

# Multivariate Symmetry: Distribution-free Testing via Optimal Transport

Bodhisattva Sen<sup>1</sup>  
Department of Statistics  
Columbia University, New York

Kantorovich Initiative Seminar

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<sup>1</sup>Supported by NSF grant DMS-2015376

## Collaborator



Zhen Huang  
PhD student (Columbia University, Statistics)

# Testing for symmetry

- **Data:**  $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$  iid  $X \sim P$  (abs. cont.) on  $\mathbb{R}$

- **Test** the hypothesis of **symmetry**, i.e.,

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**Long history:** Arbuthnot (1710), Wilcoxon (1945), Hodges & Lehmann (1956), Chernoff & Savage (1958), McWilliams (1990) ...

**Goal:** Develop distribution-free testing for **multivariate symmetry**

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- $O(p)$ : group of all **orthogonal** matrices on  $\mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$
- $\mathcal{G}$ : compact **subgroup** of  $O(p)$
- **Goal:** Develop **distribution-free** testing for  $\mathcal{G}$ -symmetry, i.e.,

$$H_0 : \mathbf{X} \stackrel{d}{=} Q\mathbf{X} \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{G}, \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \text{not } H_0$$

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**Long history:** Weyl (1952), Hodges (1955), Watson (1961), Bickel (1965), Randles (1989), Baringhaus (1991), Chaudhuri & Sengupta (1993), Beran & Millar (1997), Marden (1999), Zuo & Serfling (2000), Hallin & Paindaveine (2002), Oja (2010), Serfling (2014), ...

**Data:**  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $X \sim P$  ( $X$  abs. cont.) on  $\mathbb{R}$  (i.e.,  $p = 1$ )

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Sign test [Arbuthnot (1710)]

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- Under  $H_0$ :  $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (S_i + 1) \sim \text{Bin}(n, \frac{1}{2})$
- **Distribution-freeness:** The **null** distribution of  $\sum_{i=1}^n S_i$  is **universal** — does **not** depend on the underlying **distribution** of the data
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- **Issue:** Actually testing for  $H_0 : \mathbb{P}(X \geq 0) = \frac{1}{2}$ ; does **not** take into account the **magnitude** of the  $X_i$ 's

## Wilcoxon signed-rank test [Wilcoxon (1945)]

- Let  $R_i^+$  be the **absolute rank** of  $X_i$ , i.e., the rank of  $|X_i|$  in the sample of absolute values  $|X_1|, \dots, |X_n|$
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- Under  $H_0$ , the distribution of  $\sum_{i=1}^n S_i R_i^+$  is completely **known**

## Distribution-freeness

- $(R_1^+, \dots, R_n^+)$  are **uniform** over all  $n!$  permutations of  $\{\frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{n}{n}\}$
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- Leads to an **exact** and **distribution-free** test valid for all sample sizes
- Consistent** against **location shift** alternatives:  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $f(\cdot - \theta)$ ; here  $f$  (**unknown**) is **symmetric** ( $H_0 : X \stackrel{d}{=} -X \Leftrightarrow H_0 : \theta = 0$ )

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- Powerful** for **heavy-tailed** data, **robust** to **outliers** & contamination

Properties of sign and WSR tests when  $p = 1$  [van der Vaart (1998)]:

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- Hodges-Lehmann (1956): ARE of WSR test w.r.t. t-test  $\geq 0.864$
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**Question:** Can we derive tests with analogous properties when  $p > 1$ ?

The **distribution-free** nature of **signs** and **absolute ranks** (under  $H_0$ ) were crucial to developing distribution-free inference for **symmetry** when  $p = 1$

**Question:** Can we define **distribution-free** (generalized) **signs** and **ranks** and develop **distribution-free multivariate** tests for  $\mathcal{G}$ -**symmetry**?

The distribution-free nature of signs and absolute ranks (under  $H_0$ ) were crucial to developing distribution-free inference for symmetry when  $p = 1$

**Question:** Can we define distribution-free (generalized) signs and ranks and develop distribution-free multivariate tests for  $\mathcal{G}$ -symmetry?

(Multivariate) ranks defined via optimal transport (OT) [Hallin (2017)] lead to distribution-free testing

Chernozhukov et al. (2017), De Valk & Segers (2018), Hallin, del Barrio, Cuesta-Albertos, Matrán (2018), Shi, Drton & Han (2019), Deb & S. (2019), Ghosal & S. (2019), Hallin, La Vecchia & Liu (2019), Hallin, Hlubinka, & Hudecová (2020), Deb, Ghosal & S. (2020), Shi, Hallin, Drton & Han (2020), Deb, Bhattacharya & S. (2021) ...

# Outline

## 1 Generalized Signs and Ranks

- Connection to Optimal Transport
- Generalized Signs, Ranks and Signed-ranks
- Population Analogues

## 2 Multivariate Distribution-free tests for Symmetry

- Generalized Sign test and Wilcoxon Signed-rank test
- Lower bounds on Asymptotic (Pitman) Relative Efficiency

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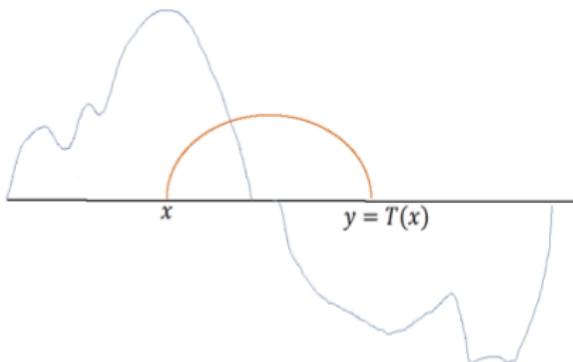
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# Optimal Transport: Monge's problem

Gaspard Monge (1781): What is the cheapest way to **transport** a pile of sand to cover a sinkhole?



**Goal:**

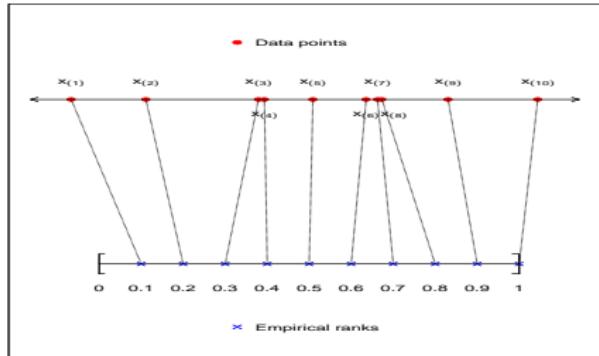
$$\inf_{\mathbf{T}: \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}) \sim \nu} \mathbb{E}_P[c(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}))] \quad \mathbf{X} \sim P$$

- $P$  (“data” dist.) and  $\nu$  (“reference” dist.)
- $c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \geq 0$ : cost of transporting  $\mathbf{x}$  to  $\mathbf{y}$  (e.g.,  $c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$ )
- $\mathbf{T}$  transports  $P$  to  $\nu$ :  $\mathbf{T}_{\#}P = \nu$  (i.e.,  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}) \sim \nu$  where  $\mathbf{X} \sim P$ )

# Sample Ranks as Optimal Transport (OT) maps

- **Data:**  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $P$   
(cont. dist.) on  $\mathbb{R}$

- Let  $P_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i}$  and  
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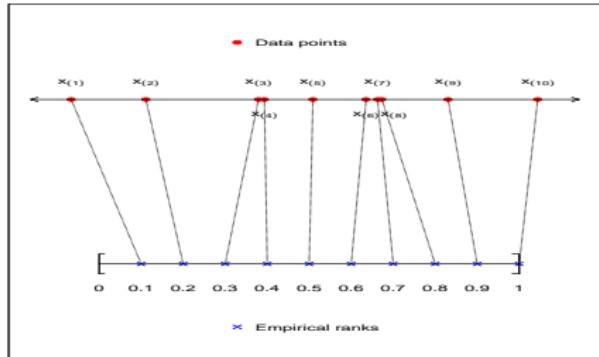
- **Sample rank map:**  $\hat{R} : \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\} \longrightarrow \{\frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, \frac{n}{n}\}$  solves

i.e.,  $\hat{R} := \arg \min_{T: T_{\#} P_n = \nu_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |X_i - T(X_i)|^2$

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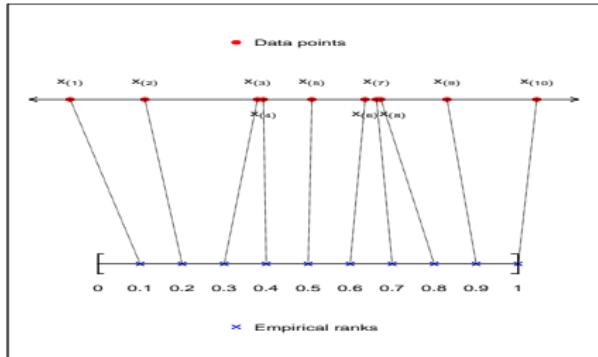
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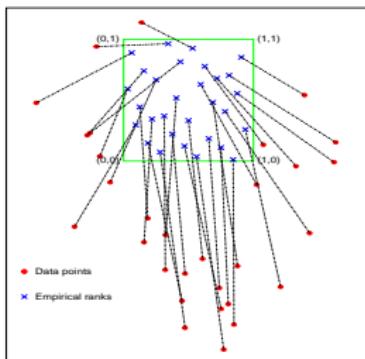
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- $\hat{\sigma} := \arg \min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |X_{\sigma(i)} - \frac{i}{n}|^2$  where  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is the set of all permutations of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

- **Sample rank map:**  $\hat{R}(X_i) = \frac{\hat{\sigma}^{-1}(i)}{n}$

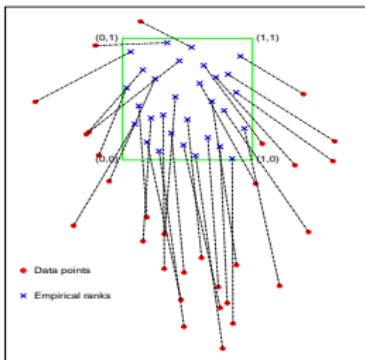
# Multivariate Ranks as OT maps in $\mathbb{R}^p$ ( $p \geq 1$ )

- **Data:**  $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$  iid  $P$  (abs. cont.);  $\nu \sim \text{Unif}([0, 1]^p)$  or  $N(0, I_p)$
- **Empirical rank map  $\hat{R}$ :**  $\{\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n\} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_n\} \subset [0, 1]^d$  — sequence of “uniform-like” points (or quasi-Monte Carlo sequence)



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- Sample multivariate rank map [Hallin (2017), Deb & S. (2019)] is defined as the **OT map** s.t.

$$\hat{\sigma} := \arg \min_{\sigma \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{X}_{\sigma(i)} - \mathbf{h}_i\|^2; \quad \hat{R}(\mathbf{X}_i) := \mathbf{h}_{\hat{\sigma}^{-1}(i)}$$

- **Assignment** problem (can be reduced to a linear program —  $O(n^3)$ )

## 1 Generalized Signs and Ranks

- Connection to Optimal Transport
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## 2 Multivariate Distribution-free tests for Symmetry

- Generalized Sign test and Wilcoxon Signed-rank test
- Lower bounds on Asymptotic (Pitman) Relative Efficiency

## Signs and absolute ranks via OT when $p = 1$

- **Data:**  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $P$  (cont. dist.) on  $\mathbb{R}$
- $H_0 : X \stackrel{d}{=} QX \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{G} = \{+1, -1\}$
- **Sign test:**  $\sum_{i=1}^n S_i$  [recall:  $S_i := \text{sign}(X_i)$ ]
- **WSR test:**  $\sum_{i=1}^n S_i R_i^+$

**Question:** Can the **signs** and **absolute ranks** be obtained via **OT**?

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- Consider the optimization problem:

$$(\hat{Q}, \hat{\sigma}) := \arg \min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \left| q_i X_{\sigma(i)} - \frac{i}{n} \right|^2 : Q = (q_i)_{i=1}^n \in \{\pm 1\}^n, \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n \right\}$$

- The **signs** and **absolute ranks** are then given by:

$$S_i = \hat{Q}_{\hat{\sigma}^{-1}(i)}, \quad R_i^+ = \frac{\hat{\sigma}^{-1}(i)}{n}$$

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Define the **cost** function:

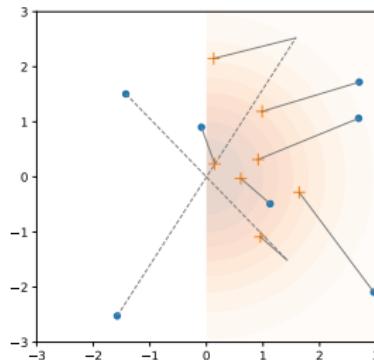
$$c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{h}\|^2, \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^p.$$

**Monge's problem (OT):**  $(*) = \inf_{\mathbf{T}: \mathbf{T}^\# P_n = \nu_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n c(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}_i))$

where **T transports**  $P_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{X}_i}$  to  $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{h}_i}$

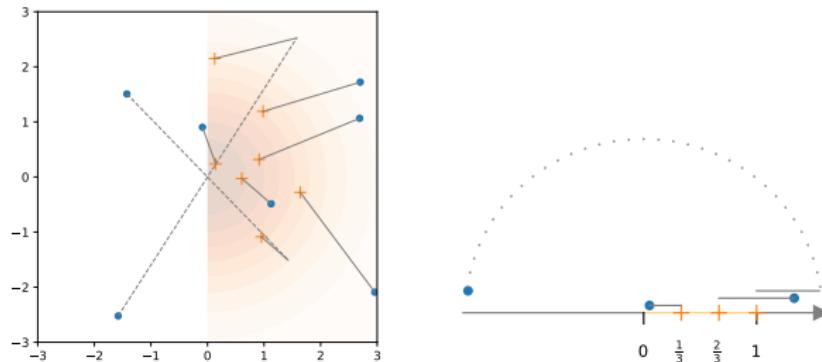
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**Figure:** Data points (“•”) and their ranks (“+”). Here  $\mathcal{G} = \{-I_p, I_p\}$ .



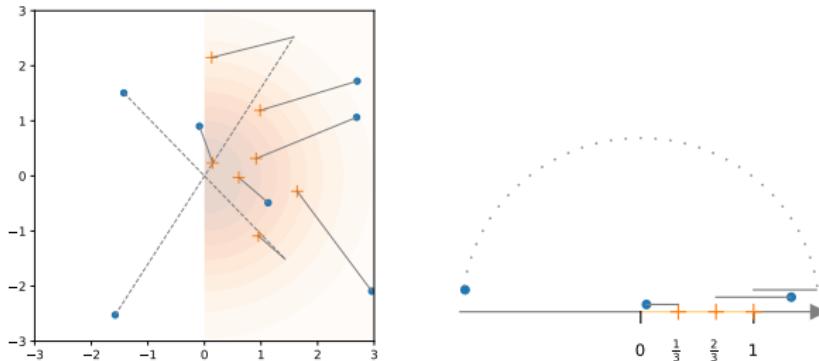
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- Define the **generalized sign** and **generalized rank** as:

$$S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) := \hat{Q}_{\hat{\sigma}^{-1}(i)}, \quad R_n(\mathbf{X}_i) := \mathbf{h}_{\hat{\sigma}^{-1}(i)}$$

- The **generalized signed-rank** of  $\mathbf{X}_i$  is  $S_n(\mathbf{X}_i)R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$  — it is the closest point to  $\mathbf{X}_i$  in the orbit of  $R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$  (i.e.,  $\{QR_n(\mathbf{X}_i) : Q \in \mathcal{G}\}$ )

## Uniqueness of generalized ranks & signed-ranks [Huang & S. (2023+)]

- The generalized rank —  $R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$  — is a.s. unique,<sup>a</sup>  $\forall i \in [n]$

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- **Recall:** the signed-rank is the point in the orbit of  $R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$  (i.e.,  $\{QR_n(\mathbf{X}_i) : Q \in \mathcal{G}\}$ ) that is closest to  $\mathbf{X}_i$

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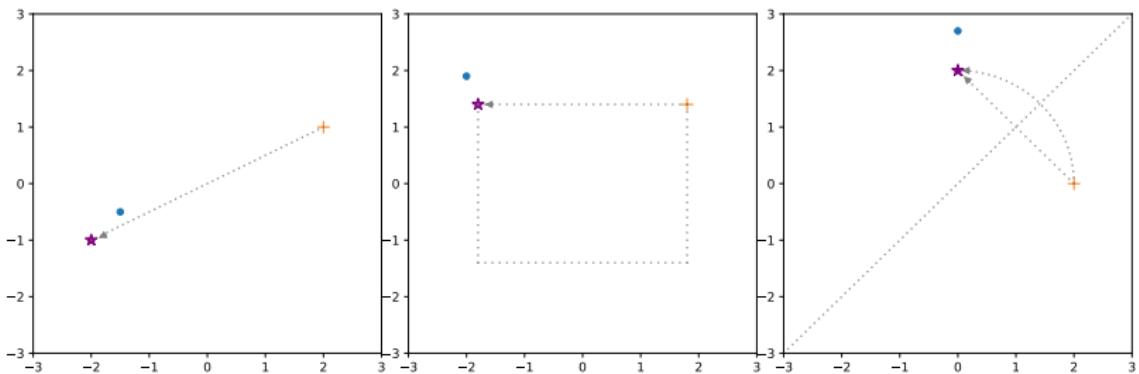


Figure: Data point (“•”), its rank (“+”) and its signed-rank (“★”).

Left:  $\mathcal{G} = \{-I_p, I_p\}$  (central sym.). Center:  $\mathcal{G}$  corresponds to sign symmetry.

Right:  $\mathcal{G} = O(2)$ ; the signed-rank (“★”) is the (unique) point in  $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \|\mathbf{x}\| = 2\}$  that is closest to the data point.

The sign  $S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) = \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|\mathbf{X}_i - QR_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\|^2$  may be not unique

**Result** If  $\mathcal{G}$  is the group corresponding to central/sign symmetry, then the (generalized) sign  $S_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$  is unique a.s.

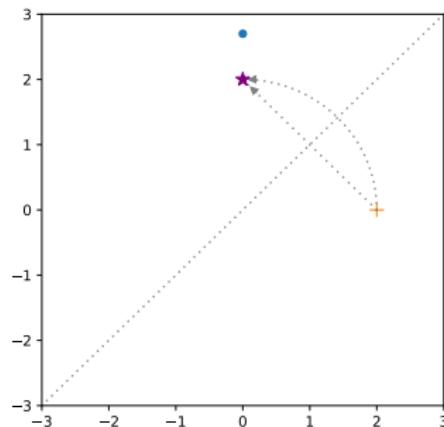
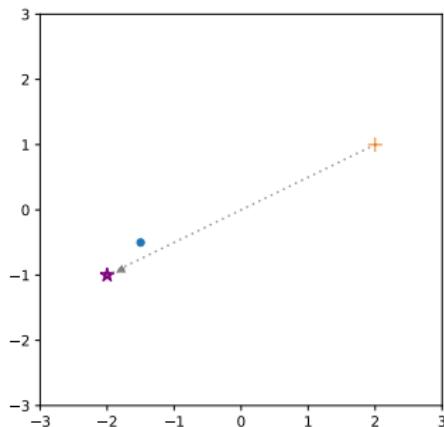


Figure: Data point ("•"), its rank ("+") and its signed-rank ("★"). **Left:** Here  $\mathcal{G} = \{-I_p, I_p\}$  and sign is unique! **Right:** Here  $\mathcal{G} = O(2)$  and sign is not unique!

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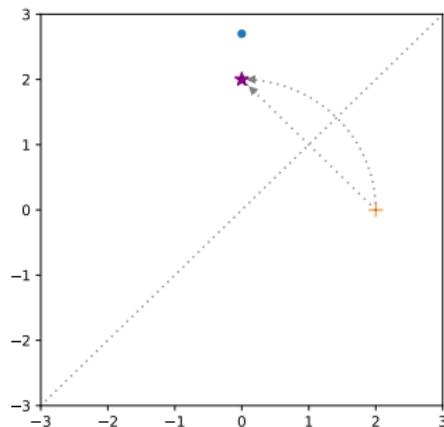
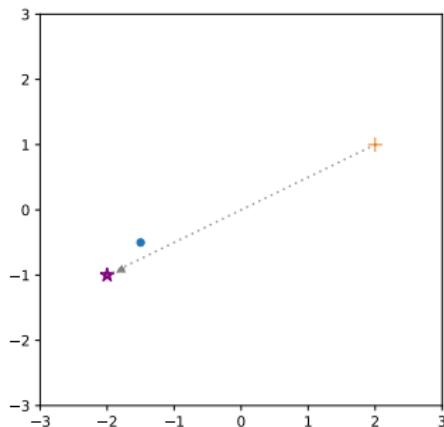


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**Uniform** Can choose  $S_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$  'uniformly' over all possible minimizing values

$$S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) = \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{X}_i - R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\|^2 = \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|\mathbf{X}_i - QR_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\|^2$$

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- $\mathcal{G}$  acts freely if for  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^P$  and  $Q_1, Q_2 \in \mathcal{G}$ ,

$$Q_1 \mathbf{x} = Q_2 \mathbf{x} \quad \Rightarrow \quad Q_1 = Q_2$$

(i.e., for any  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^P$ , we can identify the unique element in  $\mathcal{G}$  that maps  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto Q\mathbf{x}$ )

- Free group action is available for central / sign symmetry
- For infinite groups  $\mathcal{G}$  we may not have a free group action

Proposition [Huang & S. (2023+)]

Suppose that  $\mathcal{G}$  acts freely and suppose no two  $\mathbf{h}_j$ 's lie on a same orbit of  $\mathcal{G}$ . Then  $S_n(\cdot)$  is a.s. unique.

# Computational complexity

- Cost function:  $c_{i,j} \equiv c(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{h}_j) := \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{h}_j\|^2, \quad \forall i, j \in [n]$
- OT problem:  $\min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n c_{i,\sigma(i)} : \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n \right\}$  — assignment problem
- If  $\mathcal{G}$  is a finite group then  $c_{i,j}$  can be computed in  $O(1)$  time
- $\{R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\}_{i=1}^n$  can be found by solving the assignment problem of  $\{\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n\}$  to  $\{\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_n\}$  under cost  $c(\cdot, \cdot)$  — complexity  $O(n^3)$
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For some group  $\mathcal{G}$ , the computation can be much faster!

## Spherical symmetry ( $\mathcal{G} = O(p)$ )

- The computation time of the **ranks** (and **signed-ranks**):  $O(n \log n)$
- $c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 - 2 \max_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{h} + \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 = (\|\mathbf{x}\| - \|\mathbf{h}\|)^2$

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- The **signed-rank** of  $\mathbf{X}_i$  is simply the vector in the **direction** of  $\mathbf{X}_i$  with length  $\|R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\|$ , i.e.,

$$S_n(\mathbf{X}_i)R_n(\mathbf{X}_i) = \|R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\| \frac{\mathbf{X}_i}{\|\mathbf{X}_i\|}$$

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Theorem [Huang & S. (2023+)]

**Result:**  $(R_n(\mathbf{X}_1), \dots, R_n(\mathbf{X}_n))$  is **uniformly distributed** over the set of all  $n!$  permutations of  $\{\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_n\}$

Under  $H_0 : \mathbf{X} \stackrel{d}{=} Q\mathbf{X} \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{G}$ ,

①  $S_n(\mathbf{X}_1), \dots, S_n(\mathbf{X}_n)$  are iid **Uniform**( $\mathcal{G}$ )

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Generalizes the **distribution-freeness** of **signs** and **ranks beyond  $p = 1$ !**

(Generalized) Wilcoxon signed-rank test:  $W_n := \sum_{i=1}^n S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$

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Population OT problem [Kantorovich's relaxation]

$$\inf_{(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H}): \mathbf{X} \sim P, \mathbf{H} \sim \nu} \mathbb{E} [c(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H})], \quad c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{h}\|^2$$

and  $(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H})$  runs over all joint dist. with marginals  $\mathbf{X} \sim P$  and  $\mathbf{H} \sim \nu$ .

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**Assumption (A)** (On  $\nu$  and  $\mathcal{G}$ ):  $\exists B \subset \mathbb{R}^p$  with  $\nu(B) = 1$  such that, for any  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ , the orbit  $\{Q\mathbf{h} : Q \in \mathcal{G}\}$  intersects  $B$  at one point at most.

- Central symmetry:  $\mathbf{h}$  and  $-\mathbf{h}$  cannot both be in  $B$ ; we can take  $B = (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^{p-1}$ ;

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### Population OT problem [Kantorovich's relaxation]

$$\inf_{(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H}): \mathbf{X} \sim P, \mathbf{H} \sim \nu} \mathbb{E} [c(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H})], \quad c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{h}\|^2$$

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Quotient map for cost  $c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|\mathbf{x} - Q\mathbf{h}\|^2$

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- Orbit of  $\mathbf{h}$  is  $\{Q\mathbf{h} : Q \in \mathcal{G}\}$ ; every point in an orbit has the same cost
- Image of group action of  $\mathcal{G}$  on  $B$ :  $\mathcal{GB} = \{Q\mathbf{h} : Q \in \mathcal{G}, \mathbf{h} \in B\} \subset \mathbb{R}^p$

For any point in  $\mathcal{GB}$ , quotient map picks the representative point in  $B$ :

$$q : \mathcal{GB} \rightarrow B \quad \text{where} \quad q(Q\mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{h} \quad \text{for } \mathbf{h} \in B, Q \in \mathcal{G}.$$

If Assumption (A) holds, then  $q(\cdot)$  is well-defined

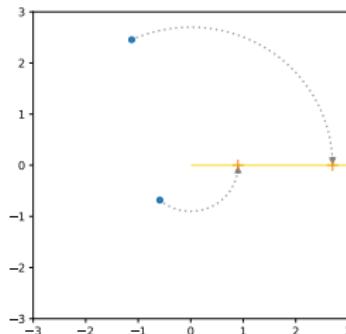
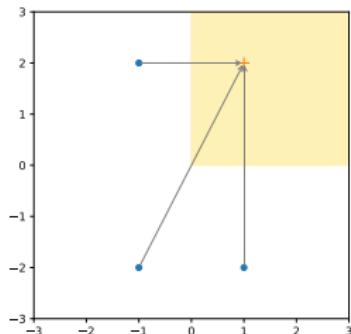


Figure: Shows the action of the quotient map  $q$  on: (i) (Left) 3 points when  $\mathcal{G}$  corresponds to the group for sign symmetry, and (ii) (Right) on 2 points for  $\mathcal{G}$  corresponding to the group for spherical symmetry (here  $q(\mathbf{x}) = (\|\mathbf{x}\|, 0)$ )

## Population generalized rank map [Huang & S. (2023+)]

Let  $\mathbf{X} \sim P$  (abs. cont.),  $\mathbf{H} \sim \nu$  and suppose Assumption (A) holds.

Then,  $\exists$  ( $P$ -a.e.) unique map  $R : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  that solves the OT problem of transporting  $P$  to  $\nu$  ( $R_\# P = \nu$ ), i.e., Monge's problem = Kantorovich's relaxation:

$$\inf_{(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H}) \sim \pi \in \Pi(P, \nu)} \mathbb{E}_\pi [c(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{H})] = \mathbb{E}_P [c(\mathbf{X}, R(\mathbf{X}))], \quad c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|\mathbf{x} - Q\mathbf{h}\|^2$$

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Even if  $P$  and  $\nu$  do **not** have second order moments, the following hold:

- (i)  $\exists$  a  $P$ -a.e. **unique** map  $R : \mathbb{R}^P \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^P$  s.t.  $(\mathbf{X}, R(\mathbf{X}))$  has the unique distribution in  $\Pi(P, \nu)$  with a **c-cyclically monotone support**.
- (ii)  $\exists$  a l.s.c. **convex** function  $\psi$  such that  $R(\mathbf{x}) = q(\nabla \psi(\mathbf{x}))$  ( $P$ -a.e.)

$\mathbf{X} \sim P$  (abs. cont.),  $\mathbf{H} \sim \nu$  and suppose Assumption (A) holds.

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Population rank and signed-rank maps [Huang & S. (2023+)]

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- (iv)  $\nabla \psi(\mathbf{X}) \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{=} S(\mathbf{X}, R(\mathbf{X}))R(\mathbf{X})$  — the (generalized) **signed-rank**; here
$$S(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|\mathbf{x} - Q\mathbf{h}\|^2$$
- (v)  $\nabla \psi(\cdot)$  is **equivariant** under the group action of  $\mathcal{G}$ , i.e.,

$$\nabla \psi(Q\mathbf{x}) = Q\nabla \psi(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{for all } Q \in \mathcal{G}, \text{ and } \mathbf{x} \text{ (a.e.)}$$

## Convergence of generalized signs, ranks and signed-ranks

Fix some  $k > 0$ . **Assume:** (i)  $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{h}_i} \xrightarrow{d} \nu$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ;  
(ii) for  $\mathbf{H}_n \sim \nu_n$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{H}_n\|^k] \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{H}\|^k]$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

### ① (Convergence of signed-ranks)

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|S_n(\mathbf{X}_i)R_n(\mathbf{X}_i) - \nabla\psi(\mathbf{X}_i)\|^k \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0.$$

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③ (Convergence of signs) If  $\mathcal{G}$  acts freely<sup>a</sup> on  $\mathcal{GB}$ , then

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) - S(\mathbf{X}_i, R(\mathbf{X}_i))\|_F^k \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0,$$

where  $S(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{h}\|^2$ ;  $\|\cdot\|_F$  is the Frobenius norm.

---

<sup>a</sup> $\mathcal{G}$  acts freely on  $\mathcal{GB}$ , if for  $\mathbf{h} \in B$  and  $Q \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $Q\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow Q = I_p$ .

# Outline

## 1 Generalized Signs and Ranks

- Connection to Optimal Transport
- Generalized Signs, Ranks and Signed-ranks
- Population Analogues

## 2 Multivariate Distribution-free tests for Symmetry

- Generalized Sign test and Wilcoxon Signed-rank test
- Lower bounds on Asymptotic (Pitman) Relative Efficiency

**Data:**  $\{\mathbf{X}_i\}_{i=1}^n$  iid  $\mathbf{X} \sim P$  (abs. cont.) on  $\mathbb{R}^p$ ; test  $H_0 : \mathbf{X} \stackrel{d}{=} Q\mathbf{X}$   $\forall Q \in \mathcal{G}$

Under  $H_0$ , the generalized signs  $S_n(\mathbf{X}_1), \dots, S_n(\mathbf{X}_n)$  are iid  $\text{Uniform}(\mathcal{G})$

Generalized sign test: When  $\mathcal{G}$  is finite

Suppose  $\mathcal{G} = \{g_1, \dots, g_m\}$  is a finite group of size  $m$  which acts freely.  
Let

$$Y_j := \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}(S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) = g_j), \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

Under  $H_0$ ,

$$(Y_1, \dots, Y_m) \sim \text{Multinomial}\left(n, \frac{1}{m} \mathbf{1}_m\right).$$

Distribution-free: Generalizes the usual sign test beyond  $p = 1!$

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Distribution-free: Generalizes the usual sign test beyond  $p = 1$ !

If  $m$  is large, take generalized sign test based on  $V_n := \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n S_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$

Central symmetry:  $\frac{1}{p} \|V_n\|_F^2 \xrightarrow{d} \chi_1^2$

Sign symmetry:  $\|V_n\|_F^2 \xrightarrow{d} \chi_p^2$

Spherical symmetry:  $p \|V_n\|_F^2 \xrightarrow{d} \chi_{p^2}^2$

## Generalized Wilcoxon Signed-rank test

- The generalized Wilcoxon signed-rank statistic is

$$\mathbf{W}_n := \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)$$

- $\mathbf{W}_n$  is distribution-free under  $H_0 : \mathbf{X} \stackrel{d}{=} Q\mathbf{X}$   $\forall Q \in \mathcal{G}$

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Asymptotic normality of  $\mathbf{W}_n$  [Huang & S. (2023+)]

Suppose: (i)  $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{h}_i} \xrightarrow{d} \nu$  & 2nd moment convergence;  
(ii)  $\mathbb{E}[G] = \mathbf{0}_{p \times p}$  where  $G \sim \text{Uniform}(\mathcal{G})$ ;

Then:

$$\mathbf{W}_n \xrightarrow{d} N(\mathbf{0}_p, \Sigma_{GH}),$$

where  $\Sigma_{GH}$  be the covariance matrix of  $G\mathbf{H}$ , with  $G \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{H}$  (here  $\mathbf{H} \sim \nu$ ).

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- The Wilcoxon signed-rank test rejects  $H_0$  for

$$\mathbf{W}_n^\top \Sigma_{GH}^{-1} \mathbf{W}_n \geq c_\alpha$$

- $c_\alpha$  is the universal cut-off; well-approximable by the  $\chi_p^2$ -quantile

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Test for  $\mathcal{G}$ -symmetry:  $H_0 : \mathbf{X} \stackrel{d}{=} Q\mathbf{X} \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{G}$ , vs.  $H_1 : \text{not } H_0$

Consistency of WSR for testing  $\mathcal{G}$ -symmetry [Huang & S. (2023+)]

Assume: (i)  $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{h}_i} \xrightarrow{d} \nu$ ; (ii) 1st moment convergence  
Then, the Wilcoxon signed-rank test which rejects  $H_0$  for

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is consistent against all alternatives for which

$$\mathbb{E}[\nabla \psi(\mathbf{X})] \neq \mathbf{0}.^a$$

---

<sup>a</sup> $\mathbb{E}[\nabla \psi(\mathbf{X})] \neq \mathbf{0}$  holds for location shift models if  $\psi(\cdot)$  is strictly convex &  $-I_p \in \mathcal{G}$ .

## Asymptotics under local alternatives [Huang & S. (2023+)]

Let  $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$  be iid  $f(\cdot - \theta)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^p$ ; here  $f$  is  $\mathcal{G}$ -symmetric distribution.  
Consider testing:

$$H_0 : \theta = \mathbf{0}_p \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta = \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{n}}; \quad \mu \neq \mathbf{0}_p \in \mathbb{R}^p$$

Under ‘suitable’ assumptions<sup>a</sup> and standard regularity conditions of the parametric family  $\{f(\cdot - \theta)\}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p}$  (e.g., QMD), we have, under  $H_1$ :

$$\mathbf{W}_n \xrightarrow{d} N(\gamma, \Sigma_{GH}),$$

$$\text{where } \gamma := \mathbb{E}_{H_0} \left[ \nabla \psi(\mathbf{X}) \frac{\mu^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{X})}{f(\mathbf{X})} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^p.$$

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- The non-centrality parameter of generalized WSR test is  $\|\Sigma_{GH}^{-1/2} \gamma\|^2$

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**Question:** How does this compare with Hotelling's  $T^2$  test?

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- **Question:** How to compare two **consistent** tests  $S_n$  and  $T_n$ ?
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$\text{ARE}(S_n, T_n)$  can depend on  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , but in some cases they don't!

**Hotelling**  $T^2$ :  $n\bar{\mathbf{X}}^\top S_n^{-1}\bar{\mathbf{X}}$  where  
 $S_n := \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_i - \bar{\mathbf{X}})(\mathbf{X}_i - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^\top \xrightarrow{p} \Sigma_{\mathbf{X}} := \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbb{E}\mathbf{X})(\mathbf{X} - \mathbb{E}\mathbf{X})^\top$ .

Generalized **WSR**:  $\mathbf{W}_n^\top \Sigma_{\text{GH}}^{-1} \mathbf{W}_n$

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### Some observations

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- $\text{ARE}(\mathbf{W}_n, \bar{\mathbf{X}}_n)$  can depend on  $\nu$  [Deb, Bhattacharya & S. (2021)]

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Can we lower bound ARE for sub-classes of multivariate dists., i.e.,

$$\min_{\mathcal{F}} \text{ARE}(\mathbf{W}_n, \bar{\mathbf{X}}_n) = ??$$

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**Gaussian case:**  $f$  is density of  $N(\mathbf{0}_p, \Sigma_X)$ , where  $\Sigma_X$  is p.d. (unknown)

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Suppose: (i)  $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{h}_i} \xrightarrow{d} \nu$  & 2nd moment convergence;  
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If  $G\mathbf{H}$  has the spherical uniform distribution<sup>a</sup>, then

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<sup>a</sup> $\kappa_1 = 3/\pi$  reduces to the classical ARE of the WSR test against the  $t$ -test.

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Similar lower bounds can also be obtained for other sub-classes of multivariate distributions (e.g., the model for ICA)

# Distribution-free confidence set for the center of symmetry

- $\mathbf{X} \sim P$  on  $\mathbb{R}^p$  has a  $\mathcal{G}$ -symmetric distribution with **center of symmetry**  $\theta^*$  (unknown) if

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- **Idea:** **Invert** the collection of **hypothesis tests**

- Fix  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^P$ , and **test**

$$\text{H}_{0,\boldsymbol{\theta}} : (\mathbf{X} - \boldsymbol{\theta}) \stackrel{d}{=} Q(\mathbf{X} - \boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{G}$$

using **generalized Wilcoxon signed-rank test** with  $\{\mathbf{X}_i - \boldsymbol{\theta}\}_{i=1}^n$

- $\mathcal{C} := \{\boldsymbol{\theta} : \text{H}_{0,\boldsymbol{\theta}} \text{ is accepted}\} — \text{exact } (1 - \alpha) \text{ confidence set for } \boldsymbol{\theta}^*$

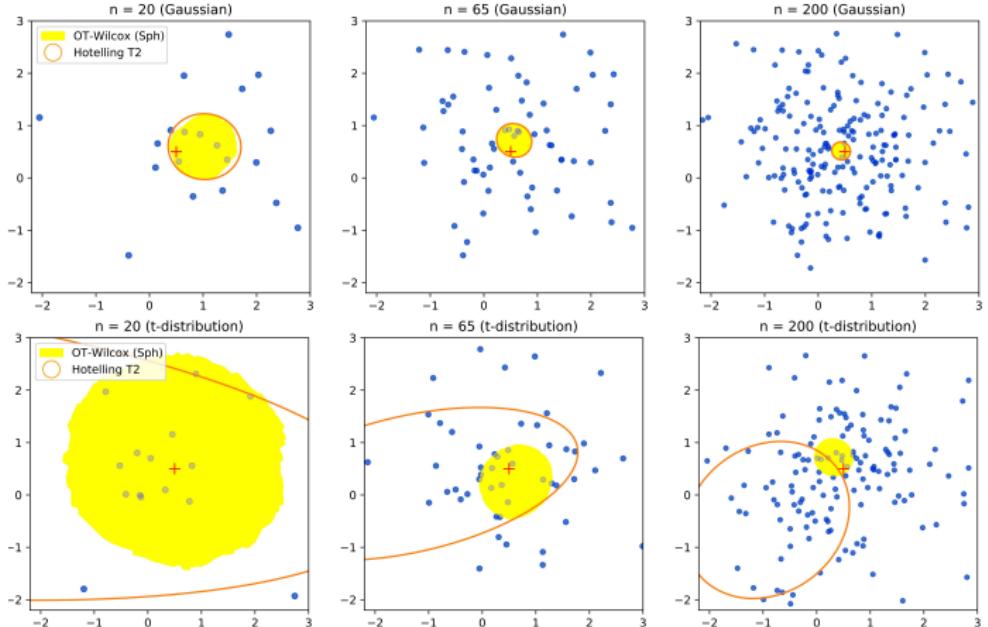


Figure: Confidence sets for  $\theta^*$  as the sample size  $n$  varies, obtained from (i) **normal** data (first row) and (ii) data from multivariate ***t*-distribution** with 1 degree of freedom (second row), for  $\mathcal{G}$  corresponding to **spherical symmetry**.

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- Proposed tests are: (i) distribution-free and have good efficiency, (ii) computationally feasible, (iii) more powerful for distributions with heavy tails, and (iv) robust to outliers and contamination
- Can develop universally consistent, distribution-free tests for multivariate symmetry using kernel methods (ongoing work)

Thank you very much!

Questions?

**Question:** How to generate

$$S_n(\mathbf{X}_i) \equiv S(\mathbf{X}_i, R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)) := \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{X}_i - R_n(\mathbf{X}_i)\|^2$$

when it is **not** unique?

Spherical symmetry  $\mathcal{G} = O(p)$

Let

$$S(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}) := \arg \min_{Q \in \mathcal{G}} \|Q^\top \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{h}\|^2.$$

If  $\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , let  $\mathbf{w} = \frac{\mathbf{h}}{\|\mathbf{h}\|}$ , and  $\mathbf{v} = \frac{\mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{x}\|}$ . Then,  $S(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h})$  should be chosen uniformly from:

$$\{Q \in O(p) : \mathbf{v} = Q\mathbf{w}\} = \{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{w}^\top + VUW^\top : U \in O(p-1)\},$$

where  $V$  and  $W$  are  $p \times (p-1)$  matrices such that

$$V^\top V = W^\top W = I_{p-1}, \quad V^\top \mathbf{v} = W^\top \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}.$$