

# Stat 425 HW4

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1. The purpose of this homework is to understand the power behavior of the two-sample Wilcoxon test when sampling from normal populations which may differ from each other by a shift parameter  $\Delta$ , i.e.,  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\mu + \Delta, \sigma^2)$ , respectively.

In particular, we want to compare the power function of the rank-sum test against that of the two-sample  $t$ -test. We also want to understand to what extent the asymptotic relative efficiency (ARE)  $e_{W,t} = 3/\pi$  is reflected for finite sample sizes  $m$  and  $n$ . We want to use both normal approximations for the power function and explore their quality in relation to  $m$  and  $n$ .

This exercise offers opportunity for extra credit (to make up for previous losses) by extending the breadth of your investigation (other  $\alpha, m$  and  $n$ ). Provide your function codes, plots and a narrative that explains coherently what you have learned.

First note that the ranks of samples

$$X_1, \dots, X_m \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \quad \text{and} \quad Y_1, \dots, Y_n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu + \Delta, \sigma^2)$$

are the same as the ranks of the transformed samples

$$X'_i = (X_i - \mu)/\sigma \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1), i = 1, \dots, m \quad \text{and} \quad Y'_j = (Y_j - \mu)/\sigma \sim \mathcal{N}(\Delta/\sigma, 1) = \mathcal{N}(\Delta', 1), j = 1, \dots, n$$

since the common transformation  $(\cdot - \mu)/\sigma$  does not alter the joint order relationships among  $X$ 's and  $Y$ 's. Hence the distribution of the rank-sum is the same, whether we sample from  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\mu + \Delta, \sigma^2)$  or from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\Delta', 1)$  with  $\Delta' = \Delta/\sigma$ . Thus the power of the rank-sum test does not depend on  $\mu$  and it depends on  $\Delta$  and  $\sigma$  only through the ratio  $\Delta' = \Delta/\sigma$ . A corresponding property holds for the two-sample  $t$ -test, namely its power depends on  $\mu$ ,  $\Delta$  and  $\sigma$  only through  $\Delta' = \Delta/\sigma$ . Note however, that in both cases (Wilcoxon and  $t$ -test) the sample sizes  $m$  and  $n$  affect the power.

Write a function `Ranksum.sim=function(m=10, n=10, alpha=.05, Nsim=10000, Delta.p=.5) { ... }` that simulates the distribution of the Wilcoxon rank-sum statistic  $W_s$  for samples of sizes  $m$  and  $n$  from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\Delta', 1)$ , respectively ( $\Delta' \equiv \text{Delta.p}$ ). By distribution is meant a vector `Ws.vec` of length `Nsim`, containing the results from calculating the rank-sums  $W_s$  for `Nsim` simulations of independent samples of sizes  $m$  and  $n$  from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\Delta', 1)$ , respectively. Run these simulations in a loop (`for(i in 1:Nsim){ ... }`) with appropriate initialization of `Ws.vec` (remember HW3).

We consider one-sided rank-sum tests which reject  $H_0 : \Delta = 0$  whenever  $W_s \geq c_\alpha$ , where  $c_\alpha$  is the lowest integer value such that  $P_{H_0}(W_s \geq c_\alpha) \leq \alpha$ . To find the appropriate  $c_\alpha$  you may use `qwilcox` but understand that `qwilcox(p, m, n)` returns the smallest  $L$  such that  $P_{H_0}(W_{XY} \leq L) \geq p$  and realize the appropriate relationship between  $W_{XY}$  and  $W_s$ . Explain your reasoning in coming up with  $c_\alpha$ .

`Ranksum.sim` should produce a named vector<sup>1</sup> with components representing

$$Nsim, m, n, \alpha, c_\alpha, \alpha_c, \Delta', P_{\Delta'}(W_s \geq c_\alpha)$$

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<sup>1</sup>For example, you name a vector `out = c(x, y, z)` via `names(out) = c("x.name", "name.y", "z")`.

where  $\alpha_c = P_0(W_s \geq c_\alpha)$  is the achieved significance level ( $\leq \alpha$ ) when using  $c = c_\alpha$  as critical point.  $P_{\Delta'}(W_s \geq c_\alpha)$  represents the power of the test at the alternative  $\Delta'$ , the quantity of main interest to us. While building this function use `Nsim = 100` for faster debugging.

As a check run `Ranksum.sim` for `Nsim = 10000` and  $\Delta' = 0$ . Your power should then be close to the achieved significance level  $\alpha_c$ , which of course depends on  $m$  and  $n$  though `qwilcox`.

Next, write a function

```
power.fun = function(Nsim = 10000, alpha = .05, m = 10, n = 10, fac = 3/pi){...}
```

that evaluates `Ranksum.sim` for `Delta.p` in `Delta.vec = seq(0, 2, length.out = 21)` and then plots  $P_{\Delta'}(W_s \geq c_\alpha)$  against `Delta.p` over the grid vector `Delta.vec`. In a loop store the calculated values of  $P_{\Delta'}(W_s \geq c_\alpha)$  in a vector `power.vec` of same length as `Delta.vec`. Superimposed on this plot

```
plot(Delta.vec, power, type="l", xlab=expression(Delta*minute==Delta/sigma),
     ylab=expression(Pi(Delta*minute)==Pi(Delta/sigma)), ylim=c(0, 1))
```

add the power function of the two-sample  $t$ -test, evaluated over the same grid. Do this by using the `lines(x,y)` command for appropriate vectors `x` and `y`. The power function values for the  $t$ -test can be obtained in vectorized mode (since we use the vector argument `Delta.vec`) via

```
power.t = 1 - pt(qt(1 - alpha.c, m + n - 2, 0), m + n - 2, Delta.vec/sqrt(1/m + 1/n))
```

Explain this last command in terms of the fact that the distribution of the two-sample  $t$ -statistics is a noncentral  $t$ -distribution with  $m + n - 2$  degrees of freedom and noncentrality parameter

$$\delta = \frac{\Delta'}{\sqrt{1/m + 1/n}} = \frac{\Delta}{\sigma\sqrt{1/m + 1/n}}.$$

We expect the power of the  $t$ -test to be slightly higher than the power of the Wilcoxon rank-sum test. To get a better match of the power functions recompute the power of the  $t$ -test when  $m$  and  $n$  are reduced by the factor `fac = 3/pi = 3/π`, which represents the ARE of the Wilcoxon test relative to the  $t$ -test. This adjustment (only for the power of the  $t$ -test) is possible since `pt` and `qt` allow non-integer degrees of freedom. However, non-integer sample sizes don't make sense in the application of the  $t$ -test. What can you say about the quality of the match-up? Note that you can make both comparisons by using `fac = 1` and `fac = 3/pi` in the argument sequence to `power.fun`.

In spite of the quality of the match-up what aspect makes the rank-sum test preferable? Does the above match-up of power suggest a way to plan the sample sizes for the rank-sum test when dealing with normal shift alternatives (without simulating the  $W_s$  distribution for  $\Delta$ )?

Now add to this plot the power as computed by the two normal approximations and add a legend in the upper left corner using the `legend(...)` command, e.g.,

```
legend(0, 1, c("simulated power of Ws",
              paste("non-central t power (fac =", round(fac, 3), ")"),
              "power: normal approx. 1", "power: normal approx. 2"),
      col=c("black", "blue", "red", "orange"), lty=1:4, bty="n")
```

Make sure the various `lines(...)` commands use the appropriate colors and `lty` parameters. Also add the following annotation to your plot.

```
text(max(Delta.vec), 0, substitute(N[ $\sim$ ] == xNsim $\sim$ ", " $\sim$ m == xm $\sim$ ", " $\sim$ n == xn $\sim$ ", " $\sim$ alpha == xalpha $\sim$ ", " $\sim$ alpha[c] == xalpha.c,  
list(xNsim=Nsim, xm=m, xn=n, xalpha=alpha, xalpha.c=round(alpha.c, 3))), adj=1)
```

Show these plots for  $m = 10$  and  $n = 10$  and  $\alpha = .05$ . Discuss your results.

Note that I have given you two instances of writing mathematical expressions (Greek) in your plot via `expression` and `substitute`. For more on this see the link to “An Approach to Providing Mathematical Annotation in Plots” by Paul Murrell and Ross Ihaka that I provided on the class web page.

Optional (no need to do all): While the plots should look fine for  $m = n = 10$  they could use some scaling improvement for  $m = n = 5$  or  $m = n = 30$ . Try to implement this in an automatic fashion by using the second normal approximation to find an appropriate  $U$  (corresponding to approximate power .99) to get an adjustable grid vector `Delta.vec=seq(0, U, length.out=21)`. What about two-sided tests? What would you have to change if you were to compare the power of  $t$ -test and Wilcoxon test for non-normal shift alternatives. Note that the non-central  $t$ -distribution no longer applies.