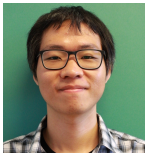


# Relative Goodness-of-Fit Tests for Models with Latent Variables

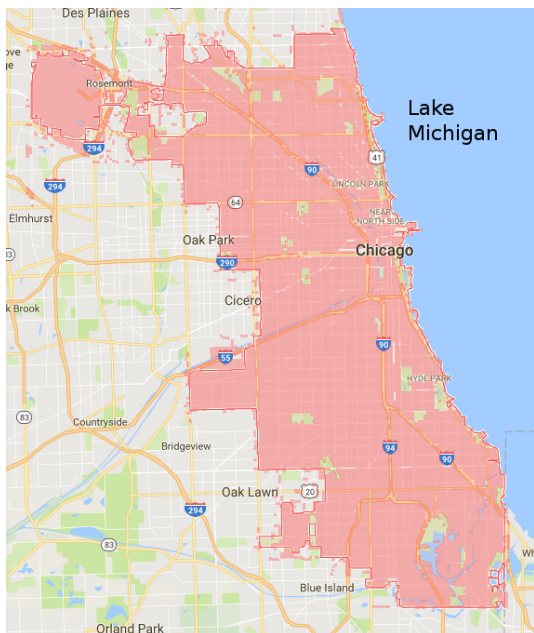
Arthur Gretton



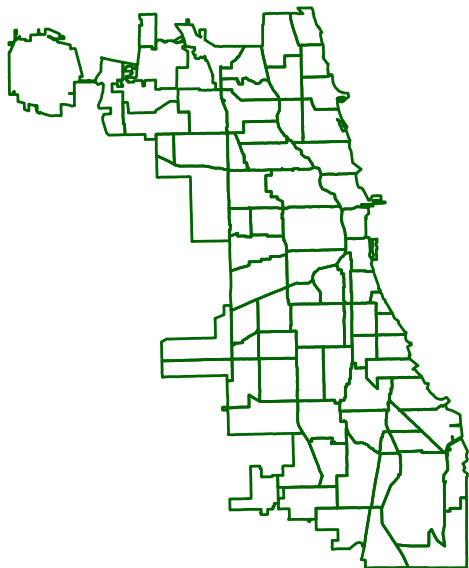
Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit,  
University College London

June 15, 2019

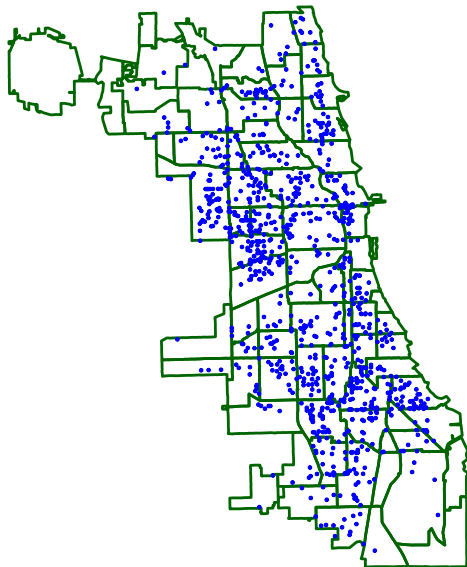
# Model Criticism



## Model Criticism

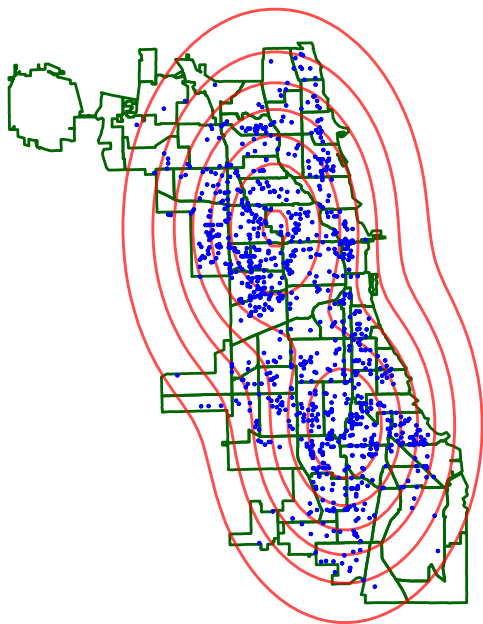


## Model Criticism



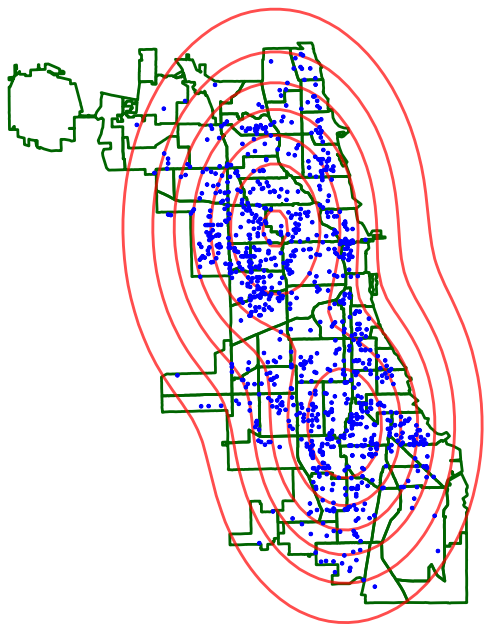
Data = robbery events in  
Chicago in 2016.

## Model Criticism



Is this a good **model**?

## Model Criticism



Goals: Test if a (complicated)  
**model** fits the **data**.

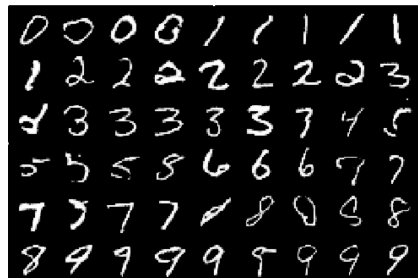
## Model Criticism

*"All models are wrong."*

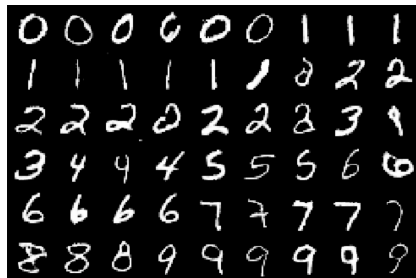
G. Box (1976)

## Relative model comparison

- Have: two candidate models  $P$  and  $Q$ , and samples  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$  from reference distribution  $R$
- Goal: which of  $P$  and  $Q$  is better?



Samples from GAN,  
Goodfellow et al. (2014)



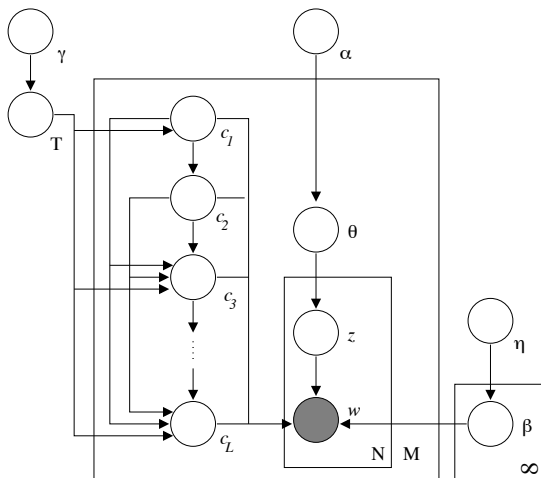
Samples from LSGAN,  
Mao et al. (2017)

**Which model is better?**



## Most interesting models have latent structure

Graphical model representation of hierarchical LDA with a nested CRP prior, Blei et al. (2003)

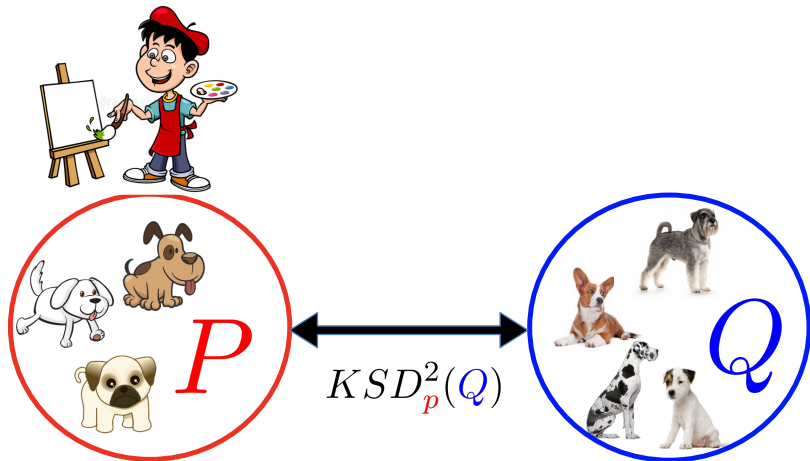


## Relative goodness-of-fit tests for Models with Latent Variables

- The kernel Stein discrepancy
  - Comparing two models via samples: MMD and the witness function.
  - Comparing a sample and a model: Stein modification of the witness class
- Constructing a relative hypothesis test using the KSD
- Relative hypothesis tests with latent variables (new, unpublished)

# Kernel Stein Discrepancy

- Model  $P$ , data  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n \sim Q$ .
- “All models are wrong” ( $P \neq Q$ ).

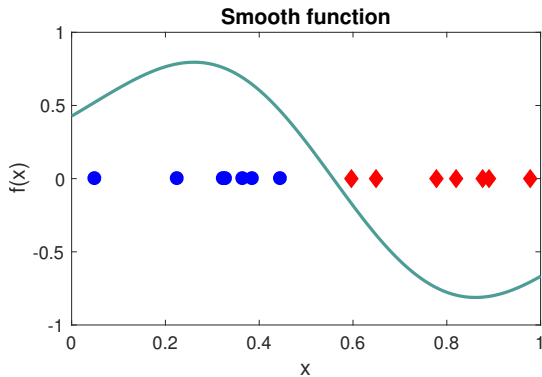


# Integral probability metrics

Integral probability metric:

Find a "well behaved function"  $f(x)$  to maximize

$$\mathbf{E}_Q f(Y) - \mathbf{E}_P f(X)$$

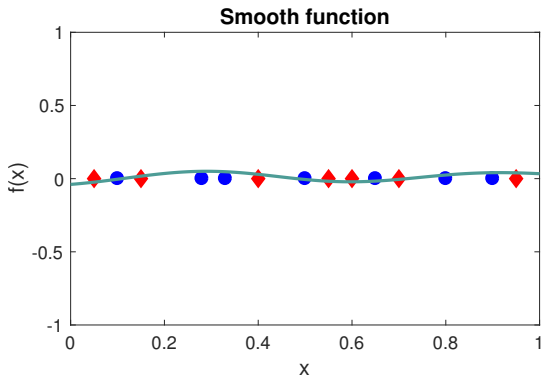


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# All of kernel methods

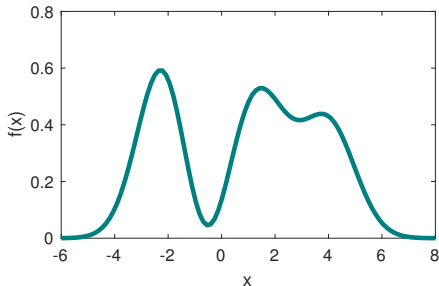
Functions are linear combinations of features:

$$f(x) = \langle f, \varphi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} f_{\ell} \varphi_{\ell}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}^{\top} \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \\ \varphi_3(x) \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 := \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i^2$$

# All of kernel methods

“The kernel trick”

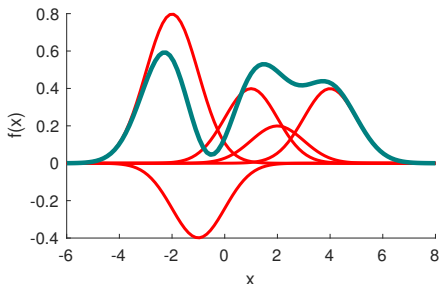
$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} f_{\ell} \varphi_{\ell}(x) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i k(x_i, x) \end{aligned}$$



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$$f_{\ell} := \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \varphi_{\ell}(x_i)$$

Function of **infinitely many features** expressed using  $m$  coefficients.



## MMD as an integral probability metric

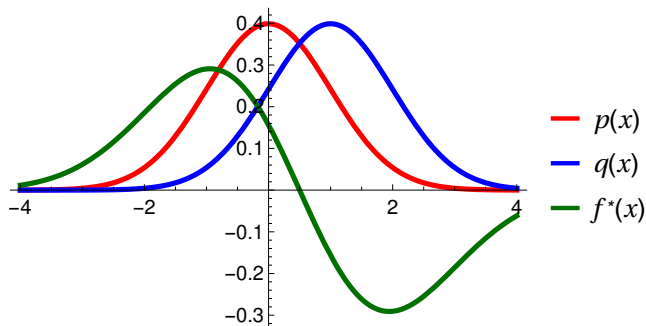
**Maximum mean discrepancy:** smooth function for  $P$  vs  $Q$

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q; \mathcal{F}) := \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} [\mathbf{E}_P f(X) - \mathbf{E}_Q f(Y)]$$

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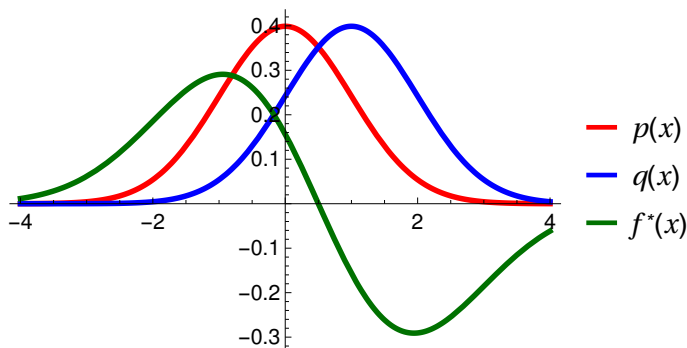
For characteristic RKHS  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $\text{MMD}(P, Q; \mathcal{F}) = 0$  iff  $P = Q$

Other choices for witness function class:

- Bounded continuous [Dudley, 2002]
- Bounded variation 1 (Kolmogorov metric) [Müller, 1997]
- 1-Lipschitz (Wasserstein distances) [Dudley, 2002]

## Statistical model criticism: toy example

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q) = \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} [\mathbf{E}_q f - \mathbf{E}_p f]$$



Can we compute MMD with samples from  $Q$  and a **model**  $P$ ?

**Problem:** usually can't compute  $\mathbf{E}_p f$  in closed form.

## Stein idea

To get rid of  $\mathbf{E}_p f$  in

$$\sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} [\mathbf{E}_q f - \mathbf{E}_p f]$$

we define the (1-D) **Stein operator**

$$[\mathcal{A}_p f](x) = \frac{1}{p(x)} \frac{d}{dx} (f(x)p(x))$$

Then

$$\mathbf{E}_p \mathcal{A}_p f = 0$$

subject to appropriate boundary conditions.

# Kernel Stein Discrepancy

Stein operator

$$\mathcal{A}_p f = \frac{1}{p(x)} \frac{d}{dx} (f(x)p(x))$$

Kernel Stein Discrepancy (KSD)

$$\text{KSD}_p(Q) = \sup_{\|g\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} \mathbf{E}_q \mathcal{A}_p g - \mathbf{E}_p \mathcal{A}_p g$$

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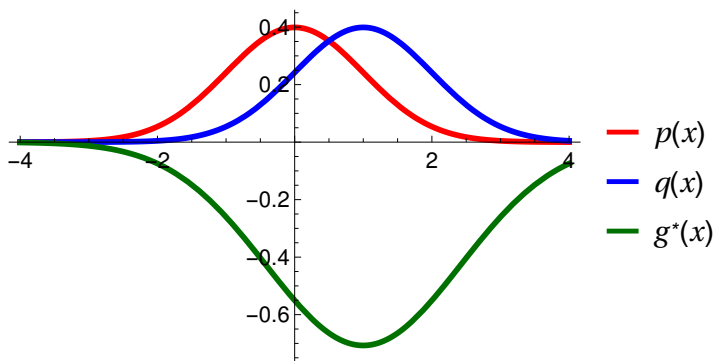
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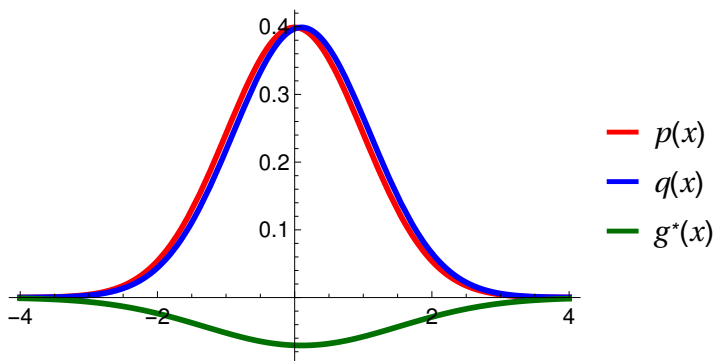
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## Simple expression using kernels

Re-write stein operator as:

$$\begin{aligned}[\mathcal{A}_p f](x) &= \frac{1}{p(x)} \frac{d}{dx} (f(x)p(x)) \\ &= f(x) \frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) + \frac{d}{dx} f(x)\end{aligned}$$

Can we define “Stein features”?

$$\begin{aligned}[\mathcal{A}_p f](x) &= \left( \frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) \right) f(x) + \frac{d}{dx} f(x) \\ &=: \langle f, \underbrace{\xi(x)}_{\text{stein features}} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p} \xi(x) = 0$ .

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## The kernel trick for derivatives

Reproducing property for the derivative: for differentiable  $k(x, x')$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \left\langle f, \frac{d}{dx}\varphi(x) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

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Using kernel derivative trick in (a),

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{A}_p f](x) &= \left( \frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) \right) f(x) + \frac{d}{dx} f(x) \\ &= \left\langle f, \left( \frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) \right) \varphi(x) + \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} \varphi(x)}_{(a)} \right\rangle_{\mathcal{F}} \\ &=: \langle f, \xi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}. \end{aligned}$$

## Kernel stein discrepancy: derivation

Closed-form expression for KSD: given independent  $x, x' \sim Q$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{KSD}_p(Q) &= \sup_{\|g\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} \mathbf{E}_{x \sim q}([\mathcal{A}_p g](x)) \\ &= \sup_{\|g\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} \mathbf{E}_{x \sim q} \langle g, \xi_x \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{=} \sup_{\|g\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} \langle g, \mathbf{E}_{x \sim q} \xi_x \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \|\mathbf{E}_{x \sim q} \xi_x\|_{\mathcal{F}} \end{aligned}$$

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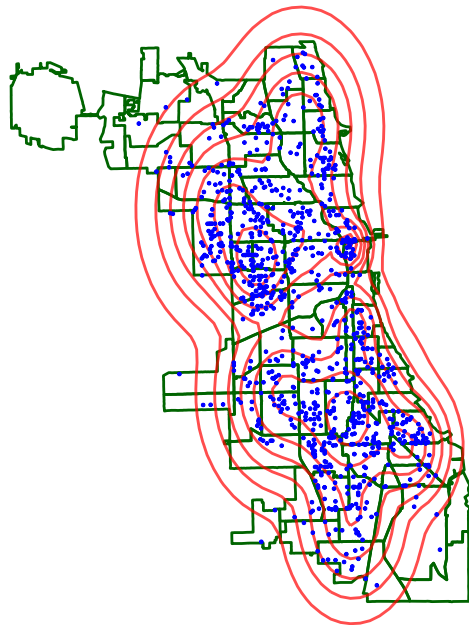
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**Caution:** (a) requires a condition for the Riesz theorem to hold,

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \sim q} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) \right)^2 < \infty.$$

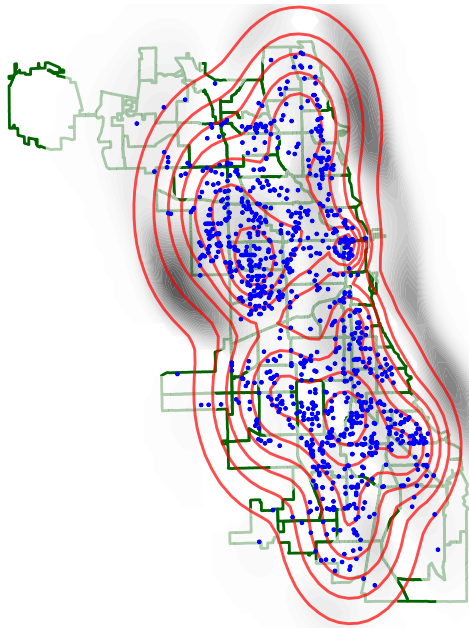


## The witness function: Chicago Crime



Model  $p$  = 10-component  
Gaussian mixture.

## The witness function: Chicago Crime



Witness function  $g$  shows mismatch

## Does the Riesz condition matter?

Consider the **standard normal**,

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-x^2/2).$$

Then

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) = -x.$$

If  $q$  is a **Cauchy distribution**, then the integral

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \sim q} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \log p(x) \right)^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 q(x) dx$$

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## Kernel stein discrepancy: population expression

Test statistic:

$$\text{KSD}_p^2(Q) = \|\mathbf{E}_{x \sim Q} \xi_x\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 = \mathbf{E}_{x, x' \sim Q} h_p(x, x')$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h_p(x, x') &= \mathbf{s}_p(x)^\top \mathbf{s}_p(x') k(x, x') + \mathbf{s}_p(x)^\top k_2(x, x') \\ &\quad + \mathbf{s}_p(x')^\top k_1(x, x') + \text{tr} [k_{12}(x, x')] \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathbf{s}_p(x) \in \mathbb{R}^D = \frac{\nabla p(x)}{p(x)}$
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Do not need to normalize  $p$ , or sample from it.

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If kernel is  $C_0$ -universal and  $Q$  satisfies  $\mathbf{E}_{x \sim Q} \left\| \nabla \left( \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \right) \right\|^2 < \infty$ ,  
then  $\text{KSD}_p^2(Q) = 0$  iff  $P = Q$ .



## KSD for discrete-valued variables

Discrete domains:  $\mathcal{X} = \{1, \dots, L\}^D$  with  $L \in \mathbb{N}$ .

The population KSD (discrete):

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$$k_1(x, x') = \Delta_x^{-1} k(x, x'), \Delta_x^{-1} \text{ is difference on } x, \mathbf{s}_p(x) = \frac{\Delta p(x)}{p(x)}$$

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**A discrete kernel:**  $k(x, x') = \exp(-d_H(x, x'))$ , where  $d_H(x, x') = D^{-1} \sum_{d=1}^D \mathbb{I}(x_d \neq x'_d)$ .

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$\text{KSD}_p^2(Q) = 0$  iff  $P = Q$  if

- Gram matrix over all the configurations in  $\mathcal{X}$  is strictly positive definite,
- $P > 0$  and  $Q > 0$ .

## Empirical statistic, asymptotic normality for $P \neq Q$

The empirical statistic:

$$\widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(Q) := \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} h_p(x_i, x_j).$$

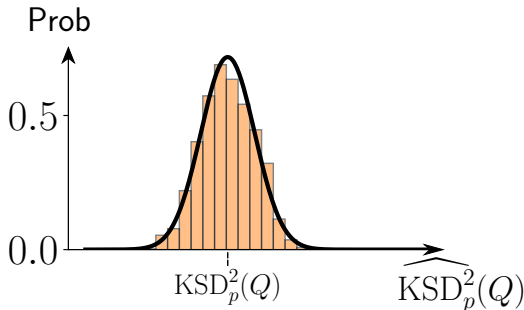
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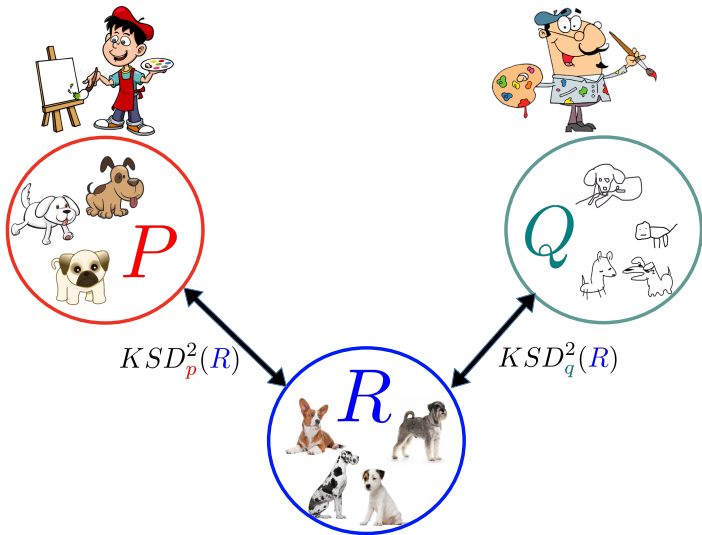
Asymptotic distribution when  $P \neq Q$ :

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(Q) - \text{KSD}_p^2(Q) \right) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{h_p}^2) \quad \sigma_{h_p}^2 = 4 \text{Var}[\mathbb{E}_{x'}[h_p(x, x')]].$$



# Relative goodness-of-fit testing

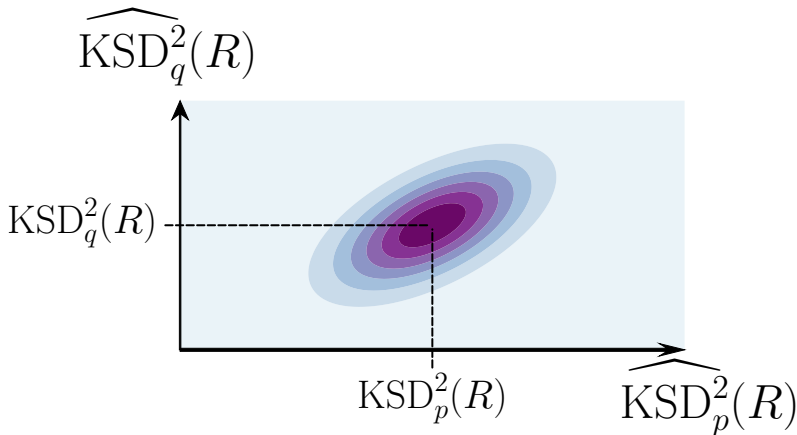
- Two generative models  $P$  and  $Q$ , data  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n \sim R$ .
- Neither model gives a perfect fit ( $P \neq R$  and  $Q \neq R$ ).



## Joint asymptotic normality

Joint asymptotic normality when  $P \neq R$  and  $Q \neq R$

$$\sqrt{n} \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R) - \text{KSD}_p^2(R) \\ \widehat{\text{KSD}}_q^2(R) - \text{KSD}_q^2(R) \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{h_p}^2 & \sigma_{h_p h_q} \\ \sigma_{h_p h_q} & \sigma_{h_q}^2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$



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**Difference** in statistics is asymptotically normal:

$$\sqrt{n} \left[ \widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R) - \widehat{\text{KSD}}_q^2(R) - \left( \text{KSD}_p^2(R) - \text{KSD}_q^2(R) \right) \right] \\ \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N} \left( 0, \sigma_{h_p}^2 + \sigma_{h_q}^2 - 2\sigma_{h_p h_q} \right)$$

$\implies$  a statistical test with **null hypothesis**  $\text{KSD}_p^2(R) - \text{KSD}_q^2(R) \leq 0$  is straightforward.

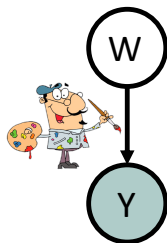
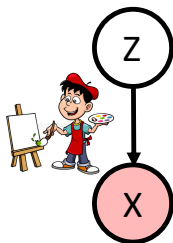


## Latent variable models

Can we compare latent variable models with KSD?

$$p(x) = \int p(x|z)p(z)dz$$

$$q(y) = \int q(y|w)p(w)dw$$



Recall multi-dimensional Stein operator:

$$[\mathcal{A}_p f](x) = \left\langle \underbrace{\frac{\nabla p(x)}{p(x)}}_{(a)}, f(x) \right\rangle + \langle \nabla, f(x) \rangle.$$

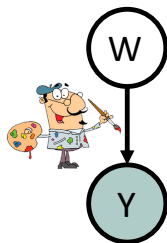
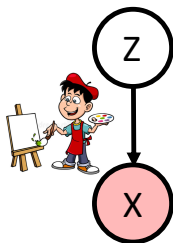
Expression (a) requires marginal  $p(x)$ , often intractable...

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Expression (a) requires **marginal  $p(x)$** , **often intractable**...  
...but **sampling** can be straightforward!

## Monte Carlo approximation

Approximate the integral using  $\{z_j\}_{j=1}^m \sim p(z)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \int p(x|z)p(z) dz \\ &\approx p_m(x) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m p(x|z_j) \end{aligned}$$

Estimate KSDs with approximate densities:

$$\widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R) - \widehat{\text{KSD}}_q^2(R) \approx \widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R) - \widehat{\text{KSD}}_{q_m}^2(R)$$

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Recall

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{n} \left[ \widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R) - \widehat{\text{KSD}}_q^2(R) - \left( \text{KSD}_p^2(R) - \text{KSD}_q^2(R) \right) \right] \\ &\xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N} \left( 0, \sigma_{h_p}^2 + \sigma_{h_q}^2 - 2\sigma_{h_p h_q} \right) \end{aligned}$$

→ if  $m$  is large, can we simply substitute  $p_m$  and  $q_m$  ?

## Simple proof of concept

Check  $\widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R) \approx \widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R)$  with a toy model:

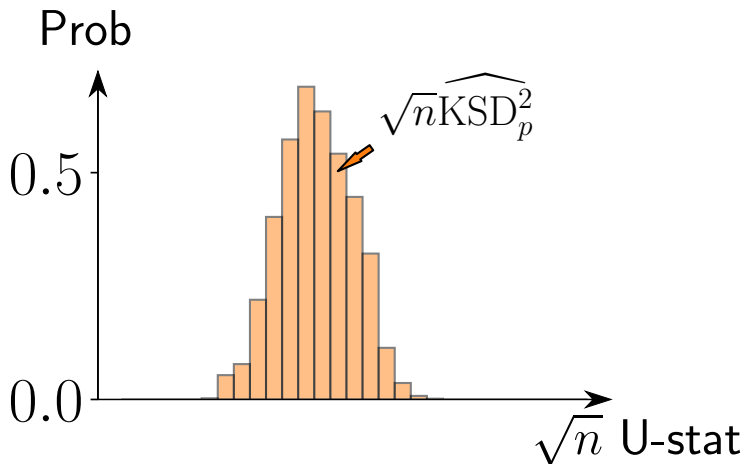
- Model: Beta-Binomial  $\text{BetaBinom}(\alpha, \beta)$

$$p(x|z) = \binom{N}{x} z^x (1-z)^{n-x}, \quad p(z) = \text{Beta}(a, b)$$

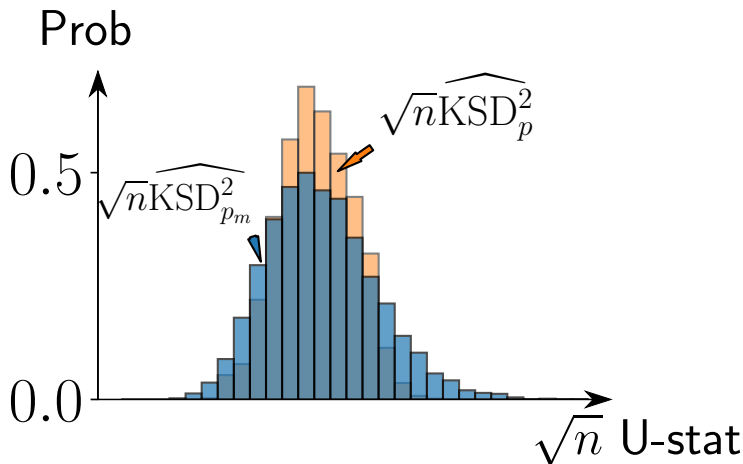
- Latent  $z \in (0, 1)$ : success probability for binomial likelihood
- Marginal  $p(x)$ : tractable (given by the beta function)

- Generate  $\sqrt{n}\widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R)$  and  $\sqrt{n}\widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R)$   
→ what do their distribution look like?

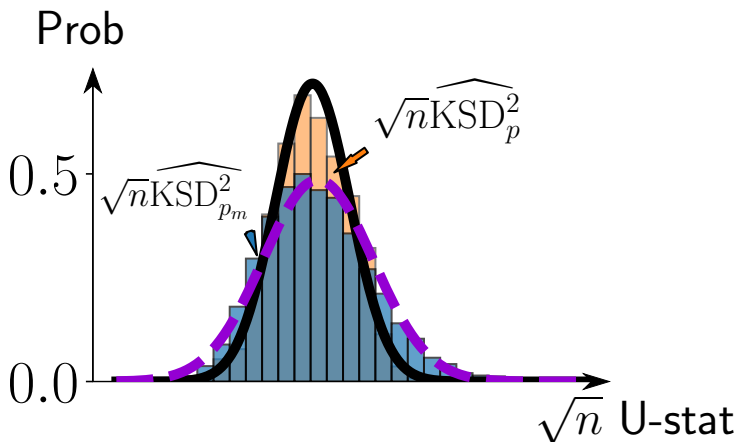
## Effect of sampling the latents (Beta-binomial)



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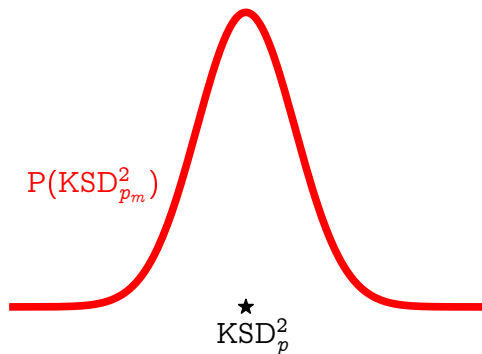


## Effect of sampling the latents (Beta-binomial)



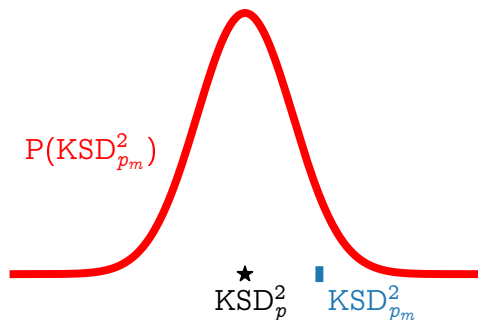


## Why this happens



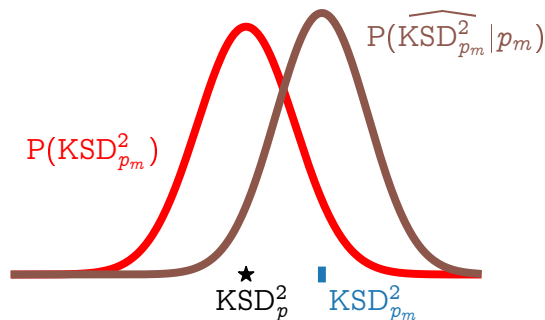
$KSD_{p_m}^2(R)$  is normally distributed around  $KSD_p^2(R)$   
(approximation error)

## Why this happens



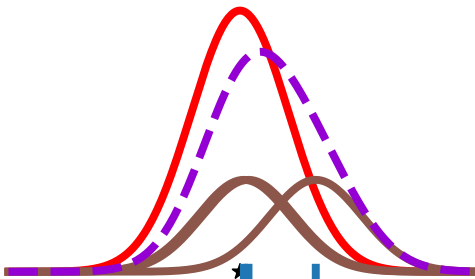
Approximation  $p_m$  gives a random draw  $\text{KSD}_{p_m}^2(R)$

## Why this happens



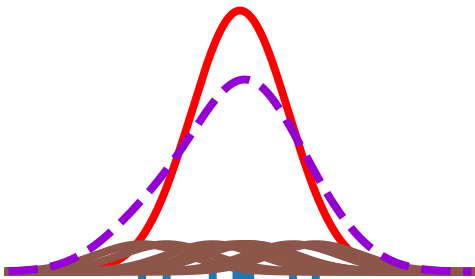
$\widehat{KSD}_{p_m}^2(R)$  is normally distributed around  $KSD_{p_m}^2(R)$

## Why this happens



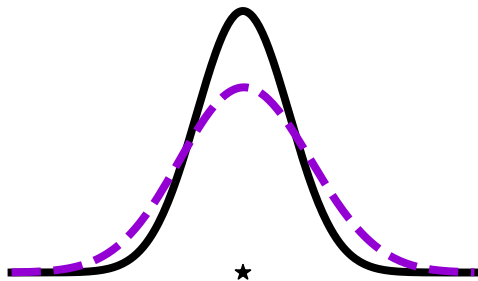
Distribution of  $\widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R)$  is  
averaged over random draws of  $\text{KSD}_{p_m}^2(R)$

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Distribution of  $\widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R)$  is  
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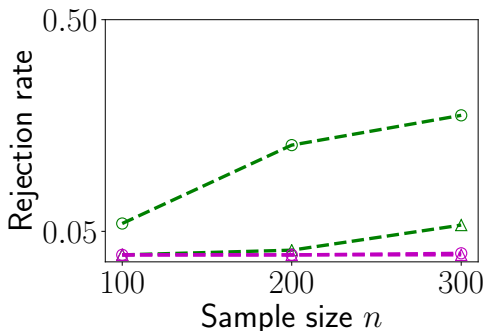
## Why this happens



$\widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R)$  has a higher variance than  $\widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R)$

## Correction for this effect

- BetaBinomial models with  $p = q_m$  vs  $q$   
→ numerical vs closed-form marginalisation.
- With correction for increased  $\widehat{\text{KSD}}_{q_m}^2(R)$  variance,  
null accepted w.p.  $1 - \alpha$ .



■  $Q = \text{BetaBinom}(5 + a, 1 + b)$

■  $P = q_m$

■  $R = \text{BetaBinom}(a, b)$

■  $k(x, x') = \exp(-\mathbb{I}(x \neq x'))$

■  $\alpha = 0.05$

---○--- KSD without corrected threshold ( $m=100$ )

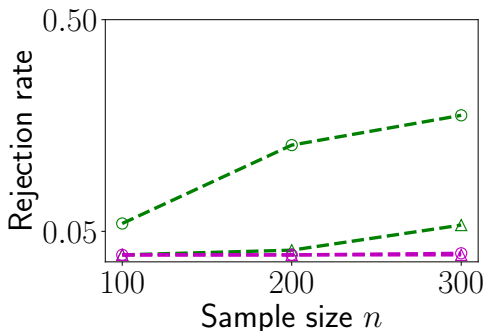
---○--- LKSD (KSD for Latent Models)  $m=100$

---△--- KSD  $m=1000$

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- Naive Rel-KSD test has incorrect type-I error
- Naive KSD:  $p = q_m \neq q$   
⇒ rejection rate  $\rightarrow 1$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

—○— KSD without corrected threshold ( $m=100$ )      —○— LKSD (KSD for Latent Models)  $m=100$   
—△— KSD  $m=1000$       —△— LKSD  $m=1000$



## Asymptotics for approximate KSD

We have asymptotic normality for  $\text{KSD}_{p_m}^2(R)$ ,

$$\sqrt{m}(\text{KSD}_{p_m}^2(R) - \text{KSD}_p^2(R)) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \gamma_p^2)$$

The fine print:

- $\inf_x p(x) > 0$
- $\sup_x \left| \frac{dp(x)}{dx} \right| < \infty$
- (Uniform CLT) Likelihoods  $\{p(x|\cdot) | x \in \mathcal{X}\}$  and derivatives  $\{\frac{d}{dx} p(x|\cdot) | x \in \mathcal{X}\}$  are  $p(z)$  - Donsker class

## Asymptotic distribution for relative KSD test

Asymptotic distribution of approximate KSD estimate

$(n, m) \rightarrow \infty, \frac{n}{m} \rightarrow r \in [0, \infty)$ :

$$\sqrt{n} \left[ \left( \widehat{\text{KSD}}_{p_m}^2(R) - \widehat{\text{KSD}}_{q_m}^2(R) \right) - \left( \text{KSD}_p^2(R) - \text{KSD}_q^2(R) \right) \right] \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, c^2)$$

where

- $c = \sigma_{pq} \sqrt{1 + r(\gamma_{pq}/\sigma_{pq})^2}$
- $\gamma_{pq}^2 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} m \cdot \text{Var} [\mathbf{E}_{x, x'} h_{p_m}(x, x') - \mathbf{E}_{x, x'} h_{q_m}(x, x')]$
- $\sigma_{pq}^2 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \cdot \text{Var} [\widehat{\text{KSD}}_p^2(R) - \widehat{\text{KSD}}_q^2(R)]$

Fine print:

- $h_p(x, x') - h_q(x, x')$  has a finite third moment
- An additional technical condition (next slide)

## Main theorem

### Theorem (Asymptotic distribution of random kernel U-statistic)

- *Let*
  - $U_{n,m}$  : a U-statistic defined by a random U-statistic kernel  $H_m$
  - $U_n$  : a U-statistic defined by a fixed U-statistic kernel  $h$
- *Assume that*
  - $\sigma_{H_m}^2 \rightarrow \sigma_h^2$  in probability
  - $\nu_3(H_m) \rightarrow \nu_3(h) < \infty$  in probability  
where  $\nu_3(H_m) = \mathbb{E}_{x,x'} |H_m(x, x') - \mathbb{E}_{x,x'} H_m(x, x')|^3$
  - $Y_m := \sqrt{m} (\mathbb{E}_n[U_{n,m}|H_m] - \mathbb{E}_n[U_n]) \xrightarrow{d} Y$
- *Then, with  $n/m \rightarrow r \in [0, \infty)$ ,*

$$\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \left[ \sqrt{n} (U_{n,m} - \mathbb{E}_n U_n) < t \right] = \mathbb{E}_Y \left[ \Phi \left( \frac{t - \sqrt{r} Y}{\sigma_h} \right) \right]$$

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## Experiment: sensitivity to model difference

- Data  $R = \text{Sigmoid Belief Network SBN}(W)$ :

$$R(x|z) = \text{sigmoid}(Wz), \quad R(z) = \mathcal{N}(0, I), \quad W \in \mathbb{R}^{30 \times 10}$$

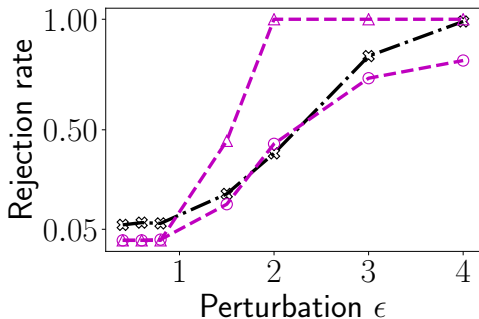
- Models:  $P = \text{SBN}(W + \epsilon[\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0}])$ ,  $Q = \text{SBN}(W + [\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0}])$
- Only the first column of weight  $W$  is perturbed by  $\epsilon$

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- Two scenarios:
  - Null:  $\epsilon \leq 1$  ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )
  - Alternative:  $\epsilon > 1$   
(the higher the better)
- Hamming kernel
- Sample size  $n = 300$

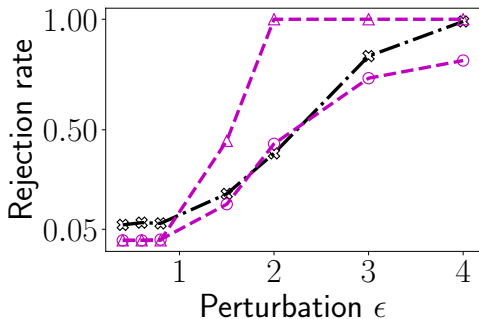
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- Models:  $P = \text{SBN}(W + \epsilon[1, 0, \dots, 0])$ ,  $Q = \text{SBN}(W + [1, 0, \dots, 0])$
- Only the first column of weight  $W$  is perturbed by  $\epsilon$



**KSD has higher power**  
( $\epsilon > 1$ )

- Sample-wise difference in models = subtle (MMD fails)
- Model's information is better utilised

—x— MMD      -o- LKSD (KSD for Latent Models)  $m=100$       -△- LKSD  $m=1000$



# Questions?

