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Virtual Clinical Trial

- What is the relevant task? Detect tumors, detect and locate tumors, estimate parameters
- What objects will be imaged? The patient population and the statistics that govern it.
- What is the imaging system(s)? The physics and statistics of the system which determine how an object is mapped to image data.
- * How will the information be extracted? The observer.
- * What measure of performance will be used? The figure of merit

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Observers

Decision-making strategy

Options

 Human
 Model
 Anthropomorphic model
 Computer-aided diagnosis (CAD)



Classification





Hotelling observer

 $t = \boldsymbol{w}^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{g}$ $w = K_{\boldsymbol{g}}^{-1} \Delta \overline{\boldsymbol{g}}$

- * Is the ideal observer when the image data are Gaussian distributed
- * Maximizes the SNR among all linear observers
- * Requires knowledge of the first- and second-order statistics
- * A linear template applied to the image

Ideal linear observers = t

Channelized Hotelling observer

$$\boldsymbol{v} = T\boldsymbol{g}$$

$$t = \boldsymbol{\xi}^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{v} \qquad \boldsymbol{\xi} = K_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}^{-1} \Delta \overline{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$$

- * Dimension of v is much smaller than g
- * Ideal linear observer on channel outputs
- * Channels can be chosen to mimic human visual system
- * Internal noise model is needed to match absolute performance



Limitations of Hotelling observers

- * Signal location is fixed
- * Performance is limited in the presence of signal-shape variability
- * Signal must often be very weak to achieve AUC < 1.0







Scanning linear observer

$$t(\boldsymbol{g}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \Delta \overline{\boldsymbol{g}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^{\dagger} K_{g}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{g} - \overline{\boldsymbol{g}}) - \frac{1}{2} \Delta \overline{\boldsymbol{g}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^{\dagger} K_{g}^{-1} \Delta \overline{\boldsymbol{g}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$
$$t(\boldsymbol{g}) = \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} t(\boldsymbol{g}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$
$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{g}) = \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} t(\boldsymbol{g}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- * Maximizes area under the EROC curve when the image statistics are Gaussian distributed and a delta utility function is assumed
- * Non-linear observer due to the maximization steps

Scanning linear observer

Estimating signal position



Scanning linear observer Estimating signal position \times $= t(g, \theta)$

Anthropomorphic models?



* Human scan pattern is difficult to model

Courtesy of E. Krupinski









Solution

- * Does absolute performance matter?
- * What matters is that the same decision is made using the model observer
- * Rank ordering
- * May allow for simpler tasks and observers









Ranking Systems

- * The Friedman statistic is usually used in hypothesis testing where the null hypothesis is that the rankings of the judges are uncorrelated
- Under the null hypothesis the distribution of *Q* can be approximated by a chi-square distribution with *S* - 1 degrees of freedom
- * A large value for *Q* indicates agreement among the judges





Task-Based Turing Test

- * Problem: Is the simulated data realistic enough?
- * Question: Realistic enough for what?
- * Answer: Realistic enough to give results for estimators in simulation that match what we get with real data
- * We must quantify how well the results match

Task-Based Turing Test

- * Consider parameter μ with estimator μ_{est}
- * μ_{est} has a PDF pr₁(μ_{est}) with the simulated data
- * μ_{est} has a PDF pr₂(μ_{est}) with the real data
- * Want to measure how well these PDFs match

Task-Based Turing Test



Task-Based Turing Test

- * W is usually used to reject the null hypothesis that the two distributions are the same
- * W is also an estimate of the AUC for the two PDFs
- * If the two PDFs are the same, then the AUC is 0.5

Task-Based Turing Test

- * If 0.5 is within one standard deviation of *W* we will consider the two PDFs to be a good match
- As the number of cases and readers increases the standard deviation decreases and this becomes a more demanding test
- * Using MRMC analysis we can compute the numbers of readers and cases needed to reach the level of accuracy desired

Task-Based Turing Test



Task-Based Turing Test

<figure>

Task-Based Turing Test

Signal present image (500 averaged):





Summary

- * Observer models can predict human performance for relatively simple tasks
- * Consistent ranking may be more important than absolute quantitation
- * Task-based methods can be used to test model realism