Gaussian Centered L-moments

STOR 893 Object Oriented Data Analysis

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Preliminaries

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Notation

- $X \sim F, Y \sim G$
- $X_{1:n} \leq X_{2:n} \leq \cdots \leq X_{n:n}$
- Every distribution is absolutely continuous and strictly increasing in the sense that it is strictly increasing on its support

$$S(F) = \{x | 0 < F(x) < 1\}.$$

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- F^{-1} : Quantile of F
- $\phi(\cdot|\mu,\sigma^2), \Phi(\cdot|\mu,\sigma^2)$: PDF and CDF of $\mathcal{N}(\mu,\sigma^2)$

Skewness and kurtosis revisited

- $\mu_k = EX^k$: k-th moment
- The first four cumulants are

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1 &= \mu_1, \\ \kappa_2 &= \mu_2 - \mu_1^2, \\ \kappa_3 &= \mu_3 - 3\mu_2\mu_1 + 2\mu_1^3, \\ \kappa_4 &= \mu_4 - 4\mu_3\mu_1 - 3\mu_2^2 + 12\mu_2\mu_1^2 - 6\mu_1^4. \end{aligned}$$

• The (conventional) skewness γ_1 and (conventional excess) kurtosis γ_2 are

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{E \left(X - EX \right)^3}{\left\{ E \left(X - EX \right)^2 \right\}^{3/2}} = \frac{\kappa_3}{\kappa_2^{3/2}}, \quad \gamma_2 = \frac{E \left(X - EX \right)^4}{\left\{ E \left(X - EX \right)^2 \right\}^2} - 3 = \frac{\kappa_4}{\kappa_2^2}.$$

- The 3rd and higher order cumulants are zero for the Gaussian distributions by the Marcinkiewicz theorem.
 - \Rightarrow The conventional skewness and kurtosis are zero for the Gaussian distributions.



Figure 1: Two distributions with different location, scale, skewness and kurtosis

• To define conventional skewness and kurtosis, we need to have

$$E\left(\left|X\right|^{3}\right) < \infty, E\left(\left|X\right|^{4}\right) < \infty$$

respectively.

• The Sample (conventional) skewness and Sample (conventional) kurtosis

$$\hat{\gamma}_{1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{3}}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{2}\right)^{3/2}}, \quad \hat{\gamma}_{2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{4}}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{2}\right)^{2}}$$

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can be highly driven by some observations X_i having large values.

• Robust measures of skewness and kurtosis of a distribution is needed.

L-statistics and the L-moments

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L-statistics

• An L-statistic is

$$\tilde{\theta} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{ni} X_{i:n}$$

where c_{ni} is a constant depending on both i and n.

• The sample median is an L-statistic;

$$m = X_{\lfloor 2/n \rfloor:n}.$$

• The sample trimmed mean is an L-statistic;

$$m_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{n(1-2\alpha)} \left(X_{\lfloor \alpha n+1 \rfloor:n} + X_{\lfloor \alpha n+2 \rfloor:n} + \dots + X_{(n-\lfloor \alpha n \rfloor):n} \right).$$

 \bullet Often, we introduce a continuous function $h:(0,1)\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ yielding

$$\tilde{\theta} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} h\left(\frac{i}{n+1}\right) X_{i:n}$$

We have

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}h\left(\frac{i}{n+1}\right)X_{i:n} \xrightarrow{a.s.} \int_{0}^{1}F^{-1}(u)h(u)\,\mathrm{d}u$$

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when F and h satisfy some of the conditions, e.g. (Serfling, 1980).

L-moments

• The *r*-th L-moment (Hosking, 1990) is

$$\lambda_{r} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} (-1)^{k} \begin{pmatrix} r-1 \\ k \end{pmatrix} E X_{r-k:r}.$$

• The first four L-moments are

$$\begin{split} \lambda_1 &= EX_{1:1}, \\ \lambda_2 &= \frac{1}{2}E\left(X_{2:2} - X_{1:2}\right), \\ \lambda_3 &= \frac{1}{3}E\left(X_{3:3} - 2X_{2:3} + X_{1:3}\right), \\ \lambda_4 &= \frac{1}{4}E\left(X_{4:4} - 3X_{3:4} + 3X_{2:4} - X_{1:4}\right). \end{split}$$

• For a random variable $X \sim F$ such that $E|X| < \infty$,

$$-\infty < \lambda_r(F) < \infty$$
 for all $r = 1, 2, \cdots$.

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Figure 2: A pictorial description of the first order L-moment (Kimes, 2013)





Figure 3: A pictorial description of the second order L-moment (Kimes, 2013)



Figure 4: A pictorial description of the third order L-moment (Kimes, 2013)



• The *r*-th L-moment λ_r is alternatively expressed as

$$\lambda_r(F) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) P_{r-1}^*(F(x)) dx = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) P_{r-1}^*(u) du$$

where P_r^* is the r-th order shifted Legendre polynomial.



Figure 6: The shifted Legendre polynomials

• The shifted Legendre polynomials P_r^* are orthogonal to each other with respect to the weight function $w: (0, 1) \to \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$w(x) = 1$$

for all 0 < x < 1. That is,

$$\int_0^1 P_{r_1}^*(x) P_{r_2}^*(x) \mathrm{d}x = 0.$$

for all $r_1 \neq r_2$.

• The paper (Hosking, 1990) showed that

$$\tilde{\lambda}_r = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n P_{r-1}^* \left(\frac{i}{n+1} \right) X_{i:n} \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{\to} \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) P_{r-1}^*(u) \, \mathrm{d}u = \lambda_r.$$

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• $\tilde{\lambda}_r$ is less affected by outliers than $\hat{\gamma}_1$ or $\hat{\gamma}_2$.

Gaussian Centered L-moments

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Gaussian Centered L-moments: Motivation

- The cumulants are not robust..
- It can be seen that

$$\lambda_r(\mathsf{Uniform}(a,b)) = \int_0^1 \{(b-a)x + a\} P_{r-1}^*(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = 0$$

for all $-\infty < a < b < \infty$ and $r = 3, 4, \cdots$ by the orthogonality of P_r^* .

- \Rightarrow The L-moments are centered at the uniform distributions.
 - The signs and absolute values of $\lambda_r(F)$ do not tell us the relationship between F and Φ ;

$$\lambda_4(F) \ge 0 \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} F$$
 is more kurtotic than Φ .

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• Data usually follow the Gaussian distributions after suitable transformations.

A variation of the L-moments centered at the Gaussian distributions that

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- only needs a random variable X to satisfy $E|X| < \infty$,
- has an strongly consistent L-statistic,
- is centered at the Gaussian distributions.

Gaussian Centered L-moments: Definition

Definition

Functionals $\{\theta_r : \mathcal{F} \to \mathbb{R} | r = 1, 2, \cdots\}$ are called Gaussian Centered L-moments (GCL-moments) of \mathcal{F} if they are

1. L-functionals: $\exists h_r : (0,1) \to \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\theta_r(F) = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) h_r(u) \,\mathrm{d}u.$$

2. Centered at the Gaussian distributions:

$$heta_r(\Phi(\cdot|\mu,\sigma^2))=0$$
 for all $\mu\in\mathbb{R},\sigma^2>0,r=3,4,\cdots$

The L-moments are L-functionals since

$$\lambda_r(F) = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) P_{r-1}^*(u) \mathrm{d}u.$$

• Under some conditions on F and h_r ,

$$\tilde{\theta}_r = \sum_{i=1}^n h_r\left(\frac{i}{n+1}\right) X_{i:n} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) h_r(u) \, \mathrm{d}u = \theta_r.$$

Two versions:

- Hermite L-moments (HL-moments)
- Gaussian Rescaled L-moments (GRL-moments)

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Hermite L-moments

• The L-moments

$$\lambda_r(F) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) P_{r-1}^*(F(x)) \mathrm{d}x$$

are centered at the unform distributions since

$$\lambda_r(\mathsf{Uniform}(a,b)) = \int_0^1 \{(b-a)x + a\} P_{r-1}^*(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = 0$$

for all $-\infty < a < b < \infty$ and $r = 3, 4, \cdots$.

• The Hermite polynomials H_r are orthogonal to each other with respect to the weight function $w : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$w(x) = e^{x^2/2}$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. That is,

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{x^2/2} H_{r_1}(x) H_{r_2}(x) \mathrm{d}x = 0.$$

for all $r_1 \neq r_2$.

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• The following L-functionals

$$\eta_r(F) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) H_{r-1}\left(\Phi^{-1}(F(x))\right) \,\mathrm{d}x$$

are centered at the Gaussian distributions since

$$\eta_r(\Phi(\cdot|\mu,\sigma^2)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\mu + \sigma x)\phi(x)H_{r-1}(x)\,\mathrm{d}x = 0$$

for all $r = 3, 4, \cdots$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma > 0$ where H_r is the r-th order Hermite polynomial.

• The *r*-th Hermite L-moment (HL-moment):

$$\eta_r = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) H_{r-1} \left(\Phi^{-1}(F(x)) \right) \, \mathrm{d}x$$

• The *r*-th sample Hermite L-moment (sample HL-moment):

$$\tilde{\eta}_r = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n H_{r-1} \left(\Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{i}{n+1} \right) \right) X_{i:n}$$

- The HL-moments are GCL-moments.
- The first four HL-moments satisfy Oja's criterion.

Hermite L-moments

Recall that the skewness and kurtosis are defined as

$$\hat{\gamma}_{1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{3}}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{2}\right)^{3/2}}, \quad \hat{\gamma}_{2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{4}}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_{i} - \bar{X}\right)^{2}\right)^{2}}$$

• The Hermite L-skewness (HL-skewness) and Hermite L-kurtosis (HL-kurtosis) are defined as

$$\eta_3^* = \frac{\eta_3}{\eta_2}, \quad \eta_4^* = \frac{\eta_4}{\eta_2}$$

• The sample Hermite L-skewness (sample HL-skewness) and sample Hermite L-kurtosis (sample HL-kurtosis) are defined as

$$\tilde{\eta}_3^* = \frac{\tilde{\eta}_3}{\tilde{\eta}_2}, \quad \tilde{\eta}_4^* = \frac{\tilde{\eta}_4}{\tilde{\eta}_2}$$

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Asymptotic distribution of sample HL-moments

Recall that

$$\tilde{\theta}_r = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h_r\left(\frac{i}{n+1}\right) X_{i:n} \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{\to} \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) h_r(u) \, \mathrm{d}u = \theta_r$$

under some conditions on F and h_r .

• We showed that

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} \tilde{\eta}_{n,2} \\ \tilde{\eta}_{n,3} \\ \tilde{\eta}_{n,4} \end{array} \right) - \left(\begin{array}{c} \eta_2 \\ \eta_3 \\ \eta_4 \end{array} \right) \right) \stackrel{d}{\to} \mathcal{N} \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \right), \left(\begin{array}{c} \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{23} & \sigma_{34} \\ \sigma_{32} & \sigma_{33} & \sigma_{34} \\ \sigma_{42} & \sigma_{43} & \sigma_{44} \end{array} \right) \right)$$

as $n \to \infty$ where

$$\sigma_{r_1 r_2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \{F(x \wedge y) - F(x)F(y)\} \\ H_{r_1 - 1}\left(\Phi^{-1}(F(x))\right) H_{r_2 - 1}\left(\Phi^{-1}(F(x))\right) \, \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{d}y$$

where $x \wedge y = \min\{x, y\}.$

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We showed that

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} \tilde{\eta}_{n,3}^* \\ \tilde{\eta}_{n,4}^* \end{array} \right) - \left(\begin{array}{c} \eta_3^* \\ \eta_4^* \end{array} \right) \right) \stackrel{d}{\to} \mathcal{N} \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \right), \Psi \right)$$

as $n \to \infty$ where

$$D = \frac{1}{\eta_2^2} \begin{pmatrix} (\eta_3^*)^2 \sigma_{22} - 2\eta_3^* \sigma_{23} + \sigma_{33} & \eta_3^* \eta_4^* \sigma_{22} - \eta_4^* \sigma_{23} - \eta_3^* \sigma_{24} + \sigma_{34} \\ \eta_3^* \eta_4^* \sigma_{22} - \eta_4^* \sigma_{23} - \eta_3^* \sigma_{24} + \sigma_{34} & (\eta_4^*)^2 \sigma_{22} - 2\eta_4^* \sigma_{24} + \sigma_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

• We showed that the sample HL-skewness and kurtosis are asymptotically independent for the Gaussian distributions, i.e.

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Cov}_{\Phi} \left(n^{1/2} \tilde{\eta}_{n,r_1}^*, n^{1/2} \tilde{\eta}_{n,r_2}^* \right) = 0$$

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for all $r_1 \neq r_2$.

Gaussian Rescaled L-moments

For the Gaussian distributions,

$$\lambda_{3} = 0,$$

$$\lambda_{4} = \frac{1}{4}E(X_{4:4} - 3X_{3:4} + 3X_{2:4} - X_{1:4})$$

$$= \frac{1}{4}\{E(X_{4:4} - X_{1:4}) - 3E(X_{3:4} - X_{2:4})\}$$

$$\neq 0.$$



Figure 7: Four expected order statistics of $\mathsf{Uniform}(-1,1)$ and $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$

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Recall that

$$\begin{split} \lambda_1 &= EX_{1:1}, \\ \lambda_2 &= \frac{1}{2}E\left(X_{2:2} - X_{1:2}\right), \\ \lambda_3 &= \frac{1}{3}\left\{E\left(X_{3:3} - X_{2:3}\right) - E\left(X_{2:3} - X_{1:3}\right)\right\}, \\ \lambda_4 &= \frac{1}{4}\left\{E\left(X_{4:4} - X_{3:4}\right) - E\left(X_{3:4} - X_{2:4}\right)\right\} \\ &- \frac{1}{4}\left\{E\left(X_{3:4} - X_{2:4}\right) - E\left(X_{2:4} - X_{1:4}\right)\right\}. \end{split}$$

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The first four Gaussian Rescaled L-moments (GRL-moments) are

$$\begin{split} \rho_1 &= EX_{1:1}, \\ \rho_2 &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{\delta_{1,2:2}(Z)} E\left(X_{2:2} - X_{1:2}\right) \right\} \\ &\approx 0.8862\lambda_2, \\ \rho_3 &= \frac{1}{3} \left\{ \frac{1}{\delta_{2,3:3}(\Phi)} E\left(X_{3:3} - X_{2:3}\right) - \frac{1}{\delta_{1,2:3}(\Phi)} E\left(X_{2:3} - X_{1:3}\right) \right\} \\ &\approx 1.1816\lambda_3, \\ \rho_4 &= \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \frac{1}{\delta_{3,4:4}(\Phi)} E\left(X_{4:4} - X_{3:4}\right) - \frac{1}{\delta_{2,3:4}(\Phi)} E\left(X_{3:4} - X_{2:4}\right) \right\} \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{4} \left\{ \frac{1}{\delta_{2,3:4}(\Phi)} E\left(X_{3:4} - X_{2:4}\right) - \frac{1}{\delta_{1,2:4}(\Phi)} E\left(X_{2:4} - X_{1:4}\right) \right\} \end{split}$$

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where $\delta_{i,j:k}(\Phi) = E(Z_{j:k} - Z_{i:k})$ for $1 \le i \le j \le k$ and $Z \sim \Phi$.

• The *r*-th GRL-moment has the integral representation as follows,

$$\rho_r = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) R_{r-1}(u) \,\mathrm{d}u$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} R_0(u) &= P_0^*(u) \\ R_1(u) &\approx 0.8862 P_1^*(u) \\ R_2(u) &\approx 1.1816 P_2^*(u) \\ R_3(u) &\approx (6c+2)u^3 - 3(3c+1)u^2 + (3c+3)u - 1 \end{aligned}$$

and c = 3.4658.

• The polynomials R_r are not orthogonal to each other with respect to the weight function w(x) = 1.

The r-th sample GRL-moments are

$$\tilde{\rho}_r = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n R_{r-1} \left(\frac{i}{n+1}\right) X_{i:n}$$

- The GRL-moments are GCL-moments.
- The first four GRL-moments satisfy Oja's criterion, i.e. those are measures of location, scale, skewness and kurtosis of a distribution.

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• The Gaussian Rescaled L-skewness (GRL-skewness) and Gaussian Rescaled L-kurtosis (GRL-kurtosis) are defined as

$$\rho_3^* = \frac{\rho_3}{\rho_2}, \quad \rho_4^* = \frac{\rho_4}{\rho_2}$$

• The sample Gaussian Rescaled L-skewness (sample GRL-skewness) and sample Gaussian Rescaled L-kurtosis (sample GRL-kurtosis) are defined as

$$\tilde{\rho}_3^* = \frac{\tilde{\rho}_3}{\tilde{\rho}_2}, \quad \tilde{\rho}_4^* = \frac{\tilde{\rho}_4}{\tilde{\rho}_2}.$$

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Robustness of GCL-moments

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Comparison of robustness of GCL-moments

• Recall that L-functionals are in the form

$$\theta(F) = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u)h(u) \,\mathrm{d}u$$

for some function $h:(0,1)\to\mathbb{R}.$

Note that

$$\eta_r = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) H_{r-1}(\Phi^{-1}(u)) \, \mathrm{d}u,$$

$$\rho_r = \int_0^1 F^{-1}(u) R_{r-1}(u) \, \mathrm{d}u.$$

Comparison of polynomials in GCL-moments



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Comparison of polynomials in GCL-moments

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Influence function

- \mathcal{M} : Class of probability measures
- A functional T is Gâteaux differentiable at F ∈ M if there is a linear functional L_F such that for all G ∈ M

$$\lim_{t \to 0} \frac{T(F_t) - T(F)}{t} = L_F(G - F)$$

where

$$F_t = (1-t)F + tG$$

• The influence function of a Gâteaux differentiable functional T evaluated at $F \in \mathcal{M}$ is T(E) = T(E)

$$IC(x; F, T) = \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{T(F_t) - T(F)}{t}$$

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where $F_t = (1-t)F + t\delta_x$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Influence function of conventional moments

• It was shown in (Groeneveld, 1991) that

$$IC(x; F, \gamma_1) = x^3 - 3x$$
$$= H_3(x)$$

for all F which is symmetric and cube integrable.

• It was shown in (Ruppert, 1987) that

$$IC(x; F, \gamma_2) = x^4 - 6x + 3$$
$$= H_4(x)$$

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for all F which is symmetric and fourth power integrable.

Influence functions of GCL-moments

We showed that

$$IC(x; \Phi, \eta_r^*) = \frac{1}{r} H_r(x),$$

$$IC(x; \Phi, \rho_r^*) = \int_{-\infty}^0 \Phi(y) R_{r-1}(\Phi(y)) \, dy$$

$$- \int_0^\infty \{1 - \Phi(y)\} R_{r-1}(\Phi(y)) \, dy$$

$$+ \int_0^x R_{r-1}(\Phi(y)) \, dy$$

for $r = 3, 4, \cdots$.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathsf{IC}\,(x;\Phi,\eta_r^*)| &= & O\,(|x|^r)\,, \\ |\mathsf{IC}\,(x;\Phi,\rho_r^*)| &= & O\,(|x|) \end{aligned}$$

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for all $r = 1, 2, \cdots$.

Comparison of polynomials in GCL-moments



Figure 8: Influence curves of various moments at the standard Gaussian distribution

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Analysis of TCGA lobular freeze data

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- Gene expressions of breast cancer patients
- 16,615 genes, 817 cases
- 5 subtypes
 - LumA +
 - LumB ×
 - Her2 *
 - ► Basal <
 - ▶ Normal-like ▷
- Looking for genes in which the distributions of different subtypes are best separated from each other.

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Sample skewness: Bottom 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)





Sample HL-skewness: Bottom 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)



Sample GRL-skewness: Bottom 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)

Sample skewness: Top 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)







Sample GRL-skewness: Top 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)



Sample kurtosis: Bottom 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)





Sample HL-kurtosis: Bottom 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)





Sample kurtosis: Top 15 (LumA+, LumB×, Her2*, Basal⊲, Normal⊳)











- The paper (Tibshirani, 2002) suggested an algorithm called Prediction Analysis of Microarray (PAM) for selecting genes which might best separate different subtypes from each other.
- The PAM50 genes are the genes selected by the PAM algorithm.
- A better measure of sorting will better find the PAM50 genes out of top *n* genes suggested by the measure.

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Precision and recall



Figure 9: A pictorial description about precision and recall (Wikipedia)

- Precision: How many selected items are relevant?
- Recall: How many relevant items are selected?



Figure 10: A pictorial description about precision and recall (Wikipedia)

Precision and recall: examples

• Suppose that the PAM50 genes are A, B, C.

 $\bullet~$ If top n genes suggested by a measure is

$$X_1, \cdots, X_{n_1}, \mathbf{A}, X_{n_1+2}, \cdots, X_{n_2}, \mathbf{B}, X_{n_2+2}, \cdots, X_{n_3}, \mathbf{C},$$

then we have Figure 11.



Figure 11: Examples of precision-recall curves

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