

1. The Kullback-Leibler divergence from the distribution  $G$  to the distribution  $F$  is given by

$$KL(F : G) = \int \log \frac{f(y)}{g(y)} f(y) dy, \quad (1)$$

where  $f$  and  $g$  are density functions with respect to Lebesgue measure. Note that the divergence is not symmetric in its arguments. This is called the directed information distance in Barndorff-Nielsen and Cox (1994) where the more general definition  $KL(F : G) = \int \log(dF/dG)dF$  is used, assuming  $F$  and  $G$  are mutually absolutely continuous.

- (a) In the canonical exponential family model with density  $f(s; \varphi) = \exp\{\varphi^T s - k(\varphi)\}h(s)$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}^p$ , find an expression for the KL divergence between the model with parameter  $\varphi_1$  and that with parameter  $\varphi_2$ . I should have said “from one to the other” to be clear. If we say “from  $f(s; \varphi_1)$  to  $f(s; \varphi_2)$  then it’s  $(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)^T k'(\varphi_1) - k(\varphi_1) + k(\varphi_2)$ . If  $\varphi_2 = \hat{\varphi}$  and  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_0$ , then it’s  $k(\hat{\varphi}) - k(\varphi_0) - (\hat{\varphi} - \varphi_0)k'(\varphi_0)$ , so close to quadratic in  $\hat{\varphi} - \varphi_0$ .
- (b) Show that for a sample of observations from a model with density  $f(y; \theta)$  the maximum likelihood estimator minimizes the KL divergence from  $F(\cdot; \theta)$  to  $G_n(\cdot)$ , where  $G_n(\cdot)$  is the empirical distribution function putting mass  $1/n$  at each observation  $y_i$ .

The definition from BNC makes the wording confusing; “from  $F$  to  $G$ ” means  $\int \log(dG/dF)dG$ . See handwritten notes for Nov 6.

2. Suppose  $y_i \sim N(\mu_i, 1/n)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $\psi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k \mu_i^2$  is the parameter of interest.<sup>1</sup>
- (a) Show that the marginal posterior density for  $n\psi^2$ , assuming a flat prior  $\pi(\mu) \propto 1$ , is a non-central  $\chi_k^2$  distribution, with non-centrality parameter  $n\sum y_i^2$ .
- (b) Show that the maximum likelihood estimate of  $\psi^2$  is  $\hat{\psi}^2 = \sum y_i^2$ , and that  $n\hat{\psi}^2$  has a non-central  $\chi_k^2$  distribution with non-centrality parameter  $n\psi^2$ .

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<sup>1</sup>It will be convenient to use  $\lambda_i = \mu_i/\sqrt{\sum \mu_i^2}$  for the nuisance parameters.

- (c) Compare the normal approximations to  $r_u(\psi)$ ,  $r_e(\psi)$  and  $r(\psi)$  with the exact distribution of the maximum likelihood estimate.
- (d) Compare the 95% Bayesian posterior probability interval for  $\psi^2$ , based on (a) to the 95% confidence interval for  $\psi^2$ , based on (b).

This question is awfully vague. First need to show that  $\hat{\lambda}_i = y_i/||y||$ , and further that  $\hat{\lambda}_{i,\psi} = \hat{\lambda}_i$  (not  $y_i/\psi$  as was claimed in class). With this in hand we can show that  $\ell_p(\psi) = n\psi||y|| - n\psi^2/2$ , and  $r_p = r_e = r$ . We have 3  $p$ -value functions: based on the normal approximation to any of the pivots, the exact frequentist distribution of  $\hat{\psi}$  and the Bayes posterior for  $\psi$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_{norm}(\psi) &= \Pr\{N(0,1) \geq \sqrt{n}(|y| - \psi)\} \\
 p_{exact}(\psi) &= \Pr\{\chi_k^2(n\psi^2) \geq n||y||^2\} \\
 p_{Bayes}(\psi) &= \Pr\{\chi_k^2(n||y||^2) \leq n\psi^2\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

(The Bayes posterior is switched so that all the curves are descending.) The somewhat ugly plots on the next page illustrate convergence of both as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , fixed  $k$ , but not (of course) as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , fixed  $n$ .

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p1= function(psi){pnorm(sqrt(n)*(normy-psi))}
p2=function(psi){pchisq(n*normy^2,df=k,ncp=n*psi^2)}
p3=function(psi){1-pchisq(n*psi^2,df=k,ncp=n*normy^2)}

n=10
k=5

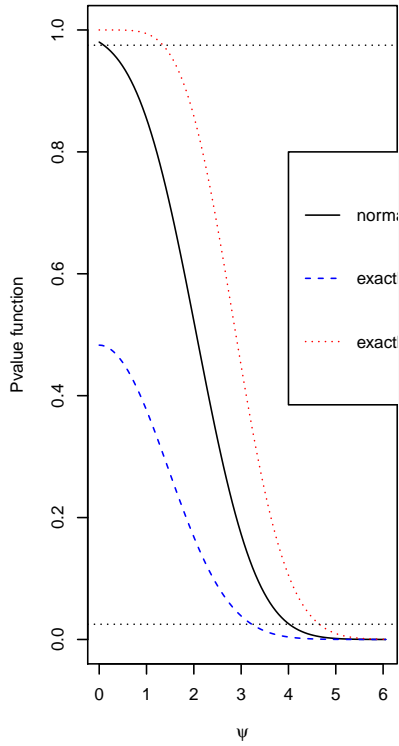
y = rnorm(k,1,sqrt(1/n)) #lazy choice of mu

normy = sqrt(sum(y^2))
lower = normy-4/sqrt(n)
upper = normy+4/sqrt(n)
# should be a good range for psi, but it shouldn't go negative
psivals=seq(max(0,lower),upper,length=100)

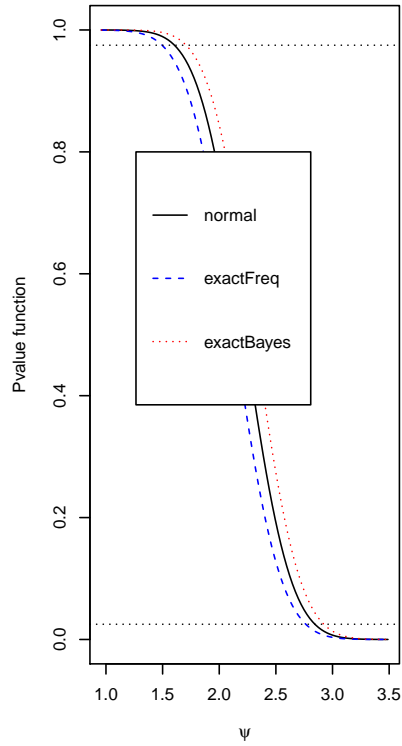
plot(psivals,p1(psivals),type="l",main = paste("n = ", n, "k = ", k),
     ylab = "Pvalue function", xlab = expression(psi),ylim=c(0,1))
lines(psivals,p2(psivals),col="blue",lty=2)
lines(psivals,p3(psivals),col="red",lty=3)
legend(upper-normy,.8, c("normal","exactFreq","exactBayes"),
     lty=c(1,2,3),col=c("black","blue","red"))
#legend placement is not always ideal

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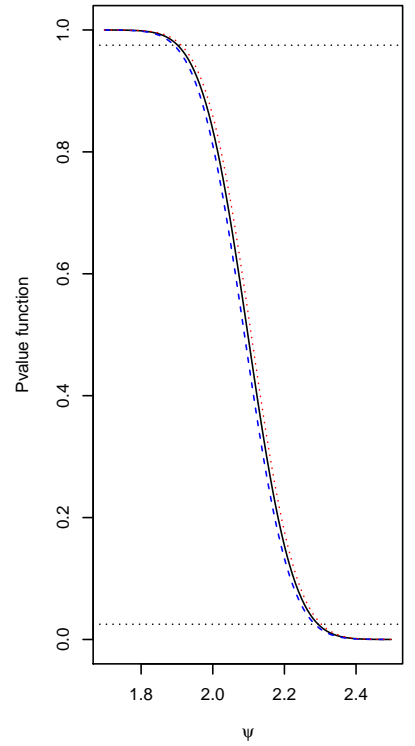
**n = 1 k = 5**



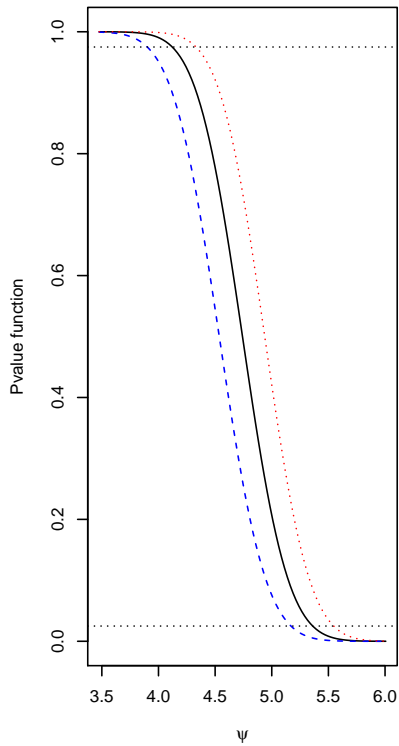
**n = 10 k = 5**



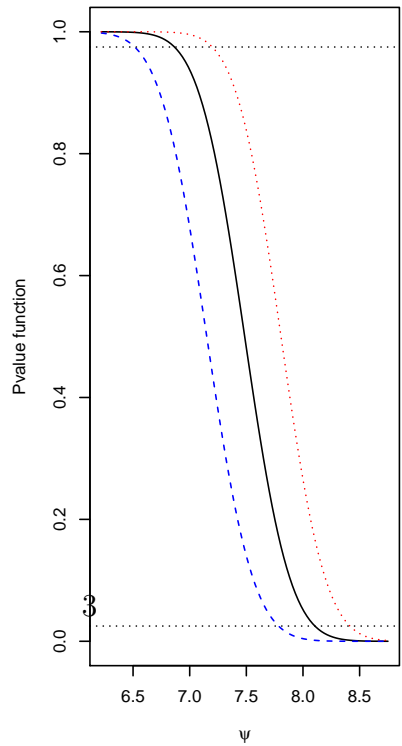
**n = 100 k = 5**



**n = 10 k = 20**



**n = 10 k = 50**



**n = 100 k = 50**

