## Recent Advances in Conformal Prediction: Multivariate Predictions and Anytime Guarantees

#### Francis Bach

Inria - Ecole Normale Supérieure





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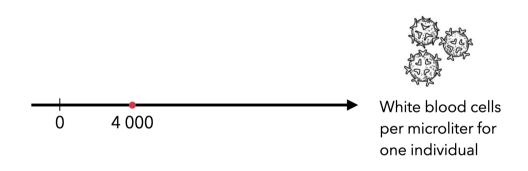
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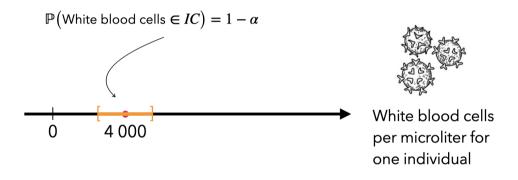
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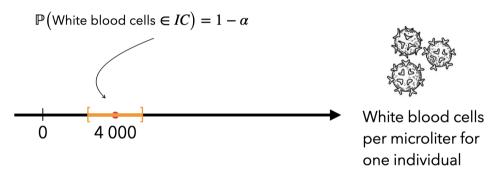


Joint work with Sacha Braun, Etienne Gauthier, Eugène Berta, David Holzmüller, Liviu Aolaritei, and Michael Jordan

ICSDS Conference, Seville, Spain - December 16, 2025









 $Difficulty: \ High-dimensional \ inputs/outputs, \ no \ distributional \ assumptions$ 

Predicting delays on train networks



• Reinforcement learning and robotics





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## Conformal prediction yields finite sample guarantees

- **Observation**: dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  of n independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) samples  $(X_i, Y_i) \sim \mathbb{P}_{X,Y}$  with  $(X_i, Y_i) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$
- **Goal**: Given a target miscoverage level  $\alpha \in (0,1)$ , construct a set-valued predictor  $C_{\alpha}(X)$  such that

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- Conformal prediction allows finite sample guarantees
   (Vovk et al., 2005; Shafer and Vovk, 2008; Angelopoulos and Bates, 2023; Angelopoulos et al., 2024)
- Alternative frameworks
  - Bayesian, resampling, PCS (predictability, computability, and stability), etc.

#### Probabilistic lemma (uniform rank statistics).

Let n+1 independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) samples  $S_i \sim \mathbb{P}_S$  with  $S_i \in \mathbb{R}$ . Assume there are almost surely no ties between  $S_i$ .

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Then  $rank(S_{n+1})$  is uniformly distributed in [1, n+1].

*Proof:* For  $k \in [1, n+1]$ , because of exchangeability,

$$\mathbb{P}(\operatorname{rank}(S_{n+1}) = k) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \mathbb{P}(\operatorname{rank}(S_i) = k) = \frac{1}{n+1}$$

**Proposition.** Let *n* i.i.d. samples  $(X_i, Y_i) \sim \mathbb{P}_{X,Y_i}$  and a fixed  $S: \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \to \mathbb{R}$ .

Define  $S_i = S(X_i, Y_i)$ , and define order statistics as  $S_{(1)} < S_{(2)} < \ldots < S_{(n)}$  (no ties a.s.).

For 
$$r \le n$$
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By choosing 
$$r = \lceil (1 - \alpha)(n+1) \rceil$$
, we get

$$r=|(1-lpha)(n+1)|$$
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## Proof:

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By choosing 
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$$\mathbb{P}\left(Y_{n+1} \in \mathcal{C}_{\alpha}(X_{n+1})\right) \in \left[1-\alpha, \ 1-\alpha+\frac{1}{n+1}\right)$$

- ullet Given fixed "nonconformity score function"  $S:\mathcal{X}\times\mathcal{Y}\to\mathbb{R}$ ,
  - $\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in C_{\alpha}(X_{n+1})) \approx 1 \alpha \checkmark$

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- Impossible to get conditional validity without additional assumptions (see, e.g., Vovk 2012; Foygel Barber et al. 2021; Lei and Wasserman 2014)
- ullet Good conditional coverage  $\Leftrightarrow$  score functions that "capture uncertainty" and have weak dependence on X
- Choice of score function is crucial
  - Any (even estimated) score can be "conformalized" using split conformal prediction
  - How to choose a good score?

## Split conformal prediction

- Suppose we have n samples i.i.d.  $(X_i, Y_i) \sim \mathbb{P}_{X,Y}$
- Split the dataset in two:
  - $\mathcal{D}_1 = \text{training}$  set with  $\mathsf{Card}(\mathcal{D}_1) = \mathit{n}_1$
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$$S(X,Y) = |Y - f(X)|$$

• Let  $\hat{q}_{\alpha}$  be the  $\lceil (1-\alpha)(n_2+1) \rceil$ -smallest value of all  $n_2$  values of  $S(X_i,Y_i)$  of the calibration set

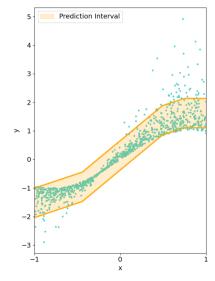
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## Improved conditional coverage with standardized residuals

- Also learn  $\sigma(X)$ , a "spread predictor" to predict the standard deviation of |Y f(X)|
- Define the non-conformity score (Lei et al., 2018)

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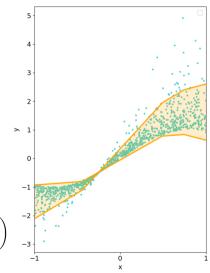
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### Quantile regression

• Learn  $\hat{q}_{\alpha/2}(X)$  and  $\hat{q}_{1-\alpha/2}(X)$  by minimizing the pinball loss on the training set, for  $\tau = \alpha/2$  and  $\tau = 1 - \alpha/2$ :

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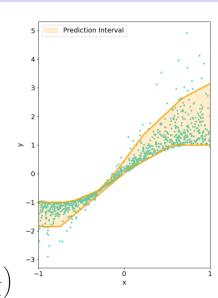
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#### Beyond i.i.d. (or exchangeability)

- ullet Standard CP requires fixing the miscoverage level lpha and the batch size n in advance
- How to handle adaptive goals (e.g., constraints on prediction set size)
   and sequential streams (anytime-validity)
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     and sequential streams (anytime-validity)
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- Bonus: How can we evaluate the conditional validity of a strategy?



## Minimum volume covering set (Braun et al., 2025a)

- **Goal**: Given a set of points  $\{y_1, \ldots, y_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,
  - Find the smallest set that contains at least a fraction  $1-\alpha$  of points,  $\alpha \in (0,1)$

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- ullet Define sets, with  $M \in \mathcal{S}_k^+$  (positive definite matrix),  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $\|\cdot\|$  a norm,

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Formulation as optimization problem (MVCS):

min 
$$\operatorname{Vol}(\mathbb{B}(\|\cdot\|, M, \mu)) = \lambda(B_{\|\cdot\|}(1)) \cdot \det(M)^{-1}$$
  
s.t.  $M \succcurlyeq 0, \ \mu \in \mathbb{R}^k,$   
 $\operatorname{Card}\{i \in [n] \mid \|M(y_i - \mu)\| \le 1\} \ge n - r + 1$ 

### **Proposition (unconstrained formulation).** Problem (MVCS) is equivalent to

$$\begin{split} \min & & -\log \det(\Lambda) + \sigma_r \left\{ \|\Lambda y_i + \eta\| \right\} + \log \lambda (B_{\|\cdot\|}(1)) \\ \text{s.t.} & & \Lambda \succcurlyeq 0, \; \eta \in \mathbb{R}^k, \end{split}$$

where  $\sigma_r\{a_i\}$  is the *r*-th largest element of a set  $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^n$  with  $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$ .

*Proof:* Change of coordinates  $\Lambda := \nu M$ , for  $\nu > 0$ , and  $\eta := -\Lambda \mu$ 

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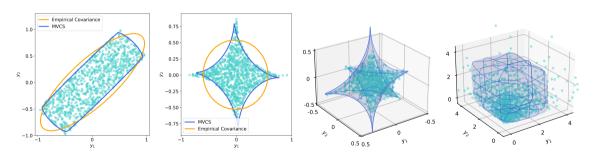
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#### *Proof:* Change of coordinates $\Lambda := \nu M$ , for $\nu > 0$ , and $\eta := -\Lambda \mu$

- Non-convex optimization problem, in fact NP-hard (Ahmadi et al., 2014)
- Convex relaxation akin to pinball loss:  $\sigma_r\{a_i\} \leq \text{sum of } r \text{ largest elements}$
- ullet Classical convex problem for r=1 and  $\|\cdot\|=\|\cdot\|_2$  (minimum-volume enclosing ellipsoid)

### Shape obtained for different distributions of points

 $\bullet \parallel \cdot \parallel = \parallel \cdot \parallel_{p}$  does not need to be a norm (p can be less than one)



## Minimum volume covering set (input / output)

Let 
$$\mathbb{B}(M,\mu,p):=\{y\in\mathbb{R}^k\mid \|M(y-\mu)\|_p\leq 1\}$$
, where  $M\succcurlyeq 0$ ,  $\mu\in\mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $p>0$ .

min 
$$\mathbb{E}\left[\operatorname{Vol}(\mathbb{B}(M(X), f_{\theta}(X), p))\right]$$

s.t. 
$$\mathbb{P}(Y \in \mathbb{B}(p, M(X), f_{\theta}(X))) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

### Minimum volume covering set (input / output)

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{min} & \mathbb{E}\left[\mathsf{Vol}(\mathbb{B}(M(X), f_{\theta}(X), p))\right] \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbb{P}\left(Y \in \mathbb{B}(p, M(X), f_{\theta}(X))\right) \geq 1 - \alpha \end{array}$$

(MVCS-cond.)

# **Proposition** Let $(X_i, Y_i)_{1 \le i \le n}$ be n i.i.d. samples, with $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , $Y_i \in \mathbb{R}^k$ .

Then (MVCS-cond.) is equivalent to:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{min} & & \log\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\det(\Lambda_\phi(x_i))}\right) + k\log\sigma_r\left\{\|\Lambda_\phi(x_i)(y_i - f_\theta(x_i))\|_p\right\} + \log\lambda(B_{\|\cdot\|_p}(1)) \\ & \text{s.t.} & & \Lambda_\phi(\cdot) \succcurlyeq 0, \; p > 0, \; \theta, \phi \in \Theta. \end{aligned}$$

## Minimum volume covering set (input / output)

Let 
$$\mathbb{B}(M,\mu,p):=\{y\in\mathbb{R}^k\mid \|M(y-\mu)\|_p\leq 1\}$$
, where  $M\succcurlyeq 0$ ,  $\mu\in\mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $p>0$ .

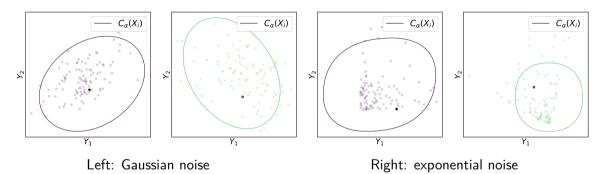
min  $\mathbb{E}\left[\operatorname{Vol}(\mathbb{B}(M(X),f_{\theta}(X),p))\right]$ 
s.t.  $\mathbb{P}\left(Y\in\mathbb{B}(p,M(X),f_{\theta}(X))\right)\geq 1-\alpha$  (MVCS-cond.)

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- The conformalisation step is made with the score  $S(X,Y) = \|\Lambda_{\phi}(X)(Y f_{\theta}(X))\|_{p}$
- Only marginal coverage

### Empirical illustration for different distributions



Samples from the distribution of  $Y|X \sim f(X) + B(X)$  where B(X) is an heteroskedastic noise



## Extending standardized residuals to multivariate regression

Assume

$$Y|X \sim \mathcal{N}(f(X), \Sigma(X)),$$

where  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^k$ . We can define the Mahalanobis score (Braun et al., 2025b)

$$S_{\mathrm{Mah}}(X,Y) = \|\Sigma(X)^{-1/2}(Y - f(X))\|_{2}$$

- Generalization of the standardized residuals (Lei et al., 2018) in multivariate regression
- ullet Under the Gaussian assumption,  $S_{\mathrm{Mah}}(X,Y)|X\sim \chi_2(k)$  which is independent of X

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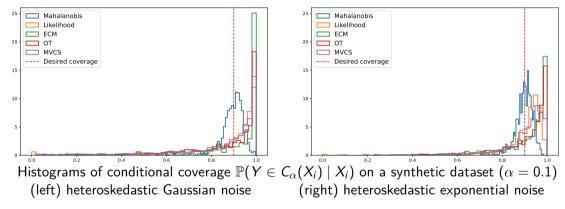
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- Generalization of the standardized residuals (Lei et al., 2018) in multivariate regression
- ullet Under the Gaussian assumption,  $S_{\mathrm{Mah}}(X,Y)|X\sim\chi_2(k)$  which is independent of X
- ullet Even if the distribution is not Gaussian, we expect our score to be less dependent on X
  - Let  $f(X) = \mathbb{E}[Y|X]$  and  $\Sigma(X) = \operatorname{cov}(Y|X)$ , and  $U = \Sigma(X)^{-1/2}(Y f(X))$
  - Then  $\mathbb{E}[U|X] = 0$  and  $\text{cov}(U|X) = I_k$  so the distribution of  $S_{\text{Mah}}(X,Y) = \|U\|_2$  should less depend on X
- NB: all developments can be extended to elliptical distributions

### Improved Conditional Coverage

Modeling via ellipsoids ⇒ estimation of variance along all directions



 Baselines: empirical covariance matrix (Johnstone and Cox, 2021), optimal transport (Thurin et al., 2025)

#### Partially revealed outputs: motivation

- **Example**: predict fasting blood glucose  $(Y^1)$  and cholesterol  $(Y^2)$ 
  - ullet If conformal set too wide, a costly test (e.g.,  $Y^1$ ) may be performed
  - ullet Once  $Y^1$  is revealed, we want to **refine prediction for**  $Y^2$
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  - Standard approach: retrain model with  $(X, Y^1) \Rightarrow$  expensive
- Goal: update conformal sets directly using the probabilistic model
  - Leverage classical conditioning properties of the Gaussian distribution

### Method: Gaussian conditioning

• Assuming a Gaussian predictive model:

$$\hat{p}(Y|X) = \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} f^r(X) \\ f^h(X) \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sum^{rr}(X) & \sum^{rh}(X) \\ \sum^{hr}(X) & \sum^{hh}(X) \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

ullet Partition output into revealed  $Y^r$  and hidden  $Y^h$ 

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- Partition output into revealed  $Y^r$  and hidden  $Y^h$
- Conditional distribution (closed form):

$$\hat{p}(Y^h|X,Y^r) = \mathcal{N}(\tilde{f}(X),\tilde{\Sigma}(X))$$

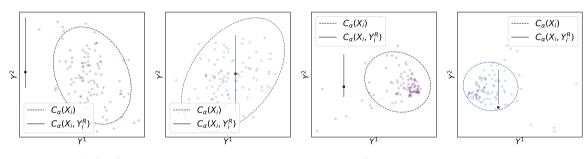
$$\tilde{f}(X) = f^h(X) + \Sigma^{hr}\Sigma^{rr^{-1}}(Y^r - f^r(X)), \quad \tilde{\Sigma}(X) = \Sigma^{hh} - \Sigma^{hr}\Sigma^{rr^{-1}}\Sigma^{rh}$$

Non-conformity score:

$$S_{\text{Revealed}}(X, Y^r, Y^h) = \|\tilde{\Sigma}(X)^{-1/2}(Y^h - \tilde{f}(X))\|_2$$

#### Illustration of benefits

- Uses revealed  $Y^r$  without retraining
- Produces narrower, adaptive sets, and avoids empty sets (robustness)



Left: Gaussian noise

Right: exponential noise.

Different samples from the distribution of  $Y|X \sim f(X) + B(X)$ (B(X)=heteroskesdatic noise and  $Y^1$  is revealed)

## Projection of the output: motivation

- High-dimensional predictions:  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^k$
- Often (at test time) only a subset or linear combination  $\varphi(Y)$  is of interest
- Example:
  - Finance: portfolio returns  $(R^1, R^2) = (rY^1, pY^2 + qY^3)$ .

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- Example:
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- Naive approach: project conformal set  $\tilde{C}_{\alpha}(X)$  onto  $\varphi(Y)$   $\Rightarrow$  conservative (overly large) sets
- Goal: construct direct conformal sets for  $\varphi(Y)$  without retraining

#### Method: linear transformations

• Trained Gaussian model:

$$\hat{p}(Y|X) = \mathcal{N}(f(X), \Sigma(X))$$

• For linear  $\varphi(Y) = MY \ (M \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times k})$ :

$$\hat{p}(\varphi(Y)|X) = \mathcal{N}(Mf(X), M\Sigma(X)M^{\top})$$

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• Non-conformity score in transformed space:

$$S_{\text{Lin.Trans.}}(X,Y) = \|(M\Sigma(X)M^{\top})^{-1/2}(MY - Mf(X))\|_{2}$$

Coverage guarantee:

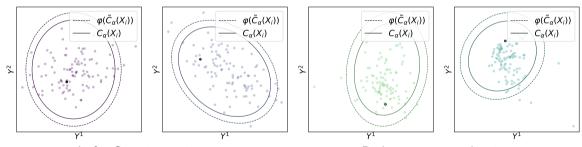
$$\mathbb{P}(MY \in C_{\alpha}(X)) \in \left[1 - \alpha, 1 - \alpha + \frac{1}{n_2 + 1}\right)$$

### Results: projected vs. direct sets

- ullet Direct conformalization with  $S_{\text{Lin.Trans.}}$  (full line) gives:
  - Tighter sets, correct coverage (if well-specified)
  - Better adaptation to heteroskedasticity
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Projection of samples from the distribution of  $Y|X \sim f(X) + B(X)$ (B(X)=heteroskedastic noise)

### Conformal prediction for multivariate predictions

- Minimum volume "ellipsoid"
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#### Elliptical conditional model

- Allow conditioning and linear projection without retraining
- Added flexibility



# Standard conformal prediction: a p-value perspective

**Proposition (reformulation).** Under the exchangeability assumption,

$$P = \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{1}\{S(X_i, Y_i) \ge S(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})\}}{n+1}$$

is a p-value:  $\forall \alpha, \mathbb{P}(P \leq \alpha) \leq \alpha$ .

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#### Proof:

- The quantity  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}\{S(X_i,Y_i) \geq S(X_{n+1},Y_{n+1})\}$  is n-R where R is the rank of  $S(X_{n+1},Y_{n+1})$  among  $S_1,\ldots,S_n$ 
  - Thus,  $P = 1 \frac{R}{n+1}$
  - From previous guarantees,  $\mathbb{P}(P \leq \alpha) = \mathbb{P}(1 \frac{R}{n+1} \leq \alpha) \in (\alpha \frac{1}{n+1}, \alpha]$

### Limitations of the p-value framework

• Reformulation as *p*-value

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \notin C_{\alpha}(X_{n+1})) \leq \alpha \iff \mathbb{P}(P \leq \alpha) \leq \alpha$$

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- Rigid assumptions:
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  - **Fixed batch:** It assumes a fixed batch of exchangeable data. In sequential settings, continuously monitoring p-values leads to validity issues

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- ullet To enable **post-hoc** choices of lpha and **anytime-valid** monitoring
  - $\Rightarrow$  Need a more flexible evidence measure: **e-values** (Grünwald et al., 2020; Wasserman et al., 2020; Shafer, 2021; Vovk and Wang, 2021)

#### Post-hoc guarantees and e-values

#### Standard CP (fixed $\alpha$ ):

The standard validity  $\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \notin C_{\alpha}(X_{n+1})) = \mathbb{P}(P \leq \alpha) \leq \alpha$  for all  $\alpha$  is equivalent to:

$$\sup_{\alpha} \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\mathbb{1}\{Y_{n+1} \notin C_{\alpha}(X_{n+1})\}}{\alpha}\right] \leq 1$$

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To enable data-dependent decision making, we seek a stronger post-hoc guarantee:

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This requires the concept of **post-hoc p-values** and **e-values**.

#### Definitions (Ramdas and Wang, 2025)

- An **e-value** E is a non-negative random variable such that  $\mathbb{E}[E] \leq 1$
- A **post-hoc p-value** P satisfies the post-hoc guarantee above:  $\mathbb{E}\left[\sup_{\alpha}\mathbb{1}\{P\leq\alpha\}/\alpha\right]\leq 1$

**Theorem (Koning, 2024):** Post-hoc p-values are exactly the inverses of e-values (P = 1/E).

## Conformal prediction with adaptive coverage

Here, the e-value is the soft-rank e-value (Wang and Ramdas, 2022; Koning, 2025):

$$E = \frac{(n+1)S(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} S(X_i, Y_i) + S(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})} = \frac{S(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})}{\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} S(X_i, Y_i) + \frac{1}{n+1} S(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})}$$

# Conformal prediction with adaptive coverage

#### Adaptive Coverage Guarantee (Gauthier et al., 2025b)

Let  $\tilde{\alpha}$  be any (possibly data-dependent) miscoverage level that can depend on the calibration data  $\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$  and the test feature  $X_{n+1}$ . Then we have:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\mathbb{1}\{Y_{n+1}\notin\mathcal{C}_{\tilde{\alpha}}(X_{n+1})\}}{\tilde{\alpha}}\right]\leq 1,$$

where the prediction set  $\mathcal{C}_{\tilde{\alpha}}$  is defined as:

$$C_{\tilde{\alpha}}(X_{n+1}) = \left\{ y \in \mathcal{Y} : \frac{(n+1)S(X_{n+1}, y)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} S(X_{i}, Y_{i}) + S(X_{n+1}, y)} < \frac{1}{\tilde{\alpha}} \right\}.$$

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## Application: backward conformal prediction (Gauthier et al., 2025a)

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  - Calibration uncertainty ( $\mathcal{D}_{cal}$ ): high variance  $\implies$  increase the budget k
- **Backward CP**: fix size  $k(X_{n+1}, \mathcal{D}_{cal})$ , and adjust miscoverage:

$$\tilde{\alpha} = \inf \left\{ \alpha \in (0,1) : |\mathcal{C}_{\alpha}(X_{n+1})| \le k(X_{n+1}, \mathcal{D}_{cal}) \right\}.$$

 $\bullet \ \ \text{Guarantee} : \ \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}\{Y_{n+1} \notin C_{\tilde{\alpha}}(X_{n+1})\}/\tilde{\alpha}] \leq 1 \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in C_{\tilde{\alpha}}(X_{n+1})) \gtrapprox 1 - \mathbb{E}[\tilde{\alpha}]$ 

# Estimating expected miscoverage $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{lpha}]$

**Problem:** Coverage depends on unknown  $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{\alpha}]$ 

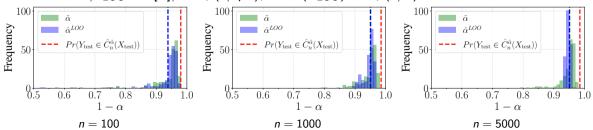
Solution: Estimate via Leave-One-Out (LOO) on calibration set

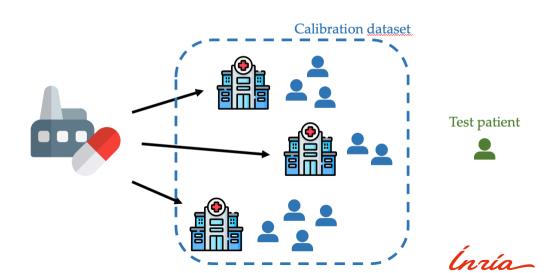
**LOO Estimator:** For each i = 1, ..., n:

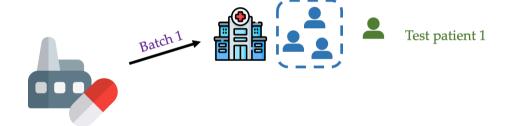
- Treat  $(X_i, Y_i)$  as pseudo-test point
- **②** Compute  $\tilde{\alpha}_i$  using remaining data  $\mathcal{D}_{cal} \setminus \{(X_i, Y_i)\}$

$$\widehat{\alpha}_{\mathsf{LOO}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \widetilde{\alpha}_{i}$$

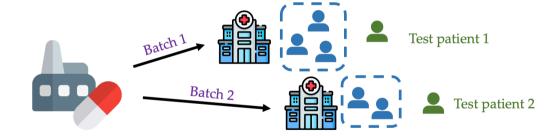
**Guarantee:**  $|\widehat{\alpha}_{LOO} - \mathbb{E}[\widetilde{\alpha}]| = O_P(1/\sqrt{n}), \quad \text{Var}(\widehat{\alpha}_{LOO}) = O_P(1/n).$ 



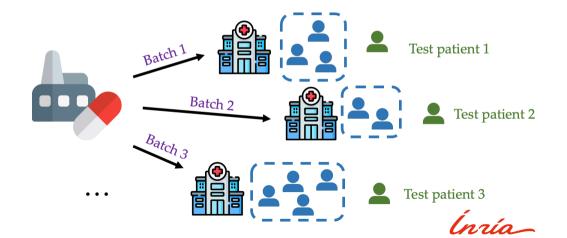












Insight: Beyond post-hoc guarantees, e-values naturally enable anytime-valid coverage

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**Scenario:** We perform conformal prediction on multiple data batches sequentially. At each step t, we process a batch (where we aim to cover the target  $Y_{n-1}^t$ ):

$$\{(X_1^t,Y_1^t),\ldots,(X_{n_t}^t,Y_{n_t}^t),(X_{n_t+1}^t,Y_{n_t+1}^t)\}$$

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**Solution:** Anytime-validity with e-values

• Construct a martingale  $(M_t)_{t\geq 0}$  accumulating evidence over batches:

$$M_t = \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \beta_s + \beta_s E_b), \quad \text{where } E_s = \frac{(n_s + 1)S(X_{n_s+1}^s, Y_{n_s+1}^s)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_s} S(X_i^s, Y_i^s) + S(X_{n_s+1}^s, Y_{n_s+1}^s)}$$

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• Ville's Inequality for supermartingales  $\mathbb{P}(\sup_t M_t \geqslant \alpha) \leqslant \mathbb{E}[M_0]/\alpha$ , ensures the coverage holds simultaneously for all time steps t (provided that the data in each batch is exchangeable conditional on the history:

$$\mathbb{P}(\forall t, Y_{n_t+1} \in C_t(X_{n_t+1})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

Bonus: Evaluating conditional miscoverage

## Excess risk of the target coverage

- ullet For any data-dependent set  $C_lpha$ , let  $Z=\mathbbm{1}\{Y\in C_lpha(X)\}\in\{0,1\}$
- Perfect conditional coverage if  $p(X) := \mathbb{P}(Y \in C_{\alpha}(X)|X) = \mathbb{P}(Z = 1|X) = 1 \alpha$  a.s.

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- **Key idea**: Estimating  $\mathbb{P}(Z=1|X=x)$  is a binary classification problem
  - ullet Classification task equivalent to minimizing the risk for a proper score  $\ell$

$$\mathcal{R}_{\ell}(h) = \mathbb{E}[\ell(h(X), Z)]$$

• Minimizer of  $\mathcal{R}_\ell$  sastisfies  $h^*(X) \in rg \min_{q \in [0,1]} \mathbb{E}[\ell(q,Z) \mid X] = \mathbb{E}[Z \mid X] = p(X)$ 

## Excess risk of the target coverage

- For any data-dependent set  $C_{\alpha}$ , let  $Z = \mathbb{1}\{Y \in C_{\alpha}(X)\} \in \{0,1\}$
- Perfect conditional coverage if  $p(X) := \mathbb{P}(Y \in C_{\alpha}(X)|X) = \mathbb{P}(Z = 1|X) = 1 \alpha$  a.s.
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- "Excess risk of target coverage" (Braun et al., 2025c)

$$\ell$$
-ERT =  $\mathcal{R}_{\ell}(1-\alpha) - \mathcal{R}_{\ell}(p) = \mathcal{R}_{\ell}(1-\alpha) - \inf_{h} \mathcal{R}_{\ell}(h)$ 

- Provides a measure of miscoverage and a detailed diagnostic of over/under coverage
- Can be estimated with standard tools from non-parametric estimation

## Benefits: a set of interpretable metrics

• Property of excess risk for a proper loss

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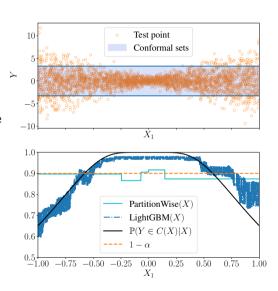
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Examples of proper scoring rules and their associated ERT scores

Name	Proper score $\ell(p, y)$	ℓ-ERT
$L_1$ -ERT	sgn(p-(1-lpha))(1-lpha-y)	$\mathbb{E}_{X}[ 1-\alpha-p(X) ]$
$L_2$ -ERT (Brier score)	$(y - p)^2$	$\mathbb{E}_X[(1-\alpha-p(X))^2]$
KL-ERT (Log loss)	$-\log p_y$	$\mathbb{E}_{X}[D_{\mathrm{KL}}(p(X)  1-\alpha)]$

## Metrics comparison without conditional coverage

- $X \sim \mathcal{U}([-1,1]^8)$
- $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma(X_1))$
- Sets are obtained by doing conformal prediction with the score S(X,Y) = |Y|
- *L*<sub>1</sub>-ERT(LightGBM) = 0.09 (boosting with decision trees)
- $L_1$ -ERT(PartitionWise) = 0.01 (a classical diagnostic measure)





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- Choice of conformity score based on generalized ellipsoids
- Trade-offs between volume, coverage, and "flexibility"
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