

Analysis of Directional Data

Brett Presnell

2015-09-14

Outline

Examples

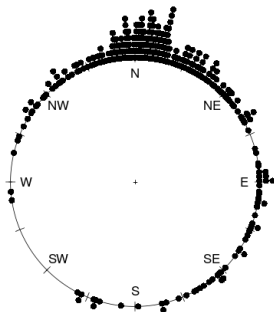
Wish to analyze data in which response is a “direction”:

- ▶ 2d directional data are called *circular* data
- ▶ 3d directional data are called *spherical* data
- ▶ not all “directional” data are directions in the usual sense
- ▶ “directional” data may also arise in higher dimensions

Wind Directions

- ▶ Recorded at Col de la Roa, Italian Alps
- ▶ $n = 310$ (first 40 listed below)
- ▶ Radians, clockwise from north
- ▶ Source: Agostinelli (CSDA 2007); also R package `circular`

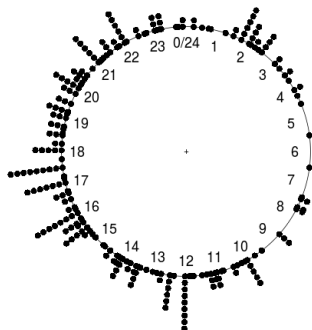
6.23	1.03	0.15	0.72	2.20
0.46	0.63	1.45	0.37	1.95
0.08	0.15	0.33	0.09	0.09
6.23	0.05	6.14	6.28	6.17
6.24	6.02	6.14	6.25	0.01
5.38	5.30	5.63	0.77	1.34
6.14	0.22	6.23	2.33	3.61
0.49	6.12	0.01	0.00	0.46



Arrival Times at an ICU

- ▶ 24-hour clock times (format hrs.mins)
- ▶ $n = 254$ (first 32 listed below)
- ▶ Source: Cox & Lewis (1966); also Fisher (1993) and R package `circular`

11.00	17.00	23.15	10.00
12.00	8.45	16.00	10.00
15.30	20.20	4.00	12.00
2.20	12.00	5.30	7.30
12.00	16.00	16.00	1.30
11.05	16.00	19.00	17.45
20.20	21.00	12.00	12.00
18.00	22.00	22.00	22.05



Primate Vertebrae

- ▶ Orientation of left superior facet of last lumbar vertebra in humans, gorillas, and chimpanzees
- ▶ Source: Keifer (2005 UF Anthropology MA Thesis)

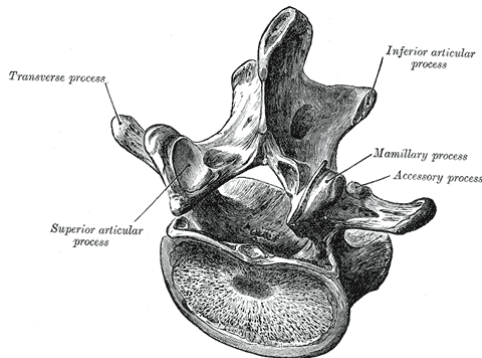


Figure 1 : Human lumbar vertebra with right superior facet labelled as superior articulate process.

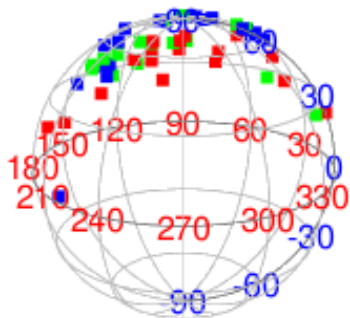


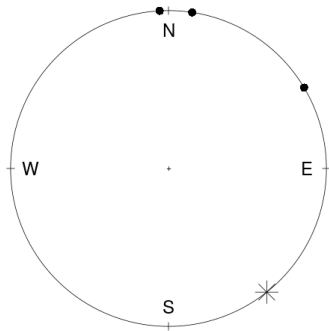
Figure 2 : Orientation of left superior facets for samples of 18 chimpanzees (red), 16 gorillas (green) and 19 humans (blue).

Butterfly Migrations

- ▶ Direction of travel observed for 2649 migrating butterflies in Florida
- ▶ Source: Thomas J Walker, University of Florida, Dept of Entomology and Nematology
- ▶ Other variables:
 - ▶ site: 23 locations in Florida
 - ▶ observer: Thomas Walker (tw) or James J. Whitesell (jw)
 - ▶ species: cloudless sulphur (cs), gulf fritillary (gf), long-tailed skipper (lt)
 - ▶ distance to coast (km)
 - ▶ date and time of observation
 - ▶ percentage of sky free of clouds
 - ▶ quality of sunlight: (b)right, (h)aze, (o)bstructed, (p)artly obstructed
 - ▶ presence/absence and direction (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW) of wind
 - ▶ temperature

Why is the Analysis of Directional Data Different?

- ▶ First three observations from the wind directions data: 6.23, 1.03, 0.15
- ▶ The mean of these three numbers is 2.47
- ▶ What do you think?



Graphical Display of Circular Data (in R)

- ▶ Have already seen simple dot plots for circular data, e.g., for the wind data:

```
1  windc <- circular(wind, type="angles", units="radians",
2                    template="geographics")
3  require("circular")
4  par(mar=c(0,0,0,0)+0.1, oma=c(0,0,0,0)+0.1)
5  plot(windc, cex=1.5, axes=FALSE,
6       bin=360, stack=TRUE, sep=0.035, shrink=1.3)
7  axis.circular(at=circular(seq(0, (7/4)*pi, pi/4),
8                           template="geographics"),
9               labels=c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW"),
10               cex=1.4)
11  ticks.circular(circular(seq(0, (15/8)*pi, pi/8)),
12                zero=pi/2, rotation="clock",
13                tcl=0.075)
```

- ▶ and for the ICU data:

```
1  ## Note that pch=17 does not work properly here.
2  par(mar=c(0,0,0,0)+0.1, oma=c(0,0,0,0)+0.1)
3  plot(fisherB1c, cex=1.5, axes=TRUE,
4       bin=360, stack=TRUE, sep=0.035, shrink=1.3)
```

- ▶ and one more ...

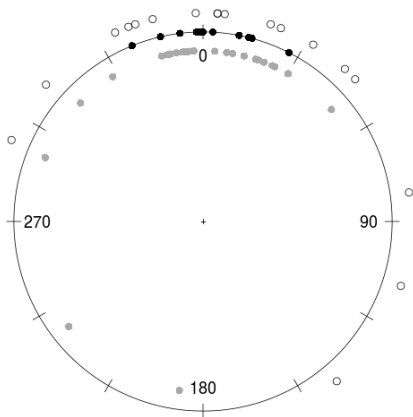


Figure 3 : Walking directions of long-legged desert ants under three different experimental conditions:

```
1  par(mar=c(0,0,0,0)+0.1, oma=c(0,0,0,0)+0.1)
2  plot(fisherB10c$set1, units="degrees", zero=pi/2,
3        rotation="clock", pch=16, cex=1.5)
4  ticks.circular(circular(seq(0, (11/6)*pi, pi/6)),
5                  zero=pi/2, rotation="clock", tcl=0.075)
6  points(fisherB10c$set2, zero=pi/2,
7          rotation="clock", pch=16, col="darkgrey",
8          next.points=-0.1, cex=1.5)
9  points(fisherB10c$set3, zero=pi/2,
10         rotation="clock", pch=1,
11         next.points=0.1, cex=1.5)
```

Circular Histograms

- Circular histograms exist (see Fisher and Mardia and Jupp)
but is there a ready-made function in R?

Rose Diagrams

- ▶ Invented by Florence Nightingale (elected first female member of the Royal Statistical Society in 1859; honorary member of ASA)
- ▶ Nightingale's rose in R (see also this post and the R graph catalog)
- ▶ Note that radii of segments are proportional to *square root* of the frequencies (counts), so that areas are proportional to frequencies. Is this the right thing to do?
- ▶ Rose diagrams suffer from the same problems as histograms. The impression conveyed may depend strongly on:
 - ▶ the binwidth of the cells
 - ▶ the choice of starting point for the bins

Adding a Rose Diagram to the Plot of Wind Directions

```
1 rose.diag(windc, bins=16, col="darkgrey",  
2           cex=1.5, prop=1.35, add=TRUE)
```

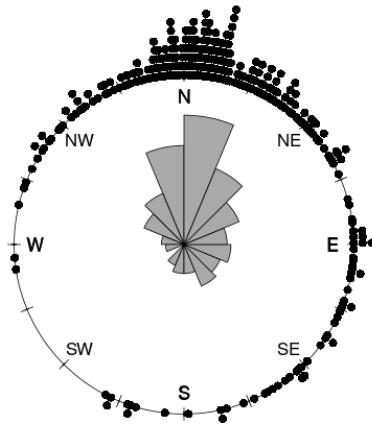
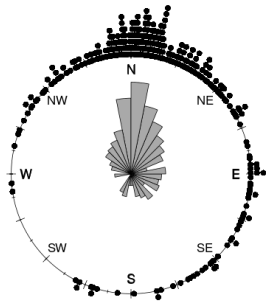
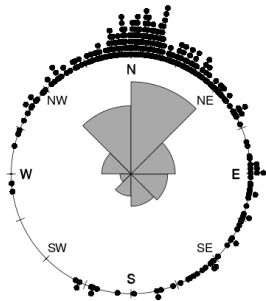



Figure 4 : Wind direction data with rose diagram with segment areas are proportional to counts (segment radii are proportional to square roots of counts).

Changing the Binwidth



Changing the Radii

- I think that the default “radii proportional to counts” is generally best, but this is not always obvious. The scale certainly makes a big difference however.

```
1 rose.diag(windc, bins=16, col="darkgrey",  
2         radii.scale="linear",  
3         cex=1.5, prop=2.4, add=TRUE)
```

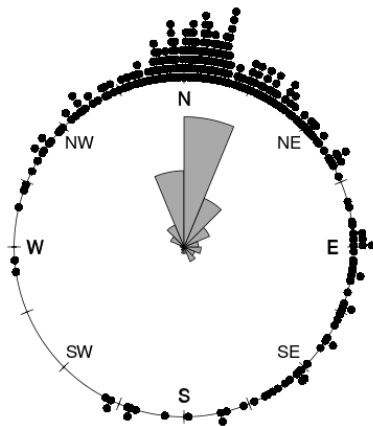


Figure 5 : Wind direction data with rose diagram (segment radii proportional to counts).

Kernel Density Estimates

```
1 lines(density.circular(windc, bw=40), lwd=2, lty=1)
```

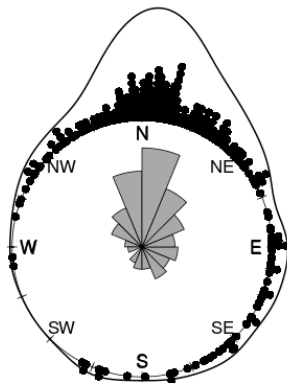


Figure 6 : Wind direction data with rose diagram and kernel density estimate.

Spherical Data

- ▶ Are there any canned routines for plotting spherical data in R?

Mean Direction and Mean Resultant Length

- First three observations from the wind directions data:

theta	x	y
6.23	-0.06	1.00
1.03	0.86	0.51
0.15	0.15	0.99

- resultant (sum of direction vectors): $(0.952, 2.5)$
- mean vector: $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) = (0.317, 0.833)$
- resultant length (Euclidean norm of resultant): $R = 2.675$
- mean resultant length: $\bar{R} = 0.892$
- mean direction: $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})/\bar{R} = (0.356, 0.934)$
- $\tilde{\theta} = 0.364$

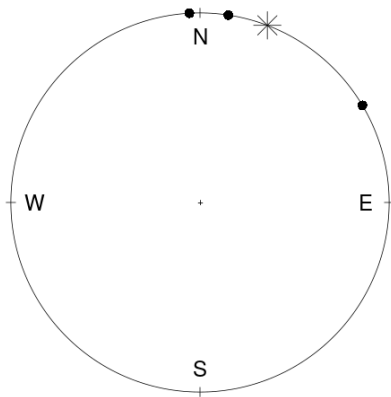


Figure 7 : First three observations from the wind directions data and their sample mean direction.

Generating Random Points on the Sphere

- ▶ Wish to generate a random “direction” in d -dimensions; i.e., an observation from the uniform distribution in the $d - 1$ sphere.
- ▶ Usual way: let $X \sim N_d(0, I)$ and return $U = X/||X||$.
- ▶ An alternative rejection sampler:
 - ▶ Repeat until $||X|| \leq 1$
 - ▶ Let X be uniformly distributed on the cube $[-1,1]^d$
 - ▶ Return $U = X/||X||$
- ▶ What is the acceptance rate for the rejection sampler:
 - ▶ Volume of the $d - 1$ sphere is $\pi^{d/2}/\Gamma(d/2 + 1)$
 - ▶ Volume of $[-1,1]^d$ is 2^d
 - ▶ Acceptance rate is

$$\frac{(\pi^{1/2}/2)^d}{\Gamma(d/2 + 1)}$$

dimension	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
accept rate (%)	79	52	31	16	8	4	2	1	0

```

1  runifSphere <- function(n, dimension, method=c("norm", "cube", "slownorm")) {
2      method <- match.arg(method)
3      if (method=="norm") {
4          u <- matrix(rnorm(n*dimension), ncol=dimension)
5          u <- sweep(u, 1, sqrt(apply(u*u, 1, sum)), "/")
6      } else if (method=="slownorm") {
7          u <- matrix(nrow=n, ncol=dimension)
8          for (i in 1:n) {
9              x <- rnorm(dimension)
10             xnorm <- sqrt(sum(x^2))
11             u[i,] <- x/xnorm
12         }
13     } else {
14         u <- matrix(nrow=n, ncol=dimension)
15         for (i in 1:n) {
16             x <- runif(dimension, -1, 1)
17             xnorm <- sqrt(sum(x^2))
18             while (xnorm > 1) {
19                 x <- runif(dimension, -1, 1)
20                 xnorm <- sqrt(sum(x^2))
21             }
22             u[i,] <- x/xnorm
23         }
24     }
25     u
26 }

```