

Sparse change detection in high-dimensional linear regression

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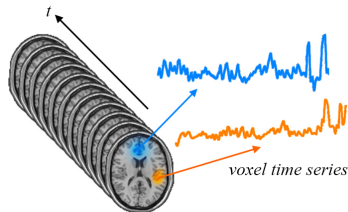
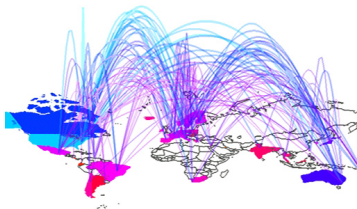
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- ▶ The evolution of technology enables the collection of vast amounts of time-ordered data:
 - Healthcare devices
 - Covid case numbers
 - Network traffic data
 - Trading data of financial instruments



- ▶ Changes in the dynamics of the data streams are frequently of interest, leading to a renaissance of research on changepoint analysis.

- ▶ When data consist of covariate-response pairs, we are often interested in changes in the regression function.
- ▶ Observations $(X_t, Y_t) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}$ for $t = 1, \dots, n$ generated from

$$Y_t = X_t^\top \beta_t + \epsilon_t,$$

where $\epsilon_t \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2)$.

- ▶ Coefficients β_1, \dots, β_n piecewise constant with changepoints at z_1, \dots, z_ν

$$\beta_t = \beta^{(r)} \quad \text{for } z_{r-1} < t \leq z_r, 1 \leq r \leq \nu + 1.$$

(Convention: $z_0 = 0, z_{\nu+1} = n$)

- ▶ **Goal:** estimate the changepoint locations z_1, \dots, z_ν .

- ▶ When $p \ll n$, least squares estimators work well (Bai, 1997; Bai and Perron 1998, Julious, 2001)
- ▶ For a fixed ν , find the optimal partition of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ into $\nu + 1$ segments such that the sum of RSS of least squares fit within each segment is minimised:

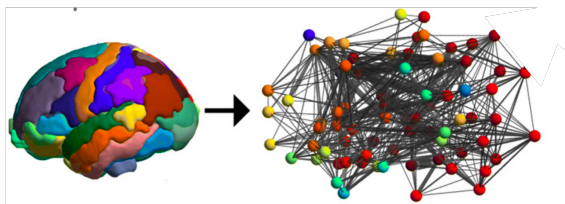
$$(\hat{z}_1, \dots, \hat{z}_\nu) = \underset{\tilde{z}_1 < \tilde{z}_2 < \dots < \tilde{z}_\nu}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{r=1}^{\nu+1} \min_{\tilde{\beta}} \sum_{t=\tilde{z}_{r-1}+1}^{\tilde{z}_r} (Y_t - X_t^\top \tilde{\beta})^2.$$

- ▶ If ν is unknown, compare goodness-of-fit from different choices of ν , e.g. using BIC.

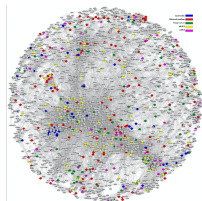
- ▶ When $p \asymp n$, the above least squares approach no longer works.
- ▶ Several approaches were proposed to analyse changepoints in high-dimensional regression problems (Lee et al., 2016; Kaul et al., 2019; Rinaldo et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021).
 - These works impose the additional assumption that all regression coefficients $\beta^{(1)}, \dots, \beta^{(\nu+1)}$ are sparse.
 - This allows reasonable estimation of $\beta^{(r)}$, $1 \leq r \leq \nu + 1$ given a candidate set of changepoints
 - Choose the best candidate set using goodness-of-fit statistics
- ▶ In contrast, we will only assume that the **changes are sparse**:

$$\|\beta^{(r+1)} - \beta^{(r)}\|_0 \leq k.$$

- ▶ Differential networks: find changepoints in the dynamics of Gaussian graphical models over time.
 - Brain connectivity network
 - Gene-gene interaction network
 - Financial network model between countries
- ▶ Central players in the network may have dense connection to other nodes, but their changes may still be sparse.



Bansal et al. (*Sci. Adv.* 2019)



Chen et al. (*PLOS ONE*, 2015)

- ▶ We focus first on the single changepoint problem, i.e. $\nu = 1$, we write $z = z_1$.
- ▶ Observations $(X_t, Y_t) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}$ for $t = 1, \dots, n$ generated from

$$Y_t = X_t^\top (\beta^{(1)} \mathbb{1}_{\{t \leq z\}} + \beta^{(2)} \mathbb{1}_{\{t > z\}}) + \epsilon_t,$$

where $\epsilon_t \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2)$.

- ▶ Assume $\|\beta^{(2)} - \beta^{(1)}\|_0 \leq k$ and $p < n$.

- ▶ This problem is an example of high-dimensional inference in the presence of **dense nuisance parameters**.
- ▶ True parameter of interest is $\beta^{(2)} - \beta^{(1)}$, which is sparse. The dense nuisance parameter $\beta^{(1)} + \beta^{(2)}$ interferes with the inference.
- ▶ Relation to the literature
 - The Neyman–Scott paradox (Neyman and Scott, 1948)
 - High-dimensional change-point problems (e.g. Cho and Fryzlewicz, 2015; Jirak, 2015; W. and Samworth, 2018; Enikeeva and Harchaoui, 2019)
 - Matched-pair survival analysis (Battey and Cox, 2020)

Our method: complementary sketching

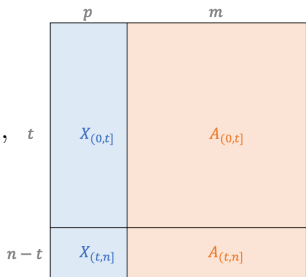


A complimentary sketching

- ▶ Define $m := n - p$, $X := (X_1^\top, \dots, X_n^\top)^\top$ and write $X_{(s,e]}$ for the submatrix of X using rows $s + 1, \dots, e$.
- ▶ **Procedure:** Given data $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ and $Y \in \mathbb{R}^n$,
 1. Construct $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ such that A has orthonormal columns orthogonal to the column space of X .
 2. For each $t \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\}$, compute

$$W_t := \begin{pmatrix} A_{(0,t]}^\top & -A_{(t,n]}^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_{(0,t]} \\ X_{(t,n]} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}, \quad t$$

$$Z := \begin{pmatrix} A_{(0,t]}^\top & A_{(t,n]}^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Y_{(0,t]} \\ Y_{(t,n]} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^m.$$



- ▶ Similar to orthogonal sketching, but sketches the covariate matrix and the response vector in opposite ways in the second block.

- ▶ Why does complementary sketching work?
- ▶ Write $\theta := (\beta^{(1)} - \beta^{(2)})/2$ and $\zeta := (\beta^{(1)} + \beta^{(2)})/2$.

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= A_{(0,z]}^\top Y_{(0,z]} + A_{(z,n]}^\top Y_{(z,n]} \\ &= A_{(0,z]}^\top (X_{(0,z]} \beta^{(1)} + \epsilon_{(0,z]}) + A_{(z,n]}^\top (X_{(z,n]} \beta^{(2)} + \epsilon_{(z,n]}) \\ &= A_{(0,z]}^\top X_{(0,z]} \theta + \cancel{A_{(0,z]}^\top X_{(0,z]} \zeta} - \cancel{A_{(z,n]}^\top X_{(z,n]} \theta} + \cancel{A_{(z,n]}^\top X_{(z,n]} \zeta} \\ &\quad + A_{(0,z]} \epsilon_{(0,z]} + A_{(z,n]} \epsilon_{(z,n]} \\ &= W_z \theta + \xi, \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ We have eliminated the contribution of the nuisance parameter ζ in Z .
- ▶ This idea of complementary sketching was first used in a two-sample testing problem (Gao and W. 2022).
- ▶ The changepoint problem is reduced to finding t such that W_t forms a ‘best sparse linear approximation’ to Z .

- ▶ Several different approaches are possible once we have eliminated the nuisance parameter, which we collectively call the **charcoal** (change-point in regression via a complementary-sketching algorithm) methodology.

- ▶ **charcoal_{corr}**: $Q_t := \{\text{diag}(W_t^\top W_t)\}^{-1/2} W_t^\top Z$,

$$\hat{z}^{\text{corr}} := \underset{t}{\text{argmax}} \|\text{soft}(Q_t, \lambda)\|_2^2.$$

Algorithm 1: Pseudocode for change-point estimation

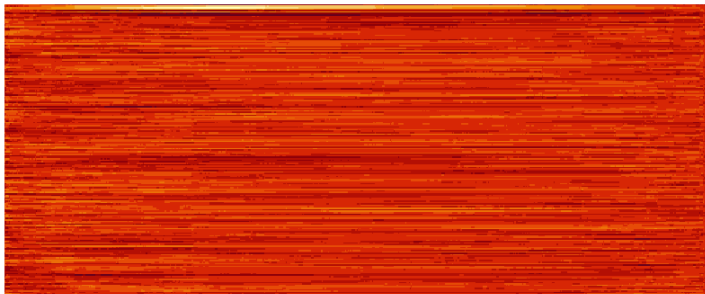
Input: $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$, $Y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying $n > p$, $\lambda \geq 0$, $\alpha > 0$

- 1 Set $m \leftarrow n - p$;
- 2 Form $A \in \mathbb{O}^{n \times m}$ with columns orthogonal to the column space of X ;
- 3 Compute $Z \leftarrow A^\top Y$;
- 4 Set $W_0 = \mathbf{0}_{m \times p}$;
- 5 **for** $1 \leq t \leq n - 1$ **do**
- 6 Compute $W_t \leftarrow W_{t-1} + 2a_t x_t^\top$;
- 7 Compute $Q_t = \{\text{diag}(W_t^\top W_t)\}^{-1/2} W_t^\top Z$;
- 8 Compute $H_t \leftarrow \|\text{soft}(Q_t, \lambda)\|_2$;

Output: $\hat{z} := \arg \max_{\alpha n < t < (1-\alpha)n} H_t$.

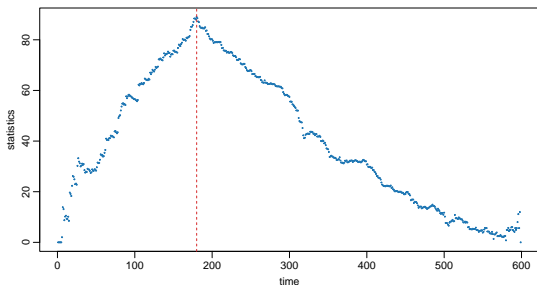
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- ▶ **charcoal_{proj}**: let \hat{v} be the leading left singular vector of $\mathbf{soft}(Q, \lambda)$, estimate

$$\hat{z}^{\text{proj}} := \underset{t}{\text{argmax}} (\hat{v}^\top Q_t).$$

- ▶ **charcoal_{lasso}**: simply run Lasso on (W_t, Z) to find the best fit

$$\hat{\theta}_t(\lambda_t) := \underset{\theta}{\text{argmin}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2m} \|Z - W_t \theta\|_2^2 + \lambda_t \|\theta\|_1 \right\}$$

$$\hat{z}^{\text{lasso}} := \underset{t}{\text{argmin}} \|Z - W_t \hat{\theta}_t(\lambda_t)\|_2^2,$$

- ▶ The **charcoal** algorithms can be combined with any of the top-down methods to recursively identify multiple changepoints.
- ▶ We use the narrowest-over-threshold method (Baranowski et al., 2019)

Algorithm 4: Pseudocode for multiple changepoint estimation

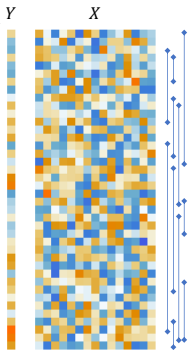
Input: $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$, $Y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying $n - p > 0$, a soft threshold level $\lambda \geq 0$, burn-in parameter $\alpha \geq 0$, number of intervals M , testing threshold $T > 0$

- 1 Set $\hat{Z} \leftarrow \emptyset$ and generate M pairs of integers $(s_1, e_1), \dots, (s_M, e_M)$ uniformly from $\{(a, b) : a, b \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, b - a > p\}$.
- 2 Run NOT(0, n) where NOT is defined below.
- 3 Let $\hat{\nu} \leftarrow |\hat{Z}|$ and sort elements of \hat{Z} in increasing order to yield $\hat{z}_1 < \dots < \hat{z}_{\hat{\nu}}$.

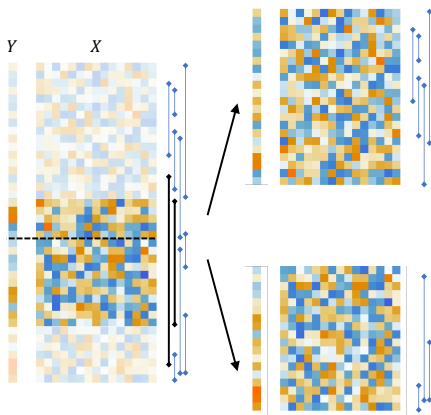
Output: $\hat{z}_1, \dots, \hat{z}_{\hat{\nu}}$

- 4 **Function** NOT(s, e)
 - 5 Set $\mathcal{M}_{s,e} \leftarrow \{m : (s_m, e_m] \subseteq (s, e]\}$
 - 6 **for** $m \in \mathcal{M}_{s,e}$ **do**
 - 7 | Run Algorithm 2 with input $X_{(s_m, e_m]}, Y_{(s_m, e_m]}$, λ and α , and let $\hat{z}^{(m)}$ and $H_{\max}^{(m)}$ be the output.
 - 8 **end**
 - 9 $\mathcal{M}_{s,e}^* \leftarrow \{m \in \mathcal{M}_{s,e} : H_{\max}^{(m)} > T\}$
 - 10 **if** $\mathcal{M}_{s,e}^* \neq \emptyset$ **then**
 - 11 | $m_0 \leftarrow \arg \min_{m \in \mathcal{M}_{s,e}^*} (e_m - s_m)$
 - 12 | $b \leftarrow \hat{s}_{m_0} + \hat{z}^{(m_0)}$
 - 13 | $\hat{Z} \leftarrow \hat{Z} \cup \{b\}$
 - 14 | NOT(s, b)
 - 15 | NOT(b, e)
 - 16 **end**
 - 17 **end**

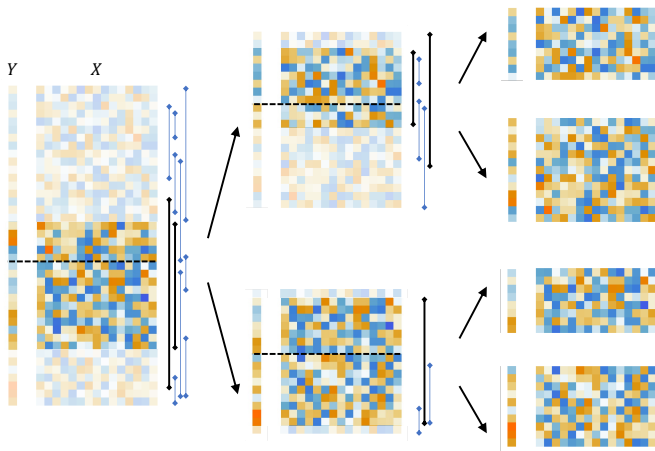
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Theoretical results

- ▶ Test statistics are formed from

$$Q_t = \{\text{diag}(W_t^\top W_t)\}^{-1/2} (W_t^\top W_z \theta + W_t^\top \xi)$$

- ▶ **Key step:** show that $W_t^\top W_z$ is close to $4t(n-z)(n-p)n^{-2}I_p$ in k -operator norm uniformly over t .
- ▶ Difficult to control $\{\text{diag}(W_t^\top W_t)\}^{-1/2}$ uniformly over t . For theoretical analysis, we look at a slight variant where

$$Q_t = \sqrt{\frac{n}{t(n-t)}} W_t^\top Z = \sqrt{\frac{n}{t(n-t)}} (W_t^\top W_z \theta + W_t^\top \xi).$$

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- ▶ Hence $H_t := \|\mathbf{soft}(Q_t, \lambda)\|_2$ is close to $\tilde{H}_t := \sqrt{\frac{n}{t(n-t)}} \|(W_t^\top W_z \theta)_S\|_2$

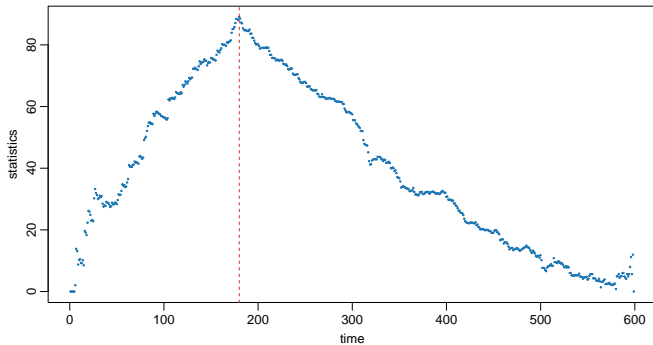
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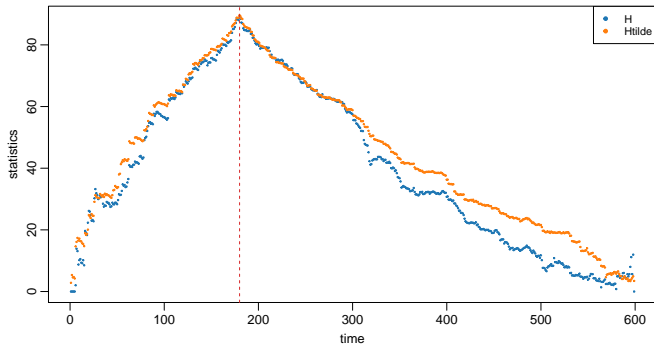
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- ▶ This is in turn approximately

$$h_t := \frac{4(n-p)\|\theta\|_2}{n} \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{t}{n(n-t)}} (n-z) \mathbb{1}_{\{t \leq z\}} + \sqrt{\frac{n-t}{nt}} z \mathbb{1}_{\{t > z\}} \right\}.$$

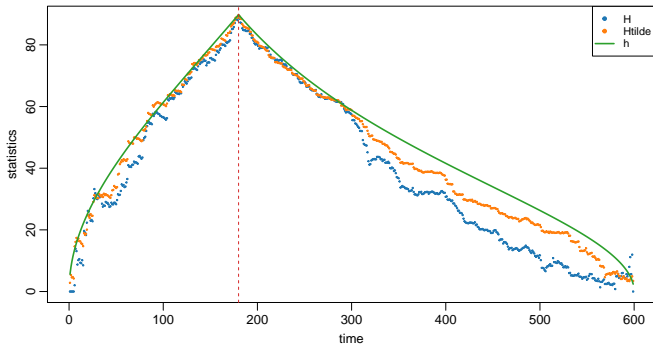
- ▶ Graphical illustration of the proof sketch:



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- ▶ To prove estimation accuracy:

1. Understand the sharpness of peak of $(h_t : 1 \leq t \leq n - 1)$
— this turns out to be the same as the univariate CUSUM curve
2. Control $|H_t - \tilde{H}_t|$ and $|\tilde{H}_t - h_t|$ uniformly over t .

Assumptions

- (A1) Random design: $x_t \sim N_p(0, I_p)$ independently for $t = 1, \dots, n$
- (A2) Asymptotic regime: n, z, p satisfies $p < n$ and $z/n \rightarrow \tau \in (0, 1)$ and $(n - p)/n \rightarrow \eta \in (0, 1)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Theorem. Assume Conditions (A1) and (A2). Suppose that $\|\theta\|_2 \leq 1$, $k \leq p/2$. There exists $c, C > 0$, depending only on τ, η , such that if $\lambda > c\sigma \log p$, then asymptotically with probability 1, for all but finitely many n 's, we have

$$\frac{|\hat{z}^{\text{corr}} - z|}{n} \leq \frac{C\lambda\sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{n}\|\theta\|_2}.$$

Theorem. Under the same condition as above, There exists $c, C > 0$, depending only on τ, η , such that if $\lambda > c\sigma \log p$, then asymptotically with probability 1, for all but finitely many n 's, we have

$$\sin \angle(\hat{v}^{\text{proj}}, \theta) \leq \frac{C\lambda\sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{n}\|\theta\|_2}.$$

Hence, \hat{z}^{proj} satisfies

$$\frac{|\hat{z}^{\text{proj}} - z|}{n} \leq \frac{C\lambda^2\sqrt{k} \log p}{\sqrt{n}\|\theta\|_2^2}.$$

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Hence, a **sample-splitting variant** of \hat{z}^{proj} satisfies

$$\frac{|\hat{z}^{\text{proj}} - z|}{n} \leq \frac{C\lambda\sqrt{k} \log p}{\sqrt{n}\|\theta\|_2}.$$

- ▶ Consistent estimation is possible when $\|\theta\|_2/\sigma \gg \sqrt{\frac{k \log^2 p}{n}}$.
- ▶ This is essentially the SNR required to **test for a change** even if the location of changepoint z is known. Let $P_{z, \beta^{(1)}, \beta^{(2)}}^X$ be the distribution of Y conditional on X , changepoint z and parameters $\beta^{(1)}$ and $\beta^{(2)}$. We test

$$H_0 : \theta = 0 \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_{p,k}(\rho) := \{\theta : \|\theta\|_2/\sigma \geq \rho, \|\theta\|_0 \leq k\}$$

- ▶ Define the **minimax risk** of testing

$$\mathcal{M}_X(k, \rho) := \inf_{\psi} \left\{ \sup_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} P_{z, \beta, \beta}^X(\psi \neq 0) + \sup_{\substack{\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^p \\ (\beta_1 - \beta_2)/2 \in \Theta_{p,k}(\rho)}} P_{z, \beta_1, \beta_2}^X(\psi \neq 1) \right\},$$

Theorem. Assume (A1), (A2), and $k \leq p^\alpha$ for some $\alpha < 1/2$. There exists a universal constant $c > 0$ such that if $\rho \leq \sqrt{\frac{c(1-2\alpha)k \log p}{n}}$, then

$$\mathcal{M}_X(k, \rho) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} 1.$$

Numerical studies

- ▶ Gaussian Orthogonal Ensemble design matrices with a single changepoint at $z = 0.3n$
- ▶ $\theta^{(1)}$ sampled as a Gaussian vector, $\theta^{(2)} - \theta^{(1)}$ randomly generated k -sparse vector with ℓ_2 norm ρ .
- ▶ **charcoal_{corr}** and **charcoal'_{corr}** uses a burn-in parameter of 0.1.

n	p	k	ρ	corr	corr'	proj	proj'	lasso		
600	200	3	1	7.16	8.67	7.17	11.05	12.95		
			2	2.04	3.22	1.95	2.81	3.04		
			4	0.93	2.35	1.24	2.16	1.47		
		14	1	1	16.75	18.14	19.69	34.44	82.36	
				2	3.22	3.76	3.19	4.03	6.94	
				4	1.62	2.29	2.20	2.65	2.00	
			20	1	1	16.75	18.14	19.69	34.44	82.36
					2	3.22	3.76	3.19	4.03	6.94
					4	1.62	2.29	2.20	2.65	2.00
1200	400	3	1	6.61	7.13	6.20	7.63	12.14		
			2	1.64	1.86	1.96	2.40	3.39		
			4	1.11	2.06	0.94	2.06	1.43		
		20	1	1	16.70	19.51	11.01	14.94	101.81	
				2	2.90	2.98	3.92	4.11	10.12	
				4	1.86	2.50	1.64	1.91	3.20	

Table: $\mathbb{E}|\hat{z} - z|$ estimated over 100 Monte Carlo repetitions.

- ▶ Existing methods in literature require sparsity of $\theta^{(r)}$ for all r .
- ▶ We compare with
 - The VPBS algorithm of [Rinaldo et al., 2021](#)
 - A two-sided Lasso-based approach of [Lee et al. \(2016\)](#) (LSS) and [Leonardi and Bühlmann \(2016\)](#) (LB)
 - a two-stage refinement approach of [Kaul et al. \(2019\)](#) (KJF)
- ▶ We compare the performance of various methods in a single changepoint estimation task with $n = 1200$, $z = 360$.

Comparisons with other methods

p	k	ρ	charcoal _{proj}	charcoal _{lasso}	VPBS	LB	KJF	LSS
400	3	1	7.2	13.2	452.4	556.1	238.8	472.2
		2	2.2	3.5	476.3	569.2	239.3	364.1
		4	1.1	1.5	434.2	532.8	239.1	272.1
		8	0.7	0.8	326.3	496.8	239.1	310.8
	20	1	12.4	85.4	422.7	528.8	238.9	479.5
		2	3.0	9.2	494.9	546.8	238.9	284.5
		4	2.0	2.6	431.9	553.1	239.1	268.5
		8	1.9	0.8	356.2	513.3	239.3	261.5
	400	1	162.2	344.2	477.8	569.8	238.8	429.9
		2	46.3	338.4	504.0	583.2	238.8	252.4
		4	25.3	13.3	446.3	554.1	238.9	285.6
		8	20.7	3.0	355.6	487.6	239.1	250.1
1000	3	1	60.7	113.3	241.6	429.5	237.2	227.3
		2	8.3	11.8	243.4	441.4	239.0	228.2
		4	2.9	4.0	239.5	366.9	243.9	230.6
		8	2.4	1.4	235.1	245.1	262.2	230.7
	31	1	300.3	364.9	233.4	440.1	238.8	227.4
		2	71.7	140.9	242.5	469.5	238.9	228.3
		4	16.0	12.5	251.3	358.4	238.9	224.5
		8	13.7	4.6	244.5	249.0	238.2	230.1
	1000	1	275.5	359.8	232.6	483.0	239.3	231.8
		2	256.9	320.8	238.4	447.4	238.9	229.2
		4	224.1	91.0	242.7	378.2	239.1	228.0
		8	194.5	39.6	246.4	253.5	242.4	226.7

- ▶ We focused on GOE design and Gaussian noise to facilitate theoretical analysis
- ▶ Our methodology can be applied in more general settings
- ▶ We vary design to have i) $N_p(0, \Sigma)$ rows with $\Sigma = (0.7^{|i-j|})_{1 \leq i, j \leq p}$, or ii) Rademacher entries
- ▶ We vary noise distribution to t_4, t_6 , centred $\text{Exp}(1)$ or Rademacher distributions.

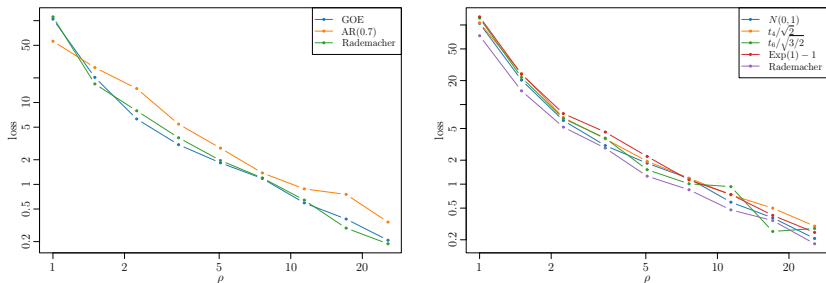


Figure: Robustness to varying design matrices and noise distributions.

- ▶ We use **charcoal** in conjunction with **NOT** (Baranowski et al. (2019) for multiple changepoint estimation.

- ▶ We consider two simulation settings

(M1) $n = 1200, p = 200, \nu = 3,$

$$(z_1, z_2, z_3)/n = (0.2, 0.55, 0.75),$$

$$(\|\theta^{(1)}\|_2, \|\theta^{(2)}\|_2, \|\theta^{(3)}\|_2) = \rho_{\min} \times (1, 1.5, 2),$$

$$\|\theta^{(1)}\|_0 = \|\theta^{(2)}\|_0 = \|\theta^{(3)}\|_0 = k.$$

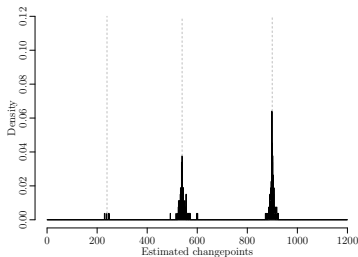
(M2) $n = 2400, p = 400, \nu = 4,$

$$(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)/n = (0.3, 0.55, 0.75, 0.9),$$

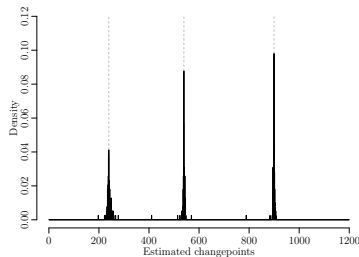
$$(\|\theta^{(1)}\|_2, \|\theta^{(2)}\|_2, \|\theta^{(3)}\|_2, \|\theta^{(4)}\|_2) = \rho_{\min} \times (1, 1.15, 1.45, 2.18),$$

$$\|\theta^{(1)}\|_0 = \|\theta^{(2)}\|_0 = \|\theta^{(3)}\|_0 = \|\theta^{(4)}\|_0 = k.$$

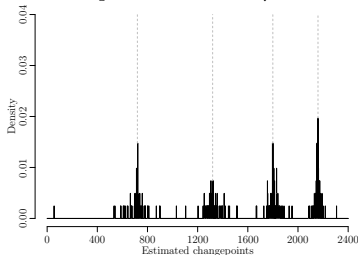
n	p	k	ρ_{\min}	$\hat{\nu} - \nu$ value					Haus	ARI
				-3	-2	-1	0	1		
1200	200	3	0.8	0	0	96	4	0	292.8	0.742
			1.2	0	0	22	78	0	75.4	0.918
			1.6	0	0	0	98	2	8.8	0.978
		10	0.8	0	2	97	1	0	304.9	0.71
			1.2	0	0	42	55	3	141.1	0.856
			1.6	0	0	1	96	3	18	0.96
		100	0.8	3	67	30	0	0	591.7	0.303
			1.2	0	4	88	8	0	319.3	0.611
			1.6	0	0	52	46	2	217.1	0.759
2400	400	3	0.8	0	0	25	75	0	155.3	0.881
			1.2	0	0	0	100	0	14.3	0.975
			1.6	0	0	0	100	0	10.1	0.983
		10	0.8	0	15	53	32	0	376.9	0.72
			1.2	0	0	2	98	0	37.3	0.945
			1.6	0	0	1	99	0	21	0.97
		100	0.8	42	57	1	0	0	1154.9	0.184
			1.2	0	32	54	14	0	647	0.457
			1.6	0	0	14	84	2	376.9	0.658



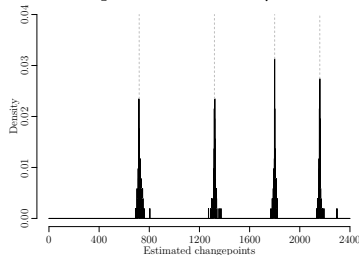
$n = 1200, p = 200, k = 3, \rho_{\min} = 0.8$



$n = 1200, p = 200, k = 3, \rho_{\min} = 1.6$



$n = 2400, p = 400, k = 10, \rho_{\min} = 0.8$



$n = 2400, p = 400, k = 10, \rho_{\min} = 1.6$

Figure: Histogram of estimated changepoint locations in four settings.

- ▶ It is possible to estimate sparse changes in high-dimensional regression coefficients, even if the coefficients themselves are dense.
- ▶ Use complementary sketching to eliminate nuisance parameter.
- ▶ Implementation available in github.com/gaofengnan/charcoal/

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- ▶ Main references:
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Thank you!

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