Optimal tests for symmetry on the torus

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Joint work with A. Anastasiou and C. Ley

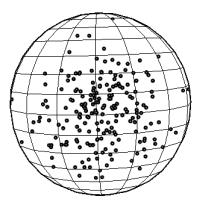
September 5, 2025





Introduction

Directional statistics deals with data on non-linear manifolds.

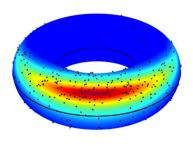


This data arises in earth sciences, meteorology, astronomy, life sciences, etc.

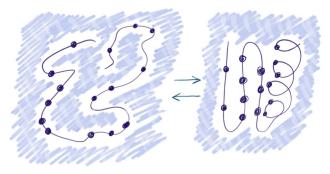
Protein data



Jacobsen et al. (2023)



García-Portugués et al. (2015)



Jacobsen et al. (2023)

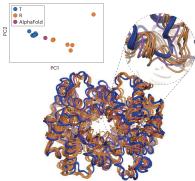


Fig. 2|AlphaFold2's prediction of hemoglobin lies between the R and T states. Shown are experimental structures of O₂- or CO-bound (R, orange)

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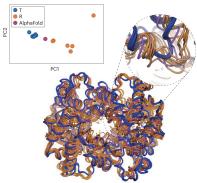


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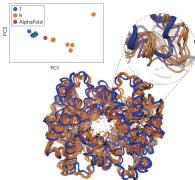


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- Demis Hassabis and John Jumper won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024 for protein structure prediction.
- Open questions in the areas of dynamics, mutants, accuracy and RNA folding.
- ⇒ Probability distributions are required.

Skewed distributions

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In Ameijeiras-Alonso and Ley (2022), sine-skewed distributions are proposed. For $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ the base density $f(\theta - \mu; \vartheta)$ is transformed into

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} \mapsto f(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}; \boldsymbol{\vartheta}) \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^{d} \lambda_{j} \sin(\theta_{j} - \mu_{j}) \right),$$

where $\pmb{\lambda} \in [-1,1]^d$ plays the role of skewness parameter and satisfies $\sum_{j=1}^d |\lambda_j| \le 1.$

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Likelihood ratio tests were given in Ameijeiras-Alonso and Ley (2022), but they are parametric

⇒ efficient tests which are generally valid are needed.

Optimal tests for symmetry

We wish to test

$$H_0: \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0$$
 vs $H_1: \boldsymbol{\lambda} \neq 0$

over all possible symmetric f_0 in

$$f_{\boldsymbol{\mu},\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = f_0(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^d \lambda_j \sin(\theta_j - \mu_j) \right), \quad \boldsymbol{\lambda} \in [-1,1]^d, \sum_{j=1}^d |\lambda_j| \leq 1.$$

We shall proceed in two steps:

- 1. build an efficient parametric test under specified f
- 2. render it semi-parametric

To achieve these goals, we use the Le Cam theory of asymptotic experiments.

The LAN property and limit experiments

We want to construct inferential procedures for a certain parameter η in a parametric family f_{η} .

LAN property of this family in a neighborhood $\eta_0^{(n)}$ of a fixed value η_0 :

$$L_{\boldsymbol{\eta}_{0}^{(n)}+n^{-1/2}\boldsymbol{\tau}/\boldsymbol{\eta}_{0}^{(n)};f}^{(X_{1},...,X_{n})}=\boldsymbol{\tau}'\boldsymbol{\Delta}_{f}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{0}^{(n)})-\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\tau}'\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{f}(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{0})\boldsymbol{\tau}+o_{P}(1)$$

for $n o \infty$ under $f_{m{\eta}_0}$, and $m{\Delta}_f^{(n)}(m{\eta}_0^{(n)})$ is asymptotically normal.

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Likelihood ratio (for a single observation Δ) of the Gaussian shift model with shift $\Gamma_f(\eta_0)\tau$: $\tau'\Delta - \frac{1}{2}\tau'\Gamma_f(\eta_0)\tau$.

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Similarities, locally (in η) and asymptotically (in n), with the Gaussian shift model!

 \Rightarrow import optimal procedures from the (well-known) Gaussian world to the initial setting in order to obtain (asymptotically) optimal parametric procedures!

The (Uniformly)LAN property

Under very mild regularity assumptions on f_0 we get

Property

The sine-skewed family is ULAN at $(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}, \boldsymbol{0}) = (\mu_1^{(n)}, \cdots, \mu_d^{(n)}, 0, \cdots, 0)$. More precisely, for any $\mu_i^{(n)} = \mu_i + O(n^{-1/2}), i = 1, \dots, d$, and for any bounded sequence $\boldsymbol{\tau}^{(n)} := (\boldsymbol{\tau}_1^{(n)}, \cdots, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{2d}^{(n)})' \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}$, we have

$$\Lambda^{(n)} := \log \left(\frac{P_{(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}, \boldsymbol{0}) + n^{-1/2} \boldsymbol{\tau}^{(n)}; f_0}^{(n)}}{P_{(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}, \boldsymbol{0}); f_0}^{(n)}} \right) = \boldsymbol{\tau}^{(n)\prime} \Delta_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}) - \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\tau}^{(n)\prime} \Gamma_{f_0} \boldsymbol{\tau}^{(n)} + o_P(1)$$

and the central sequence

ence
$$\Delta_{f_0}^{(n)}(oldsymbol{\mu}) = rac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n egin{pmatrix} \phi_1^{f_0}(oldsymbol{ heta} - oldsymbol{\mu}) \\ dots \\ \phi_d^{f_0}(oldsymbol{ heta} - oldsymbol{\mu}) \\ \sin(heta_{1i} - \mu_1) \\ dots \\ \sin(heta_{di} - \mu_d) \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{\mathcal{D}}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{N}\left(oldsymbol{0}, \Gamma_{f_0}
ight),$$

all under H_0 when $n \to \infty$, where $\phi_j^{f_0}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) = -\frac{\frac{\widetilde{\partial} \theta_j}{\theta_0}f_0(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})}{f_0(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})}$, for $j \in \{1, \dots, d\}$, and Γ_{f_0} is the Fisher Information matrix.

Efficient tests around a specified symmetry center

For $I_{\lambda_j \lambda_k}^{f_0} = \int_{[-\pi,\pi)^d} \sin(\theta_j - \mu_j) \sin(\theta_k - \mu_k) f_0(\theta - \mu) d\theta$ define

$$\Delta_{\lambda}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \begin{pmatrix} \sin(\theta_{1i} - \mu_1) \\ \vdots \\ \sin(\theta_{di} - \mu_d) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Gamma_{f_0;\lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\lambda_1 \lambda_1}^{f_0} & \dots & I_{\lambda_1 \lambda_d}^{f_0} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ I_{\lambda_1 \lambda_d}^{f_0} & \dots & I_{\lambda_d \lambda_d}^{f_0} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The parametric test statistic is given by

$$Q_{\mathit{f}_0}^{(n); \boldsymbol{\mu}} = \left(\Delta_{\lambda}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})\right)^{\mathsf{T}} \left(\Gamma_{\mathit{f}_0; \lambda}\right)^{-1} \Delta_{\lambda}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu}).$$

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$$Q_{\mathit{f}_0}^{(n);\mu} = \left(\Delta_{\lambda}^{(n)}(\mu)
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The semi-parametric test statistic is

$$Q^{*(n);\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \left(\Delta_{\lambda}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})\right)^{\mathsf{T}} \left(\tilde{\mathsf{\Gamma}}_{\lambda}\right)^{-1} \Delta_{\lambda}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})$$

for
$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{\lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\lambda_{1}\lambda_{1}} & \dots & I_{\lambda_{1}\lambda_{d}} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{I}_{\lambda_{1}\lambda_{d}} & \dots & \tilde{I}_{\lambda_{d}\lambda_{d}} \end{pmatrix}$$
 where $\tilde{I}_{\lambda_{j}\lambda_{k}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sin(\theta_{ji} - \mu_{j}) \sin(\theta_{ki} - \mu_{k})$.

Asymptotic results

Denoting by $P_{(\mu,\lambda)',f_0}^{(n)}$ the joint distribution of $\{\theta_i\}_{i=1}^n$, we show that:

• It holds that under $\cup_{f_0 \in \mathcal{F}} P_{(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{0})', f_0}^{(n)}$,

$$Q^{*(n);\boldsymbol{\mu}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \chi_d^2$$

as $n \to \infty$.

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• The test is uniformly (in f_0) locally and asymptotically maximin optimal against sine-skewed alternatives.

What about a limited sample size?

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$$\left| \mathbb{E}h(Q^{*(n);\boldsymbol{\mu}}) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right|$$

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• (1) requires much more work

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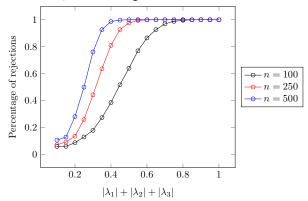


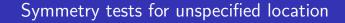
Simulations framework: increasing $\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\|_1$

- The percentage of rejections of the test for increasing $\|\lambda\|_1$ at the 5% level of significance is plotted.
- 5000 samples were generated for each value of $\|\lambda\|_1$.
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This can be calculated by

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For estimators $\hat{\pmb{\mu}}^{(n)}$ of $\pmb{\mu}$ that satisfy mild assumptions, the parametric test is given by:

$$Q_{\mathit{f}_{0}}^{(n)} = \left(\Delta_{\lambda;\mathit{f}_{0}}^{(n)*}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})\right)^{\mathsf{T}}\mathsf{Var}\left(\Delta_{\lambda;\mathit{f}_{0}}^{(n)*}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})\right)^{-1}\left(\Delta_{\lambda;\mathit{f}_{0}}^{(n)*}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})\right).$$

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The test statistic is given by

$$Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)}) = \left(\tilde{\Delta}_{\lambda;f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})\right)^{\intercal} \left(\hat{C}_{f_0}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})\right)^{-1} \tilde{\Delta}_{\lambda;f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)}).$$

Asymptotic results

• Under
$$\cup_{{m \mu}\in[-\pi,\pi)^d}\cup_{g_0\in\mathcal F}P^{(n)}_{({m \mu},0);g_0}$$
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• Under $\cup_{\mu \in [-\pi,\pi)^d} P_{(\pmb{\mu},n^{-1/2}\pmb{ au}^{(n)})',g_0}^{(n)}$

$$Q_{\mathit{f_0}}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \chi_{\mathit{d}}^2 \Big(\boldsymbol{\tau}^{\intercal} C_{\mathit{g_0}}^{\mathit{f_0}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) V_{\mathit{g_0}}^{\mathit{f_0}}(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} C_{\mathit{g_0}}^{\mathit{f_0}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \boldsymbol{\tau}\Big)$$

as $n \to \infty$ with

$$V_{g_0}^{\mathit{f_0}}(oldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathsf{Var}_{g_0}\left(ilde{\Delta}_{\lambda;\mathit{f_0};g_0}(oldsymbol{\mu})
ight)$$

and

$$C_{g_0}^{\mathit{f}_0}(\pmb{\mu}) = \mathsf{Cov}_{g_0}\left(\tilde{\Delta}_{\lambda;\mathit{f}_0;g_0}(\pmb{\mu}), \Delta_{\lambda}(\pmb{\mu})\right).$$

Asymptotic results

• Under $\cup_{{m \mu}\in [-\pi,\pi)^d} \cup_{g_0\in \mathcal F} P_{({m \mu},0);g_0}^{(n)}$ as $n o\infty$

$$Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \chi_d^2.$$

 $\bullet \ \mathsf{Under} \ \cup_{\mu \ \in [-\pi,\pi)^d} P_{(\boldsymbol{\mu},n^{-1/2}\boldsymbol{\tau}^{(n)})',\mathsf{g_0}}^{(n)}$

$$Q_{\mathit{f_0}}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \chi_{\mathit{d}}^2 \Big(\boldsymbol{\tau}^{\intercal} C_{\mathit{g_0}}^{\mathit{f_0}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) V_{\mathit{g_0}}^{\mathit{f_0}}(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} C_{\mathit{g_0}}^{\mathit{f_0}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \boldsymbol{\tau}\Big)$$

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ight).$$

• The test is locally and asymptotically maximin when testing \mathcal{H}_0 against $\bigcup_{\mu \in [-\pi,\pi)^d} P_{(\mu,n^{-1/2}\tau^{(n)})',f_0}^{(n)}$.

$$\left| \mathbb{E} h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E} h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right|$$

$$\begin{split} \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| &\leq \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| \end{split}$$

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$$\begin{split} \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| &\leq \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| \\ &\leq & M_2/\sqrt{n} + M_3/n \end{split}$$

For $h \in C_b^6(\mathbb{R})$, and constants M_1, M_2, M_3 and M,

$$\begin{split} \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| &\leq \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| \\ &\leq & M_2/\sqrt{n} + M_3/n \end{split}$$

Further assumption:

Assumption

$$\mathbb{E}_{g_0}\left[(\hat{\mu}_j^{(n)} - \mu_j)^2\right] = O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

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$$\begin{split} \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| &\leq \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| \\ &\leq M_1/\sqrt{n} + M_2/\sqrt{n} + M_3/n \end{split}$$

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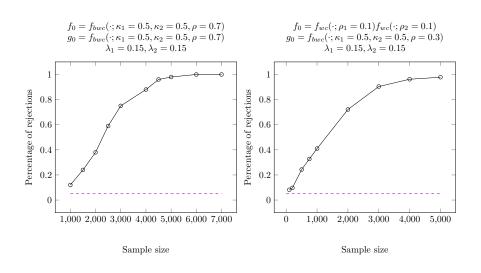
$$\begin{split} \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\mu}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| &\leq \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\hat{\mu}^{(n)})) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\mu)) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{*(n)}(\mu)) - \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\mu)) \right| \\ &+ \left| \mathbb{E}h(Q_{f_0}^{(n)}(\mu)) - \mathbb{E}h\left(\chi_d^2\right) \right| \\ &\leq M_1/\sqrt{n} + M_2/\sqrt{n} + M_3/n \\ &\leq M/\sqrt{n} \end{split}$$

Further assumption:

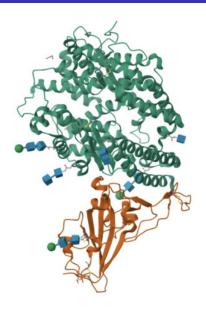
Assumption

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Simulations: increasing *n*

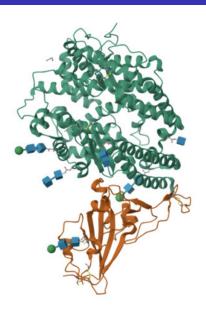


Real data



- We consider the molecular dynamic trajectory of the SARS-CoV-2 spike domain, in a position where an αhelix occurs ⇒ unimodal data.
- It is a known fact in biology that the α helix occurs when the consecutive (ϕ, ψ) angle pairs are around (-60,-50) (Tooze (1998)).
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- In this case $\omega=0$. So we check for symmetry around (-60,-50,0) and for an unspecified symmetry center.
- Both tests reject the null hypothesis of symmetry at all commonly used levels of significance.

Thank you!

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