# Discussion of Automatic Change-Point Detection in Time Series via Deep Learning by Li, Fearnhead, Fryzlewicz, and Wang

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#### Change point tests as neural networks

A key idea is that common change point tests can be represented as single layer feed forward neural networks with RELU activation.

#### Lemma (3.2)

Consider the change point model:

$$y_i = \boldsymbol{\beta}' \mathbf{z}_i + \phi c_{\tau,i} + \xi_i \qquad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Where  $c_{\tau,i}$  is a <u>scalar</u> covariate specific to the change at  $\tau$  and  $\xi_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ . Then there is an  $h^* \in \mathcal{H}_{1,2n-2}$  equivalent to the likelihood-ratio test for testing  $\phi = 0$  against  $\phi \neq 0$ .

Apparently, the setup rules out several common change point problems.

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Consider the piecewise polynomial change point model

$$y_i = \begin{cases} \sum_{j=0}^{p} \alpha_j \left( i/n - \tau/n \right)^j + \xi_i & \text{if } t \le \tau \\ \sum_{j=0}^{p} \beta_j \left( i/n - \tau/n \right)^j + \xi_i & \text{if } t > \tau \end{cases} \qquad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

- For  $\xi$ 's distributed i.i.d.  $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$  the likelihood ratio statistic (e.g. [BCF19]) for a change at location *i* is:  $\mathcal{R}_i(\mathbf{Y}) = \|P_{1:i}\mathbf{Y}\|_2 + \|P_{(i+1):n}\mathbf{Y}\|_2 \|P_{1:n}\mathbf{Y}\|_2$ .
- Being a linear combination of quadratic forms h<sup>GLR</sup><sub>λ</sub>(y) = 1<sub>{max<sub>i</sub> R<sub>i</sub>(y)>λ}</sub> clearly cannot be represented as a single layer neural network with RELU activation.
- ▶ The Wald test (e.g. [KOC22]) likewise cannot be represented in this way.
- Natural ways to address this: data pre-processing, different activation functions, etc.

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$$\mathcal{O}\left(B^2 n^{\frac{2p^*}{2p^*+1}}/\Delta_{p^*}^2\right).$$

Where: 
$$\Delta_j = (\alpha_j - \beta_j), \ \delta = \tau \land (n - \tau), \ p^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_j \left\{ |\Delta_j| \left( \delta/n \right)^j \right\}.$$

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When analyzing the behavior of neural networks on change point problems it may be useful to think in terms of difference based tests.

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#### References

- [BCF19] Rafal Baranowski, Yining Chen, and Piotr Fryzlewicz. Narrowest-over-threshold detection of multiple change points and change-point-like features. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B: Statistical Methodology*, 81(3):649–672, 2019.
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