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ON MASS CONCENTRATIONS ON THE BOUNDARIES  
BETWEEN OPTIMAL MULTIDECISION REGIONS

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Ивар ПЕТЕРСЕН. О КОНЦЕНТРАЦИИ МАСС НА ГРАНИЦАХ МЕЖДУ ОПТИМАЛЬНЫМИ  
ОБЛАСТЯМИ МУЛЬТИРЕШЕНИЯ

(Presented by N. Alumäe)

In Petersen [1] we formulated the optimal *multidecision* problem as the problem: Given  $X \subset R^n$  (the set of admissible decisions),  $f: X \times R^m \rightarrow R^+$  (the loss-function),  $\mu$  — a nonnegative finite measure on the Borel  $\sigma$ -field  $\Sigma$  of subsets of  $R^m$  (the space of individuals), and a natural number  $N$ . Find such an admissible multidecision  $x^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_N^*)$ ,  $x_1^*, \dots, x_N^* \in X$  and such a partition  $Y^* = (Y_1^*, \dots, Y_N^*)$  of the space of individuals into  $N$  decision regions  $Y_1^*, \dots, Y_N^* \in \Sigma$  that minimize the summary losses

$$F(x, Y) = \sum_{i=1}^N \int_{Y_i} f(x_i, y) \mu(dy) \rightarrow \min \quad (1)$$

subject to  $x_i \in X$ ,  $Y_i \in \Sigma$ ,  $i=1, \dots, N$ ,  $R^m \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^N Y_i$ .

A pair  $x^*, Y^*$  is a *local minimum* of the multidecision problem (1) if for some  $\delta > 0$

$$F(x^*, Y^*) < F(x, Y) \quad (2)$$

for every  $x$ ,  $0 < \|x - x^*\| < \delta$ , and for every  $N$ -partition  $Y$  of  $R^m$ .

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In connection with the optimal quantization problem of continuous signals Lloyd [2] showed by an intuitive argumentation that if  $n=m$ ,  $f(x, y) = \|y - x\|^2$ ,  $X = R^n$  (in fact he considered the case  $n=1$ ) then the boundaries of the optimal decision regions cannot go through atoms of the measure  $\mu$ . This result has been later used (e.g. Gray, Kieffer and Linde [3], Petersen [4]) by characterizing the minimum point of (1) by means of calculus. Applied to geographic theory (e.g. Gusein-Zade [5]) one can interpret the result as a proof that optimal state borders cannot go through cities.

The aim of this note is to generalize the Lloyd's result to the case of the more general problem (1).

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathbf{x}^*$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}^*$  be a local minimum of the multidecision problem (1) and let  $B$  be a Borel subset of the common boundary between  $Y_{i_1}^*$ , ...,  $Y_{i_s}^*$  ( $s \geq 2$ ). If at least for one  $i = i_1, \dots, i_s$  there exists a sequence of points  $\{z_k\}$ ,  $z_k \in X$ ,  $z_k \neq x_i^*$ ,  $z_k \rightarrow x_i^*$  when  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , satisfying for almost all  $y \in B$  and for all  $k$

$$[f(z_k, y) - f(x_i^*, y)] / \|z_k - x_i^*\| \geq \delta > 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\int_{Y_i^*} [f(z_k, y) - f(x_i^*, y)] \mu(dy) / \|z_k - x_i^*\| \rightarrow 0, \quad (4)$$

then  $\mu(B) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Assume, on the contrary,  $\mu(B) = p > 0$ . Let  $j \neq i$  and  $j \in \{i_1, \dots, i_s\}$ . The necessary conditions for local optimality (e.g. Petersen [1]) imply  $f(x_i^*, y) = f(x_j^*, y)$  for almost all  $y \in B$  and therefore

$$\int_B f(x_i^*, y) \mu(dy) = \int_B f(x_j^*, y) \mu(dy), \quad (5)$$

and that we can take  $B \subset Y_i^*$ . From (3) we have

$$\int_B [f(z_k, y) - f(x_i^*, y)] \mu(dy) \geq p\delta \|z_k - x_i^*\|, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \quad (6)$$

Condition (4) implies the existence of a sequence of numbers  $\{\varepsilon_k\}$ ,  $\varepsilon_k > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  such that

$$\int_{Y_i^*} [f(z_k, y) - f(x_i^*, y)] \mu(dy) = \varepsilon_k \|z_k - x_i^*\|. \quad (7)$$

From (6) and (7) we have

$$\int_{Y_i^* \setminus B} f(z_k, y) \mu(dy) \leq \int_{Y_i^* \setminus B} f(x_i^*, y) \mu(dy) + (\varepsilon_k - p\delta) \|z_k - x_i^*\|. \quad (8)$$

Let us now modify the partition  $\mathbf{Y}^*$ , carrying from  $Y_i^*$  the subset  $B$  over to  $Y_j^*$ . In the so obtained new partition  $\mathbf{Y}'$  we have  $Y'_i = Y_i^* \setminus B$  and  $Y'_j = Y_j \cup B$ , while  $Y'_t = Y_t^*$  for  $t \neq i, j$ . From (5) it follows  $F(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{Y}^*) = F(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{Y}')$ . Let us substitute in  $\mathbf{x}^*$  instead of  $x_i^*$  the point  $z_k$  and denote the obtained new multidecision by  $\mathbf{z}_k^*$ . The values  $F(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{Y}^*)$  and  $F(\mathbf{z}_k^*, \mathbf{Y}')$  may differ only in terms with indices  $i$  and  $j$ . Inequality (8) implies

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{Y'_i} f(z_k, y) \mu(dy) + \int_{Y'_j} f(x_j^*, y) \mu(dy) = \\
& = \int_{Y_i \setminus B} f(z_k, y) \mu(dy) + \int_{Y_j \setminus B} f(x_j^*, y) \mu(dy) + \int_B f(x_j^*, y) \mu(dy) \leq \\
& \leq \int_{Y_i \setminus B} f(x_i^*, y) \mu(dy) + (\varepsilon_k - p\delta) \|z_k - x_i^*\| + \int_{Y_j^*} f(x_j^*, y) \mu(dy) + \\
& + \int_B f(x_i^*, y) \mu(dy) = \int_{Y_i^*} f(x_i^*, y) \mu(dy) + \\
& + \int_{Y_j^*} f(x_j^*, y) \mu(dy) + (\varepsilon_k - p\delta) \|z_k - x_i^*\|.
\end{aligned}$$

Here  $\varepsilon_k - p\delta < 0$  for all sufficiently large  $k$ . Therefore  $F(z_k^*, Y') < F(x^*, Y^*)$ , where  $z_k^*$  can be taken arbitrarily close to  $x^*$ . This contradicts the assumption that  $x^*, Y^*$  is a local minimum of  $F(x, Y)$ .

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