

# Application: Hypothesis testing

(see book Ch 8.5,  
example 8.23  
page 444)

An example of inference, or learning

- can we distinguish among 2 or more possible situations?

When more than 2 situations, this is often called **classification**

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Signal detection (radar, communications, ...)

- detect whether signal present or absent.

$H_1$ : hypothesis that signal is present

$H_0$ : " " " " absent

Examples: detecting a whale in the ocean  
detecting a person approaching your front door

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Typical scenario: known signal in additive noise

$$Y = S + N \quad \text{if signal present} \quad (H_1)$$

$$Y = N \quad \text{if signal absent} \quad (H_0)$$

Detector: observe  $Y$  and decide  $H_0$  or  $H_1$

$$g(Y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } Y \in A_1 \\ 0 & \text{if } Y \in A_1^c \end{cases}$$

$A_1$  is an event in the same experiment that generates  $Y$

What makes a good decision? Low error.

2 kinds of mistakes

- deciding present when absent (false alarm)
- deciding absent when present (missed detection)

Typically measured through

$P_F$ , probability of false alarm and  
 $P_D$ , probability of detection

$$P_F = P(g(y) = 1 | H_0) \\ = P(A_1 | H_0)$$

(a probability of one kind of mistake)

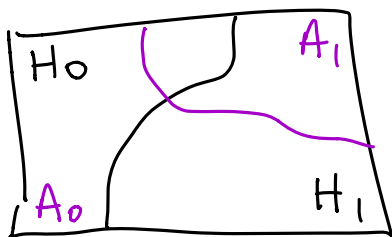
$$P_D = P(g(y) = 1 | H_1) \\ = P(A_1 | H_1)$$

(a probability of one kind of correct decision)

Another option:  $P_m$ , probability of missed detection

$$P_m = P(g(y) = 0 | H_1) \\ = 1 - P_D = P(A_0 | H_1)$$

(a probability of another kind of mistake)



This terminology is just new names for concepts we covered back in Topic 1

What makes a good decision? Low cost

Each type of error may have a different cost  
or risk → depends on the application

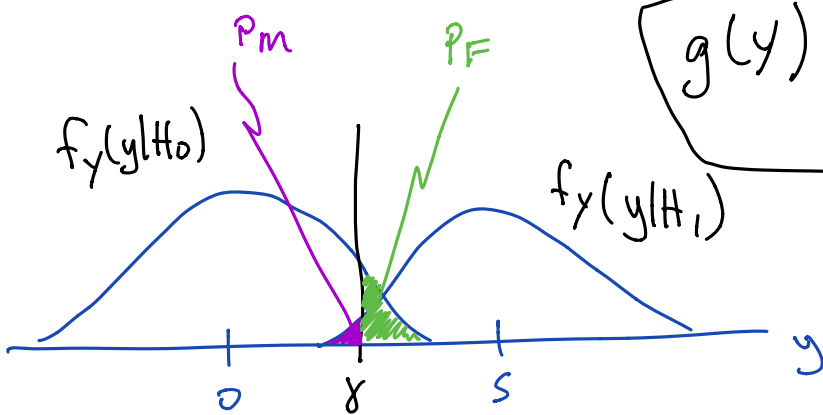
- too many false alarms may be worse  
than too many missed detections  
(or vice versa)

These different costs lead to different optimal decision  
functions  $g(y)$ .

Suppose  $N$  is Gaussian noise with mean 0,  
variance  $\sigma^2$ ,  
and  $N$  is independent of events  $H_0, H_1$

Further, suppose our detector  $g(y)$  is  
just does thresholding.

$$g(y) = \begin{cases} 1 & y \geq \delta \\ 0 & y < \delta \end{cases}$$



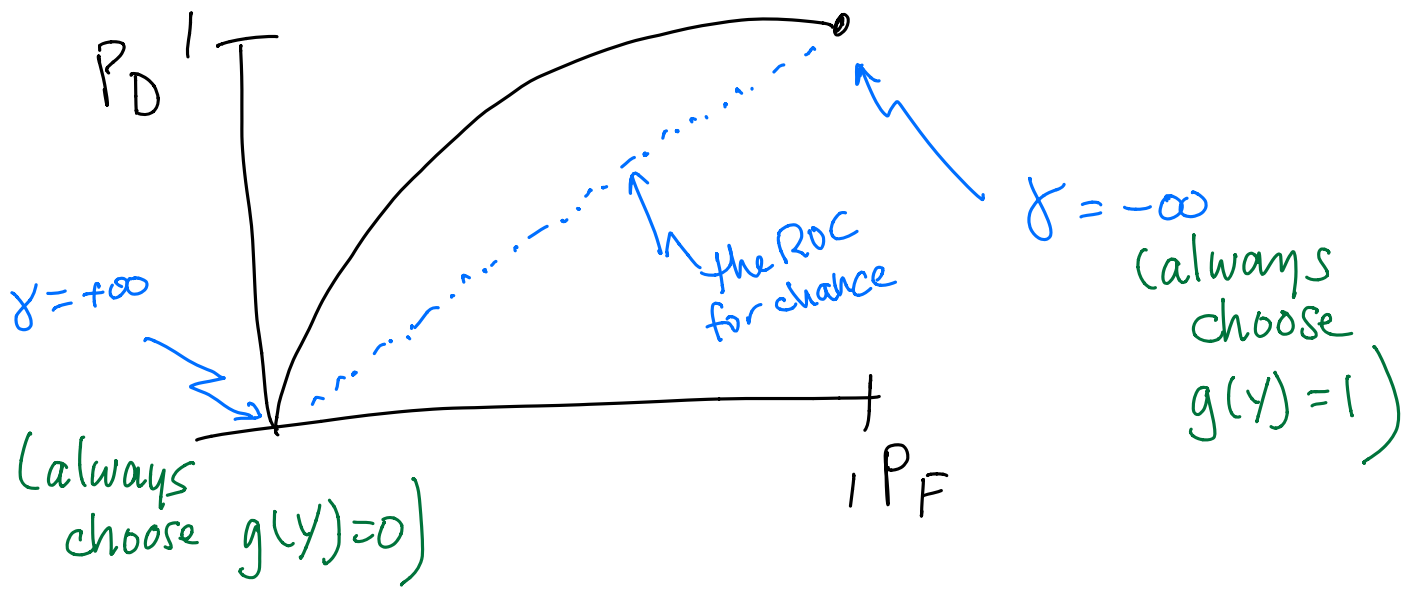
$$\begin{aligned} P_F &= P(g(Y) = 1 \mid H_0) \\ &= P(Y \geq \delta \mid H_0) \\ &= P(N \geq \delta) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sigma}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_D &= P(g(Y) = 1 \mid H_1) \\ &= P(Y \geq \delta \mid H_1) \\ &= P(s + N \geq \delta) \\ &= P(N \geq \delta - s) \end{aligned}$$

since  $Y = s + N$  when  $H_1$  is true

$$= 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\delta - s}{\sigma}\right)$$

Can plot  $P_F$  vs,  $P_D$  for various  $\gamma$   
 A Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC)

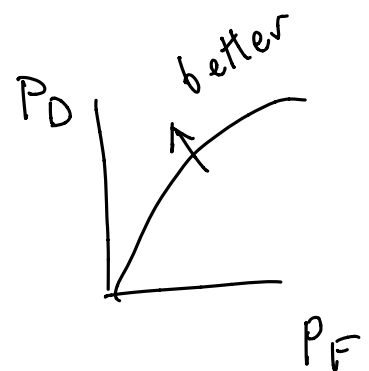


The threshold  $\gamma$  allows you to trade off the two types of errors, depending on the needs of your application.

$P_F = 0, P_D = 0 \longrightarrow$  never alarm

$P_F = 1, P_D = 1 \longrightarrow$  always alarm

A chance detector will have a diagonal ROC curve. Always want your detector to be better than chance!

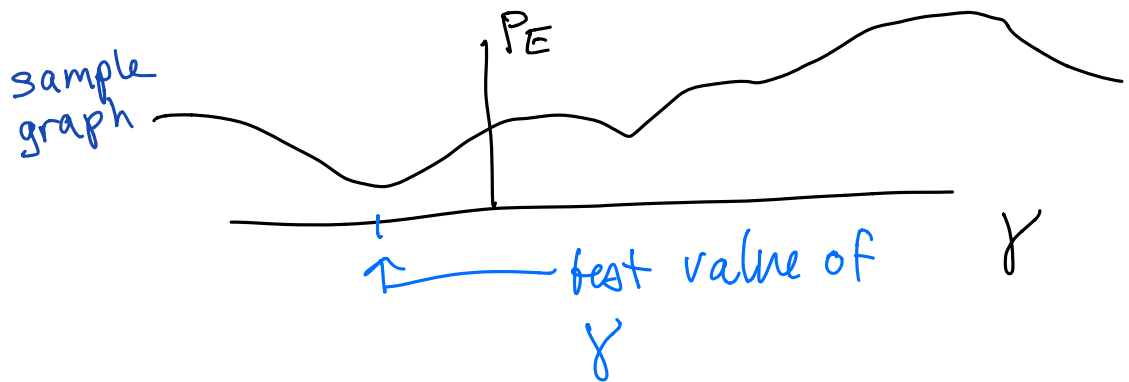


What threshold should you choose for your application?

Suppose you know  $P(H_0)$  and  $P(H_1)$ , the underlying events.

Goal 1: minimize probability of error

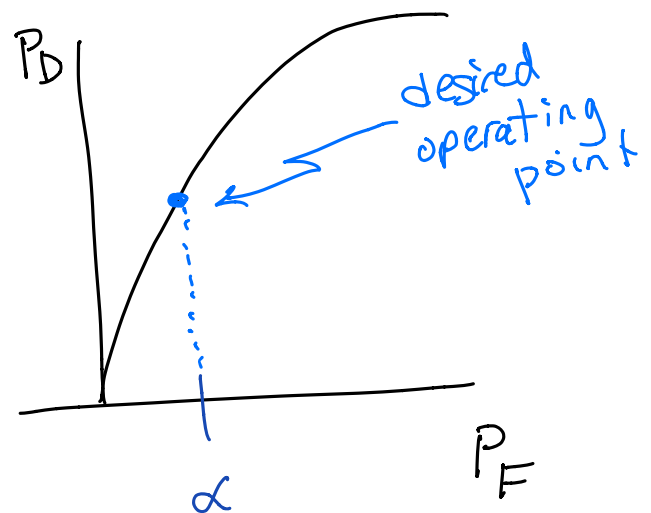
$$P_E = P(\text{error}) = P(\text{error}|H_0)P(H_0) + P(\text{error}|H_1)P(H_1)$$
$$= P_F P(H_0) + (1 - P_D) P(H_1)$$



Goal 2: minimize expected cost (omitted)

Goal 3: maximize  $P_D$  with constraint

that  $P_F \leq \alpha$



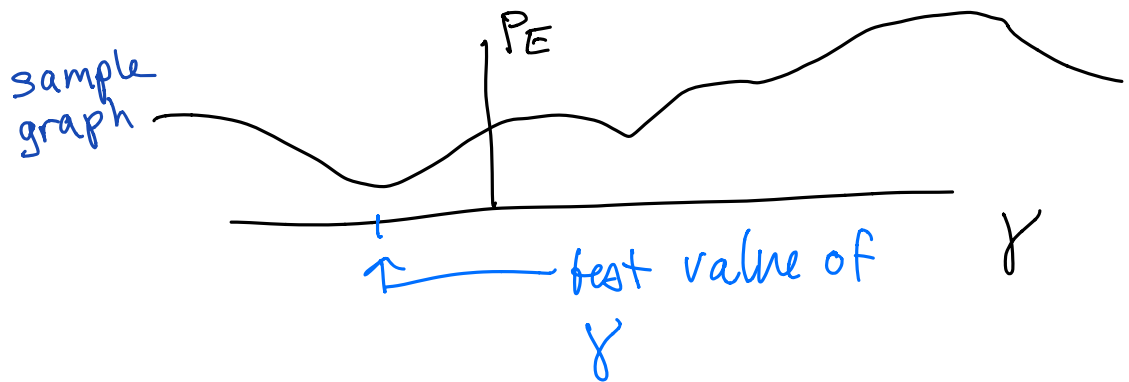
What threshold should you choose for your application? [A more full version w/mistakes]

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Suppose you know  $P(H_0)$  and  $P(H_1)$ , the underlying events.

Goal 1: minimize probability of error

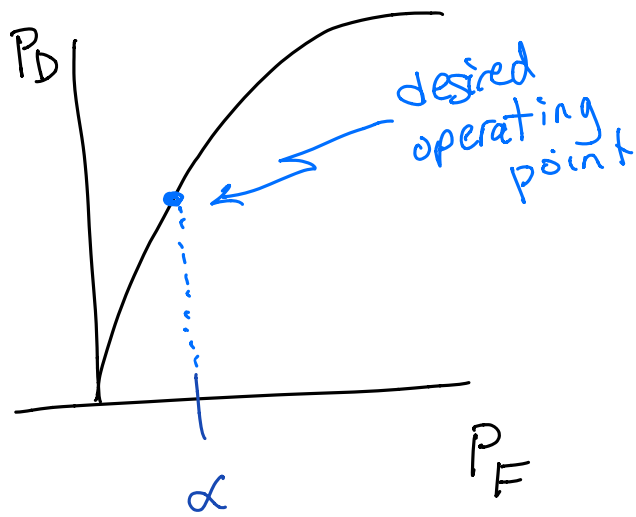
$$P_E = P(\text{error}) = P(\text{error}|H_0)P(H_0) + P(\text{error}|H_1)P(H_1)$$
$$= P_F P(H_0) + (1 - P_D) P(H_1)$$



Goal 2: minimize expected cost

$$E(C) = E(c|H_0)P(H_0) + E(c|H_1)P(H_1)$$
$$= C_{10} P(g(\gamma) = 1|H_0)P(H_0) + C_{01} P(g(\gamma) = 0|H_1)P(H_1)$$
$$= C_{10} P_F P(H_0) + C_{01} (1 - P_D) P(H_1)$$

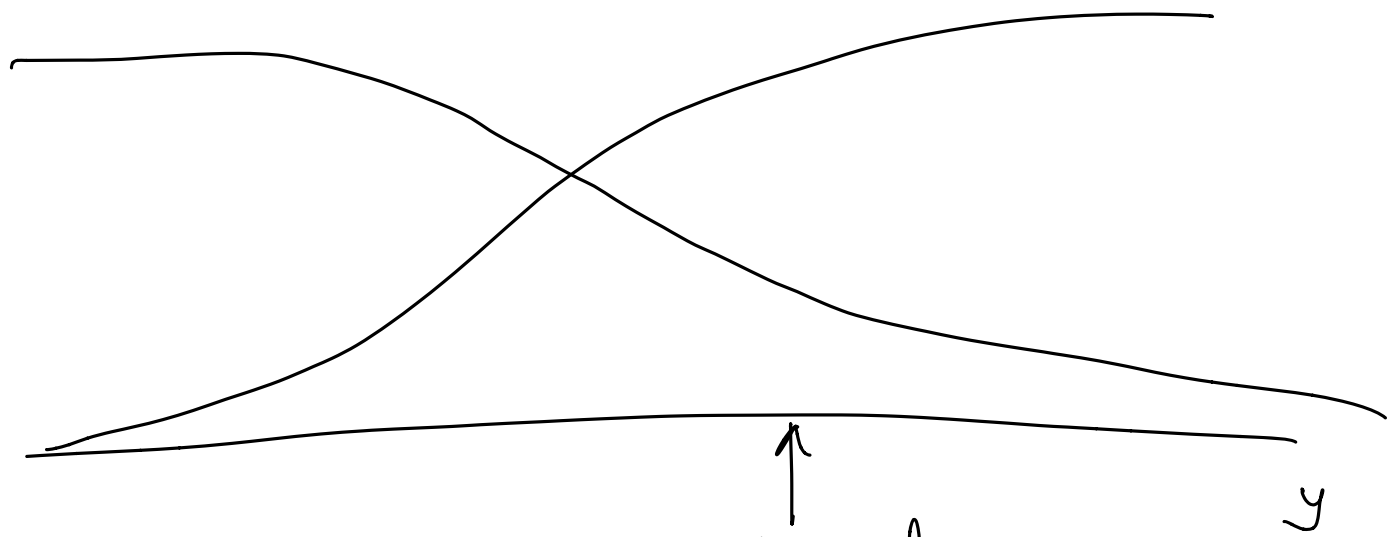
Goal 3: maximize  $P_D$  with constraint that  $P_F \leq \alpha$



this example is not finished

$P(H_0 | Y=y)$

$P(H_1 | Y=y)$



observed value of  $y$

$\Rightarrow H_1$  is more likely to be true



# Classification

M hypotheses (not two)

ex: 3 colors of badges: R, G, B

wavelength in microns

- why not consistent?

fading from sun  
inaccurate printer  
light from bulb  
measurement device

This example  
is not finished  
- from T+T

$X$  = color measured in microns

$$X|B \sim N(436, 400)$$

$H_B$     $H_1$

$$X|G \sim N(546, 400)$$

$H_G$     $H_2$

$$X|R \sim N(700, 400)$$

$H_R$     $H_3$

Procedure: measure  $X = x_0$

choose  $H_k$  to maximize  $P(H_i | X = x_0)$

If all equally likely a priori, then

equiv to  $\max f_X(x_0 | H_i)$

ALG ch. 8.5.2

exa. 8.23

p 444

Gelfand 168-190 (corrected)

Y-G p 306

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ACG p 459

example 8.33

server allocation

mean square  
estimation

6.68

6.69

ch 6.5