

# One-day course on symmetry-modulated distributions

Adelchi Azzalini

Università di Padova, Italia

Skewed world of data:

Workshop in honor of Reinaldo B. Arellano-Valle's 65th birthday

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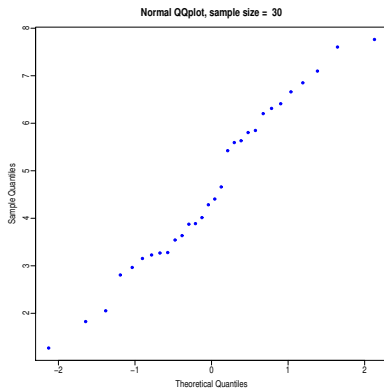
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# Prólogos

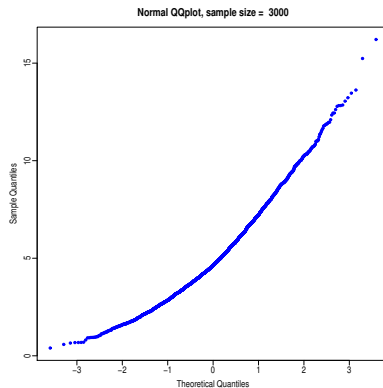
# Lots of distributions available, do we need more?

- Probability textbooks introduce 'standard' distributions
- Over the years many others have been introduced
- Classical work includes proposals by K.Pearson, Fechner, Edgeworth, Johnson, Burr, etc.
- Still the search keeps going.
- Two currently popular general approaches:  
(‘general’: allowing unlimited number of specific constructions)
  - copulae
  - symmetry-modulated distributions,  
AKA skew-symmetric distributions
- Question: why so much effort?

# Illustration: QQ-normal probability plots from two samples



old days sample



today's sample

# Larger datasets require more accurate modelling

- The two datasets are sampled from **the same** distribution
- The visual message of normal QQ-plot is completely different
- although only the sample size has changed
- Only the larger sample could highlight non-normality
- Today larger and larger datasets are available
- More data is good, but also more challenging
- We need **flexible** tools for accurate modelling of large datasets

# Multivariate datasets are increasingly more frequent

- data collection is more often multivariate, possibly highly so
- many above-quoted formulations are univariate
- special interest in developing flexible multivariate distributions
- ... flexible yet mathematically tractable

# Our plan of work

A tutorial to symmetry-modulated distributions:

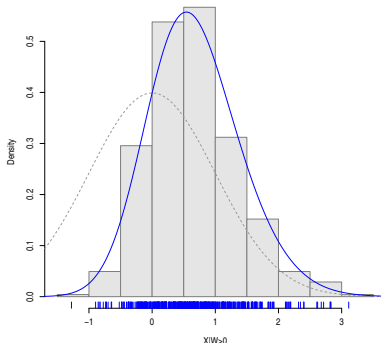
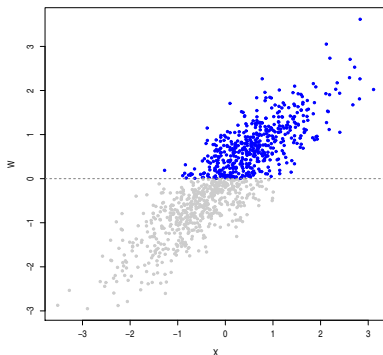
- introduce main concepts in the univariate case
- focus on key special cases
- extend concepts to the multivariate settings
- sketch of some extensions
- followed by practical work with R package 'sn'

## Básis ( $d=1$ )



# Skew-normal distribution – idea

Idea: start from a normal distribution and ‘perturb’ it.  
Perturbation, or modulation, is achieved by a selection mechanism.



# Skew-normal distribution – compute density function

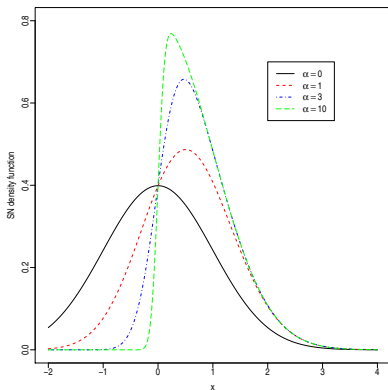
$$\text{assume} \quad : \quad (X, W) \sim N_2(0, \Sigma), \quad \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \delta \\ \delta & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{recall} \quad : \quad (W|X = x) \sim N(\delta x, 1 - \delta^2)$$

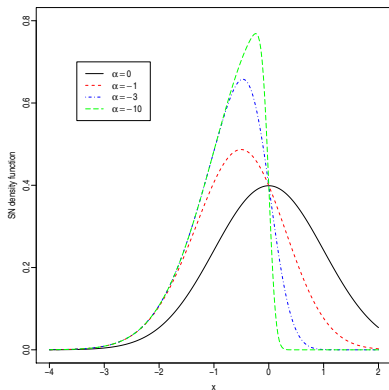
$$\begin{aligned} (\text{density at } x | W \geq 0) &= \frac{1}{dx} \mathbb{P}\{X \in (x, x + dx) | W \geq 0\} \\ &= \frac{1}{dx} \frac{\mathbb{P}\{X \in (x, x + dx) \cap W \geq 0\}}{\mathbb{P}\{W \geq 0\}} \\ &= \frac{1}{dx} \frac{\mathbb{P}\{X \in (x, x + dx)\} \mathbb{P}\{W \geq 0 | X = x\}}{1/2} \\ &= \boxed{2 \varphi(x) \Phi(\alpha x)}, \quad \alpha = \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{1 - \delta^2}} \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{write} \quad : \quad Z \equiv (X | W \geq 0) \sim \text{SN}(\alpha)$$

# Skew-normal distribution – density function plots



$\alpha > 0$ : positive asymmetry  
 $\alpha = 0$ : null asymmetry, i.e.  $N(0,1)$



$\alpha < 0$ : negative asymmetry  
 $\alpha = 0$ : null asymmetry, i.e.  $N(0,1)$

# Towards a general result, preliminaries

- let  $(X, W) \sim N_2(0, \Sigma)$  as before
- $T = -(W - \delta X)/\sqrt{1 - \delta^2} \sim N(0, 1)$
- $\text{cov}\{X, T\} = 0 \implies X \perp\!\!\!\perp T$  (independent)
- $(W \geq 0)$  is algebraically equivalent to  $(T \leq \alpha X)$
- hence  $Z \equiv (X|W \geq 0) \equiv (X|T \leq \alpha X)$
- Note the key ingredients here:  
 $X \perp\!\!\!\perp T$ ,  $X$  and  $T$  symmetric about 0, and so is  $T - \alpha X$

# A general result

## Lemma (Univariate version)

If  $f_0$  is PDF and  $G_0$  a continuous CDF on  $\mathbb{R}$ , both symmetric about 0, then

$$f(x) = 2 f_0(x) G_0\{w(x)\}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

is a proper density function for any odd function  $w$ .

Proof. Denote  $X \sim f_0$  and  $T \sim G_0$ , independent rv's. The distribution of  $T - w(X)$  is symmetric about 0. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} &= \mathbb{P}\{T - w(X) \leq 0\} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X\{\mathbb{P}\{T \leq w(x) | X = x\}\} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} G_0\{w(x)\} f_0(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

## Some comments

- Above result allows to combine freely  $f_0$ ,  $G_0$  and  $w$ : a huge variety of constructions are possible
- however, 'possible' does not automatically imply 'useful': need to select those which are worth of consideration
- The result works also if the support is a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$
- The lemma allows a number of extensions: multivariate, non-odd  $w$ , discrete variables, etc.  
(Some of these extensions will be examined later)
- From the assumptions of the lemma,  $G(x) = G_0\{w(x)\}$  satisfies

$$G(x) \geq 0, \quad G(x) + G(-x) = 1.$$

Possible to formulate the result equivalently in terms of  $G(x)$ .

# Random number generation / stochastic representation

Crude version Generate  $X \sim f_0$  and  $T \sim G_0$  independently and set

$$Z = (X | T \leq w(X))$$

Drawback: reject sampled values with  $T > w(X)$ ,  
half of them on average.

Improved version

$$Z = \begin{cases} X & \text{if } T \leq w(X) \\ -X & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

No rejection of sampled values

# Perturbation invariance

- Recall stochastic representation

$$Z = \begin{cases} X & \text{if } T \leq w(X) \\ -X & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- then  $|Z|$  is distributed like  $|X|$ , write  $|Z| \stackrel{d}{=} |X|$
- more generally:  $t(Z) \stackrel{d}{=} t(X)$  for any even  $t(\cdot)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  property of perturbation (or modulation) invariance
- Example: if  $Z \sim \text{SN}(\alpha)$ , then  $Z^2 \sim \chi_1^2$



Plus ( $d = 1$ )

# More on SN: other stochastic representations

## Representation by conditioning/selection

this was how we introduced the SN distribution

## Additive representation

- If  $U_0, U_1$  are independent  $N(0, 1)$  variables, then

$$Z = \sqrt{1 - \delta^2} U_0 + \delta |U_1| \sim \text{SN}(\alpha)$$

- much used to develop EM-type algorithms

## Representation via minima/maxima

- assume  $(X, Y)$  is bivariate standard Normal with

$$\text{corr}\{X, Y\} = \rho$$

- write  $\alpha = \sqrt{(1 - \rho)/(1 + \rho)}$

- then  $\max(X, Y) \sim \text{SN}(\alpha)$  and  $\min(X, Y) \sim \text{SN}(-\alpha)$

# More on SN: some formal properties

- Moment generating function has a simple expression:

$$M(t) = 2 \exp(\frac{1}{2}t^2) \Phi(\delta t)$$

$\implies$  can compute moments

$$\text{e.g. } \mathbb{E}\{Z\} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \delta = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{1+\alpha^2}}$$

(only odd moments are necessary)

$\implies$  derive further properties

$$\text{e.g. if } Z \sim \text{SN}(\alpha) \perp\!\!\!\perp U \sim \text{N}(0, 1), \quad Z + U \sim \sqrt{2} \times \text{SN}(\tilde{\alpha})$$

- Distribution function has a tractable expression

# SN: about tails

- consider ratio of SN vs N tails:

$$\text{ratio}(x) = \frac{2 \varphi(x) \Phi(\alpha x)}{\varphi(x)} \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow \pm\infty$$

- if  $\alpha > 0$ ,

$$\text{ratio}(x) = 2 \Phi(\alpha x) \rightarrow \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } x \rightarrow +\infty \\ 0 & \text{if } x \rightarrow -\infty \end{cases}$$

if  $\alpha < 0$ , just swap  $\pm\infty$

- Implication:  
tails decay either **at the same rate** of  $N(0, 1)$  or **faster**
- Same conclusion if SN density is replaced by another one like

$$f(x) = 2 \varphi(x) G_0(\alpha x)$$

# Thick tails

- In many situation we need **thicker-than-normal tails** (occasionally need thinner-than-normal tails)
- This feature cannot be achieved by perturbation of  $N(0, 1)$
- We must start from a **baseline density**  $f_0$  in

$$f(x) = 2 f_0(x) G_0\{w(x)\}$$

which already has thick tails

- Many possible options
- Preference for those where  $f_0$  allows a **tail-regulation** parameter

# Skew- $t$ (ST) distribution – genesis

- A good choice for  $f_0$  is the Student's  $t$  density:  $t(x; \nu)$ ,  $\nu > 0$
- Even then, still many possible options, such as the 'linear form'

$$2 t(x; \nu) T(\alpha x; \nu)$$

- There are strong reasons for picking up **another option**
- Recall origin of classical Student's  $t$ :

$$Z \sim N(0, 1) \perp\!\!\!\perp W_\nu \sim \chi_\nu^2 \implies$$

$$\frac{Z}{\sqrt{W_\nu/\nu}} \sim t(x; \nu)$$

- Use the **the same construction** with  $Z \sim \text{SN}(\alpha)$   
 $\implies$  obtain the **ST( $\alpha, \nu$ ) distribution**
- Note: the link with the classical  $t(x; \nu)$  is not the only reason
- Beware: in literature various other proposals named 'skew- $t$ '

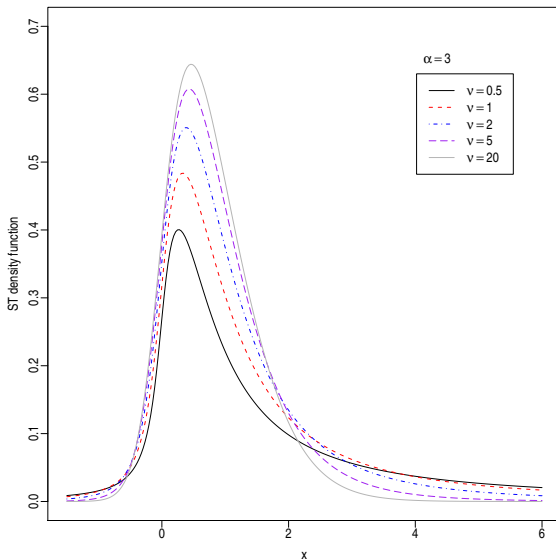
# Skew- $t$ (ST) distribution – a closer look

- Algebraic work leads to  $\text{ST}(\alpha, \nu)$  density function:

$$2 t(x; \nu) T \left( \alpha x \sqrt{\frac{\nu+1}{\nu+x^2}}; \nu+1 \right)$$

- $Z \sim \text{ST}(\alpha, \nu) \implies Z^2 \sim F(1, \nu)$
- $m$ -th order moment exist if  $m < \nu$ , like regular  $t$
- explicit expressions available up to  $m = 4$   
(if necessary, higher moments could be worked out)
- a very wide range of  $\gamma_1$  (skewness) and  $\gamma_2$  (kurtosis)  
 $-\infty < \gamma_1 < \infty$ ,  $0 \leq \gamma_2 < \infty$  (but no  $\gamma_2 < 0$ )
- widely flexible shape, well-suited for data fitting  
(when complemented with location and scale parameters)
- as  $\nu \rightarrow \infty$ , density  $\text{ST}(\alpha, \nu) \rightarrow \text{SN}(\alpha)$

# Skew- $t$ (ST) distribution – examples of density





# Data

# Location and scale parameter

- Let  $Z$  be a SN or ST or something-of-the-kind random variable
- For applied work, introduce location and scale parameters:

$$Y = \xi + \omega Z, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

- correspondingly extend our notation to  $Y \sim \text{SN}(\xi, \omega, \alpha)$  and  $Y \sim \text{ST}(\xi, \omega, \alpha, \nu)$
- Note:  $\xi$  is not the mean,  $\omega$  is not the standard deviation (this is why we do not use classical  $\mu, \sigma$  symbols)

# Fitting a SN distribution

- Start from simple case of i.i.d. observations  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$
- **log-likelihood** for SN:

$$\begin{aligned} \log L(\xi, \omega, \alpha) = & \text{constant} - \frac{1}{2} n \log \omega - \frac{1}{2} \sum_i z_i^2 + \\ & + \sum_i \log \Phi(\alpha z_i) \end{aligned}$$

having set  $z_i = (y_i - \xi)/\omega$

- In a **regression model**, location depends on covariates  $x_i$ , typically in a linear form:

$$\boxed{\xi_i = x_i^\top \beta} \quad x_i, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^p, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

- log-likelihood  $\log L(\beta, \omega, \alpha)$  is as before, except that now

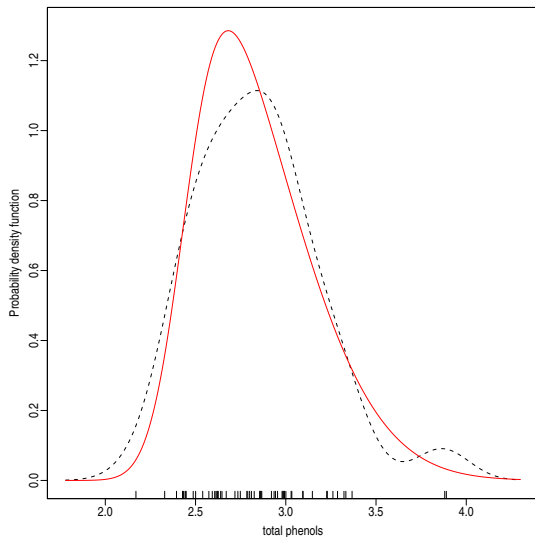
$$z_i = (y_i - \xi_i)/\omega = (y_i - x_i^\top \beta)/\omega$$

# Illustration: fitting SN to phenols content in Barolo wine

$$n = 59$$

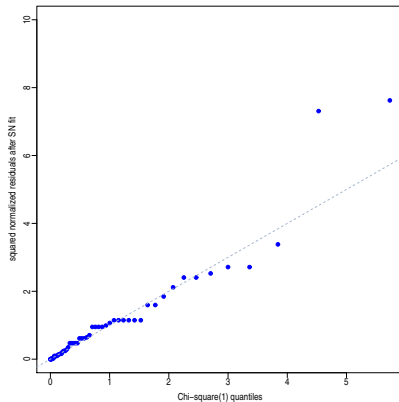
$$\hat{\gamma}_1 = 0.8$$

$$\frac{\hat{\gamma}_1}{\text{std.err.}} = 2.5$$



# Illustration: graphical diagnostics of SN fitting

recall :  $Z^2 = (Y - \xi)^2 / \omega^2 \sim \chi_1^2$   
approx :  $\hat{Z}^2 = (Y - \hat{\xi})^2 / \hat{\omega}^2 \sim \chi_1^2$   
QQ-plot :  $\hat{Z}_{(i)}^2$  vs  $\chi_1^2$  quantiles  
  
with ST : replace  $\chi_1^2$  with  $F(1, \hat{\nu})$



# SN log-likelihood: some unusual aspects

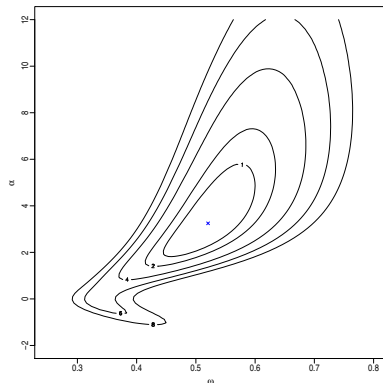
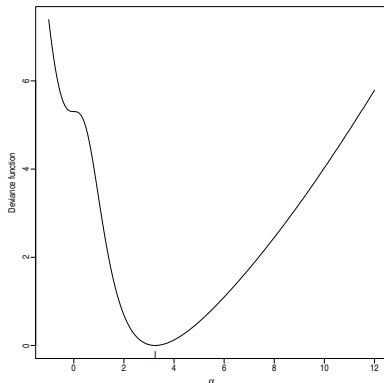
Two sort of noteworthy phenomena

- 'Transient' sort of occasional events  
Usually with small  $n$ , sporadic if  $n$  beyond a few dozens  
Similar behaviour fairly common also with other models
  - multiple local maxima
  - $\max \log L$  occurs at  $\alpha \rightarrow \pm\infty$
- 'Persistent (but local)' behaviour:  
that is, for all samples, but only at  $\alpha = 0$ 
  - stationarity of  $\log L$  at point  $\alpha = 0$
  - correspondingly, singularity of the information matrix

# SN log-likelihood: stationarity of $\log L$ at $\alpha = 0$

deviance (LRT) :  $D(\theta) = 2 \{ \log L(\hat{\theta}) - \log L(\theta) \}$

profile deviance :  $D(\theta) = 2 \{ \log L(\hat{\theta}, \hat{\psi}) - \log L(\theta, \hat{\psi}(\theta)) \}$



# CP for SN

- The twists of  $\log L$  at  $\alpha = 0$  can be fixed by switching from ‘direct’ (DP ) to ‘centred parameterization’ (DP)
- Conceptually, we re-parameterize as

$$Y = \xi + \omega Z = \mu + \sigma Z_0$$

via the ‘centred variable’

$$Z_0 = (Z - \mathbb{E}\{Z\})/\text{std.dev.}(Z)$$

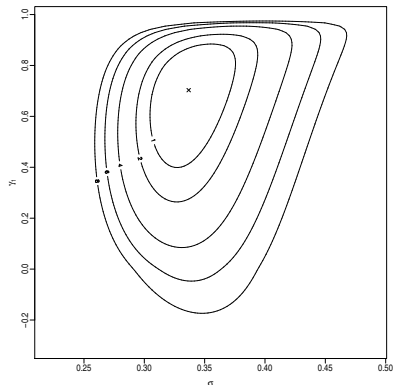
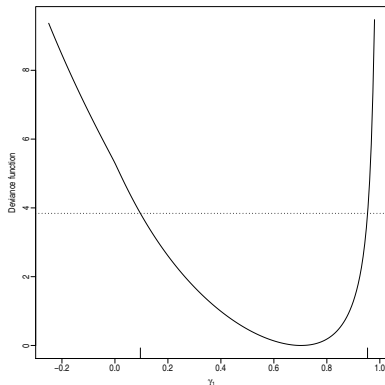
- $\text{CP} = (\mu, \sigma, \gamma_1)$
- In parallel, CP avoids singularity of the information matrix
- Importantly, CP is easier to interpret than DP



# SN log-likelihood: using CP with the Barolo data

deviance (LRT) :  $D(\theta) = 2 \{ \log L(\hat{\theta}) - \log L(\theta) \}$

profile deviance :  $D(\theta) = 2 \{ \log L(\hat{\theta}, \hat{\psi}) - \log L(\theta, \hat{\psi}(\theta)) \}$



# ST log $L$

- With ST model no stationarity of log  $L$  at  $\alpha = 0$
- hence no singularity of information matrix at  $\alpha = 0$
- in fact, these issues are specific 'only' of  $\varphi$  baseline
- still CP useful for easier interpretability

Básis ( $d \geq 1$ )

# Multivariate skew-normal distribution: genesis

- SN was constructed from bivariate standard normal  $(X, W)$  as

$$Z = (X|W \geq 0)$$

- Now start from  $(d+1)$ -dimensional Normal with std margianle

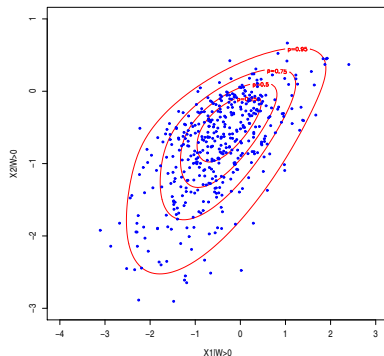
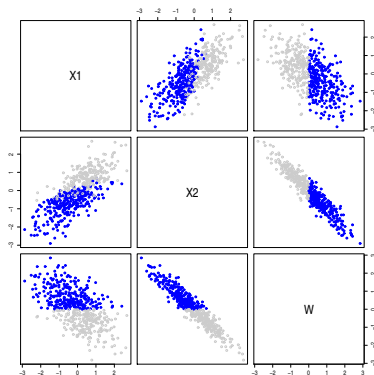
$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ W \end{pmatrix} \sim N_{d+1}(0, \bar{\Sigma})$$

where  $\bar{\Sigma}$  is a correlation matrix

$$\bar{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\Omega} & \delta \\ \delta^\top & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- and then use the same conditioning process:  $Z = (X|W \geq 0)$  except that now  $X$  is  $d$ -dimensional

# Multivariate SN – illustration of genesis



# Multivariate SN — basic formal facts

- If  $Z = (X|W \geq 0)$ , its density function turns out to be:

$$2 \varphi_d(x; \bar{\Omega}) \Phi(\alpha^\top x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

where  $\varphi_d(x; V)$  is  $N_d(0, V)$  density and

$$\alpha = \left(1 - \delta^\top \bar{\Omega}^{-1} \delta\right)^{-1/2} \bar{\Omega}^{-1} \delta \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- Moment generating function has a simple expression:

$$M(t) = 2 \exp\left(\frac{1}{2} t^\top \bar{\Omega}^\top t\right) \Phi(\delta^\top t)$$

$\implies$  can compute moments, e.g.  $\mathbb{E}\{Z\} = \sqrt{2/\pi} \delta$

$\implies$  derive further properties

- Additive representation extends to multivariate SN:

$$Z = (I_d - \text{diag}(\delta)^2)^{1/2} U_0 + \delta |U_1|$$

where  $U_0 \sim N_d(0, \Psi) \perp\!\!\!\perp U_1 \sim N(0, 1)$ .

# Multivariate SN — include location and scale

- Start from  $Z = (Z_1, \dots, Z_d)^\top$  with density  $2 \varphi_d(x; \bar{\Omega}) \Phi(\alpha^\top x)$
- introduce location and scale:

$$\begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \vdots \\ \xi_d \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \omega_d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z_1 \\ \vdots \\ Z_d \end{pmatrix}$$

- write more compactly

$$Y = \xi + \omega Z$$

where  $\omega = \text{diag}(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_d)$

- notation:  $Y \sim \text{SN}_d(\xi, \Omega, \alpha)$  where  $\Omega = \omega \bar{\Omega} \omega$
- density at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$2 \varphi_d(x - \xi; \Omega) \Phi(\alpha \omega^{-1}(x - \xi))$$

# Recall elliptical families

- Recall continuous **elliptically contoured** (EC) distributions
- Density constant on ellipsoids:

$$f(x) = \frac{c_d}{(\det \Sigma)^{1/2}} g_d \left( (x - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu) \right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- Notation:  $X \sim \text{EC}_d(\mu, \Sigma, g_d)$
- density is **centrally symmetric** about  $\mu$ :  $f(x - \mu) = f(\mu - x)$
- Extends the normal distribution which corresponds to

$$g_d(u) = \exp(-u/2)$$

- The key aspect is that the EC family encompasses many others
- and it still preserves various properties of normal distribution:
  - family closed under marginalization
  - family closed under conditioning
  - conditional mean is linear function of the conditioning variables
- An interesting case is the multivariate Student's  $t$ :

$$g_d(u) = (1 + u/\nu)^{-(d+\nu)/2}$$



# Skew-elliptical distributions

- Start from

$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ W \end{pmatrix} \sim \text{EC}_{d+1}(0, \bar{\Sigma}, g_{d+1})$$

- and apply the 'usual' conditioning (or **selection**) process:

$$Z = (X | W > 0)$$

- Introduce location and scale:  $Y = \xi + \omega Z$
- Terminology:  $Y$  and  $Z$  have **skew-elliptical** distribution (**SEC**)
- If  $(X, W)$  is normal, reproduce  $Y \sim \text{SN}_d(\xi, \Omega, \alpha)$
- Another noteworthy case with  $(X, W) \sim t_{d+1}(0, \bar{\Sigma}, \nu)$ :

$$Y \sim \text{ST}_d(\xi, \Omega, \alpha, \nu)$$

- density of **normalized** r.v.  $Z \sim \text{ST}_d(0, \bar{\Omega}, \alpha, \nu)$ :

$$2 : t_d(z; \bar{\Omega}) \, T \left( \alpha^\top z \sqrt{\frac{\nu + d}{\nu + z^\top \bar{\Omega}^{-1} z}}; \nu + d \right), \quad z \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

# A general result

## Lemma (Multivariate version)

*If  $f_0$  is a PDF on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and  $G_0$  a continuous CDF on  $\mathbb{R}$ , both symmetric about 0, then*

$$f(x) = 2 f_0(x) G_0\{w(x)\}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

*is a proper density function for any odd function  $w(\cdot)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .*

Proof: a simple extension of the univariate version.

Notes:

- (1)  $f_0$  symmetric on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  means  $f_0(x) = f_0(-x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- (2)  $w$  odd function on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  means  $w(-x) = -w(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

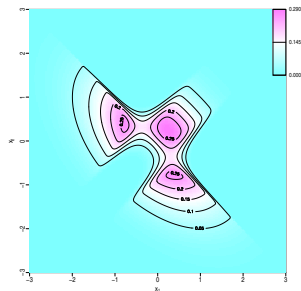
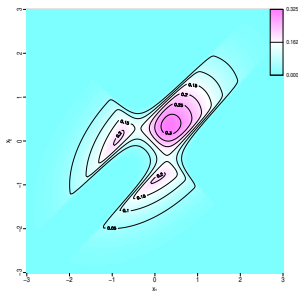
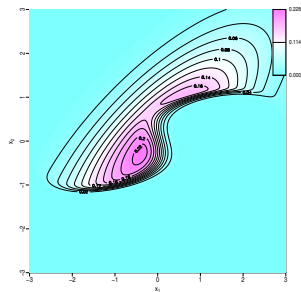
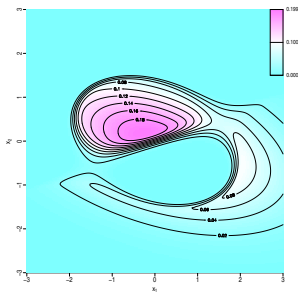
## A general result — comments

- Both  $\text{SN}_d$  and  $\text{ST}_d$  have density like  $f(x)$  in the lemma
- Can show that **all SEC** distributions have this structure with ‘baseline density’  $f_0$  of elliptical type
- But the lemma allows  $f_0$  to be non-elliptical and  $G_0$  can be unrelated to  $f_0$ , unlike in SEC’s
- This modulation process can produce all sort of shapes, even quite bizarre ones, not just ‘skew’
- Next plots illustrate this point using

$$f_0 = \varphi_2, \quad G_0 = \Phi$$

$$w(x_1, x_2) = a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_1^3 + a_4 x_2^3 + a_5 x_1^2 x_2 + a_6 x_1 x_2^2$$

# Examples of modulated bivariate normal densities



# Some formal properties of the general constuction

$$f(x) = 2 f_0(x) G_0\{w(x)\}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

**Stochastic representation** If  $X \sim f_0 \perp\!\!\!\perp T \sim G_0$ , then

$$Z = \begin{cases} X & \text{if } T \leq w(X) \\ -X & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \text{has density } f(\cdot)$$

**Perturbation (or modulation) invariance** Now holds multivariate:

$$t(Z) \stackrel{d}{=} t(X)$$

for any **even**  $t(x)$ , mapping  $\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$

**Examples** If  $Y \sim \text{SN}_d(\xi, \Omega, \alpha)$  and  $V \sim \text{ST}_d(\xi, \Omega, \alpha, \nu)$ , then

$$(Y - \xi)^\top \Omega^{-1} (Y - \xi) \sim \chi_d^2$$

$$(V - \xi)^\top \Omega^{-1} (V - \xi) \sim d \times F(d, \nu)$$

These facts are useful for model diagnostics.

# Ultra

# Many additional developments

- Many forms of generalization exist
- The more tractable case is the **extended SN** and alike:  
start from  $(X, W) \sim N_2$  and take  $(X|W \geq c)$  with  $c \in \mathbb{R}$
- Important extension:  **$m$ -dimensional conditioning** variable  $W$   
relatively tractable in normal context (**Closed SN**)  
to some extent also tractable in EC class
- **General selection** mechanism:  
replace  $(\cdots | W \geq 0)$  by  $(\cdots | W \in C)$  with  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^m$   
(For general  $C$ , difficult to find normalizing constant)

# Use in statistical methods and applied areas

Two intersecting levels of work:

- Extensions of standard statistical methods
- Application in diverse fields, often with suitable methodological adaption of existing techniques

Many domains:

- classical areas of statistical methods, such as longitudinal data, factor analysis, item response analysis, . . .
- much impact especially in model-based clustering
- flexible distributions provide a route to robustness
- much work in finance, theoretical and empirical
- but also in environmental risk, medical statistics, econometrics, income distribution, data confidentiality, insurance, industrial statistics and reliability, cell biology, forestry, *et cetera* . . .



$\Omega$

# Any future?

- Formidable work has been deployed, but still room for progress
- Extension of standard statistical methods for more flexible models, with applications
- Further advances possible in the study of flexible distributions (a personal view presented in more specialized topic session)

# Resources

A complete list of references would take many pages.

An absolutely minimal list is:

- A Azzalini & A Capitanio (2014), monograph, Cambridge UP
- MG Genton (2004), edited volume, C&H/CRC
- R software: <https://cran.r-project.org/package=sn>