

An Adaptive Test of Independence with Analytic Kernel Embeddings

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Reference

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Gatsby Unit, UCL



Zoltán Szabó
École Polytechnique

Preprint:

An Adaptive Test of Independence with Analytic Kernel Embeddings
Wittawat Jitkrittum, Zoltán Szabó, Arthur Gretton
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1610.04782>

■ Python code: <https://github.com/wittawatj/fsic-test>

What Is Independence Testing?

- Let $X \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$, $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{d_y}$ be random vectors following P_{xy} .
- Given a joint sample $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n \sim P_{xy}$ (unknown), test

$$H_0 : P_{xy} = P_x P_y,$$

$$\text{vs. } H_1 : P_{xy} \neq P_x P_y.$$

- $P_{xy} = P_x P_y$ equivalent to $X \perp Y$.
- Compute a test statistic $\hat{\lambda}_n$. Reject H_0 if $\hat{\lambda}_n \geq T_\alpha$ (threshold).
- $T_\alpha = (1 - \alpha)$ -quantile of the **null distribution**.

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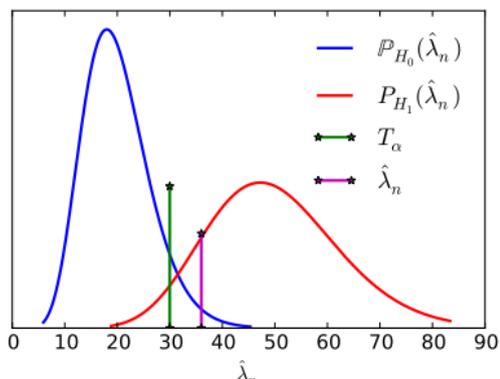
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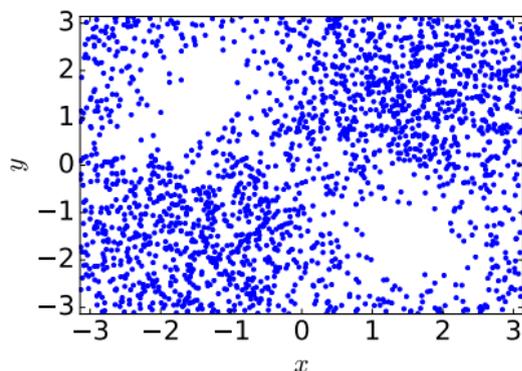
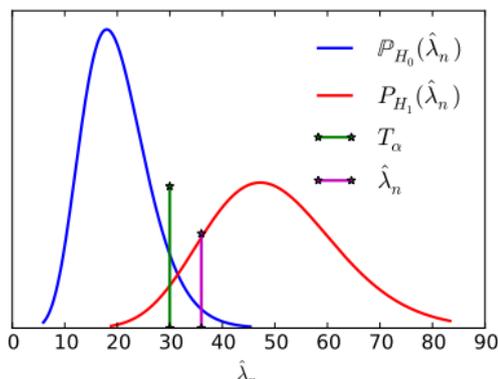
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Want a test which is ...

- 1 **Non-parametric** i.e., no parametric assumption on P_{xy} .
- 2 **Linear-time** i.e., computational complexity is $\mathcal{O}(n)$. Fast.
- 3 **Adaptive** i.e., has a well-defined criterion for parameter tuning.

	Non-parametric	$\mathcal{O}(n)$	Adaptive
Pearson correlation	✗	✓	✓
HSIC [Gretton et al., 2005]	✓	✗	✗
HSIC with RFFs* [Zhang et al., 2016]	✓	✓	✗
FSIC (proposed)	✓	✓	✓

* : RFFs = Random Fourier Features

- Focus on cases where n (sample size) is large.

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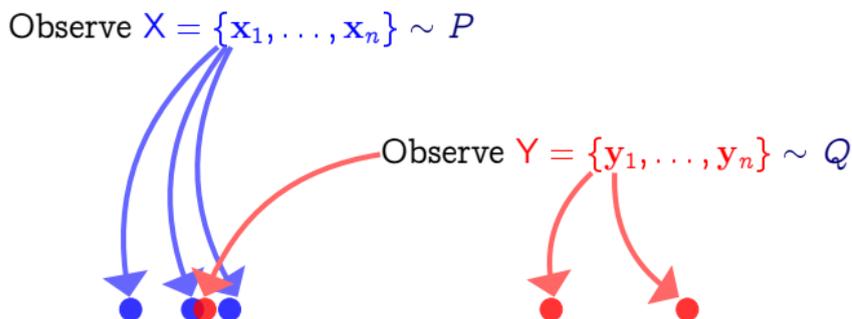
Witness Function [Gretton et al., 2012]

- A function showing the differences of two distributions P and Q .
- Gaussian kernel: $k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{v}\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$
- Empirical mean embedding of P : $\hat{\mu}_P(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{v})$
- Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD): $\|\hat{\mu}\|_{\text{RKHS}}$.
 - $\text{MMD}(P, Q) = 0$ if and only if $P = Q$.



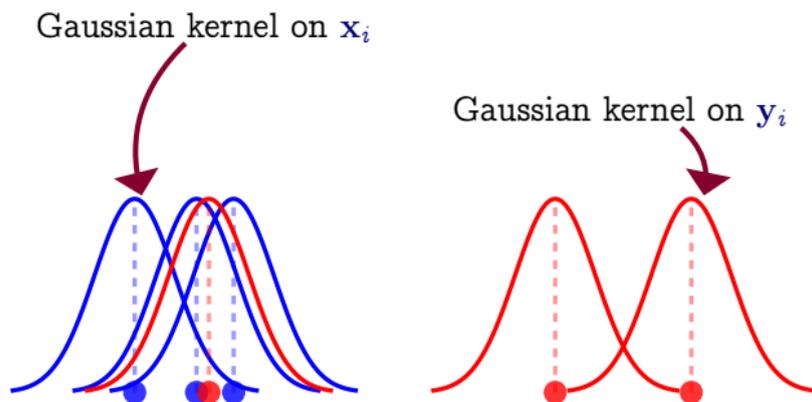
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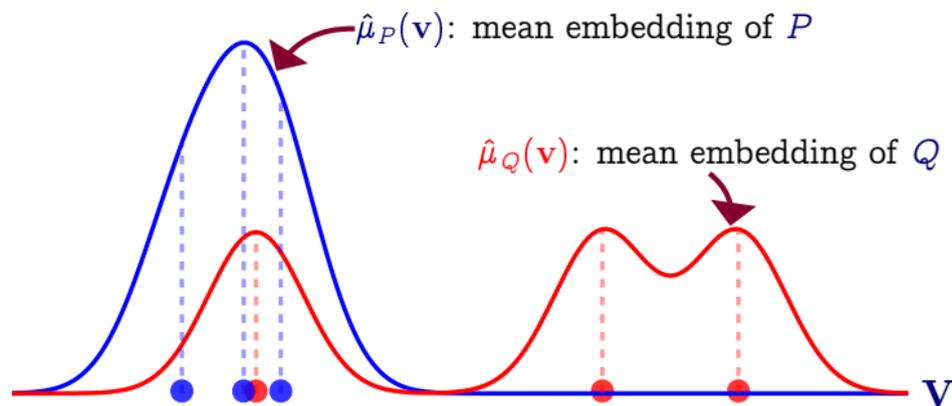
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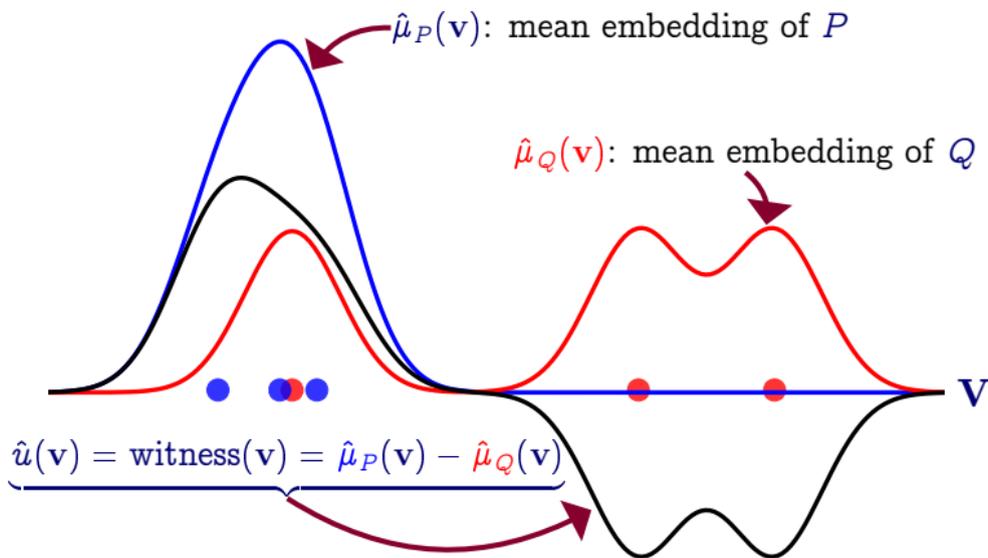
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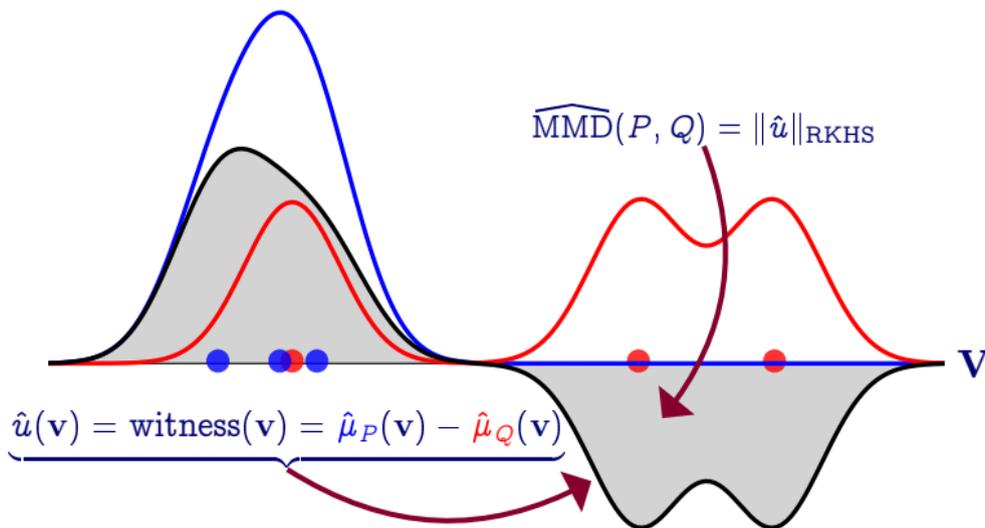
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Independence Test with HSIC [Gretton et al., 2005]

- Hilbert-Schmidt Independence Criterion.

$$\text{HSIC}(X, Y) = \text{MMD}(P_{xy}, P_x P_y) = \|u\|_{\text{RKHS}}$$

(need two kernels: k for X , and l for Y).

- Empirical witness:

$$\hat{u}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = \hat{\mu}_{xy}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) - \hat{\mu}_x(\mathbf{v})\hat{\mu}_y(\mathbf{w})$$

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- Test statistic = $\|\hat{u}\|_{\text{RKHS}}$ (“flatness” of \hat{u}). Complexity: $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$.

Key: Can we measure the flatness by other way that costs only $\mathcal{O}(n)$?

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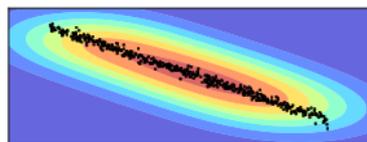
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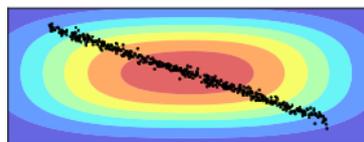
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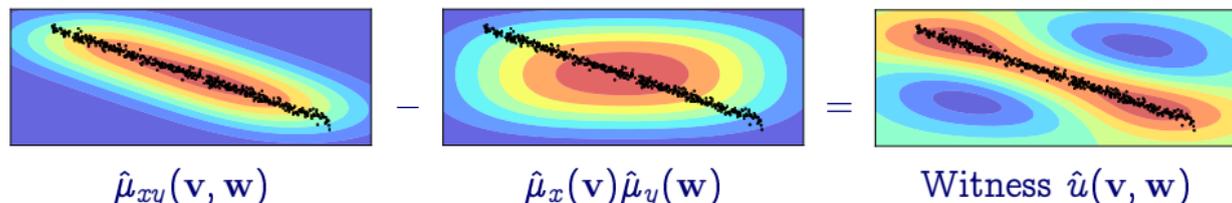
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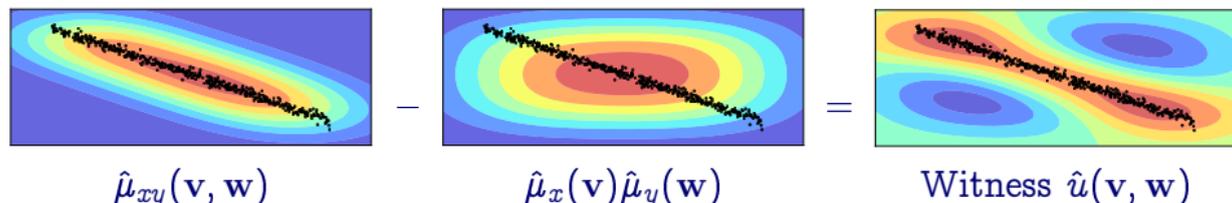
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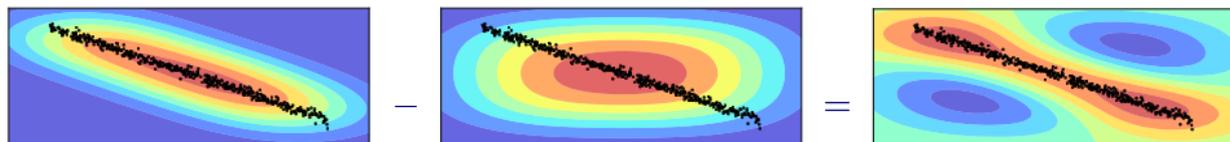
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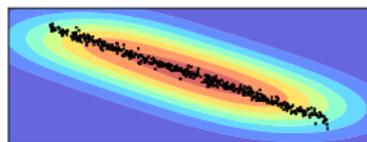
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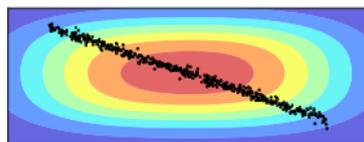
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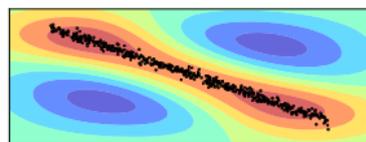
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Idea: Evaluate $\hat{u}^2(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$ at only finitely many test locations.

■ A set of random J locations: $\{(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{w}_1), \dots, (\mathbf{v}_J, \mathbf{w}_J)\}$

■ $\widehat{\text{FSIC}}^2(X, Y) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{i=1}^J \hat{u}^2(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)$

■ Complexity: $\mathcal{O}((d_x + d_y)Jn)$. Linear time.

■ But, what about an unlucky set of locations??

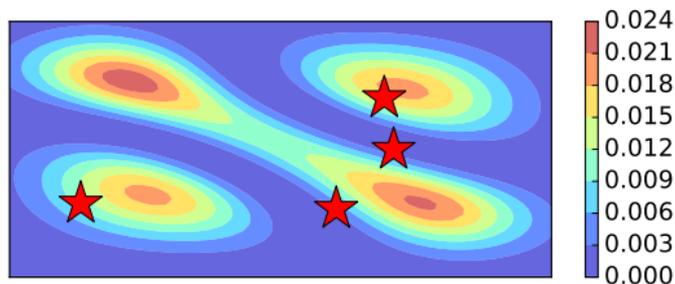
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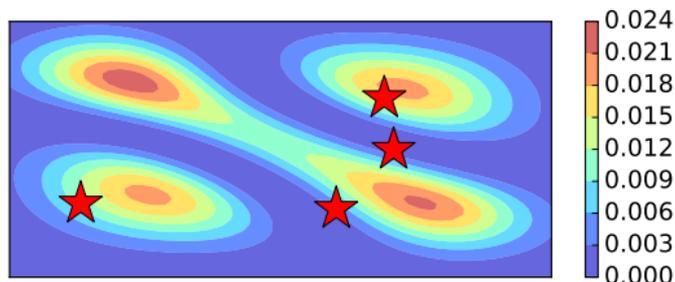
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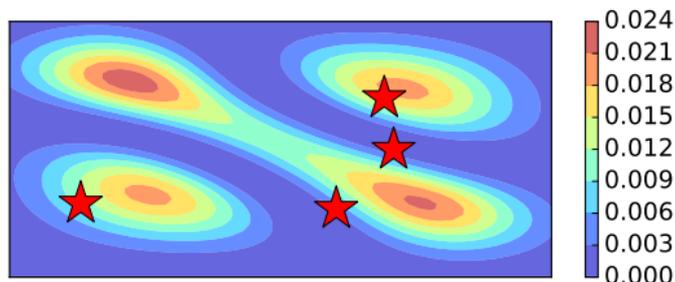
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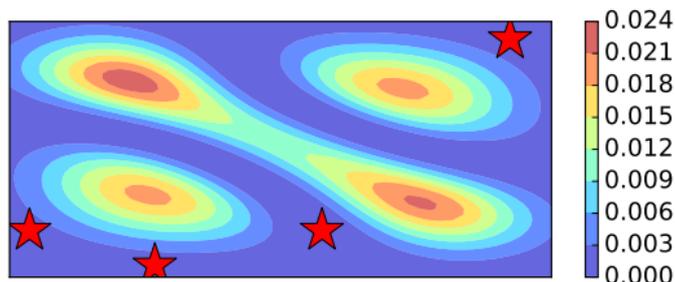
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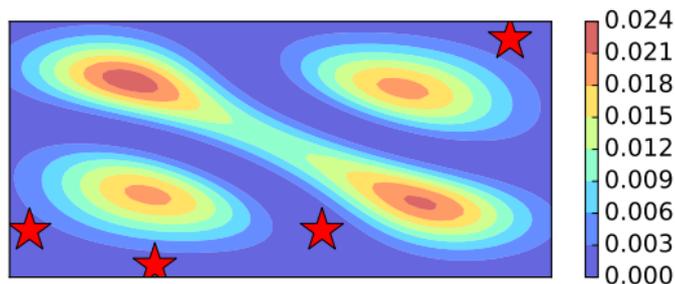
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Idea: Evaluate $\hat{u}^2(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$ at only finitely many test locations.

■ A set of random J locations: $\{(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{w}_1), \dots, (\mathbf{v}_J, \mathbf{w}_J)\}$

■ $\widehat{\text{FSIC}}^2(X, Y) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{i=1}^J \hat{u}^2(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)$



■ Complexity: $\mathcal{O}((d_x + d_y)Jn)$. Linear time.

■ But, what about an unlucky set of locations??

- Can $\text{FSIC}^2(X, Y) = 0$ even if X and Y are dependent??

■ No. Population $\text{FSIC}(X, Y) = 0$ iff $X \perp Y$, almost surely.

Requirements on the Kernels

Definition 1 (Analytic kernels).

$k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be analytic if for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$, $\mathbf{v} \rightarrow k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})$ is a real analytic function on \mathcal{X} .

- Analytic: Taylor series about \mathbf{x}_0 converges for all $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathcal{X}$.
- $\implies k$ is infinitely differentiable.

Definition 2 (Characteristic kernels).

- Let P, Q be two distributions, and g be a kernel.
- Let $\mu_P(\mathbf{v}) := \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim P}[g(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{v})]$ and $\mu_Q(\mathbf{v}) := \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim Q}[g(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{v})]$.

g is said to be characteristic if $P \neq Q$ implies $\mu_P \neq \mu_Q$.

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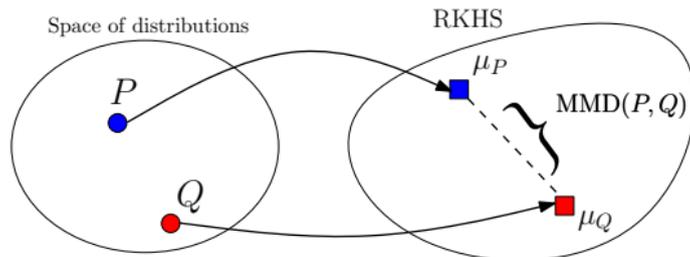
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FSIC Is a Dependence Measure

Proposition 1.

Assume

- 1 The product kernel $g((\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}), (\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}')) := k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')l(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}')$ is characteristic and analytic (i.e., k, l are Gaussian kernels).
- 2 Test locations $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J \sim \eta$ where η has a density.

Then, η -almost surely, $\text{FSIC}(X, Y) = 0$ iff X and Y are independent.

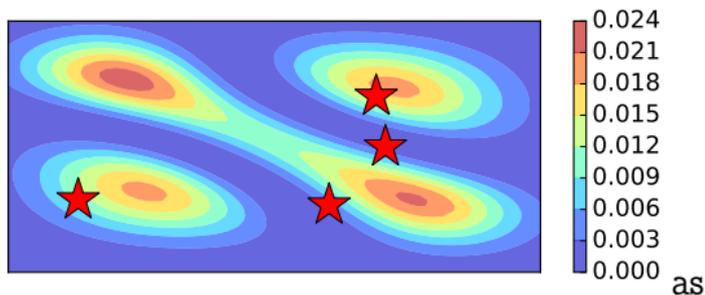
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Let's plot

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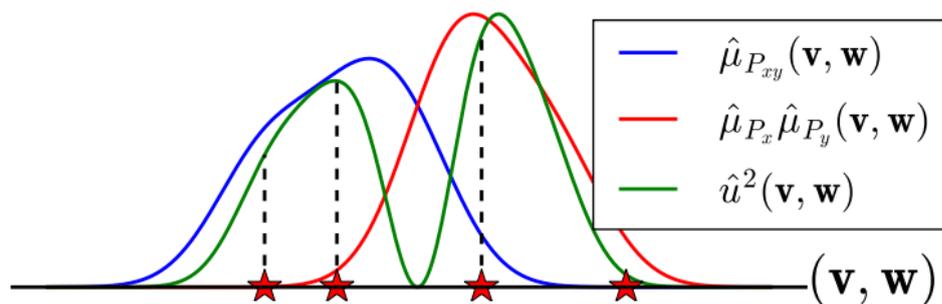
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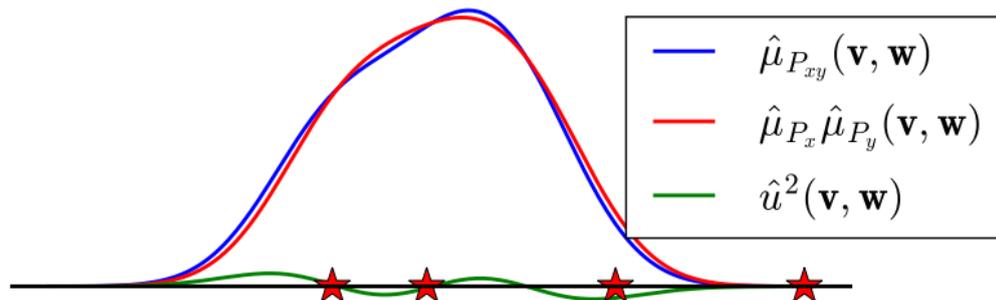
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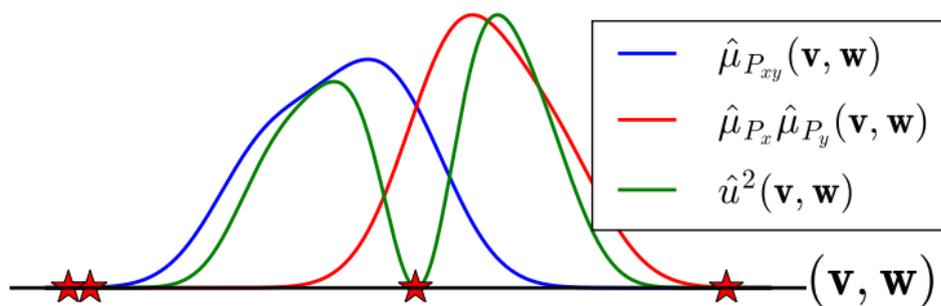
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- Under H_1 , u is not a zero function ($P \mapsto \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim P}[g(\mathbf{z}, \cdot)]$ is injective).
- u is analytic. So, $R_u = \{(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) \mid u(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = 0\}$ has 0 Lebesgue measure.
- So, $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J \sim \eta$ will not be in R_u (with probability 1).

Alternative View of the Witness $u(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$

The witness $u(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$ can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}u(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) &:= \mu_{xy}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) - \mu_x(\mathbf{v})\mu_y(\mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}[k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})l(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{w})] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}}[k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})]\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}}[l(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{w})], \\ &= \text{cov}_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}[k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}), l(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{w})].\end{aligned}$$

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The kernel transformations turn the linear covariance into a dependence measure.

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Alternative Form of $\hat{u}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$

- Recall $\widehat{\text{FSIC}}^2 = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{i=1}^J \hat{u}(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)^2$
- Let $\widehat{\mu_x \mu_y}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$ be an unbiased estimator of $\mu_x(\mathbf{v})\mu_y(\mathbf{w})$.
- $\widehat{\mu_x \mu_y}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) := \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \neq i} k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{v})l(\mathbf{y}_j, \mathbf{w})$.
- An unbiased estimator of $u(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$ is

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where

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Asymptotic Distribution of $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$

$$\widehat{\text{FSIC}}^2(X, Y) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{i=1}^J \hat{u}^2(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i) = \frac{1}{J} \hat{\mathbf{u}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{u}},$$

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For any fixed locations $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J$, we have $\sqrt{n}(\hat{\mathbf{u}} - \mathbf{u}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma)$.

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$$n\widehat{\text{FSIC}}^2 = \frac{n}{J} \hat{\mathbf{u}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{u}} \sim \text{weighted sum of dependent } \chi^2 \text{ variables.}$$

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with a regularization parameter $\gamma_n \geq 0$.

- **Key:** NFSIC = FSIC normalized by the covariance.

Theorem 1 (NFSIC test is consistent).

Assume

- 1 *The product kernel is characteristic and analytic.*
- 2 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_n = 0$.

Then, for any k, l and $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J \sim \eta$,

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$$\widehat{\text{NFSIC}}^2(X, Y) = \hat{\lambda}_n := n \hat{\mathbf{u}}^\top \left(\hat{\Sigma} + \gamma_n \mathbf{I} \right)^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{u}},$$

with a regularization parameter $\gamma_n \geq 0$.

- **Key:** NFSIC = FSIC normalized by the covariance.

Theorem 1 (NFSIC test is consistent).

Assume

- 1 The product kernel is characteristic and analytic.
- 2 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_n = 0$.

Then, for any k, l and $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J \sim \eta$,

- 1 Under H_0 , $\hat{\lambda}_n \xrightarrow{d} \chi^2(J)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- 2 Under H_1 , $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\hat{\lambda}_n \geq T_\alpha \right) = 1$, η -almost surely.

Asymptotically, false positive rate is at α under H_0 , and always reject under H_1 .

An Estimator of $\widehat{\text{NFSIC}}^2$

$$\hat{\lambda}_n := n\hat{\mathbf{u}}^\top (\hat{\Sigma} + \gamma_n \mathbf{I})^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{u}},$$

- Test locations $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J \sim \eta$.
- $\mathbf{K} = [k(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)] \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times n}$
- $\mathbf{L} = [l(\mathbf{w}_i, \mathbf{y}_j)] \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times n}$. (No $n \times n$ Gram matrix.)

Estimators

- 1 $\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \frac{(\mathbf{K} \circ \mathbf{L}) \mathbf{1}_n}{n-1} - \frac{(\mathbf{K} \mathbf{1}_n) \circ (\mathbf{L} \mathbf{1}_n)}{n(n-1)}$.
 - 2 $\hat{\Sigma} = \frac{\Gamma \Gamma^\top}{n}$ where $\Gamma := (\mathbf{K} - n^{-1} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{1}_n \mathbf{1}_n^\top) \circ (\mathbf{L} - n^{-1} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{1}_n \mathbf{1}_n^\top) - \hat{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{1}_n^\top$.
- $\hat{\lambda}_n$ can be computed in $\mathcal{O}(J^3 + J^2 n + (d_x + d_y) J n)$ time.

Main Point: Linear in n . Cubic in J (small).

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 - In practice, tuning them will increase the **test power**.
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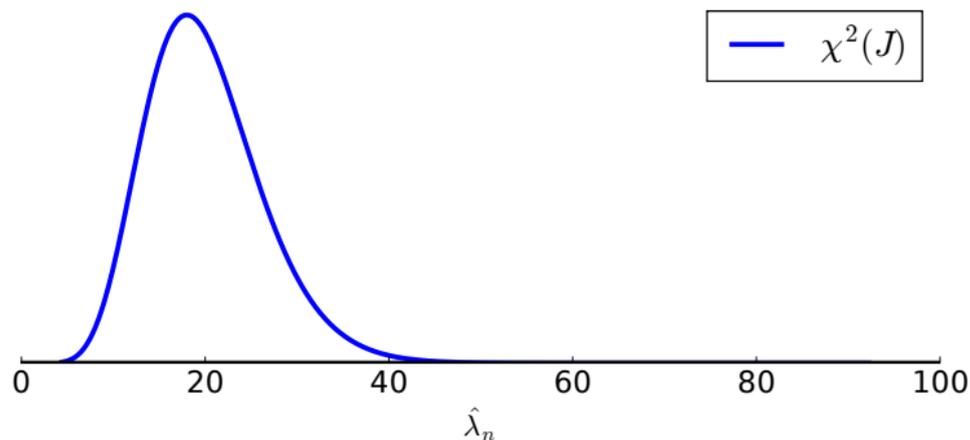
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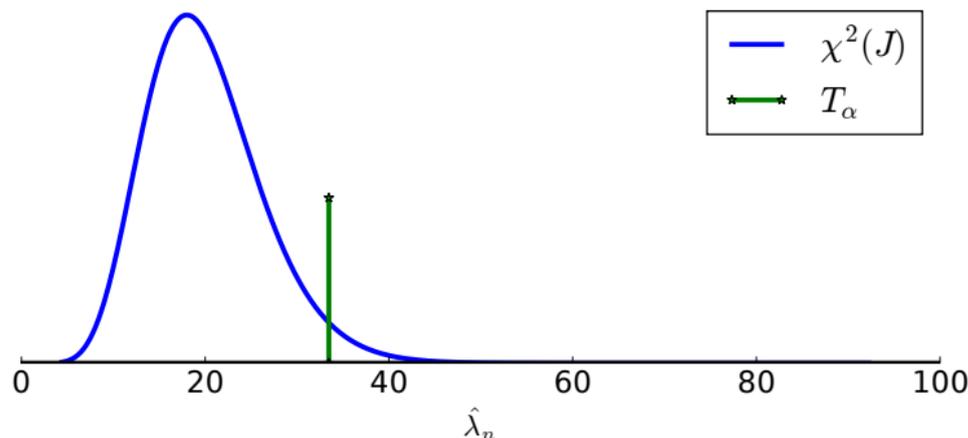
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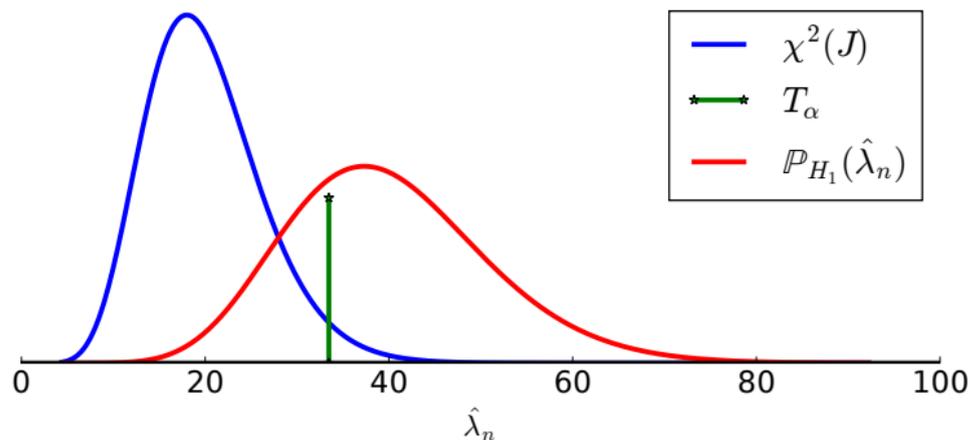
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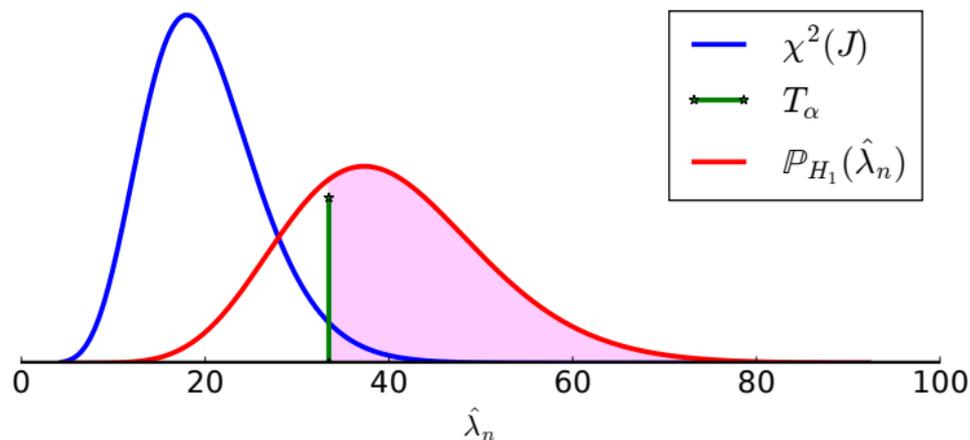
Under H_1 , $\hat{\lambda}_n$ will be large. Follows some distribution $\mathbb{P}_{H_1}(\hat{\lambda}_n)$



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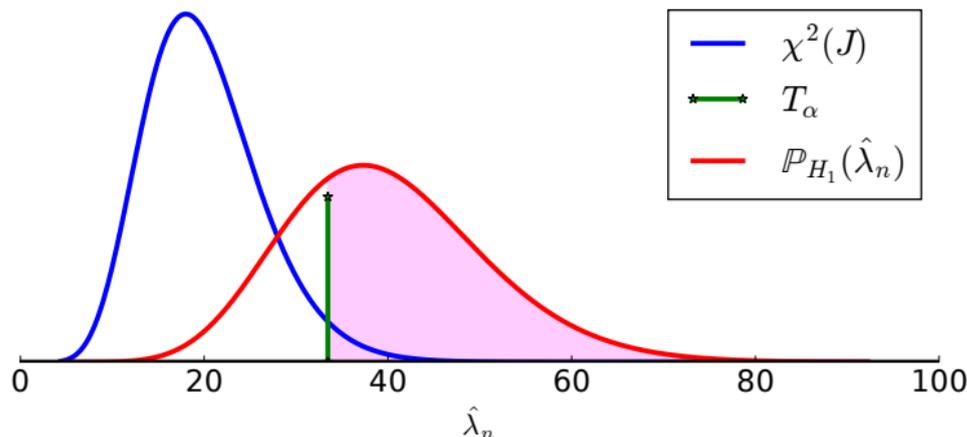
$$\text{Test power} = \mathbb{P}(\text{reject } H_0 \mid H_1 \text{ true}) = \mathbb{P}(\hat{\lambda}_n \geq T_\alpha)$$



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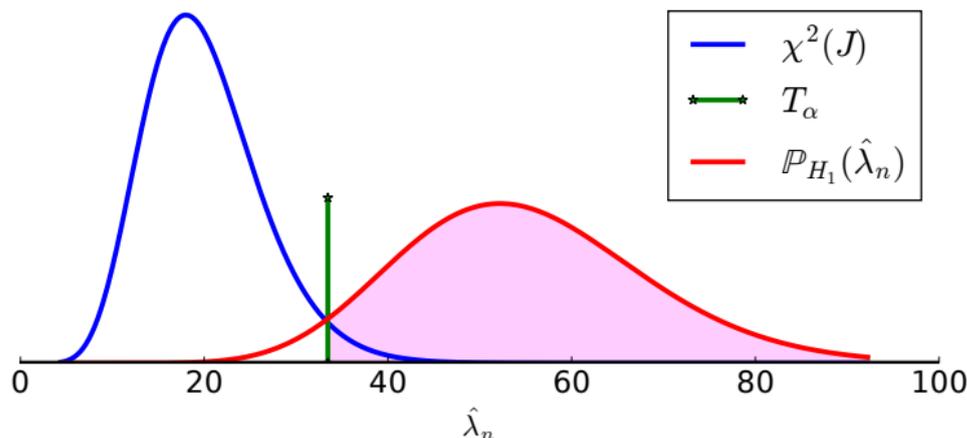


Idea: Pick locations and Gaussian widths to maximize (lower bound of) test power.

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Optimization Objective = Power Lower Bound

- Recall $\hat{\lambda}_n := n \hat{\mathbf{u}}^\top (\hat{\Sigma} + \gamma_n \mathbf{I})^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{u}}$.

Theorem 2 (A lower bound on the test power).

- Let $\text{NFSIC}^2(X, Y) := \lambda_n := n \mathbf{u}^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{u}$.

With some conditions, for any k, l , and $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J$, the test power satisfies $\mathbb{P}(\hat{\lambda}_n \geq T_\alpha) \geq L(\lambda_n)$ where

$$L(\lambda_n) = 1 - 62e^{-\xi_1 \gamma_n^2 (\lambda_n - T_\alpha)^2 / n} - 2e^{-[0.5n](\lambda_n - T_\alpha)^2 / [\xi_2 n^2]} \\ - 2e^{-[(\lambda_n - T_\alpha) \gamma_n (n-1) / 3 - \xi_3 n - c_3 \gamma_n^2 n (n-1)]^2 / [\xi_4 n^2 (n-1)]},$$

where $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_4, c_3 > 0$ are constants. For large n , $L(\lambda_n)$ is increasing in λ_n .

Do: Locations and Gaussian widths = $\arg \max L(\lambda_n) = \arg \max \lambda_n$

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- Split the data into 2 disjoint sets: training (tr) and test (te) sets.

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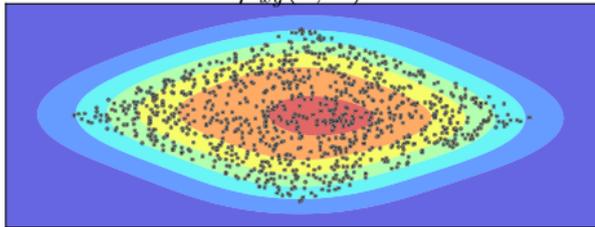
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But, what does this do to $\mathbb{P}(\hat{\lambda}_n \geq T_\alpha)$ when H_0 holds?

- Still asymptotically at α .
- $\lambda_n = 0$ iff X, Y independent.
- So, under H_0 , we do $\arg \max 0 =$ arbitrary locations.
- Asymptotic null distribution is $\chi^2(J)$ for any locations.

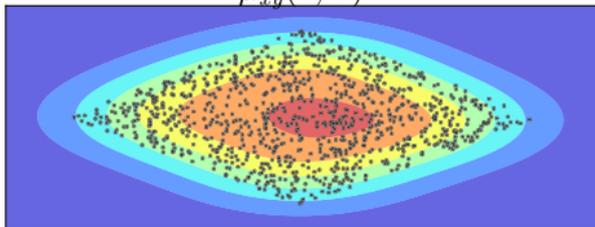
Demo: 2D Rotation

$$\hat{\mu}_{xy}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$$

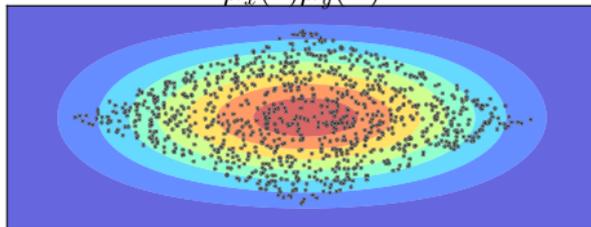


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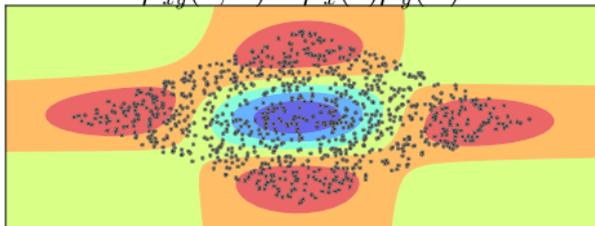
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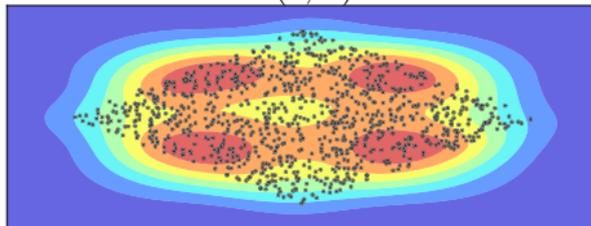
$$\hat{\mu}_x(\mathbf{v})\hat{\mu}_y(\mathbf{w})$$



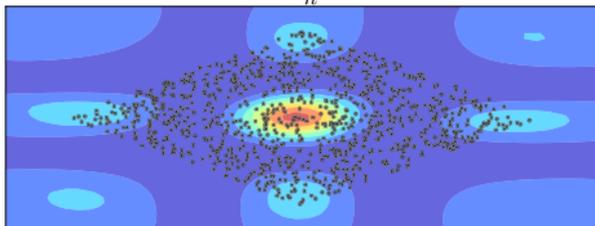
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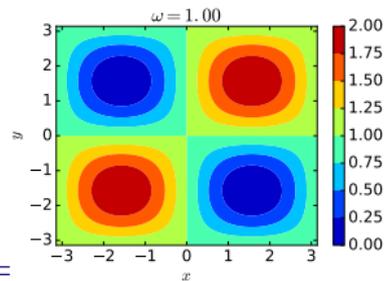
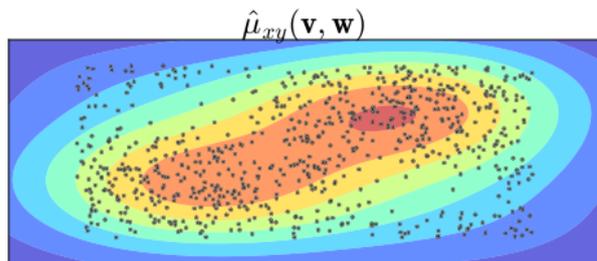
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$$\hat{\lambda}_n$$

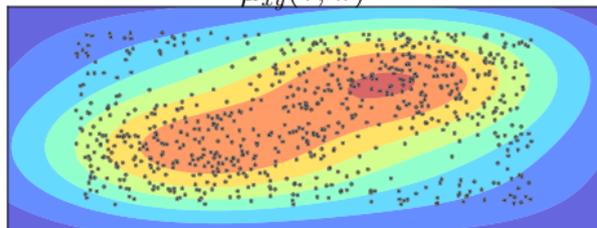


Demo: Sin Problem ($\omega = 1$)

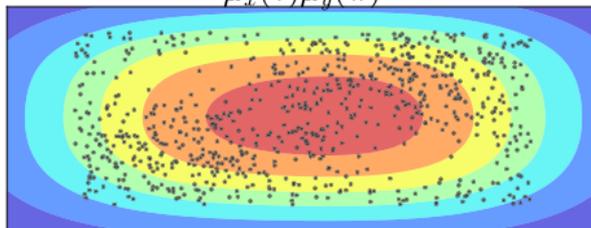


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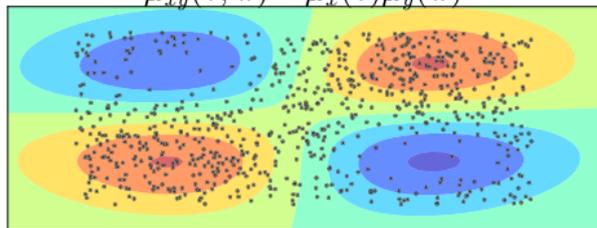
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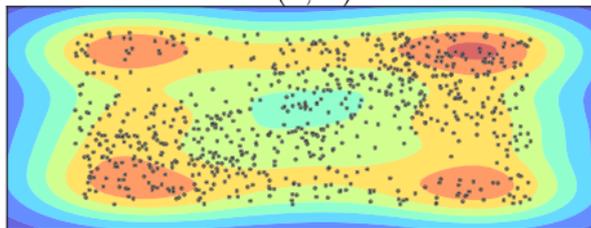
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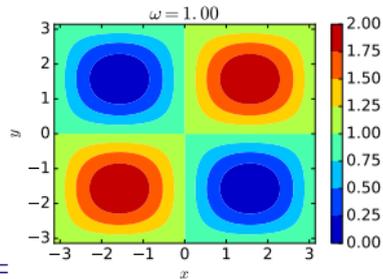
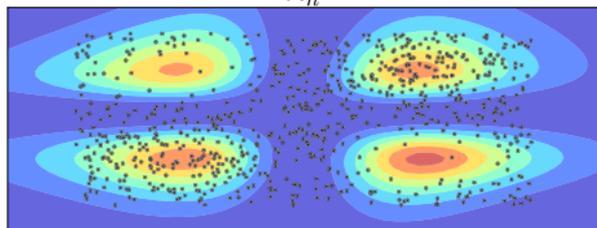
$$\hat{\mu}_{xy}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) - \hat{\mu}_x(\mathbf{v})\hat{\mu}_y(\mathbf{w})$$



$$\hat{\Sigma}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$$



$$\hat{\lambda}_n$$



$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) =$$

Simulation Settings

- n = full sample size
- All methods use Gaussian kernels for both X and Y .

Compare 6 methods

Method	Description	Tuning	Test size	Complex.
NFSIC-opt	Proposed	Gradient descent	$n/2$	$\mathcal{O}(n)$
NFSIC-med	No tuning.	Random locations	n	$\mathcal{O}(n)$
QHSIC	Full HSIC	Median heu.	n	$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$
NyHSIC	NyStrom HSIC	Median heu.	n	$\mathcal{O}(n)$
FHSIC	HSIC + RFFs*	Median heu.	n	$\mathcal{O}(n)$
RDC	RFFs + CCA	Median heu.	n	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$

* : Random Fourier features

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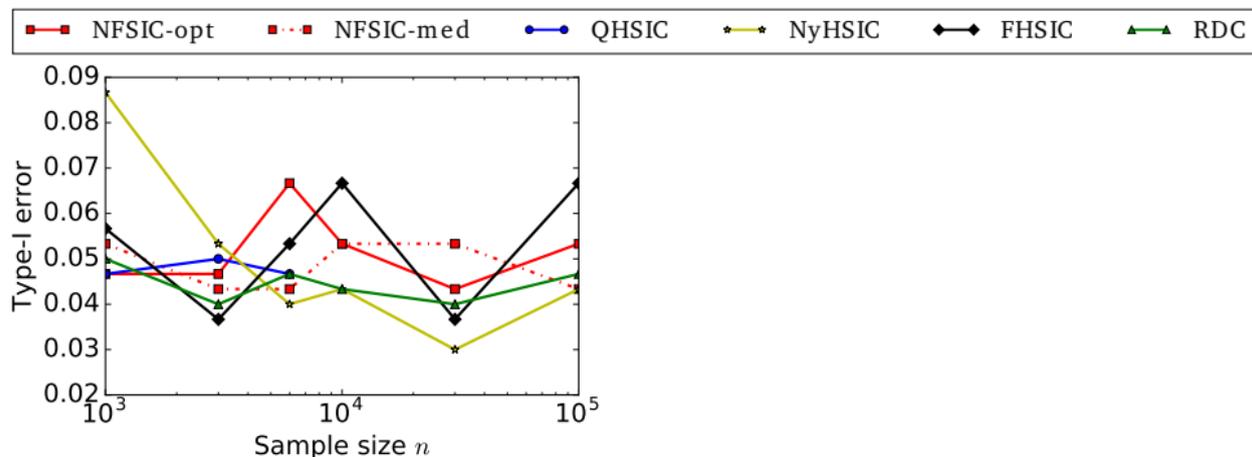
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Toy Problem 1: Independent Gaussians

- $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_{d_x})$ and $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_{d_y})$.
- Independent X, Y . So, H_0 holds.
- Set $\alpha := 0.05$, $d_x = d_y = 250$.

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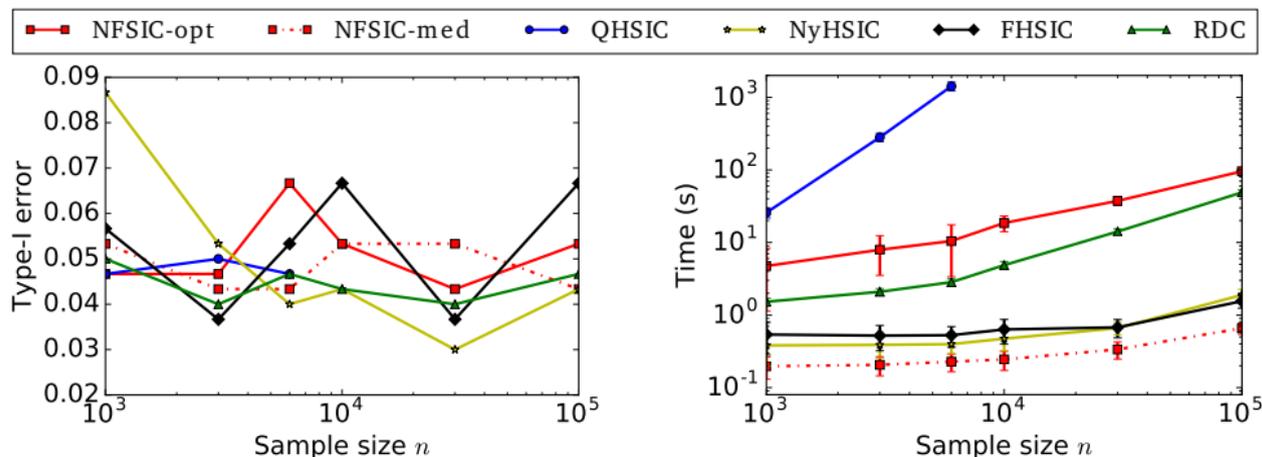
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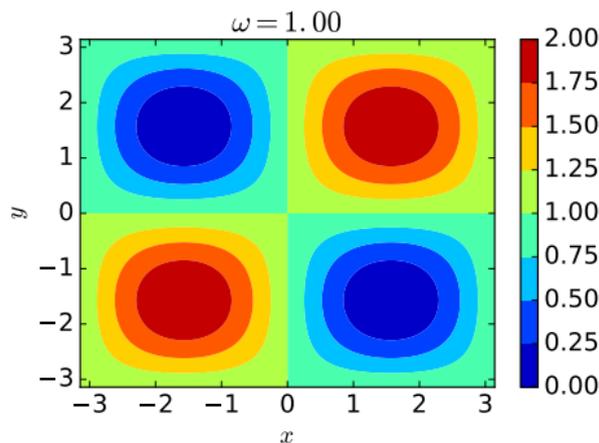
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- $p_{xy}(x, y) \propto 1 + \sin(\omega x) \sin(\omega y)$ where $x, y \in (-\pi, \pi)$.
- Local changes between p_{xy} and $p_x p_y$.
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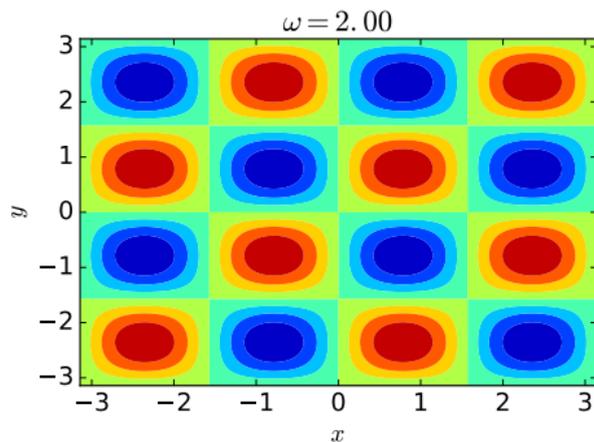
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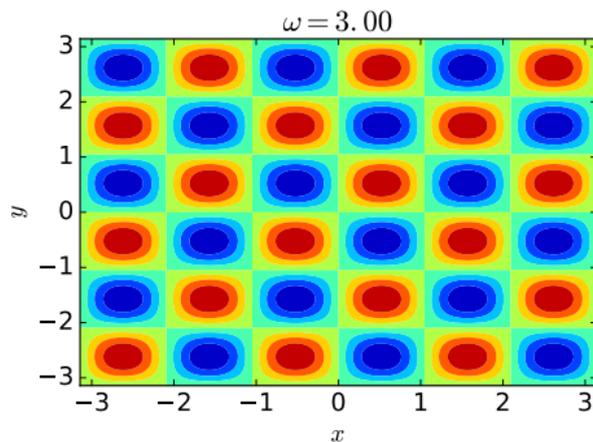
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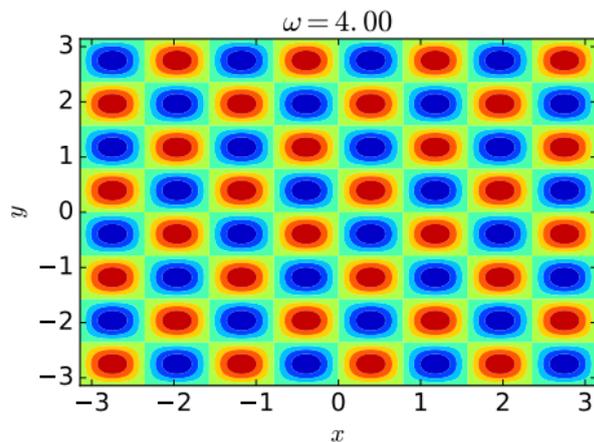
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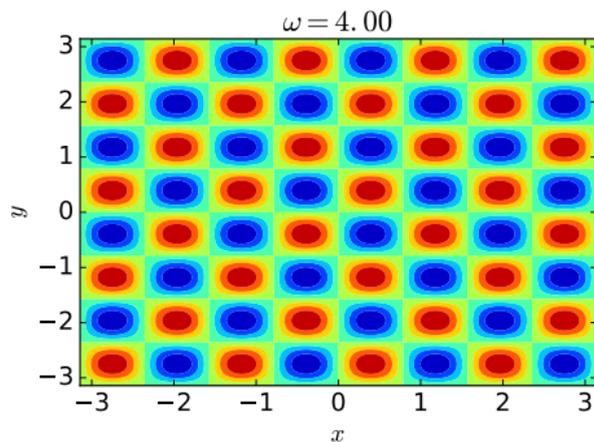
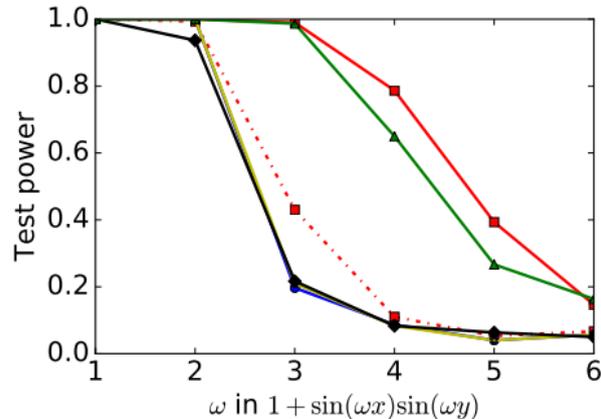
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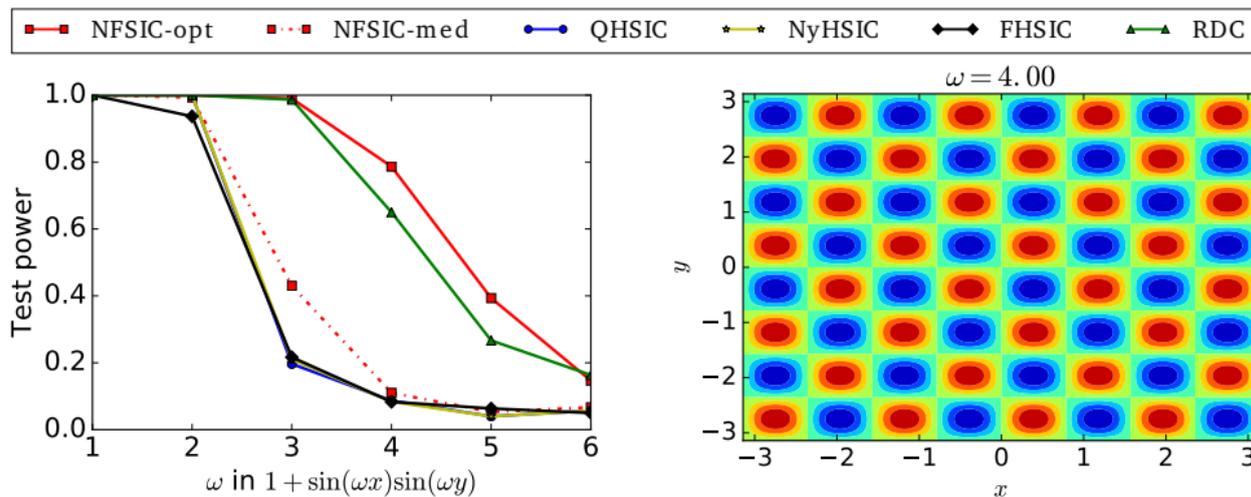
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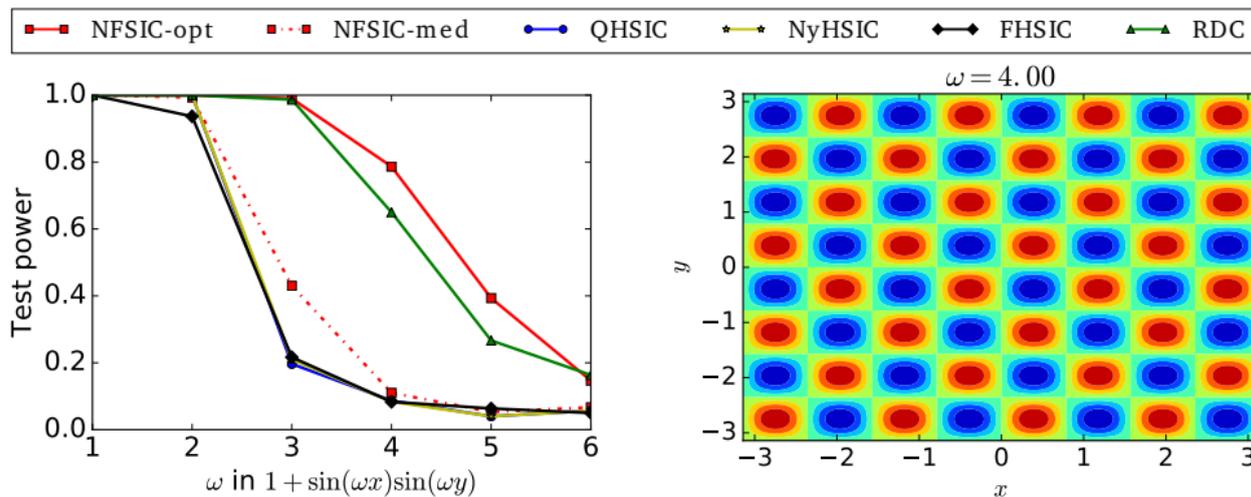
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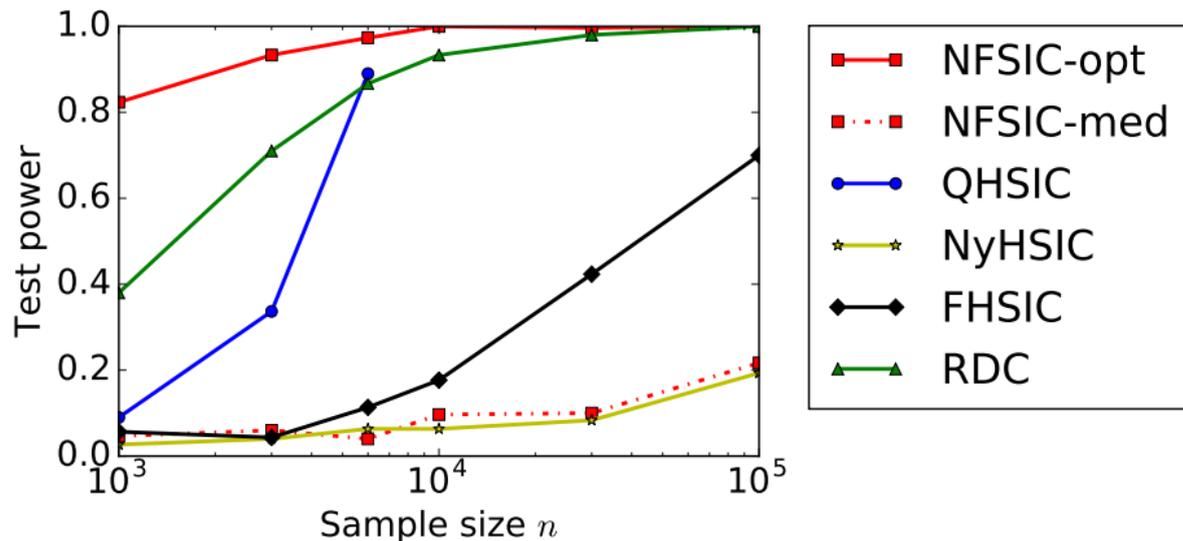
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Main Point: NFSIC can handle well the local changes in the joint space.

Toy Problem 3: Gaussian Sign

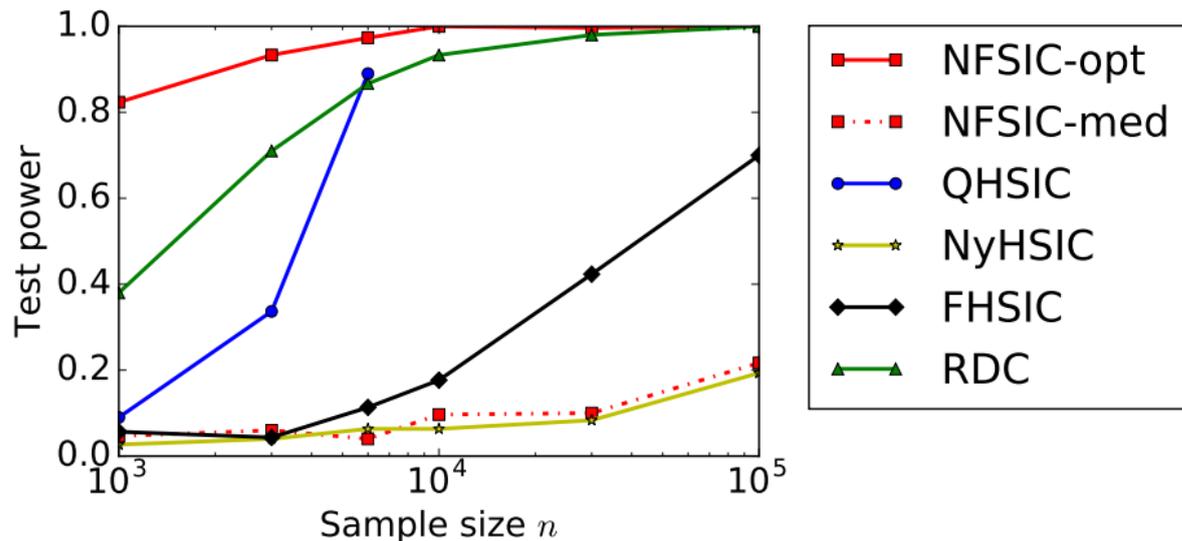
- $y = |Z| \prod_{i=1}^{d_x} \text{sign}(x_i)$, where $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_{d_x})$ and $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ (noise).
- Full interaction among x_1, \dots, x_{d_x} .
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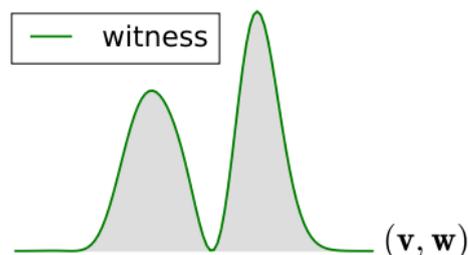
HSIC vs. FSIC

Recall the witness

$$\hat{u}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = \hat{\mu}_{xy}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) - \hat{\mu}_x(\mathbf{v})\hat{\mu}_y(\mathbf{w}).$$

HSIC [Gretton et al., 2005]

$$= \|\hat{u}\|_{\text{RKHS}}$$

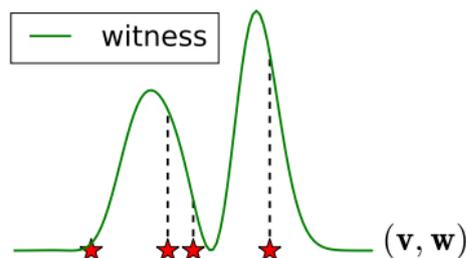


Good when difference between p_{xy} and $p_x p_y$ is spatially diffuse.

- \hat{u} is almost flat.

FSIC [proposed]

$$= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{i=1}^J \hat{u}^2(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)$$



Good when difference between p_{xy} and $p_x p_y$ is local.

- \hat{u} is mostly zero, has many peaks (feature interaction).

Real Problem 1: Million Song Data

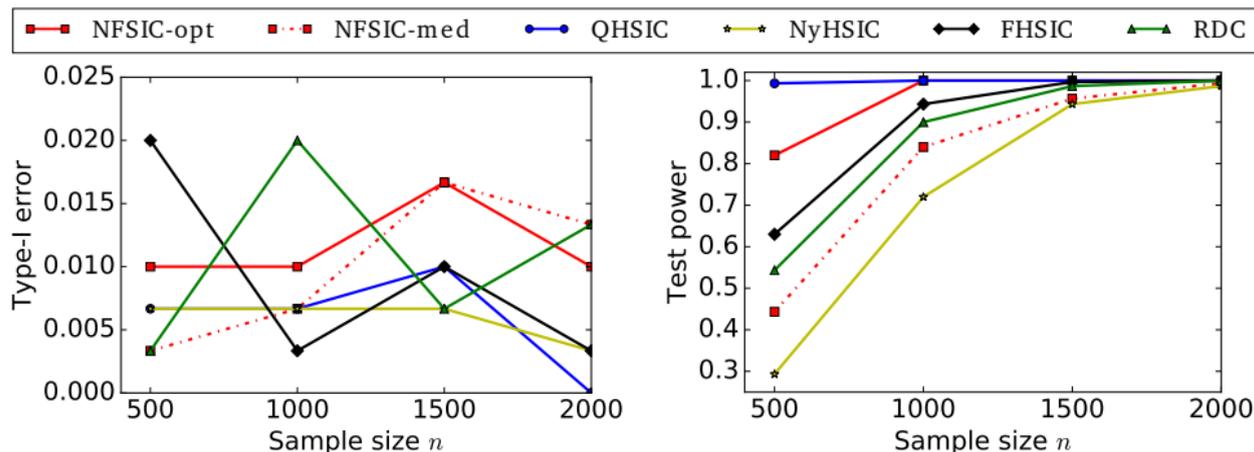
Song (X) vs. year of release (Y).

- Western commercial tracks from 1922 to 2011 [Bertin-Mahieux et al., 2011].
- $X \in \mathbb{R}^{90}$ contains audio features.
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- Break (X, Y) pairs to simulate H_0 .

- H_1 is true.

Real Problem 2: Videos and Captions

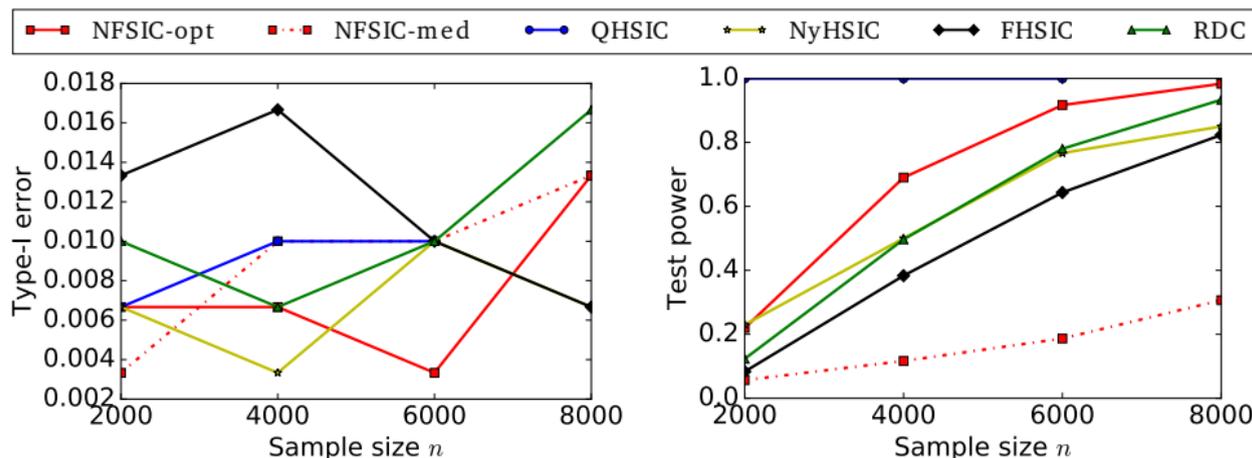
Youtube video (X) vs. caption (Y).

- VideoStory46K [Habibian et al., 2014]
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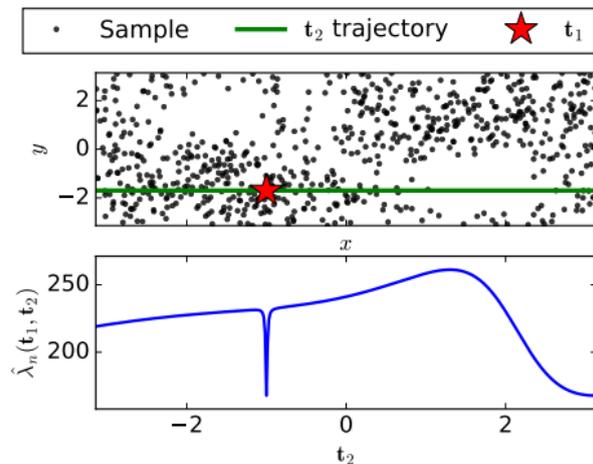
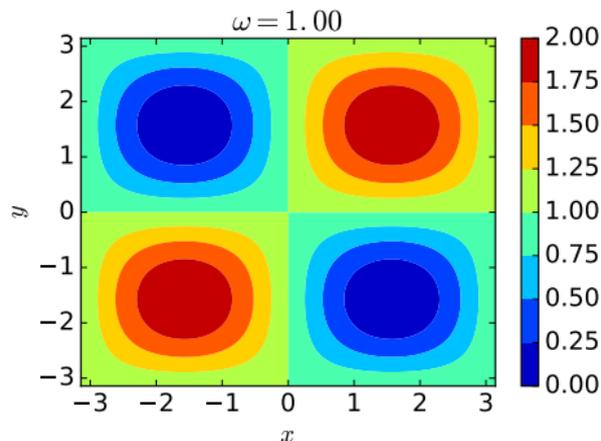


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Penalize Redundant Test Locations

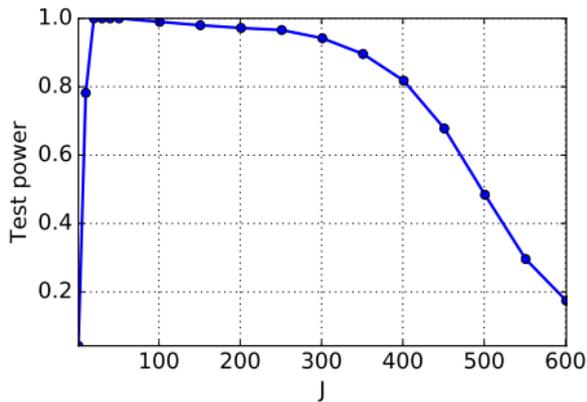
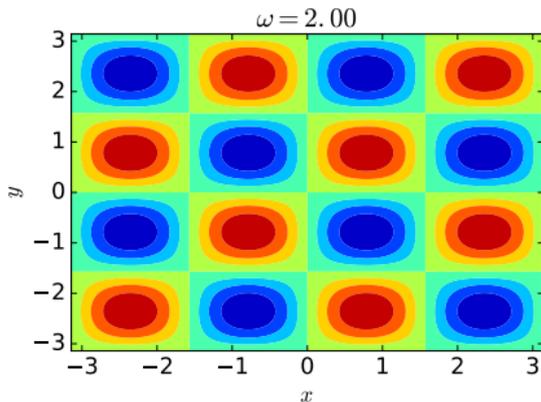
- Consider the Sin problem. Use $J = 2$ locations.
- Optimization objective: $\hat{\lambda}_n$.
- Write $\mathbf{t} = (\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$. Fix \mathbf{t}_1 at \star . Plot $\mathbf{t}_2 \rightarrow \hat{\lambda}_n(\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_2)$.



- The optimized $\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_2$ will not be in the same neighbourhood.

Test Power vs. J

- Test power *does not* always increase with J (number of test locations).
- $n = 800$.



- Accurate estimation of $\hat{\Sigma} \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times J}$ in $\hat{\lambda}_n = n\hat{\mathbf{u}}^\top (\hat{\Sigma} + \gamma_n \mathbf{I})^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{u}}$ becomes more difficult.
- Large J defeats the purpose of a linear-time test.

Conclusions

- Proposed The Finite Set Independence Criterion (**FSIC**).
- Independence test based on FSIC is
 - 1 non-parametric,
 - 2 linear-time,
 - 3 adaptive (parameteris automatically tuned).

Future works

- Any way to interpret the learned $\{(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{w}_i)\}_{i=1}^J$?
- Relative efficiency of FSIC vs. block HSIC, RFF-HSIC.

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Questions?

Thank you

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