

Learning Under Non-Stationarity: Statistical Inference & Bandit Convex Optimization

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Algorithms and Computationally Intensive Inference Seminar
Department of Statistics, University of Warwick

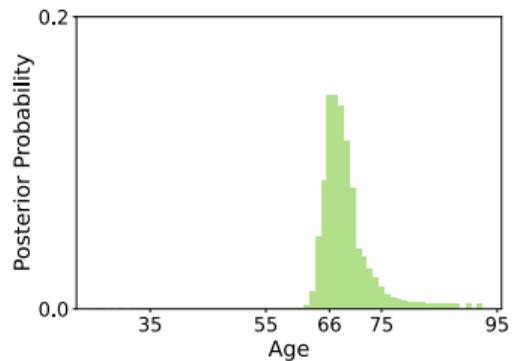
13 March 2026

High-dimensional
change point
localization

High-dimensional changepoint localization

Offline inference:

- 👁️ Observe patients' medical features & heart failure outcomes
- 🕒 Relationship between features & outcome **change** markedly at some age
- ❓ At what age does change happen?

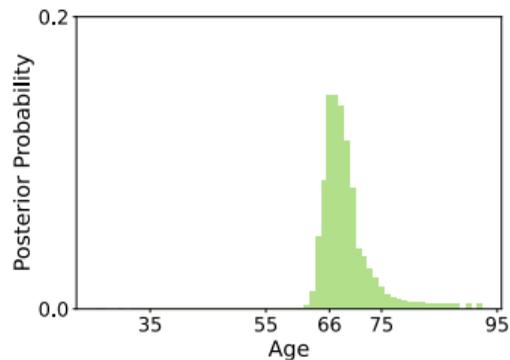


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Non-stationary
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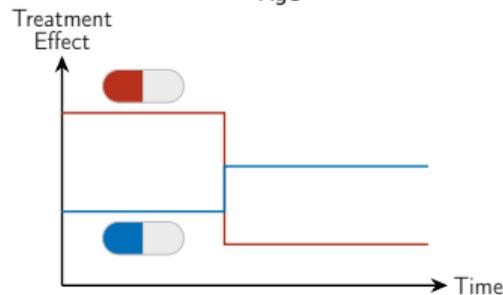
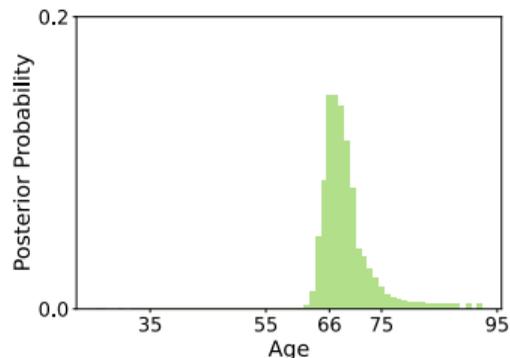
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Adaptive decision-making:

- 👁️ Observe outcomes *only* for the chosen treatment
- 🕒 Treatment effects **change** over time
- ? How to balance exploration-exploitation?



**Statistical
aim**

A 2D coordinate system is shown. The vertical axis is labeled 'Statistical aim' and the horizontal axis is labeled 'Interactivity'. Both axes are represented by black lines with arrowheads at their ends. The axes meet at an origin in the bottom-left corner. The rest of the page is blank.

Interactivity

**Statistical
aim**

High-dimensional
change point
localization
[ALGV25]

Interactivity

Statistical
aim

High-dimensional
change point
localization
[ALGV25]

Non-stationary
bandit convex
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[LBZ⁺25]

Interactivity

Statistical
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High-dimensional
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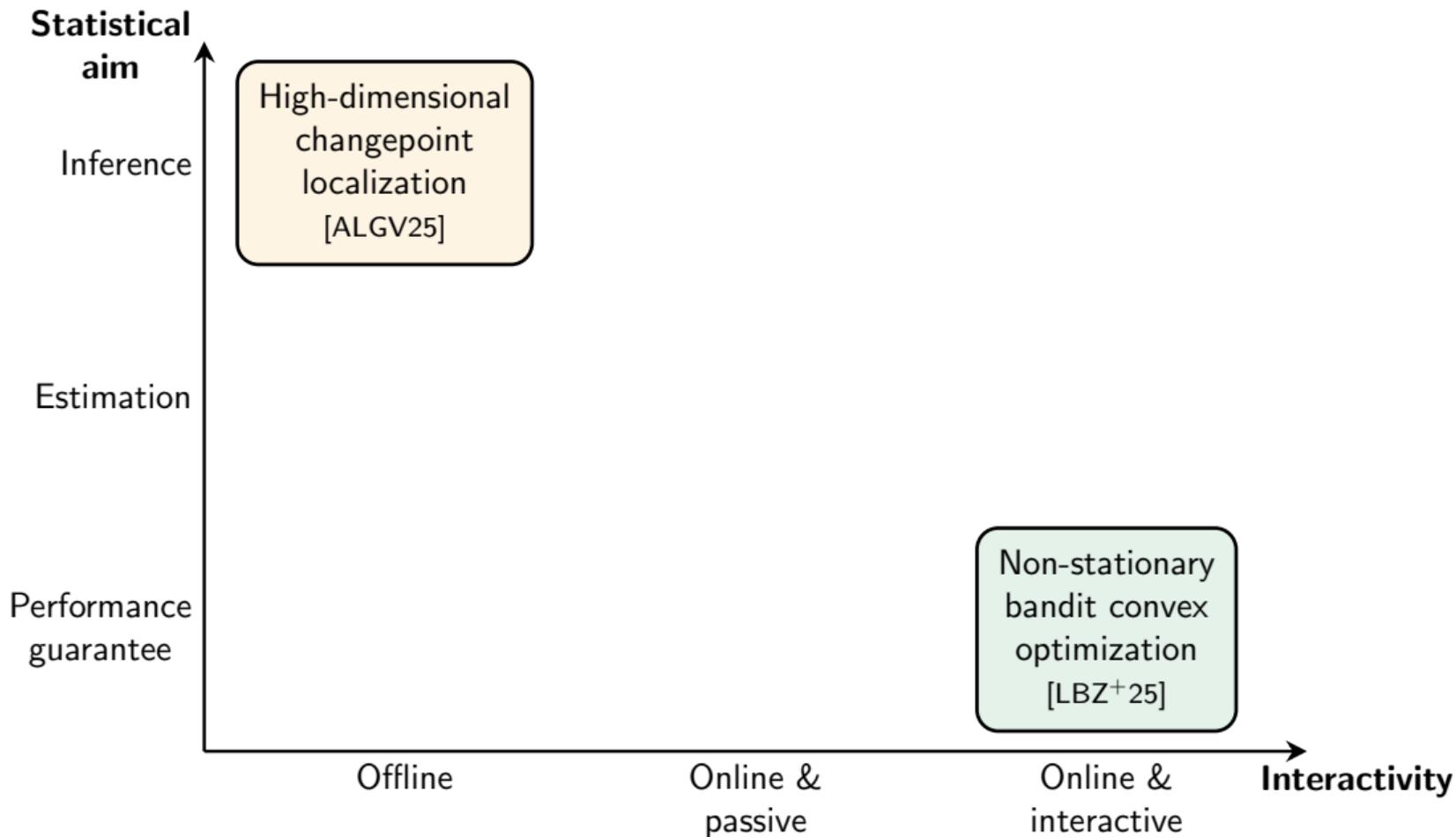
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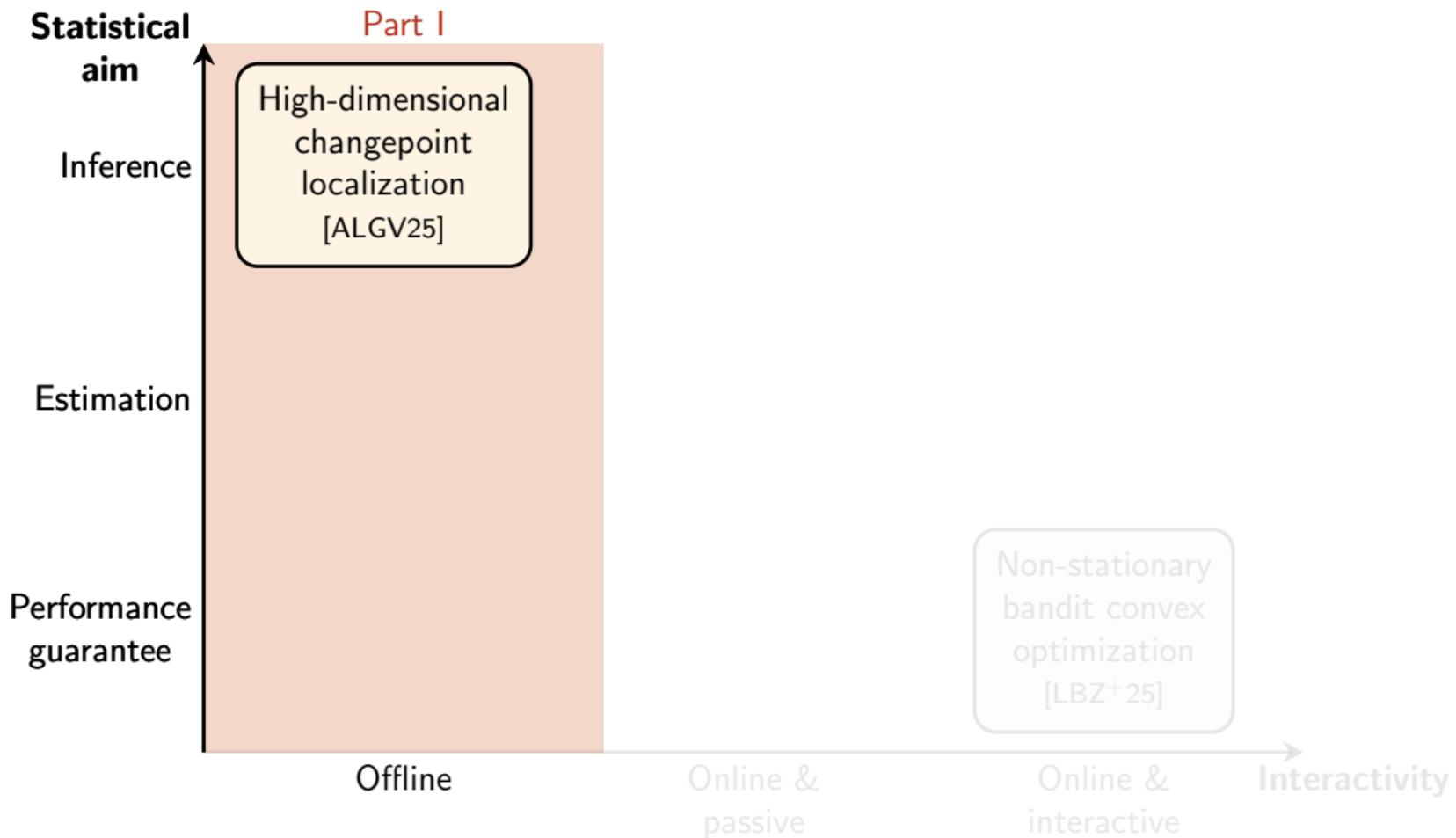
Offline

Online &
passive

Online &
interactive

Interactivity





High-dimensional changepoint inference

High-dimensional changepoint inference

For $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$,

$$y_i = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(1)} + \varepsilon_i$$

$\mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(\ell)} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

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$i = \eta_1$

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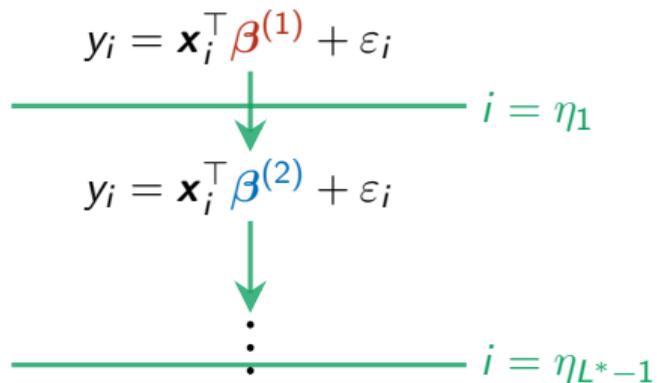
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L^* is unknown constant,
with $L^* < L$

$\boldsymbol{\eta} := [\eta_1, \dots, \eta_{L^*-1}]$,
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Model: entries of $\mathbf{x}_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{n})$, entries of $\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(\ell)} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} p_{\bar{\boldsymbol{\beta}}}$

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Goal: infer changepoint locations $(\eta_\ell)_{\ell=1}^{L^*-1}$ from $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)_{i=1}^n$, and estimate signals $(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(\ell)})_{\ell=1}^{L^*}$

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Scaling regime: $n, d \rightarrow \infty$ with $n/d \rightarrow$ fixed constant δ

For $d \ll n$,

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$$\hat{\eta}_1, \dots, \hat{\eta}_{L^*-1} = \arg \min_{\tilde{\eta}_1 \leq \tilde{\eta}_2 \leq \dots \leq \tilde{\eta}_{L^*-1}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{L^*} \min_{\tilde{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{i=\tilde{\eta}_{\ell-1}+1}^{\tilde{\eta}_\ell} (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \tilde{\beta})^2$$

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For $d \asymp n$,

Existing estimation methods:

- For sparse $p_{\tilde{\beta}}$: partition + penalized maximum likelihood [LB16, RWW⁺21, BS23]
- For sparse-difference $p_{\tilde{\beta}}$: complementary sketching [GW22]
- For non-sparse $p_{\tilde{\beta}}$: [CKL25, LQZL26]

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Based on **Approximate Message Passing**
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- 🗣️ No minimax optimal localization error

Aside: AMP for sparse linear regression

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$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

entries of \mathbf{X} $\stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{n})$

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modified residual: $\mathbf{r}_t = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}_t + b_t \mathbf{r}_{t-1}$

signal estimate: $\boldsymbol{\beta}_{t+1} = f_{\text{soft}}^{\text{thres}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}_t + \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{r}_t; \theta_t)$

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Aside: AMP for sparse linear regression

$$y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$

entries of $X \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{n})$
entries of $\beta \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} p_{\bar{\beta}}$

modified residual: $r_t = y - X\beta_t + b_t r_{t-1}$ **debias term**

signal estimate: $\beta_{t+1} = f_{\text{soft}}^{\text{thres}}(\beta_t + X^T r_t; \theta_t)$

entries of $\beta_t + X^T r_t - \beta \approx \mathcal{N}(0, \kappa_t)$ as $n, d \rightarrow \infty$

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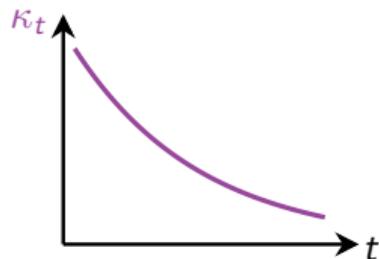
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deterministic
scalar recursion

AMP for Bayesian changepoint inference

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Signal is $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \beta^{(1)} & \dots & \beta^{(L)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{rows}}{\underset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim}} p_{\bar{\mathbf{B}}}$ and define $\Theta := \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B} \stackrel{\text{rows}}{\underset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim}} p_{\bar{\Theta}}$.

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$$\Theta_t = \mathbf{X}\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t - \mathbf{R}_{t-1}\mathbf{F}_t^\top$$

$$\mathbf{R}_t = g_t(\Theta_t, \mathbf{y})$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{R}_t - \hat{\mathbf{B}}_t \mathbf{C}_t^\top$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t = f_t(\mathbf{B}_t)$$

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produce signal estimate $\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t$

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produce residual \mathbf{R}_t ,
infer changepoints

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produce signal estimate $\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t$

Theorem (informal) [ALGV25].

$$\text{rows of } \mathbf{B}_t - \mathbf{B}\nu_{\mathbf{B},t} \approx \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \kappa_{\mathbf{B},t})$$

$$\text{rows of } \Theta_t - \Theta\nu_{\Theta,t} \approx \mathbf{G}_{\Theta,t}$$

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$$\mathbf{B}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{R}_t - \hat{\mathbf{B}}_t \mathbf{C}_t^\top$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t = f_t(\mathbf{B}_t) = \mathbb{E}[\bar{\mathbf{B}} \mid \bar{\mathbf{B}}\nu_{\mathbf{B},t} + \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t} = \mathbf{B}_t]$$

produce signal estimate $\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t$ Bayes-optimal

Theorem (informal) [ALGV25].

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$$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \kappa_{\mathbf{B},t})$$

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g_t uses prior info about changepoints $\eta \sim p_{\bar{\eta}}$

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$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t = f_t(\mathbf{B}_t) = \mathbb{E}[\bar{\mathbf{B}} \mid \bar{\mathbf{B}}\nu_{\mathbf{B},t} + \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t} = \mathbf{B}_t]$$

produce signal estimate $\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t$ Bayes-optimal

Theorem (informal) [ALGV25].

$$\text{rows of } \mathbf{B}_t - \mathbf{B}\nu_{\mathbf{B},t} \approx \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \kappa_{\mathbf{B},t})$$

$$\text{rows of } \Theta_t - \Theta\nu_{\Theta,t} \approx \mathbf{G}_{\Theta,t}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{\Theta,t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \kappa_{\Theta,t})$$

AMP for Bayesian changepoint inference

Signal is $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \beta^{(1)} & \dots & \beta^{(L)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \end{bmatrix}$ rows i.i.d. $p_{\bar{\mathbf{B}}}$ and define $\Theta := \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B}$ rows i.i.d. $p_{\bar{\Theta}}$.

g_t uses prior info about changepoints $\eta \sim p_{\bar{\eta}}$

$$\Theta_t = \mathbf{X}\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t - \mathbf{R}_{t-1}\mathbf{F}_t^\top$$

$$\mathbf{R}_t = g_t(\Theta_t, \mathbf{y})$$

produce residual \mathbf{R}_t ,
infer changepoints

$$\mathbf{B}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{R}_t - \hat{\mathbf{B}}_t \mathbf{C}_t^\top$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_t = f_t(\mathbf{B}_t) = \mathbb{E}[\bar{\mathbf{B}} \mid \bar{\mathbf{B}}\nu_{\mathbf{B},t} + \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{B},t} = \mathbf{B}_t]$$

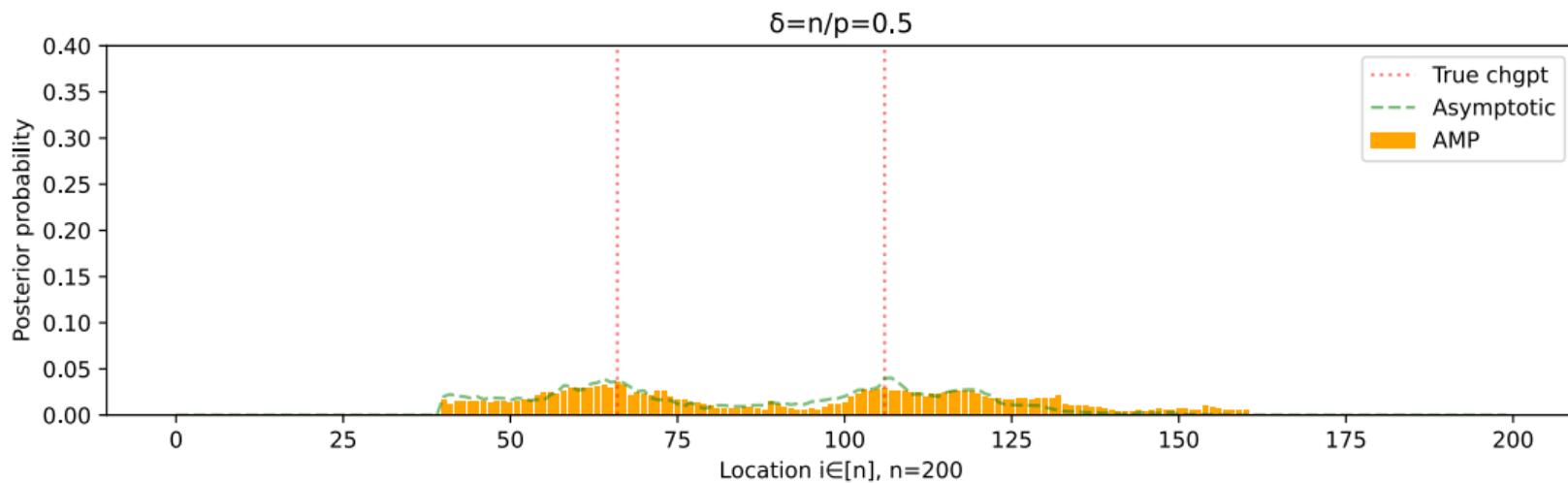
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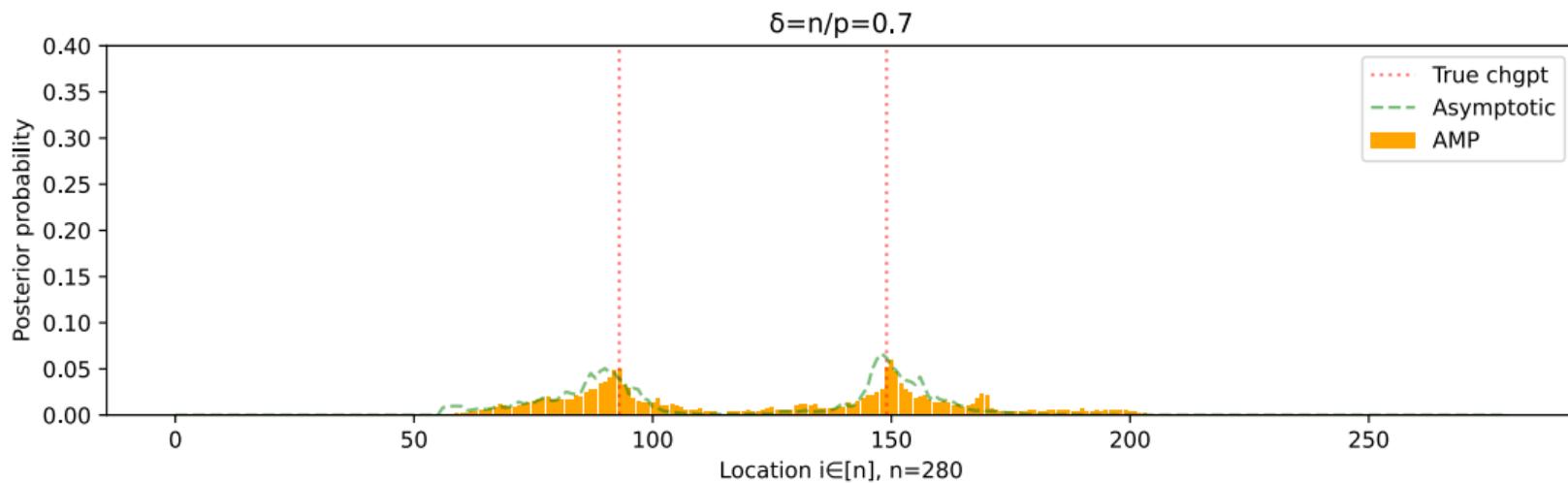
$$p(\eta \mid \Theta_t, \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{P}{\simeq} p(\eta \mid \bar{\Theta}\nu_{\Theta,t} + \mathbf{G}_{\Theta,t}, \bar{\mathbf{y}}(\bar{\Theta}, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\varepsilon}))$$

Simulations

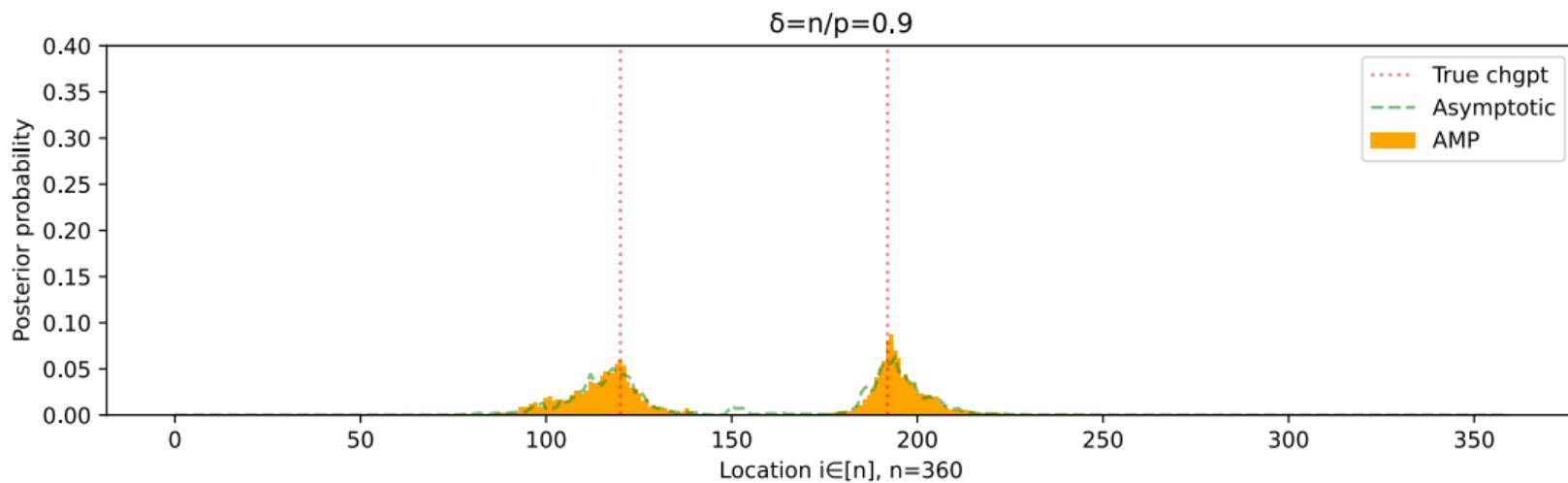
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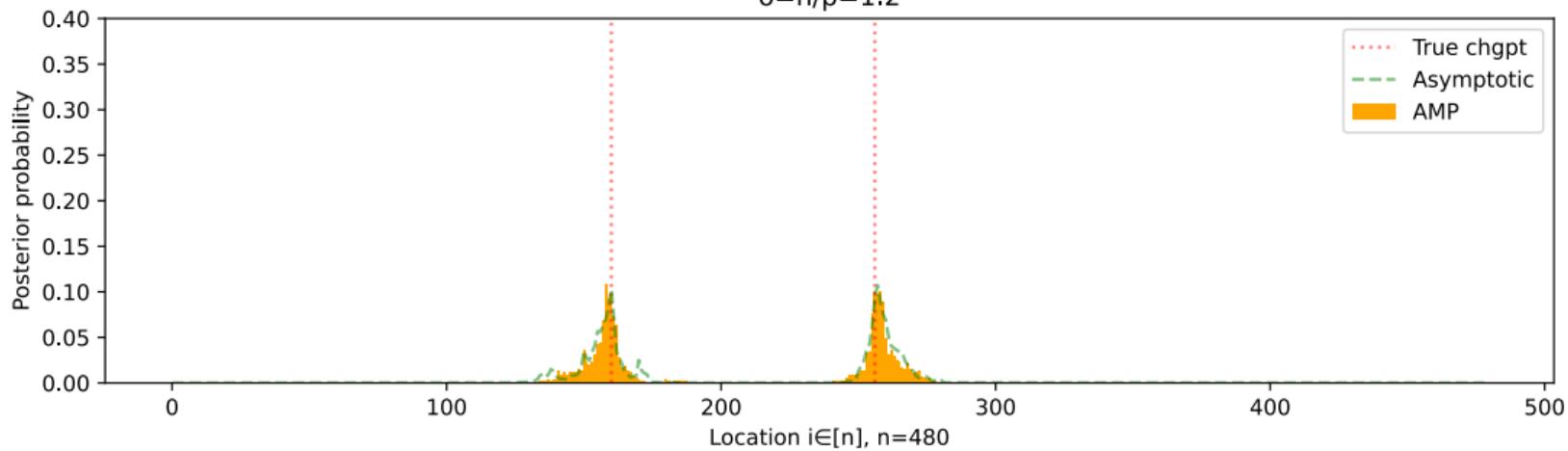


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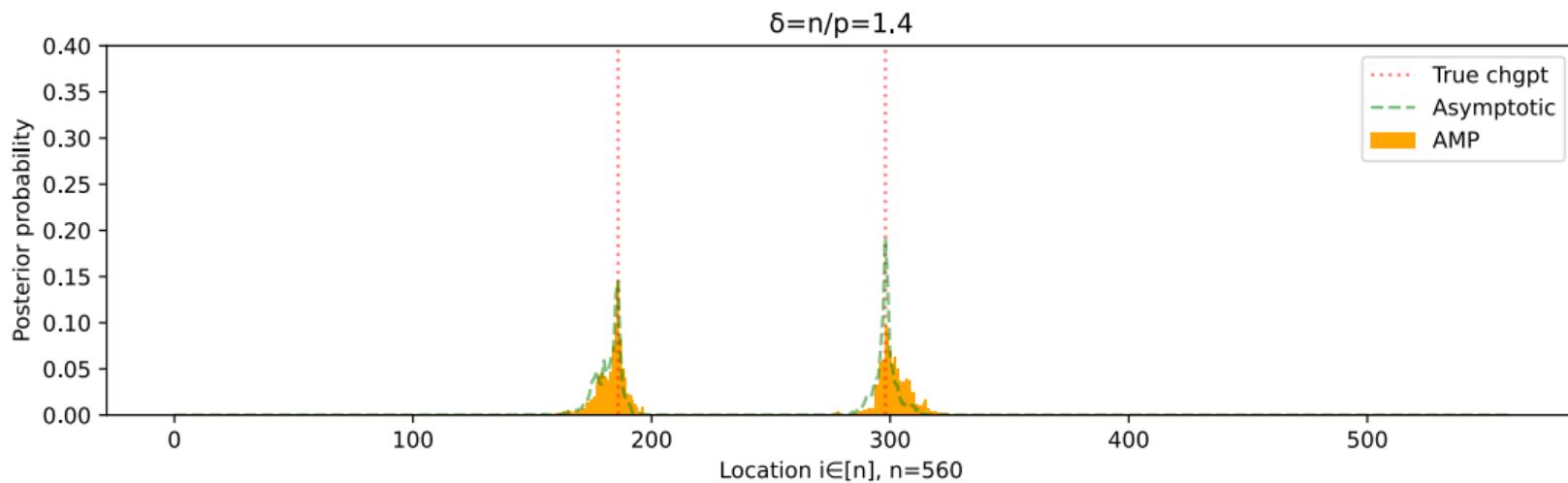


Simulations

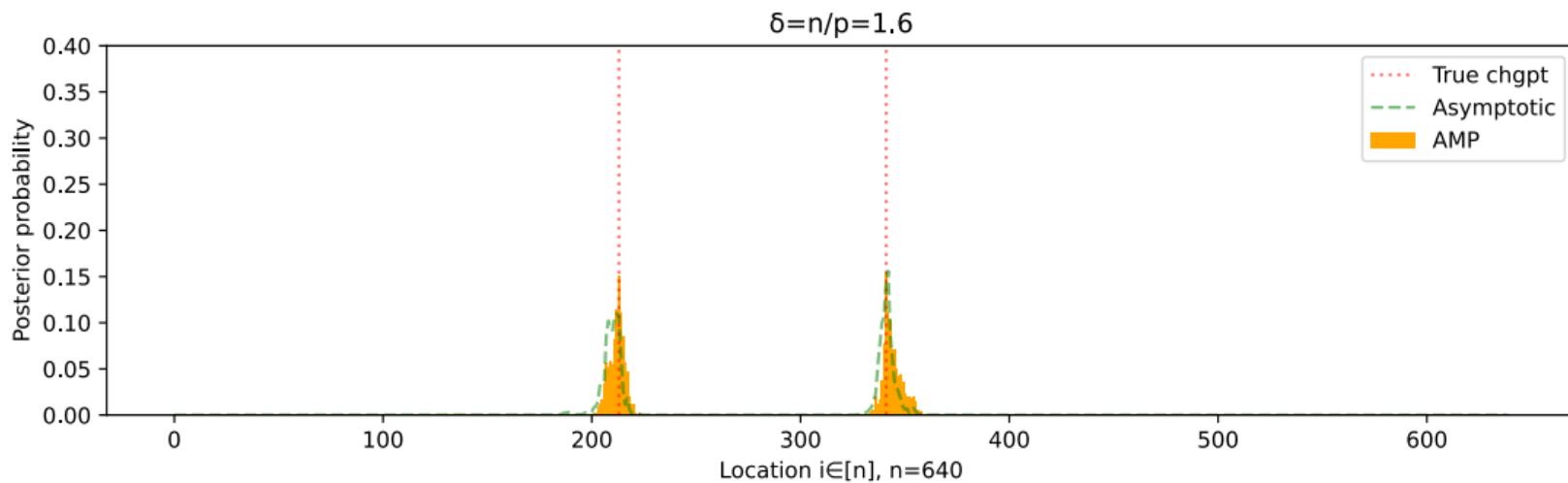
$\delta = n/\rho = 1.2$



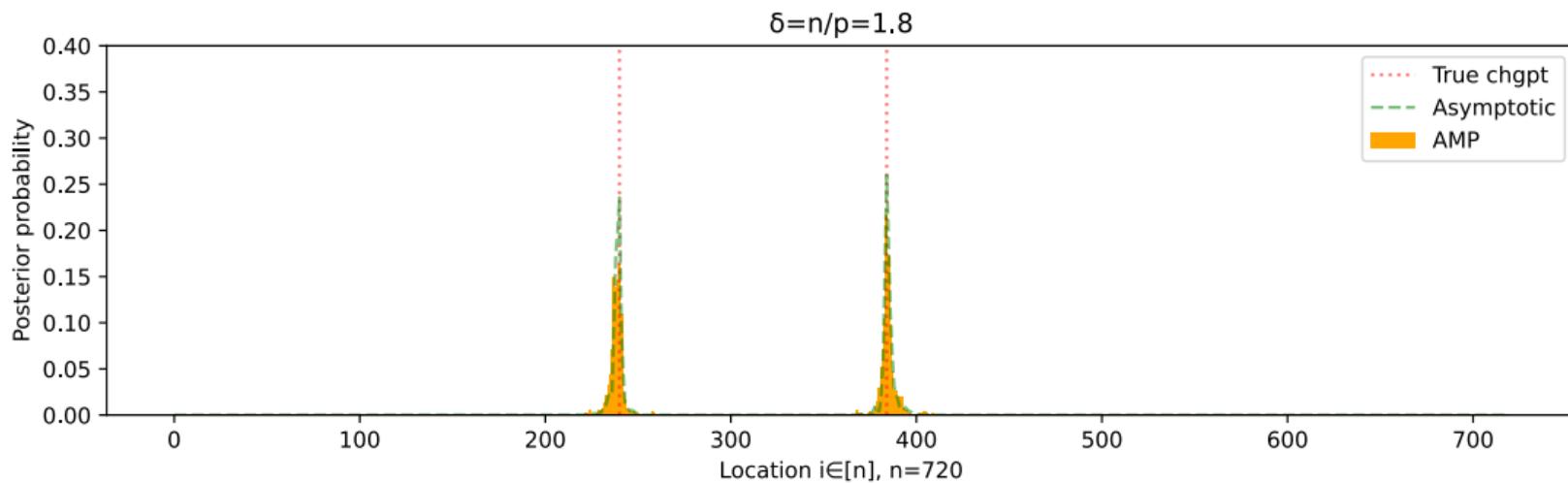
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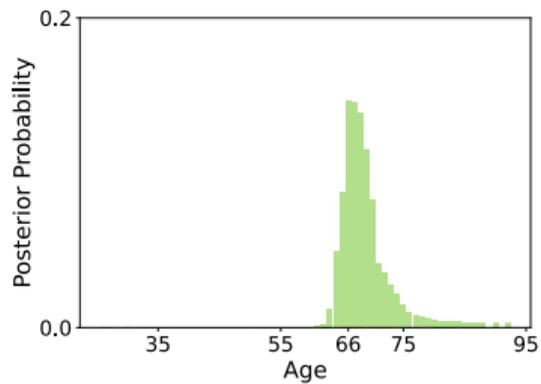


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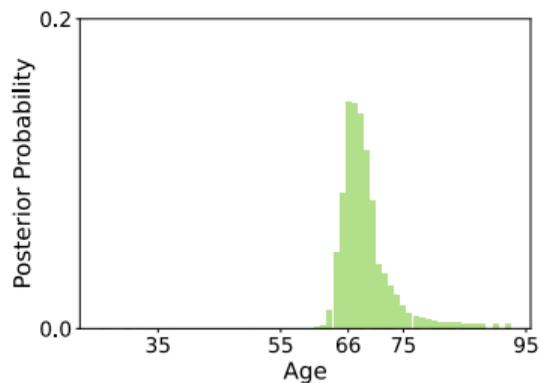
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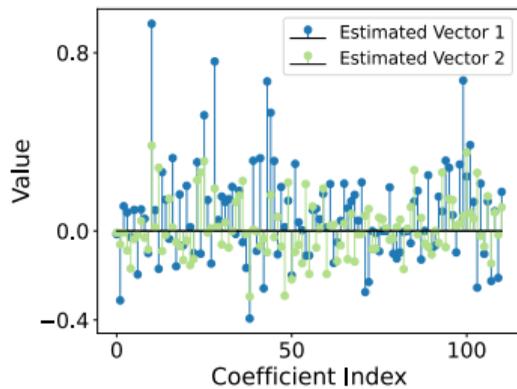


(a) Changepoint posterior vs. age.

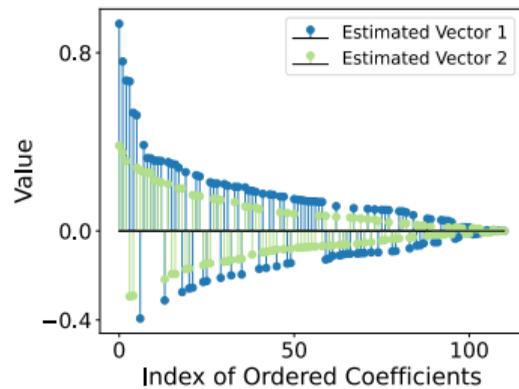
Simulations



(a) Changepoint posterior vs. age.



(b) Regression vectors.

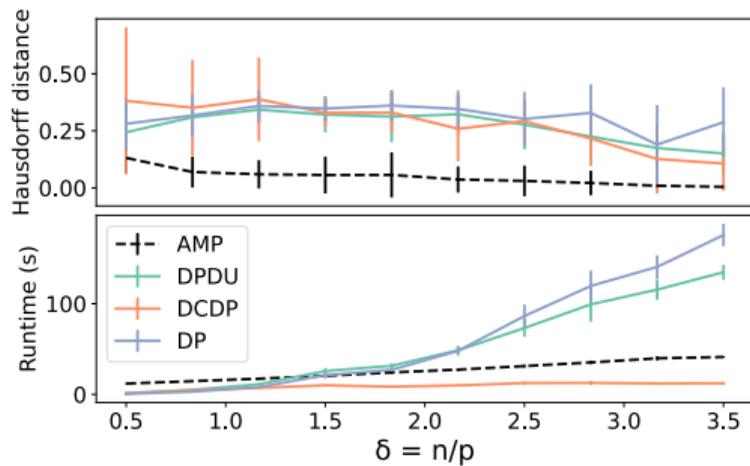


(c) Ordered regression vectors.

Figure: AMP applied to a Myocardial Infarction dataset from [GSR⁺20].

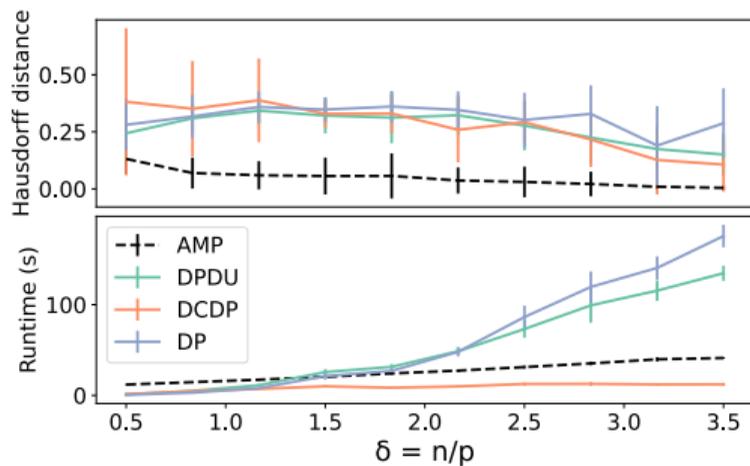
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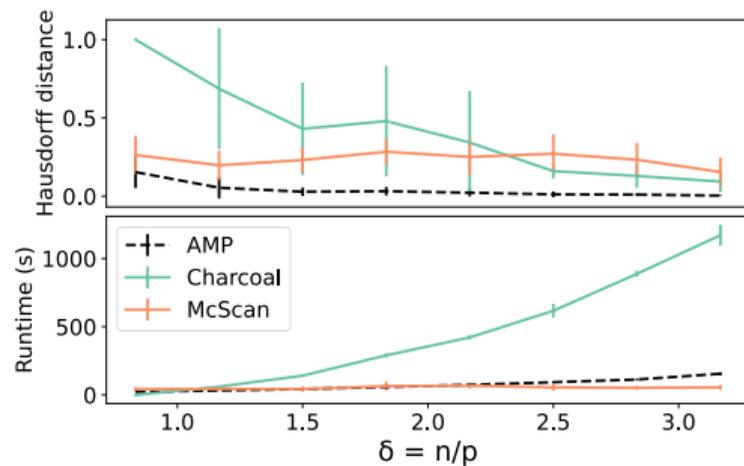


(a) Comparison with DPDU, DCDP and DP for **sparse** prior $p_{\mathbf{B}} = 0.5\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \delta\mathbf{I}) + 0.5\delta_0$.

Simulations

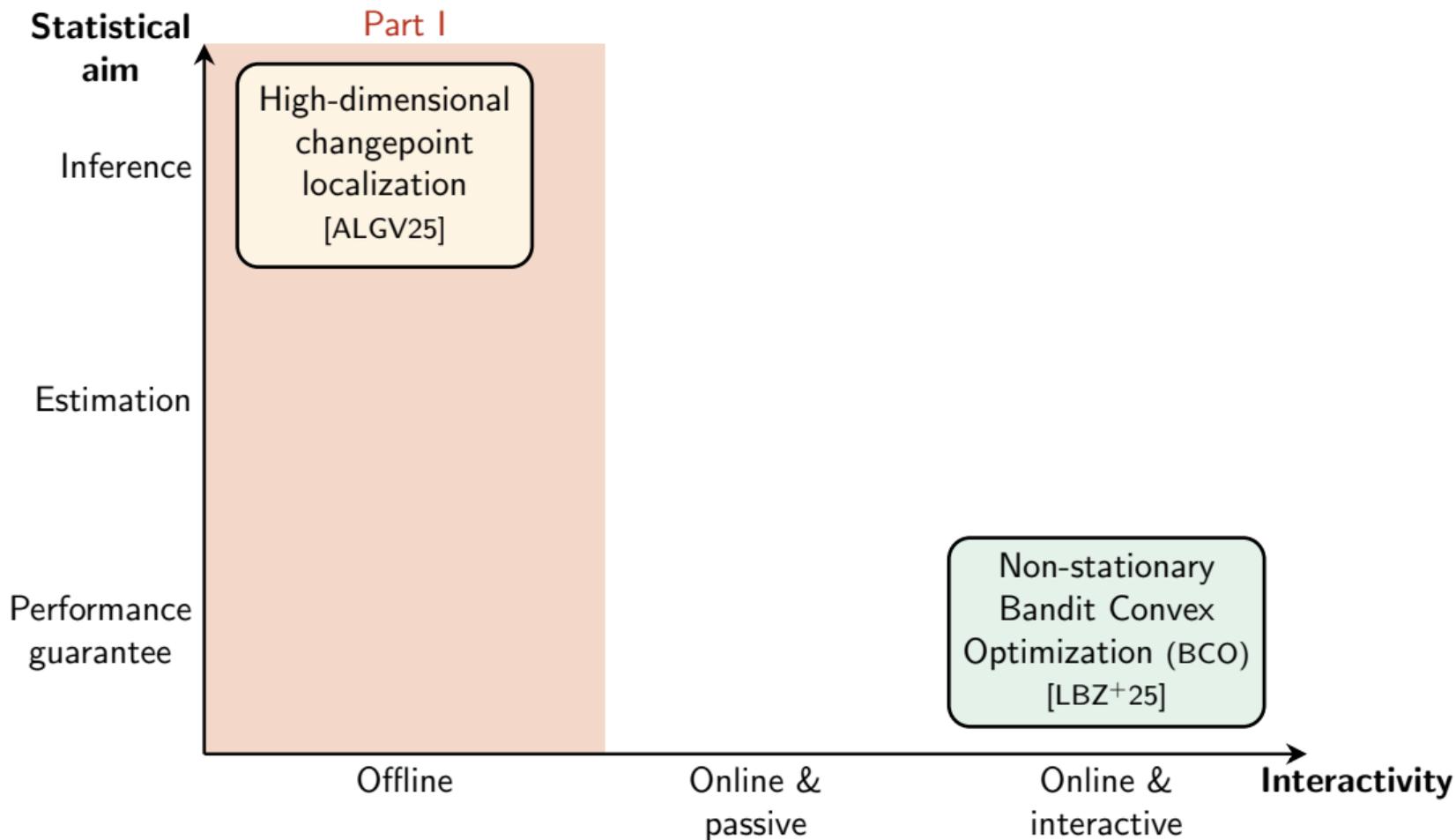


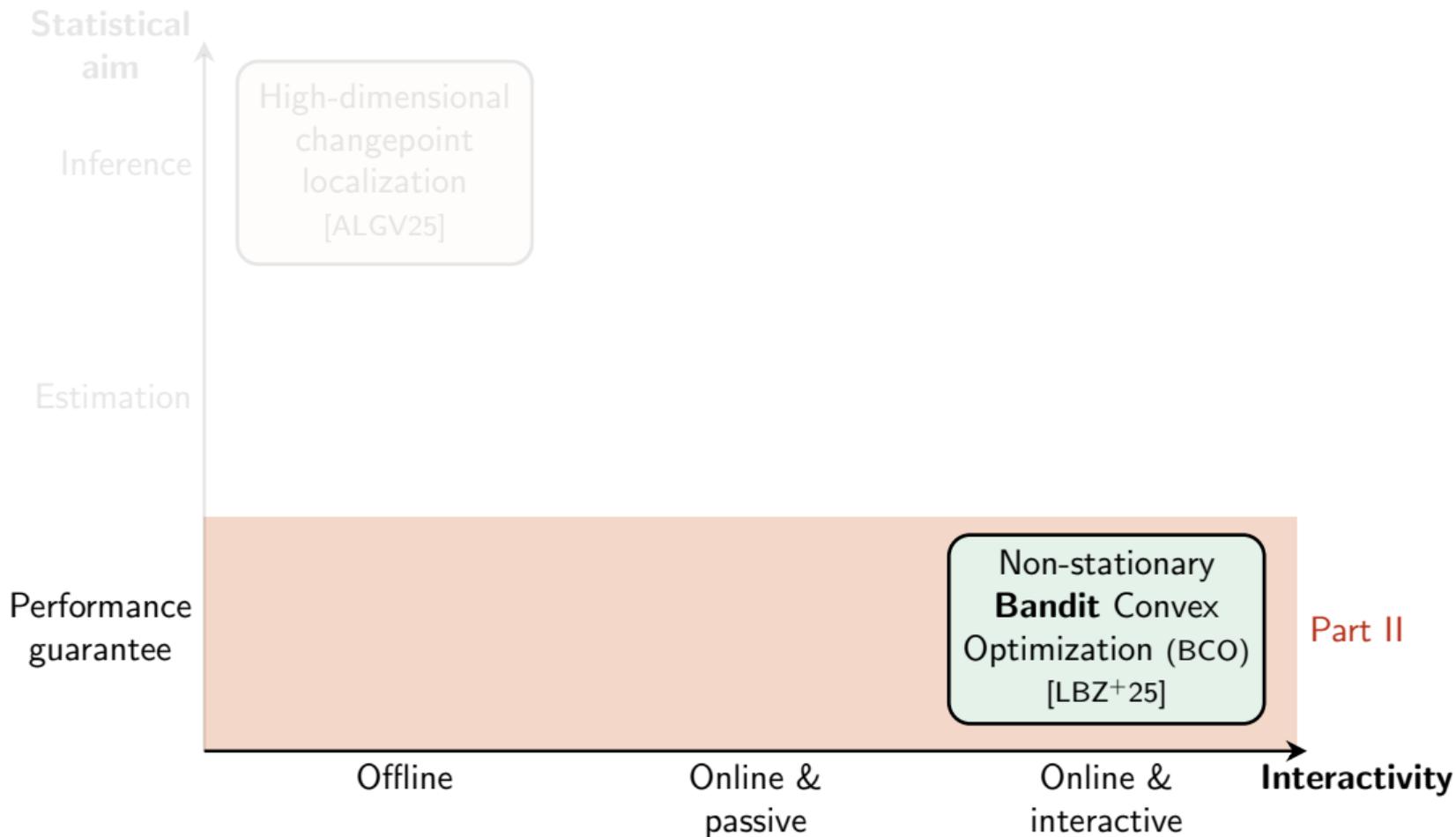
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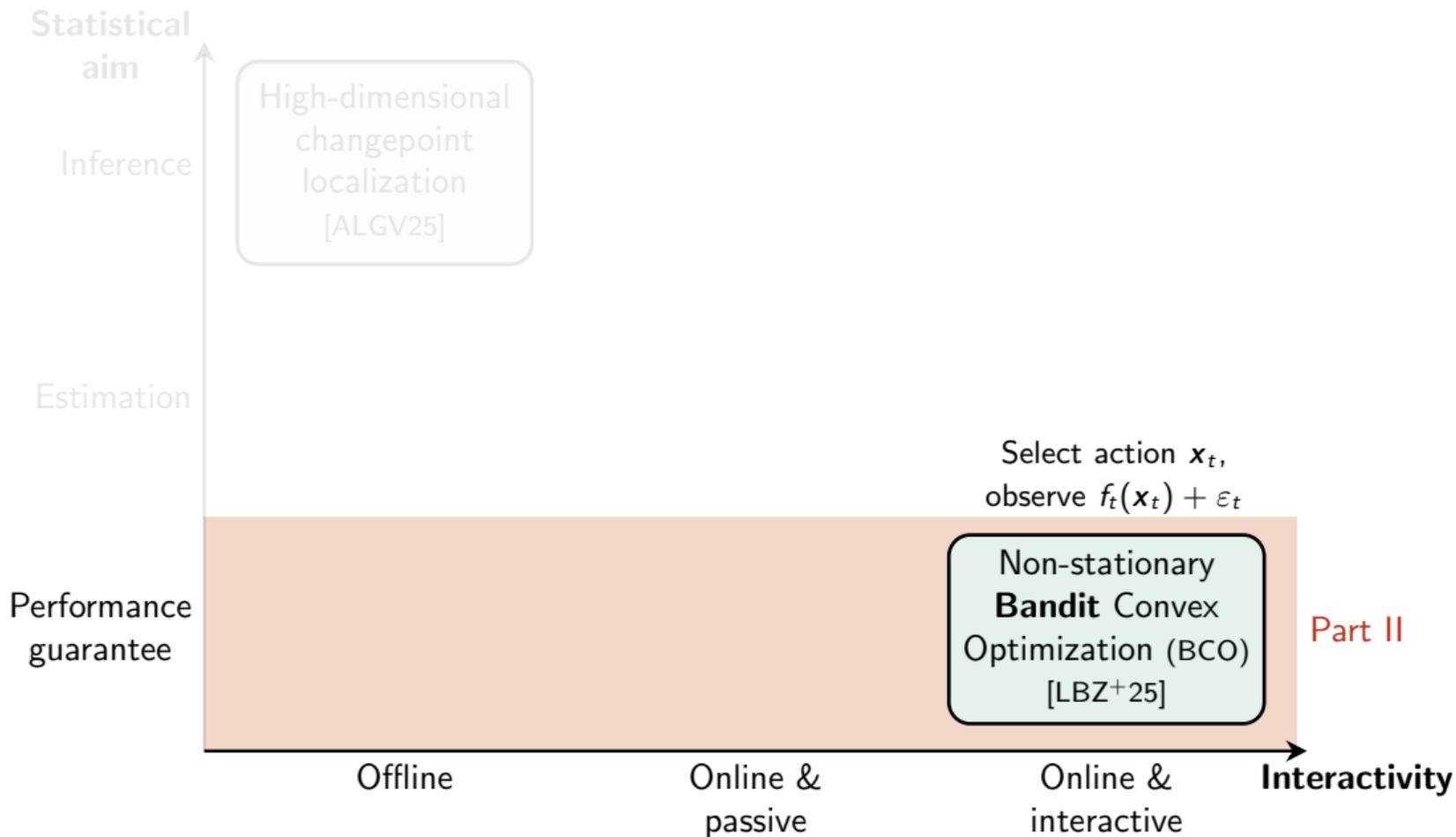


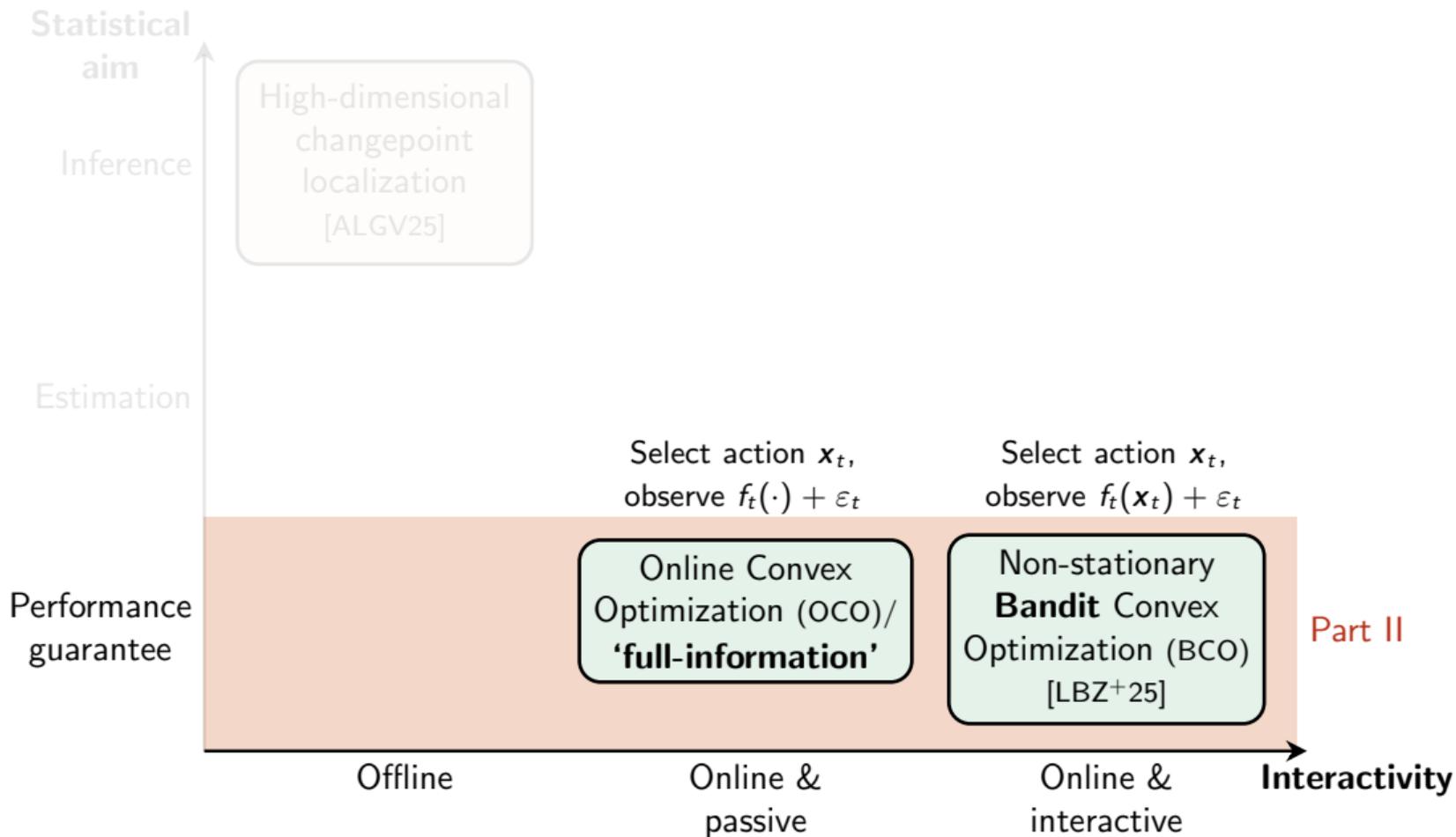
(b) Comparison with charcoal and McScan for a **sparse-difference** prior with sparsity level 0.5.

Figure: Linear model, $L^* = L = 3$.









Bandit Convex Optimization (BCO)

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- Adversary fixes **convex** loss functions $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_T : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
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$$f_t(\mathbf{x}_t) + \varepsilon_t$$

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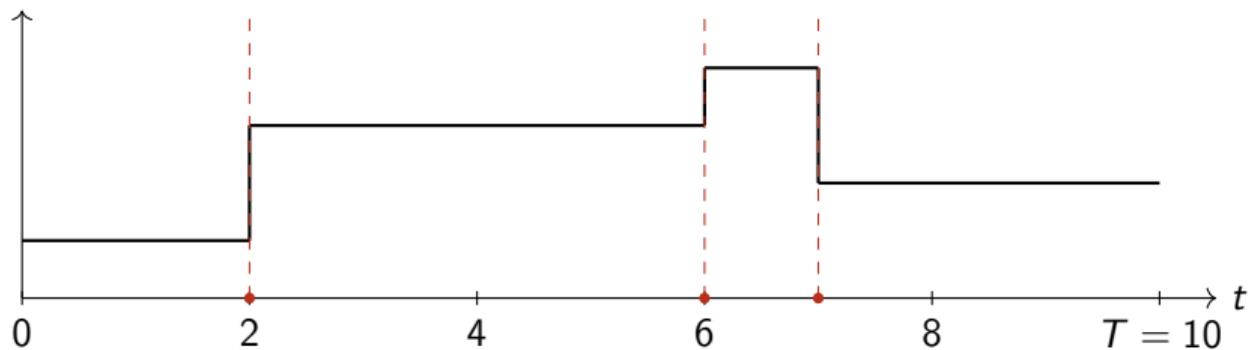
Example:

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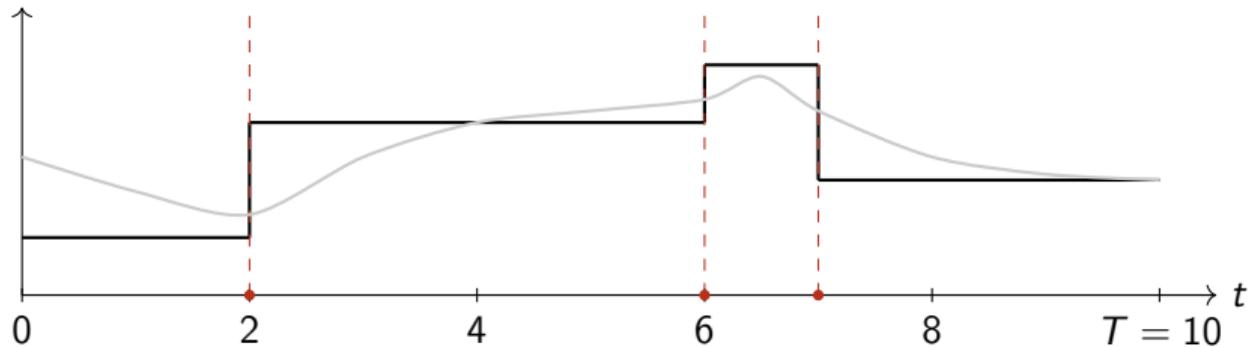


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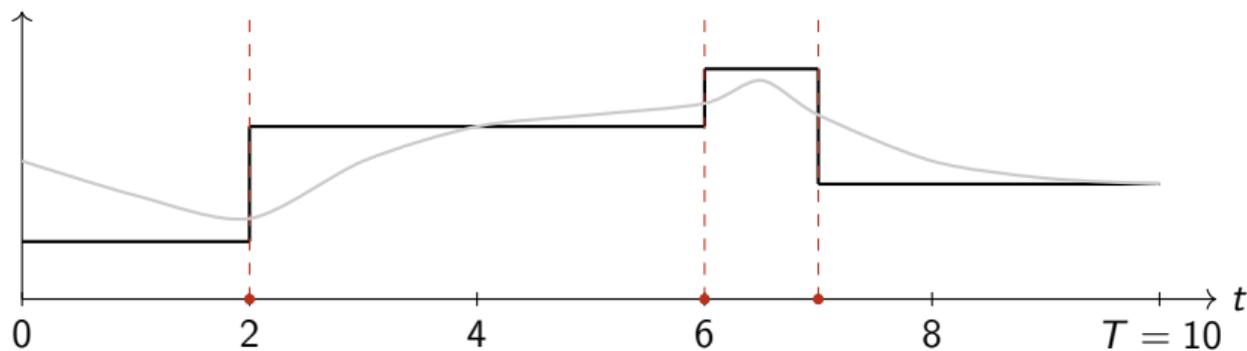


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Example: \mathbf{u}_t



Reduction to **adaptive** regret:

$$R^{\text{ada}}(B, T) = \max_{\substack{p, q \in [T] \\ 0 < q - p \leq B}} \max_{\mathbf{u} \in \Theta} \sum_{t=p}^q \mathbb{E}[f_t(\mathbf{x}_t) - f_t(\mathbf{u})].$$

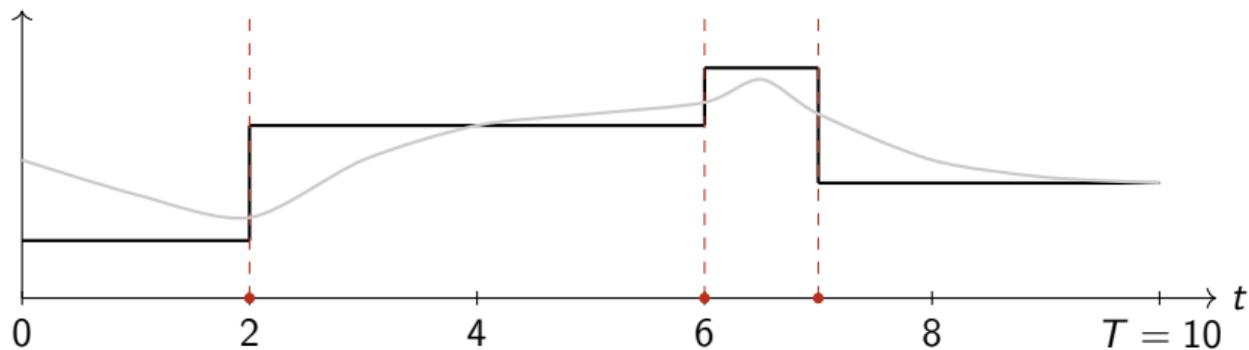
[HS09, DGSS15, AKCV16, JOWW17, Cut20, WZZ18, ZXZZ22, ZWT⁺21, ZLZ18, YWZZ24]

Non-stationary regrets

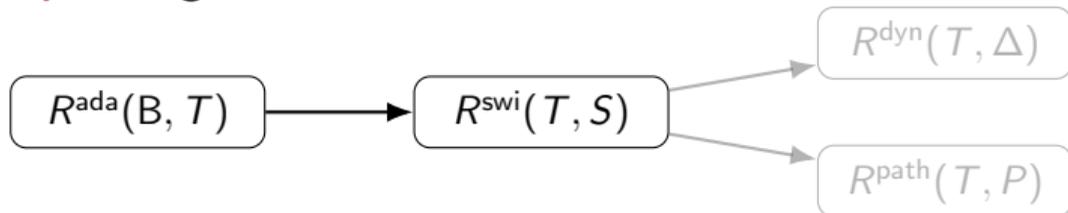
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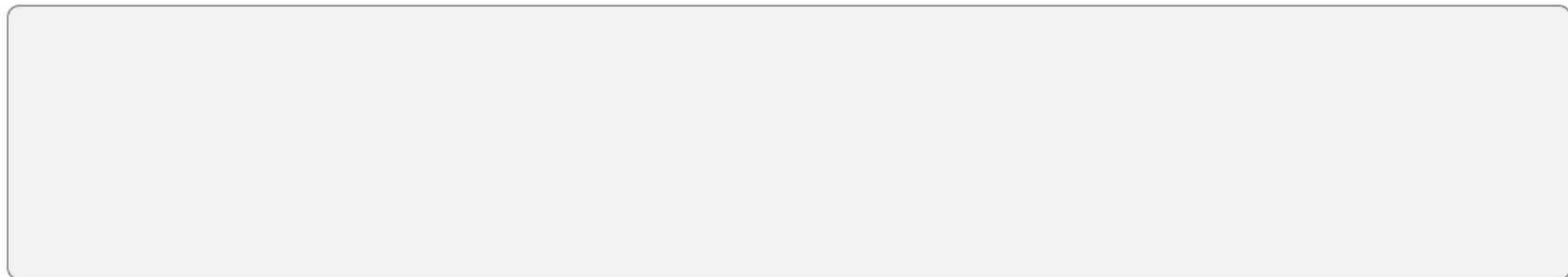


Reduction to **adaptive** regret:



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General convex (GC)	$d^{\frac{5}{2}} \sqrt{ST}$	$\sqrt{d} S^{\frac{1}{4}} T^{\frac{3}{4}}$
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Underline: **minimax-optimal** rates [LBZ⁺25].

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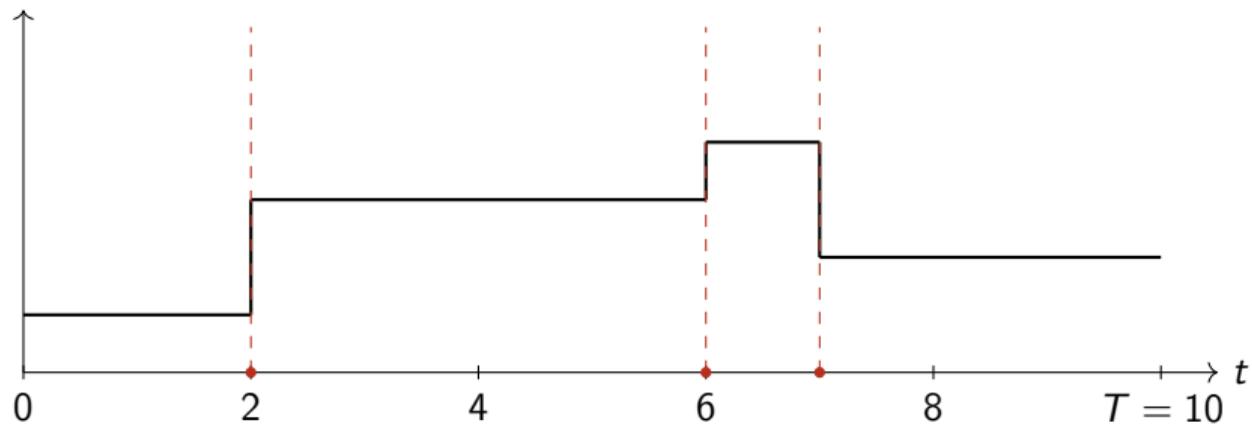
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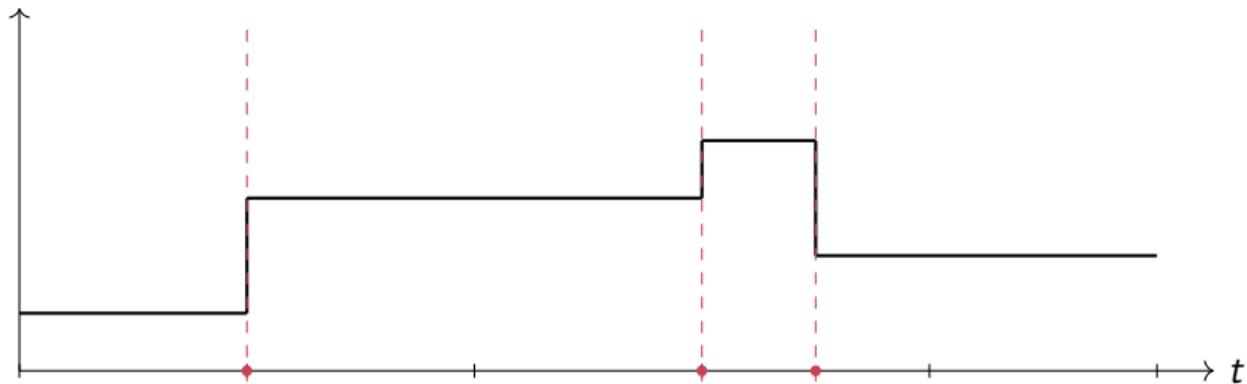
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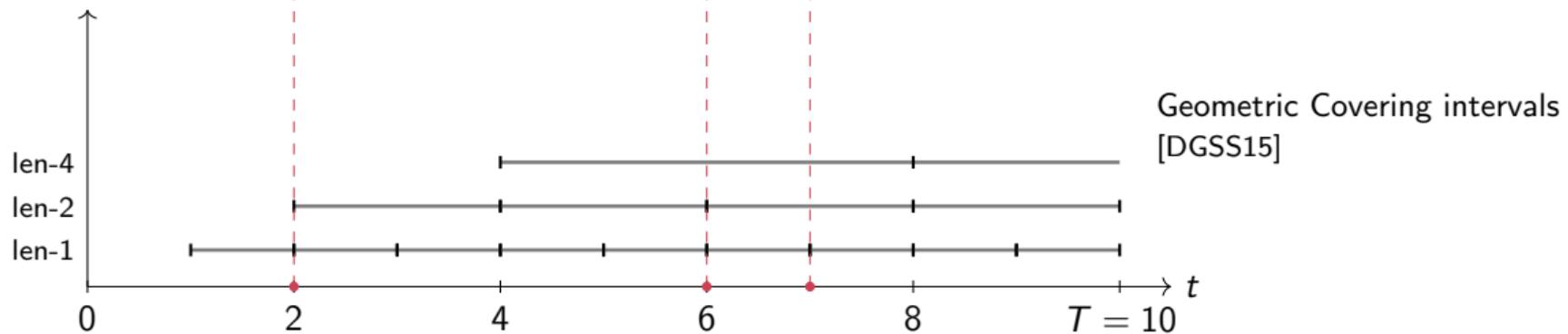
Comparator u_t



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Experts



Sleeping experts (full-information)

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for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ **do**

Let $\{E_1, \dots, E_{n_t}\}$ be the active experts at t with $E_i \equiv E_i(l_i)$.

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n_t$ **do**

Expert E_i outputs action \mathbf{x}_{t,l_i}

end for

Play meta-action using exponential-weights (EW):

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} \frac{e^{-L_{t-1,l_i}}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n_t} e^{-L_{t-1,l_j}}} \mathbf{x}_{t,l_i}$$

Observe **entire** loss function $f_t(\cdot)$

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Send $f_t(\cdot)$ to E_i

Increment cumulative loss $L_{t,l_i} = L_{t-1,l_i} + f_t(\mathbf{x}_{t,l_i})$

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[DGSS15, JOWW17, ZYZ⁺18]

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$$\Rightarrow R^{\text{ada}}(B, T) \lesssim \begin{cases} \sqrt{B} & \text{(GC)} \\ \frac{1}{\alpha} \log B & \text{(SC)} \end{cases}.$$

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Observe **bandit feedback** $f_t(\mathbf{x}_t) + \varepsilon_t$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n_t$ **do**

Increment **surrogate** loss $L_{t,l_i} = L_{t-1,l_i} + \ell_t(\mathbf{x}_{t,l_i})$

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end for

From full-information to bandit feedback

for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ **do**

Let $\{E_1, \dots, E_{n_t}\}$ be the active experts at t with $E_i \equiv E_i(l_i)$.

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Expert E_i outputs action \mathbf{x}_{t,l_i}

end for

Play meta-action using EW: $\zeta_t \sim$ uniform on unit sphere

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t + h\zeta_t, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t = \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} \frac{e^{-L_{t-1,l_i}}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n_t} e^{-L_{t-1,l_j}}} \mathbf{x}_{t,l_i}$$

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How to design $\ell_t(\cdot)$ using \mathbf{g}_t ?

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Tilted by **learning rate η**

- (i) Absorbs the variance of \mathbf{g}_t
- (ii) Together with η , adapts to unknown curvature α

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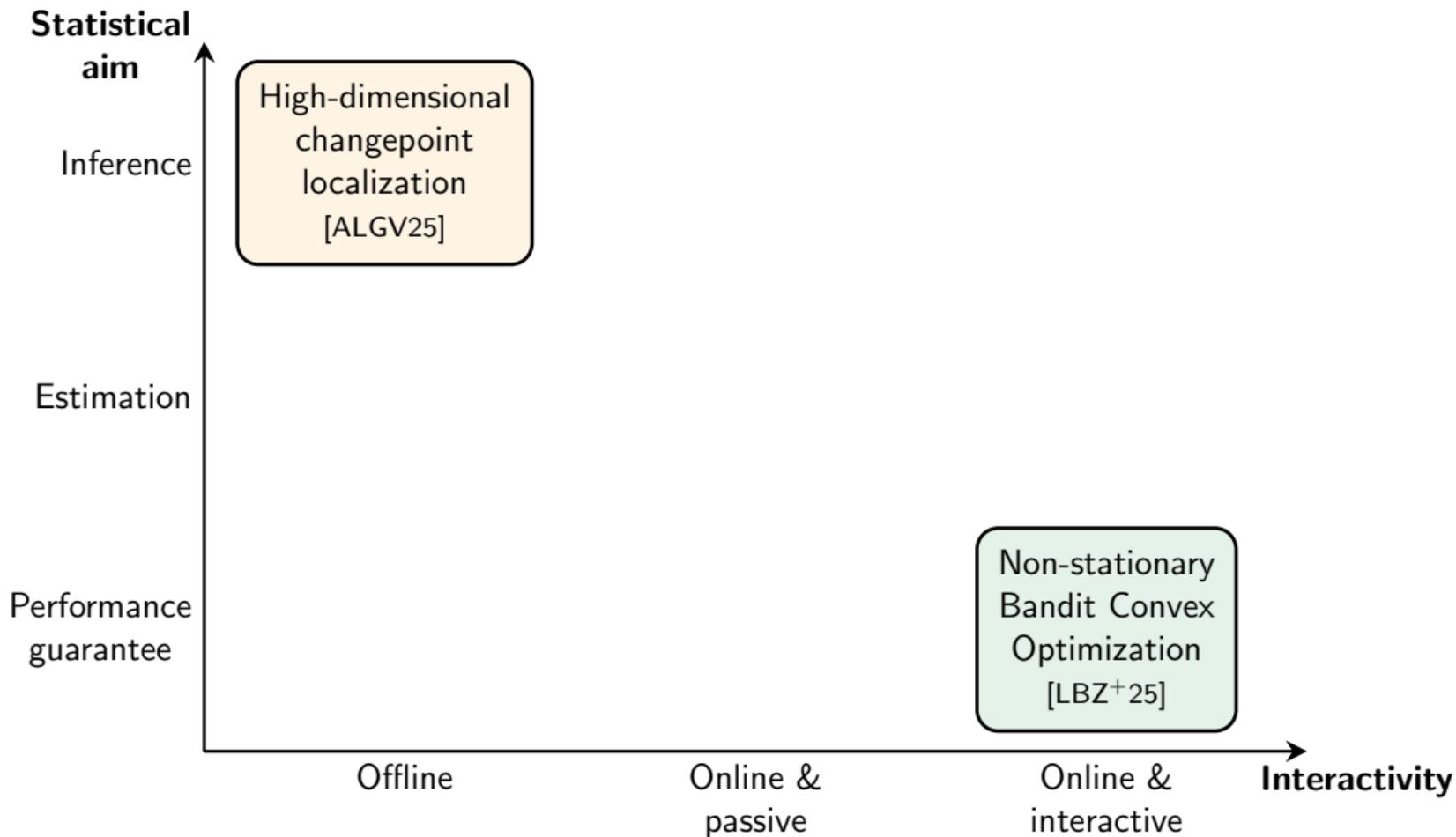
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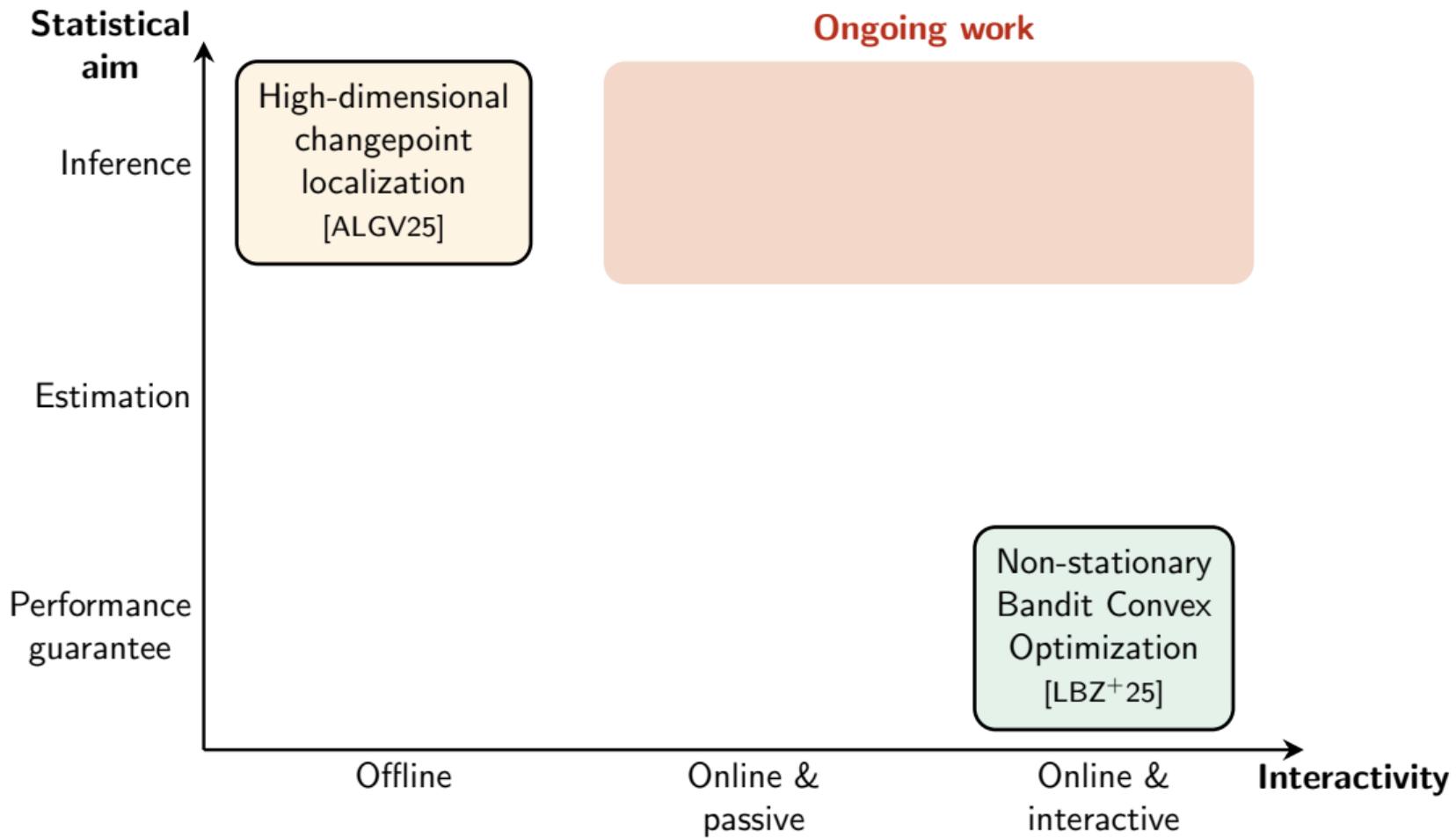
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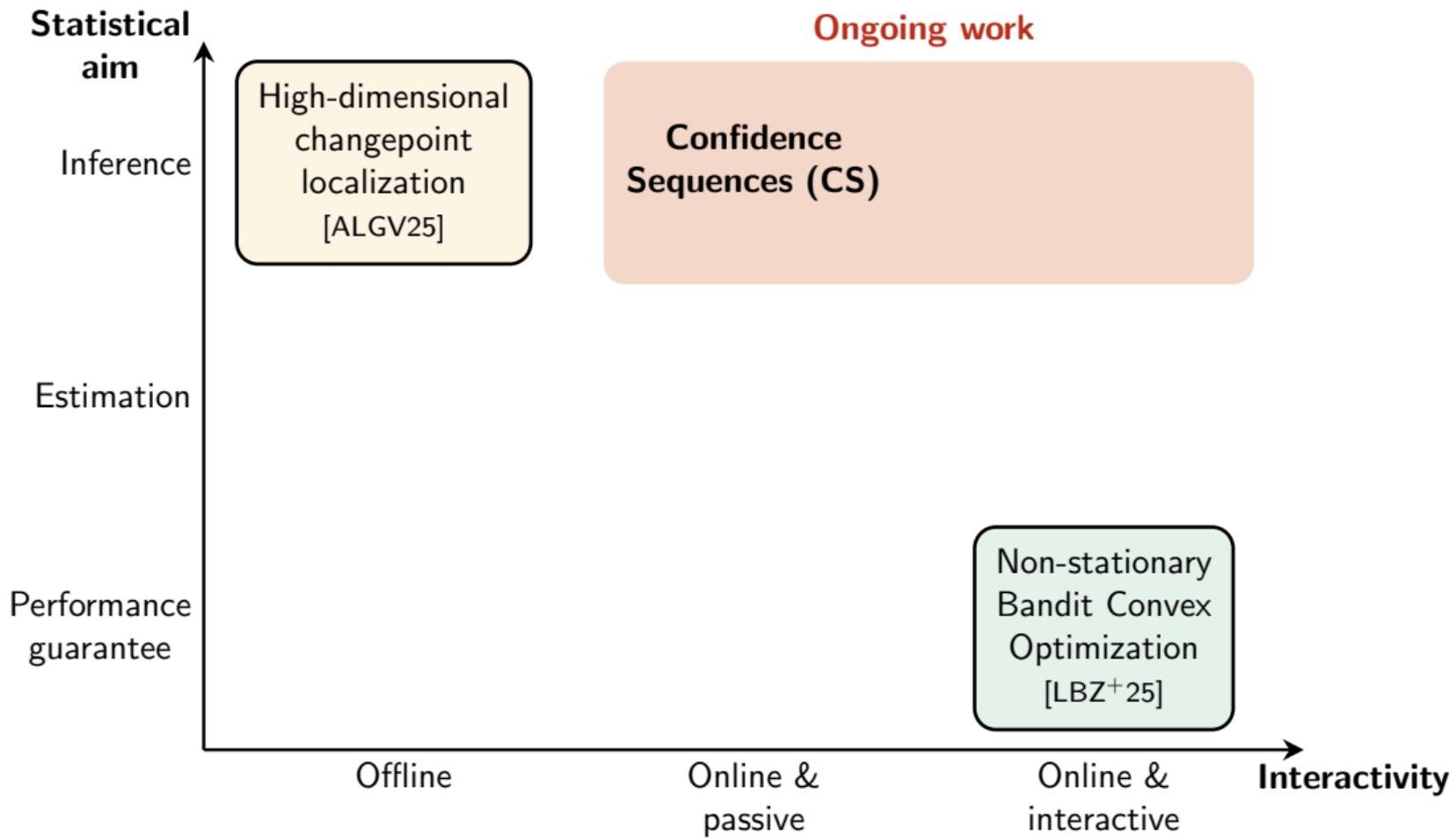
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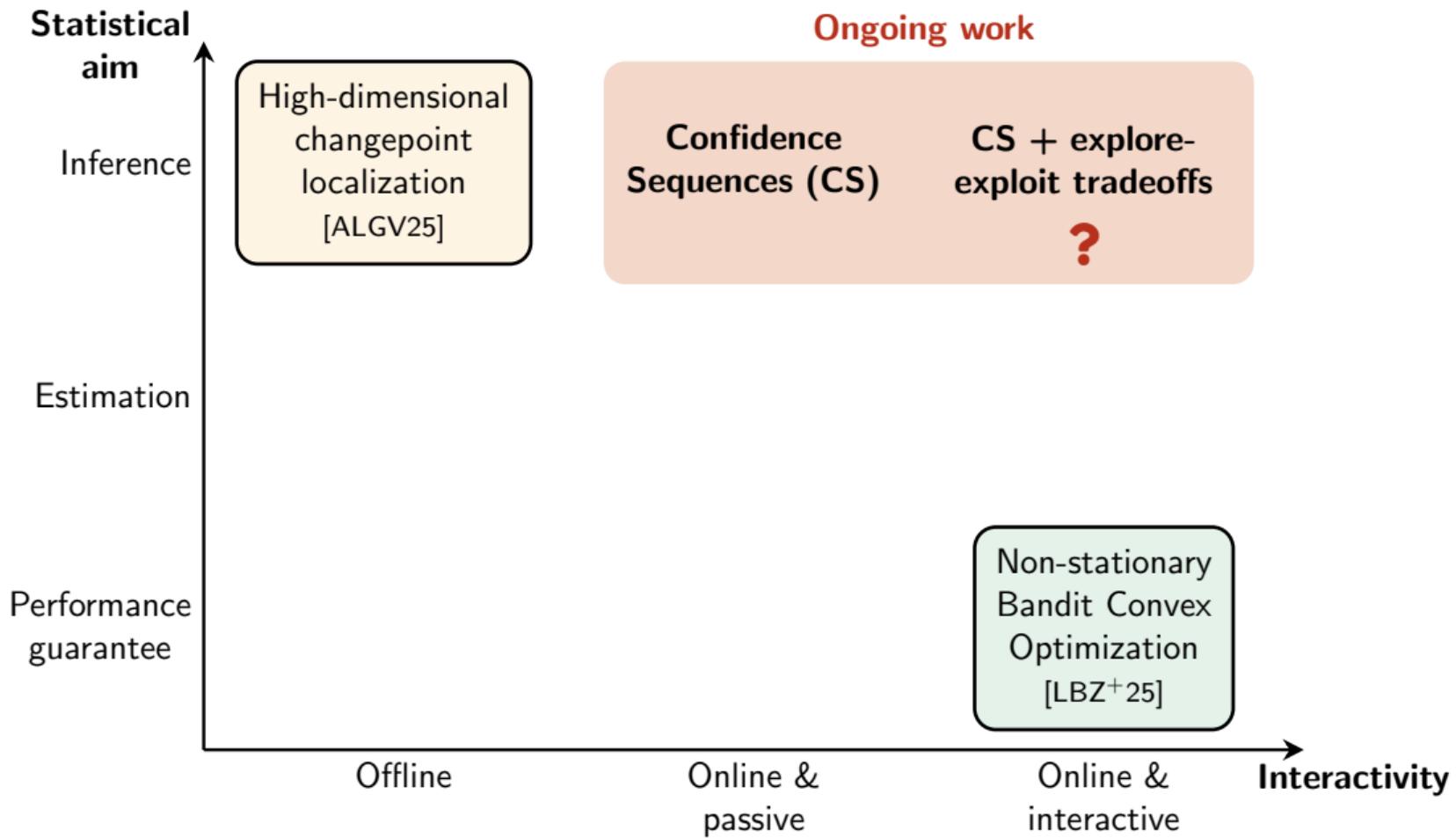
- Improve TEWA-SE through coin betting [JOWW17]?
- Leverage **second-order** information like online Newton methods from [FvdHLM24, SSNH24] that achieve state-of-the-art \sqrt{T} static regrets?

Summary & ongoing work

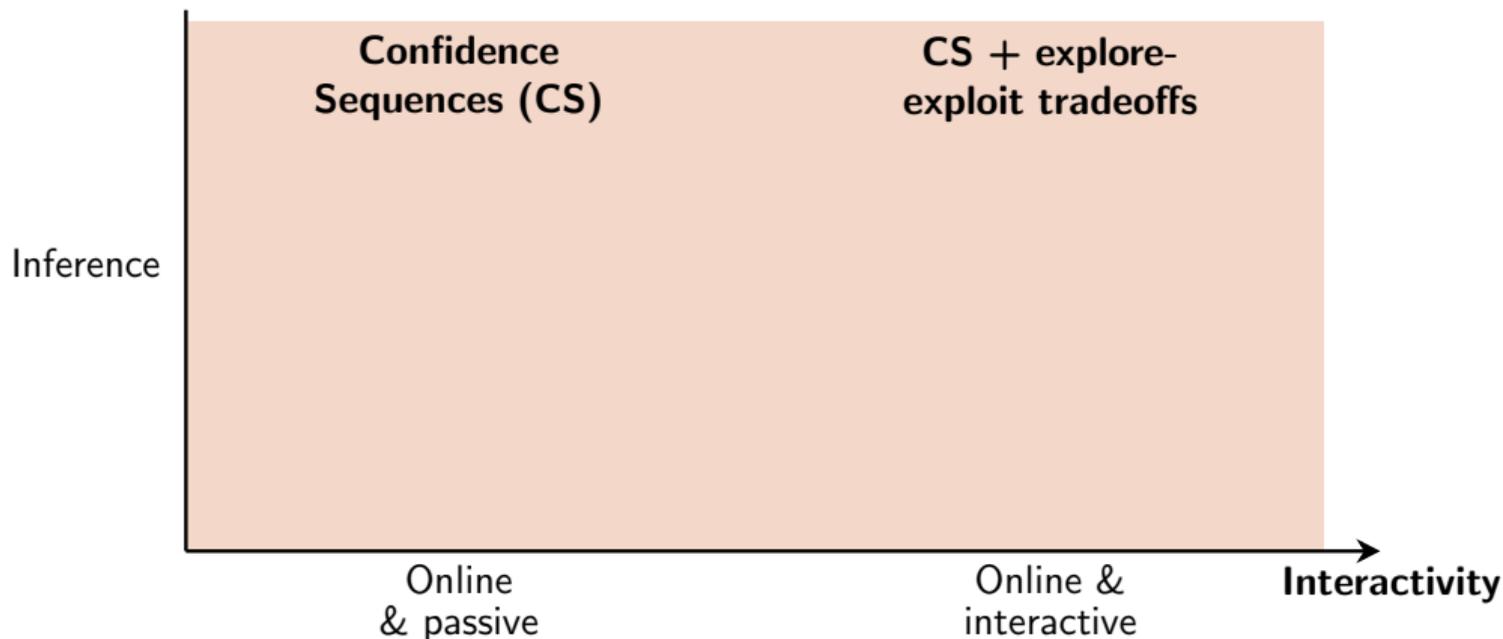






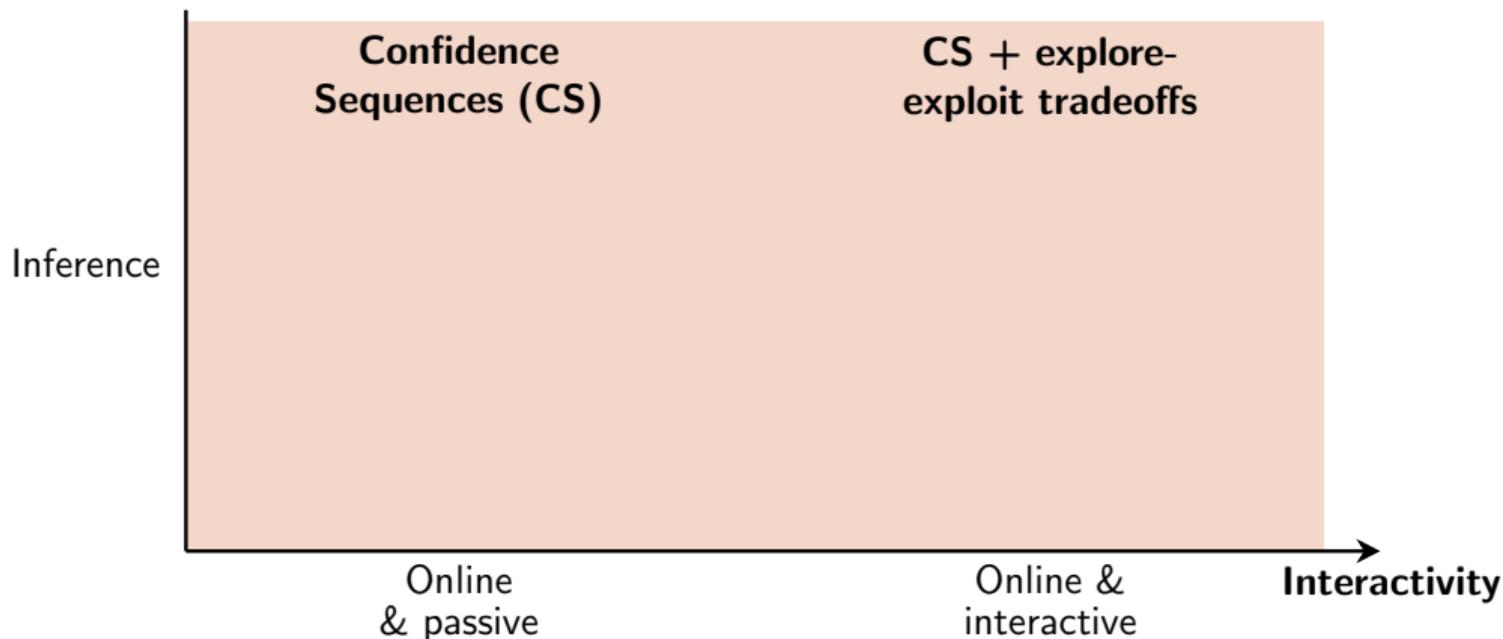


Anytime-valid **inference** for **interactive** decision-making



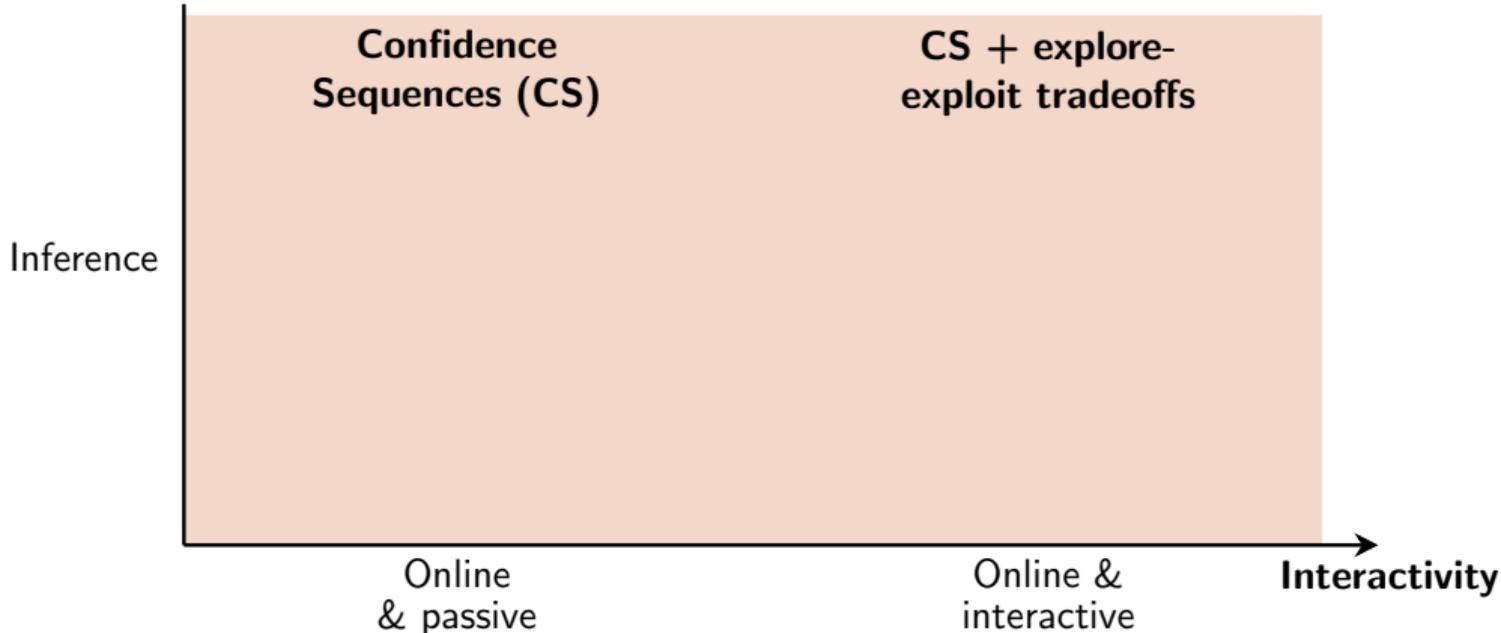
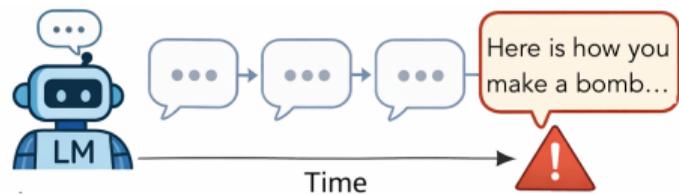
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Particularly useful for monitoring generative AI



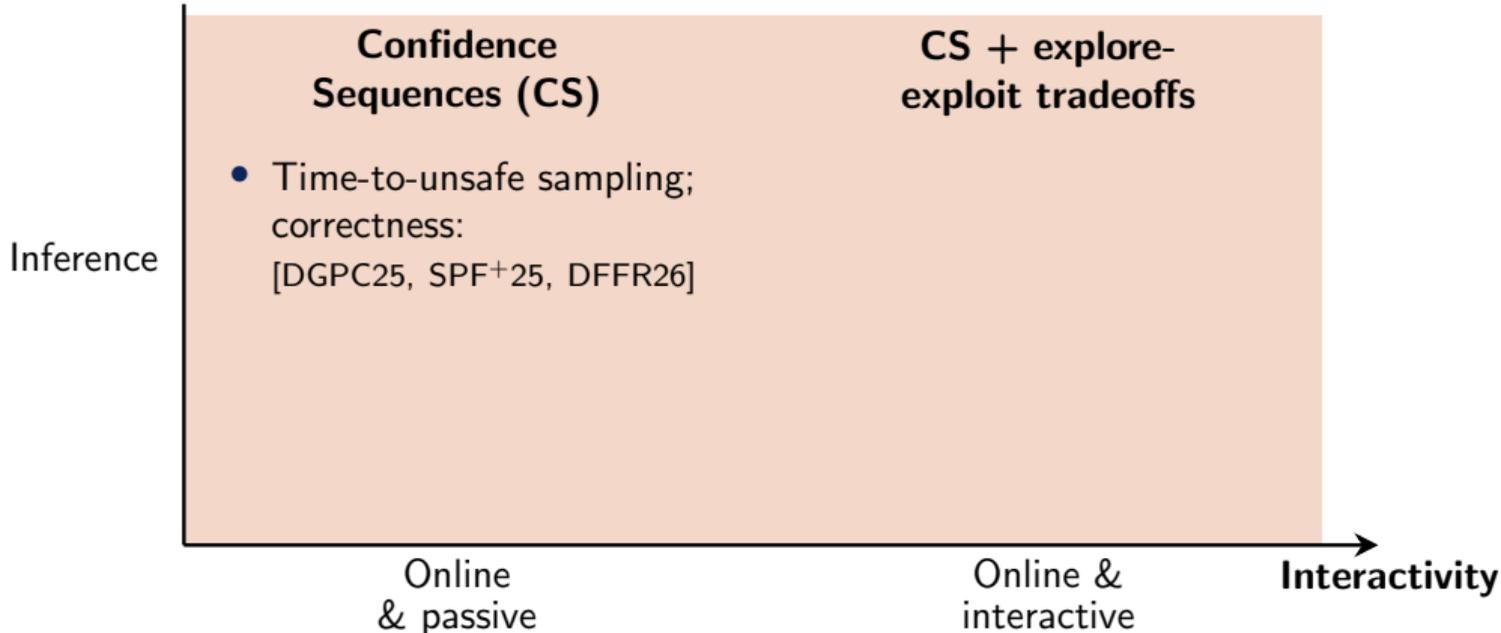
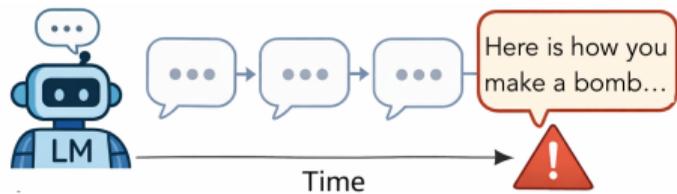
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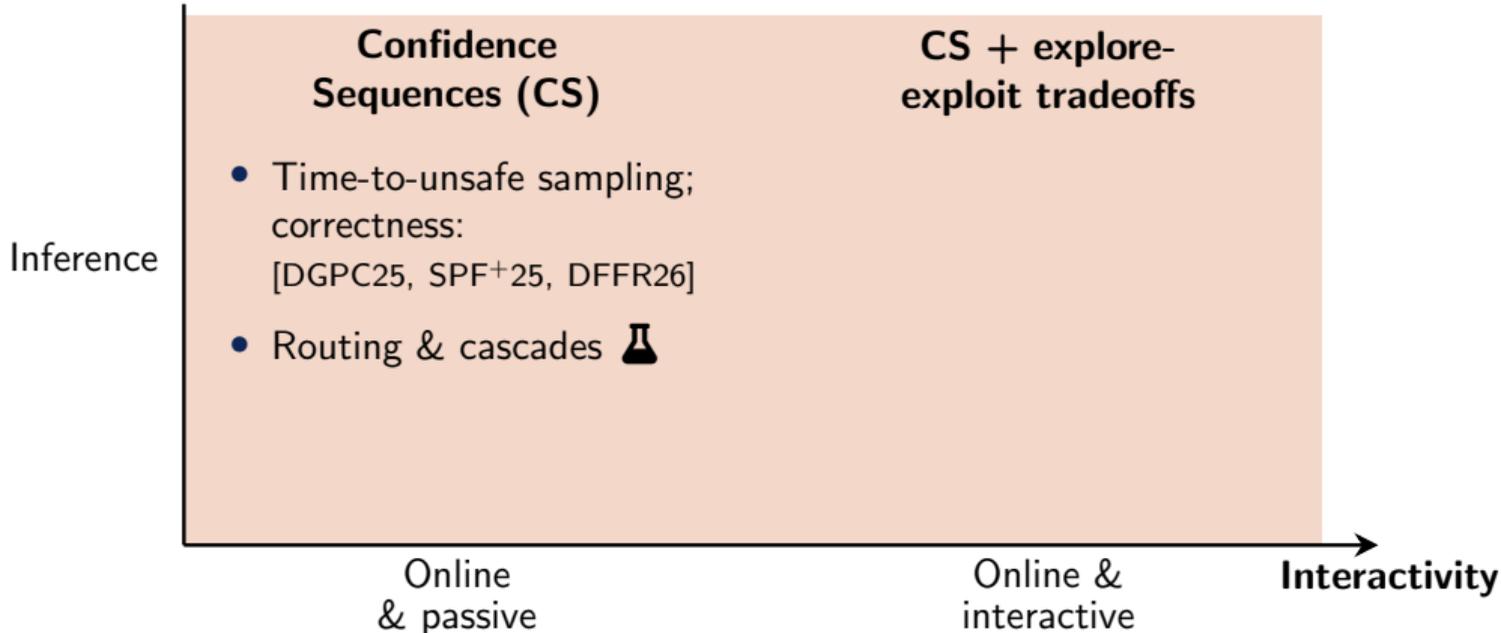
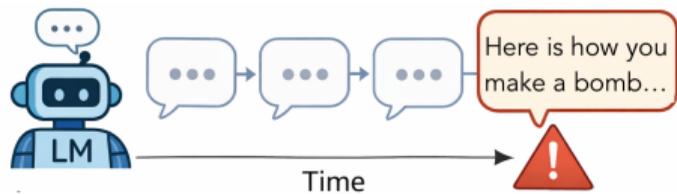
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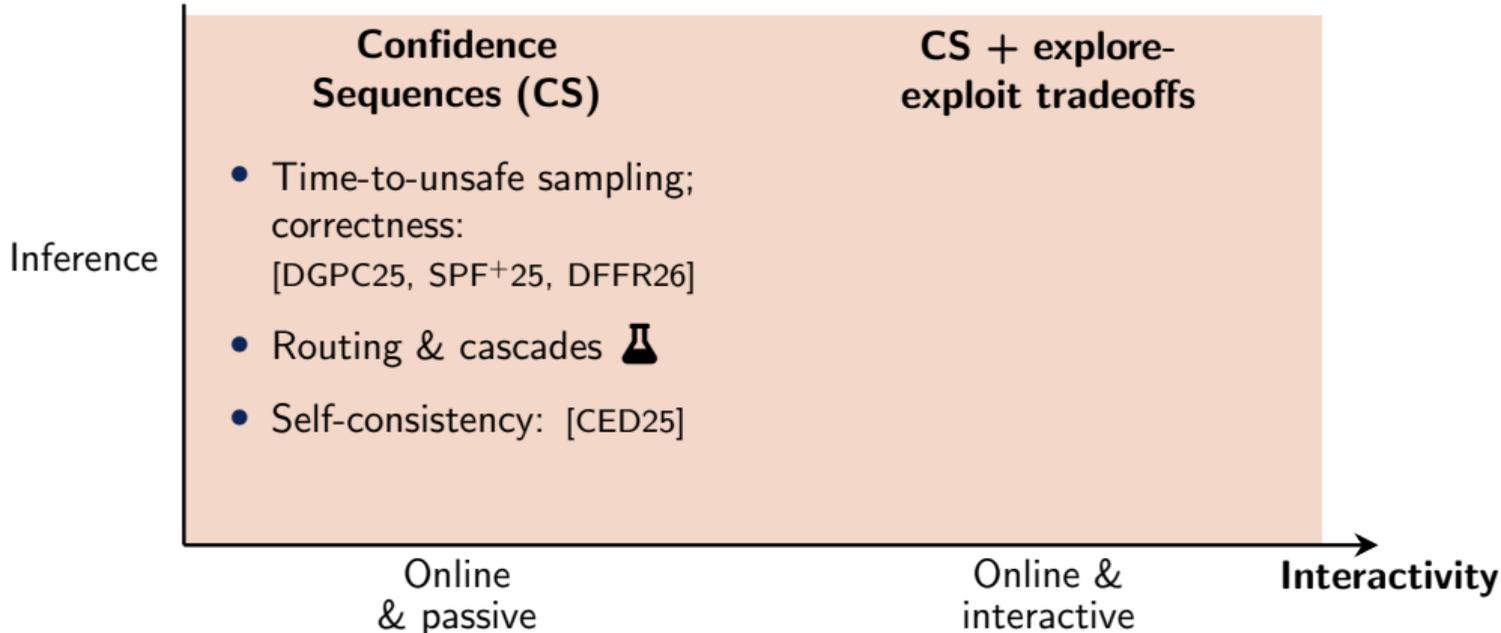
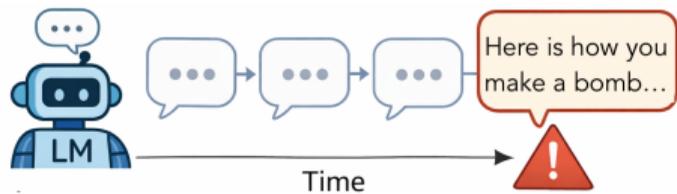
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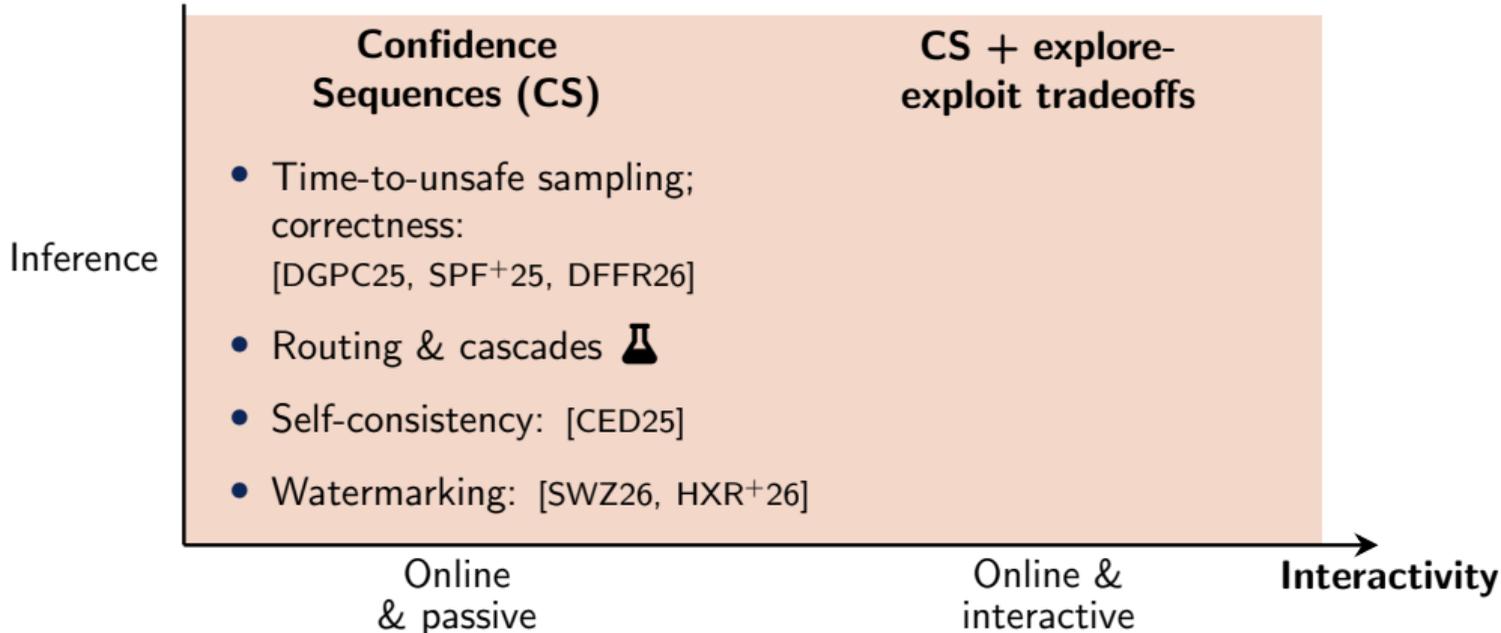
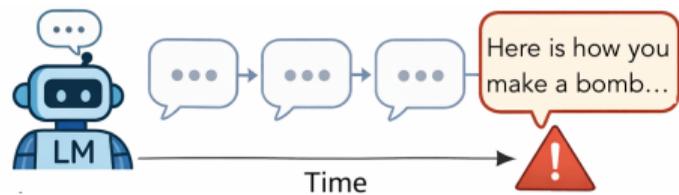
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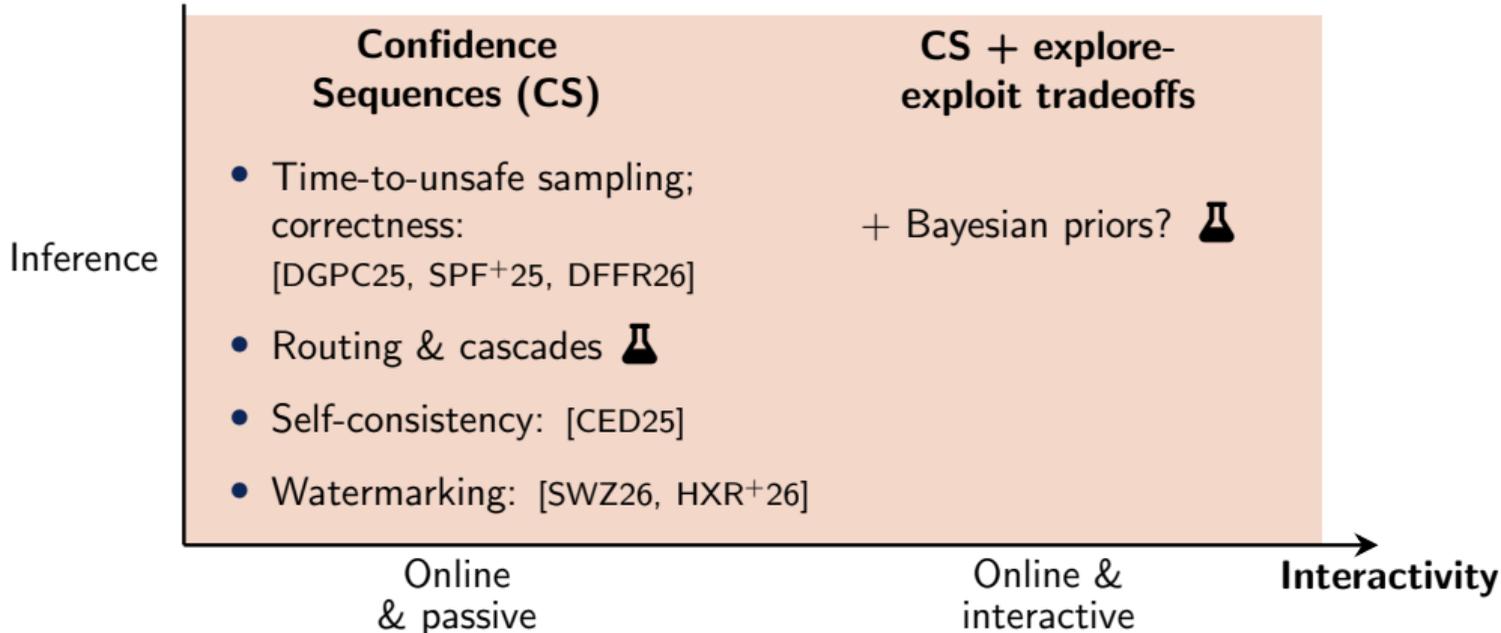
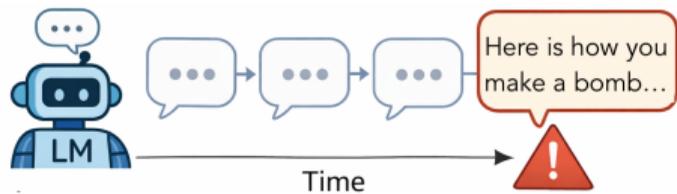
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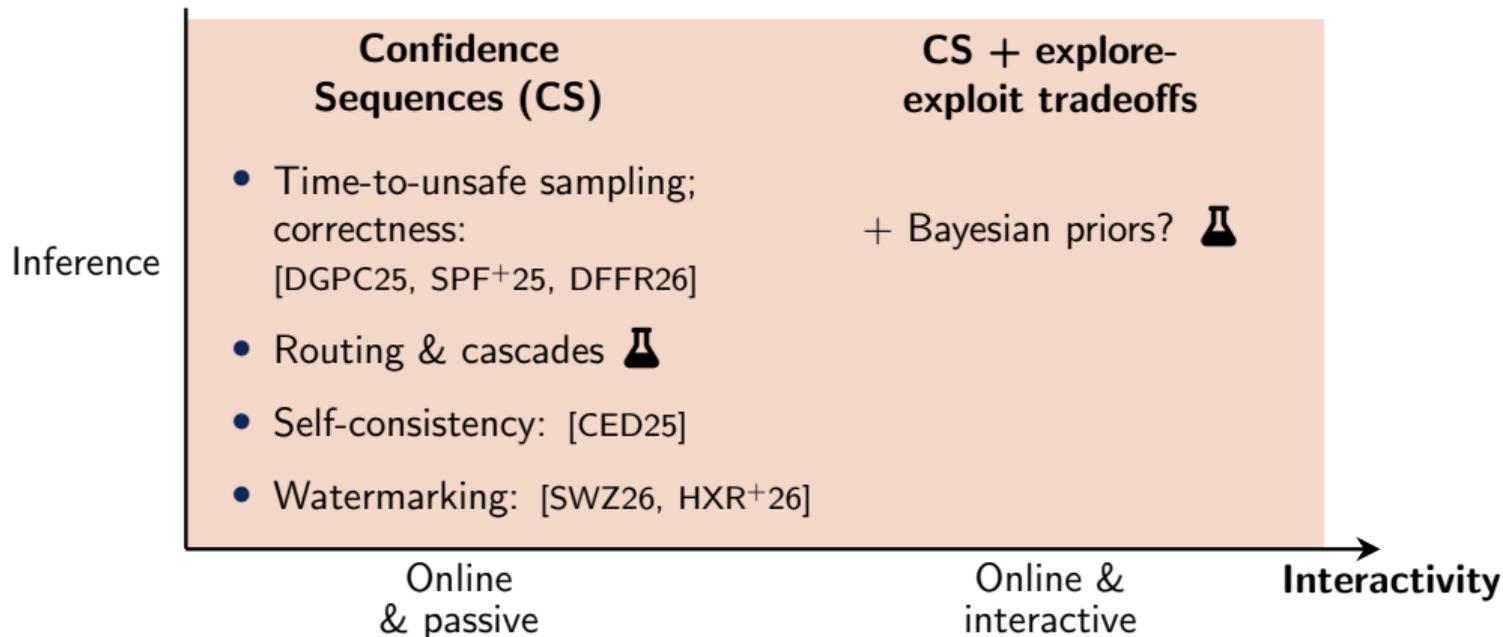


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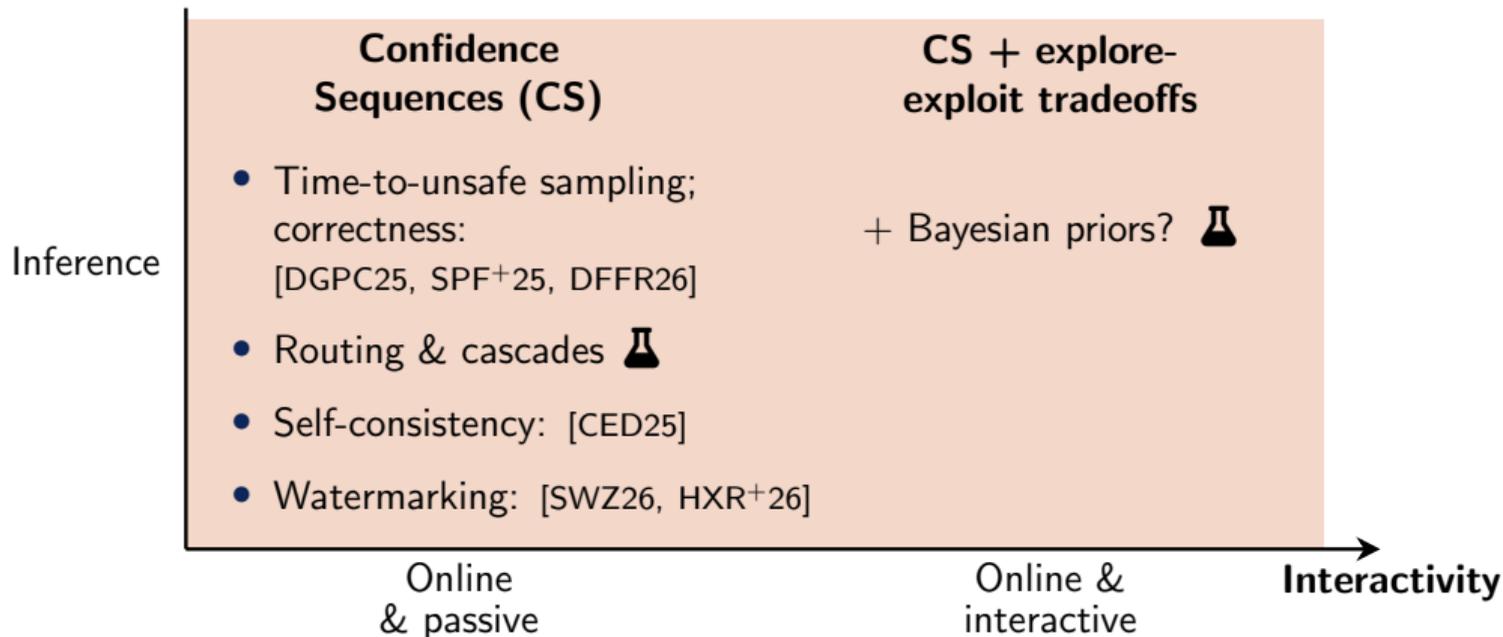
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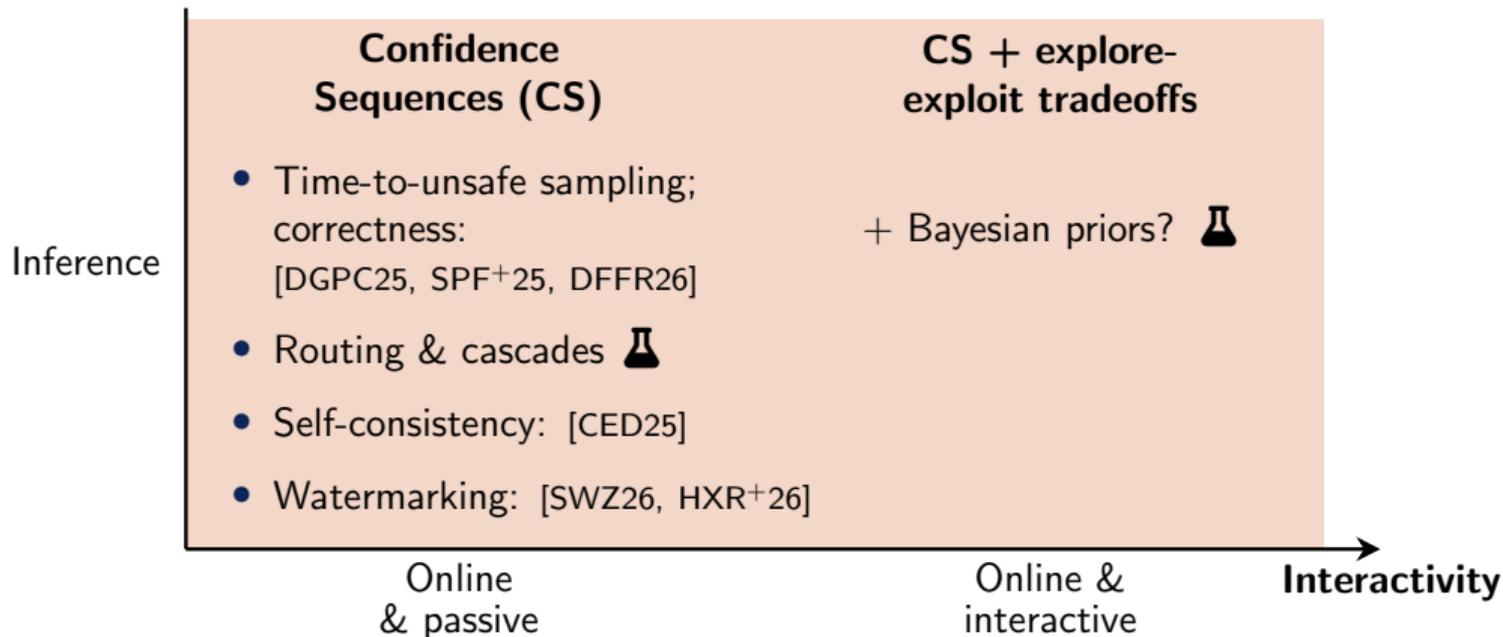
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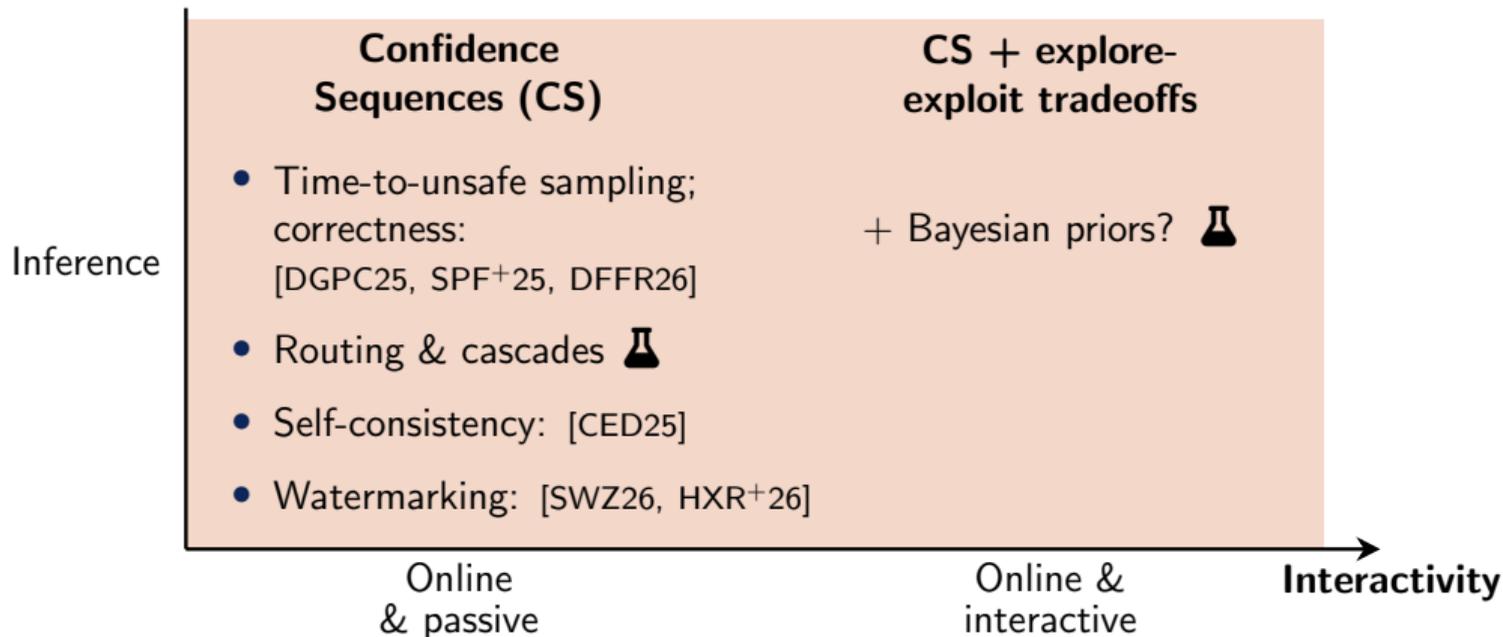
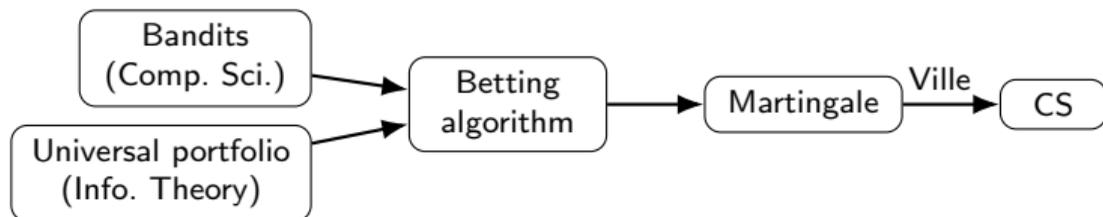
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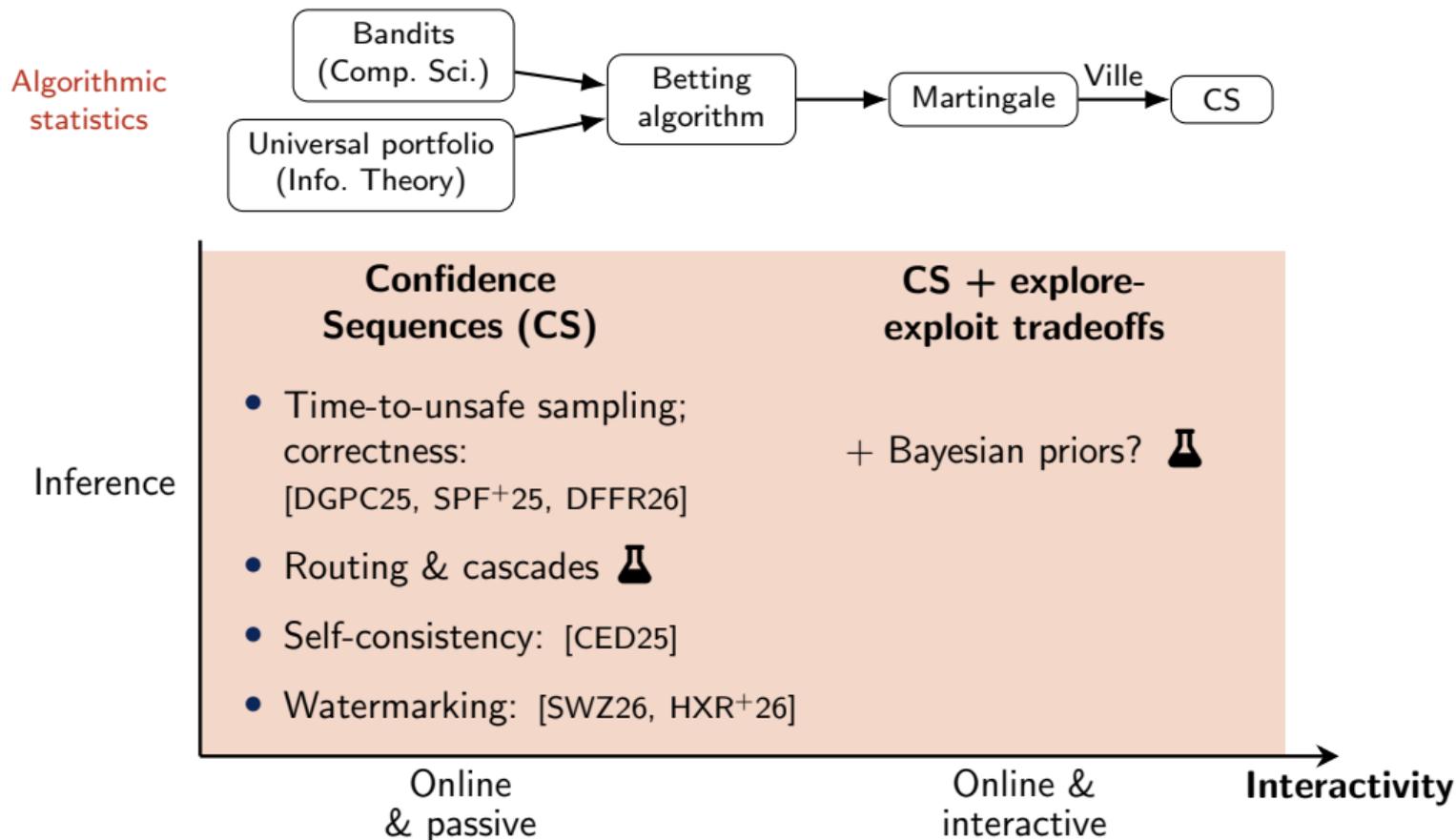
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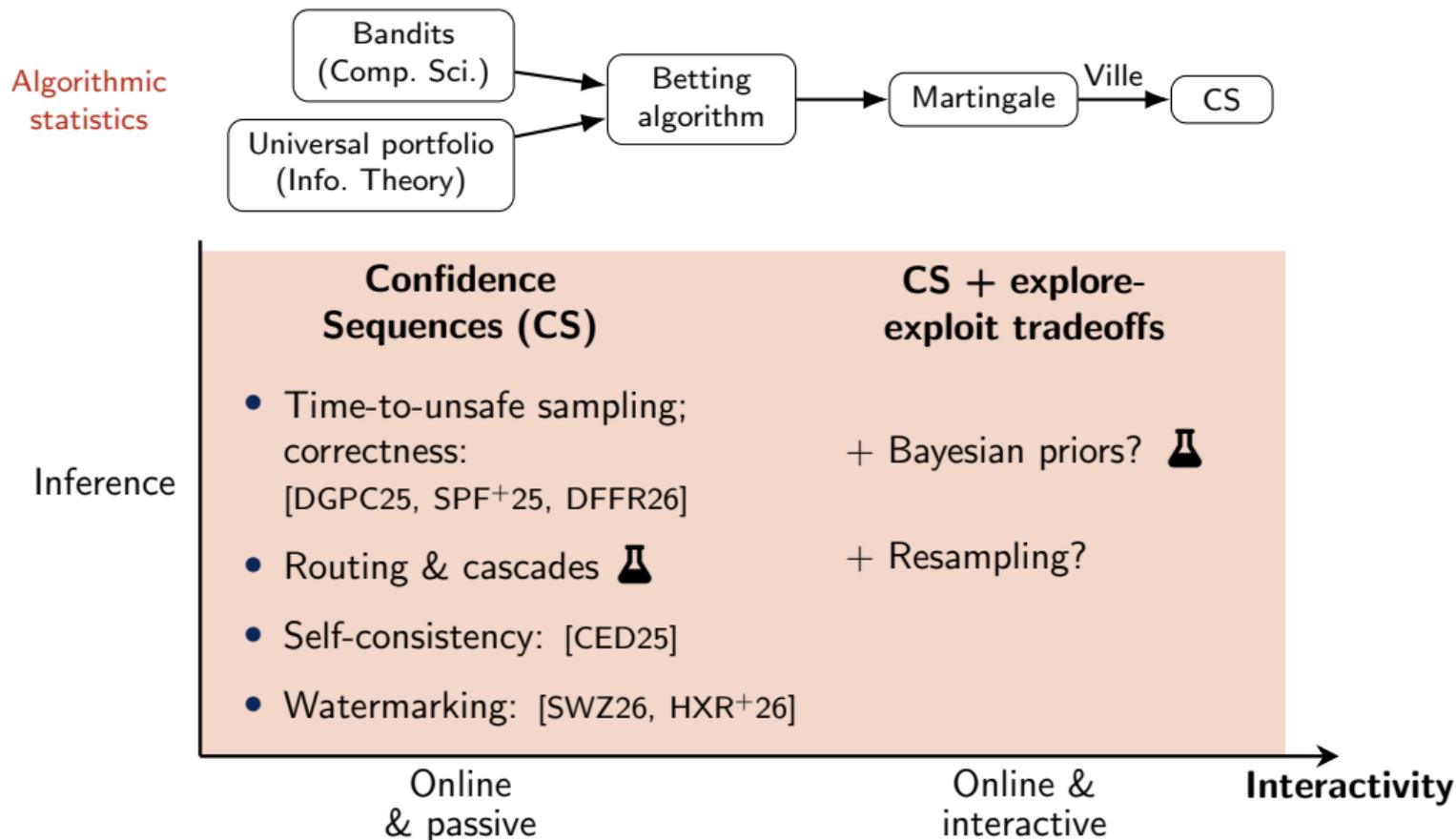
Anytime-valid **inference** for **interactive** decision-making



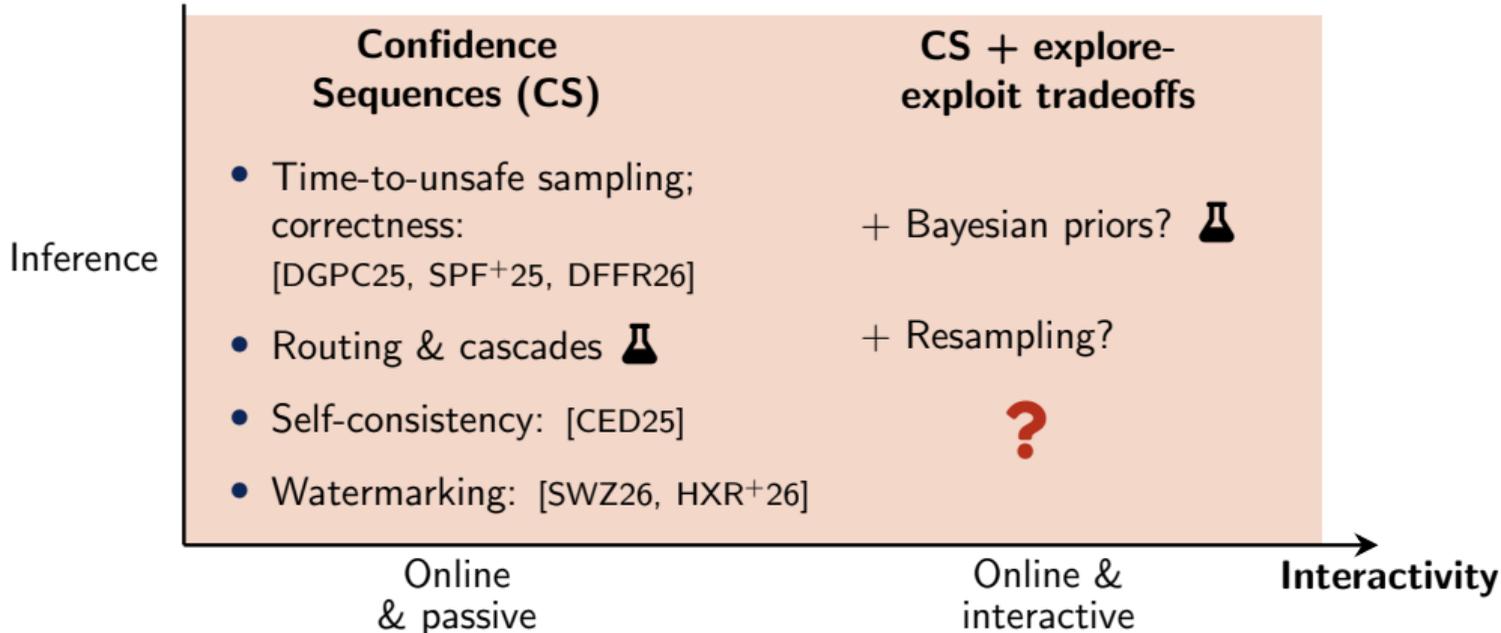
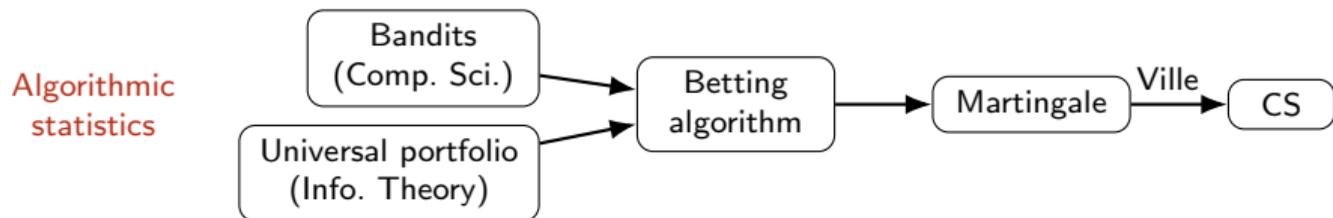
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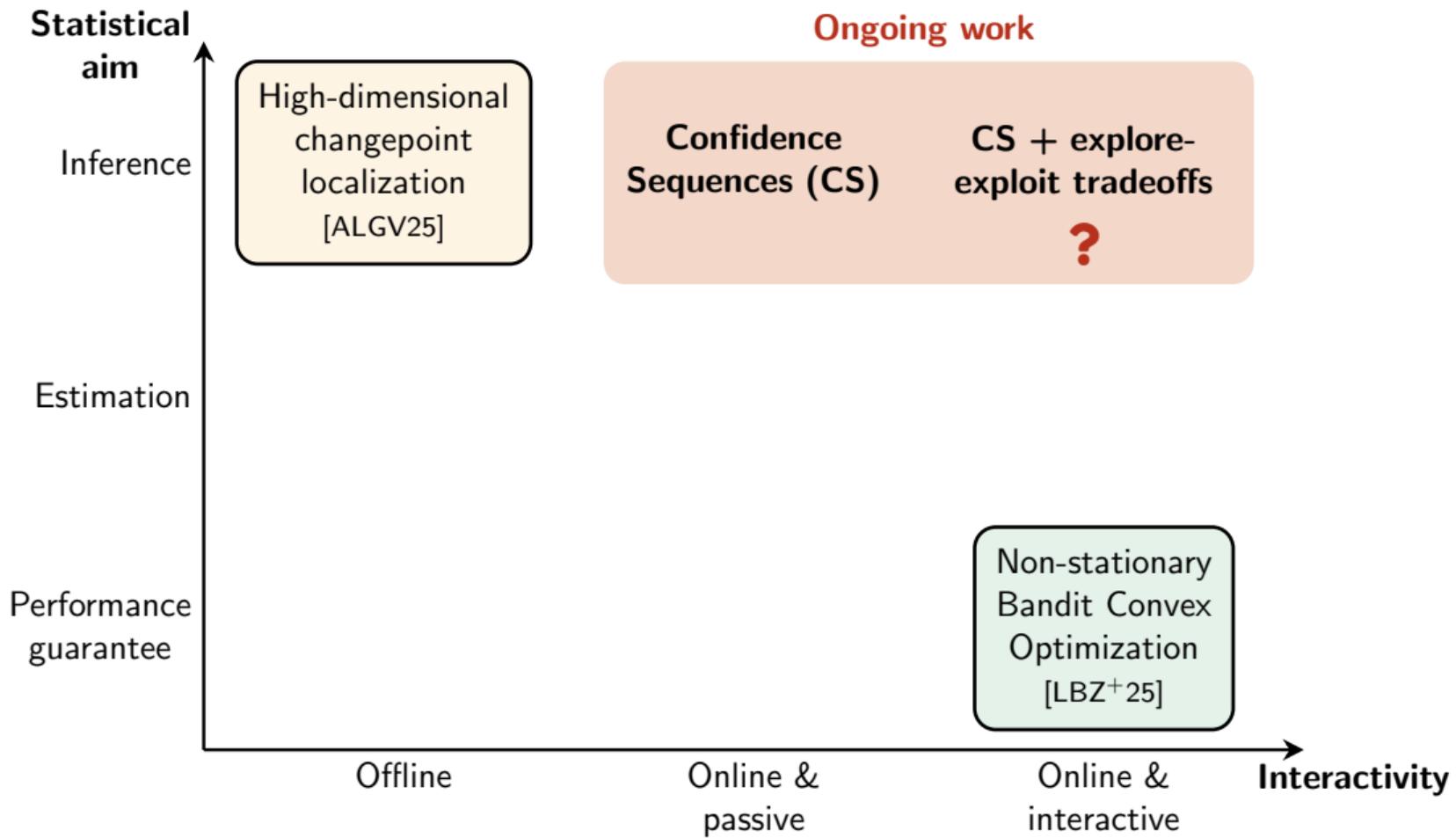
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Wonderful collaborators ★

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- Gabriel Arpino (Harvard)
- Patrick Rebeschini, Arya Akhavan (Oxford)
- Dorian Baudry (INRIA)
- Julian Zimmert (Google Research)



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$$W_t = \sum_{j=1}^{n_t} \eta_j e^{-L_{t,j}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \log W_t}{\partial (-L_{t,l_i})} = \frac{\eta_i e^{-L_{t,l_i}}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n_t} \eta_j e^{-L_{t,l_j}}}.$$