

# Large-sample Likelihood Ratio Tests<sup>1</sup>

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# Model and null hypothesis

$$D_1, \dots, D_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} P_\theta, \theta \in \Theta,$$
$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \text{ v.s. } H_A : \theta \in \Theta \cap \Theta_0^c,$$

The data have likelihood function

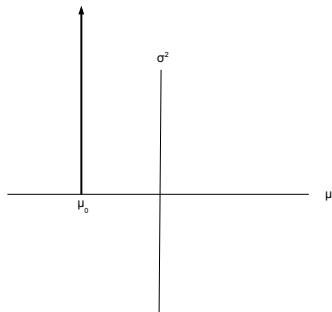
$$L(\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(d_i; \theta),$$

where  $f(d_i; \theta)$  is the density or probability mass function evaluated at  $d_i$ .

# Example

$$D_1, \dots, D_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} P_\theta, \theta \in \Theta,$$
$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \text{ v.s. } H_A : \theta \in \Theta \cap \Theta_0^c,$$

$$D_1, \dots, D_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$
$$H_0 : \mu = \mu_0 \text{ v.s. } H_A : \mu \neq \mu_0$$
$$\Theta_0 = \{(\mu, \sigma^2 : \mu = \mu_0)\}$$



# Likelihood ratio

- Let  $\hat{\theta}$  denote the usual Maximum Likelihood Estimate (MLE).
- That is,  $\hat{\theta}$  is the parameter value for which the likelihood function is greatest, over all  $\theta \in \Theta$ .
- Let  $\hat{\theta}_0$  denote the *restricted* MLE. The restricted MLE is the parameter value for which the likelihood function is greatest, over all  $\theta \in \Theta_0$ .
- $\hat{\theta}_0$  is *restricted* by the null hypothesis  $H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0$ .
- $L(\hat{\theta}_0) \leq L(\hat{\theta})$ , so that
- The *likelihood ratio*  $\lambda = \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \leq 1$ .
- The likelihood ratio will equal one if and only if the overall MLE  $\hat{\theta}$  is located in  $\Theta_0$ . In this case, there is no reason to reject the null hypothesis.

# The test statistic

- We know  $\lambda = \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \leq 1$ .
- If it's a *lot* less than one, then the data are a lot less likely to have been observed under the null hypothesis than under the alternative hypothesis, and the null hypothesis is questionable.
- If  $\lambda$  is small (close to zero), then  $\ln(\lambda)$  is a large negative number, and  $-2 \ln \lambda$  is a large positive number.

$$G^2 = -2 \ln \left( \frac{\max_{\theta \in \Theta_0} L(\theta)}{\max_{\theta \in \Theta} L(\theta)} \right)$$

## Difference between two $-2$ loglikelihoods

$$\begin{aligned}G^2 &= -2 \ln \left( \frac{\max_{\theta \in \Theta_0} L(\theta)}{\max_{\theta \in \Theta} L(\theta)} \right) \\&= -2 \ln \left( \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \right) \\&= -2 \ln L(\hat{\theta}_0) - [-2 \ln L(\hat{\theta})] \\&= -2\ell(\hat{\theta}_0) - [-2\ell(\hat{\theta})].\end{aligned}$$

- Could minimize  $-2\ell(\theta)$  twice, first over all  $\theta \in \Theta$ , and then over all  $\theta \in \Theta_0$ .
- The test statistic is the difference between the two minimum values.

# Distribution of the test statistic under $H_0$

## Approximate large sample distribution

Suppose the null hypothesis is that certain *linear combinations* of parameter values are equal to specified constants. Then if  $H_0$  is true,

$$G^2 = -2 \ln \left( \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \right)$$

has an approximate chi-squared distribution for large  $n$ .

- Degrees of freedom equals number of (non-redundant, linearly independent) equalities specified by  $H_0$ .
- Reject when  $G^2$  is large.

## Example

Suppose  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_7)$ , with

$$H_0 : \theta_1 = \theta_2, \theta_6 = \theta_7, \frac{1}{3}(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3) = \frac{1}{3}(\theta_4 + \theta_5 + \theta_6)$$

Count the equals signs or write the null hypothesis in matrix form as  $H_0 : \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\theta} = \mathbf{h}$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \\ \theta_4 \\ \theta_5 \\ \theta_6 \\ \theta_7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Rows are linearly independent, so  $df = \text{number of rows} = 3$ .



# Bernoulli example

- $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} B(1, \theta)$
- $H_0 : \theta = \theta_0$
- $\Theta = (0, 1)$
- $\Theta_0 = \{\theta_0\}$
- $L(\theta) = \theta^{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}$
- $\hat{\theta} = \bar{y}$
- $\hat{\theta}_0 = \theta_0$

## Likelihood ratio test statistic

$$L(\theta) = \theta^{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}$$

$$\begin{aligned} G^2 &= -2 \ln \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \\ &= -2 \ln \frac{\theta_0^{n\bar{y}} (1 - \theta_0)^{n(1-\bar{y})}}{\bar{y}^{n\bar{y}} (1 - \bar{y})^{n(1-\bar{y})}} \\ &= -2 \ln \left( \frac{\theta_0^{\bar{y}} (1 - \theta_0)^{(1-\bar{y})}}{\bar{y}^{\bar{y}} (1 - \bar{y})^{(1-\bar{y})}} \right)^n \\ &= 2n \ln \left( \frac{\theta_0^{\bar{y}} (1 - \theta_0)^{(1-\bar{y})}}{\bar{y}^{\bar{y}} (1 - \bar{y})^{(1-\bar{y})}} \right)^{-1} \\ &= 2n \ln \frac{\bar{y}^{\bar{y}} (1 - \bar{y})^{(1-\bar{y})}}{\theta_0^{\bar{y}} (1 - \theta_0)^{(1-\bar{y})}} \end{aligned}$$

## Continued

$$\begin{aligned} G^2 &= 2n \ln \frac{\bar{y}^{\bar{y}}(1-\bar{y})^{(1-\bar{y})}}{\theta_0^{\bar{y}}(1-\theta_0)^{(1-\bar{y})}} \\ &= 2n \left( \ln \left( \frac{\bar{y}}{\theta_0} \right)^{\bar{y}} + \ln \left( \frac{1-\bar{y}}{1-\theta_0} \right)^{(1-\bar{y})} \right) \\ &= 2n \left( \bar{y} \ln \left( \frac{\bar{y}}{\theta_0} \right) + (1-\bar{y}) \ln \left( \frac{1-\bar{y}}{1-\theta_0} \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Coffee taste test

$$n = 100, \theta_0 = 0.50, \bar{y} = 0.60$$

$$\begin{aligned} G^2 &= 2n \left( \bar{y} \ln \left( \frac{\bar{y}}{\theta_0} \right) + (1 - \bar{y}) \ln \left( \frac{1 - \bar{y}}{1 - \theta_0} \right) \right) \\ &= 200 \left( 0.60 \ln \left( \frac{0.60}{0.50} \right) + 0.40 \ln \left( \frac{0.40}{0.50} \right) \right) \\ &= 4.027 \end{aligned}$$

$df = 1$ , critical value  $1.96^2 = 3.84$ . Conclude (barely) that the new coffee blend is preferred over the old.

# Univariate normal example

- $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} N(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$
- $\Theta = \{(\mu, \sigma^2) : \mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma^2 > 0\}$
- $\Theta_0 = \{(\mu, \sigma^2) : \mu = \mu_0, \sigma^2 > 0\}$
- $L(\theta) = (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^2\}$
- $\hat{\theta} = (\bar{Y}, \hat{\sigma}^2)$ , where

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2$$

- $\hat{\theta}_0 = \dots$

# Restricted MLE

For  $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$

Recall that setting derivatives to zero, we obtained

$$\mu = \bar{y} \text{ and } \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^2, \text{ so}$$

$$\hat{\mu}_0 = \bar{Y}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_0^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \mu_0)^2$$

Likelihood ratio test statistic  $G^2 = -2 \ln \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})}$

Have  $L(\theta) = (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^2\}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} L(\hat{\theta}) &= (\hat{\sigma}^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2\right\} \\ &= (\hat{\sigma}^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}{2\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}\right\} \\ &= (\hat{\sigma}^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} e^{-n/2} \end{aligned}$$

# Likelihood at restricted MLE

$$L(\theta) = (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^2\right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L(\hat{\theta}_0) &= (\hat{\sigma}_0^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_0^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu_0)^2\right\} \\ &= (\hat{\sigma}_0^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu_0)^2}{2\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu_0)^2}\right\} \\ &= (\hat{\sigma}_0^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} e^{-n/2} \end{aligned}$$



## Test statistic

$$\begin{aligned} G^2 &= -2 \ln \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \\ &= -2 \ln \frac{(\hat{\sigma}_0^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} e^{-n/2}}{(\hat{\sigma}^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} e^{-n/2}} \\ &= -2 \ln \left( \frac{\hat{\sigma}_0^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right)^{-n/2} \\ &= n \ln \left( \frac{\hat{\sigma}_0^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right) \\ &= n \ln \left( \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \mu_0)^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2} \right) \\ &= n \ln \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \mu_0)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Multivariate normal likelihood

$$\begin{aligned}L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{1/2} (2\pi)^{p/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{y}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\} \\&= |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-np/2} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{y}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\} \\&= |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-np/2} \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \left\{ \text{tr}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}) + (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\} \right\},\end{aligned}$$

where  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{y}})(\mathbf{y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{y}})^\top$  is the sample variance-covariance matrix.

# Sample variance-covariance matrix

$$\mathbf{Y}_i = \begin{pmatrix} Y_{i,1} \\ \vdots \\ Y_{i,p} \end{pmatrix} \quad \bar{\mathbf{Y}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{Y}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{Y}_p \end{pmatrix}$$

$\hat{\Sigma} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{Y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{Y}})(\mathbf{Y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{Y}})^\top$  is a  $p \times p$  matrix with  $(j, k)$  element

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_{i,j} - \bar{Y}_j)(Y_{i,k} - \bar{Y}_k)$$

This is a sample variance or covariance.

# Multivariate normal likelihood at the MLE

This will be in the denominator of every likelihood ratio test.

$$L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{n}{2}} (2\pi)^{-\frac{np}{2}} \exp -\frac{n}{2} \left\{ \text{tr}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}) + (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\}$$

$$L(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}) = |\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}|^{-\frac{n}{2}} (2\pi)^{-\frac{np}{2}} e^{-\frac{np}{2}}$$

# Test whether a set of variables are uncorrelated

Equivalent to zero covariance

- $\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$
- $H_0 : \sigma_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ .
- Equivalent to independence for this multivariate normal model.
- Use  $G^2 = -2 \ln \left( \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \right)$ .
- Have  $L(\hat{\theta})$ .
- Need  $L(\hat{\theta}_0)$ .

# Getting the restricted MLE

For the multivariate normal, zero covariance is equivalent to independence, so under  $H_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) &= \prod_{i=1}^n f(\mathbf{y}_i | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \prod_{j=1}^p f(y_{ij} | \mu_j, \sigma_j^2) \right) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^p \left( \prod_{i=1}^n f(y_{ij} | \mu_j, \sigma_j^2) \right)\end{aligned}$$

# Take logs and start differentiating

$$L(\boldsymbol{\mu}_0, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0) = \prod_{j=1}^p \left( \prod_{i=1}^n f(y_{ij} | \mu_j, \sigma_j^2) \right)$$
$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\mu}_0, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0) = \sum_{j=1}^p \ln \left( \prod_{i=1}^n f(y_{ij} | \mu_j, \sigma_j^2) \right)$$

It's just  $j$  univariate problems, which we have already done.

## Likelihood at the restricted MLE

$$\begin{aligned}L(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_0, \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_0) &= \prod_{j=1}^p \left( (\widehat{\sigma}_j^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\widehat{\sigma}_j^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_{ij} - \bar{y}_j)^2\right\}\right) \\&= \prod_{j=1}^p \left( (\widehat{\sigma}_j^2)^{-n/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} e^{-n/2}\right) \\&= \left( \prod_{j=1}^p \widehat{\sigma}_j^2 \right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (2\pi)^{-\frac{np}{2}} e^{-\frac{np}{2}},\end{aligned}$$

where  $\widehat{\sigma}_j^2$  is a diagonal element of  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ .



## Test statistic

$$\begin{aligned} G^2 &= -2 \ln \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\hat{\theta})} \\ &= -2 \ln \frac{\left(\prod_{j=1}^p \hat{\sigma}_j^2\right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (2\pi)^{-\frac{np}{2}} e^{-\frac{np}{2}}}{|\hat{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{n}{2}} (2\pi)^{-\frac{np}{2}} e^{-\frac{np}{2}}} \\ &= -2 \ln \left( \frac{\prod_{j=1}^p \hat{\sigma}_j^2}{|\hat{\Sigma}|} \right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \\ &= n \ln \left( \frac{\prod_{j=1}^p \hat{\sigma}_j^2}{|\hat{\Sigma}|} \right) \\ &= n \left( \sum_{j=1}^p \ln \hat{\sigma}_j^2 - \ln |\hat{\Sigma}| \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Numerical maximum likelihood

For the multivariate normal

- Often an explicit formula for  $\hat{\theta}_0$  is out of the question.
- Maximize the log likelihood numerically.
- Equivalently, minimize  $-2 \ln L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ .
- Equivalently, minimize  $-2 \ln L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$  plus a constant.
- Choose the constant well, and minimize

$$-2 \ln L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) - (-2 \ln L(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}))$$

over  $(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \in \Theta_0$ .

- The value of this function at the stopping place is the likelihood ratio test statistic.

## What SAS proc calis does

Instead of minimizing  $-2 \ln L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) - (-2 \ln L(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}))$

$$\begin{aligned}
 -2 \ln \frac{L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})}{L(\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}})} &= -2 \ln \frac{|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{n}{2}} \exp -\frac{n}{2} \left\{ \text{tr}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}) + (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\}}{|\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}|^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{n p}{2}}} \\
 &= n \ln \frac{|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}| \exp - \left\{ \text{tr}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}) + (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\}}{|\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}| e^p} \\
 &= n \left( \ln |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}| - \ln |\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}| - \text{tr}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}) - (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) + p \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

To avoid numerical problems, drop the  $n$  and minimize the rest.

# Minimize the “Objective Function”

Over a restricted parameter space

Minimize

$$\ln |\mathbf{\Sigma}| - \ln |\widehat{\mathbf{\Sigma}}| - \text{tr}(\widehat{\mathbf{\Sigma}}\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}) - (\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}(\bar{\mathbf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) - p$$

Or, if  $H_0$  is concerned only with  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  (common), estimate  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  with  $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$ , and minimize

$$\ln |\mathbf{\Sigma}| - \ln |\widehat{\mathbf{\Sigma}}| - \text{tr}(\widehat{\mathbf{\Sigma}}\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}) - p$$

- Then multiply the value at the stopping point by  $n$  to get  $G^2$ .
- Actually `proc calis` multiplies by  $n - 1$ .
- Still okay as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .
- Maybe it's to compensate for a possible  $n - 1$  in the denominator of  $\widehat{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$ .

## Later in the course

- $\Sigma$  is the covariance matrix of the *observable* variables.
- Model is based on systems of equations with unknown parameters  $\theta \in \Theta$ .
- Calculate  $\Sigma = \Sigma(\theta)$ .
- Minimize the objective function

$$\ln |\Sigma(\theta)| - \ln |\hat{\Sigma}| - \text{tr}(\hat{\Sigma}\Sigma(\theta)^{-1}) - p$$

over all  $\theta \in \Theta$ .

# But first

But first a computed example of a *direct* test of  $H_0 : \sigma_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  for a multivariate normal model.

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<http://www.utstat.toronto.edu/~brunner/oldclass/431s15>