

A Monte Carlo Simulation Study for Comparing Power of the Most Powerful and Regular Bivariate Normality Tests

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Abstract In many areas of medical research, a bivariate analysis is desirable because it simultaneously tests two correlated response variables. Several parametric bivariate procedures are available but each of them requires bivariate normality assumption for response variables. Although in recent years, continuous efforts have been made to test bivariate normality but it is not clear that which test is the most powerful in specified situation. The aim of this study is to compare power of eight different test of bivariate normality with at least one paper which marked them as a powerful test and dedicate the most powerful test in the specified situation. In this study, power of Mardia skewness, Mardia kurtosis, Henze-Zirkler, Mshapiro, Shapiro-wilk, Royston's W, Doornik-Hansen and Szekely-Rizzo compared with each other using Monte Carlo simulation techniques. The power study shows that the most powerful test under bivariate distributions with different shapes is not the same. Using simulation studies, we show that "Mshapiro" test will perform much better under symmetric, skewed, medium tailed and heavy tailed distributions. Also, "Royston's W" test will perform much better when underlying distribution is highly skewed.

Keywords Bivariate Analysis, Bivariate Normality Test, Power, Monte Carlo Simulation

1. Introduction

1.1. Preliminary

It is often the case that health science studies involve some correlated variables as response variables. For example in a clinical trial whose main purpose was to compare control and treatment group, treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, lung function test can be used as the main response variable and peak expiratory flow rate, forced vital capacity and forced expiratory volume were considered as secondary response variables[1]. It is obvious that the correlation between these main and secondary response variables were great. Structure of most data according to different aspect such as underlying structure (intrinsic properties), environmental structure or laboratory structure is observable and usually they are corrected[2].

So, for many health research studies and medical studies experiments involve two correlated response data as called bivariate response data. For such studies, a bivariate analysis that compares the treatment on two response variables simultaneously may have advantages over two separate univariate test, one for each variable[3].

The great advantage of bivariate analysis is the

possibility of increased power. If the response variables are not too highly correlated, the bivariate test has a chance of finding significant differences among the treatments even if none of the univariate tests is significant[4]. But many of the procedure required to analyze bivariate data, including Hotelling T^2 , discriminant analysis and bivariate regression, assume bivariate normality (BVN). So its testing has great importance. Actually most of bivariate tests are based on bivariate normality assumption and perhaps this is a reason that make greater use of BVN tests in recent years[5].

Despite the sensitivity of these bivariate techniques to BVN assumption, this assumption frequently does not tested. May be because of the lack of awareness of the existence of the test and the lack of information regarding size and power[6].

This study focuses on the latter issue of size and power. Bivariate normality test may be restated as follows. Consider random bivariate sample $(x_i, y_i) i = 1, \dots, m$ from continuous bivariate population e.g. weight and height of infants in a population.

$$\begin{cases} H_0: (x, y) \sim N_2(\mu, \Sigma) \\ H_1: \text{not } H_0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

We examine via a Monte Carlo simulation the performance of some of the most common and powerful tests for hypothesis (1) in the literature.

1.2. Background

In recent years, continuous efforts have been made to test hypothesis (1) and numerous papers have been written on

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this topic. Some properties of these tests are "overall", "omnibus", "directed" or "graphical" but with increase in the number of BVN test conducting logical test seems to be difficult[7]. Most of the BVN tests are development of univariate normality tests. Thus, most of BVN tests are based on skewness and kurtosis or goodness of fit procedure[8]. Generally, BVN tests can be classified in to four groups but none of them are quite distinct[8]: Class 1: goodness of fit test, class 2: skewness and kurtosis approaches, class3: consistent and invariant test, class 4: graphical and correlational approach.

In the first category, most of the comparative and review studies introduced Royston test which is an extension of the Shapiro-Wilk tests, as the best[6, 9]. Mardia skewness and Mardia kurtosis test as the examples of second group have been widely used, although some previous studies have reported them as low power tests. Doornik and Hansen test based on kurtosis can be another example of this category [10]. For the third category approach Epps and Pully in 1983 proposed and invariant test[11]. In the last category, Healy approach could be mentioned that draw BVN based on squared raddi[12].

In many previous studies, researchers have compared power of few tests with their proposed tests and most of the available tests have not been compared with each other, so in this study we wish to calculate power of the most powerful and common recommended BVN tests in previous researches via simulation studies for different distributions (symmetric, skewed and highly skewed).

2. Methods

A total of 8 different tests of BVN, with at least one paper which marked them as powerful test, were studied in this investigation.

2.1. Tests for Bivariate Normality

In this section, for completeness a brief description of selected test statistics is presented. Suppose X represents a $n \times 2$ bivariate data matrix, where n is the sample size.

2.1.1. Mardia Skewness

Mardia skewness test is given by

$$MS = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{ij}^n g_{ij}^2$$

where $g_{ij} = (x_i - \bar{x})' S^{-1} (x_j - \bar{x})$

And S^{-1} is the inverse of the sample variance matrixes [13].

2.1.2. Mardia Kurtosis

Mardia kurtosis test is given by

$$MS = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{ii}^n g_{ii}^2$$

where $g_{ii} = (x_i - \bar{x})' S^{-1} (x_i - \bar{x})$

And S^{-1} is the inverse of the sample variance matrix S [13].

2.1.3. Henze-Zirkler

Henze-Zirkler test with test statistic:

$$HZ = \int |\psi_n(t) - \exp(-\frac{|t|^2}{2})|^2 \varphi_\beta(t) d(t)$$

where $\psi_n(t)$ is an empirical characteristic function, $\varphi_\beta(t)$ is a kernel function that was chosen to be $N_2(0, \beta^2 I_2)$ and β is a smoothing parameter[14, 15].

2.1.4. Mshapiro

Mshapiro test is given by

$$Msh = [(1 - W)^\lambda - \mu_y] / \sigma_y$$

where $W = \frac{[\sum_{i=1}^n a_i y_{(i)}]^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}$

and $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = m' V^{-1} [(m' V^{-1}) (V^{-1} m')]^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ with m and V being of the vector of expected value and the $n \times n$ covariance matrix of standard normal order statistic, respectively[16, 17].

2.1.5. Shapiro –wilk Test

Shapiro –wilk test with test statistics:

$$SW = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 W_{zi}$$

where W_{zi} is Shapiro-Wilk's univariate statistics for the i th standardized variate Z_i [18].

2.1.6. Royston's W Test

Royston extended the Shapiro-Wilk univariate test to a bivariate (multivariate) case. The test statistic:

$$R = eG$$

Where $G = \sum_{kj}^2 k_j$ and e estimated by

$$\hat{e} = \frac{2}{[1 + (p-1)\bar{c}]}$$

where $\bar{c} = \sum_{ij} \frac{c_{ij}}{(p^2-p)}$ is an estimate for the average correlation among kj and $kj = (F^{-1} \left[\frac{F(-Z_j)}{2} \right])^2$; $F(x)$ is the normal cumulative distribution function[9].

2.1.7. Doornik and Hansen Test

Doornik and Hansen's omnibus test with test statistic:

$DH = Z_1' Z_1 + Z_2' Z_2$ where Z_1 and Z_2 denote the transformed skewness and kurtosis, respectively [10].

2.1.8. Szekely and Rizzo Test

Szekely and Rizzo test is given by

$$SR = n \left(\frac{2}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n E ||y_j - Z|| - 2 \frac{\Gamma((p+1)/2)}{\Gamma(p/2)} - \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{j,k=1}^n ||y_j - y_k|| \right)$$

where

$$E ||y - Z|| = \frac{\sqrt{2} \Gamma((p+1)/2)}{\Gamma(p/2)} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} \frac{||y||^{2k+2}}{(2k+1)(2k+2)} \frac{\Gamma((p+1)/2) \Gamma(k+3/2)}{\Gamma(k+p/2+1)}$$

$p = 2$; and $Y = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n]$ is the $p \times n$ standardized data matrix [19].

2.2. Simulation Study

All of the eight tests mentioned in the previous section compared with each other using samples from bivariate normal and non-normal distribution. Simulations were run for bivariate normal distribution with $\rho = 0.5, 0, -0.5$. Also simulations were run for some non-normal distributions generated using the g -and- h distribution [20], i.e. generating Z_{ij} from a bivariate normal distribution and setting

$$X_{ij} = \exp(gZ_{ij})^{-1} / g \exp(hZ_{ij}^2/2)$$

For $g = 0$ this expression is taken to be

$$X_{ij} = Z_{ij} \exp\left(\frac{hZ_{ij}^2}{2}\right).$$

As the g -and- h distribution provides a convenient method for considering a very wide range of situation corresponding to both symmetric and asymmetric distributions, its use is highly recommended. The case $g = h = 0$ corresponds to a normal distribution, the case $g = 0$ corresponds to a symmetric distribution, and as g increases the skewness increases as well.

For example, with $g = 0.5$ and $h = 0$ the skewness is 1.75, which is great [3]. In this study, simulations were run with $g = 0, 0.2, 0.5$ to span the range of skewness values that seems to occur in practice. These different values of g , $g = 0, 0.2, 0.5$, stand for non-skewed, skewed and highly skewed distributions respectively.

The parameter h determines the heaviness of the tail. As h increases, the heaviness increases as well. With $h = 0.2$ and $g = 0$ the kurtosis equals 36. This might seem extreme [3], so our simulation were run for $h = 0, 0.1, 0.2$.

As the power of tests dependent on sample size, so our simulations were run for $n = 15, 25, 50, 100$. The monte carlo study was employed, where 5000 samples were generated for each combination of $n = 15, 25, 50, 100$, $g = 0, 0.2, 0.5$ and $h = 0, 0.1, 0.2$.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0$, $n=15$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.0018	0.0164	0.0368	0.1344	0.0450	0.0568	0.0878	0.0470
0.2, 0.0	0.0082	0.0542	0.0898	0.2274	0.1222	0.1470	0.1768	0.1050
0.5, 0.0	0.0806	0.2828	0.4036	0.5700	0.5268	0.5610	0.5626	0.4350
0.0, 0.1	0.0274	0.0976	0.1050	0.2900	0.1526	0.1918	0.2232	0.1346
0.2, 0.1	0.0494	0.1422	0.1700	0.3750	0.2366	0.2798	0.2970	0.2066
0.5, 0.1	0.171	0.3878	0.468	0.6460	0.5698	0.6138	0.6048	0.5098
0.0, 0.2	0.1068	0.2312	0.2482	0.4550	0.3294	0.3798	0.3980	0.2980
0.2, 0.2	0.1356	0.2812	0.3058	0.5204	0.3918	0.4452	0.4530	0.3472
0.5, 0.2	0.2626	0.4826	0.5478	0.7004	0.6360	0.6766	0.6648	0.5844

Table 2. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0$, $n=25$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.0062	0.0278	0.042	0.1188	0.0492	0.0494	0.0616	0.0486
0.2, 0.0	0.043	0.1384	0.1222	0.2958	0.2158	0.235	0.2196	0.1466
0.5, 0.0	0.2994	0.6326	0.6636	0.771	0.832	0.8422	0.824	0.7096
0.0, 0.1	0.1346	0.1994	0.1424	0.3662	0.2396	0.2764	0.2936	0.1876
0.2, 0.1	0.2004	0.3188	0.263	0.4784	0.3854	0.4106	0.4182	0.3196
0.5, 0.1	0.4706	0.7334	0.7222	0.8274	0.832	0.8472	0.8338	0.7638
0.0, 0.2	0.3626	0.4258	0.381	0.599	0.5022	0.543	0.571	0.4422
0.2, 0.2	0.412	0.5048	0.4694	0.671	0.5956	0.6298	0.642	0.5298
0.5, 0.2	0.6206	0.7952	0.7862	0.8654	0.8634	0.8764	0.8702	0.8188

Table 3. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0$, $n=50$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.016	0.0448	0.0442	0.11	0.0518	0.0522	0.057	0.0484
0.2, 0.0	0.1214	0.3454	0.2316	0.4352	0.4348	0.4396	0.4206	0.2976
0.5, 0.0	0.65	0.9646	0.934	0.9532	0.994	0.9938	0.9918	0.9628
0.0, 0.1	0.3616	0.3376	0.2296	0.5014	0.4066	0.4216	0.4912	0.305
0.2, 0.1	0.4994	0.6056	0.4576	0.6876	0.6636	0.676	0.6852	0.5566
0.5, 0.1	0.839	0.977	0.9462	0.9654	0.9872	0.987	0.9850	0.9704
0.0, 0.2	0.7478	0.6376	0.6426	0.8072	0.7832	0.7904	0.8336	0.7164
0.2, 0.2	0.7954	0.7728	0.7578	0.8694	0.8696	0.8734	0.8940	0.8114
0.5, 0.2	0.9312	0.977	0.9706	0.977	0.988	0.9882	0.9876	0.9812

Table 4. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0$, $n=75$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	W	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.0254	0.0428	0.0536	0.1028	0.0498	0.0502	0.0534	0.0518
0.2, 0.0	0.1846	0.5462	0.3364	0.5577	0.6284	0.6268	0.4206	0.2976
0.5, 0.0	0.6500	0.9646	0.934	0.9532	0.994	0.9938	0.9918	0.9626
0.0, 0.1	0.3616	0.3376	0.2296	0.5014	0.4066	0.4216	0.4912	0.305
0.2, 0.1	0.4994	0.6056	0.4576	0.6876	0.6636	0.676	0.6852	0.5566
0.5, 0.1	0.8390	0.977	0.9462	0.9654	0.9872	0.987	0.985	0.9704
0.0, 0.2	0.7478	0.6376	0.6426	0.8072	0.7832	0.7904	0.8336	0.7164
0.2, 0.2	0.7954	0.7728	0.7578	0.8694	0.8696	0.8734	0.8899	0.8114
0.5, 0.2	0.9312	0.9770	0.9706	0.9770	0.9880	0.9882	0.9876	0.9812

Table 5. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0.5$, $n=15$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.0018	0.0164	0.0368	0.1344	0.0450	0.5760	0.0868	0.0470
0.2, 0.0	0.0092	0.0606	0.0978	0.2484	0.1306	0.1518	0.1742	0.1158
0.5, 0.0	0.1106	0.312	0.4534	0.5988	0.5278	0.5674	0.4130	0.3404
0.0, 0.1	0.0272	0.0980	0.1100	0.2956	0.1532	0.1902	0.2086	0.1350
0.2, 0.1	0.0602	0.1598	0.188	0.3864	0.2380	0.2776	0.2960	0.2198
0.5, 0.1	0.2018	0.4246	0.5038	0.6602	0.5800	0.6122	0.5940	0.5382
0.0, 0.2	0.1196	0.2410	0.254	0.4726	0.3194	0.3774	0.3846	0.3044
0.2, 0.2	0.1528	0.2864	0.3228	0.5310	0.3880	0.4386	0.4426	0.3662
0.5, 0.2	0.2996	0.5064	0.5658	0.7080	0.6324	0.6638	0.6580	0.5986

The results in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 were based on 5000 samples of sizes 15, 25, 50, 75 respectively, from a bivariate population with uncorrelated variables.

The result in Table 5, Table 6, Table 7 and Table 8 were based on similar conditions from a bivariate population with $\rho = 0.5$ for two considered variables also the results in

Table 9, Table 10, Table 11 and Table 12 were for two considered variables with $\rho = -0.5$.

A nominal significance level of 0.05 was used. "mvnormt est", "mvshapiroTest", "MVN", "normwhn.test" and "energy" Library in R program version 2.15.3 were used.

Under the bivariate distribution with uncorrelated variables and $n = 15$, the simulation results showed that "Msh" test statistic performed better than any of the test statistics compared here for almost all distributions

(symmetric, skewed and heavy or light tailed). It followed by "R" and "DH". The findings of this study show that "Msh" test had greater power than others for symmetric, skewed and heavy tailed uncorrelated, bivariate distributions but not for highly skewed when sample size is medium ($n = 25$). For highly skewed uncorrelated bivariate distributions when sample size is medium it seems that "R" is the best and "SW" and "DH" are the second and the third.

But for large samples ($n \geq 50$) under similar condition approximately power of "Msh", "R", and "DH" are similar and better than others.

The simulation results under bivariate distribution with $\rho = 0.5, -0.5$ were closely similar. In general simulation performed for bivariate distributions with different correlations showed similar power trends.

Table 6. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0.5$, $n=25$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.0062	0.0278	0.042	0.1188	0.0408	0.0516	0.0582	0.0486
0.2, 0.0	0.0512	0.1548	0.1476	0.3094	0.2186	0.2328	0.2226	0.1744
0.5, 0.0	0.3568	0.6724	0.7188	0.781	0.8184	0.2232	0.806	0.7552
0.0, 0.1	0.1372	0.2052	0.144	0.361	0.227	0.2642	0.2858	0.1926
0.2, 0.1	0.2222	0.3498	0.2874	0.4956	0.3978	0.4176	0.4264	0.3408
0.5, 0.1	0.5278	0.7516	0.7434	0.831	0.8298	0.8272	0.8226	0.785
0.0, 0.2	0.379	0.436	0.3956	0.6108	0.507	0.5378	0.5786	0.455
0.2, 0.2	0.4398	0.5294	0.481	0.68	0.5894	0.6178	0.6416	0.5454
0.5, 0.2	0.6582	0.8044	0.7962	0.8672	0.8536	0.8566	0.8576	0.8324

Table 7. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0.5$, $n=50$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.016	0.0448	0.0442	0.1100	0.0470	0.0466	0.0474	0.0484
0.2, 0.0	0.1342	0.3674	0.2614	0.4692	0.4422	0.4262	0.423	0.3336
0.5, 0.0	0.7182	0.974	0.9606	0.9592	0.9926	0.992	0.9908	0.9790
0.0, 0.1	0.3738	0.3518	0.2404	0.5122	0.406	0.4056	0.4908	0.3198
0.2, 0.1	0.5242	0.6268	0.4818	0.7084	0.6718	0.6494	0.6928	0.5750
0.5, 0.1	0.873	0.9808	0.9618	0.9722	0.987	0.985	0.986	0.9860
0.0, 0.2	0.7632	0.6604	0.6586	0.8226	0.7874	0.781	0.8402	0.7278
0.2, 0.2	0.8248	0.7836	0.7712	0.8756	0.8698	0.8584	0.8956	0.8286
0.5, 0.2	0.9512	0.9784	0.976	0.982	0.9886	0.9884	0.9884	0.9854

Table 8. Monte carlo rejection proportion for the bivariate population ($\rho=0.5$, $n=75$)

g, h	MK	MS	HZ	Msh	SW	R	DH	SR
0.0, 0.0	0.0254	0.0428	0.0536	0.1028	0.0482	0.0508	0.0486	0.0518
0.2, 0.0	0.2196	0.578	0.3746	0.5818	0.6352	0.615	0.6126	0.4910
0.5, 0.0	0.8702	0.9978	0.9958	0.9892	0.9992	0.9996	0.9992	0.9984
0.0, 0.1	0.5546	0.4178	0.3252	0.6166	0.5456	0.5346	0.6404	0.4246
0.2, 0.1	0.7166	0.7768	0.6372	0.8234	0.8206	0.8048	0.8327	0.7394
0.5, 0.1	0.9650	0.9980	0.993	0.9914	0.9984	0.998	0.9986	0.9974
0.0, 0.2	0.9128	0.7562	0.821	0.9136	0.9178	0.9038	0.9466	0.8696
0.2, 0.2	0.9392	0.8776	0.904	0.9508	0.9582	0.9518	0.9672	0.9344
0.5, 0.2	0.9912	0.9960	0.9962	0.9970	0.9982	0.9980	0.9986	0.9974

4. Conclusions

In health and medical researches, were two variables such as cholesterol level and blood pressure are considered for important diagnoses, the bivariate values may be related in an unknown way[21], so bivariate analysis is considered. An important topic for applying most of the bivariate analysis, BVN assumption, is necessary. So make a decision about BVN considered an important problem. According to number of BVN available test, we have compared them under various bivariate distributions with different correlations and different sample sizes.

The results of the simulation studies showed that the Mshapiro test performed better than most of its competitors whether the underlying distribution was normal, or non-normal, skewed or symmetric or heavy tailed, but not for highly skewed also it makes type I error inflated. It means

that we could not conclude that Mshapiro is the best overall but we could say Mshapiro is the best under specific conditions. The simulation results also revealed that similar power could be considered for "SW", "R", "DH" whether the underlying distribution was highly skewed and they had greater power than other competitors. Therefore, Mshapiro's application where underlying distribution is not highly skewed recommended, since it is more powerful than any of alternatives compared here for almost all sample sizes and Royston's application recommended where Mshapiro is not the best.

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