

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

Winter Workshop on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Kanpur



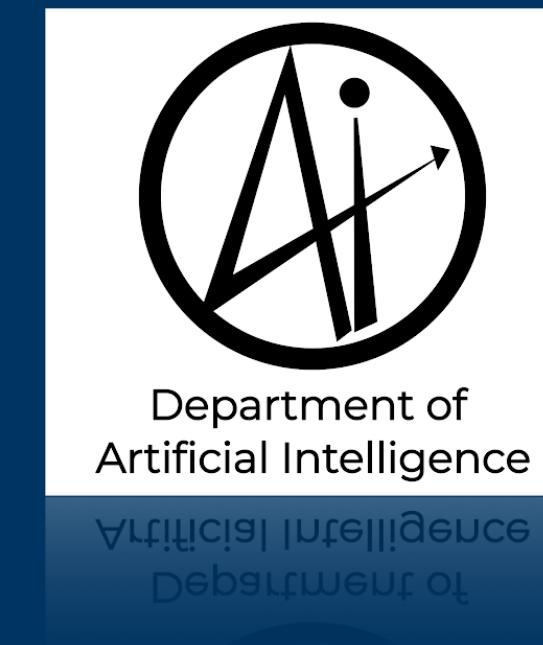
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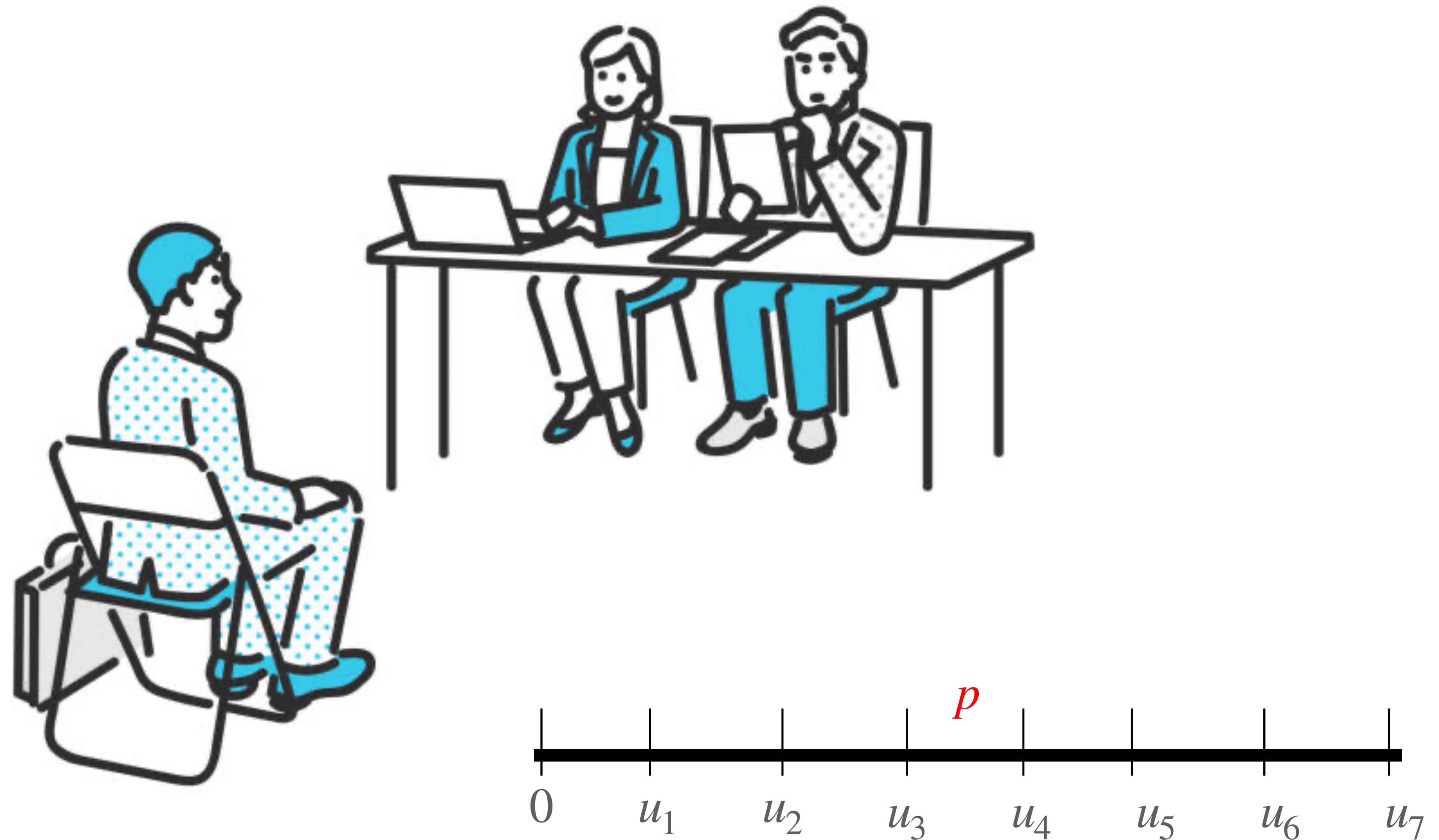
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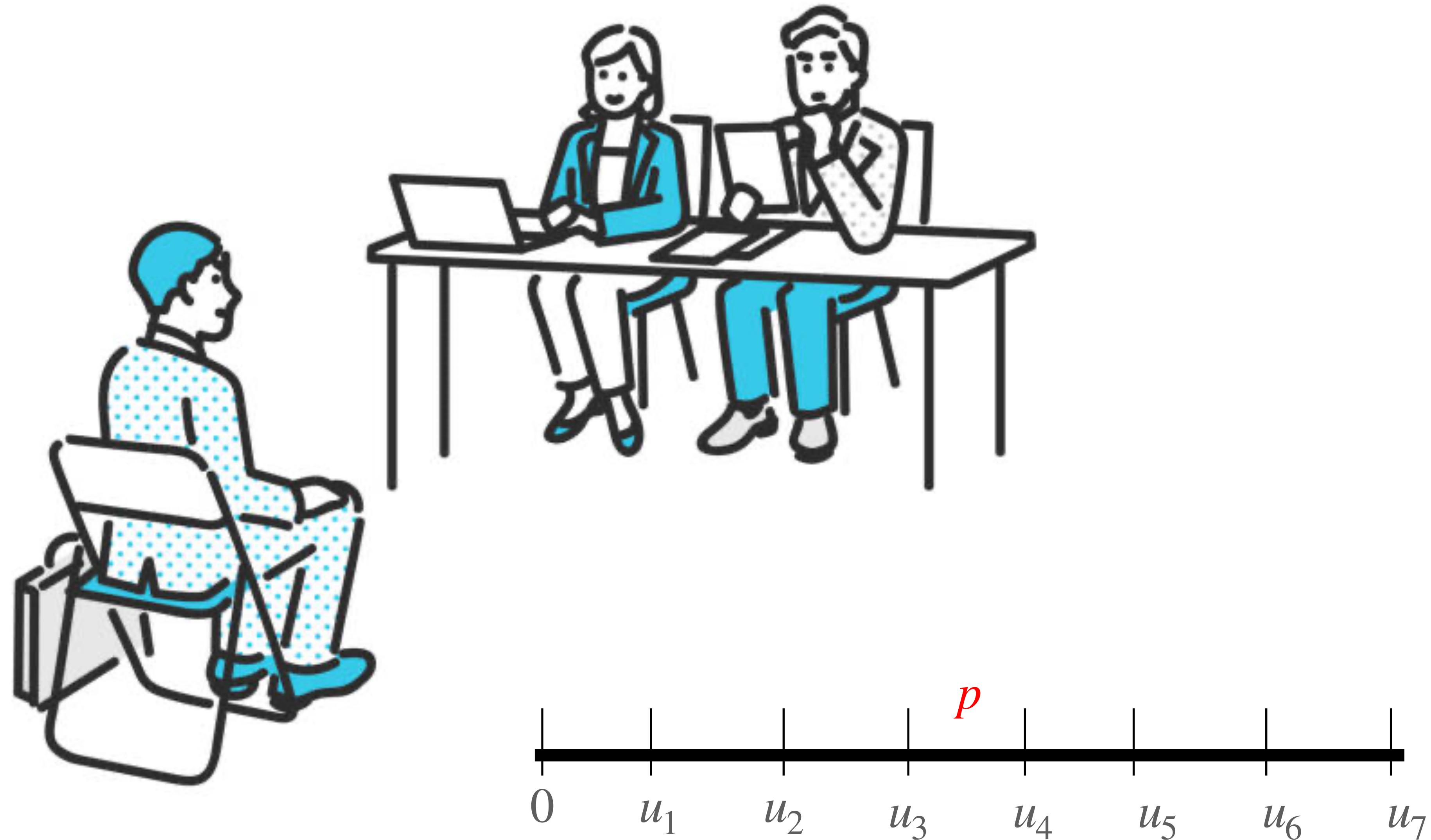
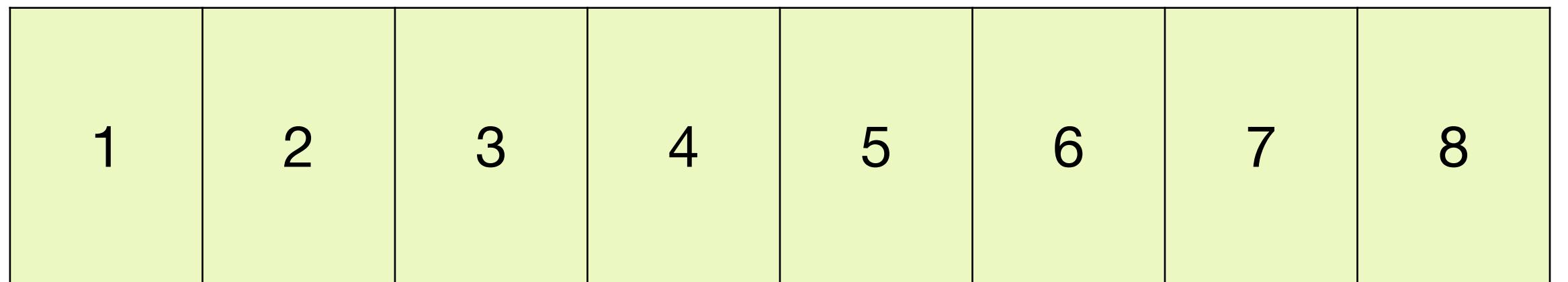


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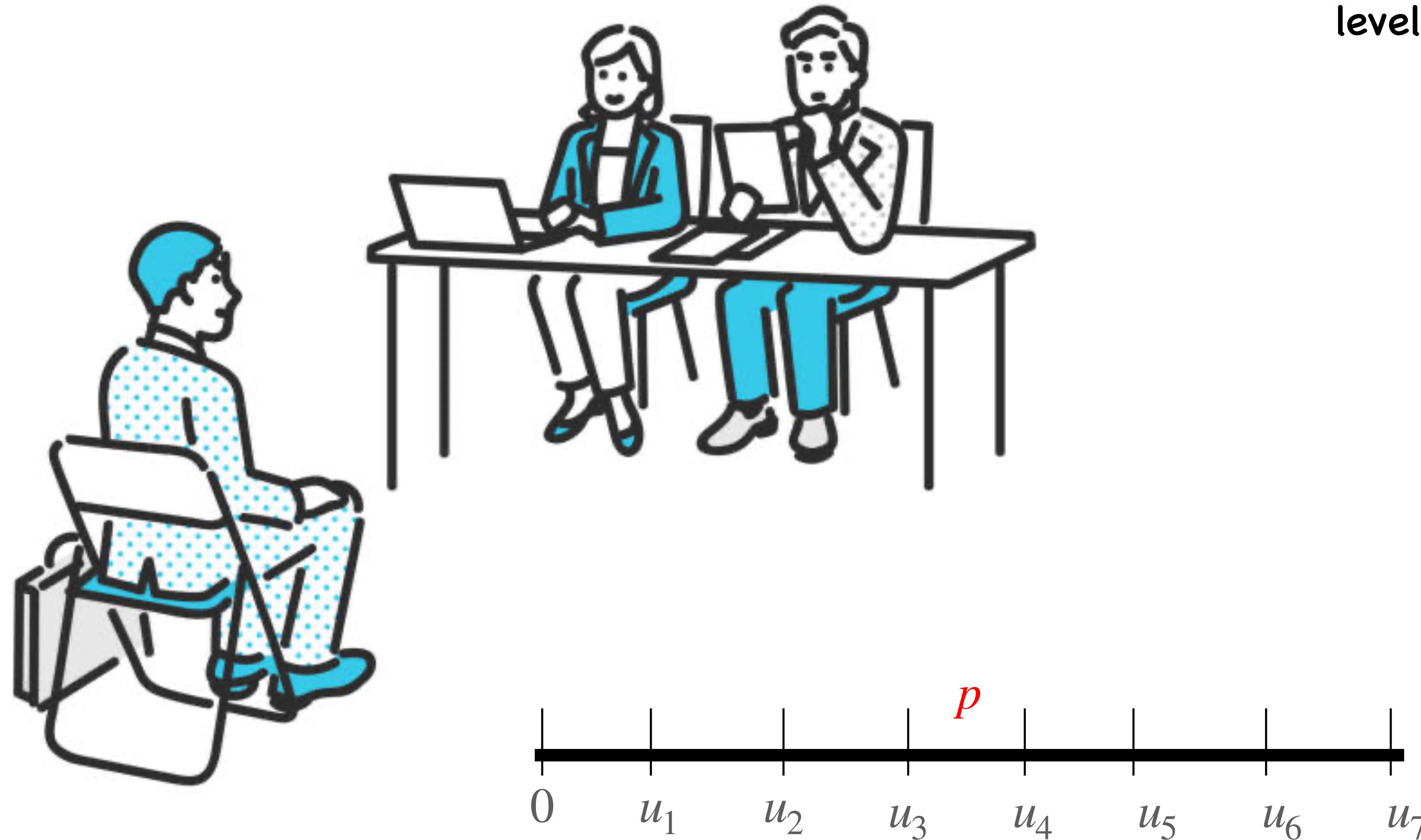
Difficulty Levels



Difficulty Levels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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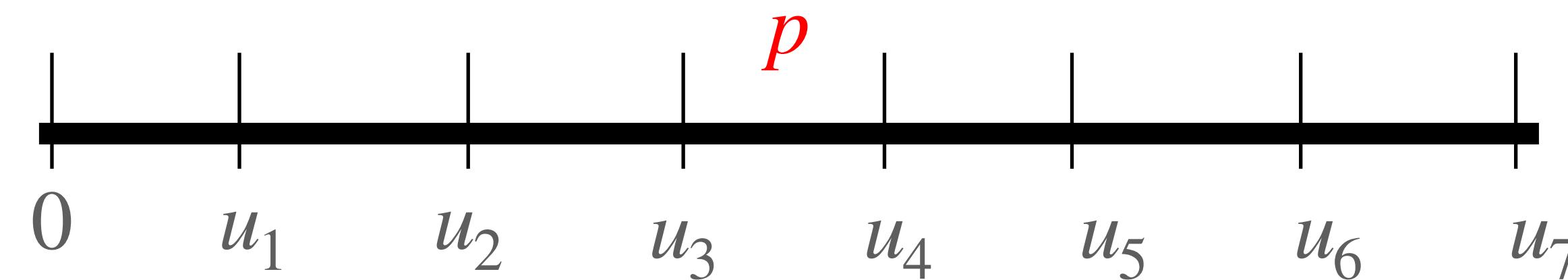
- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially



Difficulty Levels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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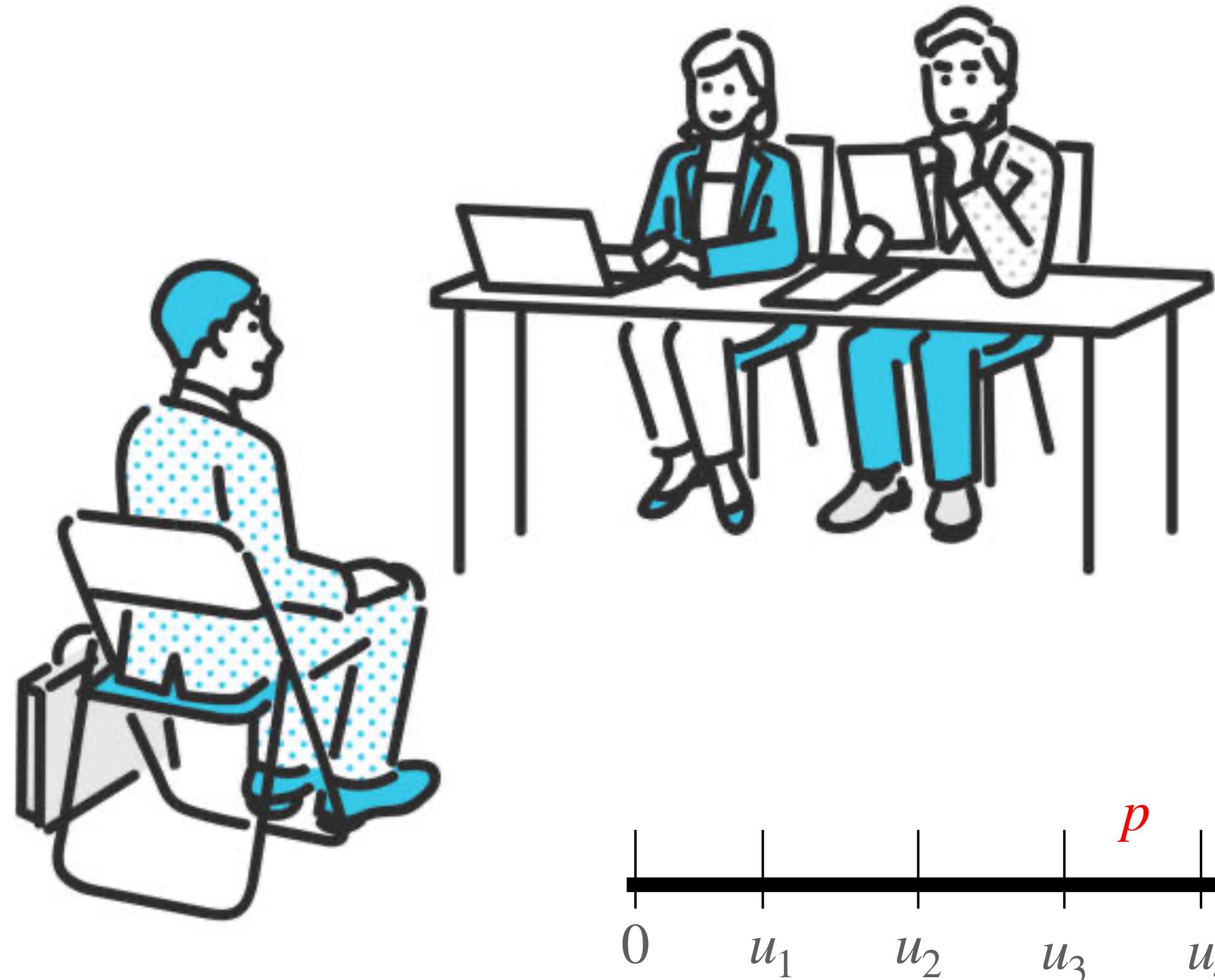
- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially
- Binary reward: 1 if candidate answers correctly, 0 o.w.



Difficulty Levels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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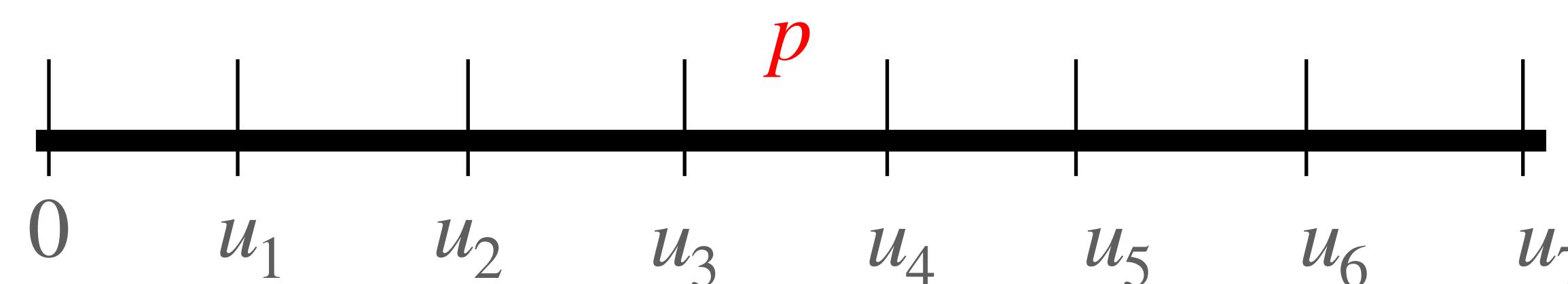
- Questions of different difficult levels can be asked sequentially
- Binary reward: 1 if candidate answers correctly, 0 o.w.
- Goal: to determine the partition in which candidate's ability lies up to a desired accuracy



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)

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

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

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

⋮

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

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: τ deterministic, X_1, \dots, X_τ available at start

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

known

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

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batch HT: τ deterministic, X_1, \dots, X_τ available at start

sequential HT: X_1, X_2, \dots available on demand, τ random

Hypothesis Testing (HT)

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

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

data

unknown

batch HT: τ deterministic, X_1, \dots, X_τ available at start

sequential HT: X_1, X_2, \dots available on demand, τ 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**

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

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

batch HT: τ deterministic, X_1, \dots, X_τ available at start

sequential HT: X_1, X_2, \dots available on demand, τ random

Hypothesis Testing (HT)

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

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

error probability

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

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

data

unknown

batch HT: τ deterministic, X_1, \dots, X_τ available at start

sequential HT: X_1, X_2, \dots available on demand, τ 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

Batch vs Sequential HT

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

$$H_1 : \mu = 0$$

$$H_2 : \mu = 0.5$$

Batch vs Sequential HT

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

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

$$H_1 : \mu = 0$$

$$H_2 : \mu = 0.5$$

	Batch	Sequential
τ	≥ 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: δ

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

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

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Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

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

data

unknown

confidence level: δ

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

- 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

Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

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

data

unknown

confidence level: δ

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

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

known

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

- $\pi_t : (x_1, \dots, x_t) \mapsto \{\text{stop, continue}\}$

Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

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

data

unknown

confidence level: δ

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

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

known

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

Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

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

data

unknown

confidence level: δ

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

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

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

- $\pi_t : (x_1, \dots, x_t) \mapsto \{\text{stop, continue}\}$

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

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

Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

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

data

unknown

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

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

known

$$\inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi)] \uparrow \text{as } \delta \downarrow 0$$

Fixed-Confidence Sequential HT

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

data
unknown

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

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

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

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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

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

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

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

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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

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

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

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

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$$\Theta\left(\log \frac{1}{\delta}\right)$$

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

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

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

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

Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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

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

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

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

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)

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

data	unknown
------	---------

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Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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

data	unknown	
------	---------	--

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

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

$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$

	known
--	-------

$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$

	known
--	-------

error probability

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

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

Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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

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

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

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

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

amount of effort required to rule out H_j and identify H_i

Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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

data	unknown
------	---------

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

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

$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$

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

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

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

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

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

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

Binary Sequential HT (Wald, 1945)

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

data
unknown

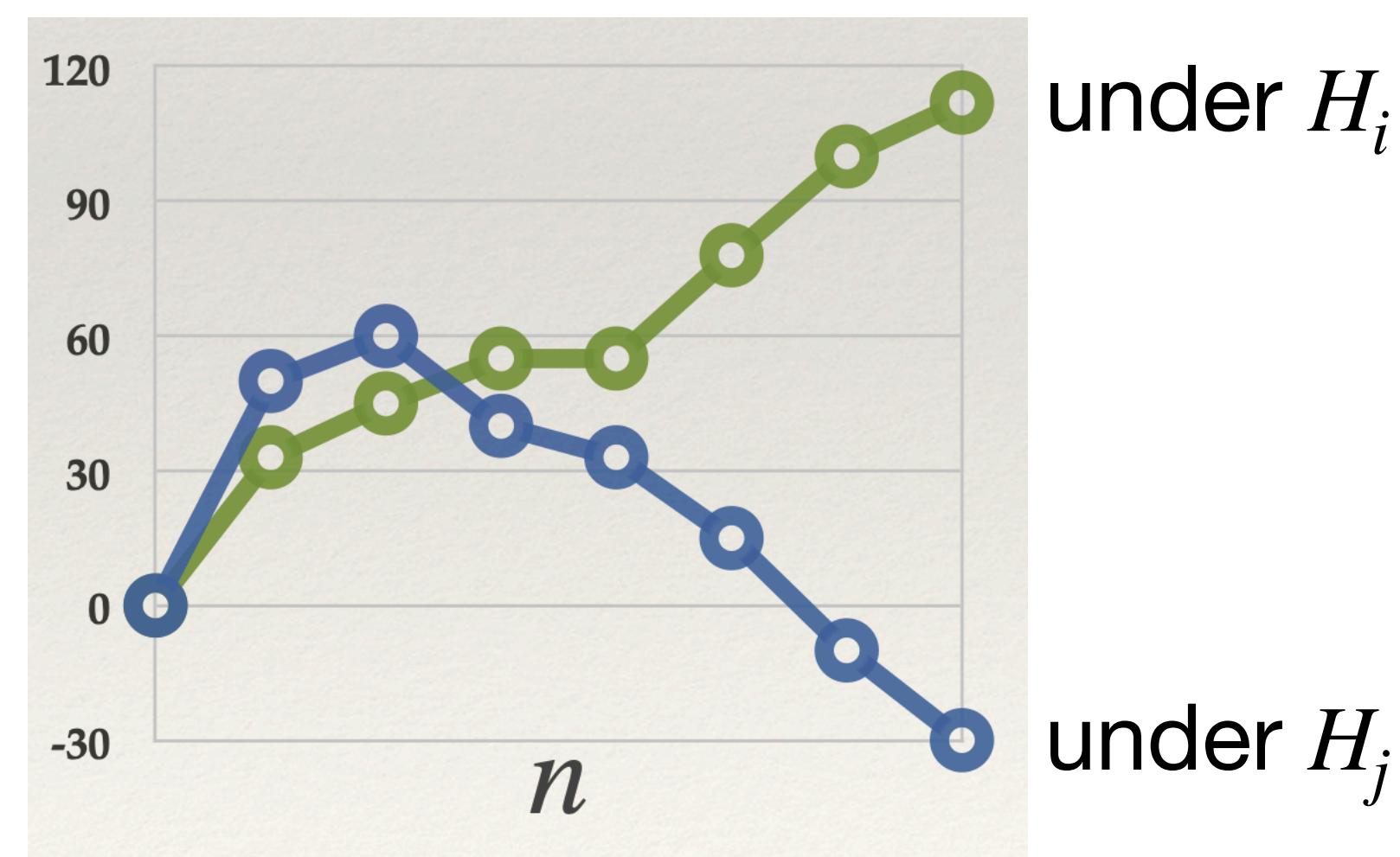
$$\begin{aligned} Z_{i,j}(t) &= \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_1, \dots, X_t \mid H_j \text{ true})} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_i \text{ true})}{\mathcal{L}(X_s \mid H_j \text{ true})} = \sum_{s=1}^t \log \frac{P_i(X_s)}{P_j(X_s)}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

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

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

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

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



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
------	---------

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

sequential probability ratio test (SPRT)

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

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

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

•
•
•

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

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.

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

data
unknown

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

known

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

known

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

•
•
•

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

known

error probability

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

Sequential Multihypothesis Testing (Baum & Veeravalli, 2007)

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

data

unknown

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

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

known

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

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

•
•
•

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

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

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

under H_i : $Z_i(t) \rightarrow +\infty$ a.s.

under H_j , $j \neq i$: $Z_i(t) \rightarrow -\infty$ a.s.

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

known

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

known

•
•
•

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

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

sequential M -SPRT

$$\pi_t^{\text{M-SPRT}, \delta} = \begin{cases} \text{continue,} \\ \text{stop and announce } H_i, \end{cases}$$

$$\max_i Z_i(t) \leq c_\delta , \\ Z_i(t) > c_\delta .$$

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

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

⋮

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

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

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

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

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

known

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

known

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

error probability

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

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

Simple vs Composite SHT

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

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

	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

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

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

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

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

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

under H_2 : $Z(t) \rightarrow -\infty$ 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

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

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

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

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

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

Composite vs Composite SHT

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

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

data

unknown

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

known

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

known

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

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

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

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

under H_2 : $Z(t) \rightarrow -\infty$ 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

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

data

unknown

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

known

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

known

error probability

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

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

Composite Multihypothesis Testing

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

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

dataunknown

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

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

⋮

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

known

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

ALT(P)

error probability

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

Composite Multihypothesis Testing

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

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

data

unknown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

under H_i : $Z_i(t) \rightarrow +\infty$ a.s.

under $H_j, j \neq i$: $Z_i(t) \rightarrow -\infty$ 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

⋮

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

known

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

known

error probability

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

Multiple Data Streams

Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)

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

data	unknown
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$\mathbf{P}^* = (P_1^*, \dots, P_K^*)$

unknown

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

known

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

data	unknown
------	---------

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

known

⋮

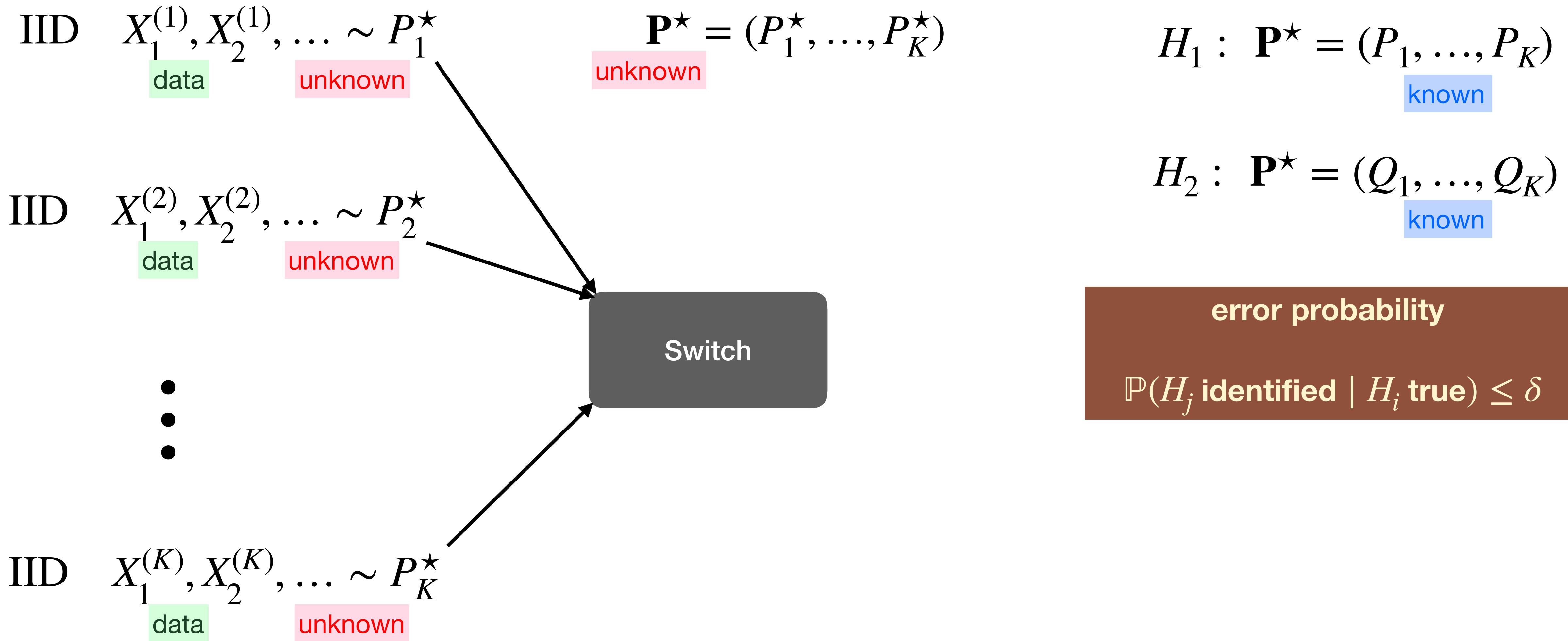
IID $X_1^{(K)}, X_2^{(K)}, \dots \sim P_K^*$

data	unknown
------	---------

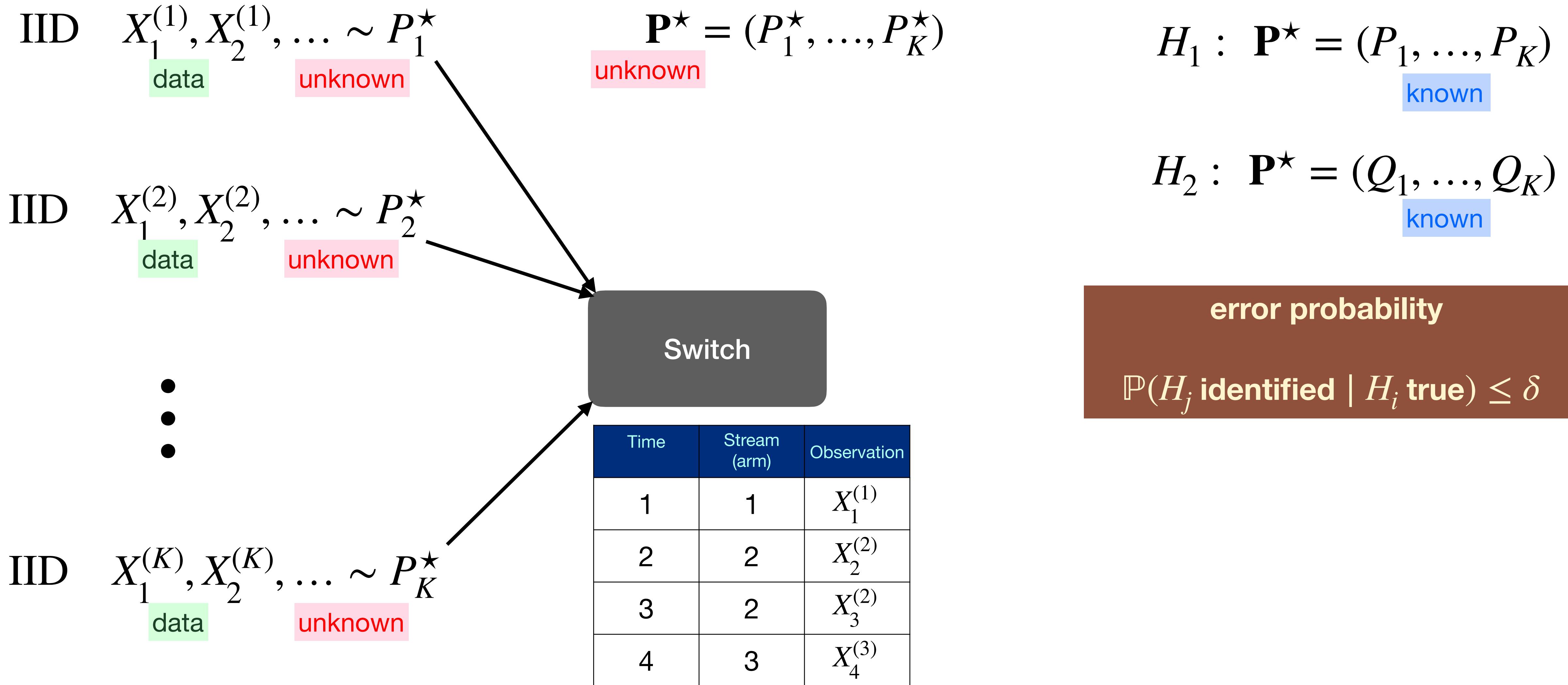
error probability

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

Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)

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

data unknown

$P^* = (P_1^*, \dots, P_K^*)$

unknown

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

known

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

data unknown

⋮

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

data unknown

Switch

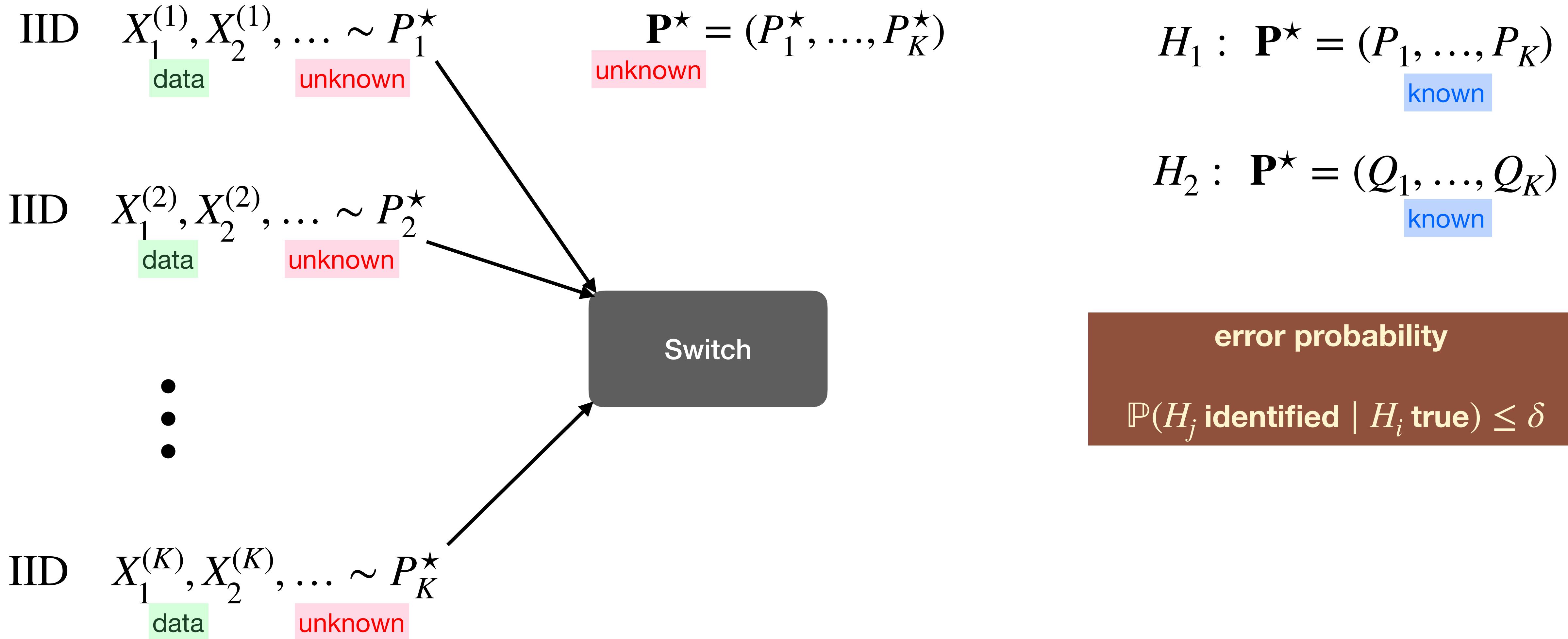
Time	Stream (arm)	Observation
1	1	$X_1^{(1)}$
2	2	$X_2^{(2)}$
3	2	$X_3^{(2)}$
4	3	$X_4^{(3)}$

error probability

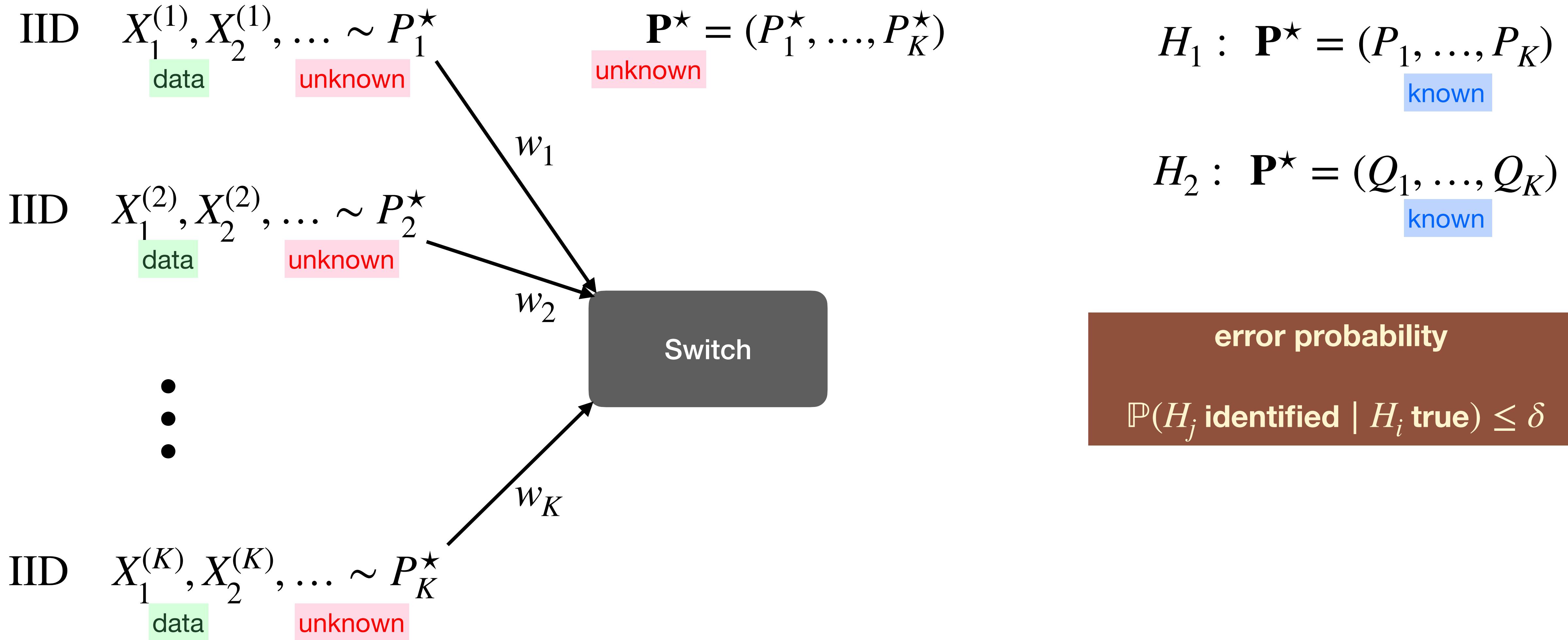
$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

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

Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)

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

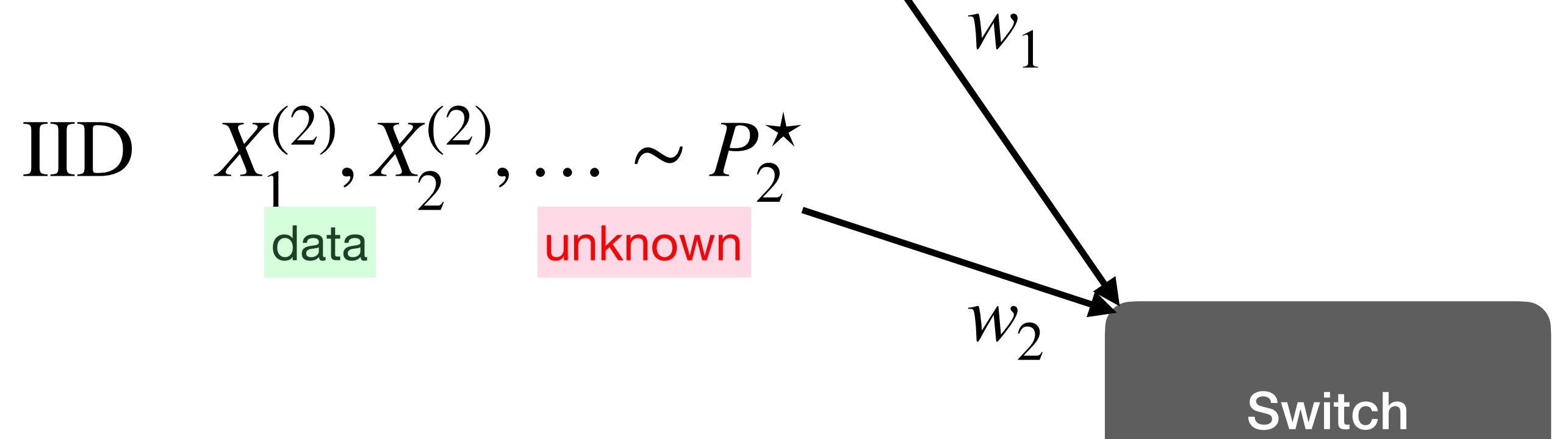
data unknown

$P^* = (P_1^*, \dots, P_K^*)$

unknown

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

known



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

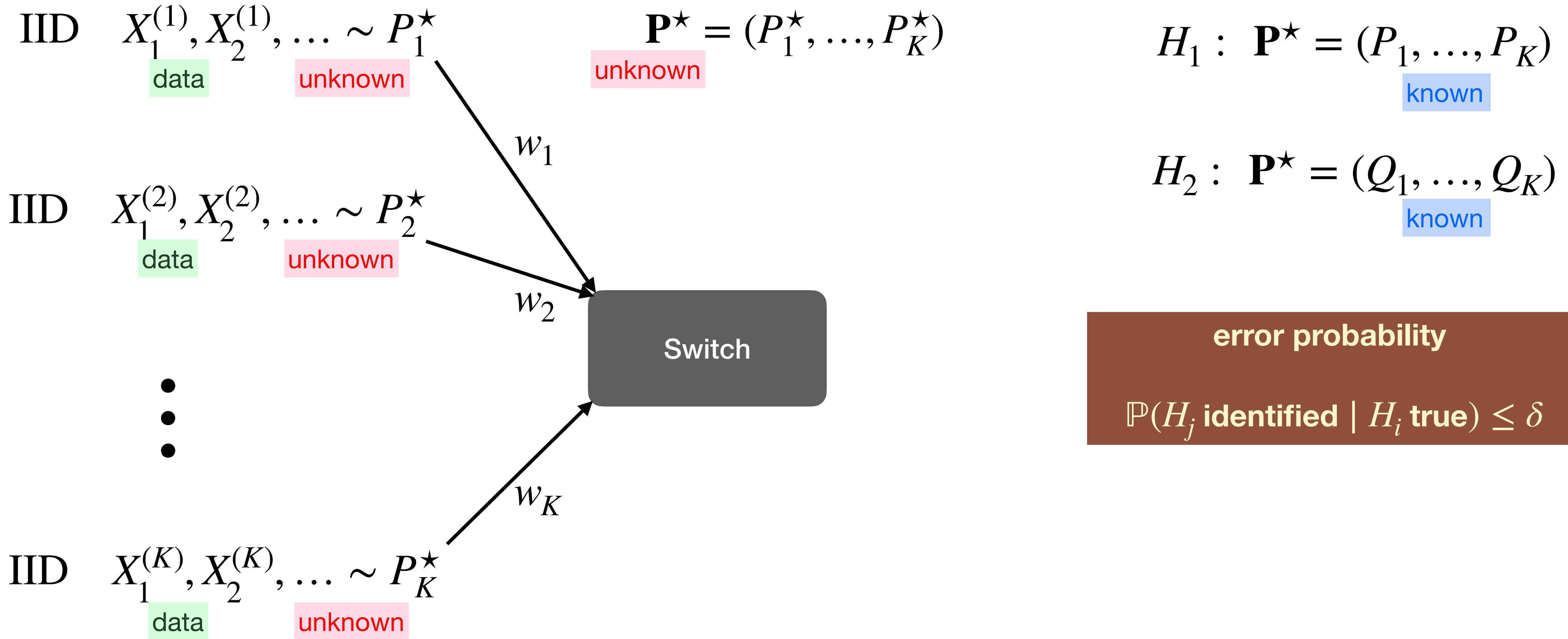
known

error probability

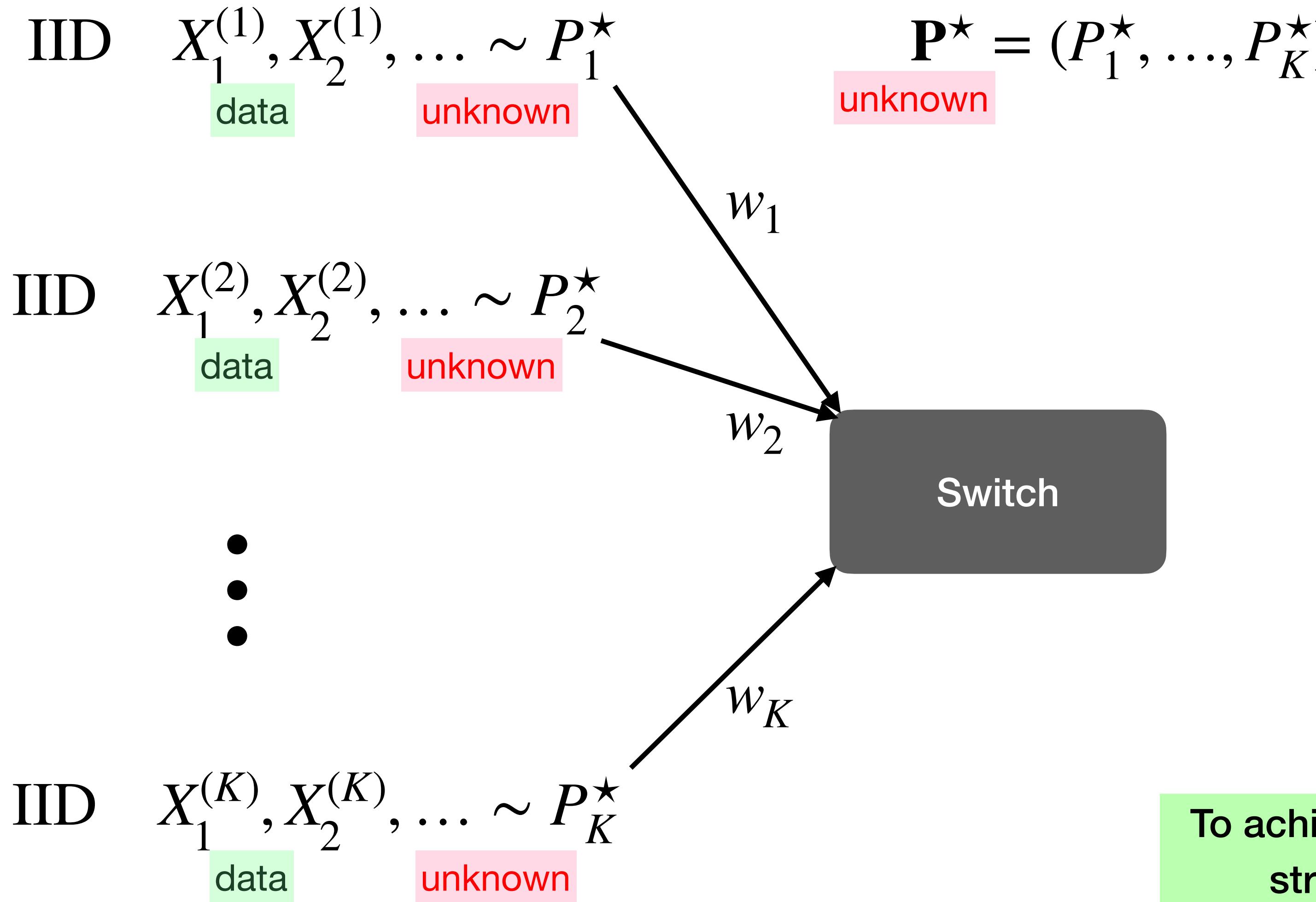
$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

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

Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Simple)



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

known

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

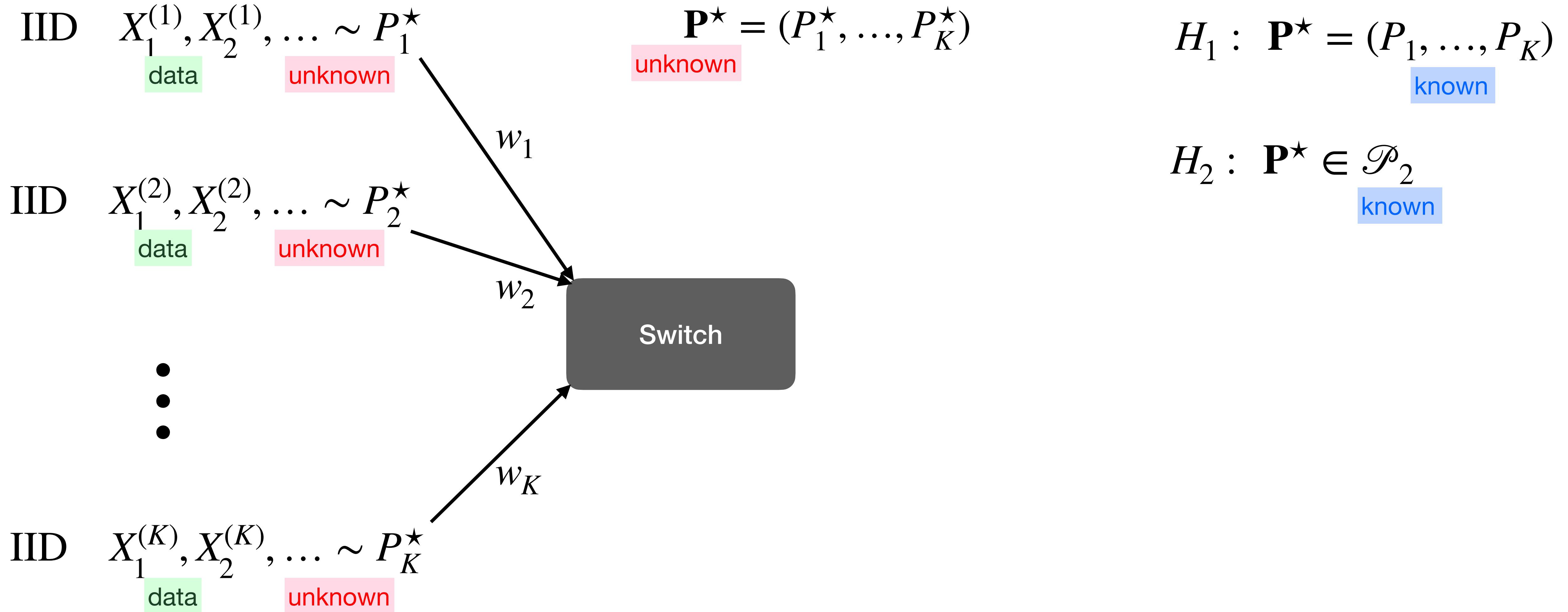
known

error probability

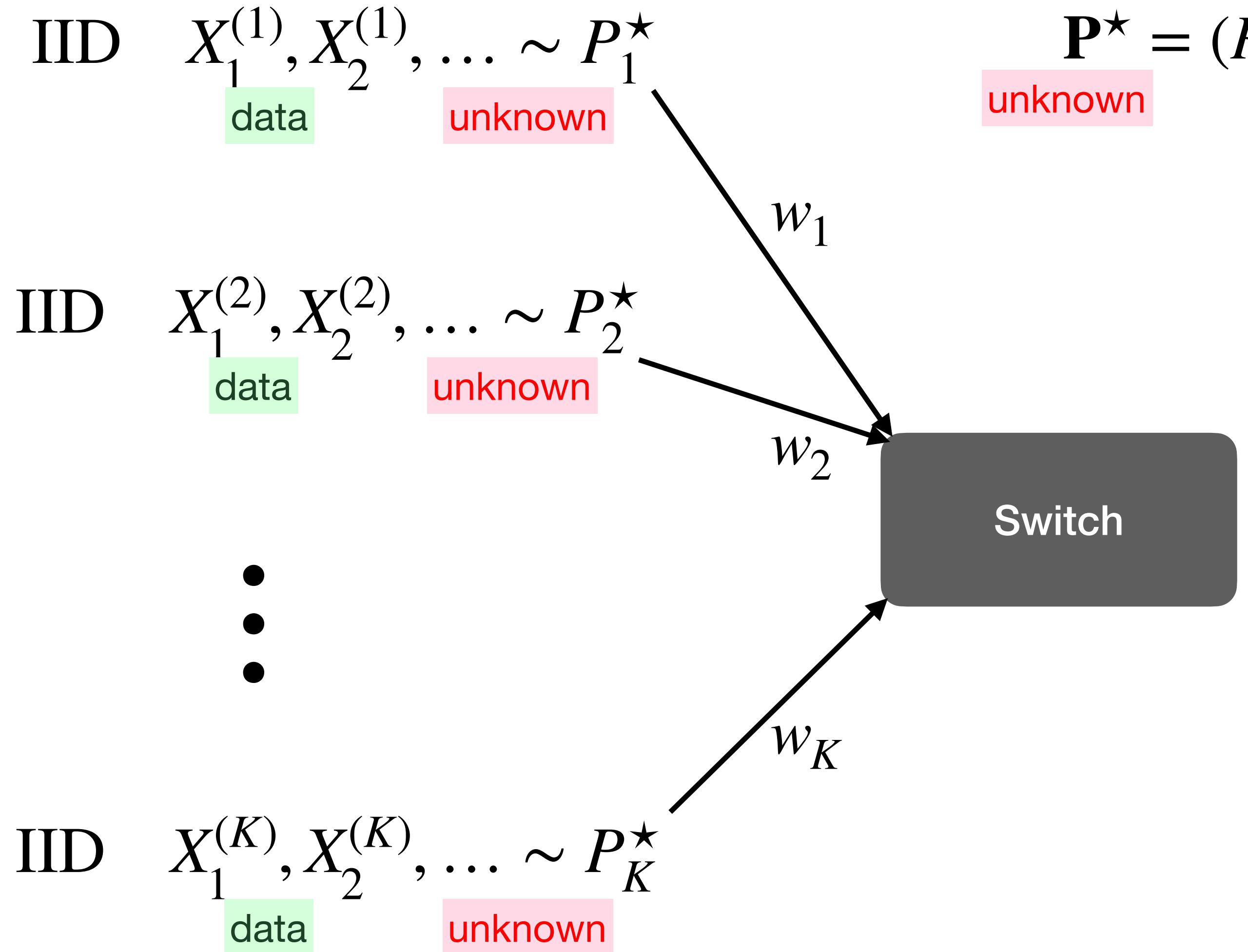
$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

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)



Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Composite)



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

unknown

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

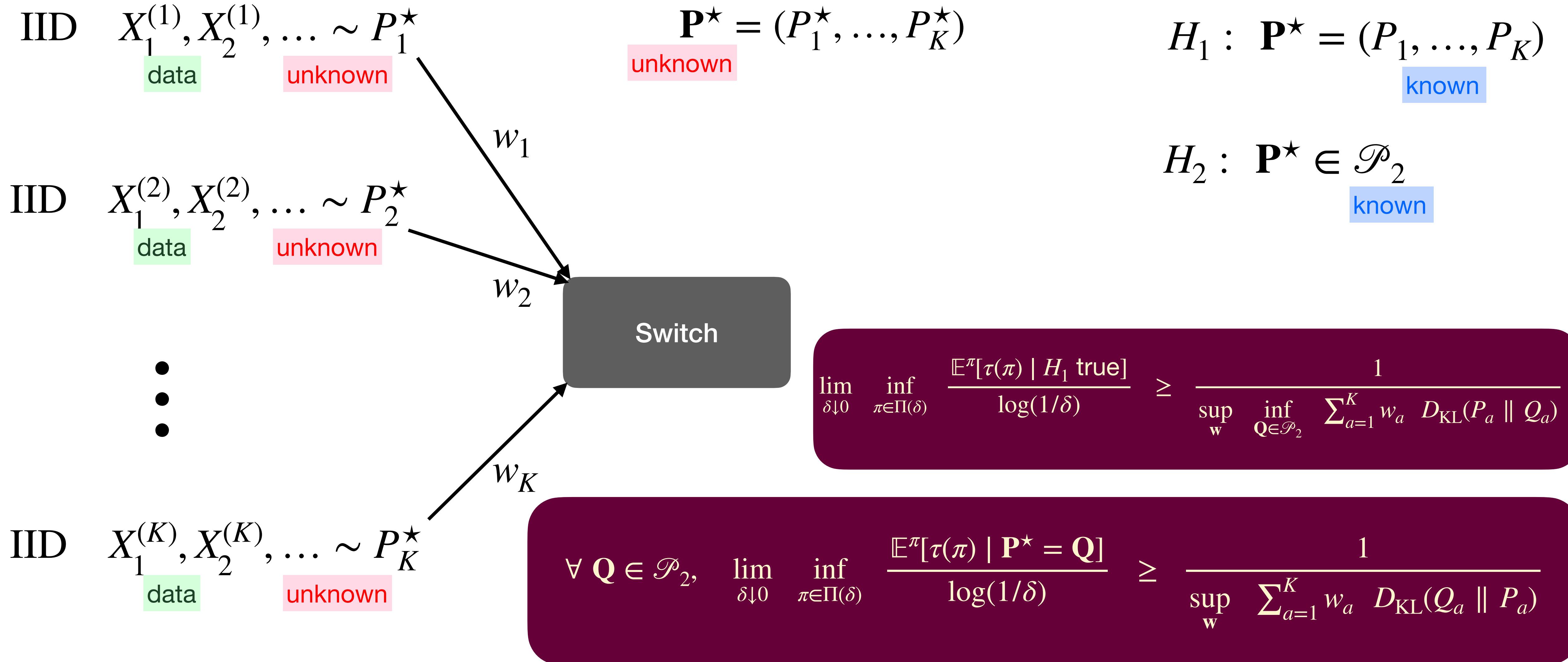
known

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

known

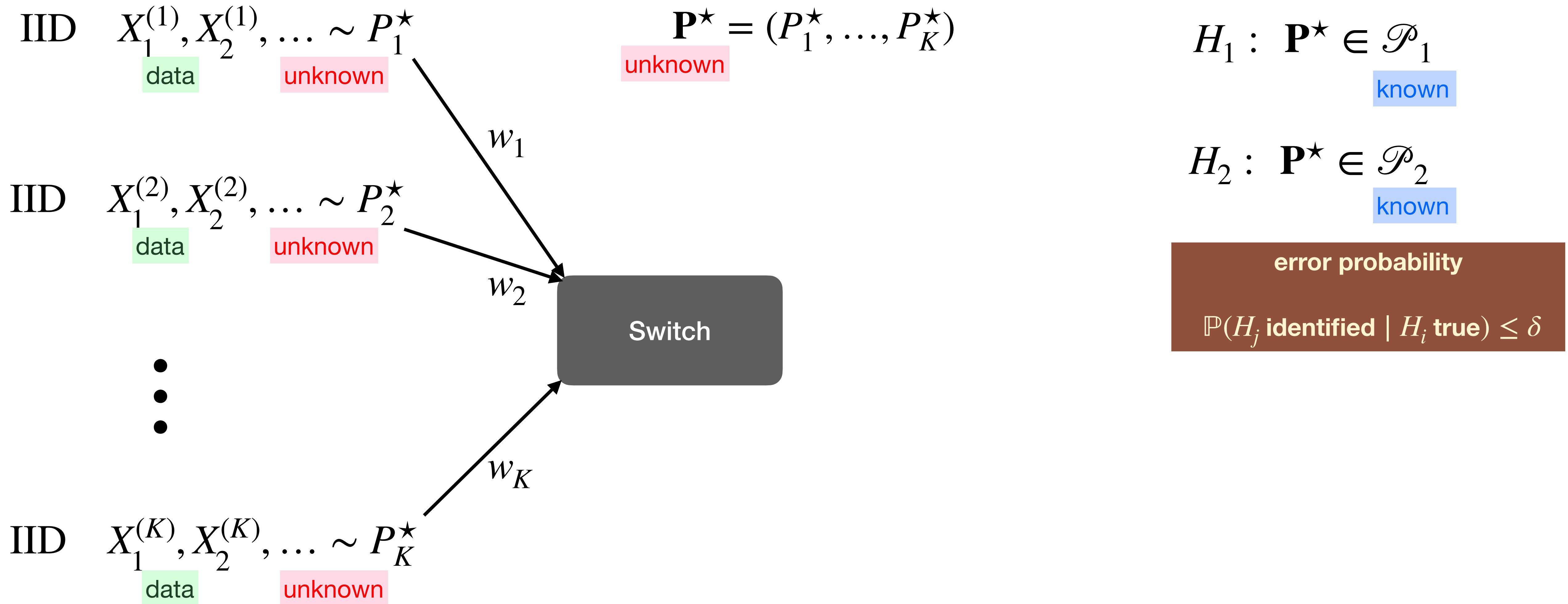
$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\delta)} \frac{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\tau(\pi) \mid H_1 \text{ true}]}{\log(1/\delta)} \geq \frac{1}{\sup_w \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{P}_2} \sum_{a=1}^K w_a D_{\text{KL}}(P_a \parallel Q_a)}$$

Binary Active SHT (Simple vs Composite)



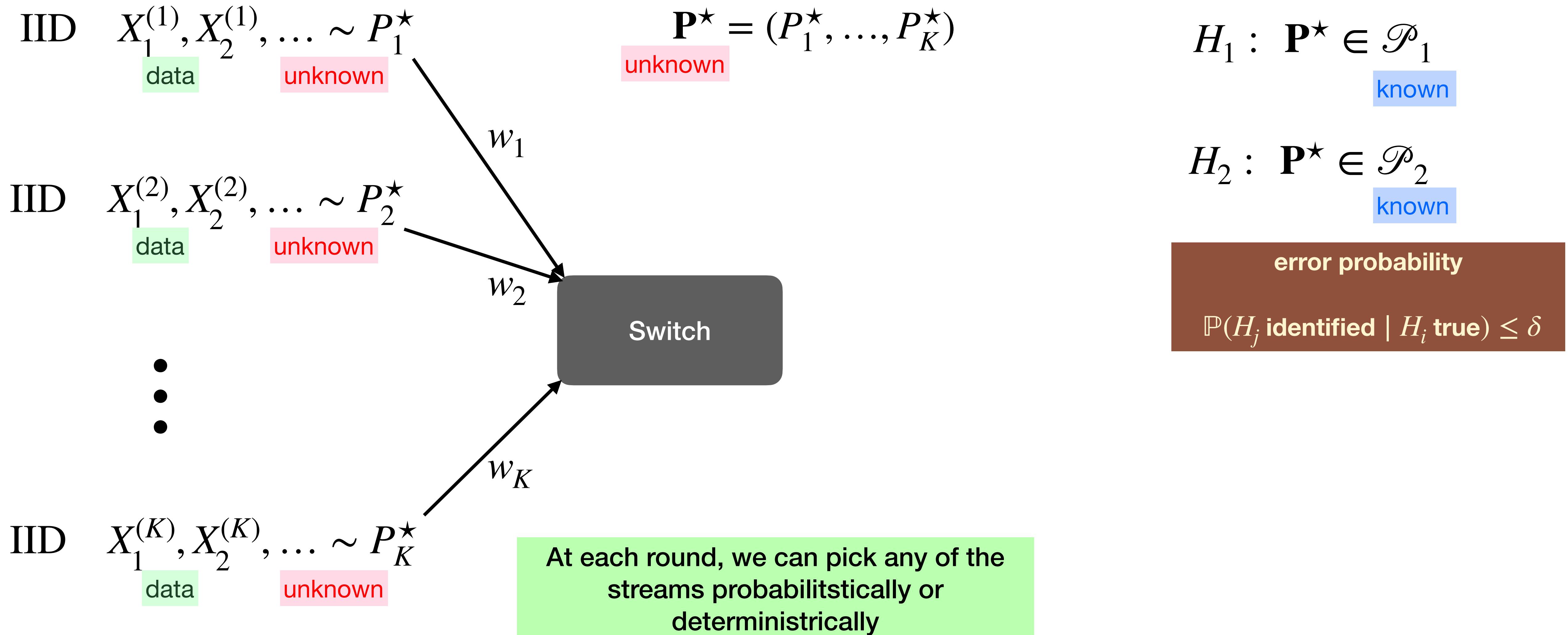
Binary Active SHT (Chernoff 1959)

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



Binary Active SHT (Chernoff 1959)

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



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)

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

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

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

error probability

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

Binary Active SHT (Composite vs Composite)

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

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

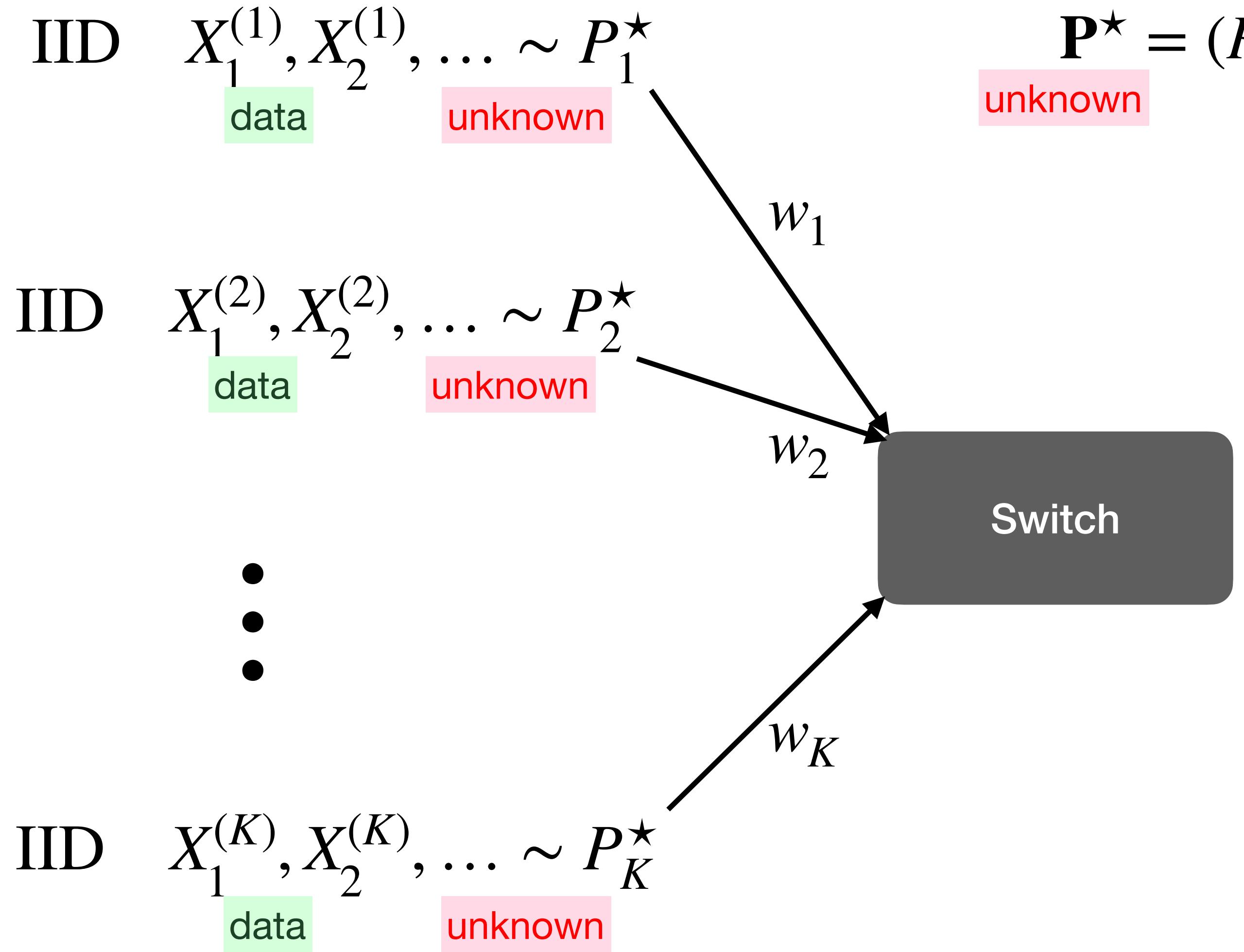
$H_2 : \mathbf{P}^* \in \mathcal{P}_2$
known

error probability

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

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

Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)



$$P^* = (P_1^*, \dots, P_K^*)$$

unknown

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

known

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

known

⋮

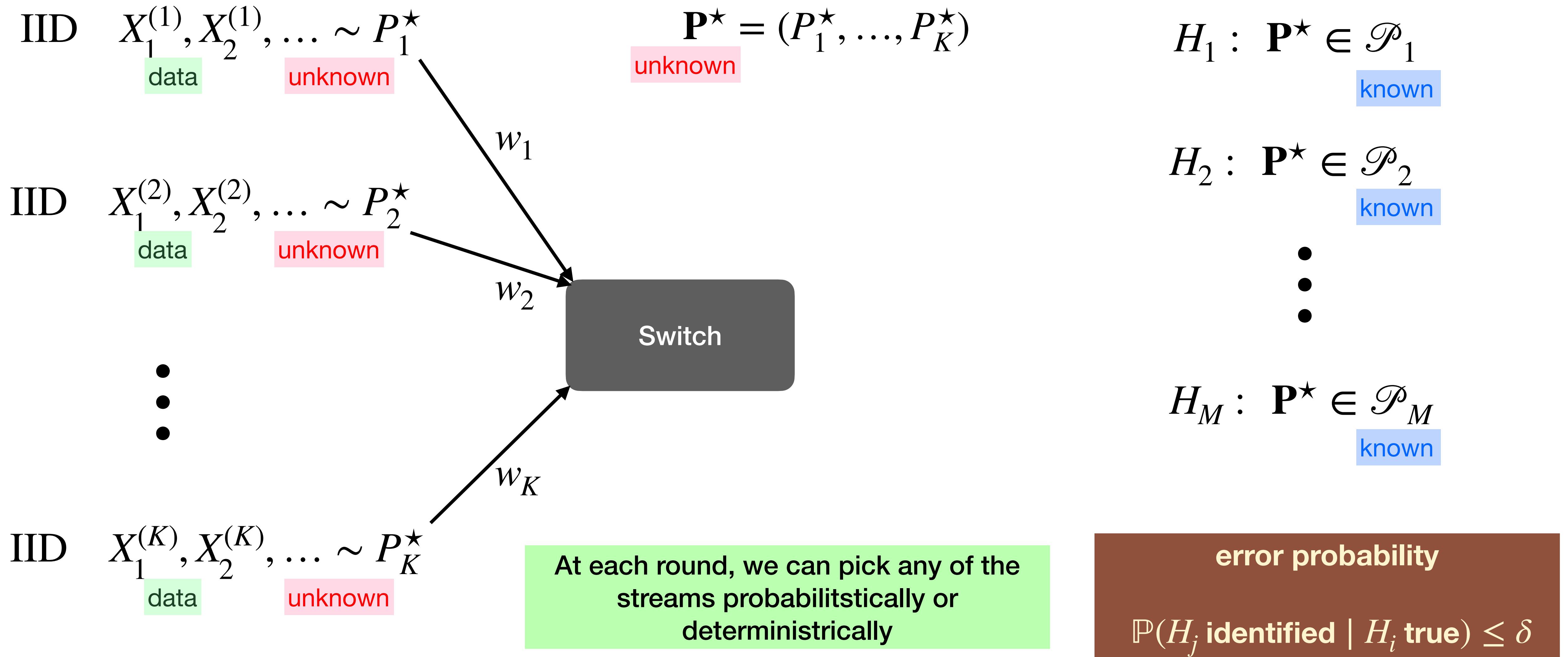
$$H_M : P^* \in \mathcal{P}_M$$

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

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

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

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

error probability

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

Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

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

ALT(\mathbf{P})

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

known

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

known

⋮

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

known

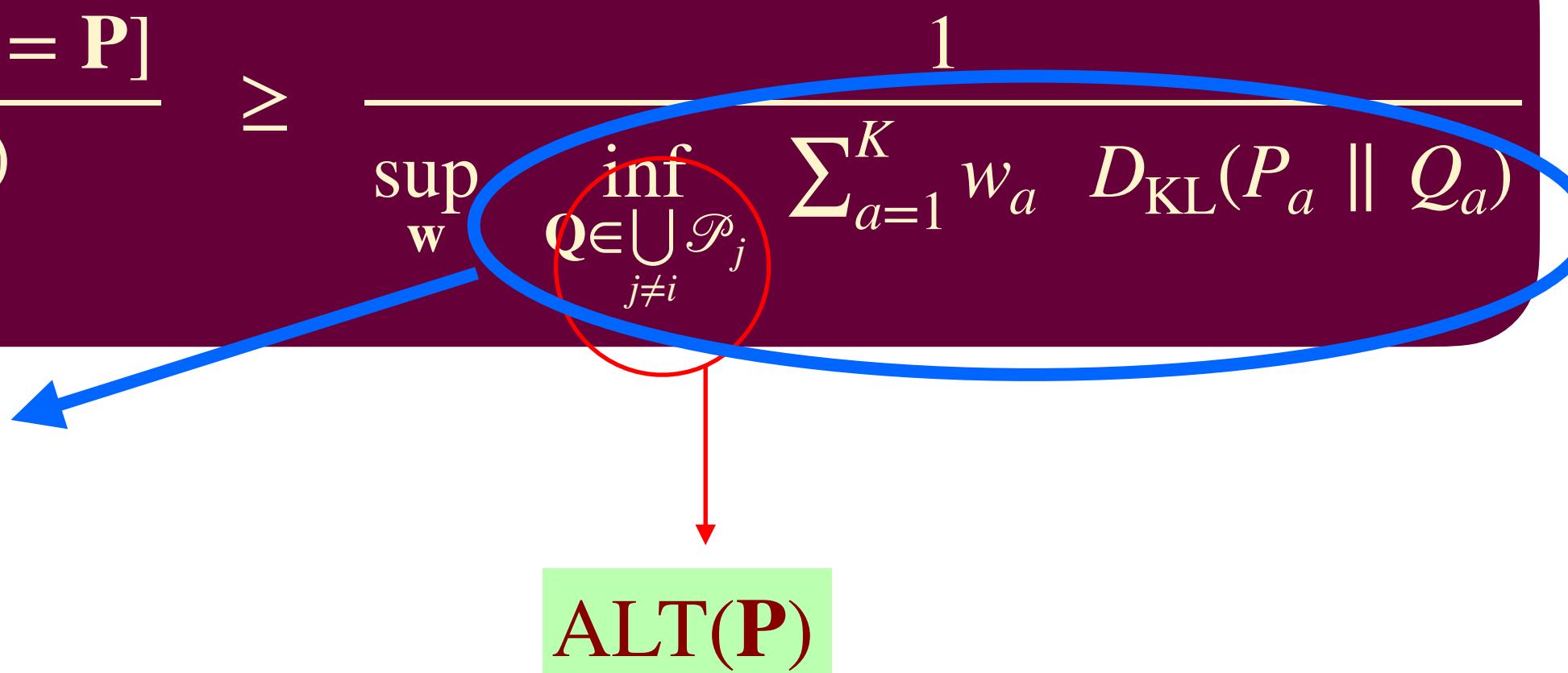
error probability

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

Active Multihypothesis Testing (Composite)

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

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



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

known

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

known

⋮

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

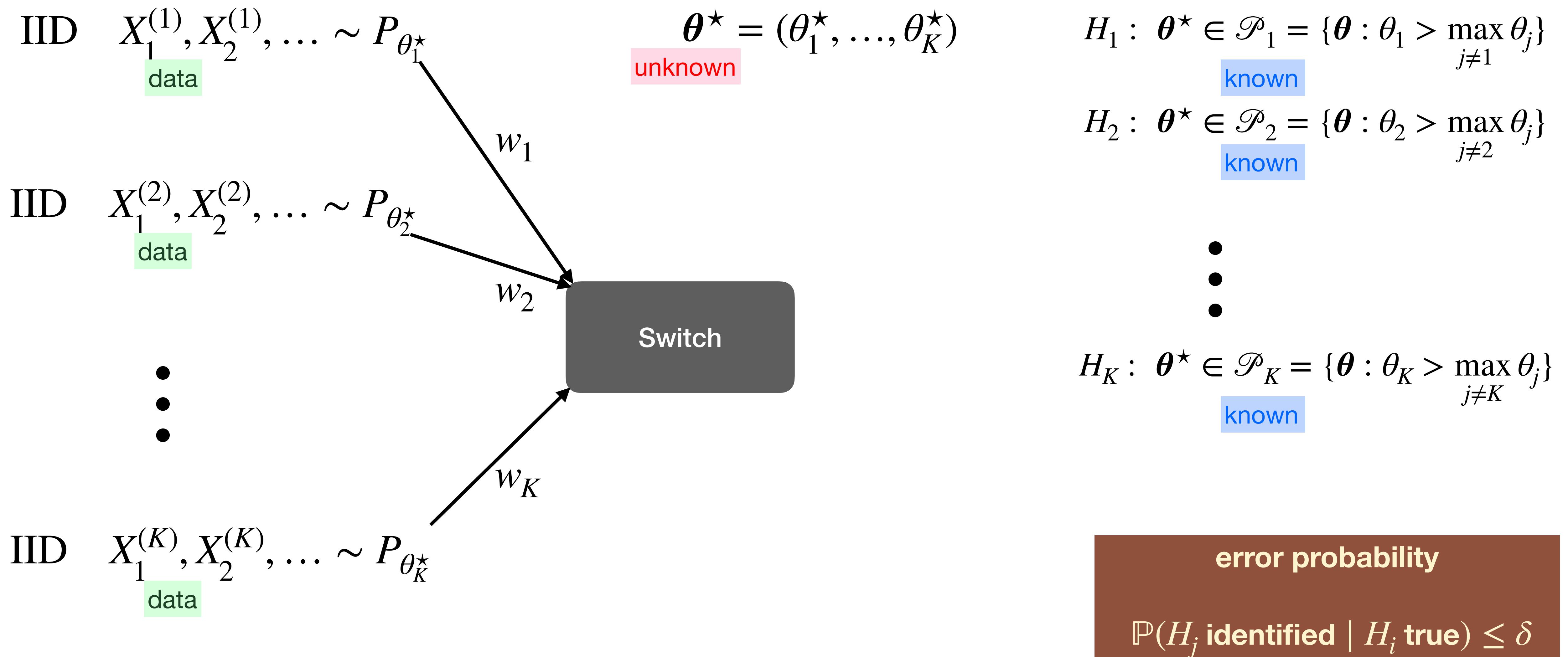
known

error probability

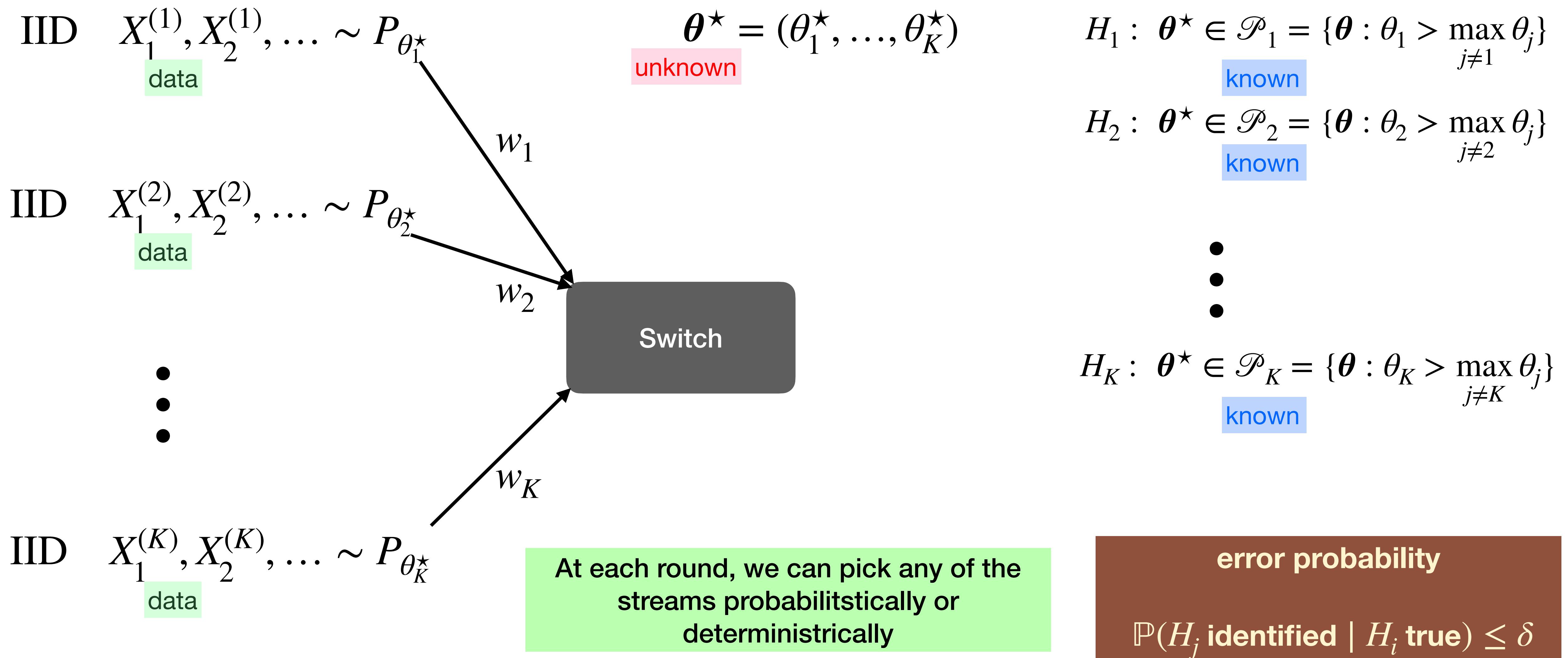
$$\mathbb{P}(H_j \text{ identified} \mid H_i \text{ true}) \leq \delta$$

Best Arm Identification (BAI)

BAI with Exponential Families



BAI with Exponential Families



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

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

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

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

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

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

known

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

known

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- Canonical exponential family parametrised by θ

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

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

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

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

known

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

known

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⋮

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

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

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

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

⋮
⋮
⋮

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

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

known

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

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

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

D-tracking algorithm (Garivier and Kaufmann, 2016)

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

⋮

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

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

D-tracking algorithm (Garivier and Kaufmann, 2016)

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

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

known

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

error probability

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

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

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

$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$

known

$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$

known

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

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

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

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

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

$H_2 : P^\star = P_2$

known

error probability

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

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

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

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

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

known

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

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

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

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

known

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

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

Stationary
distribution of P_i

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

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

known

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)

dataunknown

$H_1 : P^\star = P_1$

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)

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

known

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

known

$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1,$

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

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)

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

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$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1,$

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error probability

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

$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2,$

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

SHT with Markovian Data

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

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

known

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

known

$\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_1,$

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

error probability

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

$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P}_2,$

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

Simple LLR-based tests help achieve the lower bounds

Multiple Markovian Data Streams

Active SHT with Markovian Data

MC $X_1^{(1)}, X_2^{(1)}, \dots \sim P_1^*$
data

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

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

MC $X_1^{(2)}, X_2^{(2)}, \dots \sim P_2^*$
data

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

•
•
•

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

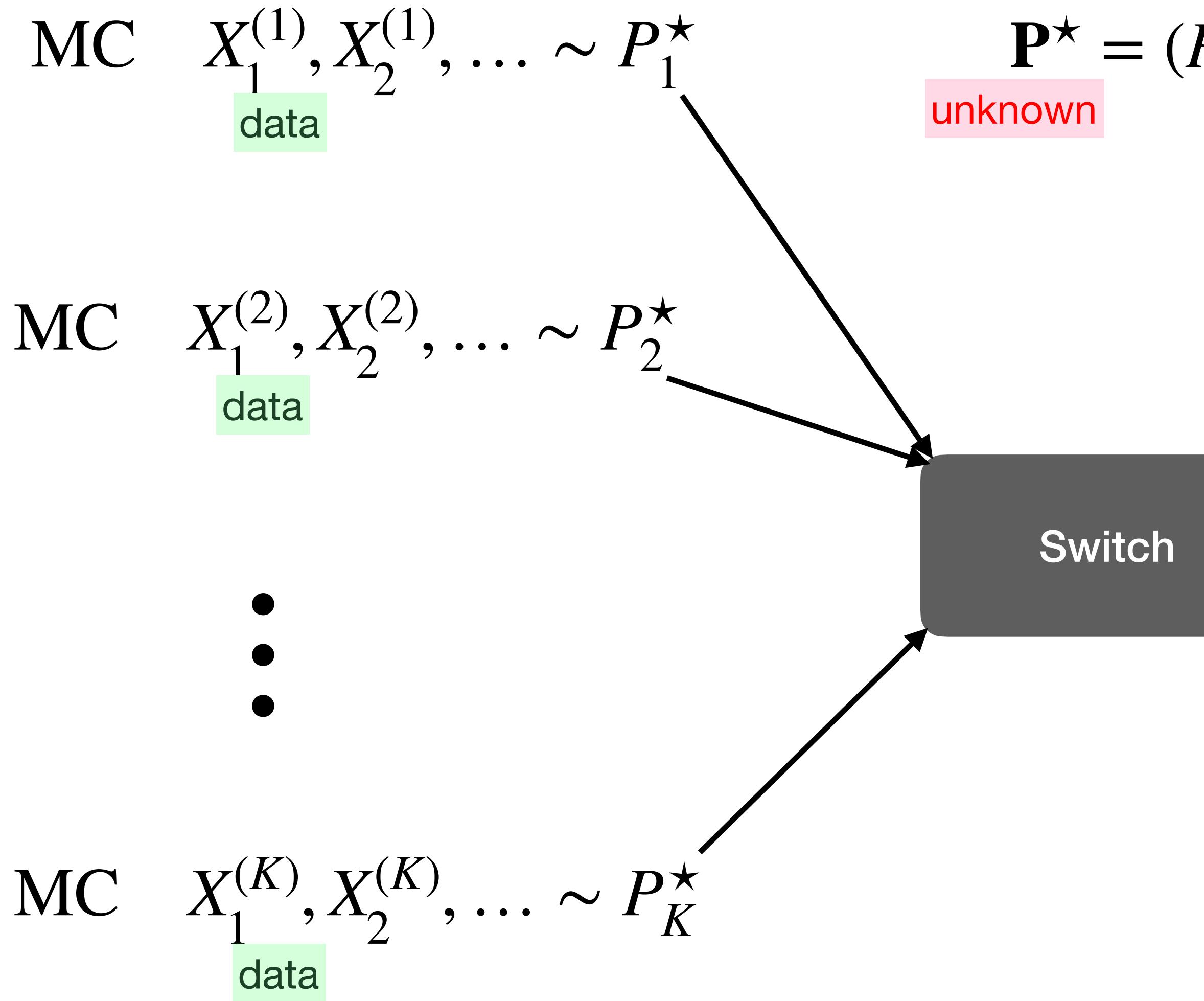
•
•
•

MC $X_1^{(K)}, X_2^{(K)}, \dots \sim P_K^*$
data

error probability

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

Active SHT with Markovian Data



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

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

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

MC $X_1^{(1)}, X_2^{(1)}, \dots \sim P_1^*$
data

$P^* = (P_1^*, \dots, P_K^*)$
unknown

MC $X_1^{(2)}, X_2^{(2)}, \dots \sim P_2^*$
data

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

⋮

MC $X_1^{(K)}, X_2^{(K)}, \dots \sim P_K^*$

Switch

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

⋮

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

MC $X_1^{(1)}, X_2^{(1)}, \dots \sim P_1^*$
data

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

MC $X_1^{(2)}, X_2^{(2)}, \dots \sim P_2^*$
data

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

⋮
⋮
⋮

MC $X_1^{(K)}, X_2^{(K)}, \dots \sim P_K^*$
data

Time	Stream (arm)	Rested	Restless
1	1	$X_1^{(1)}$	$X_1^{(1)}$
2	2	$X_1^{(2)}$	$X_2^{(2)}$
3	2	$X_2^{(2)}$	$X_3^{(2)}$
4	3	$X_1^{(3)}$	$X_4^{(3)}$

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

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

P. N. Karthik[✉], Member, IEEE, Vincent Y. F. Tan[✉], Senior Member, IEEE, Arpan Mukherjee[✉], and Ali Tajer[✉], Senior Member, IEEE

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

MULTI-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].

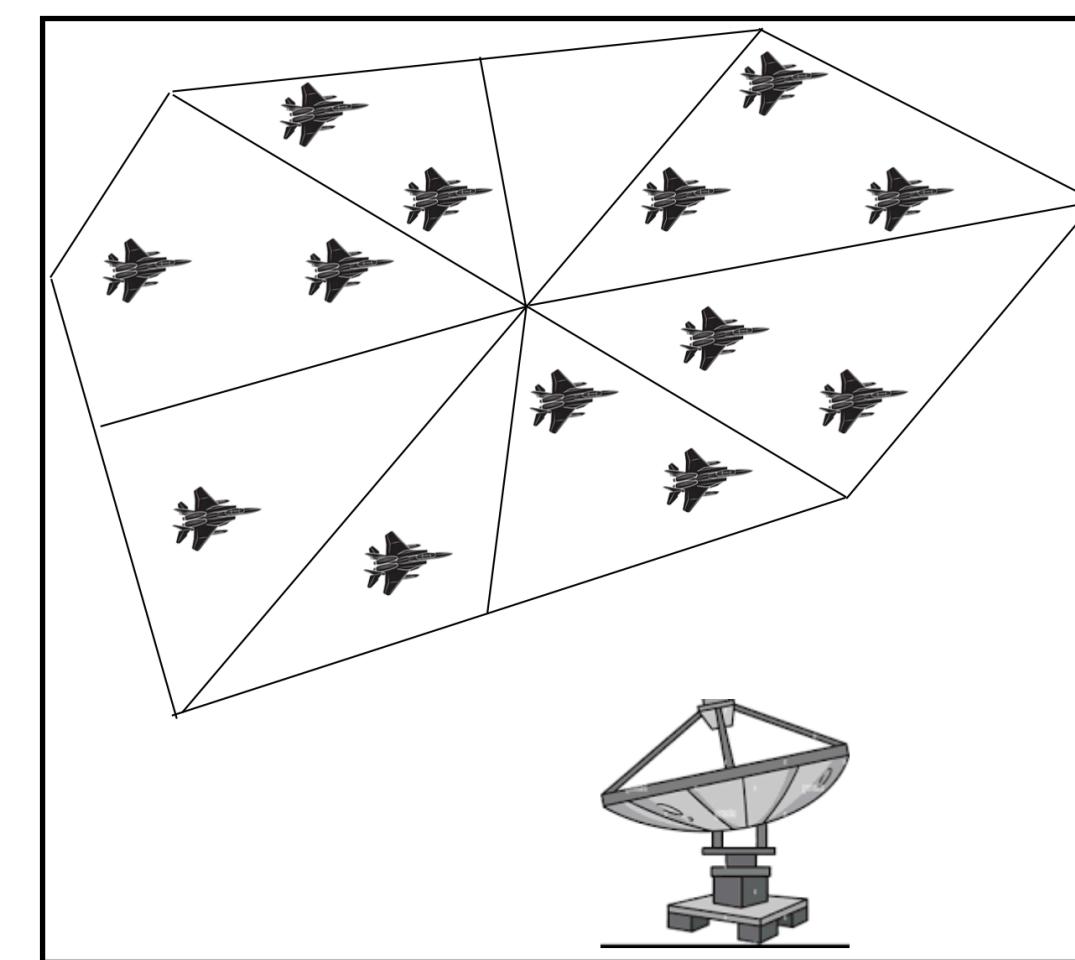
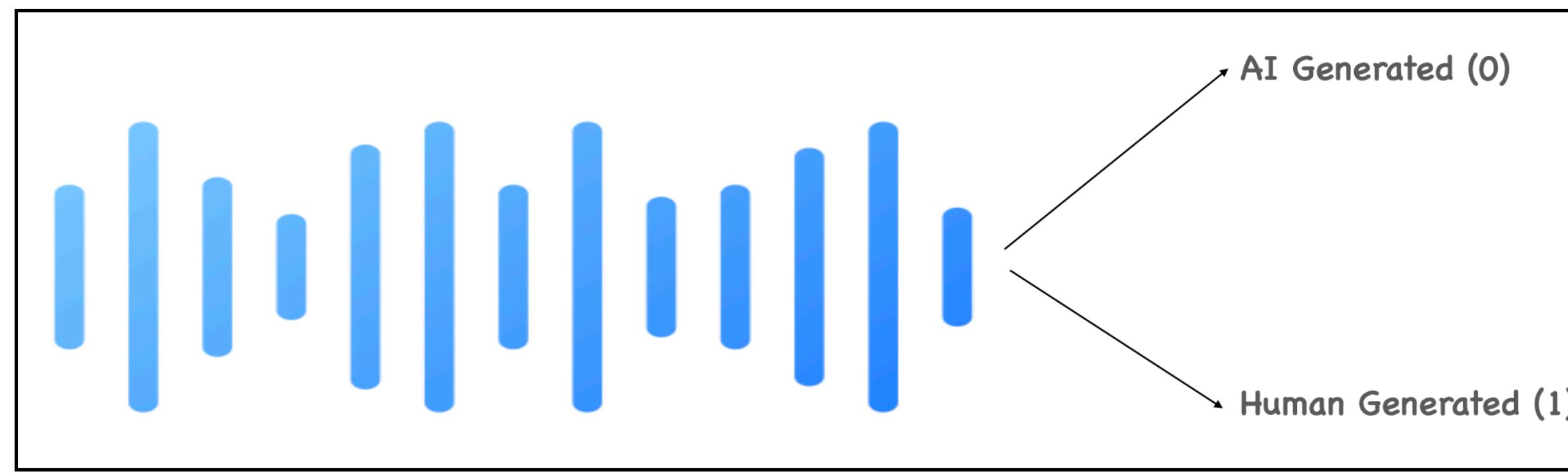
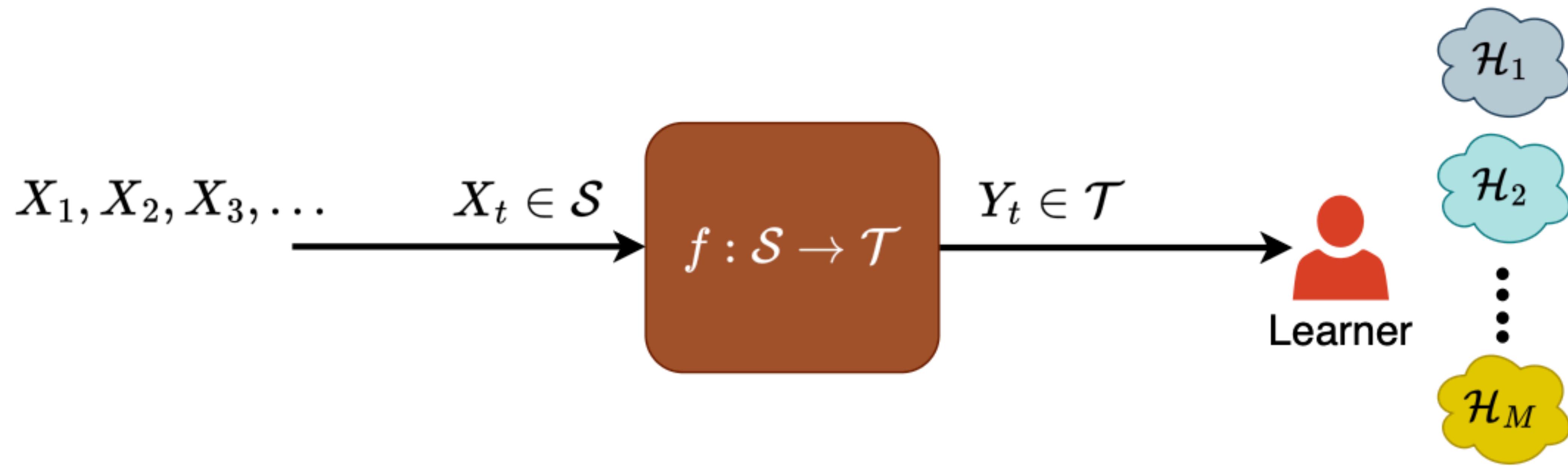
The pure exploration framework, on the other hand, focuses

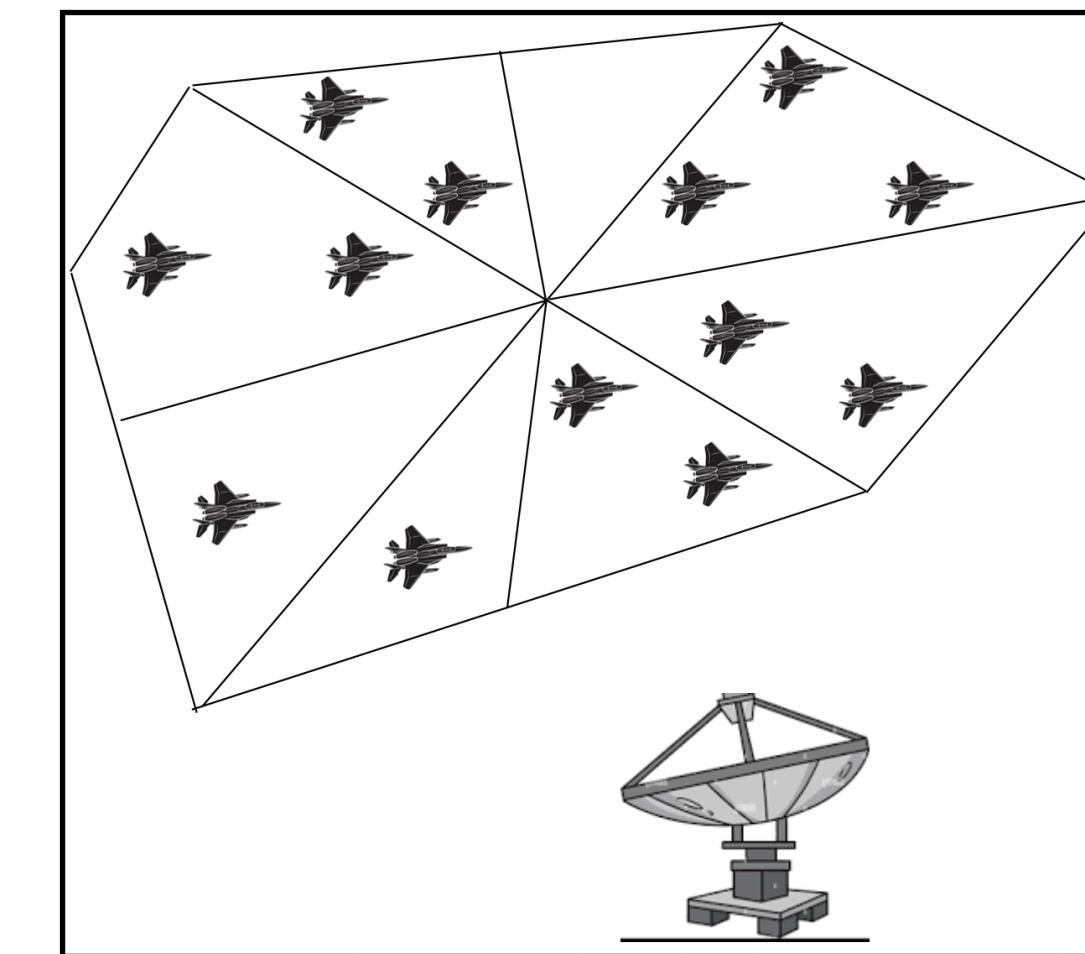
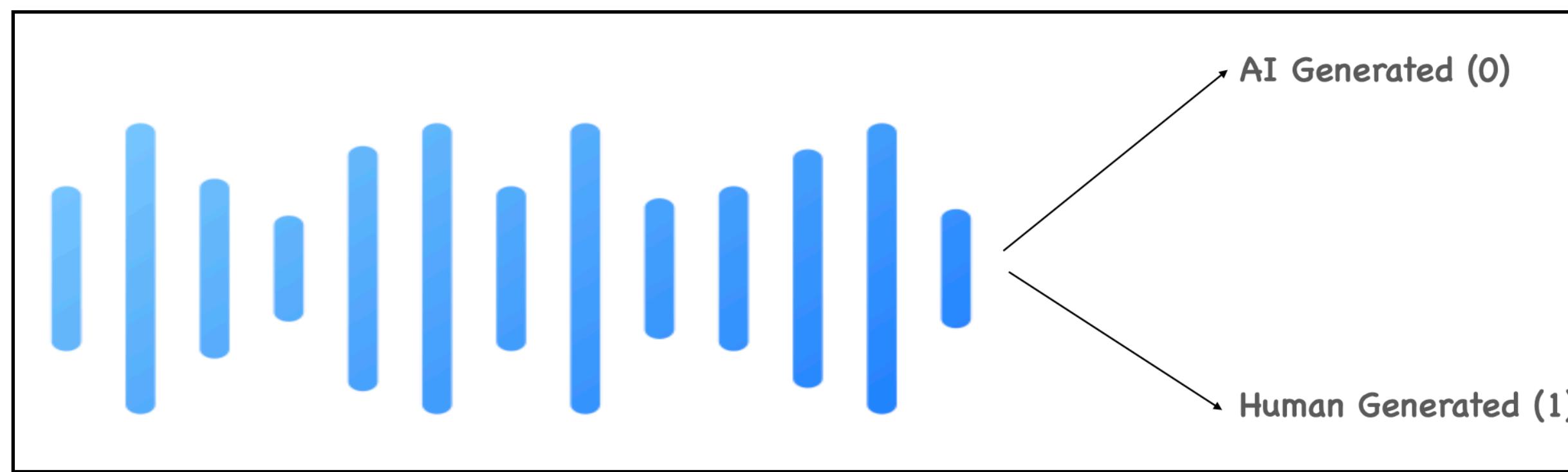
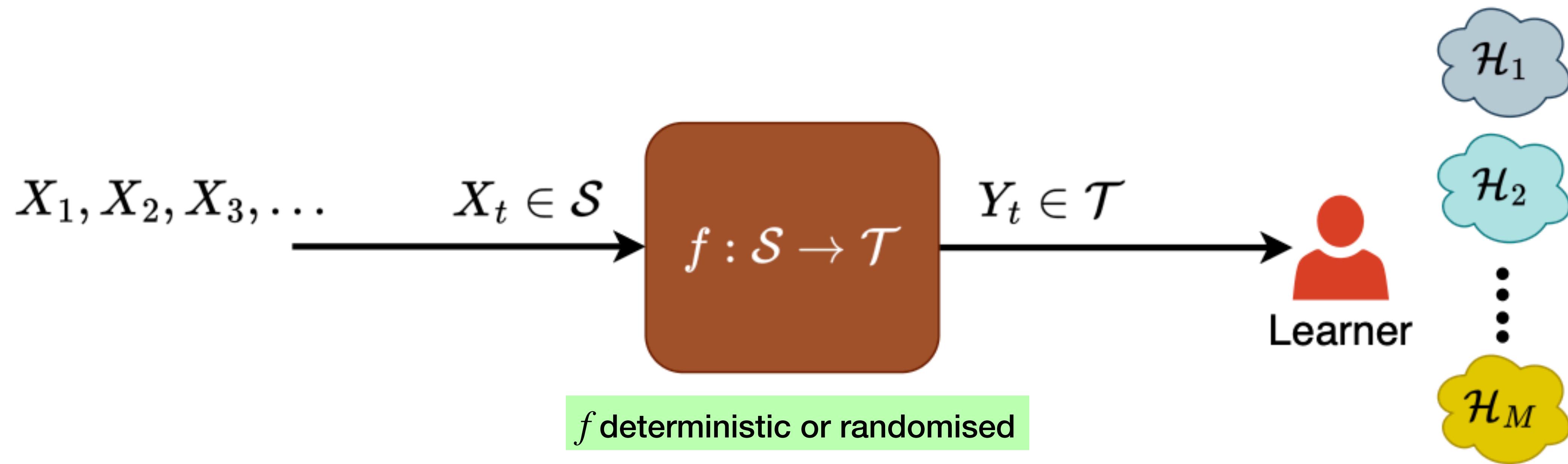
- Studies BAI in the rested setting
- Exponential family of Markov chains

- 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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