

Decision Making and Inference Under Model Misspecification

Jose Blanchet.

Stanford University (Management Science and Engineering), and Institute for Computational and Mathematical Engineering).

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- Optimization algorithms.

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- The notation $E_{P_*}(\cdot)$ means using the probability model P_* .

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- **Problem: Don't have access to P_* ...**

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- What about $\delta =$ size of uncertainty?

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- How does this approach work in portfolio optimization?

- $D(P, P_0)$ using optimal transport: General duality - applicable even to control problems (B. & Murthy (2019) - <https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/moor.2018.0936>).

Quick Answers + References

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- Martingale constraints: Zhou, B., Glynn -
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- Other market constraints (implied volatility) - also in B., Murthy, Zhang (2021)

- Kuhn, Esfahani, Nguyen, Shafieezadeh-Abadeh:
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- **General RO & Divergence-DRO:** Dupuis, James & Peterson '00; Hansen & Sargent '01, '08; Nilim & El Ghaoui '02, '03; Iyengar '05; A. Ben-Tal, L. El Ghaoui, & A. Nemirovski '09; Bertsimas & Sim '04; Bertsimas, Brown, Caramanis '13; Lim & Shanthikumar '04; Lam '13, '17; Csiszár & Breuer '13; Jiang & Guan '12; Hu & Hong '13; Wang, Glynn & Ye '14; Bayrakskan & Love '15; Duchi, Glynn & Namkoong '16; Bandi and Bertsimas '15; Bertsimas, Gupta & Kallus '13.

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- **Wasserstein/OT-DRO & Moments:** Scarf '58; Shapiro '15; Delage & Ye '10; Hampel '73; Huber '81; Pflug & Wozabal '07; Delage & Ye '10; Mehrotra & Zhang '14; Esfahani & Kuhn '15; Blanchet & Murthy '16; Gao & Kleywegt '16; Duchi & Namkoong '17.

What Is the Wasserstein Distance /OT Cost?

- Formally, given $c(x, y) \geq 0$ lower semicontinuous with $c(x, x) = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} D(P, Q) &= \min \int c(x, y) \pi(dx, dy) \\ \text{s.t. } \int \pi(dx, dy) &= P(dx) \\ \int \pi(dx, dy) &= Q(dy) \\ \pi(dx, dy) &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

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- Wasserstein distance = $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|$.
- Consider type 2 Wasserstein distance** $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|^2$.

Why Care about OT DRO?

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- Can interpret $\mathcal{U}_\delta(P_n)$ in Wasserstein DRO as perturbing:
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$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n c(X_i, X_i + \Delta_i) \leq \delta.$$

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- Wasserstein DRO estimator is best response when perturbing each data point subject to an average budget δ .

Why Care about Wasserstein DRO?

- **A way to provide statistical regularization**

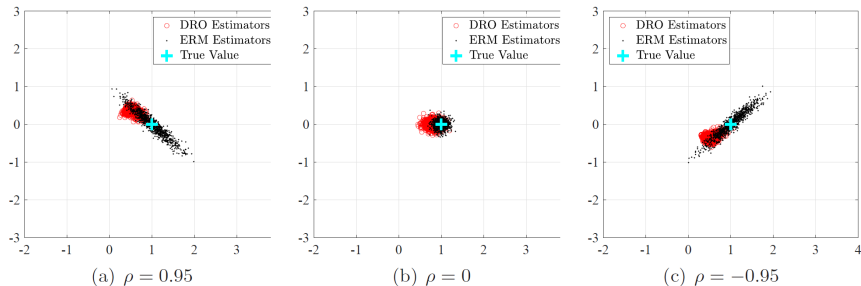


FIGURE 3. Scatter plots of β_n^{ERM} (black circles) and β_n^{DRO} (red circles) for $\beta_0 = [1.0, 0.0]^T$

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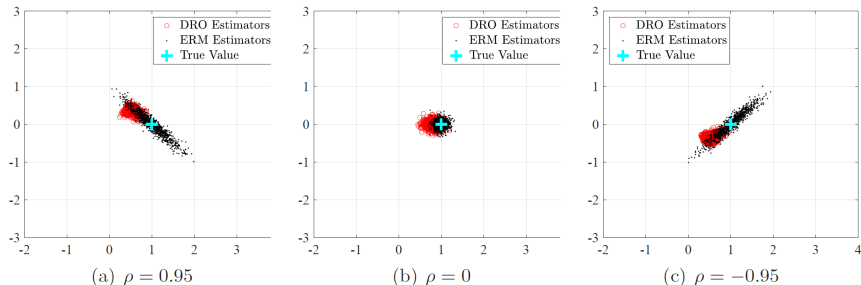


FIGURE 3. Scatter plots of β_n^{ERM} (black circles) and β_n^{DRO} (red circles) for $\beta_0 = [1.0, 0.0]^T$

- Linear regression with close to co-linear covariates (1000 experiments) showing Empirical Risk Minimization (i.e. $\delta = 0$) vs DRO with **optimal choice of δ** .

Key Duality Results

- B. & Murthy (2019) - <https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/moor.2018.0936>

Primal form:
$$\inf_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{P: D_c(P, P_n) \leq \delta} E_P [\ell(X, \theta)]$$




under mild conditions

Dual form:
$$\inf_{\theta \in \Theta} \inf_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda \delta + E_{P_n} [\max_z \ell(z, \theta) - \lambda c(z, X)]$$

Example 1


$$\min_{\theta} \sup_{P: D_c(P, P_n) \leq \delta} E_P[(Y - \theta^T X)^2]$$


$$c((x, y), (x', y')) = \|x - x'\|_q^2 + \infty |y - y'|^2$$
$$\frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{p} = 1$$

$$\min_{\theta} E_{P_n} [(Y - \theta^T X)^2]^{1/2} + \delta^{1/2} \|\theta\|_p$$

Example 2

$$\min \left\{ \sup_{P: D_c(P, P_n) \leq \delta} \theta^T \text{Cov}_P(X) \theta : \theta^T \mathbf{1} = 1, \min_{P: D_c(P, P_n) \leq \delta} E_P [\theta^T X] \geq t \right\}$$


$$c(x, x') = \|x - x'\|_q^2, \quad \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{p} = 1$$

$$\min \left[\sqrt{\theta^T \text{Cov}_{P_n}(X) \theta} + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\theta\|_p \right]^2$$

s. t. $\theta^T \mathbf{1} = 1, \theta^T E_{P_n}[X] \geq t + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\theta\|_p$

- Include side information: For example

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where A_i is calibrated to market data.

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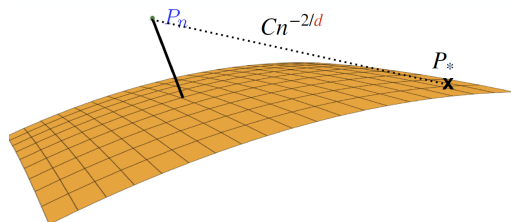
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- Worst case adversarial distribution.
- Insight on choosing δ (without time-consuming cross validation).

Choosing Size of Uncertainty

$$\text{DRO: } \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{P: D_c(P, P_n) \leq \delta} E_P [\ell(X, \theta)]$$



From concentration inequalities:

select δ large enough s.t.

$$D_c(P_*, P_n) \leq \delta$$

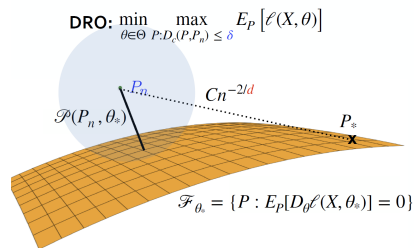
with high probability:

$$\delta > Cn^{-2/d}$$

\Rightarrow need 2^d x more samples
to reduce error by 1/2

Choosing Size of Uncertainty Optimally

- B., Kang, Murthy (2019): <https://doi.org/10.1017/jpr.2019.49>



Compatible uncertainty in decisions:

$$\Lambda_{\delta}(P_n) = \left\{ \theta \in \Theta : \theta \text{ is optimal for} \right. \\ \left. \text{some } P \in \mathcal{U}_{\delta}(P_n) \right\}$$

Question:

What is the smallest δ s.t. a true optimal solution θ_* lies in $\Lambda_{\delta}(P_n)$?

Note:

$$\theta_* \in \Lambda_{\delta}(P_n) \iff \text{projection} \in \mathcal{U}_{\delta}(P_n) \\ \iff \delta > \mathcal{P}(P_n, \theta_*)$$

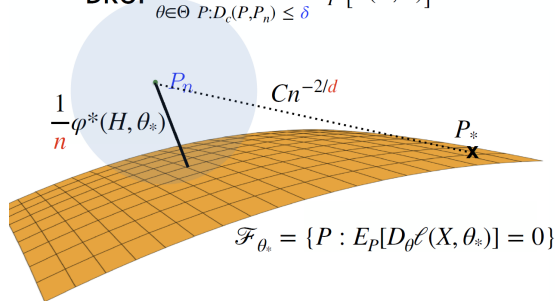
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- **Optimal choice of δ :** χ/n where χ is (say 95%) quantile of the distribution a certain (sometimes *chi*-squared).

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Theorem

$$n \times \mathcal{P}(P_n, \theta_*) \Rightarrow \varphi^*(H, \theta_*)$$

Linear Regression Example and Sqrt-Lasso

Minimizing least squares: $E[(Y - \theta_*^T X)X] = 0$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{h(X, \theta_*)}$

For the example with unit error variance
and $\text{cov}(X) = \mathbb{I}_d$, $p = 2$,

$$\varphi(\xi, \theta) = \frac{\|\xi\|_2^2}{4(1 + \|\theta_*\|_2^2)}$$

Then $\varphi(\xi, \theta) \sim \frac{\chi_d^2}{4(1 + \|\theta_*\|_2^2)}$,

and $\delta = \frac{\eta_{1-\alpha}}{n} = \frac{O(\log d)}{n}$

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- Thus: $\Delta = \bar{\Delta}/n^{1/2}$, $\lambda = \bar{\lambda}n^{1/2}$ if $\delta = \chi/n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\theta} \max_{\lambda} \left\{ \frac{\bar{\lambda}\chi}{n^{1/2}} + E_{P_n} \max_{\Delta} \left\{ I\left(X + \frac{\bar{\Delta}}{n^{1/2}}, \theta\right) - \frac{\bar{\lambda}}{n^{1/2}} \|\bar{\Delta}\|_p^2 \right\} \right\} \\ & \approx \min_{\theta} \left\{ E_{P_n} I(X, \theta) + n^{-1/2} \eta^{1/2} E_{P_n}^{1/2} \|D_x I(X, \theta)\|_q^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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- So, $\bar{\Delta}_{opt}(X_i)$ is aligned (in l_p) to $D_x I(X, \theta)$ & $\|\Delta_{opt}(X_i)\|_p = \|D_x I(X, \theta)\|_q / (2\lambda)$.

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- From the form

$$\min_{\theta} \left\{ E_{P_n} l(X, \theta) + n^{-1/2} v(\theta) \right\}$$

it is not difficult to see that if H is the Hessian at θ_* then

$$\theta_n^{DRO} = \theta_n^{ERM} - n^{-1/2} H^{-1} \nabla v(\theta_*) + o(n^{-1/2}),$$

where θ_n^{ERM} is the case $\delta = 0$ and

$$v(\theta) = \eta^{1/2} E_{P_*}^{1/2} \left(\|D_x l(X, \theta)\|_q^2 \right).$$

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$$\min_{\theta} \left\{ E_{P_n} l(X, \theta) + n^{-1/2} v(\theta) \right\}$$

it is not difficult to see that if H is the Hessian at θ_* then

$$\theta_n^{DRO} = \theta_n^{ERM} - n^{-1/2} H^{-1} \nabla v(\theta_*) + o\left(n^{-1/2}\right),$$

where θ_n^{ERM} is the case $\delta = 0$ and

$$v(\theta) = \eta^{1/2} E_{P_*}^{1/2} \left(\|D_x l(X, \theta)\|_q^2 \right).$$

- This reduces the asymptotic normality of θ_n^{DRO} to that of the (standard) θ_n^{ERM} .

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- Many references to key questions: algorithms, optimal regularization, Nash equilibrium...