

1 We thank all the reviewers for their comments and suggestions. Reviewer-specific comments to follow.

2 **Reviewer 1.** Thank you for your thoughtful review. To address your main concern regarding larger scale experiments,
3 we ran experiments with $k = 150$ and $n = 5000$ which are larger than any of those in published works at NeurIPS and
4 ICML on submodularity in the past two years, with the exception of one paper using $k = 50$ and $n = 10000$. We will dis-
5 cuss this and explain the fundamental differences between this work on parallelization and the MapReduce framework de-
6 signed for distributed computing. We will appreciate if, in light of this response, you would consider revising your score.

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8 • **Regarding larger scale experiments:** We ran all algorithms for $k = 150$ and
9 $n = 5000$ and found the results consistent with those reported in the paper (see
10 Figures). With the existing experimental setup described in this paper we can easily
11 run DASH for $k > 1000$. Note that the bottleneck is that the benchmarks such as
12 SDS_{MA} are too slow, which is the main advantage of using DASH.

13 • **Regarding sample complexity of line 5 in Algorithm 1:** Please see lines 534-
14 539 in Appendix G. To obtain the guarantee with probability $1 - \delta$ one needs $m =$
15 $n \left(\frac{OPT}{\epsilon}\right)^2 \log\left(\frac{2n}{\delta}\right)$ samples. As discussed in lines 254-257, this is a worst-case lower
16 bound and, in practice, as few as 5 samples suffice. Similarly, the number of rounds
17 needed in practice is much lower than the theoretical number (lines 259-260).

18 • **Regarding applicability to MapReduce:** Yes, DASH is applicable in the MapRe-
19 duce setting. Algorithms in the MapReduce setting split the data across multiple
20 machines and run Greedy on each machine. Every such MapReduce algorithm can run
21 DASH instead of Greedy and enjoy a dramatic speedup. Referring to our discussion above, DASH can be implemented
22 on much larger instances than those that have been used in previous work, including those in the MapReduce setting.

23 • **Regarding parallelization of SDS_{MA} :** In each round of SDS_{MA} , the algorithm computes the marginal contri-
24 bution of each element to the solution set, which are parallelized. In lines 274-276, we state “When the calculation of
25 the marginal contribution is computationally cheap, parallelization of SDS_{MA} has a longer running time...due to the
26 cost of merging parallelized results.” We will be happy to include more details in the full version.

27 **Reviewer 2.** Thank you for your review. The main concern is the lack of discussion about Theorem 6 being related to
28 previous work [GD18] that appears on the arXiv. There is a slight technical difference between proof of Theorem 6 and
29 that of [GD18]. More importantly, since this work is unpublished, we were not aware of this work at the time of writing
30 the paper and we will be happy to cite it. Beyond this analysis, there are many technical and conceptual contributions in
31 this paper that enable the exponential acceleration of statistical subset selection problems. We will appreciate if you
32 would consider re-evaluating your score based on our response.

33 • **Regarding proof of Theorem 6:** Our proof of Theorem 6 first upper bounds the marginal contribution of a single
34 element a unlike the proof in Lemma 5.4 in GD18, which bounds the marginal contribution of the set of A . The
35 constants in the bounds also differ. Theorem 6 was introduced as an intermediate result to show that statistical subset
36 selection objectives are differentially submodular, which allows for effective parallelization by DASH. The definition of
37 differential submodularity and its application to parallelizable algorithms, which allow for both theoretical guarantees
38 as well as empirical performance, are the core novelties of our paper and not discussed in [GD18].

39 • **Regarding [HS16]:** Please see line 84 for “relaxations of submodularity and relationship to differential submodu-
40 larity in Appendix B” and line 439 “Horel et al. [HS16] define ϵ -approximately submodular functions...”. Approximate
41 submodularity defined in [HS16] is fundamentally different since the function is approximated pointwise by a sub-
42 modular function, but not its marginals. Differential submodularity stipulates that the *marginals* of a function are
43 approximated pointwise by submodular functions. This is a crucial difference: maximizing approximate submodular
44 functions leads to intractable optimization problems (for any $\epsilon \in \Omega(1/k)$ maximizing an ϵ -approximate submodular
45 function under a cardinality constraint requires exponentially-many queries to obtain a constant factor approximation).

46 • **Regarding relationship to relaxation of submodularity by Gupta et al. [GPB18]:** Differential submodularity
47 generalizes the definition of Gupta et al. so that $g(A)$ is not equivalent to $h(A)$. This is necessary in cases where the
48 objective function contains a diversity factor as in lines 180-181, 187-189. Showing that functions can be lower and
49 upper bounded by two different functions is crucial here. We will include this in the discussion as well.

50 **Reviewer 3.** Thank you for your comments. We focus on objectives that are fundamental to statistical subset selection.
51 We are working on extending this to dictionary selection and other applications. Regarding prior work, background
52 on adaptive sampling can be found in lines 37-44 and relaxations of submodularity in lines 421-441. Our differential
53 submodularity definition allows g and h to be different functions for added flexibility, which is necessary for objectives
54 with diversity terms (lines 180-181). Regarding experimental design, we will be happy to include results for larger k to
55 examine SDS_{MA} saturation. Regarding speedups, the bottleneck is the slowness of SDS_{MA} , which makes it difficult
56 to compare speedups for large k . However, we would be able to run DASH, but not SDS_{MA} , for $k > 1000$.

