# Controlling the false discovery exceedance for heterogeneous tests 

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#### Abstract

Several classical methods exist for controlling the false discovery exceedance (FDX) for large-scale multiple testing problems, among them the Lehmann-Romano procedure (Lehmann and Romano 2005) ([LR] below) and the Guo-Romano procedure (Guo and Romano 2007) ([GR] below). While these two procedures are the most prominent, they were originally designed for homogeneous test statistics, that is, when the null distribution functions of the $p$-values $F_{i}, 1 \leq i \leq m$, are all equal. In many applications, however, the data are heterogeneous which leads to heterogeneous null distribution functions. Ignoring this heterogeneity induces a lack of power. In this paper, we develop three new procedures that incorporate the $F_{i}$ 's, while maintaining rigorous FDX control. The heterogeneous version of [LR], denoted [HLR], is based on the arithmetic average of the $F_{i}$ 's, while the heterogeneous version of [GR], denoted [HGR], is based on the geometric average of the $F_{i}$ 's. We also introduce a procedure [PB], that is based on the Poisson-binomial distribution and that uniformly improves [HLR] and [HGR], at the price of a higher computational complexity. Perhaps surprisingly, this shows that, contrary to the known theory of false discovery rate (FDR) control under heterogeneity, the way to incorporate the $F_{i}$ 's can be particularly simple in the case of FDX control, and does not require any further correction term. The performances of the new proposed procedures are illustrated by real and simulated data in two important heterogeneous settings: first, when the test statistics are continuous but the $p$-values are weighted by some known independent weight vector, e.g., coming from co-data sets; second, when the test statistics are discretely distributed, as is the case for data representing frequencies or counts. Our new procedures are implemented in the R package FDX, see Junge and Döhler (2020).


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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

When many statistical tests are performed simultaneously, a ubiquitous way to account for the erroneous rejections of the procedure is the false discovery proportion (FDP), that is, the proportion of errors in the rejected sets, as introduced in the seminal paper Benjamini and Hochberg (1995). Most of the
related literature focuses on the expected value of this quantity, which is the false discovery rate (FDR), e.g., building procedures that improve the original Benjamini-Hochberg procedure by trying to adapt to some underlying structure of the data. In particular, a fruitful direction is to take into account the heterogeneous structure of the different tests. Heterogeneity may originate from various sources. The two main examples we have in mind, and which have been intensively investigated in the statistical literature recently, is heterogeneity caused by $p$-value weighting and discrete data.

Weighting $p$-values is a well-established and popular approach to improve the performance of multiple testing procedures. It can be traced back to Holm (1979) and that has been further developed specifically for FDR in, e.g., Genovese et al. (2006); Blanchard and Roquain (2008); Hu et al. (2010); Zhao and Zhang (2014); Ramdas et al. (2017). Here, the heterogeneity can be driven for instance by sample size, groups, or more generally by some covariates. In particular, finding optimal weighting in the sense of maximizing the number of true rejections has been investigated in Wasserman and Roeder (2006); Rubin et al. (2006); Roquain and van de Wiel (2009); Ignatiadis et al. (2016); Durand (2019). As a result, the weighted $p$-values have heterogeneous null distribution functions $\left\{F_{i}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ that must be properly taken into account by multiple testing procedures.

On the other hand, multiple testing for discrete distributions is a well identified research field (Tarone, 1990; Westfall and Wolfinger, 1997; Gilbert, 2005) that has received a growing attention in the last decade, see e.g., Heyse (2011); Heller and Gur (2011); Dickhaus et al. (2012); Habiger (2015); Chen et al. (2015); Döhler (2016); Chen et al. (2018); Döhler et al. (2018); Durand et al. (2019) and references therein. The most typical setting occurs when the data for each test is given by a contingency table. In that situation, the heterogeneity is induced by the fact that marginal counts naturally vary from one table to another. The approach is then to suitably combine the heterogeneous null distributions in order to compensate the natural conservativeness of individual discrete tests. Heyse (2011), for instance, uses the transform

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{F}(t)=m^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m} F_{i}(t), \quad t \in[0,1] \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

and applies the BH procedure to the transformed $p$-values $\left\{\bar{F}\left(p_{i}\right), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$. Unfortunately, this method does not rigorously control the FDR, as it has been proven in Döhler (2016); Döhler et al. (2018). Appropriate corrections of the $\bar{F}$ expression have been proposed in Döhler et al. (2018) in order to recover a rigorous FDR control.

## 1.2. $F D X$ control

A common criticism of FDR is that it captures only the average behavior of the FDP. In particular, controlling the FDR does not prevent the FDP from
possessing undesirable fluctuations and we may aim at stochastically controlling the FDP in other ways. The most common alternative approach is to control the false probability exceedance (FDX) by requiring

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{FDX}=\mathbf{P}(\mathrm{FDP}>\alpha) \leq \zeta \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

for $\alpha, \zeta \in(0,1)$. This corresponds to controlling the $(1-\zeta)$-quantile of the FDP distribution at level $\alpha$, see, e.g., Genovese and Wasserman (2004); Perone Pacifico et al. (2004); Korn et al. (2004); Lehmann and Romano (2005); Genovese and Wasserman (2006); Romano and Wolf (2007); Guo et al. (2014); Delattre and Roquain (2015) and see Tan et al. (2019); Basu et al. (2020) for recent applications. Let us also mention that studying the probabilistic fluctuations of the FDP process is of interest in its own, see, e.g., Neuvial (2008); Roquain and Villers (2011); Delattre and Roquain (2011, 2016); Ditzhaus and Janssen (2019) and that controlling these fluctuations is used for various aims, as building FDP-confidence envelopes and post hoc bounds, see Genovese and Wasserman (2006); Goeman and Solari (2011); Hemerik et al. (2019); Katsevich and Ramdas (2020); Blanchard et al. (2020).

Among multiple testing procedures, step-down procedures have been shown to be particularly useful for FDX control. Two prominent step-down procedures have been proven to control the FDX under various distributional assumptions:

- The Lehmann-Romano procedure [LR], introduced in Lehmann and Romano (2005), is defined as the step-down procedure with critical values

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{LR}}=\zeta \frac{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1}{m(\ell)}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where we denote

$$
\begin{equation*}
m(\ell)=m-\ell+\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1 \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

It has been shown to control the FDX under various dependence assumptions between the $p$-values, e.g., when each $p$-value under the null is independent of the family of the $p$-values under the alternative (Theorem 3.1 in Lehmann and Romano (2005)), which we will refer to (Indep0) below, or when the Simes inequality holds true among the family of true null $p$-values (Theorem 3.2 in Lehmann and Romano (2005)). Note that under the latter condition, it has also been proven later that the step-up version of [LR], that is, the step-up procedure using the critical values (3) also controls the FDX, see the proof of Theorem 3.1 in Guo et al. (2014).

- The procedure $[\mathrm{LR}]$ has been improved by the Guo-Romano procedure [GR], see Guo and Romano (2007), defined as the step-down procedure with critical values

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{GR}}=\max \{t \in[0,1]: \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{B i n}[m(\ell), t] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1) \leq \zeta\}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\operatorname{Bin}[n, p]$ denotes any random variable following a binomial distribution with parameters $n$ and $p$. While rejecting more hypotheses than
$[\mathrm{LR}]$, the procedure [GR] controls the FDX under a stronger assumption: the null $p$-value family contains mutually independent variables and it is independent of the alternative $p$-value family, which we refer to (Indep) below.

### 1.3. Contributions

To our knowledge, FDX control under heterogeneity has been studied scarcely, see Genovese et al. (2006); Basu et al. (2020), and in some specific situations only. More precisely, Genovese et al. (2006) proposed such a control for weighted $p$-values via an augmentation type approach (see e.g., Dudoit and van der Laan, 2007), while the procedure in Basu et al. (2020) is developed in an empirical Bayes setting and thus corresponds to a Bayesian FDX control.

The global aim of our paper is to provide a general view on (frequentist) FDX control under heterogeneity by incorporating the null distribution functions $\left\{F_{i}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ of the $p$-values. To this end, we introduce suitable modifications of procedures [LR] and [GR]. More specifically, the contributions of this work are as follows:

- we introduce the heterogeneous Lehmann Romano procedure [HLR], which controls the FDX under (Indep0) and is a uniform improvement of [LR] (when the marginals of the null $p$-values are super-uniform, see (SuperUnif) further on);
- we introduce the heterogeneous Guo Romano procedure [HGR], which controls the FDX under (Indep) and is a uniform improvement of [GR] (under (SuperUnif));
- at the price of additional computational complexity, we introduce the Poisson-binomial procedure [PB], which controls the FDX under (Indep) and is a uniform improvement of [HLR] and [HGR];
- we apply this new technology to weighted $p$-values to provide the first weighted procedures that control the FDX (to our knowledge), called $[w L R]$ and $[w G R]$. They are able to improve their non-weighted counterparts [LR] and [GR], respectively, see Section 4;
- in the discrete context, the new induced procedures [DLR], [DGR] are shown to be uniform improvements with respect to the continuous procedures $[\mathrm{LR}]$ and $[\mathrm{GR}]$, respectively. To the best of our knowledge, these are the first FDX controlling procedures tailored specifically to discrete $p$-value distributions. The improvement can be substantial, as we show both with simulated and real data examples, see Section 5 .

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces the statistical setting, the procedures and FDX criterion, as well as a shortcut to compute our stepdown procedures without evaluating the critical values. Section 3 is the main section of the paper, which introduces the new heterogeneous procedures and establishes their FDX controlling properties. Our methodology is then applied in two particular frameworks: new weighted procedures controlling the FDX
are derived in Section 4 while Section 5 is devoted to the case where the tests are discrete. Both sections include numerical illustrations. A discussion is provided in Section 6 and most of technical details are deferred to Appendix A. Appendix B gives additional numerical details for the simulations.

## 2. Framework

### 2.1. Setting

We use here a classical formal setting for heterogeneous nulls, see e.g., Döhler et al. (2018). We observe $X$, defined on an abstract probabilistic space, valued in an observation space $(\mathcal{X}, \mathfrak{X})$ and generated by a distribution $P$ that belongs to a set $\mathcal{P}$ of possible distributions. We consider $m$ null hypotheses for $P$, denoted $H_{0, i}, 1 \leq i \leq m$, and we denote the corresponding set of true null hypotheses by $\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)=\left\{1 \leq i \leq m: H_{0, i}\right.$ is satisfied by $\left.P\right\}$. We also denote by $\mathcal{H}_{1}(P)$ the complement of $\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)$ in $\{1, \ldots, m\}$ and by $m_{0}(P)=\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right|$ the number of true nulls.

We assume that there exists a set of $p$-values that is, a set of random variables $\left\{p_{i}(X), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$, valued in $[0,1]$. We introduce the following dependence assumptions between the $p$-values:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\text { for all } P \in \mathcal{P},\left\{p_{i}(X), i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right\} \text { is independent of }\left\{p_{i}(X), i \in \mathcal{H}_{1}(P)\right\} \tag{Indep0}
\end{equation*}
$$

(Indep0) holds and for all $P \in \mathcal{P},\left\{p_{i}(X), i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right\}$
consists of independent variables.
(Indep)

Note that (Indep0) and (Indep) are both satisfied when all the $p$-values $p_{i}(X)$, $1 \leq i \leq m$, are mutually independent in the model $\mathcal{P}$. The (maximum) null cumulative distribution function of each $p$-value is denoted

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{i}(t)=\sup _{P \in \mathcal{P}: i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)}\left\{\mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}\left(p_{i}(X) \leq t\right)\right\}, t \in[0,1], 1 \leq i \leq m \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

We let $\mathcal{F}=\left\{F_{i}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ that we assume to be known and we consider the following possible situations for the functions in $\mathcal{F}$ :
for all $i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}, F_{i}$ is continuous on $[0,1]$
for all $i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$, there exists some finite set $\mathcal{A}_{i} \subset[0,1]$ such that $F_{i}$ is a step function, right continuous, that jumps only at some points of $\mathcal{A}_{i}$.
(Discrete)
The case (Discrete) typically arises when for all $P \in \mathcal{P}$ and $i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$, $\mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}\left(p_{i}(X) \in \mathcal{A}_{i}\right)=1$ for some given finite sets $\mathcal{A}_{i} \subset[0,1]$. Throughout the paper, we will assume that we are either in the case (Cont) or (Discrete) and we denote $\mathcal{A}=\cup_{i=1}^{m} \mathcal{A}_{i}$, with by convention $\mathcal{A}_{i}=[0,1]$ when (Cont) holds. For
comparison with the homogeneous case, we will also make use of the following classical assumption:

$$
\text { for all } i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}, F_{i}(t) \leq t \text { for all } t \in[0,1] . \quad \text { (SuperUnif) }
$$

Remark 2.1. Condition (Discrete) above requires that the sets $\mathcal{A}_{i}$ are finite. While this condition is met, e.g., when Fisher's exact tests are performed, it is not satisfied for other classical discrete tests, as the one-sided Poisson test for instance. Interestingly, we can also deal with such cases, because all our results remain valid when the sets $\mathcal{A}_{i}$ are countable with zero as only possible accumulation point.

### 2.2. False discovery exceedance and step-down procedures

In general, a multiple testing procedure is defined as a random subset $R=$ $R(X) \subset\{1, \ldots, m\}$ which corresponds to the indices of the rejected nulls. For $\alpha \in(0,1)$, the false discovery exceedance of $R$ is defined as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{FDX}_{\alpha}(R, P)=\mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}\left(\frac{\left|R(X) \cap \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right|}{|R(X)| \vee 1}>\alpha\right), \quad P \in \mathcal{P} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

In this paper, we consider particular multiple testing procedures, called stepdown procedures. Given some $p$-value family $\left(p_{i}\right)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ and some non-decreasing sequence $\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)_{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \in[0,1]^{m}$, the step-down procedure with critical values $\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)_{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \in[0,1]^{m}$ rejects the null hypotheses corresponding to the set

$$
\begin{align*}
R & =\left\{i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\hat{\ell}}\right\} \quad \text { where }  \tag{8}\\
\widehat{\ell} & =\max \left\{\ell \in\{0, \ldots, m\}: \forall \ell^{\prime} \leq \ell, p_{\sigma\left(\ell^{\prime}\right)} \leq \tau_{\ell^{\prime}}\right\}, \quad\left(\text { convention } p_{\sigma(0)}=0\right) \tag{9}
\end{align*}
$$

for which $p_{\sigma(1)} \leq \cdots \leq p_{\sigma(m)}$ denotes the $p$-values $\left\{p_{i}(X), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ ordered increasingly (for some data-dependent permutation $\sigma$ ).

### 2.3. Transformation function family and computational shortcut

In this paper, the critical values will be obtained by inverting specific functionals, that is,
$\tau_{\ell}=\xi_{\ell}^{-1}(\zeta)=\max \left\{t \in \mathcal{A}: \xi_{\ell}(t) \leq \zeta\right\},\left(\tau_{\ell}=0\right.$ if the set is empty $), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m$,
for $\xi_{\ell}:[0,1] \mapsto[0, \infty), 1 \leq \ell \leq m$, a given set of functions. In order for (10) to be well-defined and the corresponding $\ell \mapsto \tau_{\ell}$ to be non-decreasing, we will say that the function set $\left\{\xi_{\ell}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m\right\}$ is a transformation function family if it satisfies the following conditions:
for all $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}, \xi_{\ell}$ is a non-decreasing function;
for all $t \in[0,1]$ and all $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m-1\}$, we have $\xi_{\ell+1}(t) \leq \xi_{\ell}(t)$;
in case (Cont), for all $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}, \xi_{\ell}$ is continuous on $[0,1]$.

For instance, the critical values of the procedure [LR] can be rewritten as (10) for the functions

$$
\begin{equation*}
\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{LR}}(t)=\frac{m(\ell)}{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1} t, \quad t \in[0,1], \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

We easily check that the function set $\left\{\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{LR}}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m\right\}$ is a family of transformation functions (in the sense of (11)). Indeed, $\frac{m-\ell+i}{i}$ is non-increasing both in $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$ and $i \in\{1, \ldots,\lfloor\alpha m\rfloor+1\}$. A second example is given by the procedure [GR] for which

$$
\begin{equation*}
\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{GR}}(t)=\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{B i n}[m(\ell), t] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1] \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

can be proved to form a family of transformation functions. Indeed, the only nonobvious argument to prove (11) is that for a fixed $t \in[0,1]$, and $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m-1\}$ we have $\xi_{\ell+1}^{\mathrm{GR}}(t) \leq \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{GR}}(t)$. This is due to the fact that $\mathbf{P}(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}[m-\ell+i, t] \geq i)=$ $\mathbf{P}(\operatorname{Bin}[m-\ell+i, 1-t] \leq m-\ell)$ is non-increasing both in $i$ and $\ell$.

Finally, because of the inversion, computing the critical values via (10) can be time consuming. Fortunately, computing the critical values is actually not necessary if we are solely interested in determining the rejection set $R$ given by (8). As the following result shows, we can determine $R$ by working directly with the transformation functions.

Proposition 2.1. Let us consider any transformation function family $\left\{\xi_{\ell}, 1 \leq\right.$ $\ell \leq m\}$ and the corresponding critical values $\tau_{\ell}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m$, defined by (10). Then, for all $P \in \mathcal{P}$, with $P$-probability 1, the step-down procedure $R$ with critical values $\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)_{1 \leq \ell \leq m}$ can equivalently be written as

$$
\begin{align*}
R & =\left\{i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \tilde{p}_{i} \leq \zeta\right\}  \tag{14}\\
\tilde{p}_{i} & =\max _{\substack{1 \leq \ell \leq m \\
p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq p_{i}}}\left\{\xi_{\ell}\left(p_{\sigma(\ell)}\right)\right\}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m . \tag{15}
\end{align*}
$$

Proposition 2.1 is proved in Appendix A.2.

## 3. New FDX controlling procedures

In this section, we introduce new procedures $R$ that control the false discovery exceedance at some level $\zeta \in(0,1)$, that is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\text { for all } P \in \mathcal{P}, \operatorname{FDX}_{\alpha}(R, P) \leq \zeta \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

while incorporating the family $\left\{F_{i}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ in an appropriate way.

### 3.1. Tool

Our main mathematical tool is the following bound: For any step-down procedure $R$ with critical values $\tau=\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)_{1 \leq \ell \leq m}$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sup _{P \in \mathcal{P}}\left\{\operatorname{FDX}_{\alpha}(R, P)\right\} \leq B(\tau, \alpha) \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

for $B(\tau, \alpha)=\sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \sup _{\substack{P \in \mathcal{P} \\\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right| \leq m(\ell)}} \mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}\left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)} \mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\} \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right)$.

Inequality (17) is valid under the distributional assumption (Indep0). This bound comes from a reformulation of Theorem 5.2 in Roquain (2011) in our heterogenous framework, see Theorem A. 1 in Appendix A below. Our new procedures are derived by further upper-bounding $B(\tau, \alpha)$ via various probabilistic devices. More specifically, we will introduce several transformation function families $\left\{\xi_{\ell}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m\right\}$ such that for all $\tau=\left\{\tau_{\ell}\right\}_{\ell}$,

$$
B(\tau, \alpha) \leq \sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m}\left\{\xi_{\ell}\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)\right\}
$$

According to (17), the step-down procedure using the corresponding critical values (10) will then control the FDX in the sense of (16).

### 3.2. Heterogeneous Lehmann-Romano procedure

By using the Markov inequality, we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
B(\tau, \alpha) \leq \sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \sup _{\substack{P \in \mathcal{P} \\\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right| \leq m(\ell)}} \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)} F_{i}\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)}{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1}=\sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m(\ell)} F_{(j)}\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)}{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1} \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $F_{(1)}(t) \geq \cdots \geq F_{(m)}(t)$ denotes the values of $\left\{F_{i}(t), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ ordered decreasingly. Bounding the above quantity by $\zeta$ entails the following procedure.

Definition 3.1. The heterogeneous Lehmann-Romano procedure, denoted by [HLR], is defined as the step-down procedure using the critical values defined by

$$
\begin{align*}
\tau_{\ell}^{H L R} & =\max \left\{t \in \mathcal{A}: \xi_{\ell}^{H L R}(t) \leq \zeta\right\}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m ;  \tag{20}\\
\xi_{\ell}^{H L R}(t) & =\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m(\ell)} F_{(j)}(t)}{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1], \tag{21}
\end{align*}
$$

where $F_{(1)}(t) \geq \cdots \geq F_{(m)}(t)$ denotes the values of $\left\{F_{i}(t), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ ordered decreasingly and $m(\ell)$ is defined by (4).

The quantity $\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{HLR}}(t)$ is thus similar to $\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{LR}}(t)$, in which $t$ has been replaced by the average of the $m(\ell)$ largest values of $\left\{F_{i}(t), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$. To check that the set $\left\{\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{HLR}}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m\right\}$ is a transformation function family in the sense of (11), we note that $\frac{1}{m(\ell)} \sum_{j=1}^{m(\ell)} F_{(j)}(t)$ is non-increasing in $\ell$ (averaging on smaller values makes the average smaller) and continuous in $t$ under (Cont) (because $t \mapsto\left(F_{i}(t)\right)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ is continuous in that case and $x \in\left(\mathbb{R}^{m},\|\cdot\|_{\infty}\right) \mapsto$ $N^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^{N} x_{(k)} \in(\mathbb{R},|\cdot|)$ is 1-Lipschitz for any $N \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$, see Lemma A.2).

In the classical case (SuperUnif), we have $\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{HLR}}(t) \leq \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{LR}}(t)$ for all $t \in[0,1]$ and $1 \leq \ell \leq m$. Hence, $[\mathrm{HLR}]$ is less conservative than $[\mathrm{LR}]$ in that situation.

A technical detail is that this only holds almost surely because the range $\mathcal{A}$ in (20) can be different from $[0,1]$ in the case (Discrete). We have established the following result.

Proposition 3.1. In the setting defined in Section 2.1, the procedure [HLR] satisfies the following

- Under (Indep0), [HLR] controls the FDX in the sense (16);
- Under (SuperUnif), the set of nulls rejected by [HLR] contains the one of $[\mathrm{LR}]$ with $P$-probability 1 , for all $P \in \mathcal{P}$.


### 3.3. Poisson-binomial procedure

Here, we propose to bound (18) by using the Poisson-binomial distribution. To this end, recall that the Poisson-Binomial distribution of parameters $\pi=$ $\left(\pi_{i}\right)_{1 \leq i \leq n} \in[0,1]^{n}$, denoted $\operatorname{PBin}[\pi]$ below, corresponds to the distribution of $\sum_{i=1}^{\bar{n}} \varepsilon_{i}$, where the $\varepsilon_{i}$ are all independent and each $\varepsilon_{i}$ follows a Bernoulli distribution of parameter $\pi_{i}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$.

First note that for all $i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)$ and $t \in[0,1]$, we have that $\mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq t\right\}$ is stochastically upper bounded by a Bernoulli variable of parameter $F_{i}(t)$, see (6). As a consequence, by assuming (Indep), we have for all critical values $\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)_{1 \leq \ell \leq m}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
B(\tau, \alpha) & \leq \sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \sup _{\substack{A \subset\{1, \ldots, m\} \\
|A| \leq m(\ell)}} \mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(F_{i}\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)\right)_{i \in A}\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right) \\
& =\sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(F_{(j)}\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m(\ell)}\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right) \tag{22}
\end{align*}
$$

Bounding the latter by $\zeta$ leads to the following procedure.
Definition 3.2. The Poisson-binomial procedure, denoted by $[\mathrm{PB}]$, is defined as the step-down procedure using the critical values

$$
\begin{align*}
\tau_{\ell}^{P B} & =\max \left\{t \in \mathcal{A}: \xi_{\ell}^{P B}(t) \leq \zeta\right\}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m  \tag{23}\\
\xi_{\ell}^{P B}(t) & =\mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(F_{(j)}(t)\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m(\ell)}\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1] \tag{24}
\end{align*}
$$

where $F_{(1)}(t) \geq \cdots \geq F_{(m)}(t)$ denotes the values of $\left\{F_{i}(t), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ ordered decreasingly and $m(\ell)$ is defined by (4).

Let us now check that $\left\{\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{PB}}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m\right\}$ is a transformation function family, that is, it satisfies (11). The continuity assumption holds because, under (Cont), the mapping $t \in[0,1] \mapsto\left(F_{(j)}(t)\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m(\ell)}$ is continuous (argument similar to above) and the cumulative distribution function of $\operatorname{PBin}[\pi]$ is a continuous function of $\pi \in[0,1]^{n}$. The monotonic property $\xi_{\ell+1}^{\mathrm{HGR}}(t) \leq \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{HGR}}(t)$ comes from the fact that the probability $\mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(F_{(j)}(t)\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m-\ell+i}\right] \geq i\right)$ is equal to $\mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(1-F_{(j)}(t)\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m-\ell+i}\right] \leq m-\ell\right)$, which is non-increasing both in $i$ and $\ell$.

In addition, under (SuperUnif), the distribution PBin $\left[\left(F_{(j)}(t)\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m(\ell)}\right]$ is stochastically smaller than the distribution $\operatorname{Bin}[m(\ell), t]$. We have proved the following holds.
Proposition 3.2. In the setting defined in Section 2.1, the procedure [PB] satisfies the following

- Under (Indep), [PB] controls the FDX in the sense (16);
- Under (SuperUnif), the set of nulls rejected by [PB] contains the one of [GR] with $P$-probability 1 , for all $P \in \mathcal{P}$.

Note that the procedure [PB] relies on Poisson-binomial tail probabilities, see (24), which is computationally more demanding than using the binomial distribution. Nevertheless, algorithms are available and implemented in software for determining these probabilities (see Junge (2020) and the references given there). The critical values in (23) can subsequently be determined by using a standard numerical root finding algorithm (for details, see (Junge and Döhler, 2020)).

To avoid determining Poisson-binomial tail probabilities, we can use a slightly conservative approach, only relying on the binomial distribution, which we describe in the next section.

### 3.4. Heterogeneous Guo-Romano procedure

In this section, we further upper-bound (25) by using that any $\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(\pi_{i}\right)_{1 \leq i \leq n}\right]$ variable is stochastically upper-bounded by a $\operatorname{Bin}\left[n, 1-\left(\prod_{i=1}^{n}\left(1-\pi_{i}\right)\right)^{1 / n}\right]$ variable (see Example 1.A. 25 in Shaked, M. and Shanthikumar, J.G., 2007). This yields

$$
\begin{equation*}
B(\tau, \alpha) \leq \sup _{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \mathbf{P}\left(\operatorname{Bin}\left[m(\ell), \tilde{F}_{m(\ell)}\left(\tau_{\ell}\right)\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right) \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

where we let

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tilde{F}_{j}(t)=1-\left(\prod_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j}\left(1-F_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)}(t)\right)\right)^{1 / j} \quad, \quad 1 \leq j \leq m, t \in[0,1] \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $F_{(1)}(t) \geq \cdots \geq F_{(m)}(t)$ denotes the values of $\left\{F_{i}(t), 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ ordered decreasingly.

This reasoning suggests another heterogeneous procedure, based on the binomial distribution. Since [GR] also uses the binomial device, we name this new procedure the heterogeneous Guo-Romano procedure.

Definition 3.3. The heterogeneous Guo-Romano procedure, denoted by [HGR], is defined as the step-down procedure using the critical values defined by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau_{\ell}^{H G R}=\max \left\{t \in \mathcal{A}: \xi_{\ell}^{H G R}(t) \leq \zeta\right\}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\xi_{\ell}^{H G R}(t)=\mathbf{P}\left(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}\left[m(\ell), \tilde{F}_{m(\ell)}(t)\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1] \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\tilde{F}_{j}(t)$ is defined in (26) and $m(\ell)$ is defined by (4).
The condition (11) also holds in that case. However, the proof of monotonicity of $\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{HGR}}(t)$ is slightly more involved than above and is deferred to Lemma A.1. In addition, since under (SuperUnif) we have $\tilde{F}_{m(\ell)}(t) \leq t$, we deduce that [HGR], although more conservative than [PB], is still an uniform improvement over [GR].

Proposition 3.3. In the setting defined in Section 2.1, the procedure [HGR] satisfies the following

- Under (Indep), [HGR] controls the FDX in the sense (16);
- Under (SuperUnif), the set of nulls rejected by [HGR] contains the one of [GR] with $P$-probability 1 , for all $P \in \mathcal{P}$.

Remark 3.1. The numerical results in Sections 4 and 5 suggest that the conservatism of $[\mathrm{HGR}]$ with respect to $[\mathrm{PB}]$ is usually quite small. In addition, since the computational effort required by $[\mathrm{HGR}]$ is comparable to that of $[\mathrm{GR}]$, the gain in efficiency may be great, especially for large $m$. We therefore think that [HGR] may be especially useful for very high dimensional heterogeneous data.

Remark 3.2. We can also define a non-adaptive version of [HGR], defined as the step-down procedure of critical values (10) based on the transformation functional

$$
\xi_{\ell}(t)=\mathbf{P}(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}[m, \tilde{F}(t)] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1]
$$

where $\tilde{F}(t)=1-\left(\prod_{j=1}^{m}\left(1-F_{j}(t)\right)\right)^{1 / m}$. While being more conservative than [HGR], it still controls the FDX in the sense (16). Hence, while controlling the FDR for heterogeneous tests is linked to the arithmetic average of the $F_{i}$ 's (see Section 1.1) and requires some additional modifications (see Döhler et al., 2018), our results show that FDX control is linked to simple geometric averaging without the need of any additional correction.

## 4. Application to weighting

It is well known that $p$-value weighting can improve the power of multiple testing procedures, see e.g., Genovese et al. (2006); Roquain and van de Wiel (2009); Ignatiadis et al. (2016); Durand (2019); Ramdas et al. (2017) and references therein. However, to the best of our our knowledge, except for the augmentation approach described in Genovese et al. (2006), no methods are available that incorporate weighting for FDX control. We show in this section that such methods can be obtained directly from the bounds on $B(\tau, \alpha)$ introduced in Section 3.

Throughout this section, we consider the standard setting for which we have at hand a p-value family satisfying (Cont) and (SuperUnif). As explained in our introduction section (see references therein), while the null distributions of the $p$-values are typically uniform, the point is that they can have heterogeneous alternative distributions, so that it could be desirable to weigh the $p$-values in some way. For this, we consider a fixed weight vector $\left(w_{i}\right)_{1 \leq i \leq m} \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{m}$. The ordered weights are denoted $w_{(1)} \geq w_{(2)} \geq \cdots \geq w_{(m)}$, the average weight is denoted $\bar{w}=m^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m} w_{i}$ and the average over the $j$ largest weights is denoted by $\bar{w}_{j}=j^{-1} \sum_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j} w_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)}$.

Since the heterogeneous procedures [HLR], [PB] and [HGR] introduced in Section 3 yield valid control for any collection of distribution functions $\left\{F_{i}, 1 \leq\right.$ $i \leq m\}$, it is possible to use very flexible weighting schemes. In order to limit the scope of this paper, we consider only two simple types of weighting approaches in more detail:

- for arithmetic mean weighting (abbreviated in what follows as AM), we define the weighted $p$-value family as

$$
\begin{equation*}
p_{i}^{w}=p_{i} \bar{w} / w_{i}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

The weighted $p$-values thus have the heterogeneous distribution functions

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{i}^{\mathrm{AM}}(t)=\left(\frac{w_{i}}{\bar{w}} t\right) \wedge 1, \quad t \in[0,1], \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \tag{30}
\end{equation*}
$$

under the null. This corresponds to classical weighting approaches established in the multiple testing literature for various criteria, like FWER and FDR control.

- for geometric mean weighting (abbreviated as GM), we define

$$
\begin{equation*}
p_{i}^{w}=1-\left(1-p_{i}\right)^{\bar{w} / w_{i}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

The weighted $p$-values therefore have the following heterogeneous distribution functions under the null:

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{i}^{\mathrm{GM}}(t)=1-(1-t)^{w_{i} / \bar{w}}, \quad t \in[0,1], \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \tag{32}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus, combining these two weighting approaches with the three heterogeneous procedures introduced in the previous section yields a total of six weighted procedures which we discuss in more detail below. Note that a Taylor expansion yields $F_{i}^{\mathrm{AM}}(t) \approx F_{i}^{\mathrm{GM}}(t)$ for small values of $t$. Therefore, we expect that AM and GM procedures will yield similar rejection sets for small $p$-values.

### 4.1. Weighted Lehmann-Romano procedures

Applying the strategy of Section 3.2 with the c.d.f. set $\left\{F_{i}^{\mathrm{AM}}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$, we can use the transformation function family given by

$$
\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wLR}-\mathrm{AM}}(t)=\frac{m(\ell)}{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1} \times \frac{\bar{w}_{m(\ell)}}{\bar{w}} t, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1]
$$

This gives rise to an FDX controlling procedure, which we call the AM-weighted Lehmann-Romano procedure, denoted by [wLR-AM]. It is defined as the stepdown procedure using the weighted $p$-values (29) and the critical values

$$
\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wLR-AM}}=\zeta \frac{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1}{\sum_{j=1}^{m(\ell)} w_{(j)}} \bar{w}=\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{LR}} \cdot \frac{\bar{w}}{\bar{w}_{m(\ell)}}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m
$$

In particular, if the weight vector is uniform, that is, $w_{i}=1$ for all $i$, then [wLR-AM] reduces to [LR].

Similarly to above, applying the strategy of Section 3.2 with the c.d.f. set $\left\{F_{i}^{\mathrm{GM}}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ yields the transformation function family

$$
\xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wLR}-\mathrm{GM}}(t)=\frac{1}{\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1} \sum_{j=1}^{m(\ell)}\left(1-(1-t)^{w_{(j)} / \bar{w}}\right), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1]
$$

This gives rise to an FDX controlling procedure, which we call the GM-weighted Lehmann-Romano procedure, denoted by [wLR-GM]. It is defined as the stepdown procedure using the weighted $p$-values (31) and the critical values

$$
\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wLR}-\mathrm{GM}}=\max \left\{t \in[0,1]: \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wLR}-\mathrm{GM}}(t) \leq \zeta\right\}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m
$$

In general, no domination relationship holds between the procedures [wLR-GM] and [wLR-AM]. Finally, again, in case of uniform weighting, [wLR-GM] reduces to [LR].

### 4.2. Weighted Poisson-binomial procedures

Applying the strategy of Section 3.3 with the c.d.f. sets $\left\{F_{i}^{\mathrm{AM}}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ and $\left\{F_{i}^{\mathrm{GM}}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$, we can use the two transformation function families given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wPB}-\mathrm{AM}}(t)=\mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(\left(\frac{w_{(j)}}{\bar{w}} t\right) \wedge 1\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m(\ell)}\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right) \\
& \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wPB}-\mathrm{GM}}(t)=\mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{P B i n}\left[\left(1-(1-t)^{w_{(j)} / \bar{w}}\right)_{1 \leq j \leq m(\ell)}\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

for $1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1]$, to define new step-down procedures, denoted [wPB-AM] and [wPB-GM] respectively, that both ensure FDX control.

### 4.3. Weighted Guo-Romano procedures

We apply here the strategy of Section 3.4 for the c.d.f. sets $\left\{F_{i}^{\mathrm{AM}}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$ and $\left\{F_{i}^{\mathrm{GM}}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$. According to (26), let us define

$$
\tilde{F}_{j}^{\mathrm{AM}}(t)=1-\left(\prod_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j}\left(\left(1-\left(\frac{w_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)}}{\bar{w}} t\right) \wedge 1\right)\right)^{1 / j}\right.
$$

$$
\tilde{F}_{j}^{\mathrm{GM}}(t)=1-\left(\prod_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j}(1-t)^{w_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)} / \bar{w}}\right)^{1 / j}=1-(1-t)^{\bar{w}_{j} / \bar{w}}
$$

for $1 \leq j \leq m, t \in[0,1]$. This gives rise to the transformation function families

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wGR}-\mathrm{AM}}(t)=\mathbf{P}\left(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}\left[m(\ell), \tilde{F}_{m(\ell)}^{\mathrm{AM}}(t)\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1] \\
& \xi_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wGR}-\mathrm{GM}}(t)=\mathbf{P}\left(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}\left[m(\ell), \tilde{F}_{m(\ell)}^{\mathrm{GM}}(t)\right] \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m, t \in[0,1]
\end{aligned}
$$

Critical values $\tau^{\text {wGR-AM }}$ and $\tau^{\text {wGR-GM }}$ are obtained via (10) from families $\xi^{\text {wGR-AM }}$ and $\xi^{\mathrm{wGR}-\mathrm{GM}}$, respectively. This yields two new FDX controlling step-down procedures that are denoted by [wGR-AM] and [wGR-GM], respectively. Note that, similar to arithmetic weighting for the [LR] procedure, geometric weighting leads to a simple transformation of the original [GR] critical values, given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{wGR}-\mathrm{GM}}=1-\left(1-\tau_{\ell}^{\mathrm{GR}}\right)^{\bar{w} / \bar{w}_{m(\ell)}} \tag{33}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus, this particular procedure combines simplicity with a close relationship to the original Guo-Romano procedure. By contrast, as for the heterogeneous version, the weighted Poisson-binomial procedures require the evaluation of the Poisson-binomial distribution function which may be computationally demanding for large $m$. The weighted Guo-Romano procedures, on the other hand, while possibly sacrificing some power, only require evaluation of the standard binomial distribution.

### 4.4. Analysis of RNA-Seq data

We revisit an analysis of the RNA-Seq data set 'airway' using results from the independent hypothesis weighting (IHW) approach (for details, see Ignatiadis et al., 2016 and the vignette accompanying its software implementation). Loosely speaking, this method aims to increase power by assigning a weight $w_{i}$ to each hypothesis and subsequently applying e.g., the Bonferroni or the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure $[\mathrm{BH}]$ to the weighted $p$-values while aiming for control of FWER or FDR.

In what follows, we present some results for weighted FDX control, using the procedures introduced in Sections 4.2 and 4.3. For this data set we have $m=64102$ and the weights $w_{1}, \ldots, w_{m}$ are taken from the output of the ihw function from the bioconductor package 'IHW'. For the sake of illustration we assume the $p$-values to be independent. A large portion (about $45 \%$ ) of these weights are 0, Figure 1 presents a histogram of the (strictly) positive weights.

Table 1 shows that controlling the mean (i.e. FDR) or the median of the FDP leads to a similar number of rejections.

For both error rates, incorporating weights leads to similar gains in power. For weighted FDX control, the more conservative weighted Guo-Romano procedures exhibit only a slight loss of power with respect to the weighted Poisson-binomial


FIG 1. Histogram of positive weights generated by the ihw function for the airway data.
approaches. The difference between arithmetic and geometric weighting is negligible for this data.

Figure 2 indicates that for the FDX controlling procedures, the mapping of the confidence level to the number of rejections is quite flat. This means that statements about the FDP can be made with high confidence without losing too much power. For instance, requiring that $\mathrm{FDP} \leq 10 \%$ with confidence at least $95 \%$ still allows for 4145 and 4771 rejections using the [GR] and [wGR-GM] procedures, respectively.

TABLE 1
Number of rejections for the airway data. The FDR procedures control FDR at level $10 \%$, the $F D X$ procedures control $P(\mathrm{FDP}>10 \%) \leq 0.5$.

|  | $[\mathrm{BH}]$ | $[\mathrm{wBH}]$ | $[\mathrm{GR}]$ | $[\mathrm{wPB}-\mathrm{AM}]$ | [wPB-GM] | [wGR-AM] | [wGR-GM] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rejections | 4099 | 4896 | 4243 | 4868 | 4865 | 4853 | 4852 |

## 5. Application to discrete tests

### 5.1. Discrete $F D X$ procedures

Discrete FDX procedures can be defined in a straightforward way by directly using the distribution functions $F_{1}, \ldots, F_{m}$ of the discretely distributed $p$-values. The prototypical example we have in mind are multiple conditional tests like Fisher's exact test. In this case, discreteness and heterogeneity arise from conditioning on the observed table margins. We denote the resulting heterogeneous procedures from section 3 by [DLR] (for [HLR]), [DPB] (for [HPB]) and [DGR] (for [HGR]).


FIG 2. Number of rejections (y-axis) for the airway data when using the [GR] and [wGR-GM] procedure. Both procedures control the tail probabilities (on the x-axis) for the FDP exceeding $10 \%$. The horizontal lines represent the rejections of the BH and weighted BH procedures at FDR-level $10 \%$.

### 5.2. Simulation study

We now investigate the power of the [DLR], $[\mathrm{DPB}]$ and [DGR] procedures in a simulation study similar to those described in Gilbert (2005), Heller and Gur (2011) and Döhler et al. (2018). We focus on comparing the performance of the new discrete procedures to their continuous counterparts. Since the analysis with [DPB] is computationally demanding, we are also interested in investigating the performance of the slightly more conservative, but numerically more efficient [DGR] procedure. Finally, as above, we also include [BH] (Benjamini-Hochberg procedure) as a benchmark.

### 5.2.1. Simulated scenarios

We simulate a two-sample problem in which a vector of $m$ independent binary responses ("adverse events") is observed for each subject in two groups, where each group consists of $N=25$ subjects. Then, the goal is to simultaneously test the $m$ null hypotheses $H_{0 i}$ : " $p_{1 i}=p_{2 i}$ ", $i=1, \ldots, m$, where $p_{1 i}$ and $p_{2 i}$ are the success probabilities for the $i$ th binary response in group 1 and 2 , respectively. Before we describe the simulation framework in more detail, we explain how this set-up leads to discrete and heterogeneous $p$-value distributions. Suppose we have simulated two vectors of dimension $m$ where each component represents a count in $\{0, \ldots, 25\}$. This data can be represented by $m$ contingency tables. Now each hypothesis is tested using Fisher's exact test (two-sided) for each contingency table, which is performed by conditioning on the (simulated) pair of marginal counts. Thus, we can determine for every contingency table $i$ the
discrete distribution function $F_{i}$ of the $p$-values for Fisher's exact test under the null hypothesis. For differing (simulated) contingency tables, these induced distributions will generally be heterogeneous and our inference is conditionally on the marginal counts.

We take $m=800,2000$ where $m=m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}$ and data are generated so that the response is $\operatorname{Bernoulli}(0.01)$ at $m_{1}$ positions for both groups, Bernoulli(0.10) at $m_{2}$ positions for both groups and Bernoulli(0.10) at $m_{3}$ positions for group 1 and $\operatorname{Bernoulli}(q)$ at $m_{3}$ positions for group 2 where $q=0.15,0.25,0.4$ represents weak, moderate and strong effects, respectively. The null hypothesis is true for the $m_{1}$ and $m_{2}$ positions while the alternative hypothesis is true for the $m_{3}$ positions. We also take different configurations for the proportion of false null hypotheses, $m_{3}$ is set to be $10 \%, 30 \%$ and $80 \%$ of the value of $m$, which represents small, intermediate and large proportion of effects, respectively (the proportion of true nulls $\pi_{0}$ is $0.9,0.7,0.2$, respectively). Then, $m_{1}$ is set to be $20 \%, 50 \%$ and $80 \%$ of the number of true nulls (that is, $m-m_{3}$ ) and $m_{2}$ is taken accordingly as $m-m_{1}-m_{3}$.

For each of the 54 possible parameter configurations specified by $m, m_{3}, m_{1}$ and $q, 10000$ Monte Carlo trials are performed, that is, 10000 data sets are generated and for each data set, an unadjusted two-sided $p$-value from Fisher's exact test is computed for each of the $m$ positions, and the multiple testing procedures mentioned above are applied at level $\alpha=0.05$ and $\zeta=0.5$. The power of each procedure was estimated as the fraction of the $m_{3}$ false null hypotheses that were rejected, averaged over these 10000 simulations (TDP, true discovery proportion). Note that while our procedures are designed to control the FDP conditionally on the marginal counts, our power results are presented in an unconditional way for the sake of simplicity. For random number generation the R-function rbinom was used. The two-sided $p$-values from Fisher's exact test were computed using the R -function fisher.test.

### 5.2.2. Results

Table 3 in Appendix B shows that the (average) power of the compared procedures depends primarily on the strength of the signal $q_{3} \in\{0.15,0.25,0.4\}$. More specifically, Figure 3 contains some typical plots of the simulation results.

- For $q_{3}=0.15$, the power of $[\mathrm{BH}],[\mathrm{LR}]$ and $[\mathrm{GR}]$ is practically zero, whereas the discrete procedures are able to reject at least a few hypotheses, see panel (a) of Figure 3.
- For $q_{3}=0.25$, the power of $[\mathrm{BH}]$ and $[\mathrm{LR}]$ stays close to zero, $[\mathrm{GR}]$ performs slighty better and the discrete variants perform best as illustrated in panel (b) of Figure 3.
- For $q_{3}=0.4$, the power of $[\mathrm{LR}]$ stays close to zero, while $[\mathrm{BH}]$ now rejects a significant amount of hypotheses. The [DPB] and [DGR] procedures perform best. If there is a large amount of alternatives, [GR] performs better than [DLR] (see panel (c) of Figure 3). In the other cases, [GR] is outperformed by [DLR] (see panel (d) of Figure 3).


Fig 3. Boxplots of the simulated true discovery proportions (TDP) for the [LR] and [GR] procedures, their discrete modifications and the $[\mathrm{BH}]$ procedure for $m=800$. Panel (a)-(c) show results for $m_{3}=80, m_{1}=144$ with $q_{3}=0.15,0.25,0.4$, panel (d) shows results for $m_{3}=640, m_{1}=80$ and $q=0.4$.

- There is no relevant difference in power between the procedures [DPB] and [DGR].
In addition, Table 4 reports the median FDP of all the procedures. They are all smaller than the nominal level $\alpha=5 \%$, which is in accordance with the theoretical findings. Actually, all procedures are far from exhausting the nominal level. This is due to the strong discreteness induced by the present simulation setting, which makes the testing problem especially difficult. Still, the numerical results of this section show that, by taking into account discreteness, significant improvements are possible while controlling the FDX error rate.


### 5.3. Analysis of pharmacovigilance data

We revisit the analysis of pharmacovigilance data from Heller and Gur (2011) presented in Döhler et al. (2018). This data set is obtained from a database for reporting, investigating and monitoring adverse drug reactions due to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the United Kingdom. It contains the number of reported cases of amnesia as well as the total number of adverse events reported for each of the $m=2446$ drugs in the database. For a more detailed description of the data which is contained in the R-packages Heller et al. (2012) and Durand and Junge (2019) we refer to Heller and Gur (2011). Heller and Gur (2011) and Döhler et al. (2018) investigate the association between reports of amnesia and suspected drugs by performing for each drug


Fig 4. Critical values and sorted p-values (represented by black crosses) for median FDX control using the $[\mathrm{LR}],[\mathrm{DLR}],[\mathrm{GR}]$ and [DGR] procedures for the pharmacovigilance data.
a Fisher's exact test (one-sided) for testing association between the drug and amnesia while adjusting for multiplicity by using several (discrete) FDR controlling procedures. Applying the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure to this data set yields 24 candidate drugs which could be associated with amnesia. Using the discrete FDR controlling procedures from Döhler et al. (2018) yields 27 candidate drugs.

In what follows, we investigate the performance of the [LR], [DLR], [GR], [DPB] and [DGR] procedures for analyzing this data set. First, we compare these procedures when the goal is control of the FDP median instead of FDR at the $5 \%$ level, i.e., we require $\mathbf{P}(\mathrm{FDP}>5 \%) \leq 0.5$. Figure 4 illustrates the data and the critical constants of the involved FDX controlling procedures.

The benefit of taking discreteness into account is evident: the discrete critical values are considerably (by a factor of $2.5 \sim 4$ ) larger than their respective classical counterparts which leads to more powerful procedures, see also Table 2.

TABLE 2
Number of rejections for the pharmacovigilance data.

| Procedure controls | [LR] | [DLR] | [GR] | [DPB] | [DGR] |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{P}(\mathrm{FDP}>5 \%) \leq 0.5$ | 23 | 27 | 24 | 29 | 29 |
| $\mathbf{P}($ FDP $>5 \%) \leq 0.05$ | 16 | 21 | 16 | 24 | 24 |

Note that the critical values of [DPB] are not displayed in Figure 4 since they are visually indistinguishable from the [DGR] critical values. Figure 5 shows that this is in fact true for all indices, thus [DGR] is not only an efficient, but also quite accurate approximation of the [DPB] values, at least for the discrete distribution involved in this example.


FIG 5. Boxplot for the ratio of the $[\mathrm{DPB}]$ to the $[\mathrm{DGR}]$ critical values.

We also compare the performance of the above procedures over the full range of possible values for $\zeta$. Figure 6 depicts the number of rejections when controlling $\mathbf{P}(\mathrm{FDP}>5 \%) \leq \zeta$ for $\zeta \in(0,1)$. As expected from Propositions 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 , the discrete variants reject more hypotheses than their classical counterparts for all values of $\zeta$. For central values of $\zeta$, the gain is about three to four additionally rejected hypotheses, which corresponds roughly to the gain from using the discrete version of $[\mathrm{BH}]$ instead of $[\mathrm{BH}]$ (see Table 1 in Döhler et al. (2018)). Figure 6 also shows that for more extreme values of $\zeta$ the gain may be more pronounced, e.g., when $\mathbf{P}($ FDP $>5 \%) \leq 0.05$ is to be guaranteed, the [GR] procedure rejects 16 hypotheses, whereas the [DGR] procedure rejects 24 hypotheses (see the second row of Table 2).

## 6. Discussion

In this paper, we presented new procedures controlling the FDX while incorporating the (heterogeneous) family of null distribution $\left\{F_{i}, 1 \leq i \leq m\right\}$. Markedly, it put forward that the geometric averaging of the $F_{i}$ 's is a suitable operation for FDX control. This is new to our knowledge, as all previous works are mostly based on arithmetic averaging of the $F_{i}$ 's (or variation thereof). Maybe more importantly, our approach led to a substantial power improvement in two common situations, under continuity of the test statistics via weighting schemes, and for discrete test statistics when performing multiple individual Fisher's exact tests.

This work opens several directions of research. First, the proofs of all our FDX bounds rely on using a kind of independence between the $p$-values (see (Indep0) and (Indep)). While this assumption is classical, it is desirable to remove this condition in order to obtain more realistic models. This generalization seems however challenging, as FDX control under dependence is already delicate to


FIG 6. Number of rejections (y-axis) for the pharmacovigilance data when using the [LR], [DLR], [GR] and [DGR] procedures. All procedures control the tail probabilities at level $\zeta$ (on the $x$-axis) for the FDP exceeding $5 \%$. The horizontal lines represent the rejections of the $B H$ and discrete BH procedures at FDR-level $5 \%$.
study in the homogeneous case, see Delattre and Roquain (2015). A second interesting avenue is to derive theoretical bounds for the true discovery proportion (TDP) of our procedure. In particular, a relevant concern is to assess whether our way of accounting for heterogeneity (via arithmetic or geometric averaging of the $F_{i}$ 's) is optimal in some sense. Lastly, our work paves the way to control other simultaneous inference criteria based on an event probability, e.g., to establish post hoc bounds in the discrete heterogeneous case, see Genovese and Wasserman (2006); Goeman and Solari (2011); Blanchard et al. (2020). While challenging, this is a very exciting direction for future research.

Finally, we mention that the FDX procedures described in Sections 4 and 5 have been implemented in the R package FDX, see Junge and Döhler (2020).

## Appendix A: Materials for the proofs

## A.1. Proving the main tool

The proof is based on the following result, which is a reformulation of Theorem 5.2 in Roquain (2011) in our context.

Theorem A. 1 (Roquain, 2011). In the setting defined in Section 2.1, consider any step-down procedure $R$ with critical values $\tau_{\ell}, 1 \leq \ell \leq m$. Then for all $P \in \mathcal{P}$, we have

$$
\begin{align*}
\operatorname{FDX}(R, P) \leq & \sum_{\ell=1}^{m} \mathbb{1}\left\{\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right| \leq m(\ell)\right\} \\
& \times \mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}\left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)} \mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\} \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1, \widetilde{\ell}(P)=\ell\right) \tag{34}
\end{align*}
$$

where $\widetilde{\ell}(P)=\min \left\{\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \ell-\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{1}(P)} \mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\} \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right\}$ (with $\widetilde{\ell}(P)=m+1$ if the set is empty).

Let us show that Theorem A. 1 implies (17) under (Indep0). Under (Indep0), $\tilde{\ell}(P)$ is independent of the random variable family

$$
\left\{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)} \mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\}, \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq m\right\}
$$

Hence, (34) provides that $\operatorname{FDX}(R, P)$ is smaller or equal to

$$
\begin{array}{r}
\sum_{\ell=1}^{m} \mathbb{1}\left\{\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right| \leq m(\ell)\right\} \mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}\left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{0}(P)}\right. \\
\left.\mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\} \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right) \\
\times \mathbf{P}_{X \sim P}(\widetilde{\ell}(P)=\ell) \leq B(\tau, \alpha)
\end{array}
$$

which gives (17).
Finally, for completeness, let us now prove Theorem A.1. Let $R_{\ell}=\{i \in$ $\left.\{1, \ldots, m\}: p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\}$ for all $\ell$. First, we have for any $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$ such that $\left|R_{\ell}\right|=\ell$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\{\operatorname{FDP}\left(R_{\ell}, P\right)>\alpha\right\} & =\left\{\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P) \cap R_{\ell}\right|>\alpha \ell\right\}=\left\{\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P) \cap R_{\ell}\right| \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right\} \\
& =\left\{\ell-\left|\mathcal{H}_{1}(P) \cap R_{\ell}\right| \geq\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\right\} \subset\{\ell \geq \widetilde{\ell}(P)\}
\end{aligned}
$$

by using the definition of $\tilde{\ell}(P)$. Assuming now $\left|R_{\ell^{\prime}}\right| \geq \ell^{\prime}$ for all $\ell^{\prime} \leq \ell$, we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\{\operatorname{FDP}\left(R_{\ell}, P\right)>\alpha\right\} & \subset\left\{\ell \geq \widetilde{\ell}(P),\left|R_{\widetilde{\ell}(P)}\right| \geq \widetilde{\ell}(P)\right\} \\
& \subset\left\{\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P) \cap R_{\widetilde{\ell}(P)}\right| \geq\lfloor\alpha \widetilde{\ell}(P)\rfloor+1\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

where the last step uses the definition of $\widetilde{\ell}(P)$. Moreover, if $\widetilde{\ell}(P) \geq 2$, by minimality of $\widetilde{\ell}(P)$, we have $(\widetilde{\ell}(P)-1)-\sum_{i \in \mathcal{H}_{1}(P)} \mathbb{1}\left\{p_{i}(X) \leq \tau_{\widetilde{\ell}(P)-1}\right\}<$ $\lfloor\alpha(\widetilde{\ell}(P)-1)\rfloor+1$. Hence, we obtain the following upper-bound for $\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right|$ :
$\left|\mathcal{H}_{0}(P)\right|=m-\left|\mathcal{H}_{1}(P)\right| \leq m-\left|\mathcal{H}_{1}(P) \cap R_{\widetilde{\ell}(P)-1}\right| \leq m-\widetilde{\ell}(P)+\lfloor\alpha(\widetilde{\ell}(P)-1)\rfloor+1$.
Since the above bound is also true when $\widetilde{\ell}(P)=1$, it holds for any possible value of $\widetilde{\ell}(P) \leq m$. Since $\ell=\widehat{\ell}$ in (9) satisfies both $\left|R_{\ell}\right|=\ell$ and $\left|R_{\ell^{\prime}}\right| \geq \ell^{\prime}$ for all $\ell^{\prime} \leq \ell$, combining the above displays gives (34).

## A.2. Proof of Proposition 2.1

First, we have with $P$-probability 1 , for all $i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}, p_{i} \in \mathcal{A}$, both under (Cont) or (Discrete). Hence, by (10), we have $\left\{\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \xi_{\ell}\left(p_{\sigma(\ell)}\right) \leq\right.$ $\zeta\}=\left\{\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq \tau_{\ell}\right\}$. By (9), this gives

$$
\widehat{\ell}=\max \left\{\ell \in\{0, \ldots, m\}: \forall \ell^{\prime} \leq \ell, p_{\ell^{\prime}}^{\prime} \leq \zeta\right\}
$$

where we have denoted $p_{\ell}^{\prime}=\xi_{\ell}\left(p_{\sigma(\ell)}\right)$ for all $\ell$. Now note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\{\sigma(1), \ldots, \sigma(\widehat{\ell})\} & =\left\{i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \sigma^{-1}(i) \in\{1, \ldots, \widehat{\ell}\}\right\} \\
& =\left\{i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \forall \ell \in\left\{1, \ldots, \sigma^{-1}(i)\right\}, p_{\ell}^{\prime} \leq \zeta\right\} \\
& =\left\{i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \max _{\ell \in\left\{1, \ldots, \sigma^{-1}(i)\right\}}\left\{p_{\ell}^{\prime}\right\} \leq \zeta\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

hence it is sufficient to prove that $\tilde{p}_{i}=\max _{\ell \in\left\{1, \ldots, \sigma^{-1}(i)\right\}}\left\{p_{\ell}^{\prime}\right\}$ for any $i \in$ $\{1, \ldots, m\}$. For this, let us fix $i \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$ and write $\left\{\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq\right.$ $\left.p_{i}\right\}=\left\{\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: \ell \leq \sigma^{-1}(i)\right\} \cup A$, for $A=\left\{\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}: p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq p_{i}, \ell>\right.$ $\left.\sigma^{-1}(i)\right\}$. This is possible because, by definition, $\ell \leq \sigma^{-1}(i)$ implies $p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq p_{i}$. Next, for any $\ell \in A$, we have both $p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq p_{i}$ and $p_{\sigma(\ell)} \geq p_{i}$, which entails $p_{\sigma(\ell)}=p_{i}$ and thus $\xi_{\ell}\left(p_{\sigma(\ell)}\right)=\xi_{\ell}\left(p_{i}\right)$. Since $\sigma^{-1}(i) \leq \ell$ and by the nonincreasing property of $\ell \mapsto \xi_{\ell}\left(p_{i}\right)$, we have $\xi_{\ell}\left(p_{i}\right) \leq \xi_{\sigma^{-1}(i)}\left(p_{i}\right)=\xi_{\sigma^{-1}(i)}\left(p_{\sigma\left(\sigma^{-1}(i)\right)}\right)$. This gives $p_{\ell}^{\prime} \leq p_{\sigma^{-1}(i)}^{\prime}$ for all $\ell \in A$. Therefore,

$$
\max _{\substack{1 \leq \ell \leq m \\ p_{\sigma(\ell)} \leq p_{i}}}\left\{p_{\ell}^{\prime}\right\}=\max _{\substack{1 \leq \ell \leq m \\ \ell \leq \sigma^{-1}(i)}}\left\{p_{\ell}^{\prime}\right\} \vee \max _{\ell \in A}\left\{p_{\ell}^{\prime}\right\}=\max _{\substack{1 \leq \ell \leq m \\ \ell \leq \sigma^{-1}(i)}}\left\{p_{\ell}^{\prime}\right\},
$$

which leads to the result.

## A.3. Auxiliary lemmas

Lemma A.1. With the notation in (26) the quantity

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{P}\left(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}\left[m-\ell+i, \tilde{F}_{m-\ell+i}(t)\right] \geq i\right) \tag{35}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is equal to $\mathbf{P}\left(\boldsymbol{\operatorname { B i n }}\left[m-\ell+i, 1-\tilde{F}_{m-\ell+i}(t)\right] \leq m-\ell\right)$, is non-increasing both in $i \in\{1, \ldots,\lfloor\alpha \ell\rfloor+1\}$ and $\ell \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$.
Proof. First note that

$$
1-\tilde{F}_{j}(t)=\left(\prod_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j}\left(1-F_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)}(t)\right)\right)^{1 / j}
$$

in non-decreasing in $j$ (because the geometric average of larger numbers is larger). The quantity (35) is thus non-increasing with respect to $i$, so that the
only thing to check is that this quantity is non-increasing with respect to $\ell$. For this, it is sufficient to prove that $\operatorname{Bin}\left[j+1, \tilde{F}_{j+1}(t)\right]$ is stochastically larger than $\operatorname{Bin}\left[j, \tilde{F}_{j}(t)\right]$ for any $j \in\{1, \ldots, m-1\}$ (which is not obvious because $\left.\tilde{F}_{j}(t) \geq \tilde{F}_{j+1}(t)\right)$. Let $n_{1}=j, p_{1}=\tilde{F}_{j}(t), n_{2}=1, p_{2}=F_{(j+1)}(t), n=j+1$ and $p=\tilde{F}_{j+1}(t)$. We easily check that $n=n_{1}+n_{2}$ and by (26),

$$
\begin{aligned}
(1-p)^{n} & =\prod_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j+1}\left(1-F_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)}(t)\right) \\
& =\prod_{j^{\prime}=1}^{j}\left(1-F_{\left(j^{\prime}\right)}(t)\right) \times\left(1-F_{(j+1)}(t)\right)=\left(1-p_{1}\right)^{n_{1}}\left(1-p_{2}\right)^{n_{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

Applying Example 1.A. 25 in Shaked, M. and Shanthikumar, J.G. (2007) ( $m=2$ with the notation therein), we obtain that the sum of a $\operatorname{Bin}\left[n_{1}, p_{1}\right]$ variable and a $\operatorname{Bin}\left[n_{2}, p_{2}\right]$ variable (with independence) is stochastically smaller than a $\operatorname{Bin}[n, p]$ variable. In particular, a $\operatorname{Bin}\left[n_{1}, p_{1}\right]$ variable is stochastically smaller than a Bin $[n, p]$ variable. This gives the result.

Lemma A.2. For any $x, x^{\prime} \in \mathbb{R}^{m}$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sup _{1 \leq k \leq m}\left|x_{(k)}-x_{(k)}^{\prime}\right| \leq \sup _{1 \leq i \leq m}\left|x_{i}-x_{i}^{\prime}\right| \tag{36}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $x_{(1)} \geq \cdots \geq x_{(m)}$ and $x_{(1)}^{\prime} \geq \cdots \geq x_{(m)}^{\prime}$.
Proof. Let $\sigma$ (resp. $\sigma^{\prime}$ ) be a permutation of $\{1, \ldots, m\}$ ordering $x$ (resp. $x^{\prime}$ ), that is, such that $x_{(k)}=x_{\sigma(k)}\left(\right.$ resp. $\left.x_{(k)}^{\prime}=x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime}\right)$ for all $k \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$. Let $k \in\{1, \ldots, m\}$ and prove $\left|x_{\sigma(k)}-x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime}\right| \leq \sup _{1 \leq i \leq m}\left|x_{i}-x_{i}^{\prime}\right|$. Let us assume without loss of generality that $x_{\sigma(k)} \geq x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime}$. On the one hand, if $\sigma^{\prime}(k) \in$ $\{\sigma(1), \ldots, \sigma(k)\}$, then $x_{\sigma(k)}-x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime} \leq x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}-x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime} \leq \sup _{1 \leq i \leq m}\left|x_{i}-x_{i}^{\prime}\right|$. On the other hand, if $\sigma^{\prime}(k) \notin\{\sigma(1), \ldots, \sigma(k)\}$, then $\sigma^{\prime}(k) \in\{\sigma(k+1), \ldots, \sigma(m)\}$ and $\sigma^{\prime}(k+1), \ldots, \sigma^{\prime}(m)$ cannot all fall into $\{\sigma(k+1), \ldots, \sigma(m)\}$. This shows that there exists a $j_{0}>k$ with $\sigma^{\prime}\left(j_{0}\right) \in\{\sigma(1), \ldots, \sigma(k)\}$. Hence, $x_{\sigma(k)}-x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime} \leq$ $x_{\sigma^{\prime}\left(j_{0}\right)}-x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime} \leq x_{\sigma^{\prime}\left(j_{0}\right)}-x_{\sigma^{\prime}\left(j_{0}\right)}^{\prime}$ (because $k \leq j_{0}$ entails $\left.x_{\sigma^{\prime}(k)}^{\prime} \geq x_{\sigma^{\prime}\left(j_{0}\right)}^{\prime}\right)$, which can be further upper-bounded by $\sup _{1 \leq i \leq m}\left|x_{i}-x_{i}^{\prime}\right|$.

## Appendix B: Additional numerical details

Table 3
Average power (i.e. average of true discovery proportion) of median FDP controlling procedures $(\zeta=0.5)$ for $\alpha=5 \%$ and $N=25$.

| $m$ | $m_{3}$ | $m_{1}$ | $q_{3}$ | [BH] | [LR] | [DLR] | [GR] | [DPB] | [DGR] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 800 | 80 | 144 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0001 | 0.0025 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
|  |  | 144 | 0.25 | 0.0004 | 0.0031 | 0.0430 | 0.0077 | 0.0430 | 0.0430 |
|  |  | 144 | 0.40 | 0.0803 | 0.0853 | 0.3328 | 0.1195 | 0.4412 | 0.4406 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0001 | 0.0025 | 0.0002 | 0.0043 | 0.0043 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.25 | 0.0004 | 0.0031 | 0.0430 | 0.0077 | 0.0444 | 0.0444 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.40 | 0.0803 | 0.0853 | 0.3766 | 0.1195 | 0.4512 | 0.4511 |
|  |  | 576 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0001 | 0.0071 | 0.0002 | 0.0076 | 0.0076 |
|  |  | 576 | 0.25 | 0.0004 | 0.0031 | 0.0528 | 0.0077 | 0.0770 | 0.0770 |
|  |  | 576 | 0.40 | 0.0803 | 0.0853 | 0.4474 | 0.1195 | 0.5141 | 0.5128 |
|  | 240 | 112 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0025 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
|  |  | 112 | 0.25 | 0.0005 | 0.0031 | 0.0289 | 0.0076 | 0.0422 | 0.0422 |
|  |  | 112 | 0.40 | 0.2148 | 0.1226 | 0.4250 | 0.1984 | 0.5153 | 0.5139 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0025 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.25 | 0.0005 | 0.0031 | 0.0336 | 0.0076 | 0.0429 | 0.0429 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.40 | 0.2147 | 0.1226 | 0.4413 | 0.1983 | 0.5728 | 0.5716 |
|  |  | 448 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0025 | 0.0002 | 0.0037 | 0.0037 |
|  |  | 448 | 0.25 | 0.0005 | 0.0031 | 0.0389 | 0.0076 | 0.0430 | 0.0430 |
|  |  | 448 | 0.40 | 0.2145 | 0.1226 | 0.4609 | 0.1983 | 0.5921 | 0.5917 |
|  | 640 | 32 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0018 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
|  |  | 32 | 0.25 | 0.0010 | 0.0031 | 0.0203 | 0.0075 | 0.0212 | 0.0212 |
|  |  | 32 | 0.40 | 0.4243 | 0.3009 | 0.4908 | 0.5379 | 0.6730 | 0.6724 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0020 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.25 | 0.0010 | 0.0031 | 0.0203 | 0.0075 | 0.0212 | 0.0212 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.40 | 0.4242 | 0.3008 | 0.4974 | 0.5374 | 0.6746 | 0.6743 |
|  |  | 128 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0021 | 0.0002 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
|  |  | 128 | 0.25 | 0.0010 | 0.0031 | 0.0203 | 0.0075 | 0.0212 | 0.0212 |
|  |  | 128 | 0.40 | 0.4240 | 0.3008 | 0.5048 | 0.5369 | 0.6753 | 0.6750 |
| 2000 | 200 | 360 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.25 | 0.0001 | 0.0024 | 0.0198 | 0.0029 | 0.0222 | 0.0222 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.40 | 0.0730 | 0.0560 | 0.3331 | 0.0792 | 0.4315 | 0.4311 |
|  |  | 900 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0022 | 0.0000 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 |
|  |  | 900 | 0.25 | 0.0001 | 0.0024 | 0.0210 | 0.0029 | 0.0373 | 0.0373 |
|  |  | 900 | 0.40 | 0.0730 | 0.0560 | 0.3380 | 0.0792 | 0.4515 | 0.4515 |
|  |  | 1440 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0024 | 0.0000 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 |
|  |  | 1440 | 0.25 | 0.0001 | 0.0024 | 0.0378 | 0.0029 | 0.0428 | 0.0428 |
|  |  | 1440 | 0.40 | 0.0729 | 0.0560 | 0.4320 | 0.0792 | 0.5173 | 0.5144 |
|  | 600 | 280 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0007 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.25 | 0.0001 | 0.0024 | 0.0197 | 0.0029 | 0.0205 | 0.0205 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.40 | 0.2058 | 0.1137 | 0.4093 | 0.1960 | 0.5194 | 0.5176 |
|  |  | 700 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0020 | 0.0020 |
|  |  | 700 | 0.25 | 0.0001 | 0.0024 | 0.0200 | 0.0029 | 0.0205 | 0.0205 |
|  |  | 700 | 0.40 | 0.2058 | 0.1137 | 0.4374 | 0.1960 | 0.5678 | 0.5657 |
|  |  | 1120 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0014 | 0.0000 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 |
|  |  | 1120 | 0.25 | 0.0001 | 0.0024 | 0.0201 | 0.0029 | 0.0206 | 0.0206 |
|  |  | 1120 | 0.40 | 0.2057 | 0.1137 | 0.4545 | 0.1959 | 0.5908 | 0.5906 |
|  | 1600 | 80 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0007 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.25 | 0.0003 | 0.0024 | 0.0090 | 0.0029 | 0.0172 | 0.0172 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.40 | 0.4223 | 0.2949 | 0.4823 | 0.5288 | 0.6665 | 0.6658 |
|  |  | 200 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0007 |
|  |  | 200 | 0.25 | 0.0003 | 0.0024 | 0.0090 | 0.0029 | 0.0184 | 0.0184 |
|  |  | 200 | 0.40 | 0.4222 | 0.2949 | 0.4866 | 0.5286 | 0.6689 | 0.6683 |
|  |  | 320 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0007 |
|  |  | 320 | 0.25 | 0.0003 | 0.0024 | 0.0090 | 0.0029 | 0.0194 | 0.0194 |
|  |  | 320 | 0.40 | 0.4220 | 0.2948 | 0.4935 | 0.5283 | 0.6724 | 0.6715 |

Table 4
Estimated median FDP values for $\alpha=5 \%$ and $N=25$.

| $m$ | $m_{3}$ | $m_{1}$ | $q_{3}$ | [BH] | [LR] | [DLR] | [GR] | [DPB] | [DGR] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 800 | 80 | 144 | 0,15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 144 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 144 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0014 | 0.0014 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0014 | 0.0014 |
|  |  | 576 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 576 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 576 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0014 | 0.0014 |
|  | 240 | 112 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 112 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 112 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0018 | 0.0000 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 |
|  |  | 448 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 448 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 448 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0018 | 0.0018 |
|  | 640 | 32 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 32 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 32 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0062 | 0.0062 | 0.0125 | 0.0125 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0062 | 0.0062 |
|  |  | 128 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 128 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 128 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 2000 | 200 | 360 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 360 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0011 | 0.0011 |
|  |  | 900 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 900 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 900 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0006 | 0.0006 |
|  |  | 1440 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 1440 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 1440 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0011 | 0.0011 |
|  | 600 | 280 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 280 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0014 | 0.0000 | 0.0043 | 0.0043 |
|  |  | 700 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 700 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 700 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0029 | 0.0029 |
|  |  | 1120 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 1120 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 1120 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0007 | 0.0000 | 0.0021 | 0.0021 |
|  | 1600 | 80 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 80 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0050 | 0.0050 | 0.0150 | 0.0150 |
|  |  | 200 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 200 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 200 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0100 | 0.0100 |
|  |  | 320 | 0.15 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 320 | 0.25 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
|  |  | 320 | 0.40 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |

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