

Statistical Depth Function

Zoltán Szabó

Machine Learning Journal Club, Gatsby Unit

June 27, 2016

- L-statistics, order statistics, ranking.
- Instead of *moments*: median, dispersion, scale, skewness, . . .
- New visualization tools: depth contours, sunburst plot.
- Testing: symmetry.
- Depth function properties.

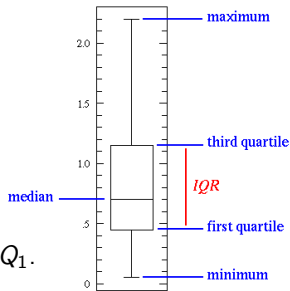
L-statistics, ranking

- Given: $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$ samples.
- Order statistics: $x_{[1]} \leq \dots \leq x_{[n]}$.
- Linear combination of order statistics.
- Rank: position of x_j .

- Dispersion:

- 1 range: $x_{[n]} - x_{[1]}$.

- 2 interquartile range: $x_{[3n/4]} - x_{[n/4]} = Q_3 - Q_1$.



- Dispersion:

- 1 range: $x_{[n]} - x_{[1]}$.

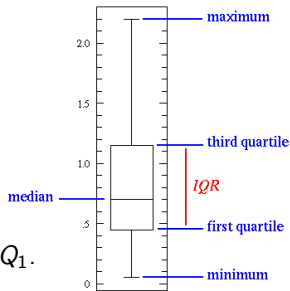
- 2 interquartile range: $x_{[3n/4]} - x_{[n/4]} = Q_3 - Q_1$.

- Location:

- median: $x_{[n/2]}$.

- α -trimmed mean = middle of the $(1 - 2\alpha)$ -th fraction of observations,

$$\frac{1}{(1 - 2\alpha)n} \sum_{i=\alpha n+1}^{(1-\alpha)n} x_{[i]}.$$



- Typical application: robust estimation.
- Question: Similar notions in \mathbb{R}^d ?

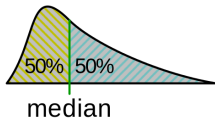
- Typical application: robust estimation.
- Question: Similar notions in \mathbb{R}^d ?
- Critical: $x_{[1]} \leq \dots \leq x_{[n]}$.

- Typical application: robust estimation.
- Question: Similar notions in \mathbb{R}^d ?
- Critical: $x_{[1]} \leq \dots \leq x_{[n]}$.
- Idea: [center-outward ordering](#).

Median

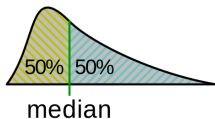
Motivation: median

- F : continuous c.d.f. on \mathbb{R} .
- median:
 - point splitting the probability mass to $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.
 - solution of $F(m) = \frac{1}{2}$.



Motivation: median

- F : continuous c.d.f. on \mathbb{R} .
- median:
 - point splitting the probability mass to $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.
 - solution of $F(m) = \frac{1}{2}$.

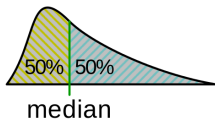


- alternative view:

$$m := \arg \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} D(x) := 2F(x)[1 - F(x)]$$

Motivation: median

- F : continuous c.d.f. on \mathbb{R} .
- median:
 - point splitting the probability mass to $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.
 - solution of $F(m) = \frac{1}{2}$.

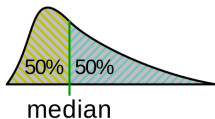


- alternative view:

$$\begin{aligned} m &:= \arg \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} D(x) := 2F(x)[1 - F(x)] \\ &= \mathbb{P}_{X_1, X_2 \sim F}(x \in [X_1, X_2]). \end{aligned}$$

Motivation: median

- F : continuous c.d.f. on \mathbb{R} .
- median:
 - point splitting the probability mass to $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.
 - solution of $F(m) = \frac{1}{2}$.



- alternative view:

$$\begin{aligned} m &:= \arg \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} D(x) := 2F(x)[1 - F(x)] \\ &= \mathbb{P}_{X_1, X_2 \sim F}(x \in [X_1, X_2]). \end{aligned}$$

Moving away from m , $D(x)$ decreases monotonically to 0.

Let us extend the median to \mathbb{R}^d !

- Simplitical depth [Liu, 1990]:

$$SD(\mathbf{x}; F) := \mathbb{P}_F(\mathbf{x} \in \Delta(X_1, \dots, X_{d+1})).$$

Let us extend the median to \mathbb{R}^d !

- **Simplital depth** [Liu, 1990]:

$$SD(\mathbf{x}; F) := \mathbb{P}_F(\mathbf{x} \in \Delta(X_1, \dots, X_{d+1})).$$

- **Half-space depth** [Tukey, 1975]:

$$HD(\mathbf{x}; F) := \inf_{H \subset \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{P}_F(X \in H)$$

minimum probability of any closed halfspace containing \mathbf{x} .

Let us extend the median to \mathbb{R}^d !

- Simplitlcal depth [Liu, 1990]:

$$SD(\mathbf{x}; F) := \mathbb{P}_F(\mathbf{x} \in \Delta(X_1, \dots, X_{d+1})).$$

- Half-space depth [Tukey, 1975]:

$$HD(\mathbf{x}; F) := \inf_{H \subset \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{P}_F(X \in H)$$

minimum probability of any closed halfspace containing \mathbf{x} .

median: $m = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d} D(\mathbf{x}; F)$.

Side-note: these quantities are also computable

- depth R-package: simplicial, half-space, Oja's depth.
- Ref. (half-space depth): [Dyckerhoff and Mozharovskyi, 2016].

Side-note: these quantities are also computable

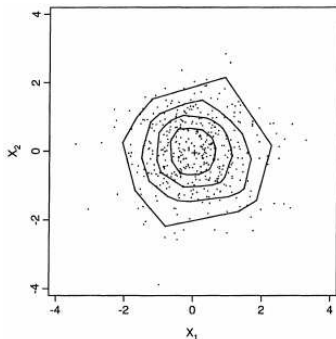
- depth R-package: simplicial, half-space, Oja's depth.
- Ref. (half-space depth): [Dyckerhoff and Mozharovskyi, 2016].
- Simplicial depth:

$$\mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mathbf{x}_i, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i = 1$$

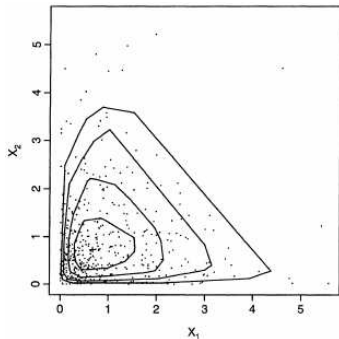
linear equation. If $\alpha_i \geq 0$ ($\forall i$) \Rightarrow Yes.

Example: SD – depth-induced contours

normal



exponential



- center-outward ordering.
- high-depth: 'center', low-depth: 'outlyingness'.
- expansion of contours: scale (dispersion), skewness, kurtosis.

- Median/center: deepest point.

- Median/center: deepest point.
- Other robust location statistics:
 - idea: assign smaller weights to more outlier data.
 - given: $w : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ nonincreasing weight function

$$L_w = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{[i]} w(i/n)}{\sum_{j=1}^n w(j/n)}.$$

- Median/center: deepest point.
- Other robust location statistics:
 - idea: assign smaller weights to more outlier data.
 - given: $w : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ nonincreasing weight function

$$L_w = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{[i]} w(i/n)}{\sum_{j=1}^n w(j/n)}.$$

- Specifically:
 - $w(t) = \mathbb{I}(t \leq 1/n)$: sample median.
 - $w(t) = \mathbb{I}(t \leq 1 - \alpha)$: 100 α %-trimmed mean.

- Median/center: deepest point.
- Other robust location statistics:
 - idea: assign smaller weights to more outlier data.
 - given: $w : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ nonincreasing weight function

$$L_w = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{[i]} w(i/n)}{\sum_{j=1}^n w(j/n)}.$$

- Specifically:
 - $w(t) = \mathbb{I}(t \leq 1/n)$: sample median.
 - $w(t) = \mathbb{I}(t \leq 1 - \alpha)$: $100\alpha\%$ -trimmed mean.

No expectation requirement!

Idea-1: similar to location, the dispersion

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_{[i]} - \mathbf{x}_{[1]}) (\mathbf{x}_{[i]} - \mathbf{x}_{[1]})^T w(i/n)}{\sum_{j=1}^n w(j/n)}.$$

Idea-1: similar to location, the dispersion

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_{[i]} - \mathbf{x}_{[1]}) (\mathbf{x}_{[i]} - \mathbf{x}_{[1]})^T w(i/n)}{\sum_{j=1}^n w(j/n)}.$$

- Scale: $\det(\mathbf{S})$.
- Equivariance under affine transformations:

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{S}_y = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{S}_x\mathbf{A}^T.$$

Idea-1: similar to location, the dispersion

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_{[i]} - \mathbf{x}_{[1]}) (\mathbf{x}_{[i]} - \mathbf{x}_{[1]})^T w(i/n)}{\sum_{j=1}^n w(j/n)}.$$

- Scale: $\det(\mathbf{S})$.
- Equivariance under affine transformations:

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{S}_y = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{S}_x\mathbf{A}^T.$$

No moment constraints!

Idea

Dispersion := speed how the data depth decreases.

- p -th (empirical) central region:

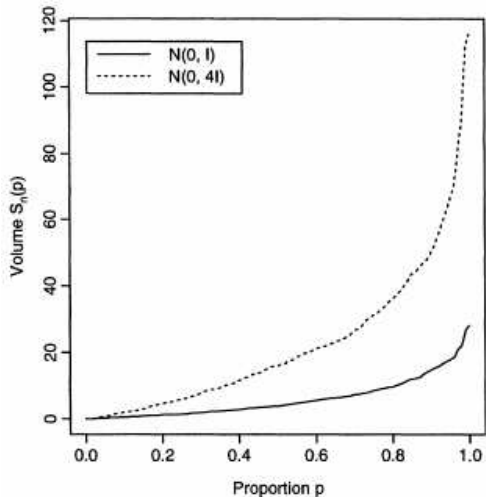
$$C_{n,p} := \text{conv} \{ \mathbf{x}_{[1]}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{[np]} \}.$$

- scale curve:

$$S_n(p) := \text{vol}(C_{n,p}).$$

faster growing of $p \mapsto S_n(p)$ = larger scale of the distribution.

Scale curve example



- Spherical symmetry around \mathbf{c} :

$$X - \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{U}(X - \mathbf{c}), \forall \mathbf{U}: \text{orthogonal.}$$

- Spherical symmetry around \mathbf{c} :

$$X - \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{U}(X - \mathbf{c}), \forall \mathbf{U}: \text{orthogonal.}$$

- Strategy:
 - take the smallest sphere containing $C_{n,p}$,
 - determine the fraction of the data within this sphere,
 - plot it as function of p ($\geq p$).

Skewness: departure from spherical symmetry

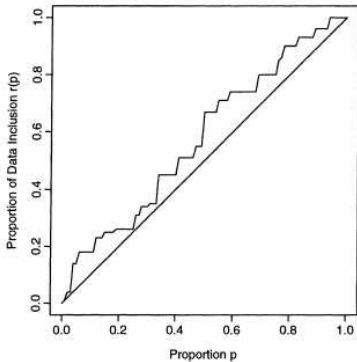
- Spherical symmetry around \mathbf{c} :

$$X - \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{U}(X - \mathbf{c}), \forall \mathbf{U}: \text{orthogonal.}$$

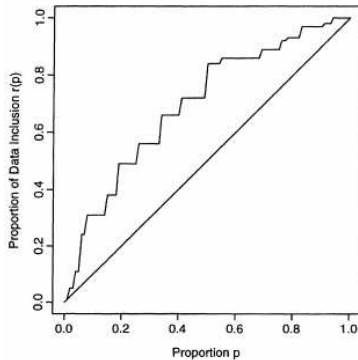
- Strategy:
 - take the smallest sphere containing $C_{n,p}$,
 - determine the fraction of the data within this sphere,
 - plot it as function of p ($\geq p$).
- Spherical symmetry $\Leftrightarrow (0,0) \rightarrow (1,1)$ linear curve, i.e. **area of the gap** = 0.

Spherical symmetric/skewed: demo

Spherical (area = 0.08)



Asymmetric (area = 0.2)



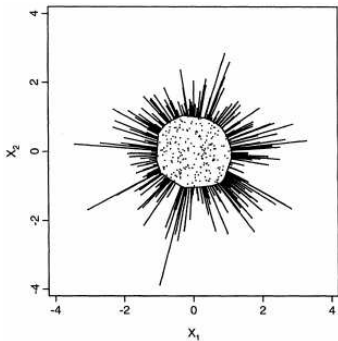
Sunburst plot

Sunburst plot = '2D boxplot'

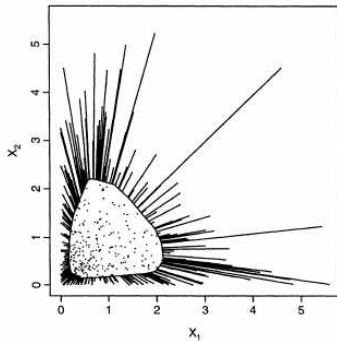
For a given depth function:

- identify the center,
- central 50% points (\leftrightarrow IQR),
- ray from non-central points to center (\leftrightarrow whiskers).

normal



exponential



Testing

$X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is

- centrally symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $X - \mathbf{c} \stackrel{\text{distr}}{=} \mathbf{c} - X$.

$X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is

- centrally symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $X - \mathbf{c} \stackrel{\text{distr}}{\equiv} \mathbf{c} - X$.
- angularly symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $\frac{X - \mathbf{c}}{\|X - \mathbf{c}\|_2}$ is C-sym. around $\mathbf{0}$.

$X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is

- centrally symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $X - \mathbf{c} \stackrel{\text{distr}}{=} \mathbf{c} - X$.
- angularly symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $\frac{X - \mathbf{c}}{\|X - \mathbf{c}\|_2}$ is C-sym. around $\mathbf{0}$.
- half-space symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $P(X \in H) \geq \frac{1}{2}$, for $\forall H \ni \mathbf{c}$, closed half-space.

$X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is

- centrally symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $X - \mathbf{c} \stackrel{\text{distr}}{=} \mathbf{c} - X$.
- angularly symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $\frac{X - \mathbf{c}}{\|X - \mathbf{c}\|_2}$ is C-sym. around $\mathbf{0}$.
- half-space symmetric around \mathbf{c} : $P(X \in H) \geq \frac{1}{2}$, for $\forall H \ni \mathbf{c}$, closed half-space.

Note:

- C-symmetry \Rightarrow A-symmetry \Rightarrow H-symmetry.
- A-symmetry $\not\Rightarrow$ H-symmetry: in the discrete case, continuous: \checkmark .
- $d = 1$: all = standard symmetry.

Testing: A-symmetry – idea

- SD is maximized at the center of symmetry, $= \frac{1}{2^d}$.
- F : absolutely continuous, $SD(\mathbf{c}^*; F) \leq \frac{1}{2^d}$, ' $=$ ' $\Leftrightarrow F$: A-sym. around \mathbf{c}^* .

Testing: A-symmetry – idea

- SD is maximized at the center of symmetry, $= \frac{1}{2^d}$.
- F : absolutely continuous, $SD(\mathbf{c}^*; F) \leq \frac{1}{2^d}$, ' $=$ ' $\Leftrightarrow F$: A-sym. around \mathbf{c}^* .
- \mathbf{c} : hypothesized center.
- Decision: if $\frac{1}{2^d} - SD(\mathbf{c}; F_n)$ is large \Rightarrow reject H_0 .

Testing: A-symmetry – idea

- SD is maximized at the center of symmetry, $= \frac{1}{2^d}$.
- F : absolutely continuous, $SD(\mathbf{c}^*; F) \leq \frac{1}{2^d}$, ' $=$ ' $\Leftrightarrow F$: A-sym. around \mathbf{c}^* .
- \mathbf{c} : hypothesized center.
- Decision: if $\frac{1}{2^d} - SD(\mathbf{c}; F_n)$ is large \Rightarrow reject H_0 .
- Under the hood:
 - $\frac{1}{2^d} - SD(\mathbf{c}; F_n)$: degenerate U-statistic,
 - $n \left[\frac{1}{2^d} - SD(\mathbf{c}; F_n) \right] \rightarrow \infty$ -sum of χ^2 -s.

Depth function properties

Desirable properties

\mathcal{F} := Borel probability measures on \mathbb{R}^d . $D(\cdot; \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ bounded,

① affine invariance:

$$D(\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}; F_{\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}}) = D(\mathbf{x}; F_X) \quad \forall \mathbf{A} : \text{invertible}, \mathbf{b}, X.$$

Desirable properties

\mathcal{F} := Borel probability measures on \mathbb{R}^d . $D(\cdot; \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ bounded,

- 1 affine invariance:

$$D(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}; F_{\mathbf{A}X + \mathbf{b}}) = D(\mathbf{x}; F_X) \quad \forall \mathbf{A} : \text{invertible}, \mathbf{b}, X.$$

- 2 maximality at center: For F with center \mathbf{c} ,

$$D(\mathbf{c}; F) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d} D(\mathbf{x}; F).$$

Desirable properties

\mathcal{F} := Borel probability measures on \mathbb{R}^d . $D(\cdot; \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ bounded,

- ① affine invariance:

$$D(\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}; F_{\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}}) = D(\mathbf{x}; F_X) \quad \forall \mathbf{A} : \text{invertible}, \mathbf{b}, X.$$

- ② maximality at center: For F with center \mathbf{c} ,

$$D(\mathbf{c}; F) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d} D(\mathbf{x}; F).$$

- ③ monotonicity relative to the deepest point: For $\forall F$ with deepest point \mathbf{c} ,

$$D(\mathbf{x}; F) \leq D(\alpha \mathbf{x} + (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{c}; F), \quad \forall \alpha \in [0, 1].$$

Desirable properties

\mathcal{F} := Borel probability measures on \mathbb{R}^d . $D(\cdot; \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ bounded,

- ① affine invariance:

$$D(\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}; F_{\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}}) = D(\mathbf{x}; F_X) \quad \forall \mathbf{A} : \text{invertible}, \mathbf{b}, X.$$

- ② maximality at center: For F with center \mathbf{c} ,

$$D(\mathbf{c}; F) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d} D(\mathbf{x}; F).$$

- ③ monotonicity relative to the deepest point: For $\forall F$ with deepest point \mathbf{c} ,

$$D(\mathbf{x}; F) \leq D(\alpha \mathbf{x} + (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{c}; F), \quad \forall \alpha \in [0, 1].$$

- ④ vanishing at infinity:

$$D(\mathbf{x}; F) \xrightarrow{\|\mathbf{x}\| \rightarrow \infty} 0, \quad \forall F.$$

- Vanishing at infinity: useful for establishing

$$\sup_{\mathbf{x}} |D(\mathbf{x}; F_n) - D(\mathbf{x}; F)| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \text{ (F-a.s.)}.$$

- Properties of HD and SD:
 - half-space (HD): 1-4 ✓ (H-sym.)
 - simplicial (SD):
 - continuous distributions: 1-4 ✓ (A-sym.)
 - discrete: 2/3 might fail.

$$D_A(\mathbf{x}; F) = \mathbb{E}_F [h_A(\mathbf{x}; X_1; \dots; X_r)] \xrightarrow{\text{example}} SD,$$

$$D_B(\mathbf{x}; F) = \frac{1}{1 + \mathbb{E}_F [h_B(\mathbf{x}; X_1; \dots; X_r)]},$$

$$D_C(\mathbf{x}; F) = \frac{1}{1 + O(\mathbf{x}; F)},$$

$$D_D(\mathbf{x}; F) = \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in C \in \mathcal{C}} \mathbb{P}_F(X \in C) \xrightarrow{\text{example}} HD.$$

- $h_A(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_r)$: bounded, closeness of \mathbf{x} to \mathbf{x}_i -s.
- $h_B(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_r)$: unbounded, distance of \mathbf{x} from \mathbf{x}_i -s.
- $O(\mathbf{x}; F)$: unbounded outlyingness function.
- \mathcal{C} : closedness properties.

$$D_A(\mathbf{x}; F) = \mathbb{E}_F [h_A(\mathbf{x}; X_1; \dots; X_r)] \xrightarrow{\text{example}} SD,$$

$$D_B(\mathbf{x}; F) = \frac{1}{1 + \mathbb{E}_F [h_B(\mathbf{x}; X_1; \dots; X_r)]},$$

$$D_C(\mathbf{x}; F) = \frac{1}{1 + O(\mathbf{x}; F)},$$

$$D_D(\mathbf{x}; F) = \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in C \in \mathcal{C}} \mathbb{P}_F(X \in C) \xrightarrow{\text{example}} HD.$$

- $h_A(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_r)$: bounded, closeness of \mathbf{x} to \mathbf{x}_i -s.
- $h_B(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_r)$: unbounded, distance of \mathbf{x} from \mathbf{x}_i -s.
- $O(\mathbf{x}; F)$: unbounded outlyingness function.
- \mathcal{C} : closedness properties.

Note: $D_A(\mathbf{x}; F_n)$: U/V-statistic.

Let $\Sigma = \text{cov}(F)$. In simplicial volume depth (D_{SVD^α}), $D_{\tilde{L}^2}$:

$$h(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_d) = \left(\frac{\text{vol}[\Delta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_d)]}{\sqrt{\det(\Sigma)}} \right)^\alpha, \alpha > 0,$$

$$h(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_1) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_1\|_{\Sigma^{-1}}, \quad \|\mathbf{z}\|_{\mathbf{M}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{z}}.$$

Properties:

- D_{SVD^α} : 1-4 ✓ (C-sym.),
- $D_{\tilde{L}^2}$: 1-4 ✓ (A-sym.).

Projection depth: **worst case** outlyingness w.r.t. 1d-median, for **any 1d projection**.

$$O(\mathbf{x}; F) = \sup_{\|\mathbf{u}\|_2=1} \frac{|\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} - \text{med}(\mathbf{u}^T X)|}{MAD(\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{X})}, X \sim F,$$





$$MAD(Y) = \text{med}(|Y - \text{med}(Y)|).$$

Properties: 1-4 ✓ (H-sym.)

- Depth functions: simplicial, half-space, . . .
- They define: center-outward ordering, ranks, \Rightarrow
- L-statistics, symmetry test.
- location (median, . . .), dispersion, scale, skewness, kurtosis (no moments),
- sunburst plot.

Thank you for the attention!



-  Dyckerhoff, R. and Mozharovskyi, P. (2016).
Exact computation of the halfspace depth.
Technical report, University of Cologne.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1411.6927>.
-  Liu, R. (1990).
On a notion of data depth based on random simplices.
The Annals of Statistics, 18:405–414.
-  Tukey, J. (1975).
Mathematics and picturing data.
In *International Congress on Mathematics*, pages 523–531.
-  Zuo, B. Y. and Serfling, R. (2000).
General notions of statistical depth function.
The Annals of Statistics, 28:461–482.