Analysis of Directional Data

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Examples

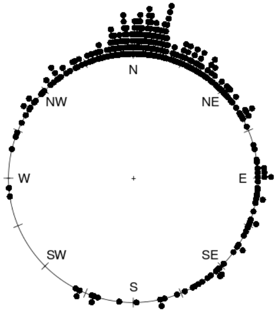
Wish to analyze data in which response is a “direction”:

- 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`

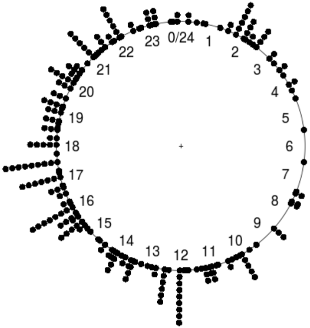
6.23	1.03	0.15	0.72	2.20
0.46	0.63	1.45	0.37	1.95
0.08	0.15	0.33	0.09	0.09
6.23	0.05	6.14	6.28	6.17
6.24	6.02	6.14	6.25	0.01
5.38	5.30	5.63	0.77	1.34
6.14	0.22	6.23	2.33	3.61
0.49	6.12	0.01	0.00	0.46



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)

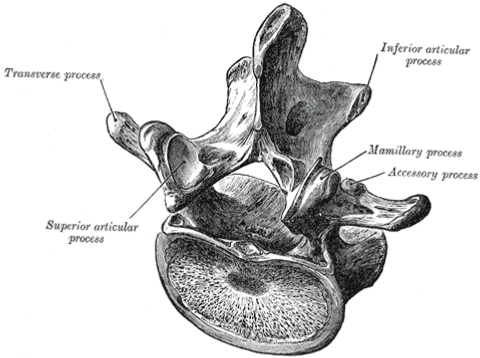


Figure : Human lumbar vertebra with right superior facet labelled as superior articulate process.

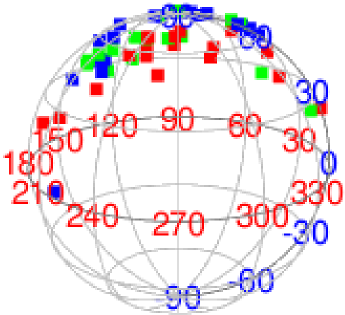


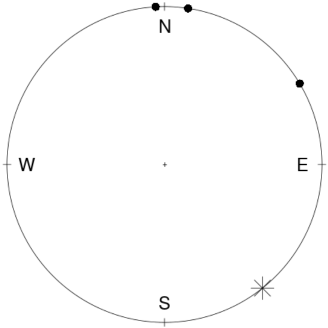
Figure : Orientation of left superior facets for samples of 18 chimpanzees (red), 16 gorillas (green) and 19 humans (blue).

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:

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

- and for the ICU data:

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

- and one more . . .

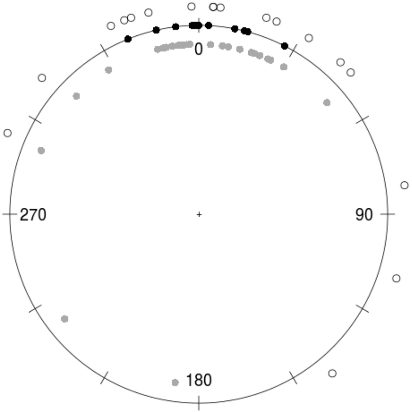


Figure : Walking directions of long-legged desert ants under three different experimental conditions:

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

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

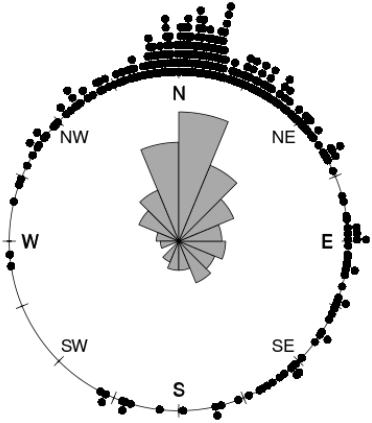
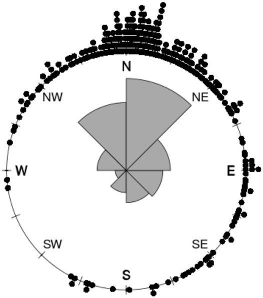
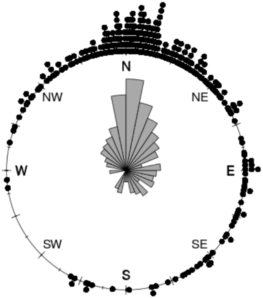


Figure : Wind direction data with rose diagram with segment areas are proportional to counts (segment radii are proportional to square roots of counts).

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.

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

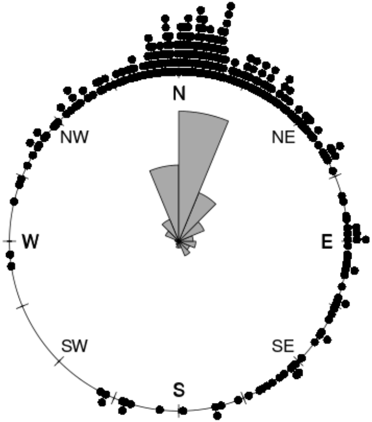


Figure : Wind direction data with rose diagram (segment radii proportional to counts).

Kernel Density Estimates

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

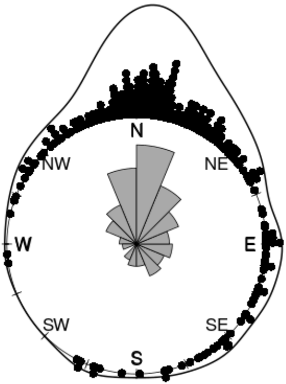


Figure : Wind direction data with rose diagram and kernel density estimate.

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: $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})/\bar{R} = (0.356, 0.934)$
- $\tilde{\theta} = 0.364$

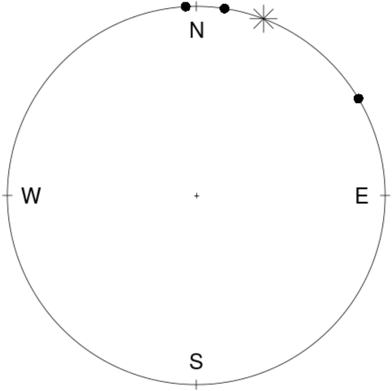


Figure : First three observations from the wind directions data and their sample mean direction.

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 $\mathrm{X} \sim \mathrm{N_d}(0, \mathrm{I})$ and return $\mathrm{U} = \mathrm{X}/||\mathrm{X}||$.
- An alternative rejection sampler:
  - Repeat until $||\mathrm{X}|| <= 1$
    - Let X be uniformly distributed on the cube $[-1,1]^{\mathrm{d}}$
  - Return $\mathrm{U} = \mathrm{X}/||\mathrm{X}||$
- 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 $[-1,1]^{\mathrm{d}}$ is 2^{d}
  - Acceptance rate is $(\pi^{1/2}/2)^d/\Gamma(d/2+1)$
  - Curse of dimensionality

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

```r
runifSphere <- function(n, dimension, method=c("norm", "cube", "slownorm")) {
    method <- match.arg(method)
    if (method=="norm") {
        u <- matrix(rnorm(n*dimension), ncol=dimension)
        u <- sweep(u, 1, sqrt(apply(u*u, 1, sum)), "/")
    } else if (method=="slownorm") {
        u <- matrix(nrow=n, ncol=dimension)
        for (i in 1:n) {
            x <- rnorm(dimension)
            xnorm <- sqrt(sum(x^2))
            u[i,] <- x/xnorm
        }
    } else {
        u <- matrix(nrow=n, ncol=dimension)
        for (i in 1:n) {
            x <- runif(dimension, -1, 1)
            xnorm <- sqrt(sum(x^2))
            while (xnorm > 1) {
                x <- runif(dimension, -1, 1)
                xnorm <- sqrt(sum(x^2))
            }
            u[i,] <- x/xnorm
        }
    }
    u
}
```

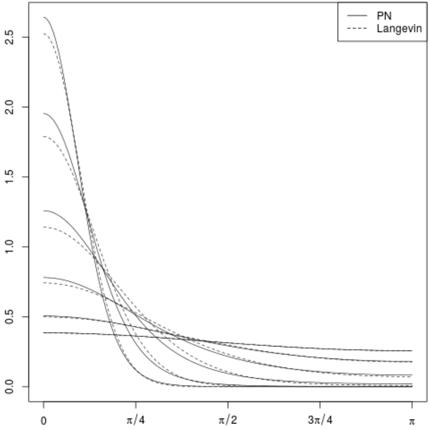
Easy fix for Borel's paradox in 3-d

Take longitude $\phi \sim U(0, 2\pi)$ independent of latitude $\theta = \arcsin(2U - 1)$, $U \sim U(0, 1)$.

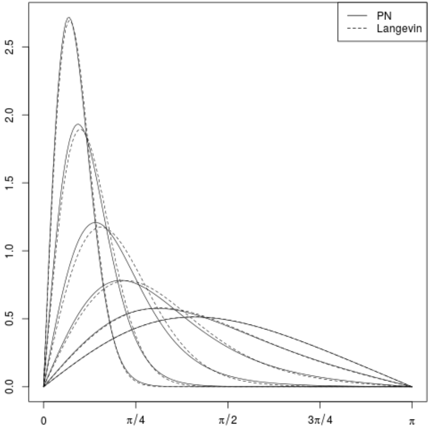
Comparison of Projected Normal and Langevin Distributions

One way that we might compare the $\mathrm{L}(\mu, \kappa)$ and $\mathrm{PN}(\gamma\mu, I)$ distributions by choosing κ and γ to give the same mean resultant lengths and comparing the densities of the cosine of the angle θ between U and μ.
Of course matching mean resultant lengths is not necessarily the best way to compare these families of distributions.

$d = 2$



$d = 3$



$d = 4$