

On the Szekely-Mori Asymmetry Criterion Statistics for Binary Vectors with Independent Components

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Abstract: For random binary vectors the first two moments and limit distributions of statistics in a recently proposed by Székely and Móri criterion of asymmetry of a distribution are investigated.

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1 Introduction

Let X, X_1, X_2, \dots be i.i.d. R^d -valued random vectors and $\|X\|$ denotes a Euclidian norm of vector X . It was shown by Szekely and Mori (2001) that $E(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|) \geq 0$ and that $E(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|) = 0$ if and only if X is symmetrically distributed (i.e., if the distributions of X and $-X$ coincide).

A sequence of statistics

$$T_n = T_n(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \frac{\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\|X_i + X_j\| - \|X_i - X_j\|)}{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \|X_i\|}$$

was proposed by Szekely and Mori (2001) as a base of a consistent test for symmetry against general alternatives. According to Szekely and Mori (2001) if $E(\|X\|) < \infty$ and $x(\alpha) = (\Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha/2))^2$ then

$$\sup_{H_0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr\{1 + T_n \geq x(\alpha)\} = \alpha, \quad (1)$$

where H_0 is the set of all symmetrical distributions in R^d .

Here the equality holds for two-point symmetric distributions where $\Pr\{X_1 = a\} = \Pr\{X_1 = -a\} = 1/2$ for some $a \in R^d \setminus \{0\}$. Hence,

$$\Pr\left\{T_n = \frac{1}{n}(n - 2m)^2 - 1\right\} = \frac{1}{2^n} C_n^m, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, n,$$

and $E(T_n) = 0$, $D(T_n) = 2(n - 1)/n$. According to the deMoivre-Laplace theorem

$$\Pr\{T_n + 1 \leq x\} \rightarrow \Phi(\sqrt{x}) - \Phi(-\sqrt{x}), \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$$

which corresponds to (1).

2 Main Results

We will consider the case when the distribution of the vector X is concentrated on a vertex set $V_d = \{B = (b_1, \dots, b_d) : b_j \in \{-1, +1\}, j = 1, \dots, d\}$ of d -dimensional cube (so $\Pr\{\|X\| = \sqrt{d}\} = 1$ and T_n is a U -statistics in this case).

If $X = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$ is uniformly distributed on B_d then x_1, \dots, x_d are independent and $\Pr\{x_i = -1\} = \Pr\{x_i = 1\} = 1/2$. If the random vector Y is independent and identically distributed with X then

$$E(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) = 0. \quad (2)$$

Theorem 1. *If random vectors $X = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$, $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_d)$ are independent and uniformly distributed on V_d , $d \geq 1$, then*

$$D(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) = \frac{1}{2^{d-3}} \sum_{m=0}^d C_d^m \left(\frac{d}{2} - \sqrt{m(d-m)} \right) = 2 + \frac{\theta_d}{d}, \quad \theta_d \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, 6 \right].$$

PROOF. In view of (2)

$$\begin{aligned} D(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) &= E \left(\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j + y_j)^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j - y_j)^2} \right)^2 \\ &= 2E \left(\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j^2 + y_j^2) \right) - 2E \left(\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j + y_j)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j - y_j)^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

In our case $E \left(\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j^2 + y_j^2) \right) = 2d$. Let us consider sets $A_m = \{(B, C) \in V_d \times V_d : |\{k : b_k = c_k\}| = m\}$ for $m = 0, \dots, d$. If $(B, C) \in A_m$ then

$$\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (b_j + c_j)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (b_j - c_j)^2} = 4\sqrt{m(d-m)}.$$

The set A_m consists of $C_d^m 2^d$ elements, the set of all possible pairs (B, C) consists of 2^{2d} elements. Consequently,

$$E \left(\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j + y_j)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j - y_j)^2} \right) = \frac{1}{2^{d-2}} \sum_{m=0}^d C_d^m \sqrt{m(d-m)}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} D(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|) &= 4d - \frac{1}{2^{d-3}} \sum_{m=0}^d C_d^m \sqrt{m(d-m)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{d-3}} \sum_{m=0}^d C_d^m \left(\frac{d}{2} - \sqrt{m(d-m)} \right) = 8E \left(\frac{d}{2} - \sqrt{\xi(d-\xi)} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where ξ is a random variable with the binomial distribution $\text{Bin}(d, 1/2)$.

It is easy to check that $E(\xi - d/2)^2 = d/4$, $E(\xi - d/2)^4 = d(3d - 2)/16$ and

$$1 - \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^2}{2} \leq \sqrt{1-x} \leq 1 - \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^2}{8} \quad \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{2} - \sqrt{x(d-x)} &= \frac{d}{2} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{x-d/2}{d/2}\right)^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{d}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-d/2)^2}{(d/2)^2} + \theta \frac{(x-d/2)^4}{(d/2)^4} \right) = \frac{(x-d/2)^2}{d} + 8\theta \frac{(x-d/2)^4}{d^3}, \quad \theta \in \left[\frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{2} \right], \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} D(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|) &= 8E \left(\frac{d}{2} - \sqrt{\xi(d-\xi)} \right) \\ &= 8E \left(\frac{(\xi - d/2)^2}{d} + 8\theta \frac{(\xi - d/2)^4}{d^3} \right) = 2 + \frac{\theta_d}{d}, \quad \theta_d \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, 6 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

(The set of possible values of θ_d was widened to be valid for all $d \geq 1$.) Theorem 1 is proved.

Theorem 2. *If random variables $X = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$, $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_d)$ are independent and uniformly distributed on V_d then for all $t \in (-\infty, \infty)$*

$$\Pr\{(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) \leq t\} \rightarrow \Phi \left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}} \right), \quad d \rightarrow \infty.$$

PROOF. The distribution of $\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|$ coincides with that of $\eta = 2(\sqrt{\xi_d} - \sqrt{d - \xi_d})$, where ξ_d has a binomial distribution $\text{Bin}(d, 1/2)$.

Notice that the function $u(x) = \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{d-x}$ is increasing on $[0, d]$. Therefore,

$$F_\eta(x) = \Pr\{\eta \leq x\} = \sum_{m:u(m) \leq x} p_m, \quad \text{where } p_m = \Pr\{\xi_d = m\} = \frac{1}{2^d} C_d^m.$$

It is easy to check that $k(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max\{x : u(x) \leq t\} = \frac{d}{2} + \frac{t}{2} \sqrt{\frac{d}{2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{t^2}{8d}}$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} F_\eta(t) &= \Pr\{\eta \leq t\} = \sum_{m=0}^{k(t)} p_m = \Pr\{\xi_d \leq k(t)\} \\ &= \Pr \left\{ \frac{\xi_d - d/2}{\sqrt{d/2}} \leq \frac{t}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{t^2}{8d}} \right\} \rightarrow \Phi \left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}} \right), \quad d \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned}$$

for each $t \in (-\infty, \infty)$ due to the deMoivre-Laplace theorem.

By means of Theorem 1 we may find two first moments of the U -statistics T_n from uniform distribution on V_d . We have

$$E(T_n) = \frac{(n-1)}{2\sqrt{d}} E(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|) = 0.$$

Since for independent vectors X_1, X_2, \dots with symmetrical distribution on V_d for any $a \in V_d$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} E(\|a + X_i\| - \|a - X_i\|) &= 0, \\ E(\|a + X_i\| - \|a - X_i\|)(\|a + X_j\| - \|a - X_j\|) &= 0, \quad i \neq j, \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

it follows that

$$\text{cov}(\|X_i + X_j\| - \|X_i - X_j\|, \|X_k + X_l\| - \|X_k - X_l\|) = 0$$

for all $1 \leq i < j, 1 \leq k < l, (i, j) \neq (k, l)$. So

$$\begin{aligned} D(T_n) &= \frac{1}{n^2 d} D\left(\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\|X_i + X_j\| - \|X_i - X_j\|)\right) \\ &= \frac{n-1}{2nd} D(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|) \rightarrow \frac{1}{d}, \quad d \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Due to (3) U -statistics T_n are degenerate ones. Applying the results of Gregory (1977) (see also Korol’uk and Borovskih (1989)) to our case we obtain that if $d = \text{const}$ and $n \rightarrow \infty$ then distributions of U -statistics T_n converge to the distribution of $\sum_{k=1}^{2^d} c_k \nu_k^2 - 1$, where ν_1, ν_2, \dots are independent random variables with standard Gaussian distribution, $c_k \geq 0, \sum c_k = 1$ and the coefficients c_k are the eigenvalues of operator $S : f(x) \rightarrow E(\|X_1 + x\| - \|X_1 - x\|)f(X_1)$ in $L^2(V_d)$ (see Szekely and Mori, 2001). The exact formulas for these coefficients in the case of general d are under investigation.

This results may be used to construct a goodness-of-fit test for generators of random or pseudorandom bits.

Now we consider a class of nonuniform distributions on V_d corresponding to random vectors with independent components.

Theorem 3. *If random vectors $X = (x_1, \dots, x_d), Y = (y_1, \dots, y_d)$ with values in V_d are independent identically distributed with independent components,*

$$\Pr\{x_j = 1\} = \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon_j^{(d)}, \quad \Pr\{x_j = -1\} = \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon_j^{(d)}, \quad |\varepsilon_j^{(d)}| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad j = 1, \dots, d,$$

if $d \rightarrow \infty$ and for some $\delta > 0$

$$a_d \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{4}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d \left(\varepsilon_j^{(d)}\right)^2 < 1 - \delta \quad \text{for all } d,$$

then the distribution of $\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|$ is asymptotically normal with parameters

$$\left(\frac{2a_d \sqrt{2d}}{\sqrt{1 - a_d} + \sqrt{1 + a_d}}, (1 - b_d) \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_d^2}}{1 - a_d^2} \right), \quad \text{where } b_d \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{16}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d \left(\varepsilon_j^{(d)}\right)^4 < a_d.$$

PROOF. Note that $\|X + Y\|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^d (x_j + y_j)^2 = 4\xi_d, \|X - Y\|^2 = 4d - \|X + Y\|^2$, where $\xi_d = \xi_d(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_d)$ is the sum of d independent indicators:

$$\xi_d = \sum_{j=1}^d \eta_j, \quad \eta_j = I(x_j = y_j), \quad \Pr\{\eta_j = 1\} = \frac{1}{2} + 2 \left(\varepsilon_j^{(d)}\right)^2, \quad j = 1, \dots, d.$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\xi_d) &= \frac{d}{2} + 2 \sum_{j=1}^d \left(\varepsilon_j^{(d)} \right)^2 = \frac{d}{2}(1 + a_d), \quad \mathbb{D}(\xi_d) = \frac{d}{4} - 4 \sum_{j=1}^d \left(\varepsilon_j^{(d)} \right)^4 = \frac{d}{4}(1 - b_d), \\ &\sum_{j=1}^d \mathbb{E}(|\eta_j - \mathbb{E}(\eta_j)|^3) < \frac{d}{8}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\{\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\| \leq x\} &= \Pr\left\{\sqrt{\xi_d} - \sqrt{d - \xi_d} \leq \frac{x}{2}\right\} \\ &= \Pr\left\{\sqrt{\frac{1}{d}\xi_d} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{d}\xi_d} \leq \frac{x}{2\sqrt{d}}\right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

It follows from Lyapunov's theorem and conditions of Theorem 3 that $\frac{1}{d}\xi_d$ is asymptotically normal with parameters $(\frac{1}{2}(1 + a_d), \frac{1}{4d}(1 - b_d))$. Because the derivative of the function $s(x) = \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{1 - x}$ is strictly positive and bounded on $[\frac{1}{2}, 1 - \delta]$, the random variable $s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{d}\xi_d} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{d}\xi_d}$ is asymptotically normal with parameters

$$\left(s\left(\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right), \left(s'\left(\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right)\right)^2 \mathbb{D}\left(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d\right) \right) = \left(\frac{a_d\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{1 - a_d} + \sqrt{1 + a_d}}, \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_d^2}}{1 - a_d^2} \frac{1 - b_d}{4d} \right). \quad (5)$$

Consequently, the random variable $2(\sqrt{\xi_d} - \sqrt{d - \xi_d})$ is asymptotically normal with parameters

$$\left(\frac{2a_d\sqrt{2d}}{\sqrt{1 - a_d} + \sqrt{1 + a_d}}, \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_d^2}}{1 - a_d^2} (1 - b_d) \right),$$

and Theorem 3 is proved.

Theorem 2 is a particular case of Theorem 3, but its statement is simpler.

Theorem 4. *If the conditions of Theorem 3 are satisfied then there exists a constant $C = C(a_d) < \infty$ such that*

$$\left| \mathbb{E}(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) - \frac{2a_d\sqrt{2d}}{\sqrt{1 - a_d} + \sqrt{1 + a_d}} \right| < \frac{C}{\sqrt{d}}, \quad (6)$$

and

$$\mathbb{D}(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_d^2}}{1 - a_d^2} (1 - b_d + o(1)), \quad d \rightarrow \infty. \quad (7)$$

PROOF. We will use notations introduced in the proof of Theorem 3. According to (4)

$$\mathbb{E}(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) = 2\sqrt{d}\mathbb{E}s\left(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d\right), \quad s(x) = \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{1 - x}. \quad (8)$$

The function $s(x)$, $x \in [0, 1]$, has quadratic lower and upper bounds:

$$\begin{aligned} s\left(\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right) + s'\left(\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right)\left(x - \frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right) - C_1\left(x - \frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right)^2 &\leq s(x) \leq \\ &\leq s\left(\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right) + s'\left(\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right)\left(x - \frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right) + C_2\left(x - \frac{1}{d}\mathbb{E}(\xi_d)\right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{1 + s(\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d)) - s'(\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d))\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d)}{(\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d))^2},$$

$$C_2 = \frac{1 - s(\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d)) - s'(\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d))(1 - \frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d))}{(1 - \frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d))^2}.$$

By means of these estimates we obtain

$$|E(s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)) - s(\frac{1}{d}E(\xi_d))| \leq \max\{C_1, C_2\}D(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d) < \max\{C_1, C_2\}\frac{1}{4d}. \tag{10}$$

Inequality (6) is a consequence of (8), (10) and $E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d) = \frac{1+a_d}{2}$.

It follows from Theorem 3 that there exists a sequence $\{\alpha_d\}$ such that $\alpha_d \rightarrow 0$ as $d \rightarrow \infty$ and $D(\|X + Y\| - \|X - Y\|) = 4dD(s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)) \geq (1 - \alpha_d)(1 - b_d)\frac{1+\sqrt{1-a_d^2}}{1-a_d^2}$. To obtain upper bounds we use (9) as follows:

$$D(s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)) \leq E(s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d) - s(E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)))^2$$

$$= E\left(s'(E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)) + C^*\theta(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))^2\right)^2,$$

where $C^* = \max\{C_1, C_2\}$ and θ is a random variable, $\Pr\{|\theta| \leq 1\} = 1$. Therefore,

$$D(s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)) \leq (s'(E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)))^2E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))^2 + 2C^*s'(E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))E(|\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)|^3)$$

$$+ C^{*2}E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))^4.$$

But $E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))^2 = D(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d) = \frac{1-b_d}{4d}$ and

$$E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))^4 \leq 3\frac{(1 - b_d)^2}{16d^2} + \frac{1 - b_d}{4d^3} = 3\frac{(1 - b_d)^2}{16d^2} \left(1 + \frac{4}{(1 - b_d)d}\right),$$

because if $S_n = \chi_1 + \dots + \chi_n$ is a sum of n independent indicators then (it is easy to check by induction)

$$E(S_n - E(S_n))^4 = 3(D(S_n))^2 + D(S_n) - 6\sum_{k=1}^n (D(\chi_k))^2.$$

Further, according to the Lyapunov inequality and condition $b_d < 1 - \delta$

$$E(|\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)|^3) \leq (E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d - E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))^4)^{3/4} \leq 3\frac{(1 - b_d)^{3/2}}{8d^{3/2}} \left(1 + \frac{4}{\delta d}\right),$$

so

$$D(s(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)) \leq (s'(E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d)))^2\frac{1-b_d}{4d} + 3\left(1 + \frac{4}{\delta d}\right)\left(2C^*s'(E(\frac{1}{d}\xi_d))\frac{(1-b_d)^{3/2}}{8d^{3/2}} + \frac{(1-b_d)^2}{16d^2}\right)$$

$$= \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_d^2}}{1 - a_d^2}(1 - b_d + o(1)) \quad \text{as } d \rightarrow \infty,$$

and equality (7) and Theorem 4 are proven.

If $X = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$, X_1, X_2, \dots are independent identically distributed random vectors with values in V_d with independent components,

$$\Pr\{x_j = 1\} = \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon_j, \quad \Pr\{x_j = -1\} = \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, d, \quad \sum_{j=1}^d \varepsilon_j^2 > 0,$$

then their distribution is asymmetric, U -statistics

$$T_n = \frac{1}{n\sqrt{d}} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\|X_i + X_j\| - \|X_i - X_j\|)$$

are nondegenerate and according to Hoeffding (1948) distributions of T_n as $n \rightarrow \infty$ are asymptotically normal with parameters

$$\left(\frac{n}{2\sqrt{d}} \mathbb{E}(\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\|), \frac{4n}{d} \mathbb{E}(D\{\|X_1 + X_2\| - \|X_1 - X_2\| | X_1\}) \right).$$

For finite d and fixed $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_d$ the parameters of asymptotic normality take concrete values.

Let the conditions of Theorem 3 be now fulfilled. Then we may use the results of Mihailov (1975) (in this paper the central limit theorem for U -statistics was proven by the method of moments under the assumption that the distributions of X_i and the form of the kernels may depend on n). In this case T_n are asymptotically normal with parameters

$$\left(\frac{na_d\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{1-a_d} + \sqrt{1+a_d}}, \frac{n(a_d - b_d)}{d} \frac{1 + \sqrt{1-a_d^2}}{1-a_d^2} \right).$$

We omit the proofs of these formulas.

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