



INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC STUDIES, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE (*established 1348*)

ROBUST STATISTICS AND ECONOMETRICS

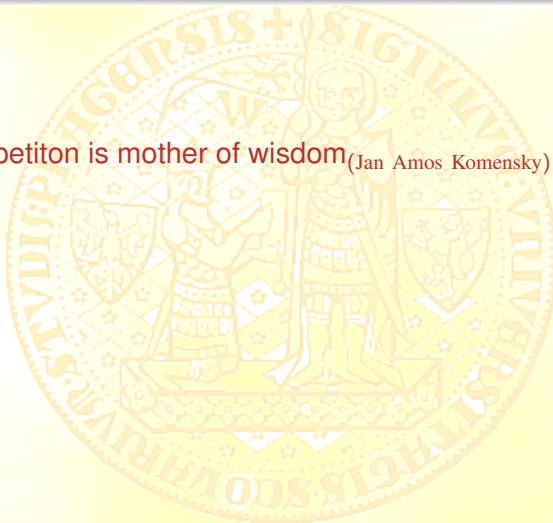
INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC STUDIES
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

JAN ÁMOS VÍŠEK

Week 5

Content of lecture

- 1 Repetition is mother of wisdom (Jan Amos Komensky)



Content of lecture

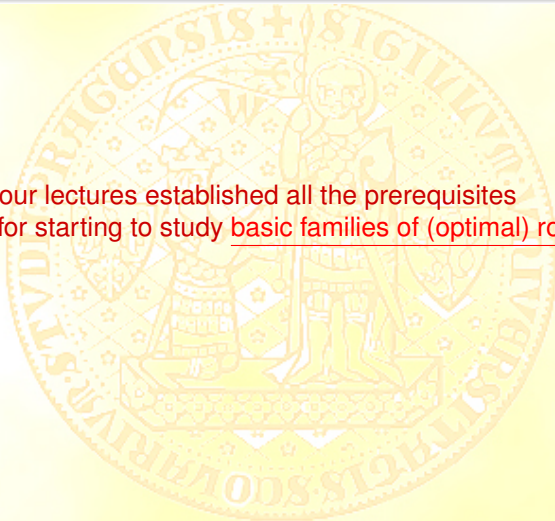
- 1 Repetition is mother of wisdom (Jan Amos Komensky)
- 2 Estimators alternative to the classical ones
 - Location parameter
 - Scale parameter
 - General parameter

Content

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The most popular families of robust estimators

The first four lectures established all the prerequisites
for starting to study basic families of (optimal) robust estimators.



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Prior to it let, repeat some basic findings from previous lectures.

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Prior to it let, repeat some basic findings from previous lectures.

We'll start with influence function
and the four robustness characteristics of estimators.

Recalling influence function

Returning to IF - the second return



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Returning to IF - the second return

The mathematical part of definition of the influence function is :

$$IF(x, T, F) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{T\left((1 - \delta)F(\cdot) + \delta \cdot \Delta_x\right) - T\left(F(\cdot)\right)}{\delta}.$$

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Let's recall that if we add new observation, say x_{n+1} ,
the value of estimator changes from

$$T(F) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n IF(x_i, F, T) \quad \text{to} \quad T(F) + \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} IF(x_i, F, T).$$

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So, $\frac{1}{n+1} IF(x_{n+1}, F, T)$ approximately represents
a contribution of the observation x_{n+1} to the functional $T(F_n)$.

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Influence function $IF(x, F, T)$ (IF) predetermines or predestinates (many) properties of estimator.

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That was the reason

why we have defined a couple of new requirements by it.

The “robustness” characteristics for basic estimators

At the end of the fourth lecture we have established
the influence functions and the robustness characteristics
for

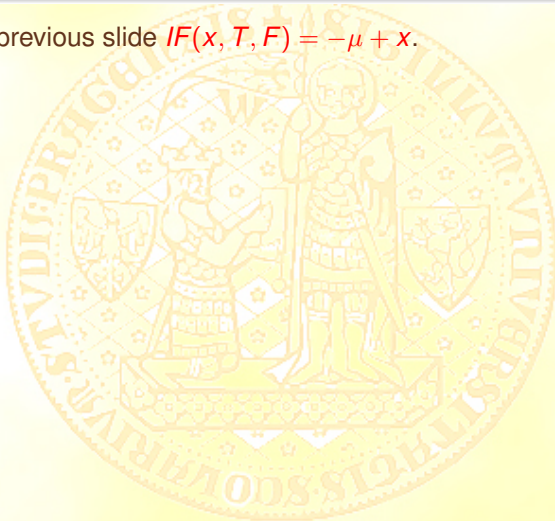
- 
- 1 the location
 - and
 - 2 scale parameter.

The IF and “robustness” characteristics for the location parameter

- 1 Fix $T(F) = E_F(Z) = \int Z dF = \int z \cdot f(z) dz$.
- 2 $T(F(.)) = \int z \cdot f(z) dz = \mu$.
- 3 $T((1 - \delta)F(.) + \delta \cdot \Delta_x)$
 $= \int z \{(1 - \delta)f(x) + \delta \cdot \Delta_x\} dz = (1 - \delta) \cdot \mu + \delta \cdot x$.
- 4 Finally, $IF(x, T, F) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta \cdot (-\mu + x)}{\delta} = -\mu + x$.

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So, from previous slide $IF(x, T, F) = -\mu + x$.



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As the IF isn't bounded,
the “robustness” characteristics of $T(F) = E_F(X)$ are:

- 1 The gross error sensitivity $\gamma^* = \sup_{x \in R} |IF(x, T, F)| = \infty$.
- 2 The local-shift sensitivity $\lambda^* = \sup_{x, y \in R} \left| \frac{IF(x, T, F) - IF(y, T, F)}{x - y} \right| = 1$.
- 3 The rejection point $\rho^* = \inf \{r \in R^+ : IF(x, T, F) = 0, |x| > r\} = \infty$.
- 4 The breakdown point $\varepsilon^* = 0$

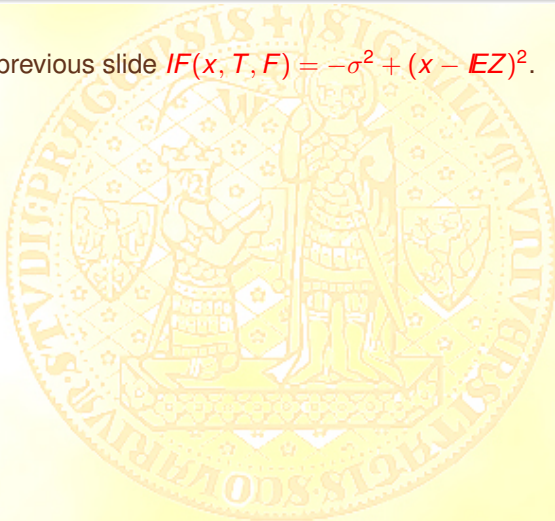
(the last characteristic is “derived heuristically”
from the finite version of breakdown point).

The IF and “robustness” characteristics for the scale parameter

- 1 Fix $T(F) = E_F(Z - EZ)^2 = \int (Z - EZ)^2 dF = \int (z - EZ)^2 \cdot f(z) dz$.
- 2 $T(F(.)) = \int (z - EZ)^2 \cdot f(z) dz = \sigma^2$.
- 3 $T((1 - \delta)F(.) + \delta \cdot \Delta_x)$
 $= \int (z - EZ)^2 \{(1 - \delta)f(z) + \delta \cdot \Delta_x\} dz = (1 - \delta) \cdot \sigma^2 + \delta \cdot (x - EZ)^2$.
- 4 Finally, $IF(x, T, F) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta \cdot (-\sigma^2 + (x - EZ)^2)}{\delta} = -\sigma^2 + (x - EZ)^2$.

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(the last characteristic is again “derived heuristically”
from the finite version of breakdown point).

We have discussed the general reasons causing instability of estimator.

Maximum likelihood - solving an extremal problem

$$\hat{\theta}^{(ML,n)} = \arg \max_{\theta \in \Theta} \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i, \theta)$$

$$\hat{\theta}^{(ML,n)} = \arg \max_{\theta \in \Theta} \sum_{i=1}^n \log(f(x_i, \theta))$$

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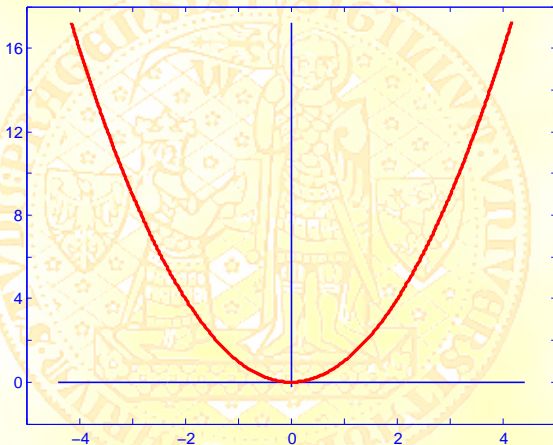
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The observations with large $(x_i - \mu)^2$
have a large influence on solution.

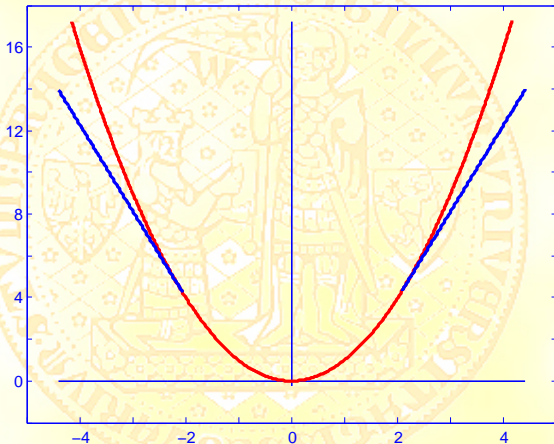
Evidently, low robustness is consequence of quadratic objective function

We have such objective function.



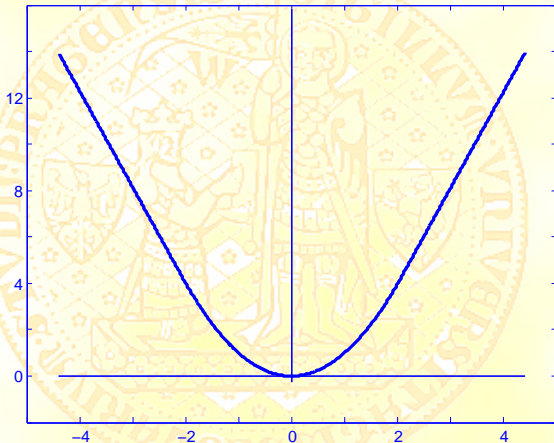
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We should depress influence of large residuals.



Evidently, low robustness is consequence of quadratic objective function

We should employ such **objective function**.



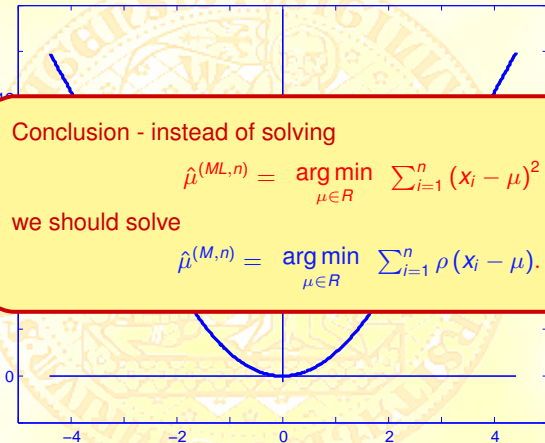
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Conclusion - instead of solving

$$\hat{\mu}^{(ML,n)} = \arg \min_{\mu \in R} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2$$

we should solve

$$\hat{\mu}^{(M,n)} = \arg \min_{\mu \in R} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(x_i - \mu).$$



Let's study general reasons causing it - an alternative way.

Maximum likelihood - solving the normal equations

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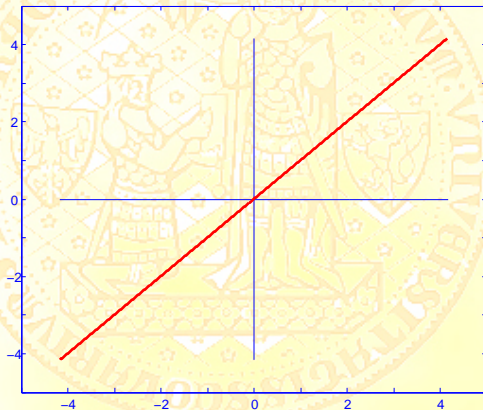
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The same conclusion:

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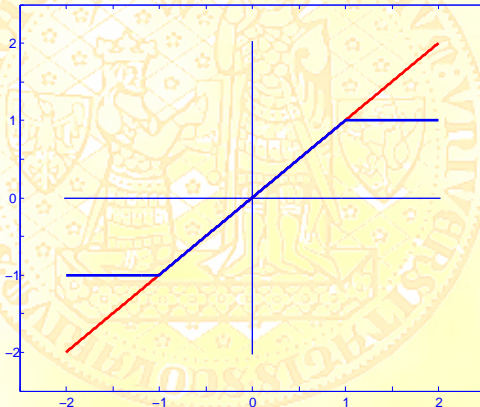
Equivalently, low robustness is consequence of identity in normal equations

We have such influence function.



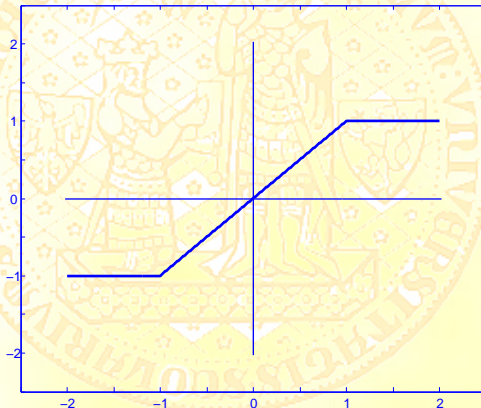
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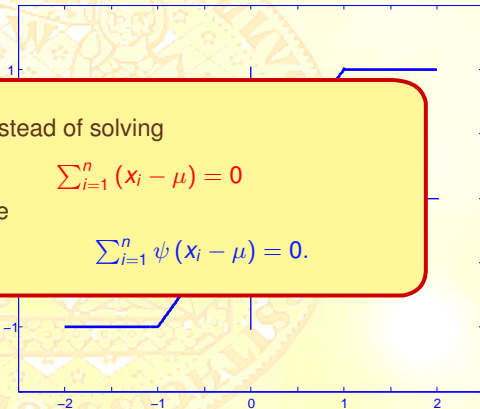
Equivalently, low robustness is consequence of identity in normal equations

Conclusion - instead of solving

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu) = 0$$

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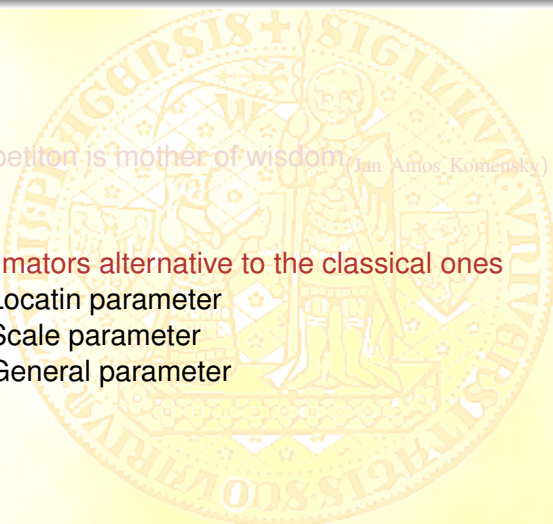
$$\sum_{i=1}^n \psi(x_i - \mu) = 0.$$




We have recalled everything what will be helpful
and bringing an inspiration for today discussion. So, let's start.



Content

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- 1 Repetition is mother of wisdom (Jan Amos Komensky)
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Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - location.

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Let's start with estimating the location parameter:

The solution of the extremal problem

$$\hat{\mu}^{(M,n)} = \arg \min_{\mu \in R} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(x_i - \mu)$$

is called *Maximum likelihood-like estimators of location*
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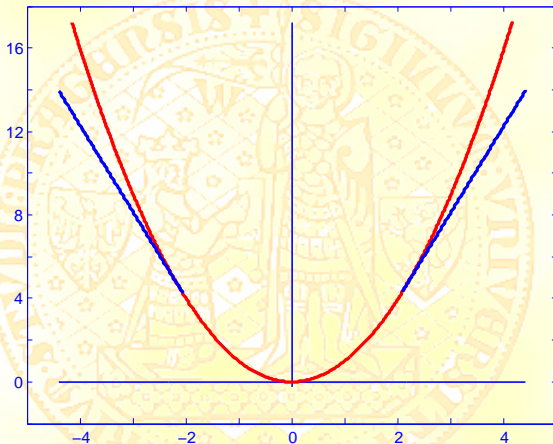
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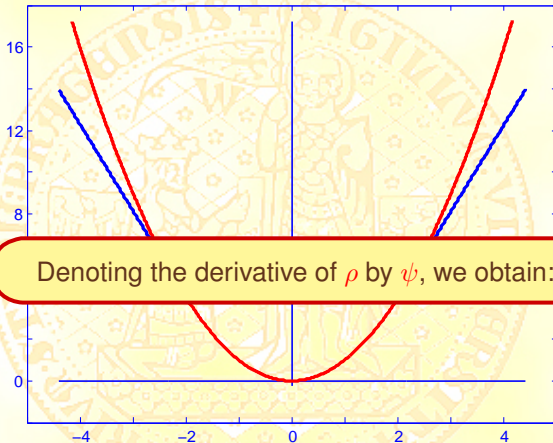
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(Example of ρ is on the next slide.)

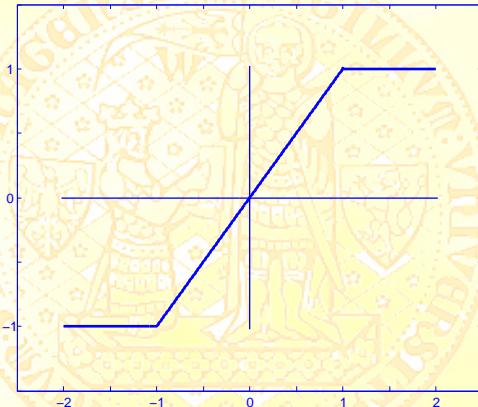
Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - location.



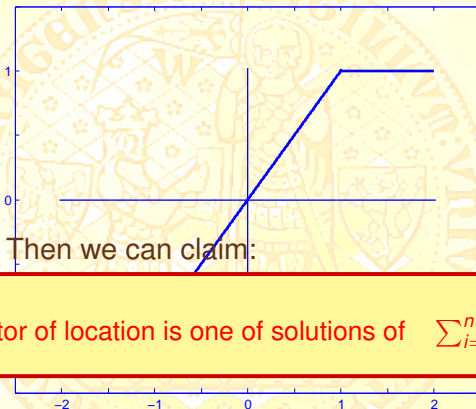
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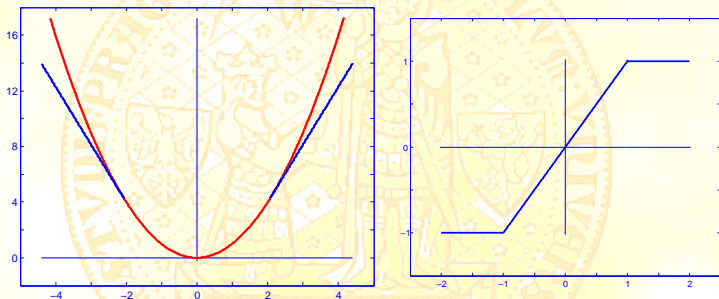
Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - location.



M -estimator of location is one of solutions of $\sum_{i=1}^n \psi(x_i - \mu) = 0$.

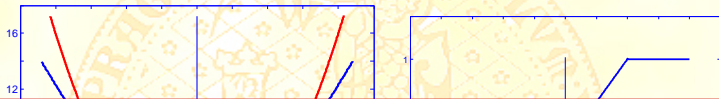
Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - location and scale.

The functions ρ and ψ were firstly proposed in:

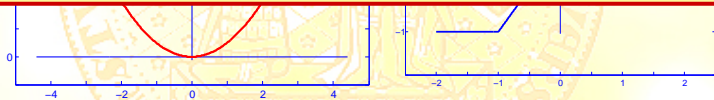


Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - location and scale.

The functions ρ and ψ were firstly proposed in:



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Ann. Math. Statist. 35, pp. 73–101.



Hence they are usually referred to as **Huber's ρ** and **Huber's ψ** .

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Let's continue with estimating the scale parameter:

The solution of the extremal problem

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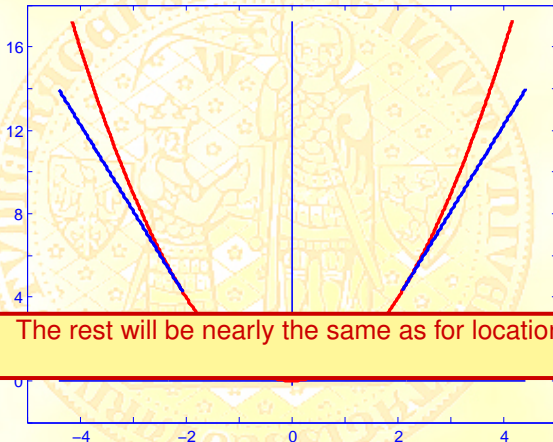
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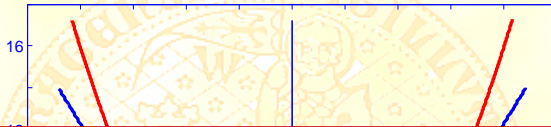
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(An example of ρ is the same - see the next slide.)

Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - scale.

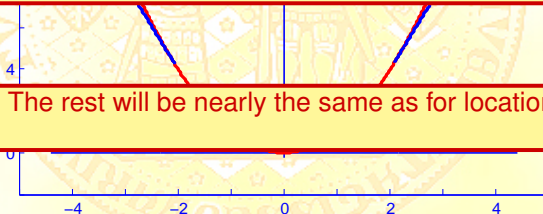


Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - scale.

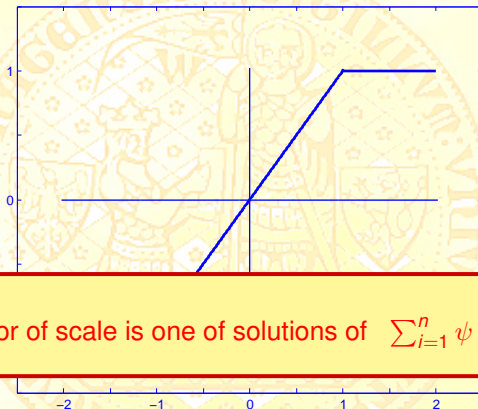


Denoting the derivative of ρ by ψ
(just the derivative according to argument), we obtain again:

The rest will be nearly the same as for location:



Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - scale.

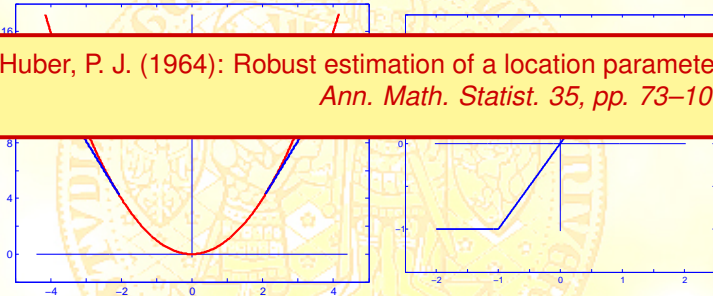


M -estimator of scale is one of solutions of $\sum_{i=1}^n \psi(x_i/\sigma) = 0$.

Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - scale.

Recalling once again that ρ and ψ were proposed in pioneering paper:

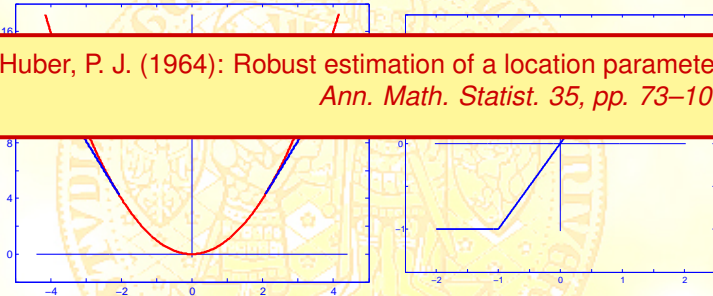
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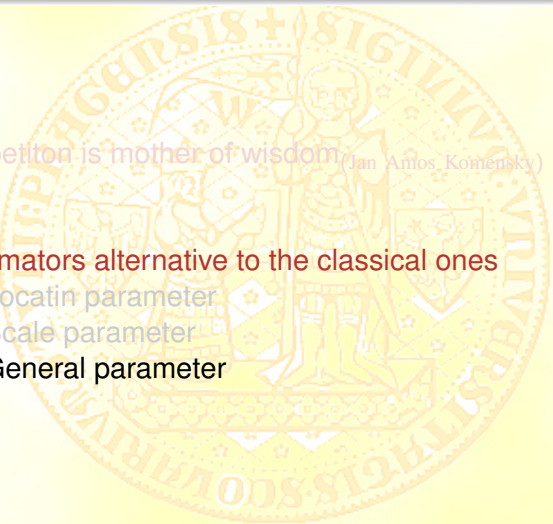
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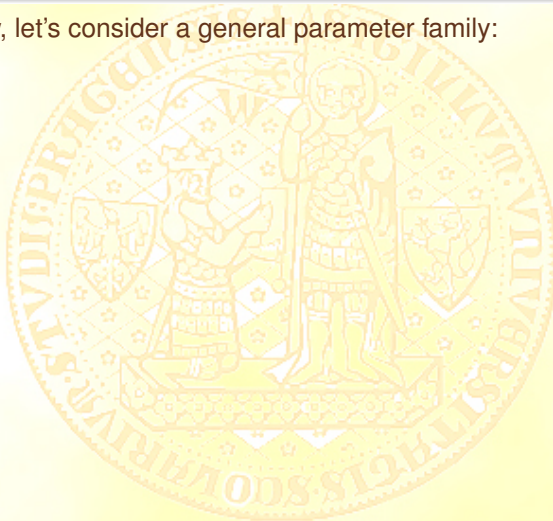
We can start to consider a general parameter.

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Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - general parameter.

Now, let's consider a general parameter family:



Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - general parameter.

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The solution of the extremal problem

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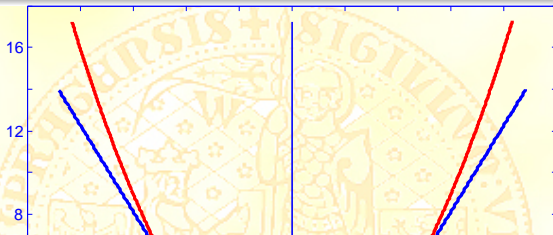
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(We can use the same ρ as for location and scale.)

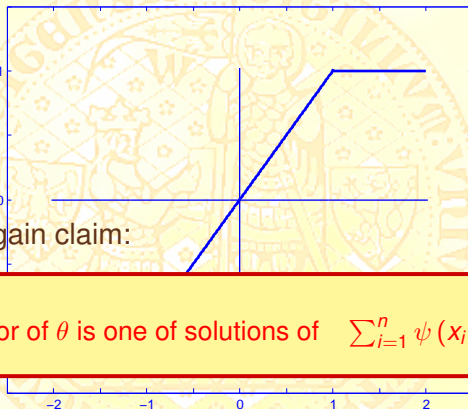
Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - general parameter.



Let's stress that the letters ρ and ψ became employed nearly exclusively for objective function and its derivative.



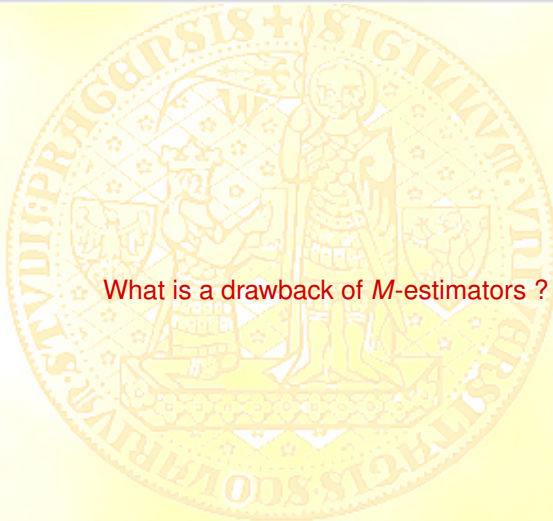
Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - general parameter.



Then we can again claim:

M -estimator of θ is one of solutions of $\sum_{i=1}^n \psi(x_i, \theta) = 0$.

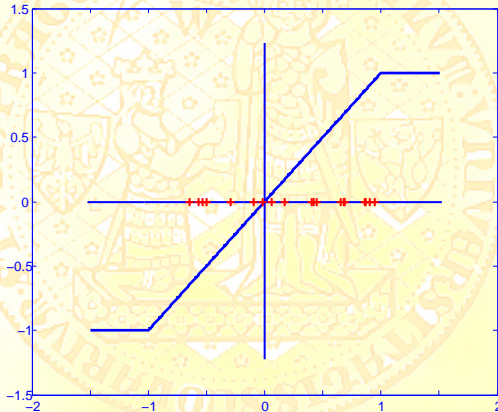
M -estimators - general parameter.



What is a drawback of M -estimators ?

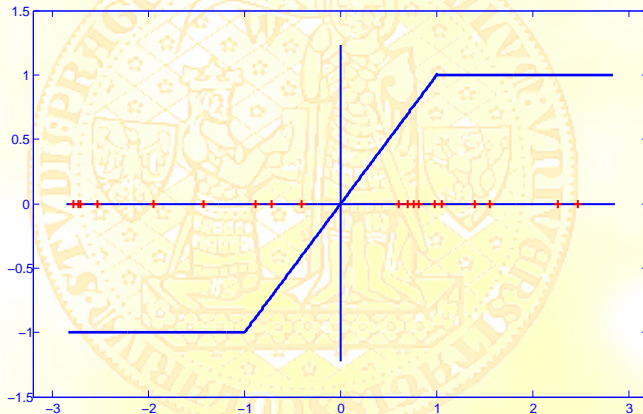
M-estimators - general parameter.

To learn it, let's consider the following data:

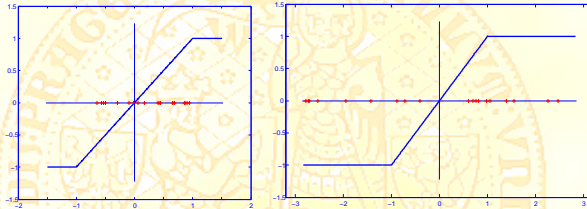


M-estimators - general parameter.

And now, let's consider these data:



M-estimators - general parameter.



Clearly:

The solution $\hat{\theta}^{(M,n)}$ of the normal equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \psi(x_i, \theta) = 0$$

is not scale-equivariant.

M-estimators - general parameter.



How to cope with the problem ?

M-estimators - general parameter.

Let $\hat{\sigma}$ be a (highly) robust estimator
of the standard deviation of data x_i 's and solve:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \psi(x_i / \hat{\sigma}, \theta) = 0.$$

The solution $\hat{\theta}^{(M,n)}$ is then scale-equivariant.

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An example of such estimator is

$$\hat{\sigma}_{MAD} = 1.483 \operatorname{med}_i \{|x_i - \operatorname{med}_j(x_j)|\}.$$

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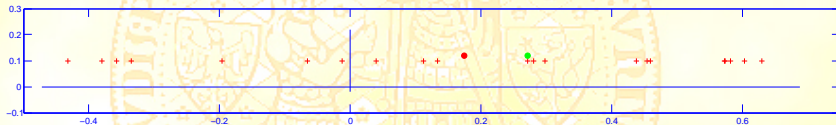
$$\hat{\sigma}_{MAD} = 1.483 \operatorname{med}_i \{|x_i - \operatorname{med}_j(x_j)|\}.$$

(A comparison of $1.483 * MAD$ and s_n is on the next slide.)

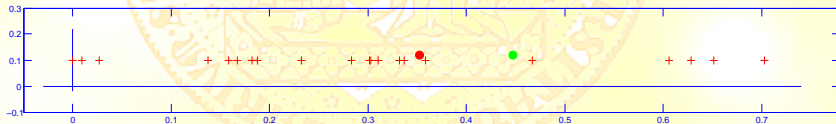
Demonstrating abilities of MAD

Observe the mean \bullet and the median \bullet
and standard deviation s_n \bullet and $\hat{\sigma}_{MAD}$ \bullet .

Non-contaminated data - normal d.f. $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{9}$



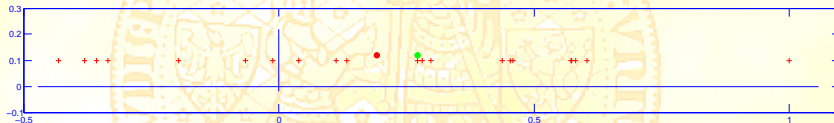
Absolute values of data



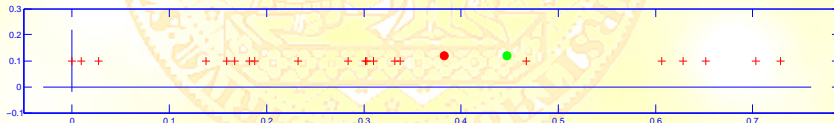
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Contamination at point 1



Absolute values of data



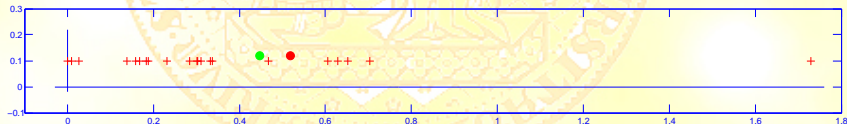
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Contamination at point 2



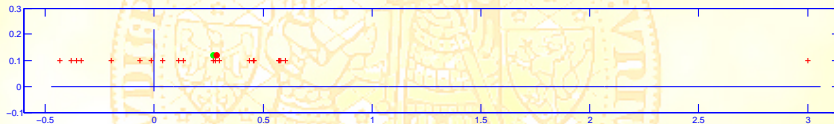
Absolute values of data



Demonstrating abilities of MAD

Observe the mean • and the median •
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Contamination at point 3



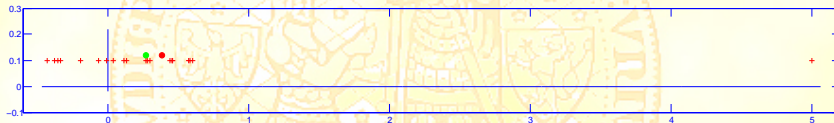
Absolute values of data



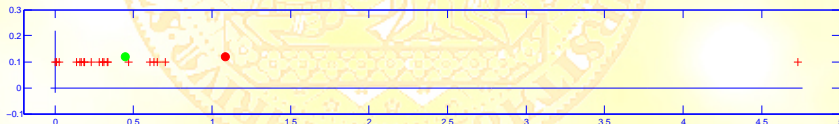
Demonstrating abilities of MAD

Observe the mean \bullet and the median \bullet
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Contamination at point 5



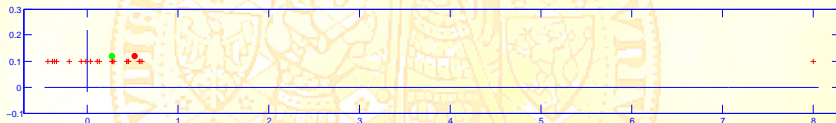
Absolute values of data



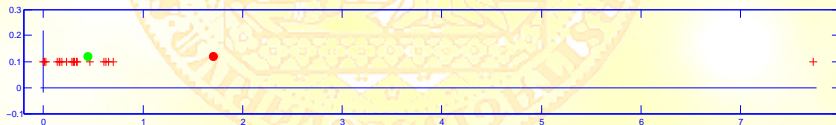
Demonstrating abilities of MAD

Observe the mean \bullet and the median \bullet
and standard deviation s_n \bullet and $\hat{\sigma}_{MAD}$ \bullet .

Contamination at point 8



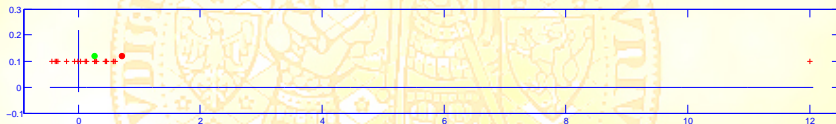
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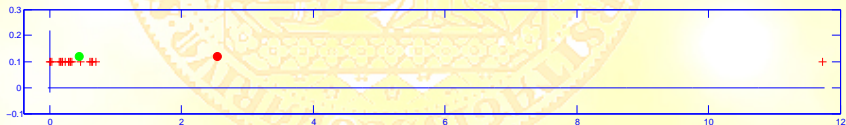
Demonstrating abilities of MAD

Observe the mean \bullet and the median \bullet
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Contamination at point 12



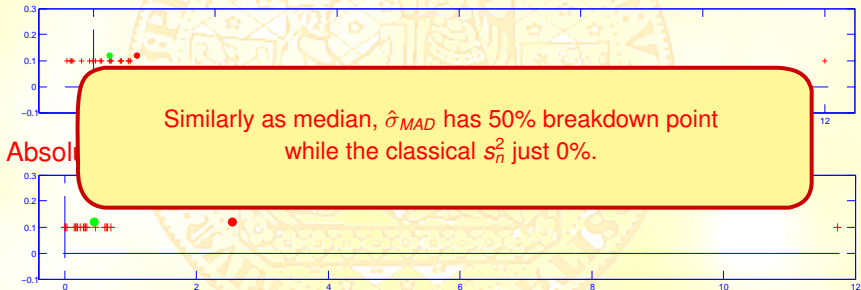
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Demonstrating abilities of MAD

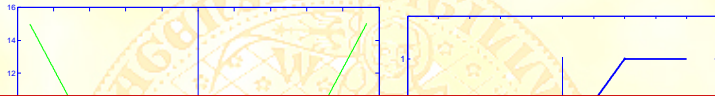
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Contamination at point 12



Reviewing the basic families of robust estimators - general parameter.

For the nearly exhaustive explanation see:

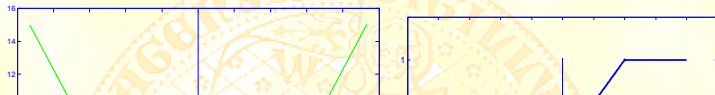


Hampel, F. R., E. M. Ronchetti, P. J. Rousseeuw, W. A. Stahel (1986):
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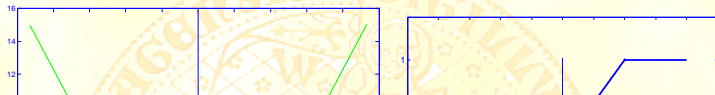


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(Let's give only one example.)

Example of searching for an optimal M -estimator of location.

Assume the underlying parent d. f. $F(x)$
with differentiable density $f(x)$ which is symmetric
and ask for the M -estimator solving the location problem
and having following properties:

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The solution is given by

$$\psi(x) = \max \{ -b, \min \{ b, -f'(x)/f(x) \} \}.$$

An example of the likelihood function $f'(x)/f(x)$

Let's consider the standard normal distribution

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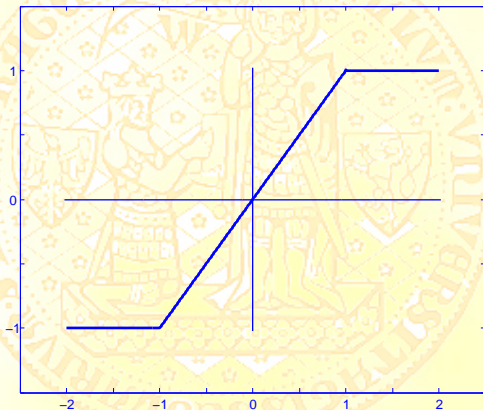
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hence

$$-\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} = x.$$

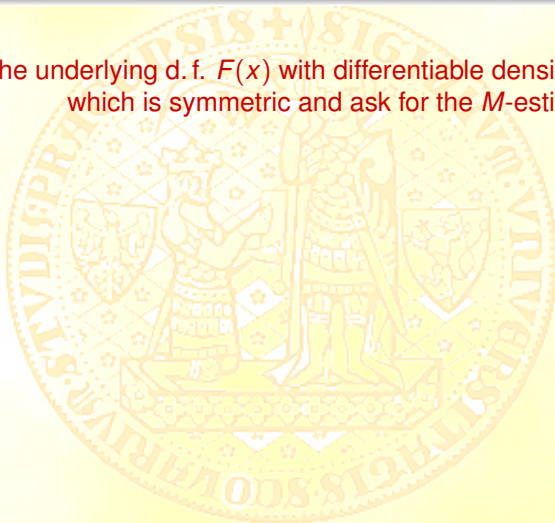
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Specifying $F(x) = \Phi(x)$, we obtain



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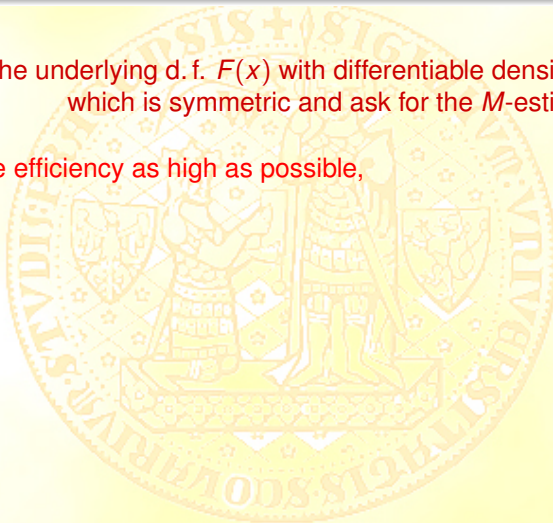
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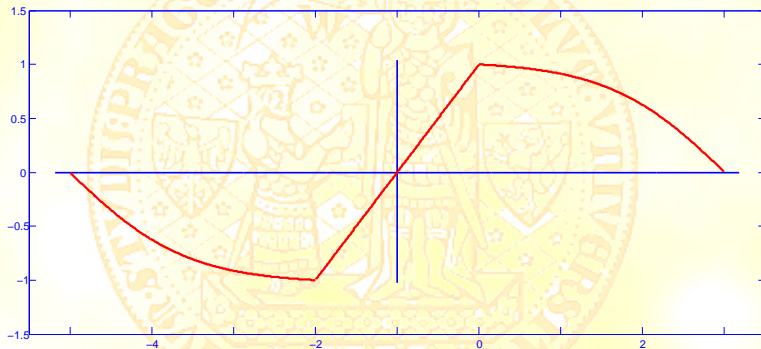
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$$\psi(x) = \max \{-h(x), \min \{h(x), f'(x)/f(x)\}\}$$

where the shape of the function $h(x)$ is given
by employment of $\tanh(x)$ - see next slide.

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Specifying $F(x) = \Phi(x)$, we obtain



Other types of estimators

Estimators based on linear (hence the name) combination of order statistics - L-estimators

Estimating the location

Observations $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n \Rightarrow \underbrace{z_{(1)} \leq z_{(2)} \leq \dots \leq z_{(n)}}_{\text{These statistics are called order statistics}}$

$$\hat{\mu}^{(L,n)} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \cdot z_{(i)}$$

where a_i 's are a priori selected weights.

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Estimating the scale

Put $r_i = |z_i - \hat{\mu}^{(L,n)}| \Rightarrow r_{(1)} \leq r_{(2)} \leq \dots \leq r_{(n)}$

$$\hat{\sigma}^{(L,n)} = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \cdot r_{(i)}$$

where b_i 's are again a priori selected weights.

Other types of estimators

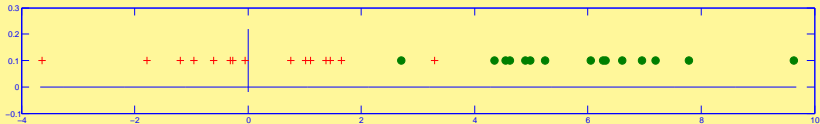
Estimators based on rank statistics (hence the name)
R-estimators

Estimating the location

Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations, $\Delta \in R$ and consider data

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, 2\Delta - x_1, 2\Delta - x_2, \dots, 2\Delta - x_n.$$

The situation can look like this for $\Delta = 3$



Other types of estimators

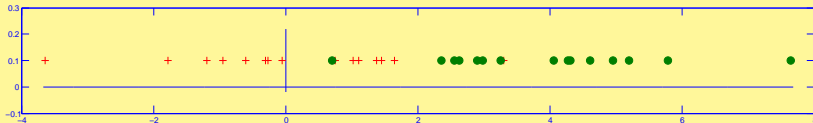
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Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations, $\Delta \in \mathbb{R}$ and consider data

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The situation can look like this for $\Delta = 2$



Other types of estimators

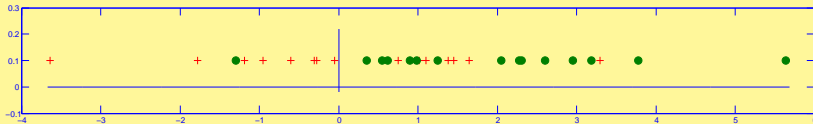
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Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations, $\Delta \in \mathbb{R}$ and consider data

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The situation can look like this for $\Delta = 1$



Other types of estimators

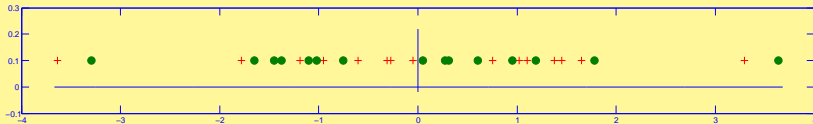
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The situation can look like this for $\Delta = 0$



Other types of estimators

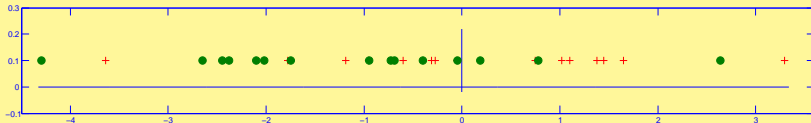
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Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations, $\Delta \in \mathbb{R}$ and consider data

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The situation can look like this for $\Delta = -0.5$



Other types of estimators

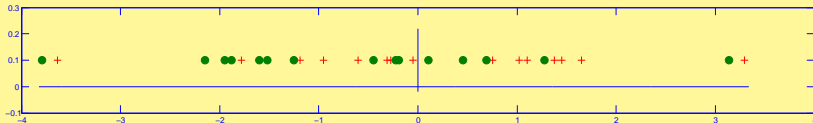
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Estimating the location

Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations, $\Delta \in R$ and consider data

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, 2\Delta - x_1, 2\Delta - x_2, \dots, 2\Delta - x_n.$$

The situation can look like this for $\Delta = -0.25$



Other types of estimators

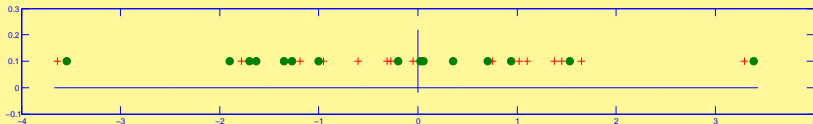
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The situation can look like this for $\Delta = -0.125$



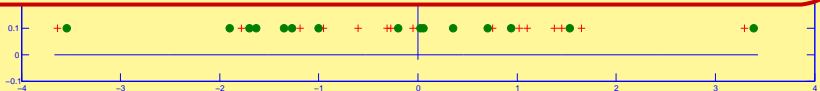
Other types of estimators

Estimators based on rank statistics (hence the name)
R-estimators

Estimating the location

Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations, $\Delta \in \mathcal{R}$ and consider data

Under assumption that data were generated by a symmetric density we can prove that Δ minimizing distance between x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and $2\Delta - x_1, 2\Delta - x_2, \dots, 2\Delta - x_n$ is a consistent estimator of location.



Other types of estimators

Estimators based on rank statistics (hence the name)
 R -estimators

Estimating the location

Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be observations and $\Delta \in R$.

Let R_i be the rank of the i -th observations in the pooled sample

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, 2\Delta - x_1, 2\Delta - x_2, \dots, 2\Delta - x_n$$

and put

$$S_n(\Delta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_n(R_i)$$

where $a_n(R) = n \int_{\frac{R-1}{n}}^{\frac{R}{n}} \Psi(u) du$ with $\Psi(u) = \Psi(1-u)$ ($\rightarrow \int_0^1 \Psi(u) du = 0$).

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Then put

$$\hat{\mu}^{(R,n)} = \arg \min_{\Delta \in R} S_n(\Delta).$$

Other types of estimators

Minimal distance estimators Estimating a general parameter

Let $\{F_\theta(x)\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$ $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rightarrow F^{(n)}(x)$ empirical d. f.

$\mathcal{D}(F, G)$ a distance on the space of all d. f.'s,
e. g. Prokhorov metric π or some I -divergence

Other types of estimators

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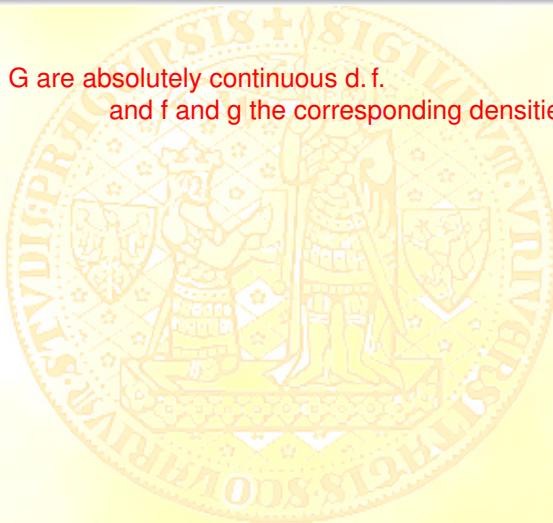
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$$\hat{\theta}^{(MD,n)} = \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{D}(F_\theta, F^{(n)})$$

Kullback-Leibler divergence

Let F and G are absolutely continuous d. f.
and f and g the corresponding densities, respectively.



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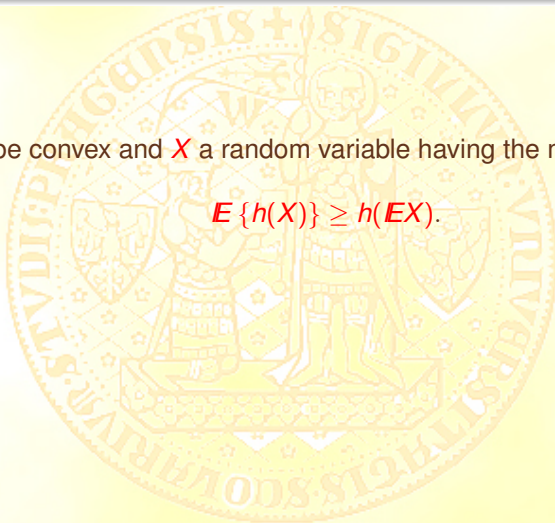
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The problem with orthogonality - Igor Vajda.

Jensen's inequality

Let $h(x)$ be convex and X a random variable having the mean value EX .
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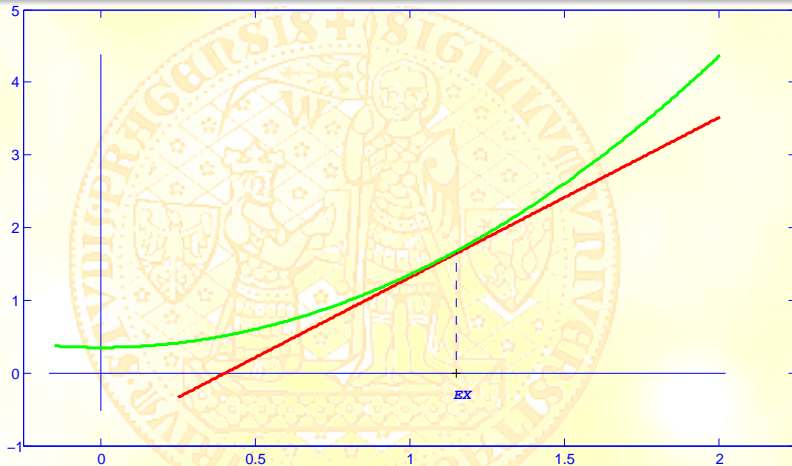
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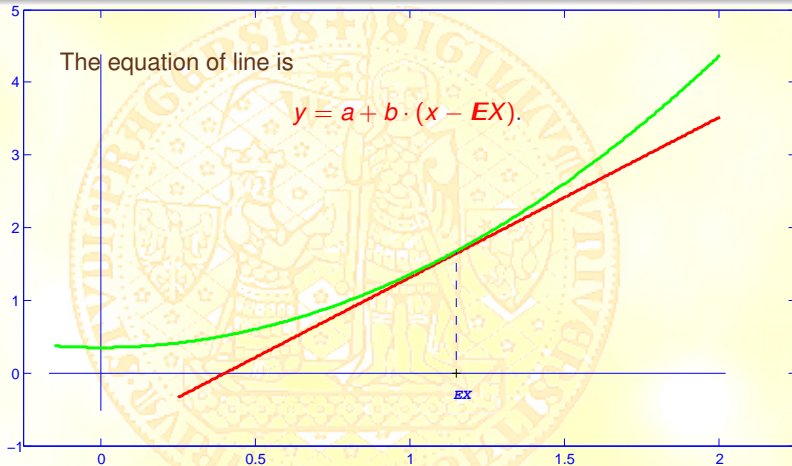
we have

$$E\{h(X)\} \geq h(EX) + b \cdot E(X - EX) = h(EX).$$

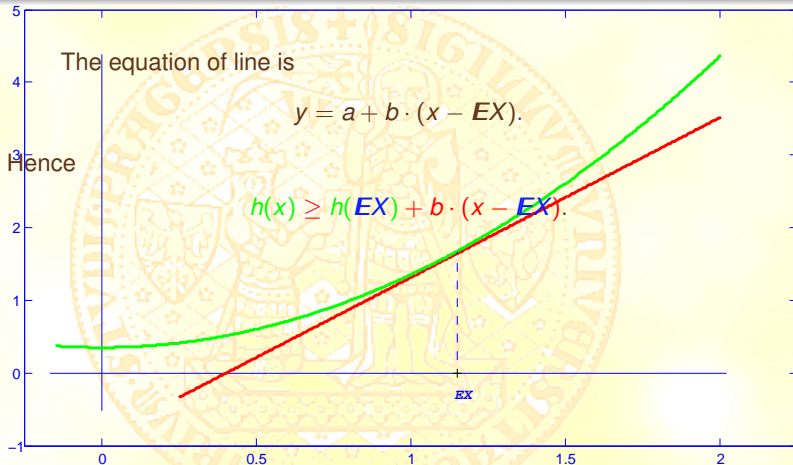
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Kullback-Leibler divergence

By Jensen's inequality we easily prove that

$$KL(F, G) = \int \log \left(\frac{g(x)}{f(x)} \right) \cdot g(x) dx = E_G \log \left(\frac{g(x)}{f(x)} \right) = -E_G \log \left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right)$$

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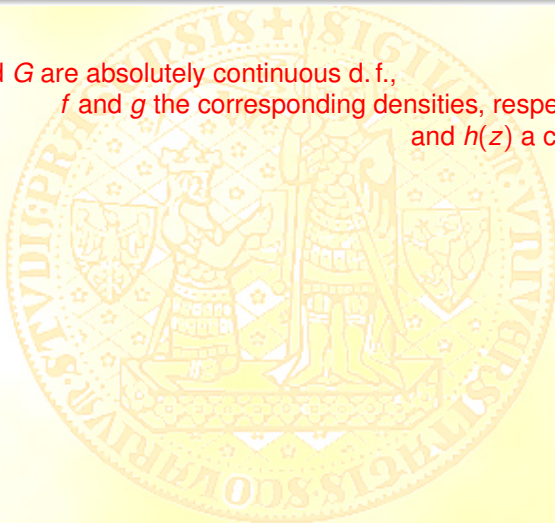
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As $-\log(z)$ is a convex function, we have

$$KL(F, G) = -\mathbb{E}_G \log \left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) \geq \log \left(\int \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} g(x) dx \right) = 0.$$

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By Jensen's inequality we again easy prove that

$$I(F, G) \geq 0.$$

Frequently used divergences

A great contribution to study of I-divergences:



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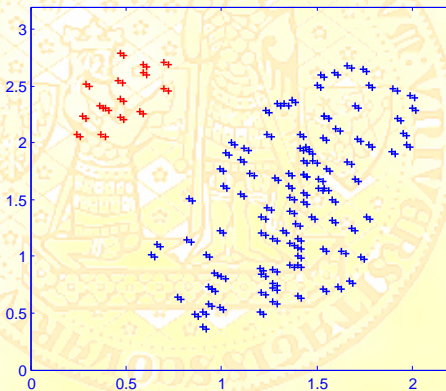
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The I-divergence is then called α -divergence.

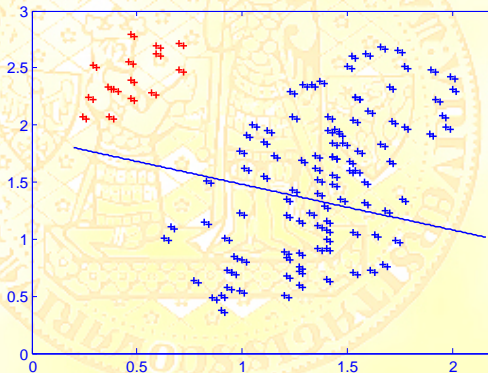
Other types of estimators

Minimal volume estimator Estimating a regression model



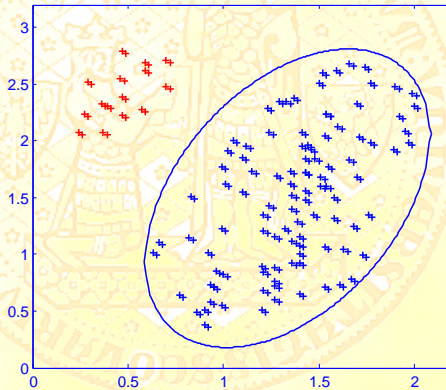
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By the way, the Ordinary Least Squares gives
Estimating a regression model



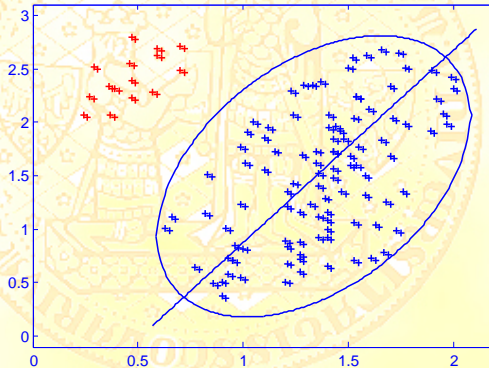
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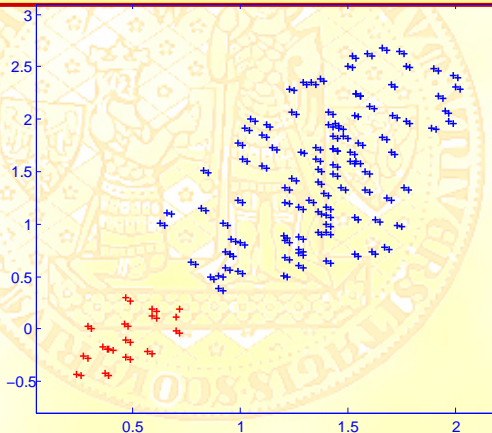
Other types of estimators

So, it seems we have nearly unmistakable tool
Estimating a regression model



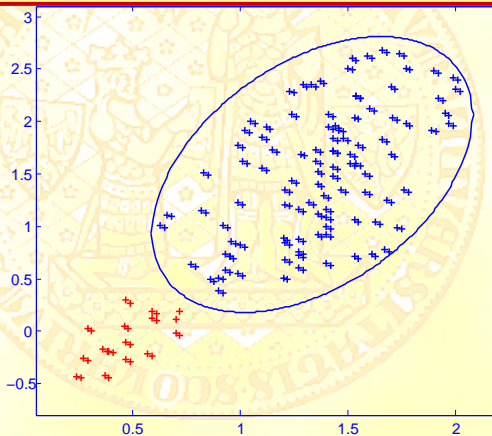
Other types of estimators

But what about such a situation
Estimating a regression model



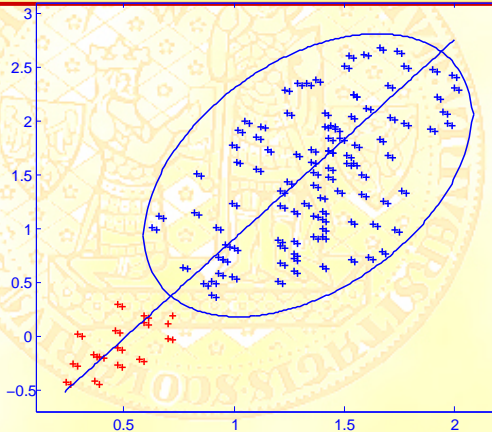
Other types of estimators

We can proceed as in previous case
Estimating a regression model



Other types of estimators

And the model is reasonable
but we lose idly some information





THANKS FOR ATTENTION