

0267 ✓  
KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE  
VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

---

A family of parameterfree tests for symmetry  
with respect to a given point

I and II

BY

J. HEMELRIJK

Reprinted from Proceedings Vol. LIII, Nos 6 and 8, 1950

Reprinted from Indagationes Mathematicae, Vol. XII, Fasc. 3 and 4, 1950

1950

N.V. NOORD-HOLLANDSCHE UITGEVERS MAATSCHAPPIJ

(NORTH-HOLLAND PUBLISHING COMPANY)

AMSTERDAM



# A FAMILY OF PARAMETERFREE TESTS FOR SYMMETRY WITH RESPECT TO A GIVEN POINT. I

BY

J. HEMELRIJK

(Communicated by Prof. D. VAN DANTZIG at the meeting of May 20, 1950)

## 1. *Introduction.*

In this paper a family of tests will be described for the hypothesis  $H_0$ , that a number of random variables  $\mathbf{z}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ )<sup>1)</sup> are distributed independently, each having a probability distribution, which is symmetrical with respect to a given point  $z_i = a$ , which is the same for every  $i$ . The tests will be based on the information supplied by  $n$  observations  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , where  $z_i$  denotes an observation of the random variable  $\mathbf{z}_i$ . A special case of  $H_0$  is the hypothesis, that all  $\mathbf{z}_i$  have the same symmetrical probability distribution with a given point of symmetry,  $z_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) being a random sample from this distribution. No additional assumptions will be made about the probability distributions of  $\mathbf{z}_i$ , such as normality or even continuity.

It will be tacitly understood, if not mentioned otherwise, that  $a = 0$ ; this does not imply a loss of generality.

In mathematical statistics these tests may be applied to many problems. An important practical application to a problem, occurring often in connection with medical and biological experiments, will be described in section 2.

The sign test, introduced by R. A. FISHER (1925) (cf. also W. J. DIXON and A. M. MOOD (1946)), may be regarded as a partial solution of our problem; this test, however, is a test for the common median of the  $\mathbf{z}_i$  only. It can therefore not be a powerful test for the hypothesis  $H_0$ . Other tests for the common median of a number of random variables  $\mathbf{z}_i$  have been developed (cf. J. E. WALSH (1949)) on the assumption of continuity of the probability distributions of  $\mathbf{z}_i$ . Apart from the fact, that we want to avoid this assumption of continuity, we shall try to exploit the additional assumption of symmetry contained in  $H_0$ , which cannot be taken into account in a parameterfree test for the median only.

The test, derived in this paper is an application of the randomization method, introduced by R. A. FISHER (1925) and described extensively e.g. by E. L. LEHMANN and C. STEIN (1949).

<sup>1)</sup> The random character of a variable is denoted by the use of a bold type symbol; a special value, assumed by a random variable is denoted by the same symbol in normal type.

## 2. Applications.

2. 1. Let us suppose, that a number of patients, (say  $n$ ), suffering from a certain disease, have been treated with a drug, which has to be tested, and that the effect of the drug can only be ascertained by measuring the value, before and after the treatment, of a random quantity  $\mathbf{x}$ , e.g. the blood pressure. The hypothesis to be tested is, in such a case, that the drug does not have any effect on the distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

Two sets of observed values of  $\mathbf{x}$  are available: for every patient we have one value before and one value after the drug has been administered. In general, however, the application of a two-sample test on the two sets of values mentioned is not justified since the probability distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$  is usually different for every patient. If, on the other hand, a unique probability distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$  is assumed to exist on a population, containing all patients, the two sets of observed values are correlated, because two observations have been made for every patient, one for each of the two samples. If  $\mathbf{x}$  is assumed to have the *same* distribution for every patient, a two sample test can be applied, but this condition is rarely satisfied.

2. 2. In order to overcome these difficulties the observations are paired and the test is based on these pairs, consisting of the value of  $\mathbf{x}$  for each patient before and after the treatment.

Let  $\mathbf{x}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) be the random variable  $\mathbf{x}$  for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  patient before the treatment and  $\mathbf{x}'_i$  the corresponding variable after.

Then, if the hypothesis, that the drug has no effect, is true,  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and  $\mathbf{x}'_i$  have the same probability distribution <sup>2)</sup> and the random variables

$$(1) \quad \mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}'_i$$

are distributed symmetrically with respect to zero. Moreover, if the random variables  $\mathbf{x}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ), as well as the  $\mathbf{x}'_i$  are independently distributed, the same applies to the  $\mathbf{z}_i$ . In this case the hypothesis to be tested is  $H_0$ .

Applications of a similar type may be found in other fields of experiment. We confine ourselves, however, to this example, indicating the kind of problem, which may be solved by testing the hypothesis  $H_0$  in question.

## 3. The general principle of the tests.

3. 1. Let us denote an  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space, with coordinates  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , by  $S$ . The random point  $\mathbf{E} \equiv (\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_n)$ , representing the set of random variables  $\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_n$ , has a probability distribution on  $S$ , which, if  $H_0$  is true, is *symmetrical in every coordinate of  $S$*  (with the origin of  $S$  as point of symmetry.)

Let further the symbol  $Z$  denote the conditions

$$(2) \quad Z: \quad |\mathbf{z}_i| = |z_i| \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

<sup>2)</sup> That is, if no other factors than the drug affect the probability distribution of  $\mathbf{x}_i$  systematically. This assumption is inevitable, if the influence of the drug only is to be ascertained.

where the  $z_i$  are any given numbers, and let  $F(Z)$  denote the (unknown) simultaneous cumulative distribution function  $F(|z_1|, \dots, |z_n|)$  of the random variables  $|z_i|$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). Let  $M = M(Z)$  be the subset of  $S$ , consisting of those points, which satisfy  $Z$ . If  $m$  of the values  $z_i$  are equal to zero,  $M$  consists of  $2^{n-m}$  different points.

According to the above mentioned symmetry of the probability distribution of  $E$ , all points of  $M$  have, if  $H_0$  is true, the same conditional probability, under the condition  $Z$ , if we exclude from  $S$  a set of probability zero, where this conditional probability is undetermined. Moreover, each point of  $M$  corresponds with one of the  $2^{n-m}$  different ways, in which signs may be attributed to  $n - m$  numbers  $\neq 0$ . If  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  are the positive coordinates and  $-y_1, \dots, -y_{n_2}$  the negative coordinates of  $E \in S$  (all  $x_j$  and  $y_k$  thus being positive;  $n_1 + n_2 = n - m$ ), then there is a one to one correspondence between the points of  $M$  and the possible partitions of those of the values  $|z_i|$  which are  $\neq 0$ , into a group of values  $x_j$  and a group of values  $y_k$ .

We thus have

*Lemma 1: If  $H_0$  is true, and condition  $Z$  is satisfied, all  $2^{n-m}$  partitions of the  $n - m$  positive values among  $|z_1|, \dots, |z_n|$  into a group of values  $x_j$  and a group of  $y_k$  are equally probable.*

### 3. 2. A uniquely determined function

$$(3) \quad s = s(E) = s(z_1, \dots, z_n)$$

of  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , defined on  $S$ , is called a *statistic*;  $s = s(E) = s(z_1, \dots, z_n)$  has a probability distribution, which follows from the probability distribution of  $E$  on  $S$ ; the latter distribution being unknown, the same will usually be the case with the former. Assuming  $H_0$  to be true, however, we may derive properties of the distribution of certain statistics and, sometimes, the distribution itself.

Two types of statistics will be used in the tests for  $H_0$ :

*A.* A number  $\nu_1$  of statistics, the values of which are uniquely determined by the values  $|z_i|$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). The simultaneous distribution function of these statistics need not be known, even if  $H_0$  is supposed to be true. We need these statistics, which might be called „nuisance-statistics”, to overcome difficulties with discontinuities of the distributions of  $z_i$ . The elimination of their unknown distribution function is described in theorem I, at the end of this section.

One of these statistics will be  $m$ , the number of those among the variables  $z_i$  which assume the value zero.

*B.* A number  $\nu_2$  of statistics, of which the conditional simultaneous distribution function, under the condition  $Z$ , will be derived, assuming  $H_0$  to be true. Let us denote these statistics simultaneously by a random point  $Q$  in a subset of a  $\nu_2$ -dimensional Euclidean space.

One of these statistics will be  $n_1$ , the number of positive coordinates of  $\mathbf{E}$ . For this statistic we have<sup>3)</sup>

Lemma 2: If  $H_0$  is true, the conditional probability distribution of the number of positive coordinates  $n_1$ , under the condition  $Z$ , is given by

$$(4) \quad P[n_1 = n_1 | Z; H_0] = 2^{-n+m} \binom{n-m}{n_1}$$

with  $0 \leq n_1 \leq n - m$ , where  $m$  is the number of values  $|z_i|$ , which are equal to zero.

Proof: The number of partitions of  $n - m$  values into two groups of  $n_1$  and  $n_2 = n - m - n_1$  values respectively, is equal to  $\binom{n-m}{n_1}$ . From this and lemma 1, lemma 2 follows.

Remark: Lemma 2 is also true, if the condition  $Z$  is replaced by the condition  $m = m$ . The sign test (cf. section 1) is based on lemma 2 with this latter condition.

We further have the following lemma:

Lemma 3: If  $H_0$  is true, and the conditions  $Z$  and  $n_1 = n_1$  are satisfied, all  $\binom{n-m}{n_1}$  partitions of the  $n - m$  positive values among  $|z_i|$  into a group of  $n_1$  values  $x_i$ , and a group of  $n_2 = n - m - n_1$  values  $y_k$ , are equally probable.

This lemma follows at once from lemma 1; the condition  $n_1 = n_1$  selects a number of equally probable partitions from the  $2^{n-m}$  partitions, which are possible if only  $Z$  is imposed.

3.3. Given  $Z$ , i.e. the values  $|z_i|$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ), the statistics mentioned in 3.2.  $B$  are represented simultaneously by a random point  $\mathbf{Q}$  in a  $\nu_2$ -dimensional set of points  $V$ . For every  $Z$  we shall, in later sections, indicate a critical region  $R = R(Z)$  in  $V$ , with the property

$$(5) \quad P[\mathbf{Q} \in R(Z) | Z; H_0] \leq \varepsilon$$

with given  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then the following theorem is easy to prove:

Theorem I: If we reject  $H_0$  if and only if

$$(6) \quad \mathbf{Q} \in R(Z)$$

where  $Z$  represents the observed values  $|z_i|$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ), then the probability, that  $H_0$ , being true, will be rejected, is  $\leq \varepsilon$ .

Proof: The probability, that  $H_0$ , being true, will be rejected, is

$$\int P[\mathbf{Q} \in R(Z) | Z; H_0] dF(Z) \leq \varepsilon \int dF(Z) = \varepsilon,$$

where the integral-sign denotes integration over the  $n$ -dimensional space  $S$ .

<sup>3)</sup> The symbol  $P[A|B; H]$  denotes the conditional probability of the event  $A$ , under the condition  $B$ , and the hypothesis  $H$ .

4. *An exact test for  $H_0$ .*

4. 1. In this and the following section an exact test for  $H_0$  will be given, which in a way is nothing more than an application of the test for independence in a  $2 \times 2$  table. The family of tests mentioned in the title of this paper, which is a generalisation of this one, will be described later.

We shall use the following statistics (cf. section 3. 2):

A 1. The number  $m$  of values  $z_i$ , which are equal to zero. Since the probabilities  $P[z_i = 0]$  are unknown, the probability distribution of  $m$  is unknown too and  $H_0$  does not specify any assumption about it.

A 2. A statistic  $r = r(E)$  which is defined as follows:

If there are no equal values among  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  (as defined in section 3. 1), we put

$$r = \left[ \frac{n_1 + n_2 + 1}{2} \right]$$

$[x]$  denoting the integral part of  $x$ .

If some of the values  $x_i$  and  $y_k$  are equal, we define  $r$  by dividing the set of values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  into two sets  $A$  and  $B$ , containing  $a$  and  $b$  of those values respectively (with  $b - a \geq 0$ ), and with the property, that every member of  $A$  is *smaller* than every member of  $B$  (thus no member of  $A$  being equal to any member of  $B$ ); among all possible divisions, which satisfy these conditions, that one is chosen, which minimizes  $b - a$ . This division is uniquely determined and we now define  $r = r(E) = b$ . The above definition of  $r$ , for the case, that there are no equal values among  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  is a special case of this general definition.

The distribution of  $r$  depends on the discontinuities of the distributions of  $z_i$ .  $H_0$  does not contain any assumption about these discontinuities; therefore the distribution of  $r$  remains unknown if  $H_0$  is assumed to be true.

B 1. The number  $n_1$  of positive values among the  $z_i$ .

B 2. A statistic  $u$ , defined in the following way:

For every  $E \in S$  the values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  and the number  $r$  having been defined in such a way that the  $r$  largest among these values are uniquely determined, we now define  $u(E)$  as the number of values  $x_i$  among these  $r$  largest values. Thus  $u(E)$  is uniquely determined for every  $E \in S$ .

Remark: If, instead of the statistic  $r$ , as defined above, we had chosen any statistic satisfying the conditions:

- a. To be uniquely determined by  $|z_1|, \dots, |z_n|$ ;
- b. To determine uniquely the  $r$  largest elements among  $|z_1|, \dots, |z_n|$ , the method would otherwise have remained unchanged. Our choice of

the definition of  $r$ , which might seem rather arbitrary, has been made on the consideration, that for  $r = n_1 + n_2$  or  $r = 0$  the test reduces to the sign test, which is not very sensitive. An optimum choice for  $r$  should be based on some knowledge of the power function of the test. This problem has not yet been solved, the determination of power functions being generally a rather difficult one if parameter-free methods are concerned.

4.2. We now proceed to prove the second theorem, on which the test will be based:

Theorem II: *If  $H_0$  is true, the conditional simultaneous probability distribution of  $n_1$  and  $u$ , under the condition  $Z$ , is given by*

$$(7) \quad P[n = n_1; u = u | Z; H_0] = 2^{-n+m} \binom{r}{u} \binom{n-m-r}{n_1-u}$$

with  $0 \leq n_1 \leq n-m$  and  $\text{Max}(0, r+m+n_1-n) \leq u \leq \text{Min}(n_1, r)$ .

Proof: According to lemma 1 all partitions of the  $n-m$  positive values among  $|z_i|$ , are equally probable under the condition  $Z$ . There are  $2^{n-m}$  such partitions, among which

$$\binom{r}{u} \binom{n-m-r}{n_1-u}$$

have  $u$  values  $x_j$  among the  $r$  largest and  $n_1 - u$  among the  $n-m-r$  smallest values.

This proves the theorem.

Remarks: 1. It may be proved in a way analogous to the proof of theorem I, that the condition  $Z$  may be replaced by the conditions  $m = m$  and  $r = r$ .

2. According to theorem II,  $u$  and  $n_1 - u$  are, under the conditions  $Z$  and  $H_0$ , independently distributed, each with a binomial distribution, with  $0 \leq u \leq r$  and

$$(8) \quad \mathcal{E}(u | Z; H_0) = \frac{1}{2} r; \quad \sigma_{u|Z; H_0} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{r}$$

and with  $0 \leq n_1 - u \leq n-m-r$  and

$$(9) \quad \mathcal{E}(n_1 - u | Z; H_0) = \frac{n-m-r}{2}; \quad \sigma_{n_1-u|Z; H_0} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{n-m-r}.$$

3. The conditional distribution of  $u$ , given  $m$ ,  $r$  and  $n_1$ , which follows easily from theorem II and remark 1, is a hypergeometrical distribution, given by

$$(10) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P[u = u | m = m; r = r; n_1 = n_1; H_0] = \\ = \frac{\binom{r}{u} \binom{n-m-r}{n_1-u}}{\binom{n-m}{n_1}} = \frac{\binom{n_1}{u} \binom{n_2}{r-u}}{\binom{n_1+n_2}{r}} \end{array} \right.$$

with  $n_1 + n_2 = n-m$  and  $\text{Max}(0, r-n_2) \leq u \leq \text{Min}(n_1, r)$ .

This result may also be obtained directly from lemma 3.



5. *The critical region.*

5.1. The choice of a critical region depends on the alternative hypothesis or hypotheses against which  $H_0$  is to be tested. To give an impression of the possibilities for this choice, a special case of the conditional distribution of  $n_1 - u$  and  $u$  has been given in table 1, where  $n-m=20$  and  $r=11$ ;  $u$  has only been tabulated up to  $u=5$  and  $n_1 - u$  up to 4, because of the symmetry of the distribution. The values, given in the table, are to be multiplied by  $2^{-20}$  in order to get the probabilities wanted.

TABLE 1

5	462	4158	16632	38808	58212
4	330	2970	11880	27720	41580
3	165	1485	5940	13860	20790
2	55	495	1980	4620	6930
1	11	99	396	924	1386
0	1	9	36	84	126
$\uparrow u$	0	1	2	3	4
$n_1 - u$					
$\rightarrow$					

$$2^{20} \cdot P [n_1 = n_1; u = u | n-m = 20; r = 11; H_0].$$

5.2. If no alternative hypothesis is specified, we may adopt the system of G. A. BARNARD (1947) to find a critical region. According to this system, the critical region is a set of points  $(n_1 - u, u)$ , all of which have probabilities smaller than or equal to those of the points not contained in the critical region. In our case, the largest symmetrical critical region  $R_1$  with size  $\leq 0,05$  is then the region, indicated in fig. 1.

On intuitive grounds this region may be expected to be a rather good one.

The computations are not very numerous and of a simple kind. The marginal distributions may be found in tables of the binomial coefficients, cf. e.g. T. C. FRY (1928) or A. VAN WIJNGAARDEN (1950). The other probabilities follow from the marginal distributions by multiplication. The number of computations, moreover, can be reduced considerably. If a certain point  $(n_1 - u, u)$  has been found as the result of the experiment, only those products have to be computed, which are  $\leq \binom{r}{u} \binom{n-m-r}{n_1-u}$ . If the sum of these products divided by  $2^{n-m}$  is smaller than the significance level chosen,  $H_0$  is to be rejected.

If  $n-m$  and  $r$  are large, the probability distribution of  $n_1 - u$  and  $u$  may be represented approximately by a two-dimensional normal distribution. This approximation is, however, not a very good one for values of  $n-m$  and  $r$  of the order of magnitude used for table 1. Another approximative method, which is more satisfactory, will be given in a later section, in connection with the generalisation to be described there.

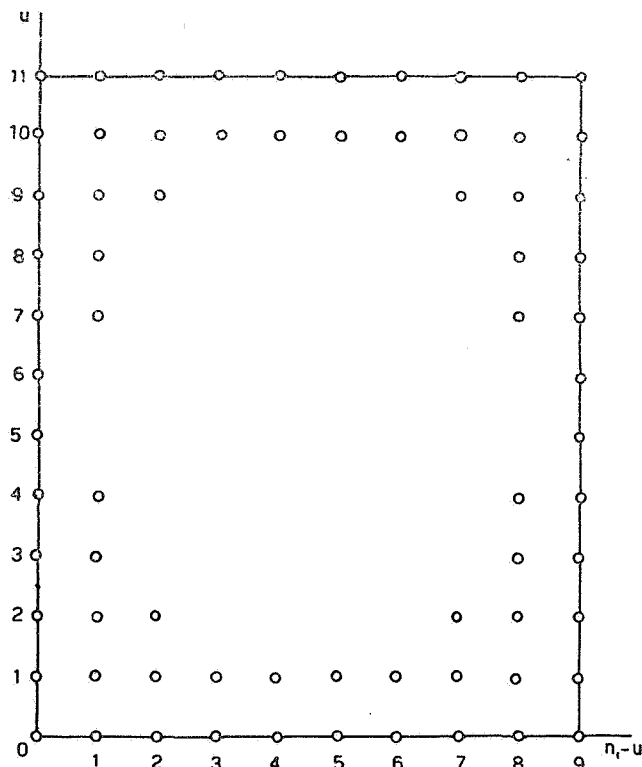


Fig. 1. Critical region  $R_1$  when no alternative hypothesis is specified. Significance level 0,042.

5.3. We shall now consider a special alternative hypothesis  $H$ , against which  $H_0$  may be tested more profitably with another critical region than  $R_1$ .  $H$  is the hypothesis, that the  $\mathbf{z}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are distributed independently and symmetrically with respect to points  $z_i = a_i$ , satisfying the following conditions:

1.  $a_i \neq 0$  for at least one value of  $i$ ;
2.  $a_i \geq 0$  for all  $i$ , or  $a_i \leq 0$  for all  $i$ .

This situation will often arise. In the example of section 2 for instance, although it cannot be said, that  $H$  is exactly the alternative hypothesis, it will certainly often be more important to detect a displacement of the distributions of  $\mathbf{z}_i$  along the  $z$ -axis than asymmetry of these distributions.

Assuming  $H$  to be true, little can be said about the distribution of  $n_1$ , since  $H$  does not specify any assumption about the amount of the displacements. It is, however, reasonable, to exclude for  $n_1$  the value  $n_1 = \frac{n-m}{2}$ , if it is an integer, from the critical region, since the probability of this value is asymptotically equal to zero, if the number of distributions, shifted along the  $z$ -axis, increases indefinitely. If the distributions of some

of the variables  $z_i$  have been shifted to the left, i.e. if

$$P \left[ n_1 > \frac{n-m}{2} \mid H \right] < P \left[ n_1 < \frac{n-m}{2} \mid H \right],$$

it is evident, that small values of  $u$  are more probable than large values. An analogous statement may be made for a displacement to the right.

We therefore propose the following construction of critical region  $R_2$ , when  $H$  is the alternative hypothesis:

We divide the lattice of possible points  $(n_1 - u, u)$  into two parts by the line  $n_1 = \frac{n-m}{2}$ , excluding the lattice points on this line. In both resulting parts we build up a critical region of half the size wanted according to the system of Barnard; we only have to describe this region for one of these parts, (e.g. the lower part; cf. figure 2) since the

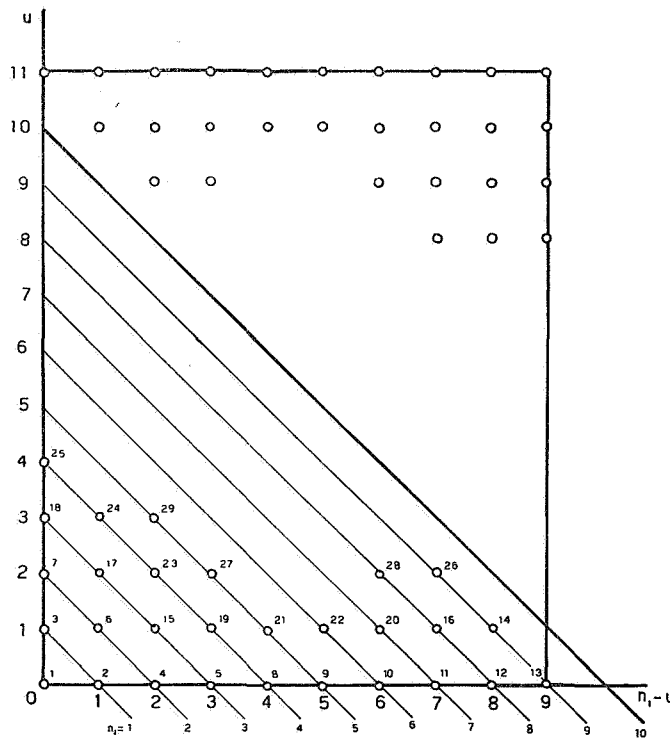


Fig. 2. Critical region  $R_2$ , when the alternative hypothesis is a displacement of some of the distributions in one direction along the  $z$ -axis. Significance level 0,053.

critical region as a whole ought to be symmetrical with respect to the centre of the lattice, if no information is available about the direction of the displacement.

We start by taking the point  $(0, 0)$ .

If  $\nu$  points  $P_1, \dots, P_\nu$  have been chosen, the  $(\nu + 1)^{\text{th}}$  point is the

point with smallest probability (under hypothesis  $H_0$ ) among all points  $P$  satisfying the following conditions:

a. All points with the same  $n_1$  as  $P$ , but with smaller value of  $u$ , are contained already in  $P_1, \dots, P_\nu$ .

b. If  $u = 0$  for  $P$ , the point directly to the left of  $P$  is already among  $P_1, \dots, P_\nu$ .

In this way, the  $(\nu + 1)^{\text{th}}$  point may not yet be determined uniquely, since two or more of the points  $P$  may have equal probabilities, all other points  $P$  having a larger probability; in that case we choose the point with smallest  $n_1$  among the points with this (minimal) probability.

Applying this principle to our example, we get the critical region indicated in figure 2. The numbers inside the rectangle denote the order, in which the points have been added to the critical region.

It is clear, that a one-sided critical region may be constructed in one of the two parts of the lattice only, if  $H$  specifies the direction of the displacement.

5. 4. It is of some interest to compare the critical regions  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  of figure 1 and 2 with the corresponding critical region belonging to the sign test for  $n-m = 20$ . This region consists of the lattice points on the lines  $n_1 = 0, \dots, n_1 = 5$  and  $n_1 = 15, \dots, n_1 = 20$ . The significance level is 0,041. If the points of the lines  $n_1 = 6$  and  $n_1 = 14$  are added, the significance level jumps to the value 0,115. Since the sign test is a test for the median only, it should be compared especially with the second critical region. The critical region of the sign test then contains four points, which are not contained in the region  $R_2$  of figure 2, while 20 points of  $R_2$  are not contained in the critical region of the sign test.

#### 5. 5. Example.

Consider the following sample of 22 values  $z_i$ :

+ 7,4; + 6,3; + 3,6; + 3,5; + 3,4; + 2,9; + 2,5; + 1,1; 0; 0;  
 - 1,3; - 2,5; - 3,2; - 4,6; - 4,6; - 4,6; - 4,8; - 6,3; - 7,0; - 7,9;  
 - 8,0; - 8,7.

We have:  $n-m = 20$ ;  $n_1 = 8$ ;  $r = 11$ ;  $u = 2$ . The point  $P_0$  with coordinates  $n_1 - u = 6$ ,  $u = 2$  is contained in  $R_2$ , but not in  $R_1$  (cf. fig. 2 and 1 resp.). The result is not significant, if the sign test is applied. If we compute the sizes of the smallest critical regions, which contain the point  $P_0$ , we find for the three methods:

Type of region	size
$R_1$	0,076
$R_2$	0,042
sign test	0,503

(To be continued).

## L I T E R A T U R E

- BARNARD, G. A., Significance tests for  $2 \times 2$  tables, *Biometrika* 34, 113—138 (1947).  
DIXON, W. J. and A. M. MOOD, The statistical sign test, *Jrn. Am. Stat. Ass.* 41, 557—566 (1946).  
FISHER, R. A., *Statistical methods for research workers*, Edinburgh and London, (1925).  
FRY, T. C., *Probability and its engineering uses*, N.Y. (1928).  
LEHMANN, E. L. and C. STEIN, On the theory of some non-parametric hypotheses, *Ann. Math. Stat.* 20, 28—45 (1949).  
WALSH, J. E., Some significance tests for the median, which are valid under very general conditions, *Ann. Math. Stat.* 20, 64—81 (1949).  
WIJNGAARDEN, A. VAN, Table of the cumulative symmetric binomial distribution, *Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. v. Wetensch.* 53, 857—868 (1950).

*Publication of the Statistical Dept. of the  
"Mathematisch Centrum", Amsterdam*

# A FAMILY OF PARAMETERFREE TESTS FOR SYMMETRY WITH RESPECT TO A GIVEN POINT. II

BY

J. HEMELRIJK

(Communicated by Prof. D. VAN DANTZIG at the meeting of June 24, 1950)

## 6. *Introduction.*

6.1. In a previous paper on this subject<sup>1)</sup> an exact test has been given for the hypothesis  $H_0$ , that  $n$  random variables  $z_i (i = 1, \dots, n)$  are distributed independently, each with a probability distribution, which is symmetrical with respect to zero. We shall now give a generalisation of this test by describing a family of tests for  $H_0$ , which contains this one as a special case. The computations involved in the application of the test are described in section 11 and an example is given at the end of this paper in section 12.

6.2. These tests will be based on the simultaneous application of the sign test, which depends on the number of positive and negative values among  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , and on the application of a parameterfree two sample test to the two groups of values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  defined in section 3.

A two sample test is a test for the hypothesis  $H'$ , that two random samples  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  have been drawn independently from the same population. We shall mainly be concerned with a "family" of two-sample tests, consisting of those two-sample tests, which are based on the fact, that, assuming  $H'$  to be true, all partitions of the  $n_1+n_2$  values  $x_j$  and  $y_k$  of the two samples, taken together, into two samples of  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  values respectively, have the same probability. This fact may also be expressed by saying, that, if  $H'$  is true and the samples are drawn in a fixed order, all permutations of the obtained values are equally probable.

6.3. Several two-sample tests have been developed on this basis, e.g. by E. J. PITMAN (1937), N. SMIRNOFF (1939) (using a theorem developed by A. KOLMOGOROFF (1933)), A. WALD and J. WOLFOWITZ (1940) and F. WILCOXON (1945). Wilcoxon's test was studied in detail by H. B. MANN and D. R. WHITNEY (1947).

## 7. *The main theorem.*

7.1. Let  $T$  be a two sample test of the type described above and let

---

<sup>1)</sup> These Proceedings 53, 941—955 (1950).

$u_1, \dots, u_\nu$  be the statistics, on which  $T$  is based. These statistics are known functions of the random variables  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  and  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are given numbers. Usually  $\nu = 1$ , but this is by no means necessary. We shall therefore give the main theorem in the more general form with  $\nu \geq 1$ .

Since we are using two-sample tests, which have been developed previously, we may assume the simultaneous distribution of  $u_1, \dots, u_\nu$ , under the assumption that  $H'$  is true, to be known. We shall denote by

$$(11) \quad G^*(u_1, \dots, u_\nu)$$

the conditional simultaneous distribution function <sup>2)</sup> of  $u_1, \dots, u_\nu$ , under the condition (denoted by the asterisk), that the two samples, taken together, assume the set of values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  and under the assumption, that  $H'$  is true.

7. 2. If, instead of the two samples, we take the values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  defined in section 3, it follows from lemma 3, that, if  $H_0$  is true, if  $n_1 = n_1$  and if condition  $Z$  is satisfied, the conditions indicated by the asterisk in (11) are satisfied too, and that (11) is the conditional distribution function of  $u_1, \dots, u_\nu$ . We express this fact by changing the notation of this distribution function into

$$(12) \quad G(u_1, \dots, u_\nu | Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0)$$

where  $u_1, \dots, u_\nu$  are derived from  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$ , the group of positive values and the group of negative values (taken positively) of the original observations  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , which are available to test the symmetry of the variables  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ .

For  $n_1 = 0$  and  $n_1 = n - m$  (i.e.  $n_2 = 0$ ) the statistics  $u_1, \dots, u_\nu$  have not yet been defined, since one of the groups  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  or  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  is empty in that case. Defining for this case  $u_1 = \dots = u_\nu = 0$ , we find from lemma 2 and 3:

Theorem III: *If  $H_0$  is true, the conditional simultaneous probability distribution of  $n_1$  and  $u_1, \dots, u_\nu$ , under the condition  $Z$ , is given by*

$$(13) \quad \begin{cases} P[n_1 = n_1; u_1 \leq u_1; \dots; u_\nu \leq u_\nu | Z; H_0] = \\ = 2^{-n+m} \binom{n-m}{n_1} G(u_1, \dots, u_\nu | Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0), \end{cases}$$

with  $0 \leq n_1 \leq n - m$ .

Remarks: 1. If we want to test the hypothesis  $H'_0$ , that all  $z_i$  are distributed independently according to the *same* symmetrical probability distribution,  $T$  need not be restricted to the family of tests described in 6. 2. For it is easy to prove, that under the hypothesis  $H'_0$  and under the conditions  $n_1 = n_1$  and  $m = m$  the values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  may

<sup>2)</sup> We use the term "distribution function" in the sense sometimes denoted by the term "cumulative distribution function".

be regarded as independent random samples from a common population. This may be of importance, if additional information about the common probability distribution of the  $\mathbf{z}_i$  is available, or is contained in the hypothesis to be tested, since we may then use any two sample test based on this information.

2. Theorems I and III enable us to give a test for  $H_0$ , based on the statistics  $\mathbf{n}_1$  and  $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r$ . Since a family of tests  $T$  may be used (cf. section 6.2), we have a family of tests for  $H_0$ . The exact test, described in part I of this paper, is a member of this family as may be seen from remark 3 of section 4.2.  $T$  is then a two sample test based on the statistic  $\mathbf{u}$ .

#### 8. The critical region.

8.1. In section 7.1 we have supposed the conditional probability distribution of  $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r$ , under the conditions  $Z$ ,  $\mathbf{n}_1 = n_1$  and hypothesis  $H_0$ , to be known, since  $T$  is a known two sample test. For the same reason we now assume a critical region for  $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r$  to have been chosen already. We shall, however, want to make a distinction between *bilateral* and *unilateral* critical regions. To make this clear, the critical regions of some of the two-samples tests mentioned in 6.3 will be described.

8.2. WILCOXON's test depends on the number of pairs  $(x_j, y_k)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n_1; k = 1, \dots, n_2$ ) with  $x_j > y_k$ . This statistic, usually denoted by  $\mathbf{U}$ , can take all values  $0, 1, \dots, n_1 + n_2$ . A unilateral critical region has either the form

$$\mathbf{U} - \frac{n_1 n_2}{2} \geq U_a$$

or

$$\mathbf{U} - \frac{n_1 n_2}{2} \leq -U_a$$

where  $U_a$  depends on  $n_1, n_2$  and the chosen significance level  $\alpha$ . The first of these critical regions is suitable for testing the hypothesis  $H'$ , that  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  are random samples taken independently from the same population, against the alternative (composite) hypothesis, that  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  are independent observations of a random variable  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  of a random variable  $\mathbf{y}$ , with

$$P[\mathbf{x} < \mathbf{y}] < \frac{1}{2}$$

and the second critical region is suitable for testing  $H'$  against the alternative hypothesis, that

$$P[\mathbf{x} < \mathbf{y}] > \frac{1}{2} \text{ )}^3$$

---

<sup>3)</sup> This has been proved recently by Prof. D. VAN DANTZIG as a generalisation of MANN and WHITNEY's theorem, according to which WILCOXON's test is consistent against alternatives with  $P[\mathbf{x} \leq a] < P[\mathbf{y} \leq a]$  for all  $a$ , if the first of the above mentioned unilateral critical regions is used, and consistent against alternatives with  $P[\mathbf{x} \leq a] > P[\mathbf{y} \leq a]$  if the second critical region is used. Cf. D. VAN DANTZIG (1947-1950), Chapter 6, § 3.



A symmetrical bilateral critical region for  $\mathbf{U}$  has the form

$$\left| \mathbf{U} - \frac{n_1 n_2}{2} \right| \geq U_{\alpha}$$

and is suitable for testing  $H'$  against the alternative hypothesis, that

$$P[\mathbf{x} < \mathbf{y}] \neq \frac{1}{2}. \quad ^3)$$

The probability distribution of  $\mathbf{U}$  can be computed exactly with the aid of a recursion formula given by MANN and WHITNEY, under the assumption, that  $H'$  is true and that  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  have a continuous probability distribution. It has been tabulated by them for  $n_1 \leq 8$  and  $n_2 \leq 8$  and for larger values the normal distribution with mean  $\frac{n_1 n_2}{2}$  and variance  $\frac{1}{12} n_1 n_2 (n_1 + n_2 + 1)$  (which is the asymptotic distribution of  $\mathbf{U}$  for  $n_1 \rightarrow \infty$  and  $n_2 \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $n_1/n_2$  and  $n_2/n_1$  being bounded) is a good approximation.

8.3. The statistic of PITMAN's test, which we shall also denote by  $\mathbf{U}$ , is the difference of the means of  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{n_1}$  and  $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{n_2}$ :

$$\mathbf{U} = \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \mathbf{x}_j - \frac{1}{n_2} \sum_{k=1}^{n_2} \mathbf{y}_k.$$

The unilateral critical regions

$$\mathbf{U} \leq -U'_\alpha$$

and

$$\mathbf{U} \geq U'_\alpha$$

where  $U'_\alpha$  depends on the observed values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  and the chosen significance level  $\alpha$ , are suitable for testing  $H'$  against the alternative hypotheses

$$\mathcal{E}\mathbf{x} < \mathcal{E}\mathbf{y}$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}\mathbf{x} > \mathcal{E}\mathbf{y}$$

respectively.

A bilateral critical region

$$|\mathbf{U}| \geq U'_{\alpha}$$

is suitable for testing  $H'$  against the alternative hypothesis

$$\mathcal{E}\mathbf{x} \neq \mathcal{E}\mathbf{y}$$

The probability distribution of  $\mathbf{U}$  can be derived exactly from the values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$ . This, however, is only practicable, if  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are very small. For larger values of  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  PITMAN has given an approximation for the distribution of  $\mathbf{U}$ . The assumption of continuity is not necessary.

8.4. The test of WALD and WOLFOWITZ is based on the number of runs in the sequence of values  $x_j$  and  $y_k$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n_1$ ;  $k = 1, \dots, n_2$ )

when arranged according to decreasing magnitude. Small values of this statistic are critical. Its probability distribution is known exactly as well as asymptotically, under the assumption that  $H'$  is true and that the probability distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  is continuous. F. S. SWED and C. EISENHART (1943) have given tables of this distribution for  $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq 20$ .

For this test we shall not try to make a distinction between unilateral and bilateral critical regions, since the class of alternative hypotheses, for which the test is consistent contains nearly all possible alternative hypotheses. It is difficult to see how this class could be divided into two mutually exclusive classes of a kind similar to the two classes of alternatives for Wilcoxon's test or Pitman's test, which have been described in 8.2 and 8.3. As far as our application of the test of Wald and Wolfowitz is concerned, its critical region can therefore be taken to be a *bilateral* one.

8.5. The probability distribution of the statistic of the test of KOLMOGOROFF-SMIRNOFF is known asymptotically only. An exact method for determining the confidence limits for an unknown distribution function (the problem, which had been solved asymptotically by A. KOLMOGOROFF (1933)) has been given by A. WALD and J. WOLFOWITZ (1939). Possibly the method applied by Smirnov to derive a two sample test from Kolmogoroff's theorem might be applied to this theorem of Wald and Wolfowitz and give an exact two sample test of this type.

So far, however, we have no knowledge either of the exact probability distribution of the statistic of this test, nor of the amount of the divergence between this exact distribution and the asymptotical one, derived by Smirnov. Apart from this the remarks, made above about the critical region of the test of Wald and Wolfowitz, apply to this test also. No attempt will be made to make a distinction between unilateral and bilateral critical regions. The only difference is, that in this case *large* values of this statistic are critical, and that no continuity of the probability distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  is needed.

8.5. We shall now consider the choice of a *critical region* for testing  $H_0$ , if no alternative hypothesis is specified. In order to simplify the notation, we confine ourselves to  $\nu = 1$ , i.e. to the case, that the two sample test  $T$  is based on one statistic  $\mathbf{U}$ . Denoting the bilateral critical region for  $T$  with size  $\epsilon$  by  $R_{n-m, n_1}(\epsilon)$ , we propose the following construction of a critical region  $R_1^*$  with size  $\leq \alpha$  for testing  $H_0$ , applicable if  $\alpha \geq 2^{-n+m+1}$ :

A. Let  $k$  be the largest positive integer  $\leq \frac{n-m}{2}$ , for which the relation

$$(14) \quad 2^{-n+m} \binom{n-m}{k} \leq \frac{\alpha}{n-m+1}$$

holds (where  $m$  is the value of  $\mathbf{m}$  following from the observations  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ ) or, if no positive integer satisfies (14),  $k = 0$ .

B. Put

$$(15) \quad \beta = \beta(n-m, \alpha) = 2^{-n+m+1} \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{n-m}{i}$$

and

$$(16) \quad \varepsilon = \varepsilon(n-m, n_1, \alpha) = \frac{\alpha - \beta}{n-m-2k-1} \cdot \frac{2^{n-m}}{\binom{n-m}{n_1}}$$

C. Then the critical region  $R_1^*$  consists of those points  $(n_1, U)$ , for which at least one of the following two conditions holds:

$$C_1: \quad n_1 \leq k \text{ or } n_1 \geq n-m-k$$

$$C_2: \quad U \in R_{n-m, n_1}(\delta)$$

where  $\delta \leq \varepsilon$ , and  $\varepsilon - \delta$  is as small as possible. It is clear, that the size of  $R_1^*$  is then  $\leq \alpha$ .

8.6. For  $n-m=12$  and  $\alpha=0,10$  ( $\alpha$  has been chosen rather large to get better diagrams)  $R_1^*$  has been outlined in fig. 3 for the case that

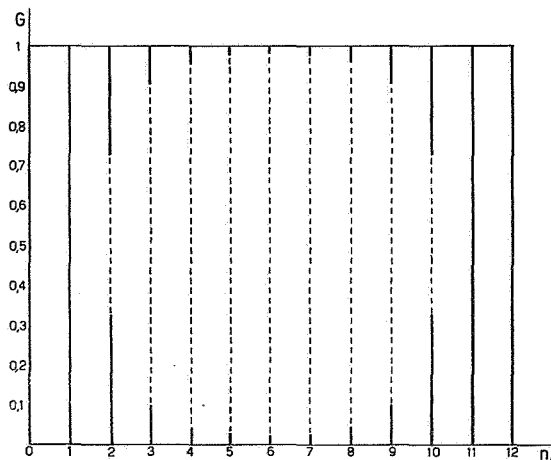


Fig. 3. Critical region  $R_1^*$ , when no alternative hypothesis is specified and when  $T$  is WILCOXON'S test or PITMAN'S test;  $\alpha = 0,10$ .

Wilcoxon's test or Pitman's test is used for  $T$  and in fig. 4 if the test of Wald and Wolfowitz is used. In these figures  $G(U|Z; \mathbf{n}_1 = n_1; H_0)$ , the conditional distribution function of  $\mathbf{U}$ , has been plotted on vertical lines above the points  $n_1 = 1, \dots, n_1 = 11$ .  $R_1^*$  consists of the points  $(n_1, U)$  on those parts of these lines, which have been drawn. The points with  $n_1 = 0$  and  $n_1 = 12$  belong to the critical region according to 8.5.A. This has been indicated by drawing the vertical lines above these points. The broken parts of the vertical lines indicate the region, where  $H_0$  is not

rejected. The reader should bear in mind, that in reality  $G$  is discontinuous.

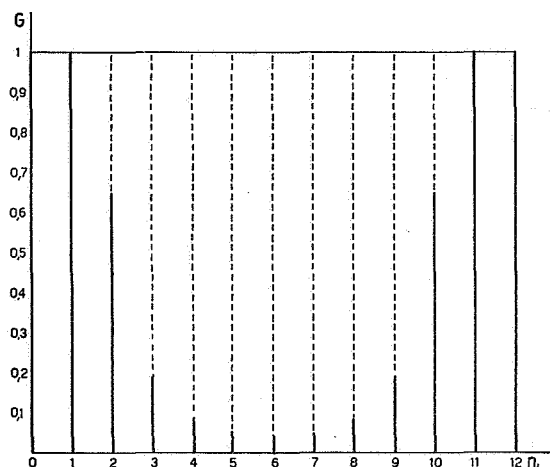


Fig. 4. Critical region  $R_1^*$ , when no alternative hypothesis is specified and  $T$  is the test of WALD and WOLFOWITZ;  $\alpha = 0,10$ .

Remark: The critical region  $R_1^*$  for the case, that the test of Kolmogoroff–Smirnov is used for  $T$ , can be constructed in an analogous way, large values of  $G$  being critical instead of small values. Strictly speaking, however, we do not know much about  $\alpha$  in that case.

8. 7. As a *special alternative hypothesis*, against which  $H_0$  can be tested, we consider the hypothesis  $H$  (cf. section 5. 3) of a *displacement* of one or more of the variables  $z_i$  in one direction along the  $z$ -axis. In this case we restrict the “family” of tests  $T$  to those tests, where a *unilateral* critical region can be indicated (cf. 8. 2, 8. 3 and 8. 4). We shall denote unilateral critical regions of the types  $\mathbf{U} \leq U_1$  and  $\mathbf{U} \geq U'_1$  with size  $\varepsilon$  by  $R'_{n-m, n_1}(\varepsilon)$  and  $R''_{n-m, n_1}(\varepsilon)$  respectively. These critical regions may also be defined by the relations

$$G(\mathbf{U}|Z; \mathbf{n}_1 = n_1; H_0) \leq G_1 = G(U_1|Z; \mathbf{n}_1 = n_1; H_0)$$

and

$$G(\mathbf{U}|Z; \mathbf{n}_1 = n_1; H_0) \geq G'_1 = G(U'_1|Z; \mathbf{n}_1 = n_1; H_0).$$

For reasons given in section 5. 3 we exclude, if  $n - m$  is even, the points  $(n_1, U)$  with  $n_1 = \frac{n-m}{2}$  from the critical region  $R_2^*$  for testing  $H_0$  against  $H$ . We further remark, that for Wilcoxon’s test and Pitman’s test the probability of small (large) values of  $\mathbf{U}$  increases if some of the variables  $z_i$  are shifted towards the left (right) and decreases, if the displacement is towards the right (left) along the  $z$ -axis (cf. section 5. 3). We therefore propose for these cases the following construction for  $R_2^*$  (with size  $\leq \alpha$ ), applicable if  $\alpha \geq 2^{-n+m+1}$ :

A. Let  $k$  be the largest positive integer  $< \frac{n-m}{2}$ , for which the relation (14) holds, or, if no positive integer satisfies (14),  $k = 0$ .

B'. Define  $\beta$  by (15) and (cf. (16)):

$$(16') \quad \varepsilon' = \varepsilon'(n-m, n_1, \alpha) = \varepsilon(n-m, n_1, \alpha)$$

if  $n-m$  is odd, and

$$(16'') \quad \varepsilon' = \varepsilon'(n-m, n_1, \alpha) = \frac{\alpha-\beta}{n-m-2k-2} \frac{2^{n-m}}{\binom{n-m}{n_1}}$$

if  $n-m$  is even.

C'. Then  $R_2^*$  consists of those points  $(n_1, U)$ , for which at least one of the following three conditions holds:

$$C_1: n_1 \leq k \text{ or } n_1 \geq n-m-k$$

$$C_2: n_1 < \frac{n-m}{2} \text{ and } U \in R'_{n-m, n_1}(\delta)$$

$$C_3: n_1 > \frac{n-m}{2} \text{ and } U \in R''_{n-m, n_1}(\delta)$$

where  $\delta \leq \varepsilon$ , and  $\varepsilon - \delta$  is as small as possible.

For  $n-m = 12$  and  $\alpha = 0,10$   $R_2^*$  has been given in figure 5 for the case that Wilcoxon's test or Pitman's test has been used for  $T$ .

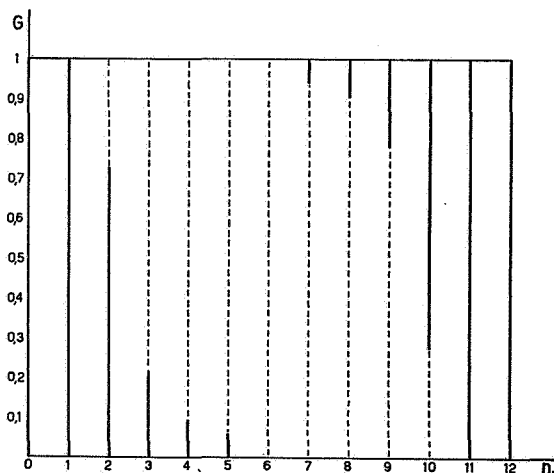


Fig. 5. Critical region  $R_2^*$ , when the alternative is a displacement of at least one of the distributions in one direction along the  $z$ -axis;  $\alpha = 0,10$ .

If the direction of the displacement is specified in the alternative hypothesis, the critical region may be confined either to the left or to the right half of the diagram only, using  $2\alpha$  instead of  $\alpha$  in (14) and (15).

8.8. The computations are now comparatively simple. A table of  $k$ ,  $2^{n-m}$  and of the quantities

$$(17) \quad \gamma = \frac{\alpha-\beta}{n-m-2k-1} \cdot 2^{n-m}$$

and, for even values of  $n - m$ , of

$$(18) \quad \gamma' = \frac{\alpha - \beta}{n - m - 2k - 2} \cdot 2^{n-m}$$

has been computed by the Computing Department of the "Mathematisch Centrum" for  $\alpha = 0,025; 0,05$  and  $0,10$  and for  $n - m = 10(1)50$  (cf. section 10). From this table the value of  $\varepsilon(n - m, n_1, \alpha)$  or  $\varepsilon'(n - m, n_1, \alpha)$  is easily computed with the aid of a table of the binomial coefficients (cf. 5. 2). If then condition  $C$  (or  $C'$ ) is satisfied, the result is significant with significance level  $\leq \alpha$ .

Moreover, if  $n_1 \neq 0$  and  $\neq n - m$ , an upper bound for the size of the smallest critical region of type  $R_1^*$  or  $R_2^*$ , which contains the point  $(n_1, U)$  following from the observations, may be found as follows:

Let  $\eta$  be the size of the smallest critical region for  $\mathbf{U}$ , given  $n - m$  and  $n_1$  (either bilateral or unilateral), which contains the observed value  $U$ , then

$$(19) \quad \alpha^* = 2^{-n+m} (n - m + 1) \binom{n-m}{n_1} \cdot \eta \geq \alpha.$$

8. 9. Sections 8. 5 and 8. 6 may be applied to the special case, described in sections 4 and 5. According to remark 3 of section 4. 2,  $\mathbf{u}$  has, if  $H_0$  is true, for given  $n_1$  and under the condition  $Z$ , a hypergeometric distribution. For this distribution we have

$$(20) \quad \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u} | Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0) = \frac{m_1}{n_1 + n_2}$$

and

$$(21) \quad \sigma_{\mathbf{u} | Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0}^2 = \frac{r n_1 n_2 (n_1 + n_2 - r)}{(n_1 + n_2)^2 (n_1 + n_2 - 1)}$$

with  $n_1 + n_2 = n - m$ . A normal probability distribution with (20) and (21) as mean and variance respectively is a good approximation of this probability distribution of  $\mathbf{u}$ , especially if a continuity correction is applied.

If  $n - m$  is so large, that the exact method of section 5 becomes too laborious, this approximate method may be used instead. It should, however, be born in mind, that the construction of the critical regions  $R_1^*$  and  $R_2^*$  is different from the construction of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , and that  $R_1^*$  and  $R_2^*$  should therefore not be regarded as approximations of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , but as an approximate method using a slightly different form of critical regions.

On the other hand, if the number of observations is small and  $T$  is a test, such that the exact distribution of  $\mathbf{U}$  is known, the critical region may, for the general case, be chosen according to a system analogous to the method described for the special case in section 5. We shall not go into the details of this method for other special cases, since the principle remains unchanged for every  $T$ .

### 9. Remarks.

Of the two-sample tests, mentioned in 6. 2, the tests of Wilcoxon and

of Wald and Wolfowitz can only be applied to our problem if  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  are all different. This is not required for the tests of Pitman and Kolmogoroff-Smirnoff. On the other hand, the latter is not an exact test, as has been pointed out already in section 8.5. Since small values of  $n_1$  or  $n_2$  will often occur in the application of the test, this is a serious drawback. The same applies, to a certain extent, to Pitman's test, since the computation of the exact distribution of its statistic is impracticable for values of  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ , which are at all large. Furthermore little is known about the accuracy of the approximation to the distribution of  $\mathbf{U}$ , given by Pitman, especially in the case of discontinuous random variables.

So far the only exact test for  $H_0$ , developed until now, which is valid if there are equal values among  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$ , and which can be used for reasonably large values of  $n_1 + n_2$ , seems to be the one described in sections 4 and 5. Moreover for large values of  $n_1 + n_2$  the accuracy of the approximate method, described in 8.9 is independent of the number of equal values among  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$ .

If no equal values occur among the  $x_j$  and  $y_k$ , Wilcoxon's test seems a very suitable one for  $T$ , especially when the alternative hypothesis is the hypothesis  $H$  of a displacement along the  $z$ -axis.

The number of values  $z_i$ , which are equal to zero, is of no consequence whatever as far as the choice of  $T$  is concerned.

#### 11. *Explanation of the table and of the practical application of the test.*

The use of the table in applying the test may be facilitated by the following indications:

$n$  denotes the number of observations  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  and  $m$  the number of values  $z_i$  which are equal to zero;

$n_1$  denotes the number of positive values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  among  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ .

If  $n_1 \leq k$  or  $n_1 \geq n - m - k$ ,  $H_0$  is rejected with significance level  $\leq \alpha$ . If  $k < n_1 < n - m - k$ , two cases are to be distinguished:

I. If no alternative hypothesis to  $H_0$  is specified, the chosen two sample test  $T$  is applied to the two sets of values  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$  (the  $y_k$  are the negative values among  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  taken positively). This results in a value  $U$  of the statistic  $\mathbf{U}$  of  $T$ . Let  $\eta$  be the size of the smallest bilateral critical region for  $\mathbf{U}$ , belonging to  $T$ , which contains  $U$ . If then

$$\eta \leq \gamma \binom{n-m}{n_1}$$

$H_0$  is rejected with significance level  $\leq \alpha$ ; cf. (17) for  $\gamma$ .

In case Wilcoxon's test is used for  $T$ , we have

$$\eta = 2G(U|Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0)$$

if  $U < \frac{n_1 n_2}{2}$  and

$$\eta = 2 \{1 - G(U|Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0)\}$$

if  $U > \frac{n_1 n_2}{2}$ .

10. Table of  $k$ ,  $2^{n-m}$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma'$ .  
 $\alpha = 0,025; 0,05; 0,10$

$n-m$	$2^{n-m}$	$\alpha = 0,025$			$\alpha = 0,05$			$\alpha = 0,10$		
		$k$	$\gamma$	$\gamma'$	$k$	$\gamma$	$\gamma'$	$k$	$\gamma$	$\gamma'$
10	1024.10 <sup>0</sup>	0	2,622.10 <sup>0</sup>	2,950.10 <sup>0</sup>	0	5,467.10 <sup>0</sup>	6,150.10 <sup>0</sup>	0	1,116.10 <sup>1</sup>	1,255.10 <sup>1</sup>
11	2048.10 <sup>0</sup>	0	4,919.10 <sup>0</sup>		0	1,004.10 <sup>1</sup>		1	2,260.10 <sup>1</sup>	
12	4096.10 <sup>0</sup>	0	9,126.10 <sup>0</sup>	1,004.10 <sup>1</sup>	1	1,987.10 <sup>1</sup>	2,235.10 <sup>1</sup>	1	4,262.10 <sup>1</sup>	4,795.10 <sup>1</sup>
13	8192.10 <sup>0</sup>	1	1,768.10 <sup>1</sup>		1	3,816.10 <sup>1</sup>		1	7,912.10 <sup>1</sup>	
14	1638.10 <sup>1</sup>	1	3,450.10 <sup>1</sup>	3,796.10 <sup>1</sup>	1	7,175.10 <sup>1</sup>	7,892.10 <sup>1</sup>	2	1,585.10 <sup>2</sup>	1,783.10 <sup>2</sup>
15	3277.10 <sup>1</sup>	1	6,560.10 <sup>1</sup>		1	1,339.10 <sup>2</sup>		2	3,035.10 <sup>2</sup>	
16	6554.10 <sup>1</sup>	1	1,234.10 <sup>2</sup>	1,337.10 <sup>2</sup>	2	2,730.10 <sup>2</sup>	3,003.10 <sup>2</sup>	2	5,709.10 <sup>2</sup>	6,280.10 <sup>2</sup>
17	1311.10 <sup>2</sup>	2	2,475.10 <sup>2</sup>		2	5,205.10 <sup>2</sup>		3	1,144.10 <sup>3</sup>	
18	2621.10 <sup>2</sup>	2	4,776.10 <sup>2</sup>	5,175.10 <sup>2</sup>	2	9,817.10 <sup>2</sup>	1,064.10 <sup>3</sup>	3	2,203.10 <sup>3</sup>	2,424.10 <sup>3</sup>
19	5243.10 <sup>2</sup>	2	9,091.10 <sup>2</sup>		3	1,991.10 <sup>3</sup>		3	4,175.10 <sup>3</sup>	
20	1049.10 <sup>3</sup>	3	1,809.10 <sup>3</sup>	1,959.10 <sup>3</sup>	3	3,825.10 <sup>3</sup>	4,144.10 <sup>3</sup>	4	8,405.10 <sup>3</sup>	9,246.10 <sup>3</sup>
21	2097.10 <sup>3</sup>	3	3,521.10 <sup>3</sup>		3	7,267.10 <sup>3</sup>		4	1,622.10 <sup>4</sup>	
22	4194.10 <sup>3</sup>	3	6,749.10 <sup>3</sup>	7,231.10 <sup>3</sup>	4	1,473.10 <sup>4</sup>	1,596.10 <sup>4</sup>	4	3,086.10 <sup>4</sup>	3,344.10 <sup>4</sup>
23	8389.10 <sup>3</sup>	3	1,285.10 <sup>4</sup>		4	2,840.10 <sup>4</sup>		5	6,248.10 <sup>4</sup>	
24	1678.10 <sup>4</sup>	4	2,624.10 <sup>4</sup>	2,812.10 <sup>4</sup>	4	5,421.10 <sup>4</sup>	5,807.10 <sup>4</sup>	5	1,205.10 <sup>5</sup>	1,306.10 <sup>5</sup>
25	3355.10 <sup>4</sup>	4	5,053.10 <sup>4</sup>		5	1,101.10 <sup>5</sup>		5	2,299.10 <sup>5</sup>	
26	6711.10 <sup>4</sup>	4	9,657.10 <sup>4</sup>	1,026.10 <sup>5</sup>	5	2,125.10 <sup>5</sup>	2,278.10 <sup>5</sup>	6	4,679.10 <sup>5</sup>	5,069.10 <sup>5</sup>
27	1342.10 <sup>5</sup>	5	1,970.10 <sup>5</sup>		5	4,068.10 <sup>5</sup>		6	9,019.10 <sup>5</sup>	
28	2684.10 <sup>5</sup>	5	3,804.10 <sup>5</sup>	4,043.10 <sup>5</sup>	6	8,281.10 <sup>5</sup>	8,874.10 <sup>5</sup>	6	1,723.10 <sup>6</sup>	1,845.10 <sup>6</sup>
29	5369.10 <sup>5</sup>	5	7,291.10 <sup>5</sup>		6	1,600.10 <sup>6</sup>		7	3,523.10 <sup>6</sup>	
30	1074.10 <sup>6</sup>	6	1,488.10 <sup>6</sup>	1,582.10 <sup>6</sup>	6	3,068.10 <sup>6</sup>	3,260.10 <sup>6</sup>	7	6,785.10 <sup>6</sup>	7,269.10 <sup>6</sup>
31	2148.10 <sup>6</sup>	6	2,878.10 <sup>6</sup>		7	6,264.10 <sup>6</sup>		7	1,298.10 <sup>7</sup>	
32	4295.10 <sup>6</sup>	6	5,528.10 <sup>6</sup>	5,837.10 <sup>6</sup>	7	1,210.10 <sup>7</sup>	1,286.10 <sup>7</sup>	8	2,663.10 <sup>7</sup>	2,853.10 <sup>7</sup>
33	8590.10 <sup>6</sup>	7	1,130.10 <sup>7</sup>		7	2,323.10 <sup>7</sup>		8	5,125.10 <sup>7</sup>	
34	1718.10 <sup>7</sup>	7	2,187.10 <sup>7</sup>	2,307.10 <sup>7</sup>	8	4,755.10 <sup>7</sup>	5,053.10 <sup>7</sup>	8	9,808.10 <sup>7</sup>	1,042.10 <sup>8</sup>
35	3536.10 <sup>7</sup>	8	4,412.10 <sup>7</sup>		8	9,184.10 <sup>7</sup>		9	2,019.10 <sup>8</sup>	
36	6872.10 <sup>7</sup>	8	8,611.10 <sup>7</sup>	9,092.10 <sup>7</sup>	8	1,765.10 <sup>8</sup>	1,864.10 <sup>8</sup>	9	3,883.10 <sup>8</sup>	4,126.10 <sup>8</sup>
37	1374.10 <sup>8</sup>	8	1,667.10 <sup>8</sup>		9	3,623.10 <sup>8</sup>		10	7,934.10 <sup>8</sup>	
38	2749.10 <sup>8</sup>	9	3,376.10 <sup>8</sup>	3,565.10 <sup>8</sup>	9	6,993.10 <sup>8</sup>	7,383.10 <sup>8</sup>	10	1,534.10 <sup>9</sup>	1,630.10 <sup>9</sup>
39	5498.10 <sup>8</sup>	9	6,581.10 <sup>8</sup>		10	1,424.10 <sup>9</sup>		10	2,951.10 <sup>9</sup>	
40	1100.10 <sup>9</sup>	9	1,273.10 <sup>9</sup>	1,337.10 <sup>9</sup>	10	2,765.10 <sup>9</sup>	2,918.10 <sup>9</sup>	11	6,052.10 <sup>9</sup>	6,430.10 <sup>9</sup>
41	2199.10 <sup>9</sup>	10	2,590.10 <sup>9</sup>		10	5,339.10 <sup>9</sup>		11	1,169.10 <sup>10</sup>	
42	4398.10 <sup>9</sup>	10	5,040.10 <sup>9</sup>	5,291.10 <sup>9</sup>	11	1,090.10 <sup>10</sup>	1,151.10 <sup>10</sup>	11	2,248.10 <sup>10</sup>	2,373.10 <sup>10</sup>
43	8796.10 <sup>9</sup>	10	9,755.10 <sup>9</sup>		11	2,115.10 <sup>10</sup>		12	4,623.10 <sup>10</sup>	
44	1759.10 <sup>10</sup>	11	1,988.10 <sup>10</sup>	2,088.10 <sup>10</sup>	11	4,083.10 <sup>10</sup>	4,287.10 <sup>10</sup>	12	8,920.10 <sup>10</sup>	9,415.10 <sup>10</sup>
45	3518.10 <sup>10</sup>	11	3,867.10 <sup>10</sup>		12	8,363.10 <sup>10</sup>		13	1,825.10 <sup>11</sup>	
46	7037.10 <sup>10</sup>	11	7,487.10 <sup>10</sup>	7,825.10 <sup>10</sup>	12	1,621.10 <sup>11</sup>	1,702.10 <sup>11</sup>	13	3,536.10 <sup>11</sup>	3,732.10 <sup>11</sup>
47	1407.10 <sup>11</sup>	12	1,530.10 <sup>11</sup>		13	3,302.10 <sup>11</sup>		13	6,820.10 <sup>11</sup>	
48	2815.10 <sup>11</sup>	12	2,972.10 <sup>11</sup>	3,107.10 <sup>11</sup>	13	6,420.10 <sup>11</sup>	6,744.10 <sup>11</sup>	14	1,400.10 <sup>12</sup>	1,477.10 <sup>12</sup>
49	5629.10 <sup>11</sup>	13	6,040.10 <sup>11</sup>		13	1,244.10 <sup>12</sup>		14	2,708.10 <sup>12</sup>	
50	1126.10 <sup>12</sup>	13	1,177.10 <sup>12</sup>	1,232.10 <sup>12</sup>	14	2,541.10 <sup>12</sup>	2,668.10 <sup>12</sup>	14	5,222.10 <sup>12</sup>	5,483.10 <sup>12</sup>

According to continental usage the comma designates the decimal sign (e.g.  $0,5 = \frac{1}{2}$ ).



II. If  $H_0$  is tested against the alternative hypothesis  $H$  of a displacement along the  $z$ -axis in one direction (which one not being specified) of some of the variables  $z_i$ , a two sample test  $T$  is applied to  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$ , which allows a distinction between two unilateral critical regions. Taking e.g. Wilcoxon's test, the size  $\eta'$  of the smallest unilateral critical region containing the value  $U$ , found from the observations, is computed, using the unilateral critical region of the form

$$U - \frac{n_1 n_2}{2} \geq U_\alpha$$

if  $n_1 > \frac{n-m}{2}$ , and the unilateral critical region of the type

$$U - \frac{n_1 n_2}{2} \leq -U_\alpha$$

if  $n_1 < \frac{n-m}{2}$  (cf. 8.2).

In the first case, we have

$$\eta' = 1 - G(U|Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0)$$

and in the second case

$$\eta' = G(U|Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0).$$

If  $n - m$  is odd, and

$$\eta' \leq \gamma \binom{n-m}{n_1}$$

or if  $n - m$  is even, and

$$\eta' \leq \gamma' \binom{n-m}{n_1}$$

$H_0$  is rejected; cf. (17) and (18) for  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma'$ .

The values of  $2^{n-m}$  have been included in the table to facilitate the computation of the size  $\alpha^*$  of smallest critical region (either of unilateral or bilateral type), which contains the point  $(n_1, U)$ , following from the observations. This computation has been described in 8.8.

## 12. Example.

Let us consider a set of observed values  $z_1, \dots, z_{22}$ :

- 8,0; - 5,0; - 4,5; - 3,0; - 2,7; - 2,3; - 2,1; - 1,3; - 1,2;  
- 1,0; - 0,9; - 0,5; - 0,2; 0; 0; 1,8; 2,5; 3,5; 6,2; 7,3; 7,4; 9,5.

We then have  $n = 22$ ,  $m = 2$ ,  $n_1 = 7$ . From the table of section 11 we find (for  $\alpha = 0,05$ )

$$\varepsilon = \gamma \binom{20}{7} = \frac{3825}{77520} = 0,049$$

and  $k = 3$ . Therefore  $k < n_1 < n - m - k$  and a two sample test must be applied. Let us take Wilcoxon's test for this. The number of pairs  $(x_j, y_k)$  with  $x_j > y_k$  is 73. According to section 8.2 we have

$$\mathcal{E} U = \frac{7 \cdot 13}{2} = 45,5$$

and

$$\sigma_u = \sqrt{\frac{1}{12} 7 \cdot 13 (7 + 13 + 1)} = 12,62.$$

Applying a correction for continuity, we find

$$\frac{U - \frac{1}{2} - \mathcal{E}U}{\sigma_u} = \frac{72,5 - 45,5}{12,62} = 2,14.$$

From a table of the normal distribution we find therefore, that

$$\eta = P[|U - \mathcal{E}U| \geq |73 - 45,5| | Z, n_1 = n_1; H_0] = 0,032.$$

Since  $\eta < \varepsilon$ ,  $H_0$  is rejected with significance level 0,05.

If, however,  $H_0$  is tested against the alternative hypothesis  $H$  of a displacement of some of the variables  $z_i$  in one direction along the  $z$ -axis,  $H_0$  is *not* rejected, since

$$n_1 < \frac{n-m}{2} = \mathcal{E}(n_1 | H_0)$$

and

$$U > \frac{n_1 n_2}{2} = \mathcal{E}(U | n_1 = n_1; H_0)$$

thus  $G(U|Z; n_1 = n_1; H_0)$  having the value  $1 - 0,016 = 0,984$ . The point  $(n_1, U)$  corresponding with this result is not contained in the critical region  $R_2^*$  (cf. figure 5). This means, that the observations do not indicate a displacement of some of the  $z_i$  in one direction along the  $z$ -axis. They do, however, suggest displacements in both directions, or asymmetry of some of the distributions or a combination of displacements and asymmetry. This follows from the fact, that  $H_0$  is rejected if no special alternative hypothesis is specified.

My thanks are due to Prof. D. VAN DANTZIG for his remarks and criticism, which have been very helpful, and for reading the manuscript.

*Publication of the Statistical Department of the  
"Mathematisch Centrum", Amsterdam.*

#### REFERENCES

- DANTZIG, D. VAN, Kadercursus mathematische statistiek, Mathematisch Centrum, Amsterdam (1947-1950).
- KOLMOGOROFF, A., Sulla determinazione empirica di una legge di distribuzione, *Giornale dell'Inst. Ital. degli Attuari* 4, 83-91 (1933).
- , Confidence limits for an unknown distribution function, *Ann. Math. Stat.* 12, 461-463 (1941).
- MANN, H. B. and D. R. WHITNEY, On a test of whether one of two random variables is stochastically larger than the other, *Ann. Math. Stat.* 18, 50-60 (1947).
- PITMAN, E. J., Significance tests which may be applied to samples from any populations, I., *Jrn. Roy. Stat. Soc. Suppl.* 4, 119-129 (1937).
- SMIRNOFF, N., Sur les écarts de la courbe de distribution empirique, *Receuil Math. de Moscou* 6, 3-26 (1939).
- , On the estimation of the discrepancy between empirical curves of distribution for two independent samples, *Bull. de l'Univ. de Moscou, Série intern. (Mathématiques)* 2, fasc. 2 (1939).
- SWED, F. S. and C. EISENHART, Tables for testing randomness of grouping in a sequence of alternatives, *Ann. Math. Stat.* 14, 66-87 (1943).
- WALD, A. and J. WOLFOWITZ, Confidence intervals for continuous distribution functions, *Ann.-Math. Stat.* 10, 105-118 (1939).
- WILCOXON, F., Individual comparisons by ranking methods, *Biometrics* 1, 80-82 (1945).



