

Analysis

Rain

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Overview

False/True Positive Rate

All the percentages in the following tables are proportion of the simulated experiments that led to the conclusion that the treatment is chosen.

In Case 1, 3, and 5 where the underlying treatment and control have no difference, the percentages mean false positive rates. Therefore, the lower the percentage, the better.

In Case 2, 4, and 6 where the treatment is better than control, the percentages mean true positive rates. Therefore, the higher the percentage, the better.

Threshold of Caring

Threshold of caring indicates what level of expected loss you are willing to take by choosing treatment when it's actually not better than control.

A high threshold means you are very willing to choose treatment.

A low threshold means you are very conservative and would only choose treatment if it's obviously better than control.

Threshold of caring differs from problem to problem. We choose the threshold in each case based on which one is the most comparable to the frequentist test of $\alpha = 0.05$.

In real application, we propose using simulations in this analysis to determine the best threshold, so that it's not abused by bad estimations.

Areas of Analysis

1. Effect of peeking. We calculate `peek_multiplier` - how many times more likely we would choose treatment if monitor daily and stop the experiment earlier when we see a result that's positive enough. Note that only sample size of 500 is used because when the sample size is large enough, % of accepting treatment goes to 100% very quickly and would skew the `peek_multiplier`.
2. Effect of sample size. We compare average false/true positive rate by different sample sizes.
3. Effect of prior parameter selections. We compare average false/true positive rate by directional, confident, and wrong priors.

Case 1

Threshold = 0.001.

Bayesian suffers from peeking as well but not as badly as Frequentist.

avg_peek_multiplier_freq	avg_peek_multiplier_bayes
5.33	4.2

Bayesian's false positive rate quickly increases with increasing sample size.

sample_size_per_day	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
500	4.45%	23.3%	2.4%	9.65%
5000	4.45%	25.2%	7.2%	20.75%
50000	5.2%	28.25%	19.4%	43.9%

Bayesian's prior parameters do not matter much for the sample sizes we have.

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
confident	4.8%	26.2%	9.8%	24.6%
directional	4.6%	25%	9.93%	25%
neutral	5.27%	26.8%	10.8%	25.8%
wrong	4.13%	24.33%	8.13%	23.67%

Case 2

Threshold = 0.001.

Bayesian suffers from peeking as well but not as badly as Frequentist.

avg_peek_multiplier_freq	avg_peek_multiplier_bayes
3.06	2.02

Bayesian's true positive rate quickly increases with increasing sample size.

sample_size_per_day	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
500	23.78%	42.98%	26.02%	37.9%
5000	60.42%	71.72%	69.23%	78.3%
50000	97.8%	99%	99.88%	99.95%

Bayesian's prior parameters do not matter much for the sample sizes we have.

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
confident	60.73%	70%	64.63%	70.6%
directional	60.47%	71.93%	64.77%	72.57%

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
neutral	60.07%	70.93%	64.57%	72.33%
wrong	61.4%	72.07%	66.2%	72.7%

Case 3

Threshold = 0.00001.

Bayesian suffers from peeking as well but not as badly as Frequentist.

avg_peek_multiplier_freq	avg_peek_multiplier_bayes
5.87	4.33

Bayesian's false positive rate quickly increases with increasing sample size.

sample_size_per_day	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
500	5.07%	28.53%	1%	4.27%
5000	4.93%	27.47%	3%	9.6%
50000	5.33%	28.73%	5.73%	19.6%

Bayesian's prior parameters do not matter much for the sample sizes we have.

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
confident	5.53%	27.2%	3.2%	11.87%
directional	5.6%	28.27%	3.67%	11.33%
wrong	4.2%	29.27%	2.87%	10.27%

Case 4

Threshold = 0.00001.

Bayesian suffers from peeking as well but not as badly as Frequentist.

avg_peek_multiplier_freq	avg_peek_multiplier_bayes
3.68	2.82

Bayesian's true positive rate quickly increases with increasing sample size.

sample_size_per_day	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
500	14.73%	38.13%	6.57%	13.93%
5000	52.4%	65.37%	51.97%	57.23%
50000	62.57%	74.43%	70.87%	79.53%

Bayesian's prior parameters do not matter much for the sample sizes we have.

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
confident	42.6%	59.6%	42.37%	49.93%
directional	43.67%	58.73%	43.73%	50.83%
wrong	43.43%	59.6%	43.3%	49.93%

Case 5

Threshold = 0.001.

Bayesian suffers from peeking as well but not as badly as Frequentist.

avg_peek_multiplier_freq	avg_peek_multiplier_bayes
19.55	8.1

Bayesian's false positive rate quickly increases with increasing sample size.

sample_size_per_day	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
500	5.75%	79.75%	11.75%	94.75%
5000	4.5%	81.75%	29%	99.75%

Bayesian's prior parameters do not matter much for the sample sizes we have.

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
directional-directional	8.5%	81.5%	22%	98%
directional-wrong	2.5%	79.5%	17.5%	98.5%
wrong-directional	6.5%	81%	22%	97.5%
wrong-wrong	3%	81%	20%	95%

Case 6

Threshold = 0.001.

Bayesian suffers from peeking as well but not as badly as Frequentist.

avg_peek_multiplier_freq	avg_peek_multiplier_bayes
22	9.88

Bayesian's true positive rate quickly increases with increasing sample size.

sample_size_per_day	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
500	4.33%	79.33%	10%	93.5%
5000	6.5%	86.08%	21.92%	98.83%

Bayesian's prior parameters do not matter much for the sample sizes we have.

prior	avg_freq_treat	avg_freq_treat_peek	avg_bayes_treat	avg_bayes_treat_peek
directional-directional	5.17%	83.33%	13.67%	95.67%
directional-wrong	5.17%	82.33%	17.5%	96%
wrong-directional	5.33%	83.17%	16.17%	96.83%
wrong-wrong	6%	82%	16.5%	96.17%