Linear Models to Perform Treaty Verification Tasks for Enhanced Information Security

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8 Abstract

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Linear mathematical models were applied to binary-discrimination tasks relevant to arms control verification measurements in which a host party wishes to convince a monitoring party that an item is or is not treaty accountable. These models process data in list-mode format and can compensate for the presence of variability in the source, such as uncertain object orientation and location. The Hotelling observer applies an optimal set of weights to binned detector data, yielding a test statistic that is thresholded to make a decision. The channelized Hotelling observer applies a channelizing matrix to the vectorized data, resulting in a lower dimensional vector available to the monitor to make decisions. We demonstrate how incorporating additional terms in this channelizing-matrix optimization offers benefits for treaty verification. We present two methods to increase shared information and trust between the host and monitor. The first method penalizes individual channel performance in order to maximize the information available to the monitor while maintaining optimal performance. Second, we present a method that penalizes predefined sensitive information while maintaining the capability to discriminate between binary choices. Data used in this study was generated using Monte Carlo simulations for fission neutrons, accomplished with the GEANT4 toolkit. Custom models for plutonium inspection objects were measured in simulation by a radiation imaging system. Model performance was evaluated and presented using the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve.

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11 **1. Introduction**

Radiation imaging systems for measuring treaty accountable items (TAIs) 12 have been proposed as a component of nuclear arms control treaty verification 13 between host and monitoring countries. The host country desires to convince 14 the monitoring country that the imaged item is a TAI without revealing any 15 information they deem sensitive about the TAIs. A disadvantage of imaging 16 techniques is that the monitoring party could use knowledge of the detector data 17 and imaging system to reconstruct sensitive geometrical information on the host 18 country's TAIs. In order to prevent disclosure of sensitive information to the 19 monitor, the host could choose to implement a physical or software information 20 barrier (IB). Examples of IB implementations are the CIVET system developed 21 by Brookhaven National Laboratory [1] and Sandia National Laboratories' TRIS 22 and TRADS systems [2–4]. The IBs use jointly approved data processing and 23 analysis to output a decision for the desired task, viewable by the monitor. The 24 monitor can authenticate the device, but the host must certify that the monitor 25 cannot access the sensitive measurements used in the decision process. This 26 makes the monitoring procedure more expensive, and an IB generally reduces 27 confidence in the verification results. 28

Our approach is to develop mathematical models (called observer models 29 in this work) to classify unverified test objects. The observer models are built 30 on acquired calibration data from a trusted TAI and identify tested sources 31 using raw projection data as opposed to a reconstructed image. The models 32 ultimately arrive at a test statistic that is thresholded to make a decision. The 33 observer models presented in this paper are able to process testing data in list-34 mode (LM) format. For each detected event, the relevant data is used to update 35 a test statistic, and the LM data is then disposed of. Therefore, a decision is 36 made without aggregating projection data or reconstructing spatial or spectral 37

information on the object. To enforce LM processing in practice with a detector, an electronic board or system could be connected to the digital outputs that would update a test statistic with the incoming signals. The host would need to certify that the data vector is never aggregated in the system. This system is out of the scope of this article but is discussed in more detail in the future work section.

Alternative methods for reducing or altering the IB have been developed 44 by groups at Princeton University and Pacific Northwest National Lab. Glaser, 45 Barak and Goldston [5] have developed a zero-knowledge protocol (ZKP) method 46 that preloads a measurement system with the complement of a measured data 47 set from a trusted item. As data from an object is read in, the measurement 48 data is updated. At the end of some predetermined acquisition time, if the ag-49 gregated output reaches some prestated value, that is evidence that the tested 50 item was the same as the trusted item. Gilbert, Miller and White [6] are work-51 ing towards a hardware solution to the problem, using a single pixel gamma-ray 52 camera (SPGC) behind a coded aperture that changes dynamically with time, 53 encoding the measurement data in time. Without knowing the mask sequence, 54 the monitor could not reconstruct any sensitive details, though the measure-55 ment could be used to compare the data sets for a trusted item and tested item, 56 performing a verification measurement. Neither of these methods has addressed 57 the security of sensitive information in the presence of source-term variability, 58 such as orientation and count-rate variability, that affect task performance but 59 are not of interest to the task itself. The SPGC signal will change when the flux 60 from the source changes, and the ZKP output will not be equal to the desired 61 value, yielding sensitive information to the monitor. We refer to the variabil-62 ity caused by unknowns in the source term as nuisance parameters. Examples 63 include object orientation and object orientation, as the imaging configuration 64 may lack precision, or material age, which would affect the detected gamma-ray 65 and neutron spectra and count rates. The methods discussed in this paper can 66 be trained to account for this variability. 67

To the best of our knowledge, there is no model that can perform null hy-

pothesis tests while utilizing list-mode information [7]. As such, we have decided 69 to focus on binary discrimination tasks. This is an important point; warhead 70 verification techniques generally seek to verify the presence of a warhead by 71 matching it to a known template. The approach described in this paper could 72 be used to distinguish between two hypotheses—a warhead and a well defined 73 alternative, such as a collection of spoofs. As another example, after a warhead 74 has been confirmed and designated for dismantlement, the monitor desires to 75 verify that the explosive has been removed. The methods developed here are 76 well suited to answer the question of whether the explosive has been removed 77 or not. 78

In past work [8], we have demonstrated how the Bayesian ideal observer 79 (BIO) [9], configured to process LM data, could be used to perform binary-80 discrimination tasks. In that model, the test statistic is equal to the likelihood 81 ratio of measuring a data set given two hypotheses. The BIO thresholds the 82 likelihood ratio and offers optimal performance. Nuisance parameters were in-83 corporated in the model by integrating over them when evaluating the likeli-84 hoods. For optimal performance, this method required storage of the binned 85 detector data for many different realizations of the nuisance parameters. This 86 storage, whether source-term variability was present or absent, would necessi-87 tate an IB as the monitor could potentially reconstruct sensitive details of the 88 TAI. As such, only the host country would have access to the calibration data 89 and model (requiring an IB). Authentication would be a challenge with this 90 method—the monitor would only be able to view the final test statistic, and 91 testing the model on non TAI inspection items would be of limited utility due 92 to the immense dimensionality reduction involved. 93

While we consider this a useful result, the desire remains to develop a model that only contains nonsensitive information on the TAIs yet still effectively discriminates them. This method would allow the host country to share the model with the monitor, allowing the monitor to use the system to test their own items and gain some measure of confidence that the system is working as stated. The sensitivity of stored information must be balanced against performance; performance declines as less information is stored. The purpose of this paper is
 threefold:

Describe the Hotelling observer [10] (HO), which is the optimal linear discriminant and equivalent to the BIO when the statistics of the data are Gaussian. The Hotelling weights are applied to binned testing data to yield a test statistic which is then thresholded to make a decision. This model stores less sensitive information than the BIO and accounts for nuisance parameters.

Explore the advantages gained through utilization of the channelized Hotelling
 observer [11] (CHO). With this method, a series of weight vectors are applied to the image data, resulting in a lower-dimensional set of channelized
 values that are accessible to the monitor; the weighted sum of these values
 gives the test statistic. This method essentially gives the monitor access
 to multiple nonsensitive test statistics.

3. Study the addition of penalty terms to the CHO's optimization routine,
either to maximize the number of channels available to the monitor while
maintaining optimal performance or to create non-optimal channels that
the monitor could access.

We first describe the methods to be used in this paper. These methods are not detector dependent. Therefore, the detector description is decoupled from the tasks and objects. Finally, the simulation studies we performed are outlined and results shown.

122 **2.** Theory

123 2.1. Definitions

We now briefly introduce the notation for LM data. Much of this is taken from work developed by Barrett, Parra, and Caucci [12, 13]. The data can be expressed in terms of N, the number of photons and neutrons that interact with the detector, which is Poisson distributed, and A_n , the LM data attributes estimated for each detected event. The detectable information for the n^{th} observed ¹²⁹ particle is contained in A_n . For an imaging detector, this data can be defined ¹³⁰ as

 $A_n = \{ \text{particle type, pixel number, energy deposited} \}, \tag{1}$

where n goes from 1 to N. Though we use a specific imager in our experiments, the methods developed here should apply to any measurement system that can process LM data.

The linear models developed in this paper require vectorized data. It is therefore necessary to bin the LM data into a data vector **g**,

$$g_m = \sum_{n=1}^{N} f_m(A_n).$$
 (2)

Here, f_m is the binning function for the m^{th} bin of \mathbf{g} , which has a total of Melements. A linear observer then applies a set of weights $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{g}}$ to this \mathbf{g} to return a scalar test statistic t as such,

$$t = \mathbf{W_g}^{\dagger} \mathbf{g} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{m=1}^{M} W_m f_m(A_n).$$
(3)

This equation has been rewritten to put the sum over n out in front to emphasize the LM processing. The resulting test statistic is then thresholded to decide which hypothesis is true. Though **g** is not LM data, t can be updated by LM processing. The value of t would be initialized to zero, and the corresponding weight for each detected event would be added to the test statistic. That particle's data and the previous t value would then be deleted from memory.

There is always Poisson noise in an imaging system, but **g** becomes doubly stochastic when nuisance parameters that cause variability in the source term are present. Nuisance parameters such as object orientation or location could apply to all objects being imaged. Other nuisance parameters are object dependent, such as variations in gamma-ray or neutron intensities or energy distributions, which may be caused by variable material compositions or ages. We refer to the set γ_j of nuisance parameters, e.g.,

$$\gamma_j = \{ \text{object orientation, object location, source age} \},$$
 (4)

where the index j is used to denote the object type. The index j can be either 1 or 2 since we are considering binary-discrimination tasks between two object classes. In this paper, hypothesis 1 corresponds to the TAI and 2 to the alternative hypothesis.

156 2.2. Hotelling Observer

The HO is the linear observer that best separates the test-statistic distributions for the two hypotheses [9]. As a reminder, one hypothesis would be that the item is a warhead of a certain type, and the second that the imaged item is a certain spoof or belongs to a collection of spoofs. It is also equivalent to the BIO when the data is normally distributed. The Hotelling weights W_H are defined as,

$$\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}} = \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{g}}^{-1} \Delta \overline{\mathbf{g}}$$
$$\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{g}} = \frac{\mathbf{K}_{1} + \mathbf{K}_{2}}{2}$$
$$\Delta \overline{\mathbf{g}} = \overline{\mathbf{g}_{2}} - \overline{\mathbf{g}_{1}}.$$
(5)

Here \mathbf{K}_j represents the covariance matrix and $\overline{\mathbf{g}_j}$ the mean data vector for source 163 j. The averages are over the Poisson noise in the imaging system and, when 164 present, nuisance parameters. The presence of nuisance parameters causes $\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{g}}$ 165 to generally be dense. A discussion on the evaluation of the dense $\mathbf{K_g}^{-1}$ can 166 be found in Appendix A. If the nuisance parameters are properly characterized 167 by the host, false negatives will be kept to a minimum. Any deviation of the 168 variability in these parameters between the objects the model is trained on 169 compared to the objects the model is tested on will result in a higher percentage 170 of false negatives. 171

The differences between the HO and BIO are critical in regards to information storage. While the BIO stores the detector data for each measurement in the covered nuisance parameter space, the HO simply contains a product of first and second order statistics over this space. As an example that is explored in Appendix B, if orientation is considered to be a nuisance parameter, the spatial and spectral information is averaged over this nuisance parameter density,

yielding a set of weights that do not have an analogue to a physical pair of 178 objects. The Hotelling weights $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}$ in (5) are analogous to a second imaging 179 system that only observes the differences between the two TAIs. If the monitor 180 gained access to $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}$, and tried to reconstruct $\mathbf{g}_{rec} = \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}^{-1} t$ (where $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}^{-1}$ is 181 a pseudoinverse), the resulting data set would look like the Hotelling weights, 182 not the highly sensitive detector data. All other information in \mathbf{g} is in the null 183 space of W_H . However, W_H is still useful information to the monitor, as it 184 is related to the difference between geometries or material composition of the 185 objects. This is information the host may want to keep hidden. For that reason, 186 we will treat the Hotelling weights as sensitive through the rest of this paper. 187

In practice, the host would acquire calibration data and determine the weights. If the weights were deemed sensitive and stored behind an IB, authentication would again be a challenge as when using the BIO. The monitor would only be able to access the test statistic. There is a benefit to the test statistic being outside an IB as opposed to a standard red light/green light decision—the monitor would have some ability to differentiate objects other than the TAI and the alternate that the model is trained on.

195 2.3. Channelized Hotelling Observer

Use of the CHO has become widespread in the field of medical imaging as a 196 cheap alternative to a human observer in image quality studies [14, 15]. Here we 197 use it for a much different purpose—information security. The data vector **g**, 198 which has a size of thousands to millions or higher depending on the detector, 199 is channelized by an operator **T** into a much smaller vector **v**, with length L 200 that can be as low as the user desires. Each row of \mathbf{T} contains a template of the 201 same size as W_{H} . Using calibration data, a set of optimal channelized weights 202 $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}$ are then found, and applied to channelized testing data to make decisions 203

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{Tg}$$

$$t = \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}^{\dagger} \mathbf{v},$$
(6)

where the weights that best separate the resulting test-statistic distributions are,

$$\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{v}}^{-1} \Delta \overline{\mathbf{v}}.$$
 (7)

 $\mathbf{K_v}^{-1}$ and $\Delta \overline{\mathbf{v}}$ are analogous to the terms in (5). The CHO can also be represented by the weights for \mathbf{g} by,

$$\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{g}}^{\dagger} = \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}^{\dagger} \mathbf{T} \tag{8}$$

Representing the model this way provides a point of comparison between nonoptimal **T**s for the CHO and the Hotelling weights. The performance of the CHO depends on the **T** chosen. To achieve performance equivalent to the HO, it is necessary to find the matrix that best separates the multivariate normal distributions on \mathbf{v}_{j} , or the signal-to-noise ratio,

$$SNR^{2}(\mathbf{T}) = \Delta \overline{\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{T})}^{\dagger} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{T})^{-1} \Delta \overline{\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{T})}.$$
(9)

The **T** that optimizes this function is found through a gradient descent optimization routine with backtracking [16]. Matrix calculus [17] is required to take the derivative. With an optimal **T**, performance equivalent to the HO is achieved.

We have therefore reduced storage from the sensitive W_H to a channelizing matrix T and a set of channelized weights W_v . However, for an optimal T,

$$\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}^{\dagger} \approx \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}^{\dagger} \mathbf{T}.$$
 (10)

As we believe $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}$ would be deemed to be sensitive information, the host cannot 219 reveal both $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}$ and \mathbf{T} to the monitor. The monitor should only be given access 220 to \mathbf{T} or $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}$, or a subset of the two, but not the entirety of both. However, as 221 is shown in the results section, the optimization of \mathbf{T} often results in sensitive 222 channels that resemble the Hotelling weights. Therefore, a standard implemen-223 tation of the CHO in a treaty verification setting would require the host to 224 gather calibration data and determine the channelizing matrix. The monitor 225 would only have access to $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}$ and be allowed to observe the channelized \mathbf{v} for 226 each measured item. 227

In addition, because the SNR^2 is being optimized, the monitor is again unable to reconstruct **g**, even if they were to cheat and gain access to **T**. Similar to the HO discussion, $\mathbf{T}^{-1}\mathbf{v}$ (where \mathbf{T}^{-1} is a pseudoinverse) yields a dataset that looks like the Hotelling weights.

²³² The CHO does have some added benefits over the HO:

• Training of the CHO is far more computationally practical than the HO. Rather than needing M samples to generate an invertible covariance matrix, the host can get by with (at a minimum) L. $\mathbf{K_g}$ and $\mathbf{\overline{g}}$ can be found through the L samples, then the optimization occurs using $\mathbf{K_v} = \mathbf{T^{\dagger}K_gT}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{\overline{g}}$. This is a fundamental advantage for the CHO.

• The L channel values, assuming $L \ll M$, are nonsensitive. The more 238 channels present, the more information the monitor can use to discriminate 239 possible spoofs from the TAIs other than those designated alternatives the 240 model is trained on. The individual channel values can be aggregated as 241 more sources are tested. The monitor could compare the test statistic 242 value returned when measuring an unknown item to the test statistic 243 distribution that results when measuring the objects that the model is 244 trained on. 245

• There are an infinite number of channelizing matrices that maximize the 246 SNR^2 . Ideally, the monitor could use this fact to gain confidence that the 247 algorithm is not outputting a result that is predetermined by the host, 248 possibly by randomly picking the channelization matrix from many dif-249 ferent optimizations. This would increase confidence that the host is not 250 placing a spoof in front of the detector, as the host would not know in 251 advance what the channels are, and therefore cannot design a spoof to 252 return the same value. This could be combined with techniques to be dis-253 cussed in the upcoming sections on generating a nonsensitive channelizing 254 matrix. 255

256 2.4. Inclusion of Penalty Terms in Optimization Routine

While the standard optimization of **T** discriminates on sensitive information for certain tasks, the addition of a penalty term to the objective function in the form of

$$f_{obj}(\mathbf{T}) = SNR^2(\mathbf{T}) - f_{pen}(\mathbf{T})$$
(11)

offers some possibilities in circumventing the IB requirement. In this section we discuss two different methods that have been developed to hide or explicitly penalize out sensitive information.

263 2.4.1. Channel Performance Penalty to Create Nonsensitive Channels

Here, we treat W_H as the sensitive information that the monitor cannot access. We attempt to maximize the amount of nonsensitive information available to the monitor while still maintaining optimal performance. Nonsensitive channels were created using a penalty term that reduces the performance of each individual channel,

$$f_{pen}(\mathbf{T}) = \eta \sum_{l=1}^{L} SNR^2(\mathbf{T}_{i^{th} channel}).$$
(12)

This penalizes the ability of each channel to distinguish the TAI from the spoof.
Despite this, it is possible to maintain optimal performance, as the optimization
routine now focuses on the relationships between the channels rather than the
channels themselves.

As the results section shows, this method is not a perfect answer for the information security problem. While the individual channels are nonsensitive, if the monitor was given the entire **T**, a singular value decomposition [18] could lead them to the Hotelling weights. However, it does allow the host to give the monitor a large number of rows of **T**. This would be helpful to verify the channelization process is working properly.

279 2.4.2. Penalizing Declared Sensitive Information

The first method treats W_H as the sensitive information that the host cannot share with the monitor, but that is not strictly true. If the host is able to explicitly declare what information in the TAI is sensitive (such as mass or isotopic composition), the optimization of the channelization matrix can be used to penalize the model's ability to discriminate along that sensitive parameter. If the host does not want the monitor to know the parameter p, which takes on a value p_0 , within a tolerance Δp , the host can create the following objective function,

$$f_{pen}(\mathbf{T}) = SNR_{1-2}^{2}(\mathbf{T}) - \eta SNR_{(1,p=p_{0})-(1,p=p_{0}+\Delta p)}^{2}(\mathbf{T}),$$
(13)

where object 1 is the TAI and 2 is the spoof hypothesis. This objective function 288 finds a \mathbf{T} that maximizes the distance between the channelized-data distribu-289 tions for the TAI and spoof while minimizing the distance between the TAI 290 constructed with $p = p_0$ and TAI constructed with $p = p_0 + \Delta p$. The sum 291 of the optimally weighted channels $\mathbf{W_v}^{\dagger}\mathbf{T}$ then no longer contains information 292 about the differences in measured data when the TAI changes along a sensitive 293 parameter. In essence, this routine puts that sensitive information into the null 294 space of the channelizing matrix. As stated in the introduction, a mathematical 295 model such as this one, which can't be used to determine the value of sensitive 296 parameters of the TAI, could be shared with the monitor. The only IB required 297 in this setup would be in the measurement of the trusted items and implemen-298 tation of the channelization procedure. The monitor would be able to access 299 the L channelized values and be given **T**. The monitor's ability to measure and 300 analyze their own items using the same model would increase their confidence 301 that a useful measurement is being performed during verification. 302

There is a legitimate concern that the second term in eq. (13) could be altered to include a spoof that the monitor is not aware of, yielding a model that cannot differentiate the chosen spoof. Ultimately, because this model leads to a nonsensitive \mathbf{T} , the monitor could use the model to test for simulated spoofs in order to investigate if the host has cheated.



Figure 1: Fast-neutron coded-aperture imaging system. The imager uses a polyethylene coded aperture and a 4×4 array of liquid-scintillator detectors, each consisting of 10×10 $(1 \text{ cm})^2$ pixels. A quarter-inch lead plate (not pictured) is positioned in front of the pixelated detectors.

308 3. Detector Description

The simulated detector is the fast-neutron coded-aperture imager (see Fig-309 ure 1), developed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Sandia National Lab-310 oratories. More details can be found in reference [19]. In the simulations per-311 formed here, a rank 19 modified uniformly redundant array [20] mask is used. 312 Other detector configuration parameters are set such that a 50 cm \times 50 cm field 313 of view is achieved. The raw projection data discussed in this paper consists of 314 counts or count rates in 40×40 detector pixels after nominal event-selection 315 cuts. The detector system had a source-to-mask distance of 70.5 cm, mask-to-316 detector distance of 60 cm, mask element size of 1.21 cm and mask thickness of 317 $6.95~\mathrm{cm}.$ 318

319 4. Task Description and Simulation Data

The models were trained on data simulated from a source placed at two different locations, with the data set from one of those locations being treated as the TAI. The model was then asked to decide the location that an independently simulated data set was taken from. The relevant details necessary to replicate the simulations and the simulated data are also discussed in this section. No nuisance parameters were considered in this task—for an example incorporating nuisance parameters, see Appendix B.

327 4.1. Sources

Throughout this paper, a single discrimination task is used. The BeRP ball [21], a 3.79 cm radius solid sphere, was simulated at (0 cm, 0 cm) and (2 cm, 2 cm). The source at the origin was treated as the TAI and the off-center source was treated as the spoof we desire to discriminate from the TAI. the models were asked to determine the location of independently simulated data based on the neutron image.

334 4.2. Forward Model in GEANT4

We developed an application that uses the GEANT4 toolkit [22, 23] to model 335 neutron transport through Monte Carlo methods. Particles emitted by the ob-336 jects were transported through the object geometry to the detector. A detector-337 response code records the detected energy and the pixel-dependent light output 338 (determined through experimental calibration data), applies an energy smear 339 specific to the detector, and bins the event into a mean pixel location. A per-340 fect pulse-shape discrimination between gamma-rays and neutrons was assumed. 341 Visualization of our GEANT4 simulation is shown in Figure 2. 342

343 *4.3.* Data

As the difference in neutron images (Figure 3) was expected to be the greatest difference between the data sets, the neutron detector data was summed over energy. Gamma-rays were ignored. No neutron background was considered, and



Figure 2: Geant4 model of system. The BeRP ball is shown on the left in green. The polyethylene mask, shown in yellow, is in the center and surrounded by a mask holder shown in blue. On the right is the pixelated detector.

- as such studies distinguishing between different BeRP ball locations use only
 the source data.
- 349 4.4. Experimental Outline

For each object, two simulations were executed. One simulation was used for calibration to generate the observer model, and the second set of data was used to test the model. This was done to prevent overestimating performance.

353 4.5. Evaluating Performance

The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve [24] plots the true pos-354 itive fraction (the fraction of times the model correctly declares the object is 355 the second type) against the false positive fraction (the fraction of times the 356 model incorrectly declares the object is the second type) for a range of thresh-357 olds across the test statistic t. The metric chosen to evaluate the models was 358 the area under the ROC curve (AUC). We chose this metric because we are 359 not immediately concerned with where to set the test-statistic threshold in the 360 observer studies due to unknown costs associated with incorrect outcomes, and 361



Figure 3: The figure on the left corresponds to a BeRP ball imaged at (0 cm, 0 cm) while on the right it was imaged at (2 cm, 2 cm). The colorbar is in units of detected counts per second. There were 5.5 million total detected counts (corresponding to an acquisition time of about 23 minutes) that went into each of these images.

the AUC represents performance integrated over all thresholds. Generally, the AUC increases along with the acquisition time.

We used the two-alternative forced-choice test [25] to calculate the AUC metric. The observer is presented with a series of pairs of testing datasets. In each pair, one dataset is from a measurement of source 1, and the other is from a measurement of source 2. For each dataset, the observer calculates a test statistic that is intended to have a higher value for source 2 than for source 1. The AUC is equivalent to the fraction of pairs that have a larger test statistic using the source 2 data.

371 5. Experiments and Results

³⁷² Calibration data for the two imaged BeRP ball locations was simulated and ³⁷³ the HO and CHO were built from that data, then tested on independent data. ³⁷⁴ All results presented here were done with the same parameters in the gradient ³⁷⁵ descent optimization routine. The backtracking β parameter was set to 0.5. The ³⁷⁶ optimization was ended when the difference in function value between steps was ³⁷⁷ 1e-6 of the function magnitude or when the step size of **T** reached 1e-5 or the



Figure 4: The Hotelling weights when the objects are BeRP balls at two different positions.

³⁷⁸ magnitude of the gradient reached 1e-5.

379 5.1. Hotelling Weights

The Hotelling weights (Figure 4) correspond to a scaled version of the image shift in Figure 3. Here, the BeRP ball at (2 cm, 2 cm) was source 2 in (5). The Hotelling weights in this example relate directly to the differences in projection data between the two objects.

384 5.2. Channelization Examples and Observer Performance

A four channel optimization (9) of the channelizing matrix was performed. The results in Figure 5 show multiple channels with strong performance that look similar to the Hotelling weights. In this task, the channels themselves would constitute sensitive information. This is further evidenced by analyzing the performance of the models and the best performing channel. We see that when the SNR^2 is optimized, the HO and CHO have equivalent performance and the best channel shows near equal performance to these optimal observers.



Figure 5: The left plot shows an example optimization of the channelizing matrix for the BeRP ball location study. Multiple channels show strong performance. Not shown here is the optimally weighted sum of channels, which results in an image very similar to the Hotelling weights for this task with an SNR^2 of 1.74. On the right is the performance plot for the BeRP ball location study. Many optimizations of the channelizing matrix were done for each point on the AUC curve.

Because the individual channels themselves are sensitive, the host would by necessity have to treat **T** as sensitive.

³⁹⁴ 5.3. Models with Penalty Terms

This section presents implementations of the models incorporating penalty terms in the channelization matrix optimization routine.

³⁹⁷ 5.3.1. Channel Performance Penalty to Create Nonsensitive Channels

We begin by showing the effect that the penalty term in eq. (12) has on 398 the maximum channel SNR^2 . For this study, we chose an acquisition time 399 corresponding to high performance in Figure 5, so that on average 400 signal 400 counts were observed. As Table 1 shows, when η is increased up to a value of 401 one, the maximum channel performance continues to drop. An example output 402 of the channel optimization when η has a value of 1 is shown in Figure 6. We 403 see that the individual channels themselves are nonsensitive-each performs very 404 poorly in discriminating the two BeRP ball locations. 405



Figure 6: An example optimization of the channelizing matrix when the channel performance penalty coefficient $\eta=1$. Each channel appears to be random, but when properly weighted, maximum performance is obtained.

η	Mean SNR^2	SNR^2 All	Percent failed
	for max chan-	Channels	(total SNR^2 <
	nel		0.1)
1e-4	8.13	8.63	0
1e-3	6.66	8.63	0
1e-2	1.17	8.63	0
1e-1	0.106	8.63	0
1	0.0042	8.63	0
1.1	0.0025	3.88	55

Table 1: For each row in this table, 100 optimizations were performed. The acquisition time for this study was set so an average of 400 mean signal counts were read in. This corresponds to an optimal SNR^2 of 8.63 between the test-statistic distributions. As η increases, the best channel performance drops. When η rises above 1, the optimizations fail increasingly often.

Though this routine can effectively generate nonsensitive channels, a singular value decomposition [18] of \mathbf{T} , as shown in Figure 7, reveals that the singular vector with the lowest singular value looks like the sensitive $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}$. This result emphasizes the fact that a \mathbf{T} that optimizes the SNR^2 necessarily contains sensitive information on the objects.

To this point, the channel penalty has not resulted in the monitor being 411 able to access any more information, as \mathbf{T} is still sensitive. However, due to the 412 importance this optimization routine places on the relationship between chan-413 nels, removing a single channel or small number of channels from the resulting 414 T causes a debilitating effect on performance (see Table 2)—regardless of how 415 large L is, the performance of a large number $L_{mon} < L$ of the channels is 416 very poor. This creates an interesting application for treaty verification. The 417 host can give the monitor L_{mon} channels of **T**, the channel weights $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}$ and 418 in testing the host can access all of the channelized data \mathbf{v} . The host would 419 only keep a small number of channels, which could be chosen at random. When 420 90% of channels are given, performance is poor, but there are still occasional 421



Figure 7: Singular value decomposition of the channelizing matrix shown in Figure 6. The singular vector with the lowest singular value contains the Hotelling weights.

L	L_{mon}	SNR^2 for L_{mon}	Percent failed (to-
		channels	$tal \ SNR^2 < 0.1)$
4	3	0.269	88
10	9	0.7105	50
10	7	0.0195	98
25	24	0.975	18
25	22	0.291	46
25	18	0.0314	98

Table 2: 50 optimizations of the channelizing matrix with L channels were performed in each row in this table. The second column L_{mon} is how many the monitor would have access to. The right two columns shows how L_{mon} channels would perform at the task, and what percentage of the optimizations effectively minimized the SNR^2 of the remaining channels. The acquisition time for this study was set so an average of 400 mean signal counts were read in. This corresponds to an optimal SNR^2 of 8.63.

optimizations where the monitor could gain useful information. When only 75%
of channels are given to the monitor, the resulting performance is very poor,
and task performance is near the guessing observer.

Overall, this method presents two advantages over the standard implementation of the CHO. Because the host can share L_{mon} channels, the monitor could hypothetically image a known nonsensitive test object, see the nonsensitive **v** and verify that the algorithm is working properly on the shared channels. Because they have access to the channels, the monitor could determine what alternative spoofs could be used to fool these channels and replicate the channelized value distributions for the trusted items.

432 5.3.2. Penalizing Declared Sensitive Information

To carry out this task, we created a toy problem (see Figure 8) based on the BeRP ball location data. We treated differences in the image data due to \hat{x} location, from a range of 0 mm to 20 mm, as sensitive and differences in data due to the \hat{y} location as nonsensitive. The BeRP ball was simulated at (20 mm, $_{437}$ 0 mm) to penalize \hat{x} information within this tolerance. This was accomplished $_{438}$ using the following objective function,

Ĵ

$$f_{obj}(\mathbf{T}) = SNR^2_{(0,0),(20,20)}(\mathbf{T}) - \eta SNR^2_{(0,0),(20,0)}(\mathbf{T}).$$
(14)

Figure 9 shows the result of this optimization routine. Choosing a high value 439 for the penalty coefficient, $\eta = 50$, the CHO is no longer able to distinguish the 440 pair of sources that only differ in their \hat{x} coordinate. A plot of $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{T}$ is shown 441 in Figure 10. Note that the result corresponds to a simple \hat{y} shift in the count 442 maps. The effectiveness of this method is demonstrated further in a performance 443 study (see Figure 11). When $\eta = 0$, the optimization routine only maximizes 444 the SNR^2 of the two different objects, and the performance matches Figure 5. 445 When $\eta = 50$, performance in discriminating the objects we chose to optimize 446 is still very good while discrimination between the (0 mm, 0 mm) and (20 mm, 0 mm)447 0 mm) objects is near the guessing observer. We are also able to distinguish 448 a BeRP ball at (0 mm, 20 mm) from (0 mm, 0 mm) with this method, which 449 is expected because the \hat{y} differences between the objects were not penalized. 450 Finally, this particular study carries the added benefit that a tested source inside 451 the tolerance at (10 mm, 0 mm) cannot be distinguished from (0 mm, 0 mm). 452

453 6. Conclusion

Using the linear HO and CHO models, we have developed methods that can 454 be used to reduce storage of sensitive information while maintaining task per-455 formance. Treating the Hotelling weights as the sensitive information, a penalty 456 term on individual channel performances would allow the host and monitor to 457 share some channels while maintaining optimal task performance. If the host 458 can define precisely what parameters on their object are sensitive, they could 459 penalize out that specific information in the model, yielding test-statistic distri-460 butions with equal means for all objects that differ within the range of parameter 461 values defined as sensitive. 462



Figure 8: Diagram of BeRP ball locations (note that the BeRP ball size is larger than the difference between locations shown here). Performance between (0 mm, 0 mm) and (20 mm, 20 mm) is optimized while (0 mm, 0 mm) and (20 mm, 0 mm) is penalized in this task.



Figure 9: The SNR^2 for the BeRP ball at (0 mm, 0 mm) and (20 mm, 20 mm) vs (0 mm, 0 mm) and (20 mm, 0 mm), for an acquisition time corresponding to an average of 1000 signal counts observed. As η increases, the ability to discriminate the penalized pair of sources drops to zero while the SNR^2 for the optimized sources drops by approximately a factor of 1/3.



Figure 10: A plot of $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{T}$ when the \hat{x} information has been penalized with $\eta = 50$.

We consider this a very encouraging result, but it is a first step. In the BeRP 463 ball localization problem, a single penalty term can be used to prevent the model 464 from differentiating objects within the sensitive \hat{x} range, but additional studies 465 have proven this is not always true. Multiple penalty terms would likely need 466 to be incorporated for a given penalized parameter. Furthermore, in practice 467 multiple parameters would likely be deemed sensitive by the host, and that may 468 require an additional penalty term with a distinct η in eq. (13). The inclusion 469 of nuisance parameters adds another layer of difficulty to this problem, as we 470 would need to know the effect of nuisance parameters on both objects in the 471 penalty term. Lastly, to adapt this method for real-life verification, the host 472 would likely need to simulate the items that differ along sensitive parameters, 473 as construction of these items would be too expensive. 474

475 7. Future Work

While we believe these results are strong, the penalty terms discussed in this paper may not be ideal. For example, the penalization of the SNR^2 in eq. (13)



Figure 11: Performance of the CHO with channelization matrix optimized by eq. (14). The black line shows the performance of a standard optimization without a penalty term. Including the penalty in the optimization of \mathbf{T} , good performance is maintained when classifying sources that differ in \hat{y} , while near guessing observer performance is seen when classifying sources that differ in \hat{x} .

only necessarily equalizes the means of the test-statistic distributions for the two objects. If the monitor was given the test statistics for each tested item, they could experiment with various object configurations, trying to arrive at an object geometry that matched the variance of t and not just the mean. A more appropriate penalty term could penalize the distance between distributions using metrics described in [7].

A physical implementation of the nonsensitive channelization matrix is the 484 next step for this project. One possibility is an electronic board that would read 485 in the pulse characteristics (to determine particle type), integrated charge (to 486 determine energy) and PMT ratios (to determine pixel ID) for each event, find 487 the weight corresponding to these values, and update the test statistic. Another 488 possibility is an attenuating plate placed between the mask and the detector 489 plane, where the attenuator thickness varies over the detector plane to create 490 indistinguishable data sets for objects that vary along a sensitive parameter. 491 Further investigation would be required to determine whether this would be 492 physically realizable. 493

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502 9. Appendix A

This appendix discusses calculation of the inverse of a dense covariance matrix in the case that there is additional variability in the object, background, or imaging system. In cases where the object is known exactly (signal-knownexactly, or SKE), the only randomness in the data **g** is due to Poisson noise, and the covariance matrices would be diagonal with values equal to the mean. In the SKE case, taking the inverse of the covariance matrix is trivial.

⁵⁰⁹ Upon incorporation of nuisance parameters, the averages become doubly ⁵¹⁰ stochastic or worse and the problem becomes more difficult. The terms that ⁵¹¹ comprise the Hotelling weights are

$$\mathbf{K}_{j} = \left\langle \left\langle (\mathbf{g}_{j} - \overline{\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}})^{\dagger} (\mathbf{g}_{j} - \overline{\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}}) \right\rangle_{g_{j} | \gamma_{j}} \right\rangle_{\gamma_{j}}$$

$$\overline{\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}} = \left\langle \left\langle \mathbf{g}_{j} \right\rangle_{g_{j} | \gamma_{j}} \right\rangle_{\gamma_{j}}.$$
(15)

The first average is over Poisson noise while the second is over the nuisance 512 parameter distributions. This can cause the covariance to become dense and 513 the inverse unwieldy; in a detector with 1600 pixels, where 64 energy bins are 514 used there are approximately 1e5 elements in \mathbf{g} with 1e10 elements in $\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{g}}$. The 515 large size of **g** presents issues when using the HO in practice. A realistic number 516 of measurements would be far less than the size of the data vector, leading to a 517 non-invertible covariance matrix. Certain estimation techniques can be used to 518 overcome this limitation [26, 27], but require often unrealistic assumptions. 519

In simulation, this computational barrier can also be overcome using the Matrix Inversion Lemma [28]. To use this lemma, the covariance matrix must be able to be represented in the form,

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{D},\tag{16}$$

where A must be diagonal. To put the covariance matrix in this form, one can add and subtract $\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}$, the noise-averaged data from inside each parenthesis in the covariance matrix equation of eq. (15), so each term is $((\mathbf{g}_{j} - \overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}) + (\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}} - \overline{\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}}))$. When taking the statistical average, the cross terms average to zero and the covariance matrix can be expressed as,

$$\mathbf{K}_{j} = \left\langle \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{g}_{j} | \gamma_{j}} \right\rangle_{\gamma_{j}} + \mathbf{K}_{\gamma_{j}} = Diag(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{g}_{j}}}) + \mathbf{K}_{\gamma_{j}}$$
(17)

⁵²⁸ The left matrix is diagonal with values equal to the mean of the detector data,

⁵²⁹ averaging over Poisson randomness and all nuisance parameter densities. The⁵³⁰ right term is dense.

Treating orientation as a nuisance parameter, a vector $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ can be defined which corresponds to the orientation of the object being imaged, where [1 0 00] and [0 1 00] correspond to different object orientations. Then a system response matrix **H** can be defined and resulting detector data $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\theta}$. The covariance matrix for source j, \mathbf{K}_{γ_j} , can then be represented by the detector response function and the covariance matrix for the $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ vector,

$$\mathbf{K}_{\gamma_i} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_i} \mathbf{H}^{\dagger}. \tag{18}$$

In simulation we have knowledge of the nuisance parameter distributions, which are used to find \mathbf{K}_{θ_j} . By assuming the GEANT4 data is the "true" system response to each object we find the covariance matrix \mathbf{K}_{γ_j} . This technique allows us to apply the matrix inversion lemma, reducing the problem from a $M \times M$ inverse, where M can be thousands to millions, to a $P \times P$ inverse, where P is the number of orientations chosen to average over.

543 10. Appendix B

This appendix demonstrates the effect of the incorporation of nuisance parameters in the Hotelling observer model. In this study, the observer models were applied to discriminate between a pair of Idaho National Laboratory (INL) inspection objects labeled 8 and 9 [29], which are referred to as IO8 and IO9 (see Figure 12).

549 10.1. Objects and Imager

IO8 and IO9 differ in their shielding material, causing a disparity in the gamma-ray spectra in the image data. Multiple orientations of each object were considered in this task in order to understand how nuisance parameters affect the HO. The fast-neutron coded aperture was once again used to measure the objects. Though the detector is designed to observe neutrons, it also serves as a



Figure 12: IO8 and IO9 developed by INL. IO8 is plutonium shielded by depleted uranium (DU) while IO9 is plutonium shielded by highly-enriched uranium (HEU). Both assemblies are supported by an aluminum framework inside an $8" \times 8" \times 8"$ aluminum box that is 1" thick.

gamma-ray imager and low-resolution spectrometer. Gamma-rays were binned
 into 50keV energy bins.

557 10.2. GEANT4 model

Due to similarities in the geometry between the two objects, neutrons were 558 not incorporated in this study as the spectral and spatial differences were ex-559 pected to be minimal. A linear energy bias, as well as a low-energy cutoff of 560 100 keV were used to make the simulations computationally feasible. Due to the 561 quarter inch lead plate in front of the detector pixels, the cutoff has a negligi-562 ble effect on the output. A generic gamma-ray radiation background spectrum 563 was generated using the Gamma-ray Detector Response and Analysis Software 564 (GADRAS) [30], and was added to all pixels. 565

To simulate multiple object orientations, we used a method developed by Arvo [31] that can be used to rotate the items into evenly spaced orientations. The method uses three numbers between zero and one to generate rotations of



Figure 13: Comparison of IO8 and IO9 gamma-ray spectra after averaging over all simulated orientations. DU inside IO8 is the cause of the increased counts at higher energies.

an object. The object is first rotated around the \hat{z} axis using the first number; then the \hat{z} (vertical) axis is rotated to a certain location in ϕ, θ space using the last two. The model was trained on sixty total evenly spaced orientations. Three initial rotations around \hat{z} were chosen. Then \hat{z} was rotated into twenty different points (five in ϕ , four in θ).

The gamma-ray detection rates and energy spectra present the most significant difference between the two sources (see Figure 13). The spectral disparity is due to the difference in shielding material, as HEU has a highly active emission line at 186 keV and DU a moderate activity at 1001 keV. Both the detected spectra and overall count rate are dependent on the orientation chosen, though the count rate varies more significantly with orientation.

580 10.3. Hotelling Weights

For the INL inspection objects, 60 orientations of each object were measured in simulation, the models were developed from that data, and then they were asked to discriminate based on an independently simulated single data set from



Figure 14: The Hotelling weights when discriminating IO8 and IO9. The orientation-knownexactly observer (blue line) directly relates to the observed spectra for that orientations. Their change upon incorporation of nuisance parameters is shown in the black and red lines.

one of those 60 orientations for a tested object. The Hotelling weights for the 584 two inspection objects (Figure 14) relate directly back to Figure 13. When the 585 orientation nuisance parameter is not present, the Hotelling weights are found 586 by taking the difference between the counts per second in each bin of the spectra 587 for each object (here IO9 was treated as source 2 and IO8 as source 1 in eq. (5)) 588 and scaling by the inverse of the average of the count rates. When nuisance 589 parameters are accounted for, the covariance matrix is dense as in eqs. (17)590 and (18) and there is a shift in the Hotelling weights. Furthermore, $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{H}}$ is 591 time dependent, as the covariance matrix in (17) that averages over nuisance 592 parameters dominates at high acquisition times. 593

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