

How to derive $\Pr \{ \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s}_i\|^2 > \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 | \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \}$ for arbitrary dimension?

Since $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{s}_i + \mathbf{w}$ when \mathbf{s}_i was transmitted, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pr \{ \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s}_i\|^2 > \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 | \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \} \\
&= \Pr \{ \|(\mathbf{s}_i + \mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{s}_i\|^2 > \|(\mathbf{s}_i + \mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 | \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \} \\
&= \Pr \{ \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 > \|\mathbf{w} + (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)\|^2 | \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \} \\
&= \Pr \{ \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 > \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 + 2(\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \} \\
&= \Pr \left\{ (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w} < -\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 \middle| \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \right\} \\
&= \Pr \left\{ n < -\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 \middle| \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

where $n \triangleq (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w}$.

Observe that \mathbf{w} is zero-mean Gaussian distributed with covariance matrix $E[\mathbf{w}\mathbf{w}^T] = \frac{N_0}{2}\mathbb{I}$, where \mathbb{I} is the identity matrix. Hence, $n \triangleq (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w}$ is Gaussian distributed with

$$E[n] = E[(\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w}] = (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T E[\mathbf{w}] = (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{0} = 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
E[n^2] &= E[(\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w} \cdot ((\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w})^T] \\
&= E[(\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbf{w}\mathbf{w}^T (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)] \\
&= (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T E[\mathbf{w}\mathbf{w}^T] (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j) \\
&= \frac{N_0}{2} (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j)^T \mathbb{I} (\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j) \\
&= \frac{N_0}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

This implies that $w \triangleq n/\|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|$ is Gaussian distributed with mean zero and variance $N_0/2$.

As a result,

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr \left\{ n < -\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 \middle| \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \right\} \\ &= \Pr \left\{ \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\| w < -\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2 \middle| \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \right\} \\ &= \Pr \left\{ w < -\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\| \middle| \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \right\} \\ &= \Pr \left\{ w > \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\| \middle| \mathbf{s}_i \text{ transmitted} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality is valid because the probability density function of a zero-mean Gaussian random variable is symmetric with respect to $w = 0$ (hence, $\Pr[w > a] = \Pr[w < -a]$ for any $a > 0$).

Note: There is a typo on Slide 5-54, d_{ij} should be $\|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|$, not $\|\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j\|^2$.