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## 1 Introduction

Asymptotic distribution theory for contamination

models

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### Abstract

In many situations one is interested in identifying observations that come from sources of variation other than the normal background or baseline source. A simple model for such situations is a two point mixture model where one component in the mixture corresponds to the baseline model and the second to the other sources (the contamination component). Here the goal is two-fold: (i) detect the overall presence of contamination and (ii) identify observations that may be contaminated. A locally most powerful test is presented which gives some insights on how to accomplish this. Surprisingly, the test statistic can have an asymptotic distribution that is based on a stable law that is not the normal distribution. Examples and simulations are given to illustrate the approach.

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The point of this paper is to investigate the asymptotic distribution of the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) and the locally most powerful (LMP) test of the parameter  $p$  in the two point mixture model.

$$f_p(x) = pf_0(x) + pf_1(x), \text{ where } p = 1 - p, \text{ and } 0 < p \leq 1 \quad (1.1)$$

The distribution,  $f_p$ , is the so-called *contaminated distribution model* which is sometimes used to model outliers from the baseline model  $f_0$ .

In this simple setting we shall see that, when  $p = 0$ , the MLE and the LMP test have asymptotic distributions that are nonstandard. They exhibit the Chernoff phenomena (Chernoff, 1954) of having two point mixtures. These two points mixtures each have point masses at zero where the second component in the mixture is based on an sensible law depending on the tail behavior of the likelihood ratio  $f_p(X)/f_0(X)$  under  $f_0$ .

In low contamination situations (statistically), these asymptotics suggest using the LMP test to detect the presence of contamination. If the LMP test rejects  $p = 0$ , then the empirical posterior  $\frac{pf_1(x)}{f_p(x)}$ , where  $p^*$  is the value to investigate what observations may be contaminated (from  $f_1$ ). Confidence bounds for this posterior can also be constructed using confidence intervals for  $p^*$ .

The asymptotics indicate that the determination of contamination when  $p$  is small can be problematic using classical frequentist approaches, especially if parameters need to be estimated. In addition, this has similar implications for multiple testing problems. E.g., in the analysis of microarrays, a mixture model,  $f_0$  is the model for the expression levels of the nonexpressed genes and  $f_1$  for the differentially expressed genes. In particular, there can be a justification for the use of a central  $t$  distribution where the degrees of freedom is determined by the amount of replication in the experiment or a central normal if the degrees of freedom is large. A similar justification can be made for noncentral  $t$ 's or  $t$ -normals to model the differentially expressed genes. Here  $p$  is the proportion of differentially expressed genes.

The layout of the paper follows where we address the above ideas as follows. In Section 2 we motivate a two point mixture data analysis model to analyze two point pooled data. In Section 3 we discuss the LMP test for the mixture model where the hypothesis

## 2 Pooling and mixtures

comes →

In many data analytic problems the observations  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  arise from pooling data from various sources of variation. In many cases, the pooling model has the following formulation for two sources of variation. In this formulation, a configuration  $C$ , which is a subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , indicates which observations come from one source and  $C^c$  from the other. For example, such a pooling model might occur in a binary network where the network is modeled by a Markov random field. In the spread of an infectious disease over the network, the nodes are partitioned into two groups,  $C$  and  $C^c$ , where  $C^c$  is the collection of sites that have elevated levels of infections and  $C$  is the collection of sites which are normal. In the normal case the number of infections is governed by  $f_0$  while for the elevated level by  $f_1$ . Then,

$$P((C, C^c), X_1, \dots, X_n) = K \exp(E((C, C^c))) \prod_{i \in C} f_0(X_i) \prod_{i \in C^c} f_1(X_i)$$

where  $E((C, C^c))$  is related to the energy of the partition  $(C, C^c)$  (Huang, 1963) and where we have suppressed parameters in  $E((C, C^c))$  and the normalizing constant  $K$ . Here we have assumed the positivity condition that all partitions have positive probabilities.

In general, the *pooling model* is given as follows.

- Generate a configuration  $C$  with probability  $p(C)$
- Given  $C$ , for  $i \in C$ ,  $X_i$  are iid and, for  $i \in C^c$ ,  $X_i$  are iid  $\sim f_1$
- $C^c$  and  $C^c$  model a spatial or temporal (e.g., a change-point) pattern
- You are “pooling” observations based on the configuration  $C$  where the configuration  $C$  is a hidden variable

– The likelihood is then:

$$\sum_C p(C) \prod_{i \in C} f_0(X_i) \prod_{i \in C^c} f_1(X_i)$$

Throughout we assume that all densities  $f$  are absolutely continuous with respect to a common measure  $\mu$  and absolutely continuous with respect to each other.

The basic data analytic method is as follows:

- Envision that the data are the effects of pooling observations from  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  where  $f_0$  is the background distribution and  $f_1$  is the distribution of the contaminated observations.
- Treat the data as if it is from a mixture model, and use a mixture model to estimate the mixing proportions for  $f_0$  and  $f_1$ ; that is, the proportions in  $C^c$  and  $C^c$ . Use the estimates to test the null hypothesis that one of the mixing proportions is equal to zero. If this hypothesis is rejected, see if the fitted mixture model can give insights into which observations came from  $f_0$ , that is, into the configuration  $C$ .

Finally, the basic data analytic model is the *simple contaminated model*

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $\sim f_p = (1 - p)f_0 + pf_1$
- $f_0$  is the density of the background model
- $f_1$  models the contamination
- The likelihood is then

$$\prod_{i=1}^n \ell(1 - p)f_0(X_i) + pf_1(X_i)\}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^n \sum_{C_j} (1 - p)^j p^{n-j} \prod_{i \in C_j} f_0(X_i) \prod_{i \notin C_j} f_1(X_i)$$

where  $C_j$  denotes a subset of size  $j$  from  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

For low contaminated models one approach is to calculate the likelihood  $p^*$ .

Use  $p^*$  to test  $H_0: p = 0$  versus  $H_1: p > 0$ . If  $H_0$  is rejected see if the mixture model can give insights into the configuration  $C_j$ . For example, calculate the empirical Bayes posterior with prior  $p(C_j) = (1 - p^*)^j p^{n-j}$ . Then:

$$p(C_j | X_1, \dots, X_n) \propto (1 - p^*)^j p^{n-j} \prod_{i \in C_j} f_0(X_i) \prod_{i \notin C_j} f_1(X_i) \quad (2.1)$$

Another approach is the following two stage multiple testing type of method for  $p \approx 0$ . This suggests using the *locally most powerful LMMP* test statistic

family with mixing distribution  $Q$  by:

$$f_Q = \int f_{\theta} dQ(\theta)$$

For  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  being iid from  $f_Q$ , the likelihood and log likelihood are given by

$$L(Q) = \prod_i f_Q(X_i) \text{ and } \phi(f_Q) = \log \prod_i f_Q(X_i)$$

where  $f_Q = (f_Q(X_1), \dots, f_Q(X_n))$ . The directional derivative of  $\phi$  at  $f_{Q_k}$  towards  $f_Q$ , is

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f_{Q_k}; f_{Q_\theta}) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \left( \phi((1 - \varepsilon)f_{Q_k} + \varepsilon f_{Q_\theta}) - \phi(f_{Q_k}) \right) / \varepsilon \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f_Q(X_i) - f_{Q_k}(X_i)}{f_{Q_k}(X_i)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \frac{f_{Q_k}(X_i)}{\int f_{Q_k}(X_i)} - 1 \right\} \\ &= \int D(\theta; Q) dQ_i(\theta). \end{aligned}$$

The directional derivative  $D$  is used to identify when a  $k$ -point MLE,  $Q_k^*$ , for  $L(Q)$  is the global one.  $Q^*$  (a  $k$ -point one maximizes the likelihood function restricted to mixtures with  $k$  components). The basic idea is that  $D(\theta; Q) = 0$  at the support points of the  $k$ -point MLE  $Q^*$  and  $D(\theta; Q) \leq 0$  if and only if  $Q^*$  is the global MLE (Lindsay, 1983a,b).

## 4 Asymptotic considerations

In this section, we determine the asymptotic distributions of the MLE  $p^*$  of  $p$  and the LMP test statistic for testing  $H_0 : p = p_0$ . When testing  $H_0 : p = p_0$  and  $p_0$  is in the interior of the parameter space, i.e.,  $0 < p_0 < 1$ , the usual asymptotics go through, since they are based on sums of bounded random variables. Therefore, we focus only in the case when testing  $H_0 : p = 0$ .

Section 4.1 considers the case when the true value of the parameter  $p = 0$ . Since  $p = 0$  is on the boundary, this leads to asymptotics under nonstandard conditions. In particular, the asymptotic distribution of the MLE  $p^*$  is a mixed distribution, where one of the components is degenerate at 0, and the other is

either half normal when the Fisher information  $I_0 = E_0 I^2(f_1 - f_0/f_1)^2) < \infty$  or is a stable law when  $I_0 = \infty$ .

Section 4.2 considers the distribution of the LMP test statistic for testing  $H_0 : p = 0$  when the true value of the parameter  $0 < p < 1$ . The results therein can be used for power calculations.

Section 4.3 gives the distributional properties of the ratio of two densities for the cases used in the examples and simulations.

*Throughout this section, let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be iid with density  $f_p(x) = (1 - p)f_0(x) + pf_1(x)$  where all the random variables are assumed to be defined on the same probability space. Also let  $Z_t = f_1(X_t)/f_0(X_t)$  and  $I_0 = Z_t - 1 = \frac{I(X_t)}{f_0(X_t)}$ . The LMP test statistic from Section 3 corresponding to the null hypothesis  $H_0 : p = 0$  is denoted by  $T_n = \sum_{t=1}^n I_{Z_t}$ . Let  $I_0 = E_0(I_{Z_t}^2)$  and  $W_t = E_0(I_{Z_t}^{(3)})$ ,  $t = 0, 1$ , where the expectations are taken under  $H_0$ . Note that  $I_0$  is the Fisher information under  $H_0$ .*

Also, *unless* on this section,  $G_n$  represents the cumulative distribution function of a stable law with parameter  $\alpha \in (0, 2]$ , i.e., its characteristic function is  $(A.1)$ . Define  $G_0 = 1 - G$ .

The next proposition is used in some parts of this section and is the basis for the claim that when  $p_0$  is in the interior of the parameter space the terms in the LMP test statistic are all bounded.

**Proposition 4.1.**

$$\frac{f_1(x) - f_0(x)}{(1 - p)f_0(x) + pf_1(x)}$$

*is bounded for  $0 < p < 1$  (hence all its moments are finite).*

*Proof.* Notice that

$$\frac{f_1(x) - f_0(x)}{(1 - p)f_0(x) + pf_1(x)} = \frac{1}{p} \left( \frac{f_1(x)}{\frac{1 - p}{p} f_0(x) + f_1(x)} \right) = \frac{1}{1 - p} \left( \frac{f_1(x)}{f_0(x) + \frac{p}{1-p} f_1(x)} \right)$$

Therefore,

$$\left| \frac{f_1(x) - f_0(x)}{(1 - p)f_0(x) + pf_1(x)} \right| \leq \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{1 - p}$$

□

#### 4.1 First case: $p = 0$

The next few lemmas show the distribution of the MLE  $\hat{p}^*$  when  $p = 0$  under different conditions.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Under  $H_0: p = 0$ ,  $\hat{p}^*$  converges to 0 almost surely.*

*Proof.* Let

$$l(p) \equiv \varphi(f_p)$$

$$f'(p) = \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \varphi(f_p) = \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \log \prod_{i=1}^n f_p(X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f_i(X_i)}{f_p(X_i)} - \frac{f_0(X_i)}{f_p(X_i)}$$

and note that

$$\hat{l}'(p) = - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{[f_i(X_i) - f_0(X_i)]^2}{f_p(X_i)^2} \leq 0.$$

So  $\hat{l}(p)$  is concave and attains its maximum,  $\hat{p}^*$ , either at 0 or on  $(0, 1)$ .

Let  $U_n(p) = \hat{l}'(p)$  where  $U_n = U_n(0)$  and note that  $U_n(p)$  is the sum of  $n$  iid random variables with

$$E_0 \left( \frac{f_i(X_i) - f_0(X_i)}{f_p(X_i)} \right) = 0 \text{ when } p = 0 \text{ and } < 0 \text{ for } p > 0 \quad (4.1)$$

When  $U_n \leq 0$ ,  $U_n(p) \leq U_n$  since  $\hat{l}'(p)$  is concave. Thus,  $\hat{l}'(p)$  attains its maximum at 0 on  $\{U_n \leq 0\}$ .

When  $U_n > 0$ ,  $\hat{l}'(p)$  attains its maximum on  $(0, 1]$ . Since  $U_n(p)$  has mean less than 0 for  $0 < p < 1$ ,  $U_n(p)/n$  converges almost surely to a negative number (because of Proposition 1.1). When  $\hat{l}'_n(p) < 0$  and  $U_n > 0$ ,  $0 < p^* < p$  with  $\hat{l}'_n(p^*) = 0$  since  $\hat{l}'_n(0) > 0$  and  $\hat{l}'_n(p) < 0$ . Thus,  $\lim p^* < p$  almost surely on the set where  $U_n(p)/n$  converges to its mean. Since  $p > 0$  is arbitrary, this with the previous paragraph implies that  $\hat{p}^*$  converges to zero almost surely.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3.** *If  $I_0 < \infty$  and  $W_i < \infty$ ,  $i = 0, 1$ , then, under  $H_0$ ,  $n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \hat{p}^*$  converges in distribution to  $X$  where  $X = 0$  with probability  $G_\alpha(0)$  and  $P(X > d) = \tilde{G}_\alpha(d)$  for  $d > 0$ .*

*Proof.* If  $p^* \in (0, 1)$ , then  $\hat{l}'(p^*) = 0$  and

$$\hat{l}'(0) = \hat{l}'(1) - \hat{l}'(p^*) = -\hat{l}'(0)p^* - \frac{\hat{l}''(p^*)p^{*2}}{2} \quad (4.2)$$

*What the asymptotic behavior of  $T_n$  is.*

*Proof.* For  $p^* \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $\hat{p}'(p^*) = 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{p}'(0) &= \hat{p}'(0) - \hat{p}'(p^*) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (f_0(X_i) - f_0(X_i)) \left( \frac{1}{f_0(X_i)} - \frac{1}{f_{p^*}(X_i)} \right) \\ &= p^* \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(f_0(X_i) - f_0(X_i))^2}{f_0(X_i) f_{p^*}(X_i)} \\ &= p^* a_n^2 V_a(p^*). \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

Note that

$$\frac{\hat{p}'(0)}{a_n} = a_n p^* V_a(p^*)$$

and  $\hat{p}'(0)/a_n$  converges in distribution to  $G_\alpha$ . Since  $p^* = 0$  when  $\hat{p}'(0) < 0$ , the results follows.  $\square$

From the proof of Lemma 4.4 by setting  $a_n = \sqrt{n}$ , we can get the asymptotic distribution of  $p^*$  without the third moment assumption given in Lemma 4.3.

**Lemma 4.5.** If  $I_0 < \infty$ , then, under  $H_0$ ,  $\alpha = 2$  and  $p^* \sqrt{n} V_a(p^*)$  converges in distribution to  $X$  where  $X = 0$  with probability .5 and  $= [N(0, I_0^{-1})]$  with probability .5. Moreover,  $V_a(0)$  converges almost surely to  $I_0$ .

**Remark 4.6.** When  $1 < \alpha < 2$ ,  $V_a(0)$  converges in distribution to a stable law with parameter  $\alpha/2$  (by Corollary A.3). So, one could replace  $V_a(p^*)$  with  $V_a(0)$  in (4.4), except that one could not justify this replacement without putting some condition on  $\hat{p}''(p)$ .

The next few lemmas show the distribution of the LMP test statistic  $T_n$  for various cases.

**Lemma 4.7.** If  $I_0 < \infty$ , then, under  $H_0$ ,  $I_n/\sqrt{n}$  converges in distribution to  $N(0, I_0)$ .

*Proof.* Direct application of the central limit theorem.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.8.** If  $Z_1$  and  $a_n$  satisfy conditions (A.2) and (A.3), respectively, for some  $1 < \alpha \leq 2$ , then, under  $H_0$ ,  $I_n/a_n$  converges in distribution to  $G_\alpha$  for stable law with parameter  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha = 1$ , then  $(I_n - \mu_n)/a_n$  converges in distribution to a stable law with parameter 1, where  $\mu_n$  is defined as in (A.4).

*Proof.* If  $1 < \alpha \leq 2$ , then  $\hat{p}'_p(I_0) = p I_0$  is finite and the result follows from the results in Appendix A.  $\square$

### 4.3 Distributional properties of density ratios

In this section, we consider the properties of  $Z = f_1(X)/f_0(X)$  for some frequently used distributions. Properties are required to use the lemmas in Sections 4.1 and 4.2. Section 4.3.1 considers the case when both,  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  are exponential distributions, and Section 4.3.2 considers the case of the normal distribution.

*There*

*Proof.* Direct application of Lemma A.1.  $\square$

If  $f_1$  has an unknown parameter and  $p = 0$ , an identifiability issue surfaces that makes it impossible to estimate that parameter. In this case, if the parameter is estimated from the data and used to calculate  $T_n$ , it is not clear what the limiting distribution of  $T_n$  is.

#### 4.2 Case 2: $p > 0$

The asymptotic distribution of  $T_n$  given in Lemmas 4.7 and 4.8 is for  $p = 0$ . The next two lemmas give the asymptotic distribution of  $T_n$  when  $p > 0$ . For this, assume that  $X_1 \sim f_p = (1-p)f_0 + p f_1$  and let  $W'_0 = E_0(I_0^3)$ .

**Lemma 4.9.** If  $I_0 < \infty$  and  $W_0 < \infty$ , then  $(I_n - np)_n/\sqrt{n}$  converges in distribution to  $N(0, I_0 + pW'_0 - p^2 I_0^2)$ .

*Proof.* It is easy to prove that  $E_p(I_0) = p I_0$  and  $E_p(I_0^2) = I_0 + p I_0^2$ . The result then follows from a direct application of the central limit theorem.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.10.** Suppose  $Z_1$  and  $a_n$  satisfy conditions (A.2) and (A.3), respectively, for some  $1 < \alpha \leq 2$ . If  $1 < \alpha \leq 2$ , then  $I_0 < \infty$  and  $(I_n - np)_n/a_n$  converges in distribution to  $G_\alpha$ , while if  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $I_n/a_n$  converges in distribution to a stable law with parameter  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha = 1$ , then  $(I_n - \mu_n)/a_n$  converges in distribution to a stable law with parameter 1, where  $\mu_n$  is defined as in (A.4).

*Proof.* If  $1 < \alpha \leq 2$ , then  $\hat{p}'_p(I_0) = p I_0$  is finite and the result follows from the results in Appendix A.  $\square$

5 can be used to get an appropriate normalizing constant  $a_n$  which satisfies (A.3).

The mean of the density ratio is

$$E_{\mu,\sigma^2}(Z) = \begin{cases} e^{\left(\frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2 + \delta_1^2 - 2\mu_1^2 - \delta_2^2\right)} & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 \\ \sqrt{\frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha-1}} e^{\left(\frac{1}{2\alpha}\left[\frac{1}{\alpha-1}\sigma_1^2 + \mu_1^2 + \mu_0^2 - \sigma_0^2\right] + \delta_1^2\right)} & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 < \sigma_0^2 \text{ or} \\ \infty & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 > \sigma_0^2 \text{ and } \alpha > 1 \end{cases}$$

where  $\delta_j = \frac{\mu_j^2 - \sigma_j^2}{\sigma_j^2}$  for  $j = 1, 2$  (for  $j = 0$  let  $\delta_0 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1^2} - \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}$ ).

The variance is given by

$$\text{var}_{\mu,\sigma^2}(Z) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{e^{\sigma_1^2\mu_1^2} - 1}{\sqrt{\alpha-2}}\right) e^{\left(\frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2 + \delta_1^2 + 2\mu_1^2 + \mu_0^2 - \sigma_0^2\right)} & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 \\ \sqrt{\frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha-2}} e^{\left(\frac{1}{2\alpha}\left[\frac{1}{\alpha-1}\sigma_1^2 + \mu_1^2 + \mu_0^2 - \sigma_0^2\right] + \delta_2^2\right)} & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 < \sigma_0^2 \text{ or} \\ -\frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha-1} e^{\left(\frac{1}{2\alpha}\left[\frac{1}{\alpha-1}\sigma_1^2 + \delta_1^2 + \mu_1^2 - \mu_0^2\right] - \delta_2\right)} & (\sigma_1^2 > \sigma_0^2 \text{ and } \alpha > 2) \\ \infty & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 > \sigma_0^2 \text{ and } 1 < \alpha \leq 2 \\ \text{undefined} & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 > \sigma_0^2 \text{ and } \alpha \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

When  $f_{\mu,\sigma^2} = f_0$  the mean reduces to  $E_0(Z) = 1$  and the variance, which is  $I_0$ , reduces to

$$I_0 = \text{var}(Z) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1}{\mu_1 - \mu_0^2/\sigma_0^2}\right)^2 - 1 & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 \\ \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_1^2 \sqrt{2\sigma_0^2 - \sigma_1^2}} e^{\left(\frac{2\sigma_0^2\mu_1^2}{2\sigma_0^2 - \sigma_1^2}\right)} - 1 & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 < 2\sigma_0^2 \\ \infty & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 \geq 2\sigma_0^2 \end{cases}$$

For  $f_{\mu,\sigma^2} = f_1$  the mean becomes  $E_1(Z) = \text{var}(Z) + 1$  and the variance becomes

$$\text{var}_1(Z) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{e^{(1)(\mu_1 - \mu_0^2/\sigma_0^2)} - 1}{\sigma_1^2 \sqrt{2(1-\sigma_1^2/\sigma_0^2)}}\right)^2 - 1 & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 \\ \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_1^2 \sqrt{2(1-\sigma_1^2/\sigma_0^2)}} e^{\left(\frac{2\sigma_0^2\mu_1^2}{2\sigma_0^2 - \sigma_1^2}\right)} & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 < 1.5\sigma_0^2 \\ -\frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_1^2 \sqrt{2\sigma_0^2 - \sigma_1^2}} e^{\left(\frac{2\sigma_0^2\mu_1^2}{2\sigma_0^2 - \sigma_1^2}\right)} & \text{when } 1.5\sigma_0^2 \leq \sigma_1^2 < 2\sigma_0^2 \\ \infty & \text{when } \sigma_1^2 \geq 2\sigma_0^2 \end{cases}$$

## 5 Simulations

For the first set of simulations, background and contamination data are generated from exponential distributions with means  $\theta_0 = 166.206$  and  $\theta_1 = 592.922$ , respectively, which are the estimated means for the 2-point rate for the Mining Data in the next section. Samples of sizes  $n = 100, 500, 1000$  are generated, with 0, 1 and 5 percent of contamination ( $p = 0, 0.01, 0.05$ ). With each sample we calculate  $T_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f_1(X_i) - f_0(X_i)}{f_0(X_i)}$  and  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f_1(X_i) - E(X_i)}{f_0(X_i)}$ , where  $\hat{f}_0$  and  $f_1$  are ~~estimated~~ of the densities based on the maximum likelihood estimators of  $\theta_0$  and  $\theta_1$ . These estimates are used as if they were the true parameters and a normalizing constant and critical value are calculated based on these estimates. The process is repeated  $N = 10000$  times and the number of repetitions of the null hypothesis  $H_0 : p = 0$  at the .05 level are recorded.

Following the results from Section 4.3.1, the variance of the terms in  $T_n$ , corresponding to  $f_0$  is infinite, but the tail behavior of the density ratio, under  $H_0$ , follows that of the first line of Table 5 with  $\alpha = 592.922/(592.922 - 166.206) = 1.3895$  and  $c = (166.206/592.922)^{1-3895} = 0.1705081$ . Hence, the normalizing constant is  $a_n = (0.1705081 s_1^{1-3895})^{1/3895} = -4881128 n^{0.7196852}$ . From Lemma A.1, the rejection region defined by  $T_n / (-4881128 n^{0.7196852}) > 4.0186$  would reject the null hypothesis with probability 0.05 if there are no anomalies. A similar process is done to calculate the rejection region  $S_n/a_n > d_{05}$  in each sample, where the normalizing constant  $a_n$  and the critical value  $d_{05}$  change from sample to sample, and are calculated based on either the normal or the stable distribution<sup>1</sup>. The results of these simulations are shown in Table 1.

<sup>1</sup> The simulations show that, when using the true parameters to calculate  $T_n$ , the proportion of samples that rejected the null hypothesis ~~under the null~~ about 0.05, as expected. Notice that with the background and contamination means fixed at  $\theta_0 = 166.206$  and  $\theta_1 = 592.922$ , the power increases as the ~~under the null~~ is finite

Sample sizes	Proportion of anomalies					
	Based on $T_n$			Based on $S_n$		
	0	0.01	0.05	0	0.01	0.05
100	0.0102	0.1616	0.5316	0.2853	0.3898	0.6340
500	0.0183	0.3896	0.9361	0.3248	0.5725	0.9252
1000	0.0544	0.5454	0.9935	0.3387	0.6898	0.9786

Table 1: Proportion of rejections of  $H_0$ , no anomalies, out of 10000 simulations with background and contamination generated from exponential distributions with means 166, 206 and 542, respectively

The exact power for the LMP test can be calculated using Lemma 4.10 and the results from Section 4.3.1 and Table 5, with  $\alpha = \theta_0 / (\theta_1 - \theta_0) = 0.3895003$  and  $c = p(\theta_0, \theta_1)^{\alpha} = 0.6083893p$ , which gives  $(cS_n)^{1/\alpha} = 0.1173926p^{0.3895003}$ . Rejection occurs when  $T_n / (1.488128p^{0.749802}) > 4.802503 / (p^{2.567389n^{1/87703}}) \equiv C(p, n)$  to rejecting if

$$T_n(n, p) \geq T_n / (0.1473926p^{2.567389n^{1/87703}}) > 4.802503 / (p^{2.567389n^{1/87703}}) \equiv C(p, n)$$

The left hand side of this inequality converges to a stable law with parameter  $\alpha = 0.3895003$ . The power can be calculated for each value of  $n$  and  $p$ . For instance, if  $n = 100$  and  $p = 0.05$ , the power is the probability that a value from a stable law is larger than 2.19841, that is, 0.51041. In the case of  $n = 500$  and  $p = 0.01$ , the tail starts at 1.750576, which gives a power of 0.3517792. For  $n = 1000$  and  $p = 0.05$ , the power is 0.496379. The simulations confirm these values.

If estimates are used as if they were the true parameters, rejection occurs 28.5% of the time when there are no anomalies present ( $p = 0$ ) and  $n = 100$ . This is troubling and indicates that false discovery is a serious problem in this case. This is not the case when  $p > 0$  and Appendix B indicates the necessary adjustments that need to be made when estimating parameters.

For the second set of simulations data are generated from normal distributions, where the background consists of standard normal variables ( $\mu_0 = 0$  and  $\sigma_0^2 = 1$ ) and the anomalies consist of a normal with mean  $\mu_1 = 0$  and variance  $\sigma_1^2 = 3$ . Samples of sizes  $n = 100, 500, 1000$  are generated, with 0, 1 and 5 percent of the observations being anomalies.

The results from Section 4.3.2 and Table 5 are used to determine the rejection region for each sample. Since the variance of  $f_1/f_0$  is infinite under  $H_0$ , the tail behavior of the distribution of the ratio needs to be taken into consideration to see what stable law applies when  $\mu = \mu_0 = 0$  and  $\sigma^2 = \sigma_0^2 = 1$ . This is described in Section 4.3.2 with  $\alpha = 3, (3 - 1) = 1.5, \beta = 1/3, b = 0$ ,  $c_1 = 2p^{1/2}/\sqrt{2\pi} = 2(\frac{1}{4})^{1.5/2}/\sqrt{2\pi} = 0.350025$ . The rejection region is now found using the results from Table 5: reject the null hypothesis  $H_0 : p = 0$  if

$$\frac{T_n}{0.7274158(n/\sqrt{\log n})^{2/3}} > 3.824235.$$

The results of these simulations are found in Table 2. The LMP test seems somewhat conservative for  $n = 100$ , possibly because this sample size is too small to observe convergence to the stable law. This results in a not too powerful test. For  $n = 500$  and  $n = 1000$ , the test seems to perform better.

Sample sizes	Proportion of anomalies		
	0	0.01	0.05
100	0.0371	0.0788	0.2331
500	0.0447	0.1533	0.5649
1000	0.0468	0.2295	0.7885

Table 2: Proportion of rejections of  $H_0$ , no anomalies, out of 10000 simulations with background and anomalies generated from normal distributions with mean 0 and variances 1 and 3, respectively.

The exact asymptotic power can be calculated for these tests by using Lemma 4.13, Table 5 and Section 4.3.2. Suppose the true proportion of anomalies  $p$  is positive ( $p > 0$ ) and let  $\alpha = 1/(3 - 1) = 0.5$  and  $c = p2(\frac{1}{3})^{0.5/2}/\sqrt{2\pi} =$

$P(n, p)$  total to the  $B$  shown's for  $n = 100$  and  $p = .05$  Table.

For most of the  $P(T_{\cdot}(n, p) > C(n, p)) \equiv P(n, p)$ ,  $500, 1000$  for  $p = .05$

$0.6962612b$ . Thus, to get a stable law we need to normalize  $T_n$  by  $0.2886751p^2(n/\sqrt{\log n})^2$ . A rearrangement of the rejection region (which was normalized originally by  $0.727458(n/\sqrt{\log n})^{2/3}$ ) would result in rejections when

$$\frac{T_n}{0.2886751p^2(n/\sqrt{\log n})^2} > 3.824235 \frac{0.727458(n/\sqrt{\log n})^{2/3}}{(0.2886751p^2(n/\sqrt{\log n})^2)^2} = \frac{9.636468(p\log n)^{2/3}}{p^3n^{4/3}}$$

The exact asymptotic power when  $n = 100$  and  $p = .55$  is the probability that a stable law variable with parameter 0.5 is greater than  $\frac{9.636468(100)^{2/3}}{15.7375n^{4/3}} = 22.98661$ . This probability is 0.1652901. Similarly, for  $n = 500$  and proportions  $p = .10$  and  $p = .15$ , the probabilities of rejecting the null hypothesis are 0.9878053 and 0.1189768, respectively, whereas the simulations estimated these numbers as 0.1533 and 0.5610, respectively.

## 6 Data Examples

### 6.1 Mining Data

Following the analysis from Grego et al. (1990) of the mining accident data, Figure 1 has the gradient functions for the 2- and 3-point mixture mle's where the mixing is over the mean of an exponential distribution and Figure 2 has the assignment function for the second component in the 3-point mle. The estimates of the means and mixing proportions are given in Table 3. The gradient plot indicates that the 2-point mle is not the global mle but the 3-point is. The assignment function indicates a distinct difference in the first 53 times and rest of the times. Further analysis by Grego et al indicates that the first 53 are well fit by a single exponential and the rest by a 3-point mixture.

	$\mu_1(p_1)$	$\mu_2(p_2)$	$\mu_3(p_3)$
2-point mle	592.922 (.175149)	166.206 (.824851)	
3-point mle	595.495 (.171379)	171.587 (.8035528)	29.0972 (.023093)

Table 3: Maximum likelihood estimates for the mining data

For the mining data we will use an exponential with mean 171.587 as  $f_0$  and a 2-point mixed exponential with means 595.495 and 29.0972 and mixing normalized by  $a_0$ , the second sum will quickly converge to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . The

In this section we analyze two data sets using the ideas developed here. The first is mining accident data from Maguire, while the second is an analysis of microarray data -

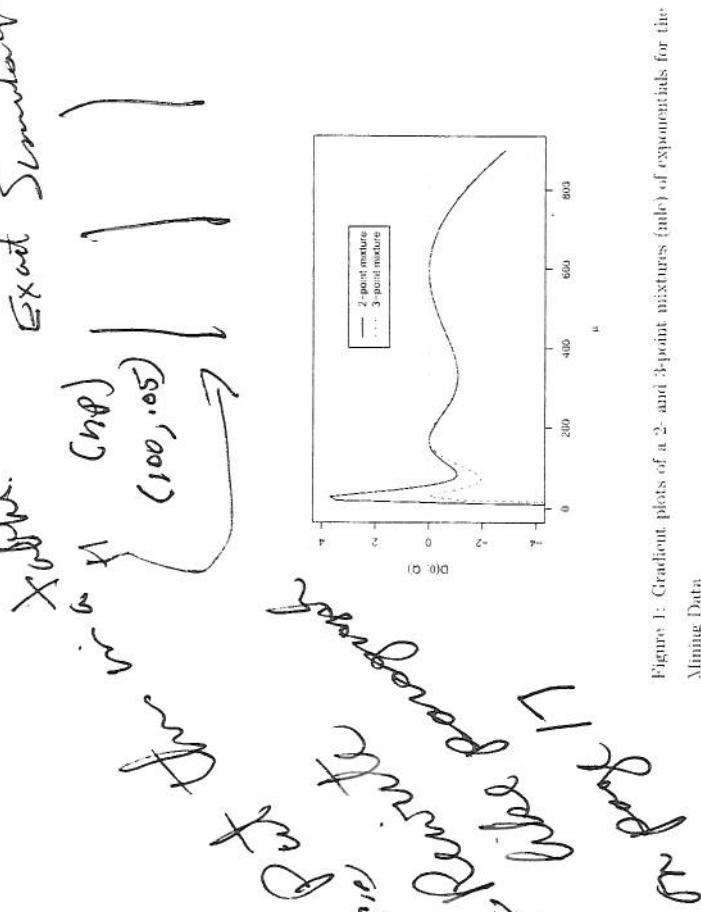
Figure 1: Gradient plots of a 2- and 3-point mixtures (MLE) of exponentials for the Mining Data

proportions proportional to .171379 and .023093, respectively, as  $f_1$ . That is,  $f_1 = f_Q$ , where  $Q_1$  has point masses at 595.495 and 29.0972 with mixing proportions .881253 and .118717 and the family,  $\{f_\mu\}$ , being mixed over is the exponential with its mean parameterization. These are assumed as the true parameters and Lemma 1.8 along with Table 5 can be used to calculate critical values for the LMP test statistic.

The LMP test statistic,  $T_n$ , assuming all the parameters are known, is then given by

$$T_n = 0.8812528 \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\frac{1}{595.495} e^{-X_i} - X_i - 29.0972}{171.587 e^{-X_i} - X_i - 171.587} - 1 \right) + 0.1187172 \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\frac{29.0972}{171.587} e^{-X_i} - X_i - 29.0972}{171.587 e^{-X_i} - X_i - 171.587} - 1 \right).$$

Under the null hypothesis, i.e.,  $X_i \sim f_0$ , the terms in the first sum have infinite variance whereas the terms in the second sum have finite variance (see Appendix 1.3.1 for details). Using the notation of Appendix 1.3.1 with  $\theta_0 = 171.587$  and  $\theta_1 = 595.495$ , let  $\alpha = 595.495/(595.495 - 171.587) = 1.401771$ ,  $c = (171.587/595.495)^{1/0.01771} = 0.1714281$  and  $a_0 = 0.5052435a^{0.01771}$ . If  $T_n$  is normalized by  $a_0$ , the second sum will quickly converge to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . The



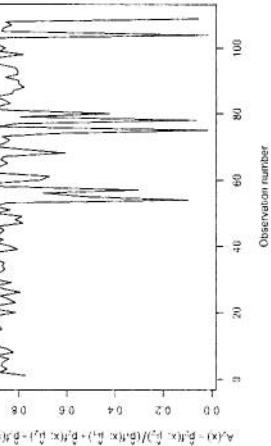


Figure 2: Assignment function for the second component of the 3-point mixture (mle) of exponentials for the Mining Data

first sum converges in distribution to a stable law with parameter  $\alpha = 1.404774$ .

Therefore  $T_n / (\sqrt{8812528} s_n)$  converges in distribution to the same stable law.

For the mining data,  $T_n = 574.871$  and  $T_n / (\sqrt{8812528} s_n) = 45.77311$ . Using Table 1 for  $\alpha = 1.1$  we can see that the p-value is between .005 and .001. The actual p-value is 0.00202145 (calculated using a computer and  $\alpha = 1.404774$ ). This indicates that there is strong evidence that some observations come from  $f_1$ .

Note that parameters in both  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  are being estimated based on the 3-pt global rule. These estimates have to be taken into consideration in using the LMP test statistic to determine if spurious observations are present. As pointed out in the appendix, it would be impossible to estimate  $f_1$  if  $\rho = 0$ , and hence the distribution of the LMP is not quite clear in this case.

If  $\rho > 0$ , then we only need to check the regularity conditions discussed in Lemma B.1 and Remark B.2. For the exponential distribution these conditions reduce to the finiteness of the first three moments.

We now illustrate some of these ideas using gene expression data. The

approach here will be first use the assignment function to identify possible anomalies (expressed genes) to get a posited model. After that, we do the LMP test.

Efron (2007) compared prostate data of  $m_1 = 53$  non-tumor subjects with  $m_2 = 52$  tumor patients for each of  $n = 6023$  genes (see Stugis et al., 2002).

For each gene they perform a two-sample t-test to compare the mean gene-expression between cancer and noncancer subjects.

Let  $t_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  denote the test statistics used for each gene. For genes that have the same mean expression values for both groups  $t_i$  will follow a central t-distribution with  $m_1 + m_2 - 2 = 100$  degrees of freedom.

Efron defines  $z_i = \varphi^{-1}(F_{\text{tstd}}(t_i))_i$ , where  $F_r$  denotes the cumulative distribution function (cdf) of a t-distribution with  $r$  degrees of freedom and  $\varphi$  denotes the cdf of a standard normal distribution. Then the distribution of  $z_i$  is standard normal for these genes that have the same mean expression for both groups of subjects.

Efron then fits the mixture  $f = (1 - p)f_0 + pf_1$  as follows. Suppose  $f$  is a 7-parameter exponential family and estimate this density from the  $z$ -values, obtaining  $\hat{f}$ . Suppose  $f_0$  is the standard normal density and estimate  $p$  by using  $\log(1 - p/f_0)$  as a "quadratic approximation" of  $f$ . From this he estimates the assignment function  $A_0$  (false discovery rate). These calculations can be done using the R package locfdr. He discovered 51 genes using false discovery rate, declaring an anomaly when  $A_0 < 0.2$ .

Here we will first use the ratio  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  rather than  $A_0$  to discover anomalies. To estimate  $f_1$  output of locfdr is used. Then we plot  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  versus the  $z$ -values (Figure 3). It can be seen that the maximum of the ratio  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  is 17649.25. An observation is declared as an anomaly if  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0 > 23$ , where the ad-hoc cutoff point 23 makes the average of  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  close to 0 for  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0 < 23$ . This is reasonable since the mean of  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  is 0 under  $f_0$ . This same plot is shown in Figure 4 but with vertical axis scaled to show only those with  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  below 50. A total of 109 genes have

### Histogram of t-values

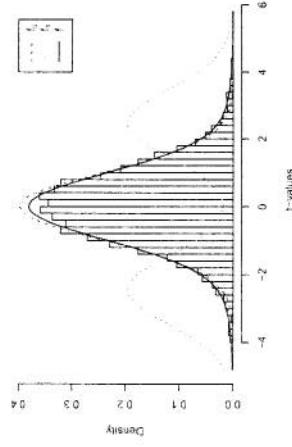


Figure 5: Histogram of  $t$ -values corresponding to the prostate gene-expression data

Figure 5 shows a histogram of the  $t$ -values with the estimated densities superimposed. It can be seen that the central  $t$ -distribution  $f_0$  (dashed line) does not fit the  $t$ -values very well since the  $t$ -values have a heavier tail. The mixture of the two non-central  $t$ -distributions with parameters  $\delta$  and  $\delta$ ,  $f_1$  (dotted line), help to explain the tails. When these two distributions  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  are mixed with  $p$  as the proportion for  $f_1$ , then the fitted distribution  $f$  (solid line) fits the histogram quite nicely using only two parameters (compared to fitting 8 parameters).

To do the LAMP test, we need to explore the distribution of the density ratio  $f_1/f_0$ , and this is quite hard to do with the non-central  $t$ -distribution. To work around this, we suppose that the variance of the ratio is finite and just use the regular central limit theorem. A random sample of one million values from a central  $t$ -distribution, with 130 degrees of freedom, was generated and the ratio  $f_1/f_0$  was calculated for each value, where the sample variance was 102.2010. This estimate of the variance of  $f_1/f_0$  is assumed to be the true variance.

For the prostate data we get  $T_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f_1(t_i) - f_0(t_i)}{f_0(t_i)} = 27186.5$ . We assume the variance of  $f_1/f_0$  is 102.2010. Then, if all observations are from  $f_0$  and the true

observations were independent then,  $T_n/\sqrt{n\sigma^2} = 34.62295$ . When compared to the quantiles of a standard normal distribution, this value indicates very strong evidence that some of the genes have different mean expression values for tumor and non-tumor patients.

A  $t$ -value is declared as coming from one of the non-central  $t$ -distributions if  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0 > 43$ , where the ad-hoc cutoff point makes the mean of  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  close to zero for all genes with  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0 < 43$ . With this cutoff point, 88 genes are declared as having different mean expression.

Since Efron (2007) found 51 anomalies, the LAMP test used to verify the hypothesis  $H_0 : p = p_0 = 51/6633 = 0.00815$ . In this case the test statistic is

$$T_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f_1 - f_0}{(1 - p_0)f_0 + p_0 f_1} = 5081.583.$$

Since  $T_n$  is the sum of bounded r.v.'s (Proposition 4.1), the regular central limit theorem can be used to decide on a rejection region. The sample variance of  $(f_1 - f_0)/(1 - p_0)f_0 + p_0 f_1$  is 10.6719 from the same sample of one million  $t$ -values as above. This gives us  $T_n/\sqrt{n\sigma^2} = 20.02397$ , which is quite significant when compared to quantiles of a standard normal distribution. Therefore, we conclude that the proportion of anomalies is greater than 0.00815.

Since the use of  $t$ -values gave 88 anomalies, we now repeat the exercise from the previous paragraph to test the hypothesis  $H_0 : p = p_0 = 88/6633 = 0.01459$ . From the same sample of one million  $t$ -values, the sample variance of  $(f_1 - f_0)/(1 - p_0)f_0 + p_0 f_1$  is 7.16. The test statistic is  $T_n = 3172.833$  which normalized gives  $T_n/\sqrt{n\sigma^2} = 15.2649$ . This indicates that the proportion of anomalies is greater than 0.01459.

A similar test to check if the proportion of anomalies is greater than  $109/6633 = 0.16807$  gives that  $T_n/\sqrt{n\sigma^2} = 13.04618$ . This suggests that a better cutoff for  $(f_1 - f_0)/f_0$  point is needed to identify anomalies. This will be the subject of future research.

It is worthwhile to mention that the independence assumption between genes may not be realistic. With regard to the choice of  $f_1 = .5g_3 + .5g_5$ ,

Q

Right tail probabilities					
$\alpha$	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.005	0.001
1	6.7012	13.8873	65.6533	129.7645	NA
1.05	-6.3063	-0.5517	10.1627	87.9868	415.1734
1.1	0.5213	-4.3555	36.8106	73.2907	330.9228
1.15	1.1151	5.2897	31.5672	59.332	250.189
1.2	1.7651	5.3706	26.929	49.3496	192.8384
1.25	2.0504	5.1874	23.0733	41.0467	151.2118
1.3	2.1718	4.9181	19.8907	34.4791	120.4426
1.35	2.2118	4.628	17.2687	29.2292	97.1814
1.4	2.3089	4.3131	15.0761	24.9537	79.2912
1.45	2.1832	4.071	13.2282	21.4463	65.3058
1.5	2.1457	3.8242	11.6541	18.5251	54.1916
1.55	2.1028	3.5946	10.2983	16.0605	45.2258
1.6	2.0584	3.3845	9.1171	13.9535	37.8839
1.65	2.0117	3.1931	8.0759	12.1273	31.7795
1.7	1.9733	3.0195	7.1466	10.5209	26.6205
1.75	1.9352	2.8631	6.3068	9.0842	22.179
1.8	1.9011	2.7231	5.5394	7.771	18.2669
1.85	1.8716	2.6002	4.8357	6.5325	14.7128
1.9	1.8468	2.4931	4.2054	5.3912	11.3215
1.95	1.827	2.402	3.6825	4.361	7.787
2	1.8124	2.3262	3.29	3.6428	4.3702

Table 4: Quantiles of the stable distribution

For the case when  $P(Z_1 > z)$  is regularly varying with index  $-1$ , we define  $a_n$  as a sequence of real numbers such that  $n\pi P(Z_1 > a_n)/2 \rightarrow 1$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

We also define

$$\mu_n = \int_{\min(a, 0)}^0 P(Z_1 \leq t) dt + \int_{\max(0, a)}^{a_n} P(Z_1 > t) dt.$$

Lemma A.4. For  $\alpha = 1$ ,

$$\frac{1}{a_n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Z_i - \mu_n)$$

converges in distribution to a stable law with parameter  $1$ .

For the normal case, let  $h(t) = \int_{\min(a, 0)}^0 z P(Z_1 \leq z) dz \leq z \int_0^a z P(Z_1 > z) dz + \int_a^t z P(Z_1 > z) dz$  and let  $a_n$  be a sequence of real numbers such that  $n h(a_n)/a_n^2 \rightarrow 1$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Note that if the variance of  $Z_1$  is finite then  $h(t) \rightarrow 2 \text{var}(Z_1)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , so  $a_n = \sqrt{2n \text{var}(Z_1)}$ .

Lemma A.5. If  $h(t)$  is slowly varying, i.e., regularly varying of order  $\theta$ , then  $\mu = E(Z_1) < \infty$  and

$$\frac{1}{a_n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Z_i - \mu)$$

converges in law to a normal distribution with mean  $\theta$  and variance  $2$ .

If  $h(t)$  is slowly varying, we say that  $Z_1$  is in the domain of attraction of a 2-stable law (normal distribution with variance 2).

These lemmas above can be specialized to more specific situations. In particular, Table 5 shows several possible tail behaviors of the distribution of  $Z_1$  which will satisfy (A.2), along with their corresponding sequence  $a_n$  which satisfies (A.3).

## B Asymptotics for the MLE of a $k$ -point mixture

The next lemma states the asymptotic distribution for the  $k$ -point MLE of the mixing distribution  $Q$  when  $Q$  is a discrete probability measure on  $\Theta$  with  $k$  distinct mass points,  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$ , and respective masses,  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ . Here we assume that  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$  are in the interior of  $\Theta$  and that all the masses are positive.

where  $\hat{Q}_n$  is the  $k$ -point tale. Since  $\rho$  is arbitrary,  $\hat{Q}_n$  converges almost surely to  $Q_0$ .

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