# Batch vs Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1) \quad \text{IID}$$

$$H_1 : \mu = 0$$

$$H_2 : \mu = 0.5$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq 0.05$$



# Batch vs Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1) \quad \text{IID}$$

$$H_1 : \mu = 0$$

$$H_2 : \mu = 0.5$$

	Batch	Sequential
$\tau$	$\geq 44$	$\mathbb{E}[\tau] \approx 21.1$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq 0.05$$

# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data

unknown

confidence level:  $\delta$

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known



# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data

unknown

confidence level:  $\delta$

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i$$

- Sequential test  $\pi = \{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots\}$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

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$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

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unknown

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$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i$$

- Sequential test  $\pi = \{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots\}$
- $\pi_t : (x_1, \dots, x_t) \mapsto \{\text{stop}, \text{continue}\}$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

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- $\tau = \tau(\pi)$ : stopping time

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

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data

unknown

confidence level:  $\delta$

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i$$

- Sequential test  $\pi = \{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots\}$
- $\pi_t : (x_1, \dots, x_t) \mapsto \{\text{stop}, \text{continue}\}$
- $\tau = \tau(\pi)$ : stopping time
- $\mathbb{P}^\pi(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data

unknown

$$\Pi(\delta) = \left\{ \pi : \mathbb{P}^\pi(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i \right\}$$

$$\inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi)]$$



as  $\delta \downarrow 0$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

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# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

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⋮

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# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star$$

data

unknown

$$\Pi(\delta) = \left\{ \pi : \mathbb{P}^\pi(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta \quad \forall j \neq i \right\}$$

Identified

		Identified		
		$i$	$j$	Others
True	$i$	$\geq 1 - \delta$	$\leq \delta$	$\leq \delta$
	$j$	$\leq \delta$	$\geq 1 - \delta$	$\leq \delta$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

# Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

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$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

Data processing inequality:

$$\forall i \neq j, \quad \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \mathbb{E}^\pi [Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] \geq \delta \log \frac{\delta}{1-\delta} + (1-\delta) \log \frac{1-\delta}{\delta}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

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$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

Data processing inequality:

$$\forall i \neq j, \quad \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \mathbb{E}^\pi [Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] \geq \underbrace{\delta \log \frac{\delta}{1-\delta} + (1-\delta) \log \frac{1-\delta}{\delta}}_{\Theta\left(\log \frac{1}{\delta}\right)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known



# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

Wald, A. (1945). Sequential Tests of Statistical Hypotheses. Annals of Mathematical Statistics, 16.

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data      unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{i,j}(t) &= \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} \\
 &= \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{P_i(X_s)}{P_j(X_s)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\mathbb{E}_i^\pi [Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{\tau(\pi)} \log \frac{P_i(X_s)}{P_j(X_s)} \right] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi [\tau(\pi)] \cdot D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)$$

Wald's Identity

# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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data
unknown

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 \end{aligned}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

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 Z_{i,j}(t) &= \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\forall i \neq j, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)}$$

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$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

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**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\forall i \neq j, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)}$$

amount of effort required to rule out  $H_j$  and identify  $H_i$

# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{i,j}(t) &= \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} \\
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$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

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known

# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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unknown

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{i,j}(t) &= \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} \\
 &= \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{P_i(X_s)}{P_j(X_s)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{under } H_i : \quad \frac{Z_{i,j}(t)}{t} \longrightarrow D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j) > 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

$$\text{under } H_j : \quad \frac{Z_{i,j}(t)}{t} \longrightarrow -D_{\text{KL}}(P_j \parallel P_i) < 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known



# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$= \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{P_i(X_s)}{P_j(X_s)}$$

under  $H_i$  :  $\frac{Z_{i,j}(t)}{t} \longrightarrow D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j) > 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$

under  $H_j$  :  $\frac{Z_{i,j}(t)}{t} \longrightarrow -D_{\text{KL}}(P_j \parallel P_i) < 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$

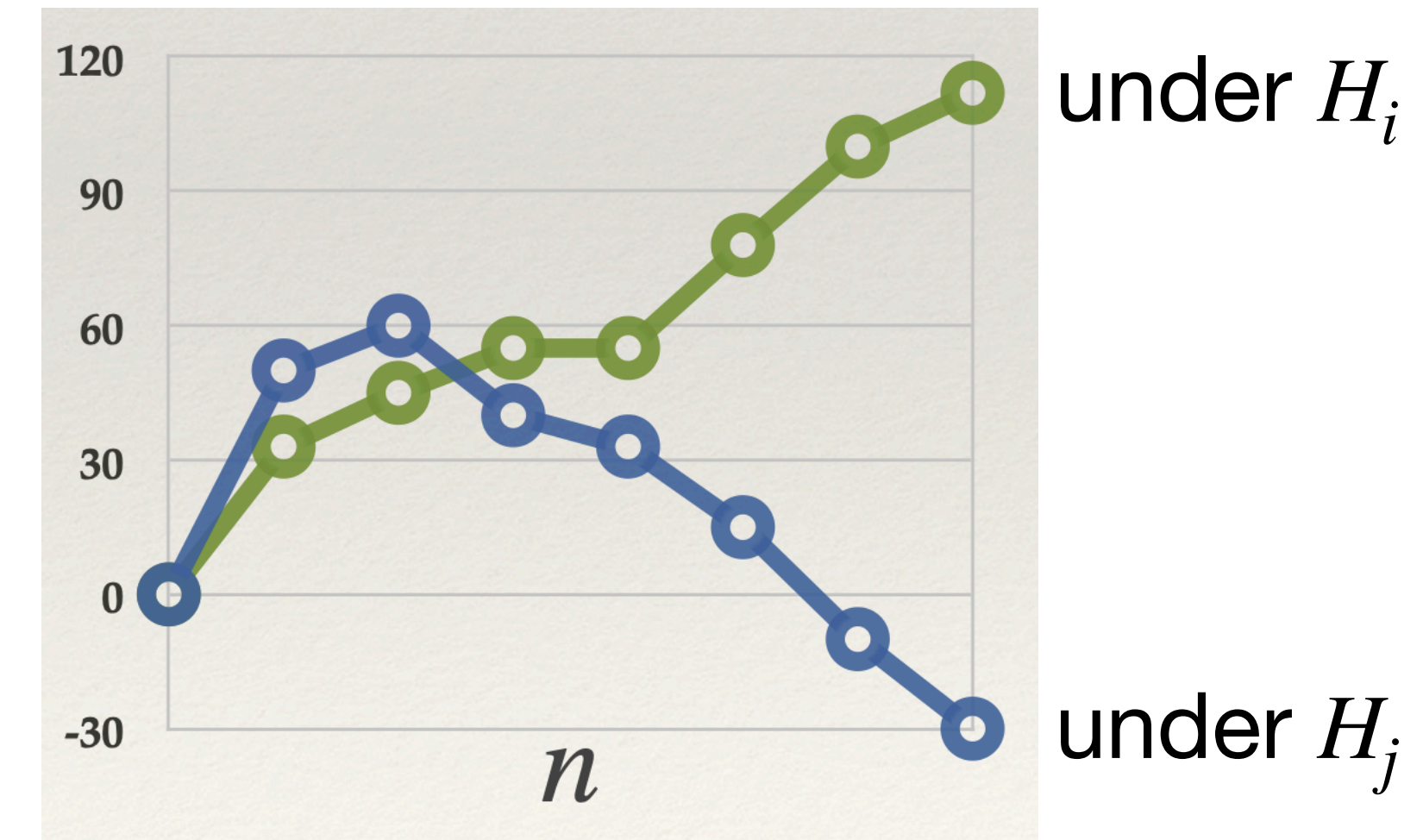
$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

$Z_{i,j}(n)$



# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

sequential probability ratio test (SPRT)

$$\pi_t^{\text{SPRT}, \delta} = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} & -c_\delta \leq Z_{1,2}(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_1, & Z_{1,2}(t) > c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_2, & Z_{1,2}(t) < -c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

$$c_\delta = O(\log(1/\delta))$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

sequential probability ratio test (SPRT)

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

$$\pi_t^{\text{SPRT}, \delta} = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} & -c_\delta \leq Z_{1,2}(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_1, & Z_{1,2}(t) > c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_2, & Z_{1,2}(t) < -c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$c_\delta = O(\log(1/\delta))$$

$$\pi^{\text{SPRT}, \delta} \in \Pi(\delta), \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^{\pi^{\text{SPRT}, \delta}}[\tau(\pi^{\text{SPRT}, \delta})]}{\log(1/\delta)} \leq \frac{1}{D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)} \quad \forall i \neq j$$

# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

Carl W Baum and Venugopal V Veeravalli. "A sequential procedure for multihypothesis testing". In: IEEE Transactions on Information Theory 40.6 (2002), pp. 1994–2007.

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

Carl W Baum and Venugopal V Veeravalli. "A sequential procedure for multihypothesis testing". In: IEEE Transactions on Information Theory 40.6 (2002), pp. 1994–2007.

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$\forall i, \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\min_{j \neq i} D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2 \quad \text{known}$$

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star = P_M \quad \text{known}$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

Carl W Baum and Venugopal V Veeravalli. "A sequential procedure for multihypothesis testing". In: IEEE Transactions on Information Theory 40.6 (2002), pp. 1994–2007.

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data

unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known

$$\forall i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\min_{j \neq i} D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)}$$

amount of effort required to rule out every hypothesis other than  $H_i$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{under } H_i : \quad Z_i(t) &\longrightarrow +\infty \quad \text{a.s.} \\ \text{under } H_j, \quad j \neq i : \quad Z_i(t) &\longrightarrow -\infty \quad \text{a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

sequential  $M$ -SPRT

$$\pi_t^{\text{M-SPRT}, \delta} = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} \\ \text{stop and announce } H_i, \end{cases} \quad \begin{aligned} &\max_i Z_i(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ &Z_i(t) > c_\delta. \end{aligned}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known



# Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data                      unknown

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

sequential  $M$ -SPRT

$$\pi_t^{\text{M-SPRT}, \delta} = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} & \max_i Z_i(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_i, & Z_i(t) > c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star = P_M$$

known

$$\pi^{\text{M-SPRT}, \delta} \in \Pi(\delta), \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^{\pi^{\text{M-SPRT}, \delta}} [\tau(\pi^{\text{M-SPRT}, \delta})]}{\log(1/\delta)} \leq \frac{1}{\min_{j \neq i} D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j)} \quad \forall i$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data      unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_1^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P_1 \parallel Q)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_1^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P_1 \parallel Q)}$$

$$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = Q]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{D_{\text{KL}}(Q \parallel P_1)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data      unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z(t) = \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P_1)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z(t) = \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P_1)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

under  $H_1$  :  $Z(t) \longrightarrow +\infty$  a.s.

under  $H_2$  :  $Z(t) \longrightarrow -\infty$  a.s.

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Simple vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z(t) = \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P_1)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$\pi_t^\delta = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} & -c_\delta \leq Z(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_1, & Z(t) > c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_2, & Z(t) < -c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data      unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}$$

$$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = Q]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1} D_{\text{KL}}(Q \parallel P)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data      unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$Z(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

under  $H_1$  :  $Z(t) \longrightarrow +\infty$  a.s.

under  $H_2$  :  $Z(t) \longrightarrow -\infty$  a.s.

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Composite vs Composite SHT

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$\pi_t = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} & -c_\delta \leq Z(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_1, & Z(t) > c_\delta, \\ \text{stop and announce } H_2, & Z(t) < -c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

•  
•  
•

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{\substack{Q \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j}} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{\substack{Q \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j}} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}$$

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error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

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•

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_i} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_j} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M \quad \text{known}$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_i} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_j} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M \quad \text{known}$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_i} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_j} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

$$\text{under } H_i : \quad Z_i(t) \longrightarrow +\infty \quad \text{a.s.}$$

$$\text{under } H_j, \quad j \neq i : \quad Z_i(t) \longrightarrow -\infty \quad \text{a.s.}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \sim P^\star \quad \text{IID}$$

data
unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

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$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$\pi_t^\delta = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} \\ \text{stop and announce } H_i, \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \max_i Z_i(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ Z_i(t) > c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_i} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_j} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$\pi_t^\delta = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} \\ \text{stop and announce } H_i, \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \max_i Z_i(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ Z_i(t) > c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M \quad \text{known}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Composite Multihypothesis Testing

$$X_1, \dots, X_\tau \underset{\text{data}}{\sim} \underset{\text{unknown}}{P^\star} \quad \text{IID}$$

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_i} \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_j} \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = P)}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid P^\star = Q)}$$

$$Z_i(t) = \min_{j \neq i} Z_{i,j}(t)$$

$$\pi_t^\delta = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} \\ \text{stop and announce } H_i, \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \max_i Z_i(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ Z_i(t) > c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 \quad \text{known}$$

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 \quad \text{known}$$

⋮

$$H_M : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M \quad \text{known}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Multiple Data Streams

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)

$$\text{IID } X_1^{(1)}, X_2^{(1)}, \dots \sim P_1^\star$$

data                      unknown

$$\mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1^\star, \dots, P_K^\star)$$

unknown

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

$$\text{IID } X_1^{(2)}, X_2^{(2)}, \dots \sim P_2^\star$$

data                      unknown

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

known

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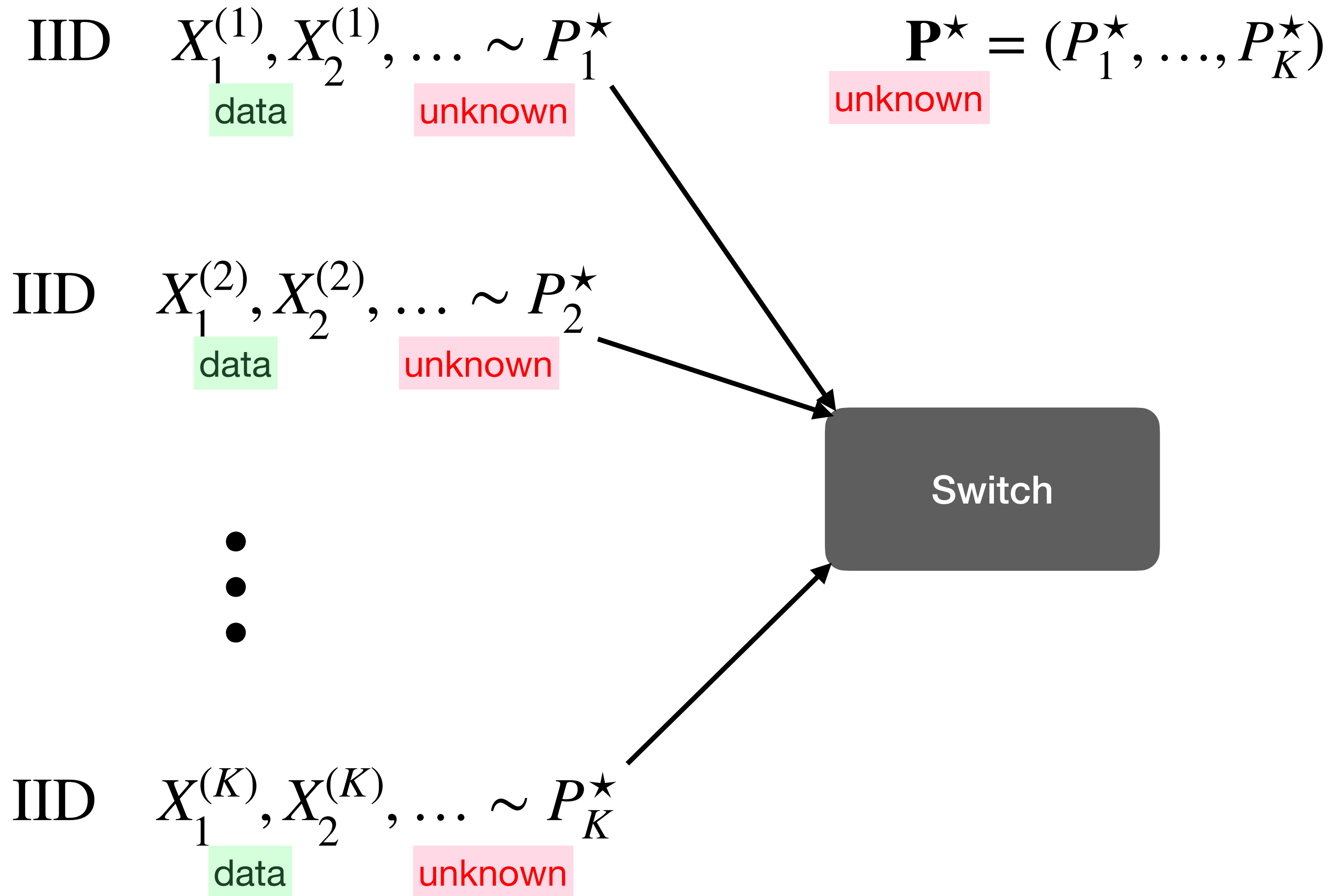
$$\text{IID } X_1^{(K)}, X_2^{(K)}, \dots \sim P_K^\star$$

data                      unknown

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

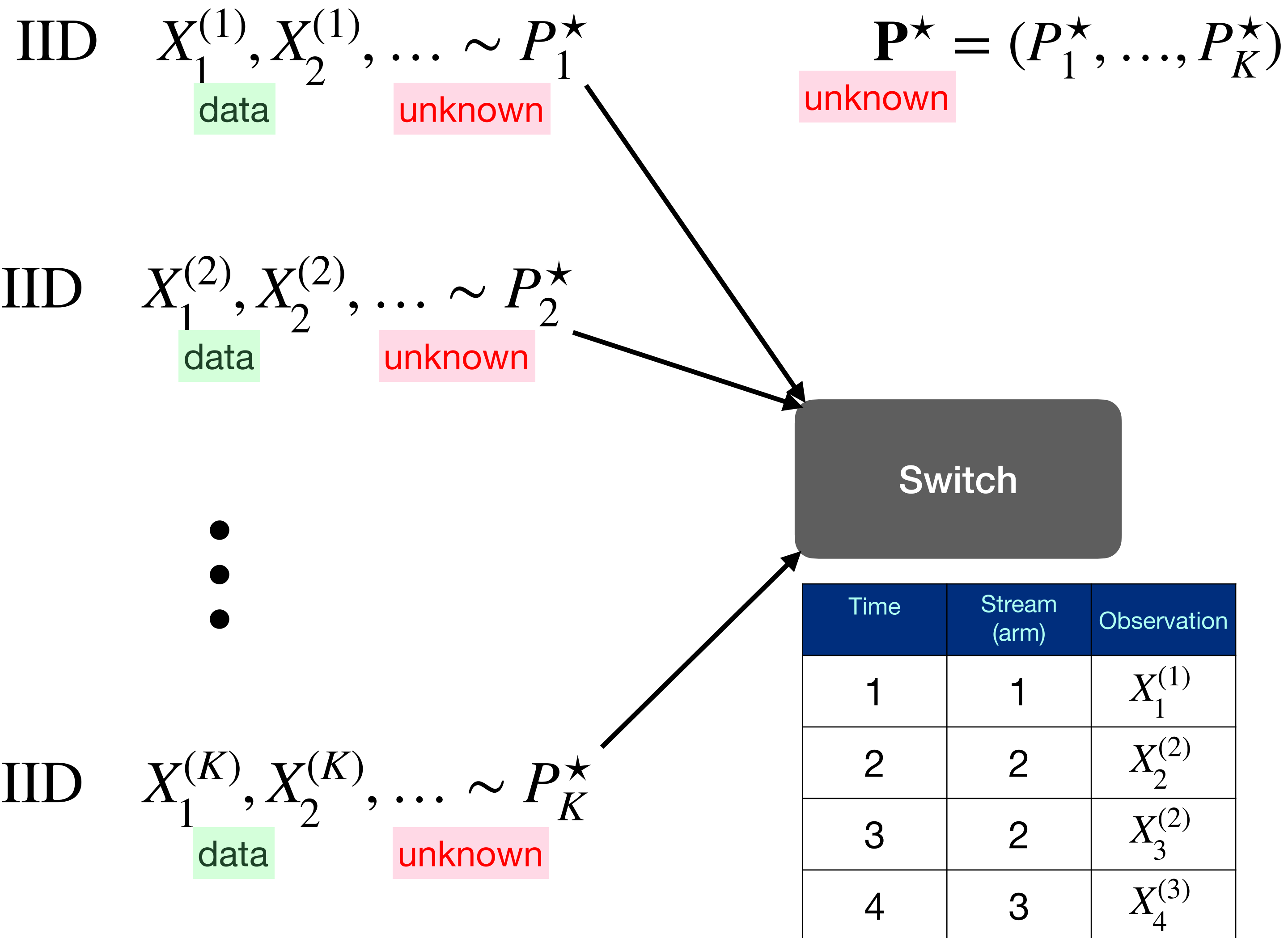
$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

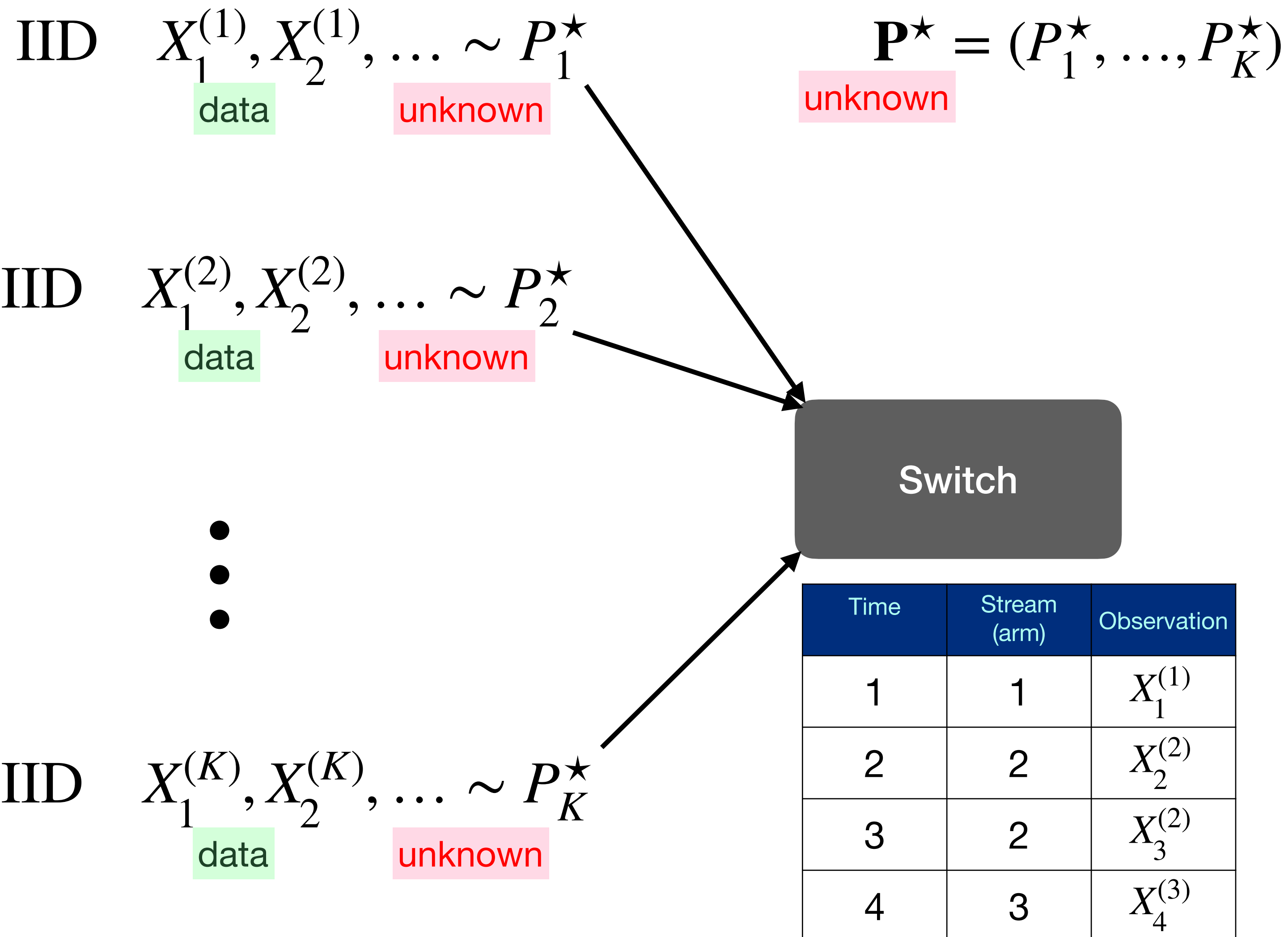
$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

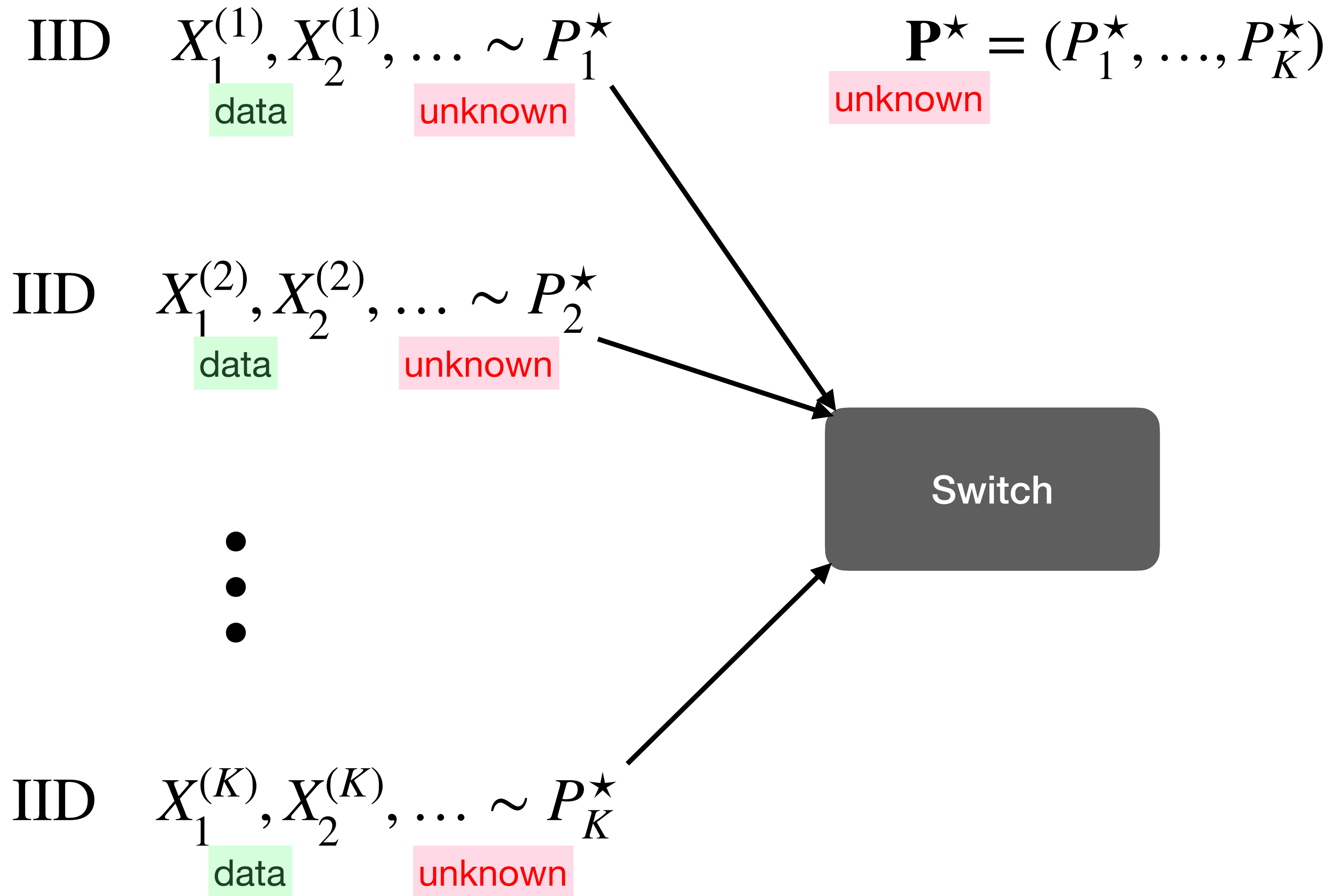
known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

At each round, we can pick any of the streams probabilistically or deterministically

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

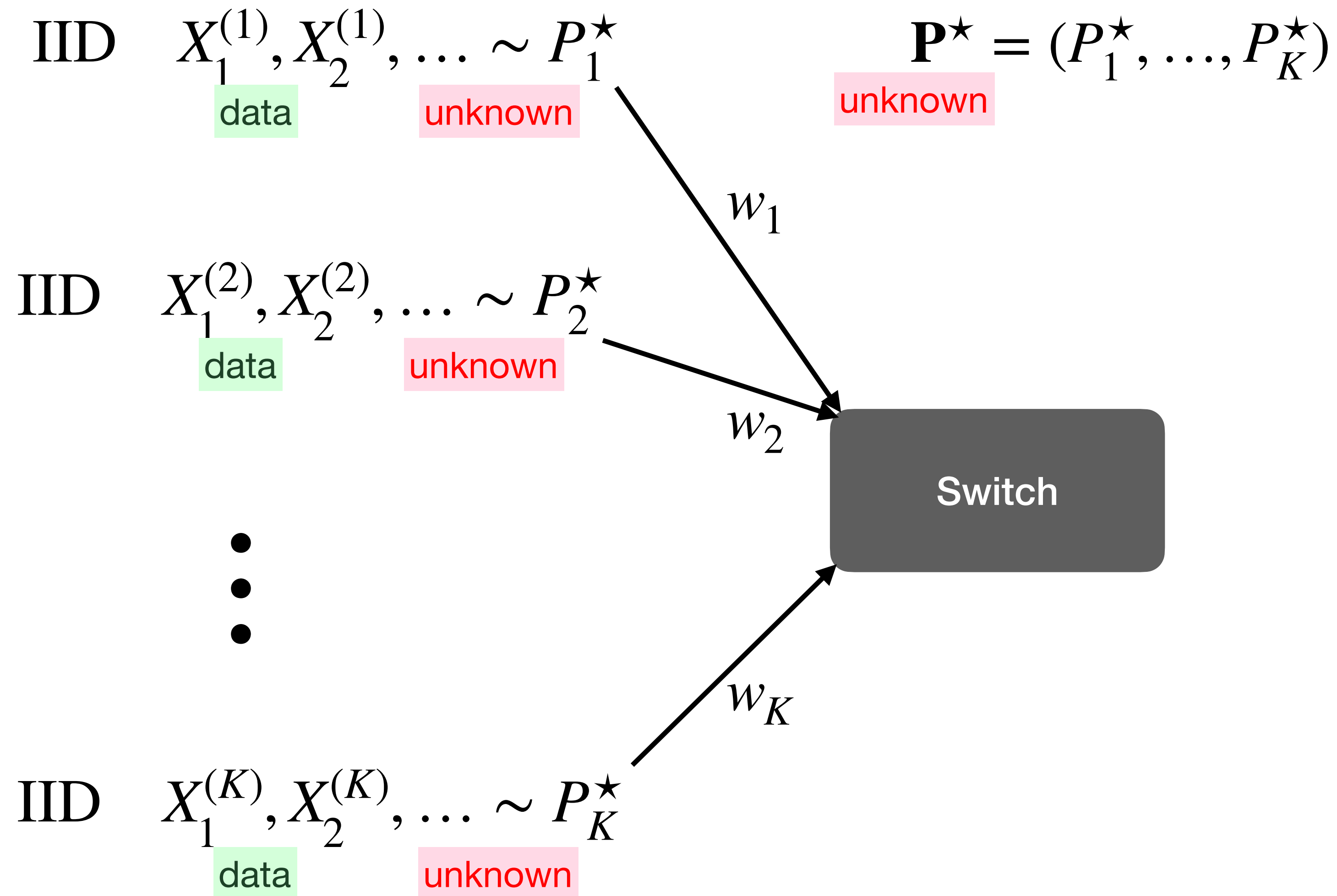
known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known (blue box)

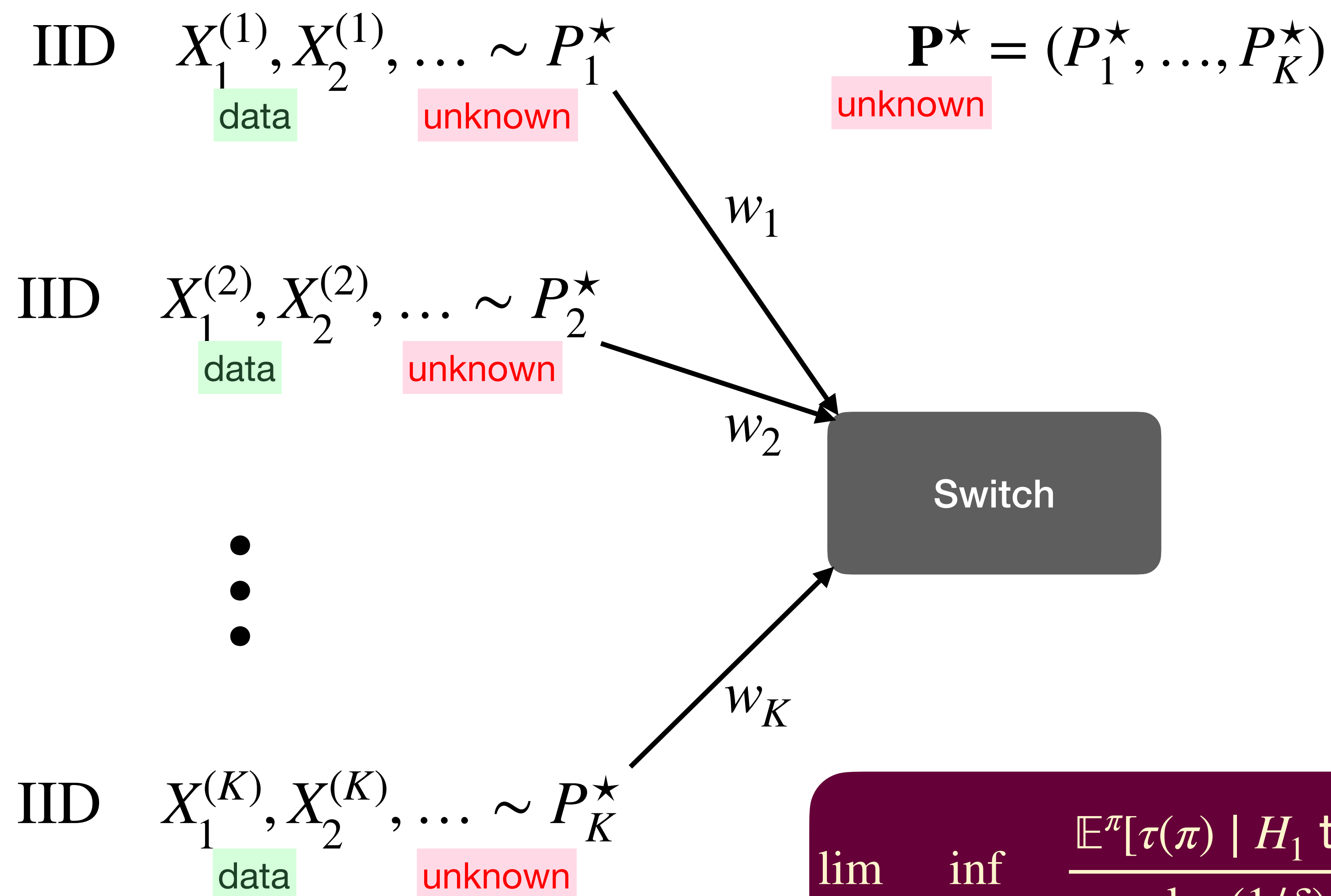
$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

known (blue box)

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known (blue box)

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

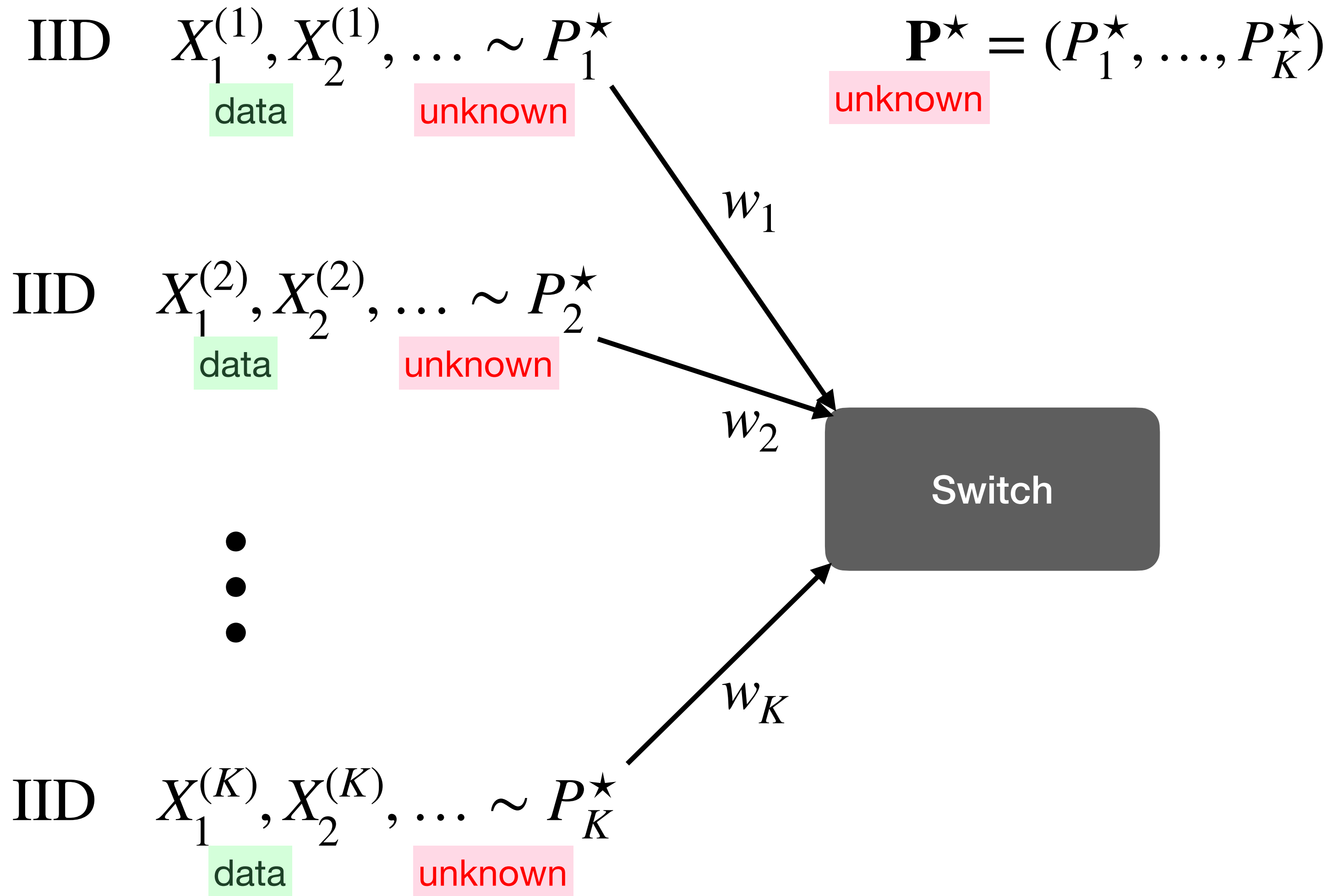
known (blue box)

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid H_1 \text{ true}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

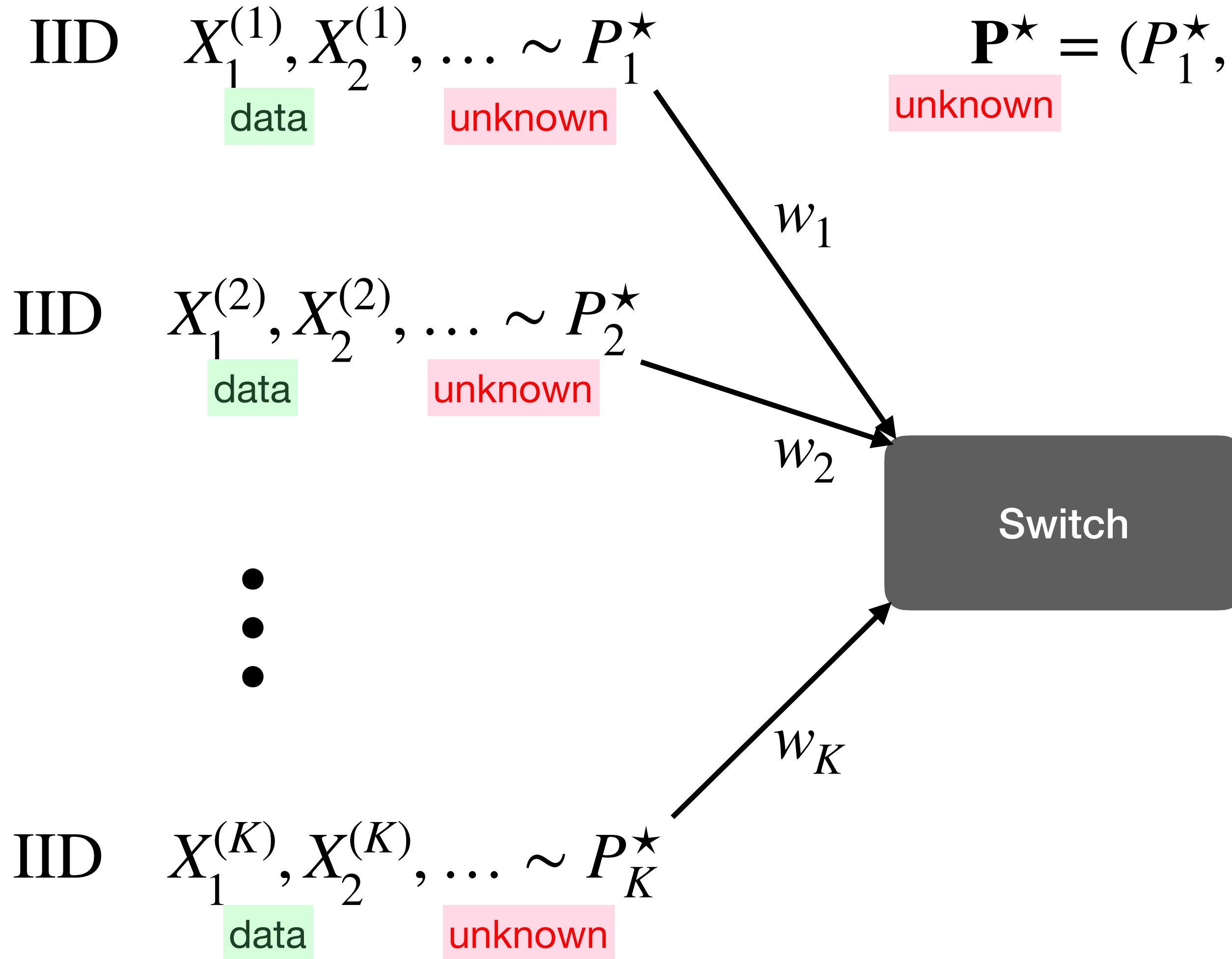
$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^* = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^* = (Q_1, \dots, Q_K)$$

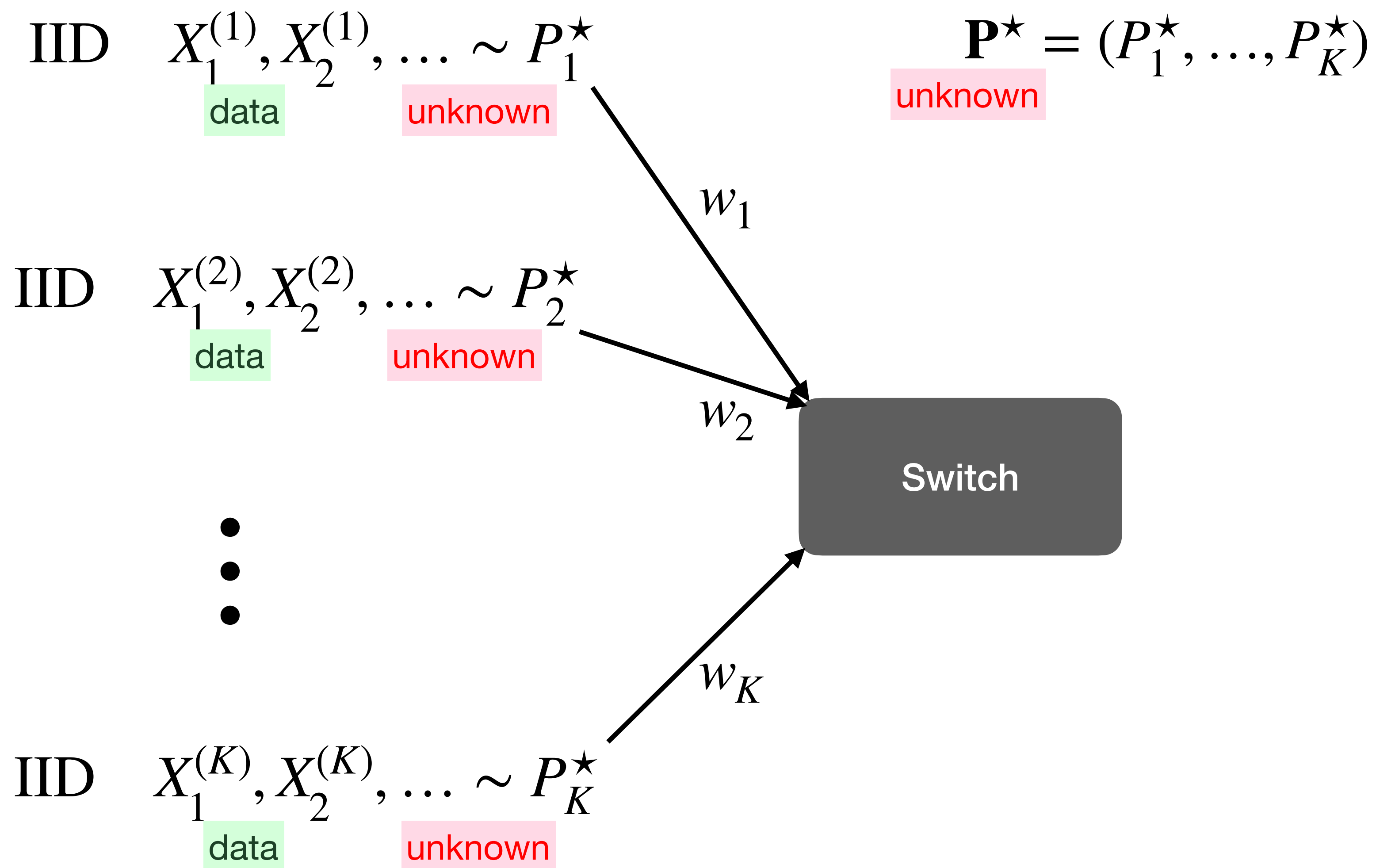
known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

To achieve minimum sample complexity, always choose stream  $a$  for which  $D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)$  is the largest

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Composite)



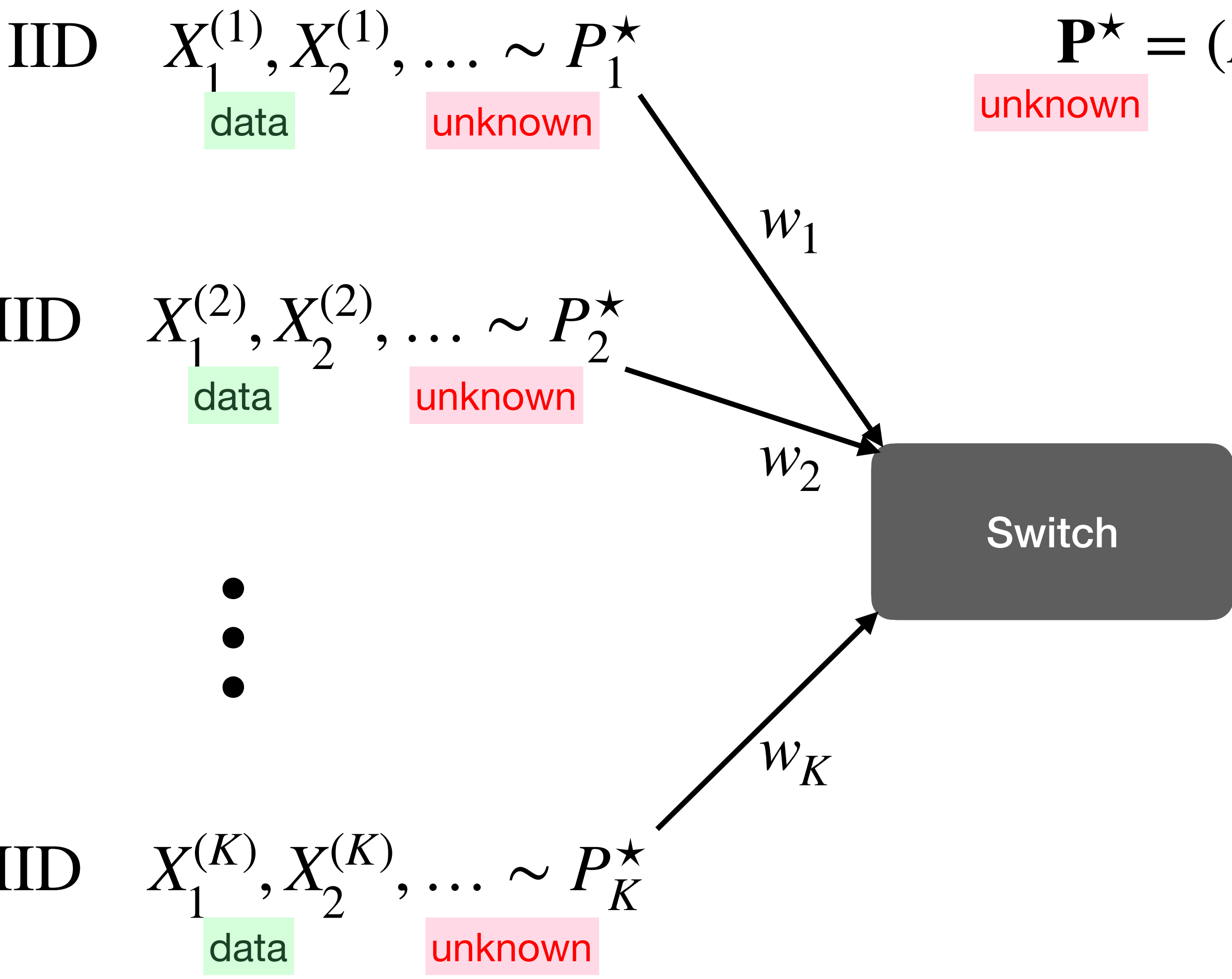
$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Composite)



$$\mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1^\star, \dots, P_K^\star)$$

unknown

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1, \dots, P_K)$$

known

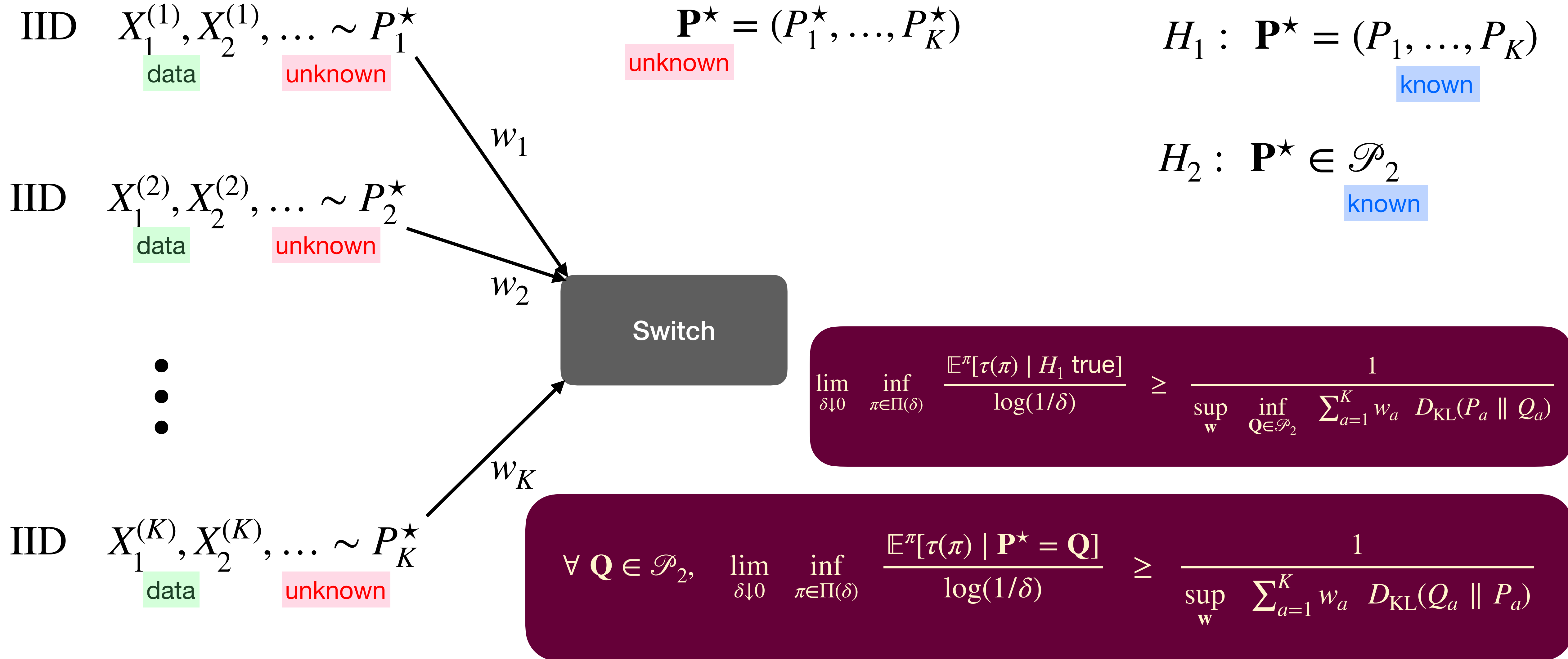
$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid H_1 \text{ true}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\mathbf{Q} \in \mathcal{P}_2} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

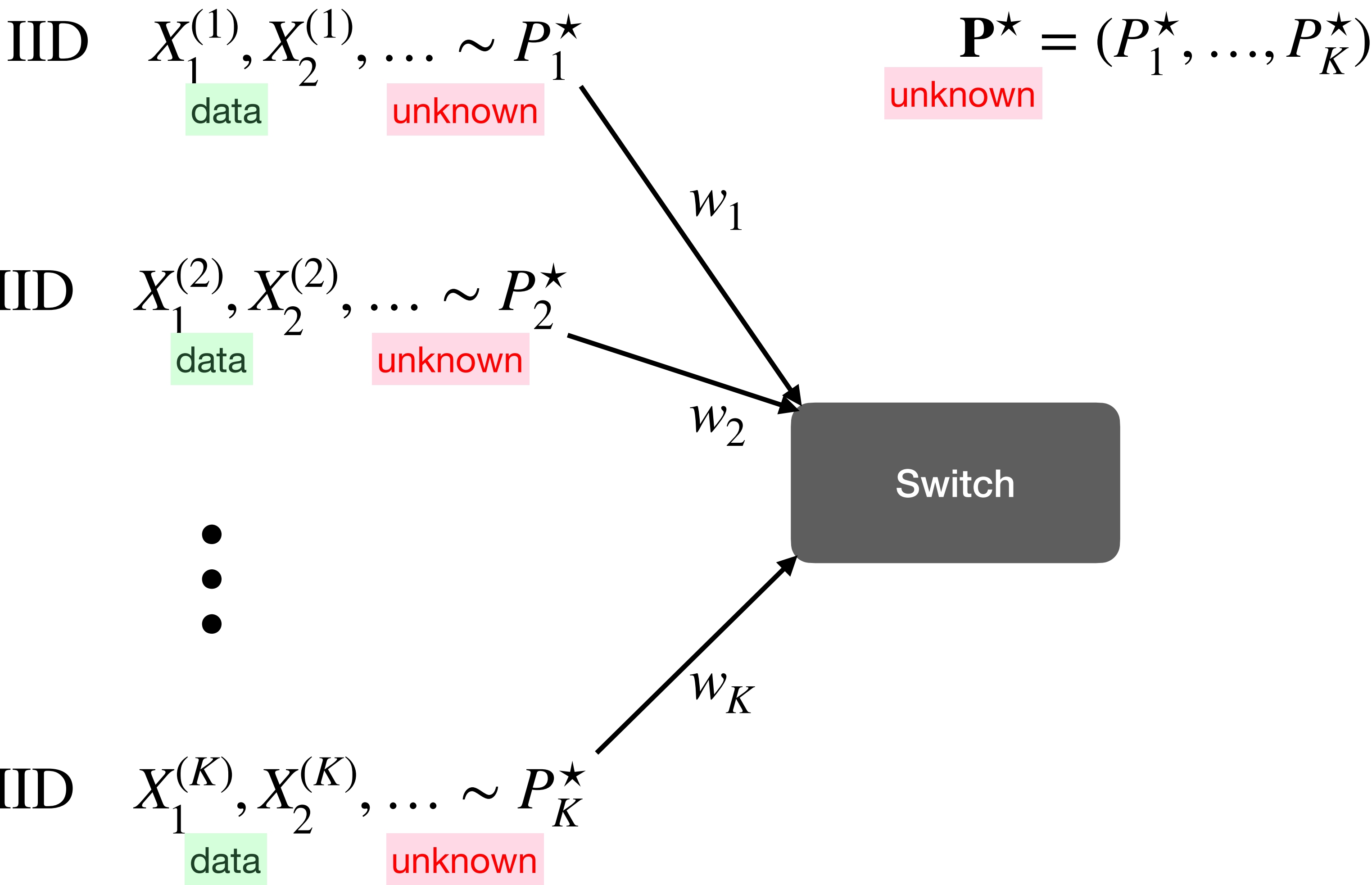


# Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Composite)



# Binary Active SHT (Chernoff 1959)

Herman Chernoff. "Sequential design of experiments". In: The Annals of Mathematical Statistics 30.3 (1959), pp. 755–770.



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

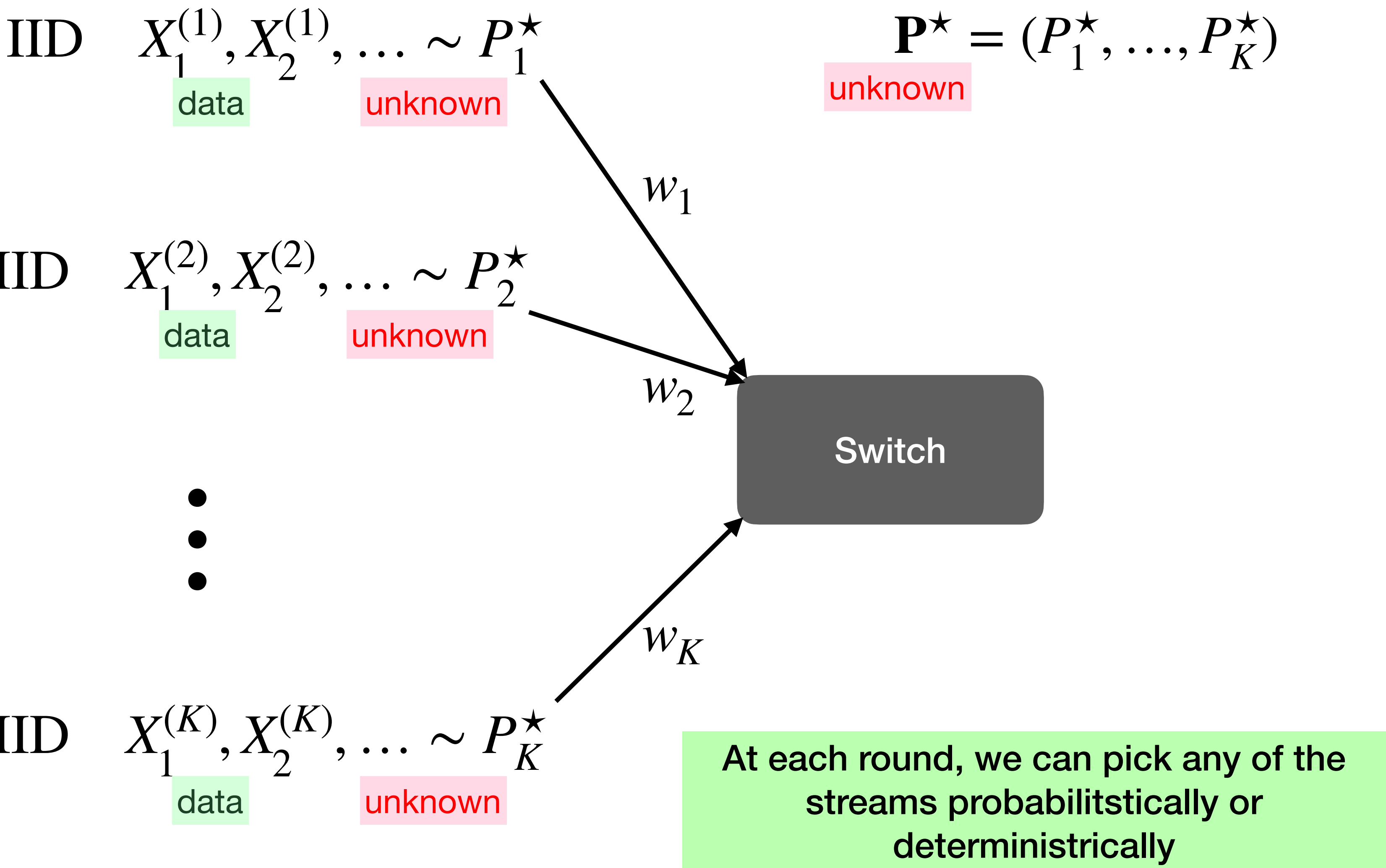
known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Chernoff 1959)

Herman Chernoff. "Sequential design of experiments". In: The Annals of Mathematical Statistics 30.3 (1959), pp. 755–770.



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

**known**

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

**known**

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Composite vs Composite)

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Composite vs Composite)

$$\forall \mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \mathbf{P}^\star = \mathbf{P}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\mathbf{Q} \in \mathcal{P}_2} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Binary Active SHT (Composite vs Composite)

$$\forall \mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \mathbf{P}^\star = \mathbf{P}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\mathbf{Q} \in \mathcal{P}_2} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

$$\forall \mathbf{Q} \in \mathcal{P}_2, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \mathbf{P}^\star = \mathbf{Q}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}_1} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(Q_a \parallel P_a)}$$

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

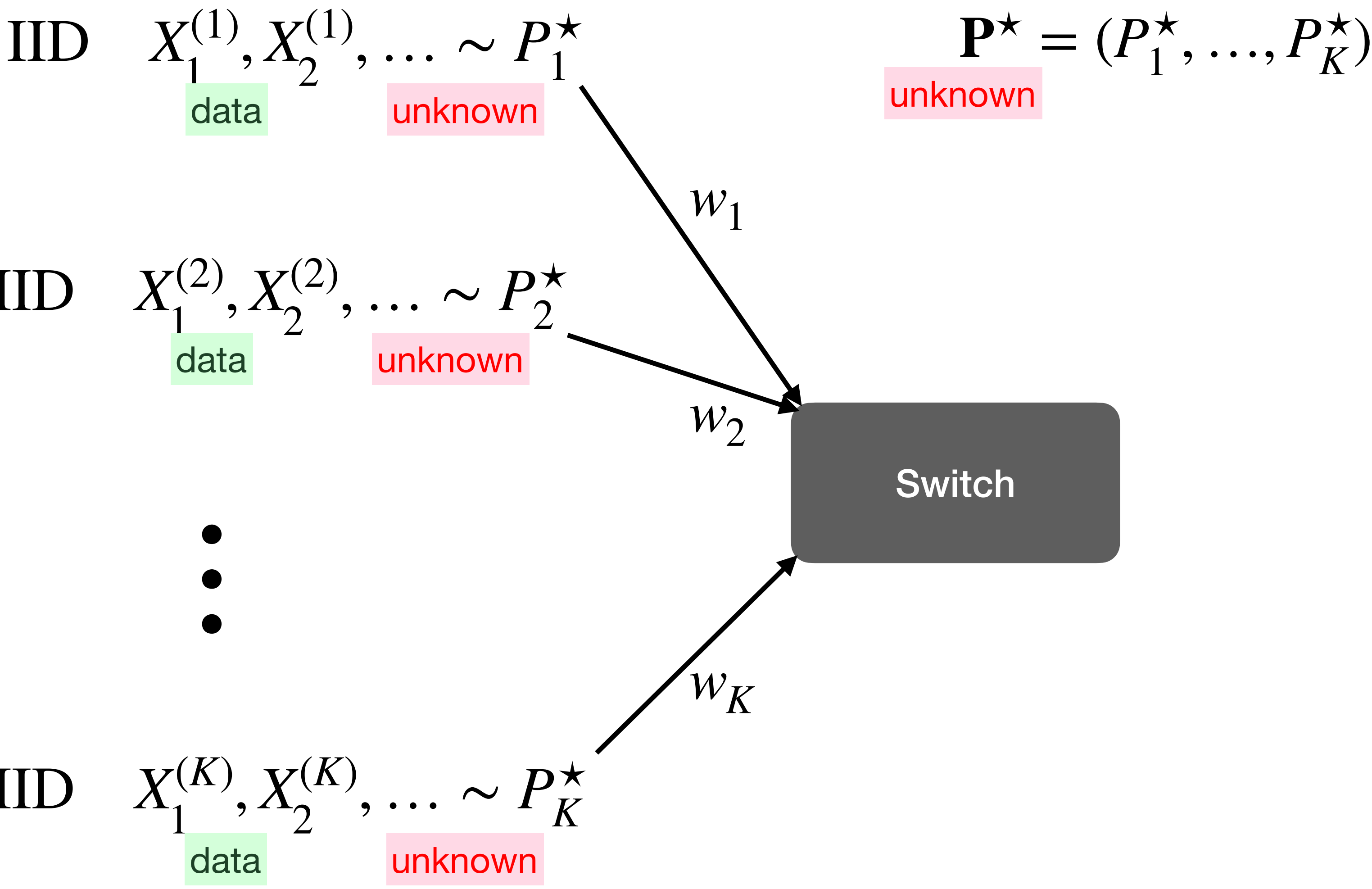
known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

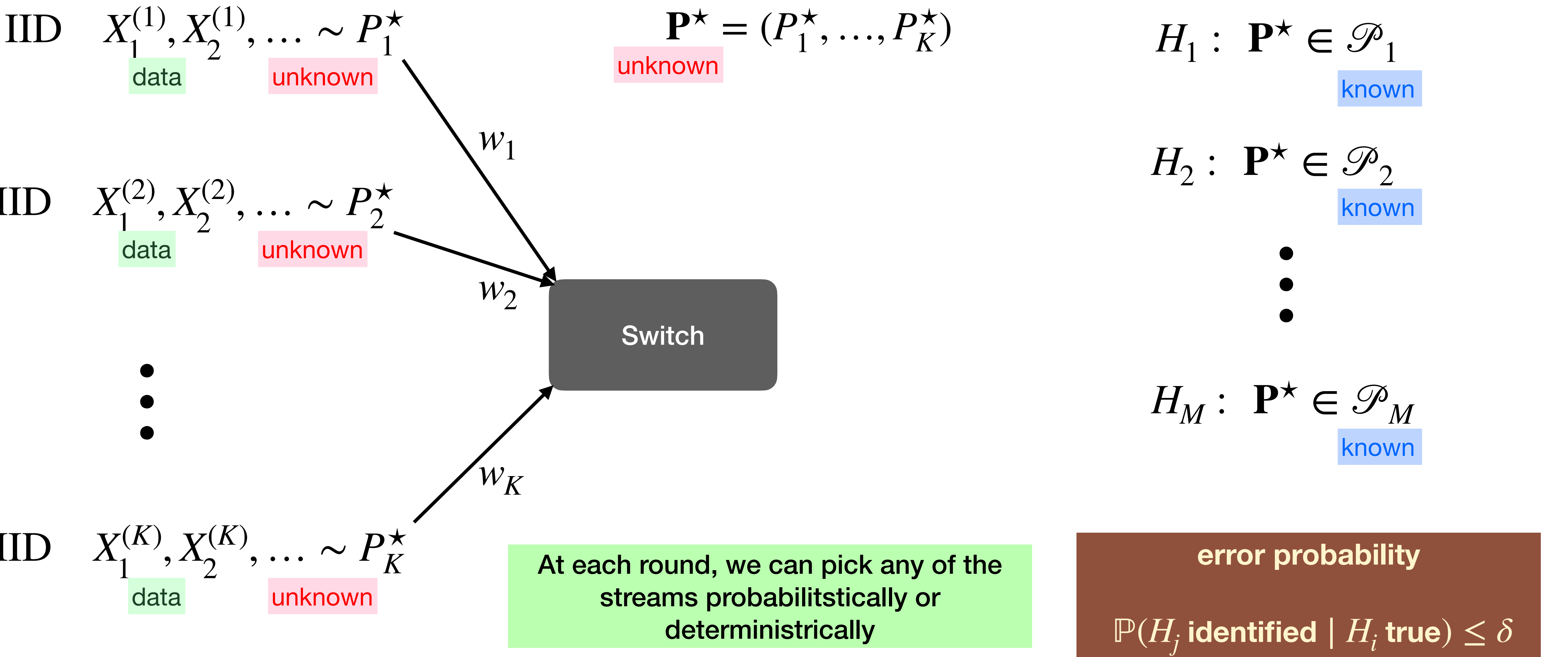


- $H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$   
known
- $H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$   
known
- $\vdots$
- $H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$   
known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)



# Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$\forall \mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \mathbf{P}^\star = \mathbf{P}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\mathbf{Q} \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$\forall \mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \mathbf{P}^\star = \mathbf{P}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\substack{\mathbf{Q} \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j}} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

ALT(P)

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

⋮

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

$$\forall \mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \mathbf{P}^\star = \mathbf{P}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\substack{Q \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j}} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

Amount of information discrimination to rule out every hypothesis other than  $H_i$  when choosing streams according to distribution  $\mathbf{w}$

ALT(P)

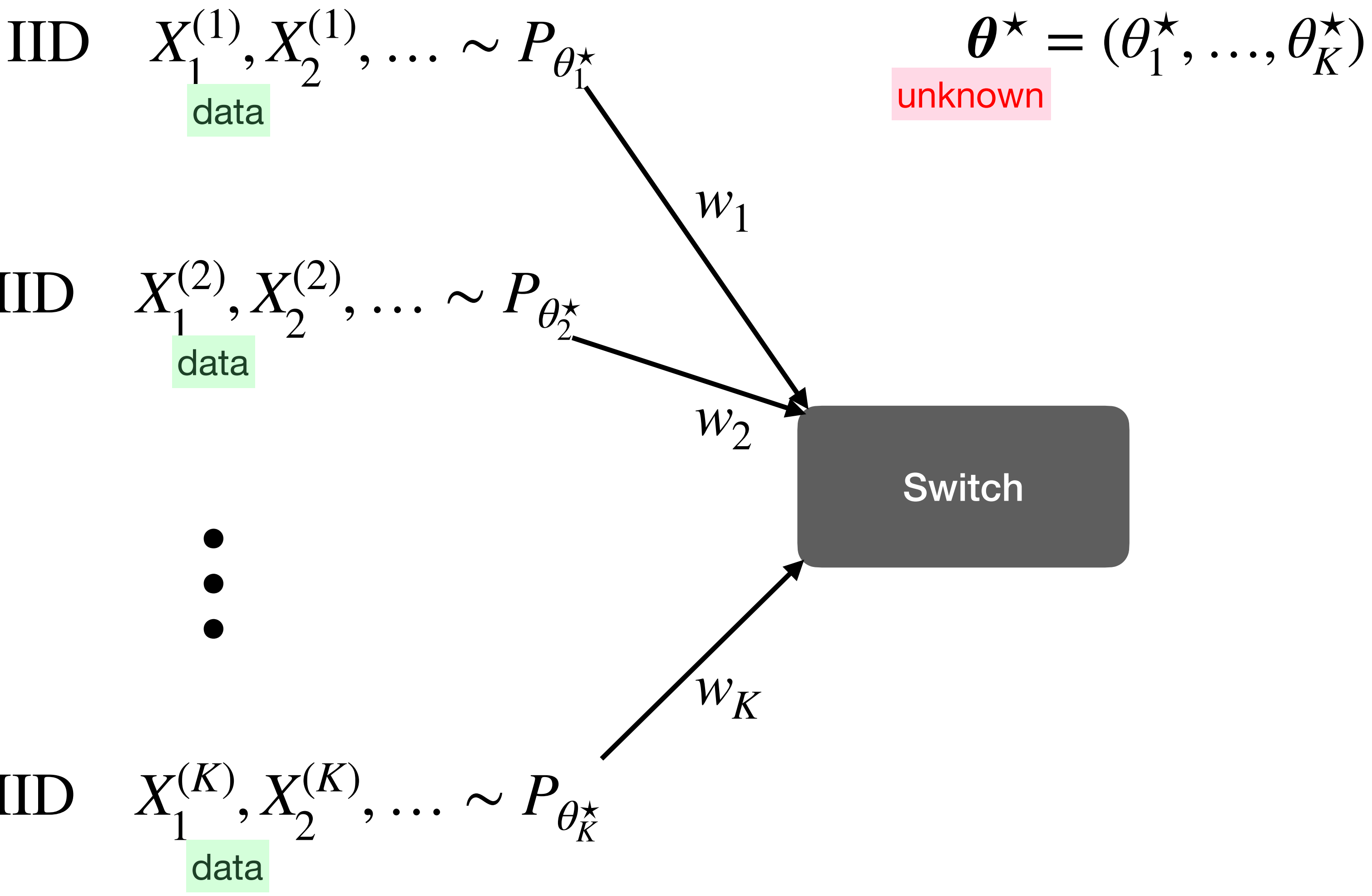
error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Best Arm Identification (BAI)

# BAI with Exponential Families

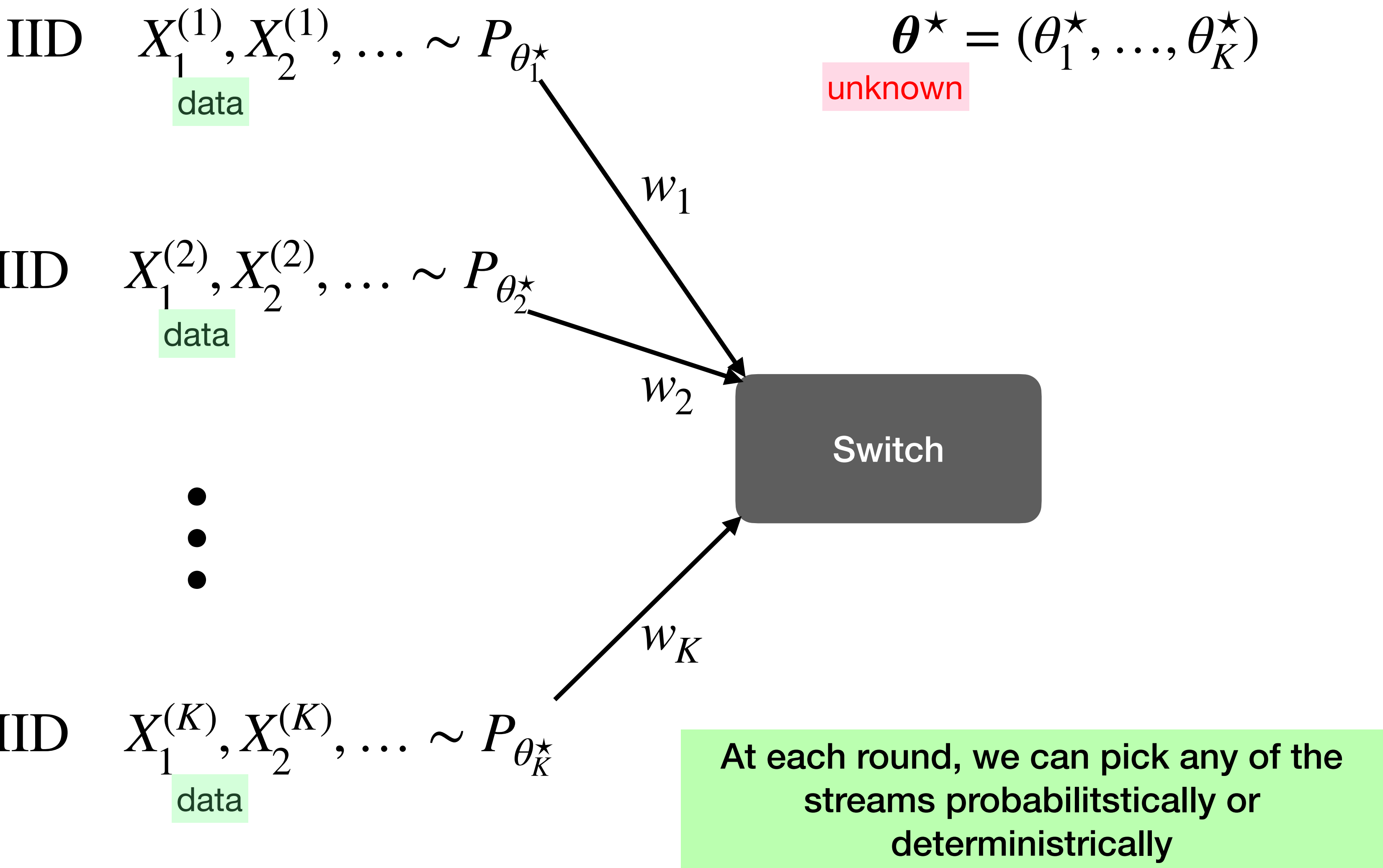


- $H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$ 
known
- $H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$ 
known
- $\vdots$
- $H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$ 
known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families



$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$   
known

$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$   
known

$\vdots$

$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$   
known

**error probability**

$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

$$P_\theta(x) = h(x) \exp(\theta x - A(\theta)), \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

$$P_\theta(x) = h(x) \exp(\theta x - A(\theta)), \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

- Canonical exponential family parametrised by  $\theta$

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

$$P_\theta(x) = h(x) \exp(\theta x - A(\theta)), \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

- Canonical exponential family parametrised by  $\theta$
- $\mathbb{E}_\theta[X] = \theta$ ; identifying true hypothesis = BAI

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

$$P_\theta(x) = h(x) \exp(\theta x - A(\theta)), \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

- Canonical exponential family parametrised by  $\theta$
- $\mathbb{E}_\theta[X] = \theta$ ; identifying true hypothesis = BAI
- Examples: Bernoulli, Gaussian with known variance

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

$$P_\theta(x) = h(x) \exp(\theta x - A(\theta)), \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

- Canonical exponential family parametrised by  $\theta$
- $\mathbb{E}_\theta[X] = \theta$ ; identifying true hypothesis = BAI
- Examples: Bernoulli, Gaussian with known variance
- $D_{\text{KL}}(P_\theta \| P_\phi) = A(\phi) - A(\theta) - \dot{A}(\theta) (\phi - \theta)$

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^\star = (\theta_1^\star, \dots, \theta_K^\star)$$

unknown

$$H_1 : \theta^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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•  
•

$$H_K : \theta^\star \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$\forall \theta \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \theta^\star = \theta]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{T^\star(\theta)}$$

$$T^\star(\theta) = \sup_{\mathbf{w}} \inf_{\lambda \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_{\theta_a} \parallel P_{\lambda_a})$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^\star = (\theta_1^\star, \dots, \theta_K^\star)$$

unknown

$$H_1 : \theta^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

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$$H_K : \theta^\star \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$\forall \theta \in \mathcal{P}_i, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid \theta^\star = \theta]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{T^\star(\theta)}$$

$$T^\star(\theta) = \sup_w \inf_{\lambda \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_{\theta_a} \parallel P_{\lambda_a})$$

$$w^\star(\theta) = \arg \sup_w \inf_{\lambda \in \bigcup_{j \neq i} \mathcal{P}_j} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_{\theta_a} \parallel P_{\lambda_a})$$

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

D-tracking algorithm (Garivier and Kaufmann, 2016)

- Empirical means:  $\hat{\theta}^*(t) = (\hat{\theta}_1(t), \dots, \hat{\theta}_K(t))$
- Compute  $w^*(\hat{\theta}^*(t))$
- Sample at time  $t + 1$  according to distribution  $w^*(\hat{\theta}^*(t))$
- Keep sampling until stopping criterion is met

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

⋮

$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# BAI with Exponential Families

$$\theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_K^*)$$

unknown

D-tracking algorithm (Garivier and Kaufmann, 2016)

$$\frac{Z(t)}{t} = \inf_{\lambda \in \text{ALT}(\hat{\theta}^*(t))} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a^*(\hat{\theta}^*(t)) D_{\text{KL}}(P_{\hat{\theta}_a(t)} \parallel \lambda_a)$$

$$\pi_t^\delta = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} & Z(t) \leq c_\delta, \\ \text{stop,} & Z(t) > c_\delta. \end{cases}$$

At stoppage, announce  $H_{a^*}$  such that  $a^* = \arg \max_a \hat{\theta}_a(t)$

$$H_1 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_1 = \{\theta : \theta_1 > \max_{j \neq 1} \theta_j\}$$

known

$$H_2 : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_2 = \{\theta : \theta_2 > \max_{j \neq 2} \theta_j\}$$

known

⋮

$$H_K : \theta^* \in \mathcal{P}_K = \{\theta : \theta_K > \max_{j \neq K} \theta_j\}$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Markovian Data

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$= \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid X_{s-1}, H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid X_{s-1}, H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{P_i(X_s \mid X_{s-1})}{P_j(X_s \mid X_{s-1})}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$
known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$
known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)

data unknown

$$Z_{i,j}(t) = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})}$$

$$= \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid X_{s-1}, H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid X_{s-1}, H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{P_i(X_s \mid X_{s-1})}{P_j(X_s \mid X_{s-1})}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\mathbb{E}_i^\pi [Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{\tau(\pi)} \log \frac{P_i(X_s \mid X_{s-1})}{P_j(X_s \mid X_{s-1})} \right] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi [\tau(\pi)] \cdot D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j \mid \mu_i)$$

Markovian Wald's Identity

# SHT with Markovian Data

$$\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{\tau(\pi)} \log \frac{P_i(X_s | X_{s-1})}{P_j(X_s | X_{s-1})} \right] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)] \cdot D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j | \mu_i)$$

Markovian Wald's Identity

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$$\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{\tau(\pi)} \log \frac{P_i(X_s | X_{s-1})}{P_j(X_s | X_{s-1})} \right] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)] \cdot D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j | \mu_i)$$

Markovian Wald's Identity

$$D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j | \mu_i) = \sum_x \sum_y \mu_i(x) P_i(y | x) \log \frac{P_i(y | x)}{P_j(y | x)}$$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# SHT with Markovian Data

$$\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[Z_{i,j}(\tau(\pi))] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{\tau(\pi)} \log \frac{P_i(X_s | X_{s-1})}{P_j(X_s | X_{s-1})} \right] = \mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)] \cdot D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j | \mu_i)$$

Markovian Wald's Identity

$$D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j | \mu_i) = \sum_x \sum_y \mu_i(x) P_i(y | x) \log \frac{P_i(y | x)}{P_j(y | x)}$$

Stationary  
distribution of  $P_i$

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$$

known

$$\forall i \neq j, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi)]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{D_{\text{KL}}(P_i \parallel P_j | \mu_i)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$   
known

$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$   
known

$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P_1]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P_1 \parallel Q \mid \mu_1)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = Q]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{D_{\text{KL}}(Q \parallel P_1 \mid \mu_Q)}$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q \mid \mu_P)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$   
known

$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$   
known

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q \mid \mu_P)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = Q]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1} D_{\text{KL}}(Q \parallel P \mid \mu_Q)}$$

# SHT with Markovian Data

$X_1, X_2, \dots \sim \text{TPM } P^\star$  Markov chain (ergodic)  
data unknown

$H_1 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$   
known

$H_2 : P^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$   
known

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = P]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q \mid \mu_P)}$$

**error probability**

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

$$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2, \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}_i^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid P^\star = Q]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\inf_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1} D_{\text{KL}}(Q \parallel P \mid \mu_Q)}$$

Simple LLR-based tests help achieve the lower bounds

# Multiple Markovian Data Streams

# Active SHT with Markovian Data

$$\text{MC} \quad \underset{\text{data}}{X_1^{(1)}, X_2^{(1)}, \dots} \sim P_1^\star$$

$$\mathbf{P}^\star = (P_1^\star, \dots, P_K^\star)$$

unknown

$$\text{MC} \quad \underset{\text{data}}{X_1^{(2)}, X_2^{(2)}, \dots} \sim P_2^\star$$

•  
•  
•

$$\text{MC} \quad \underset{\text{data}}{X_1^{(K)}, X_2^{(K)}, \dots} \sim P_K^\star$$

$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

•  
•  
•

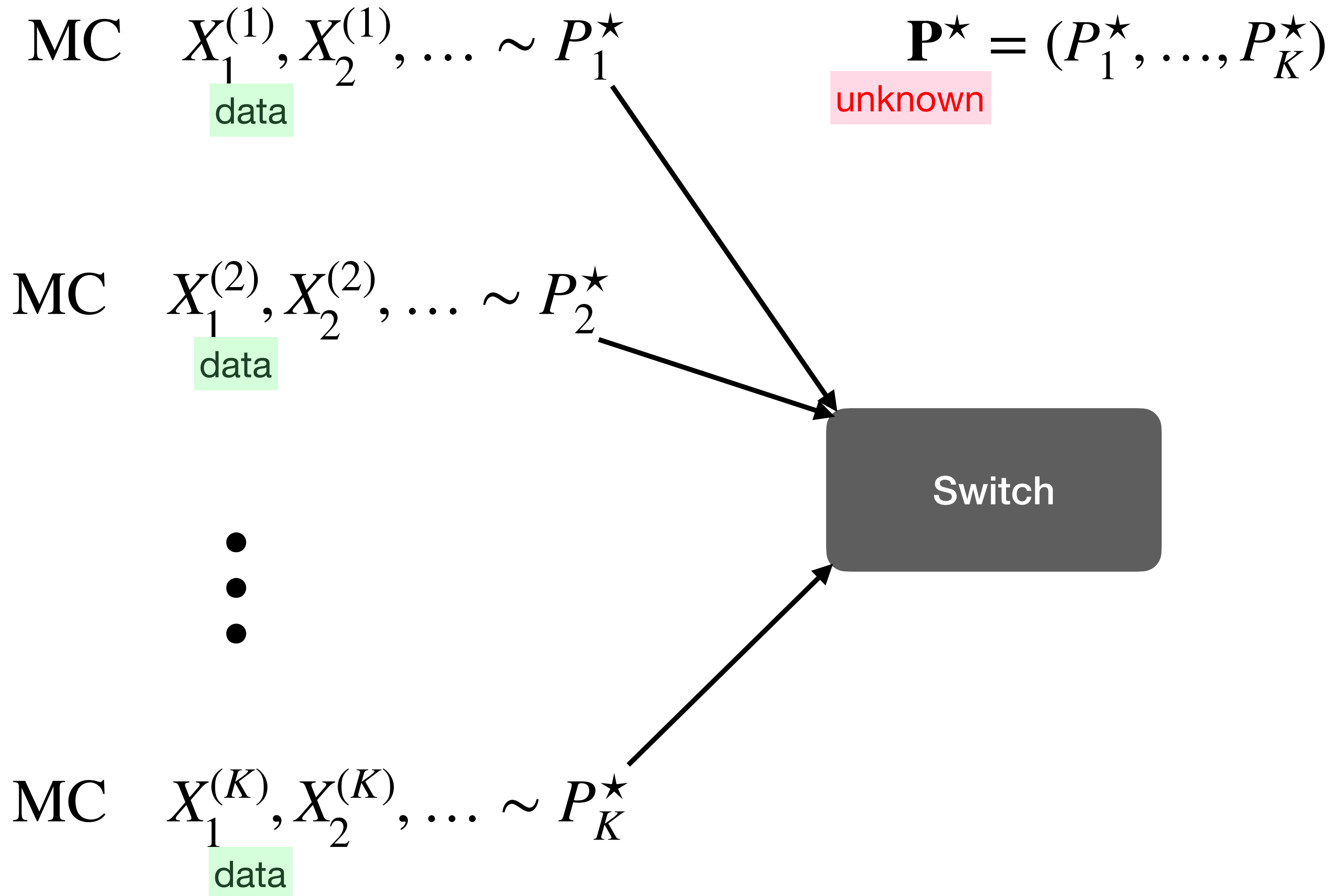
$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

# Active SHT with Markovian Data



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

...

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

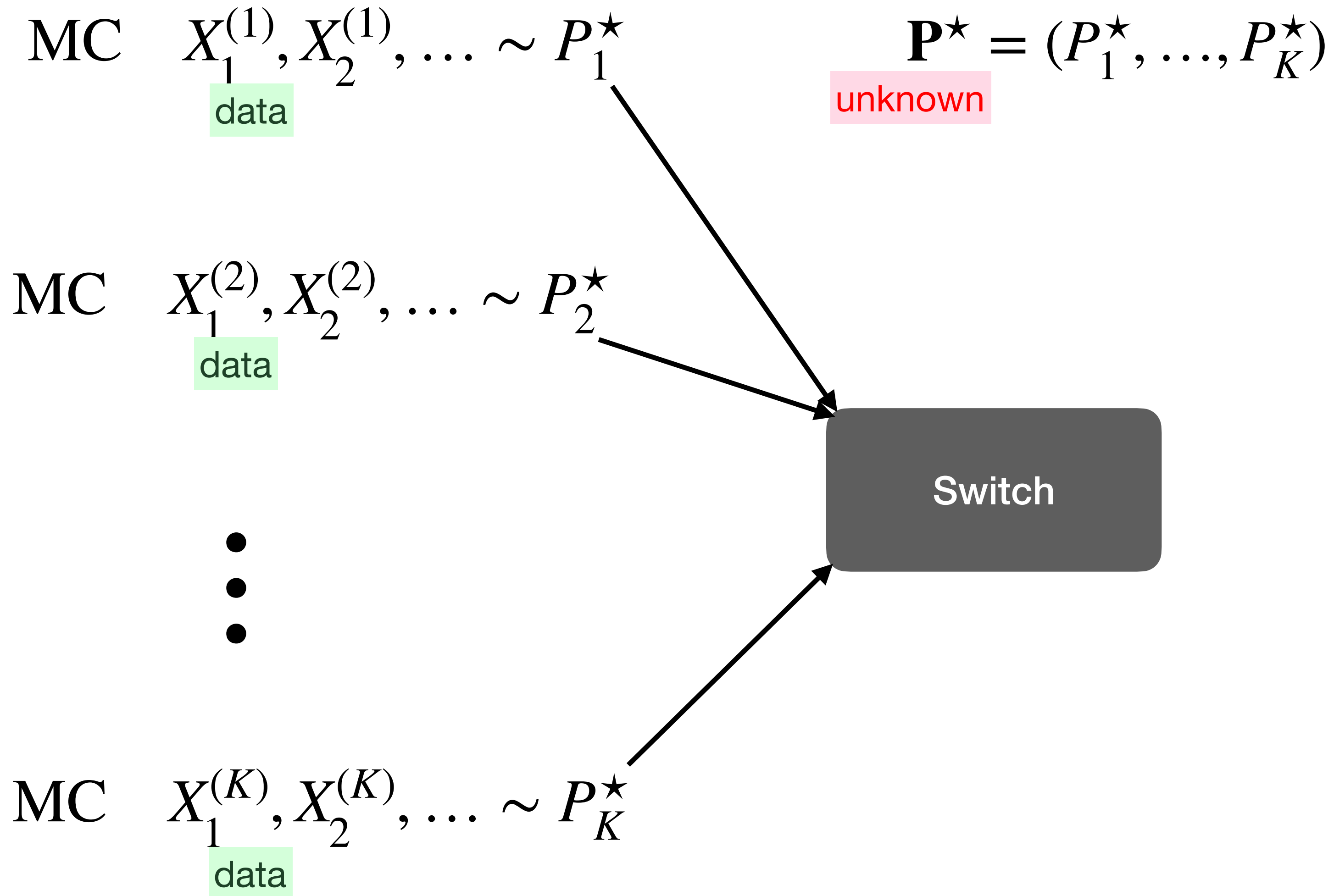
known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$



# Active SHT with Markovian Data



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

...

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

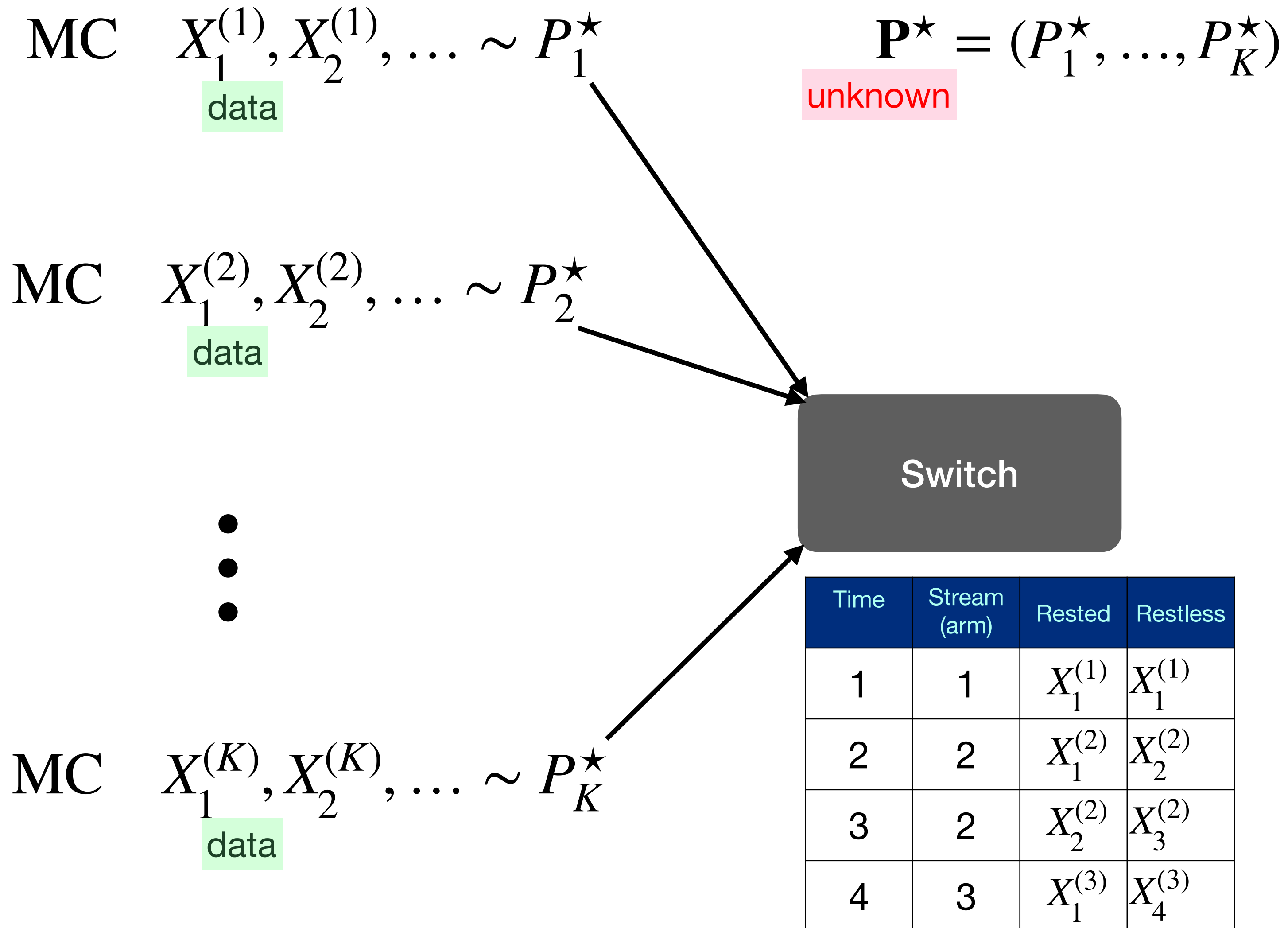
known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

At each round, we can pick any of the streams probabilistically or deterministically

# Active SHT with Markovian Data



$$H_1 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_1$$

known

$$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_2$$

known

...

$$H_M : \mathbf{P}^\star \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

known

error probability

$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

At each round, we can pick any of the streams probabilistically or deterministically

# Progress So Far

## Optimal Best Markovian Arm Identification with Fixed Confidence

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### Abstract

We give a complete characterization of the sampling complexity of best Markovian arm identification in one-parameter Markovian bandit models. We derive instance specific nonasymptotic and asymptotic lower bounds which generalize those of the IID setting. We analyze the Track-and-Stop strategy, initially proposed for the IID setting, and we prove that asymptotically it is at most a factor of four apart from the lower bound. Our one-parameter Markovian bandit model is based on the notion of an exponential family of stochastic matrices for which we establish many useful properties. For the analysis of the Track-and-Stop strategy we derive a novel concentration inequality for Markov chains that may be of interest in its own right.

## Optimal Best Arm Identification With Fixed Confidence in Restless Bandits

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**Abstract**— We study best arm identification in a *restless* multi-armed bandit setting with finitely many arms. The discrete-time data generated by each arm forms a homogeneous Markov chain taking values in a common, finite-state space. The state transitions in each arm are captured by an *ergodic* transition probability matrix (TPM) that is a member of a single-parameter exponential family of TPMs. The real-valued parameters of the arm TPMs are *unknown* and belong to a given space. Given a function  $f$  defined on the common state space of the arms, the goal is to identify the best arm—the arm with the largest average value of  $f$  evaluated under the arm's stationary distribution—with the fewest number of samples, subject to an upper bound on the decision's error probability (i.e., the *fixed-confidence* regime). A lower bound on the growth rate of the expected stopping time is established in the asymptote of a vanishing error probability. Furthermore, a policy for best arm identification is proposed, and its expected stopping time is proved to have an asymptotic growth rate that matches the lower bound. It is demonstrated that tracking the long-term behavior of a certain Markov decision process and its state-action visitation proportions are the key ingredients in analyzing the converse and achievability bounds. It is shown that under every policy, the state-action visitation proportions satisfy a specific approximate flow conservation constraint and that these proportions match the optimal proportions dictated by the lower bound under any asymptotically optimal policy. The prior studies on best arm identification in restless bandits focus on *independent observations* from the arms, *rested* Markov arms, and restless Markov arms with *known* arm TPMs. In contrast, this work is the first to study best arm identification in restless bandits with unknown arm TPMs.

**Index Terms**— Restless bandits, best arm identification (BAI), exponential family, transition probability matrix (TPM), Markov decision process (MDP).

### I. INTRODUCTION

**M**ULTI-ARMED bandits constitute an effective probabilistic model for sequential decision-making under uncertainty. In the canonical multi-armed bandit models, each arm is assumed to yield random rewards generated by an unknown reward distribution. The arms are selected sequentially over time to optimize a pre-specified reward measure. The two common frameworks to formalize bandit algorithms are *regret minimization* and *pure exploration*. In regret minimization, the objective is to have an arm selection policy that minimizes the difference between the expected reward realized and the maximum reward achievable by an oracle that knows the true reward distributions. Minimizing such regret measures captures the inherent *exploration-exploitation* trade-off that specifies the balance between the desire to choose the arms with high expected rewards (exploitation) and the need to explore other arms to acquire better information discrimination (exploration). In this context, there exists a wide range of algorithms for different settings based on the notions of Upper Confidence Bound (UCB) [1], [2] and Thompson Sampling [3]. An in-depth analysis of these algorithms and a detailed survey of other studies on regret minimization can be found in [4].

The pure exploration framework, on the other hand, focuses

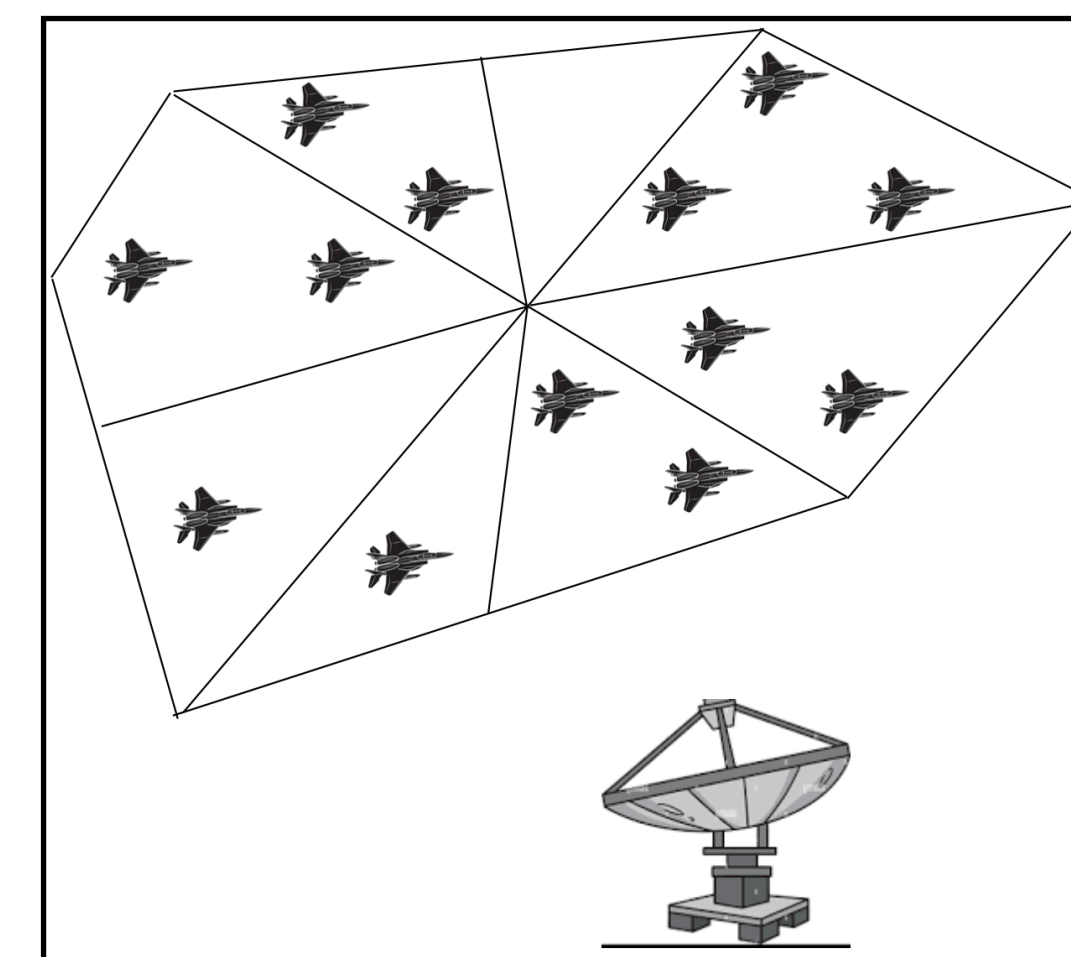
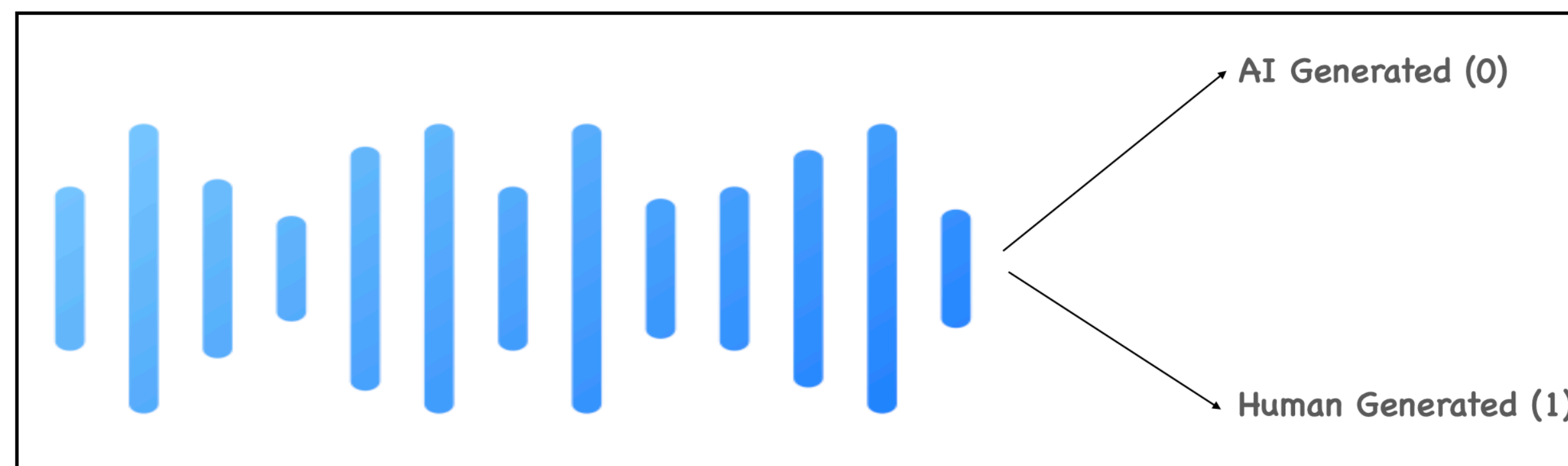
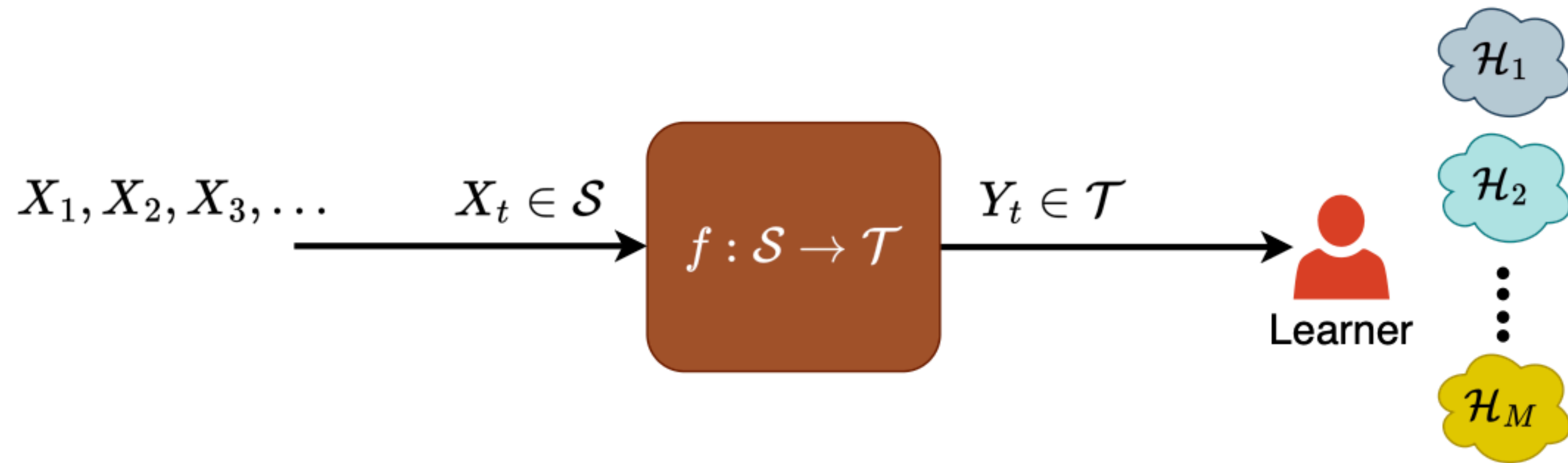
- Studies BAI in the rested setting
- Exponential family of Markov chains

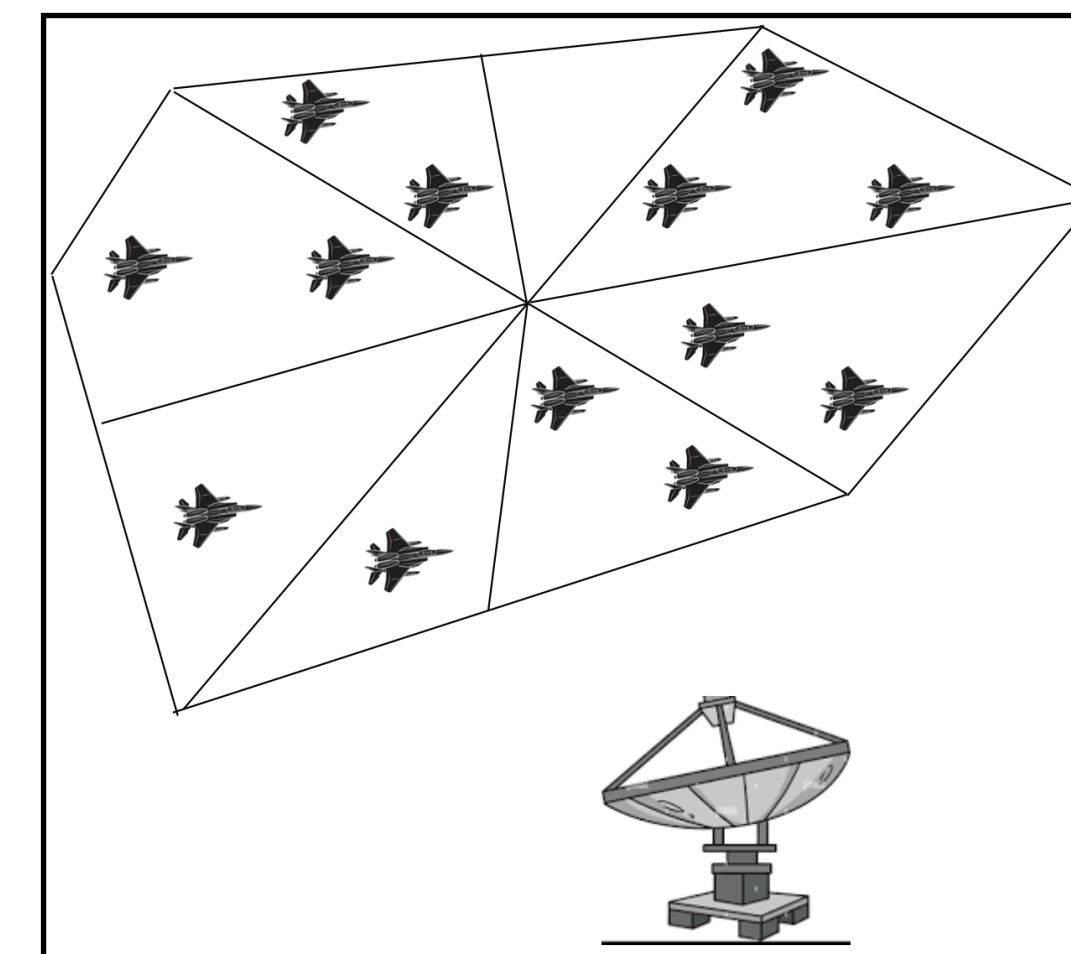
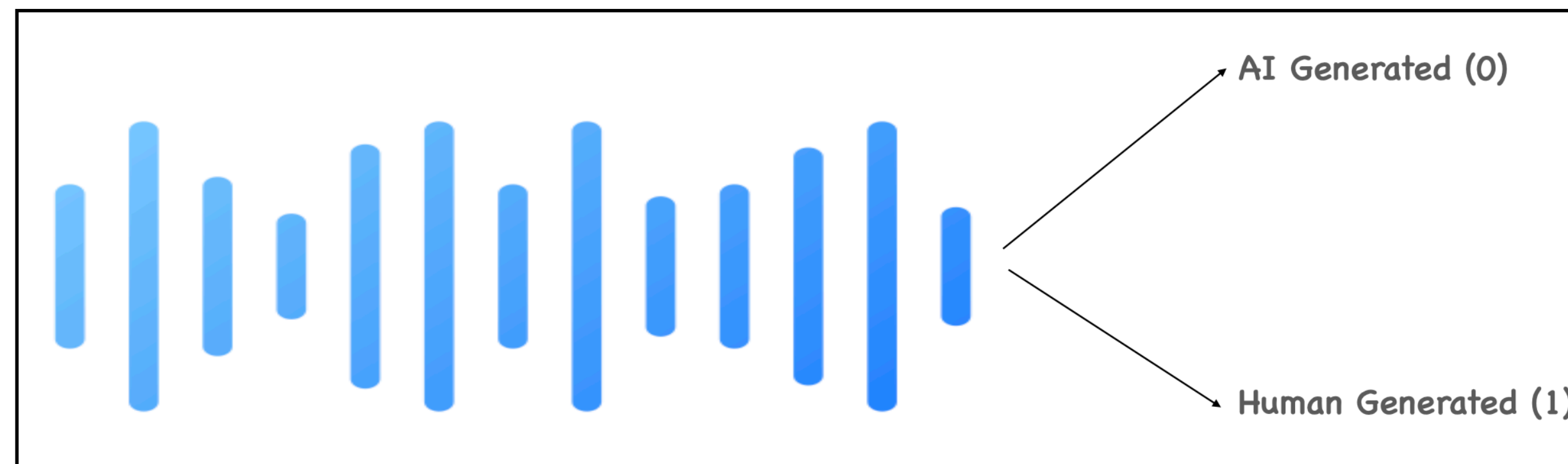
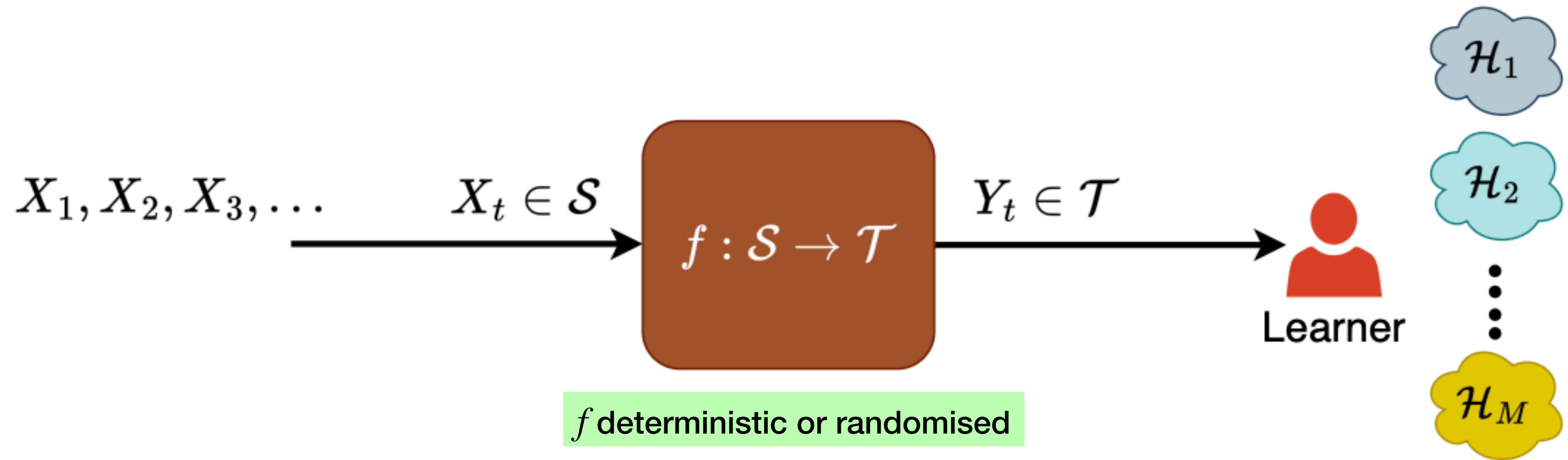
- BAI in the restless setting
- Best policy identification in MDPs

# Hidden Markov Data

Future Directions









If you see a problem of regret minimization (RL, bandits, MDPs), there might be a compelling side to the story from the perspective of pure exploration, which may be worth investigating

Yours Truly



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