

# Post-clustering inference under dependency

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# Post-clustering inference

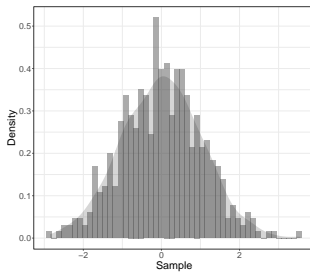
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Toy example

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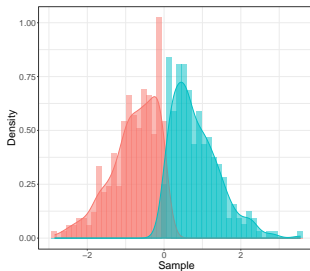
- Simulate  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1) + \mathcal{U}(-0.2, 0.2)$



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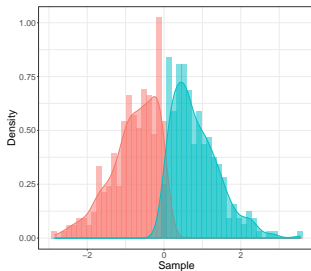
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- Ask  $k$ -means to find 2 clusters (**data-driven hypothesis selection**)



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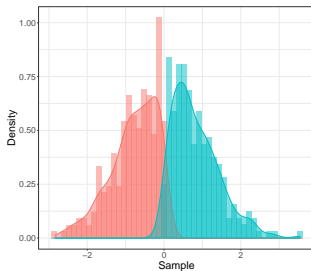
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- Ignoring adaptive selection :  $p_Z = 10^{-67}$ ,
- Accounting for adaptive selection :  $p_{AS} = 0.84$  (Chen and Witten 2023).

# Post-clustering inference

## Framework setting

- Let  $C(\cdot)$  be a clustering algorithm,  $\mathbf{X}$  a  $n \times p$  random matrix with  $\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}$ .



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$$\nu_i = \mathbb{1}\{i \in \mathcal{G}_1\}/|\mathcal{G}_1| - \mathbb{1}\{i \in \mathcal{G}_2\}/|\mathcal{G}_2|,$$

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for  $i \in [n]$ , we can write the difference between the (empirical) group means as

$$\bar{\mu}_{\mathcal{G}_1} - \bar{\mu}_{\mathcal{G}_2} = \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \nu, \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{X}_{\mathcal{G}_1} - \bar{X}_{\mathcal{G}_2} = \mathbf{X}^T \nu.$$

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We are interested in the following null hypothesis :

$$H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}} : \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \nu = 0. \tag{H0}$$

# Post-clustering inference

The selective type I error for clustering

**Goal** : Testing ( $H_0$ ) by controlling the selective type I error for clustering at level  $\alpha$ , that is, by ensuring that :

$$\mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \text{reject } H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}} \text{ based on } \mathbf{X} \text{ at level } \alpha \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}) \right) \leq \alpha \quad \forall \alpha \in (0, 1).$$

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**Ideal  $p$ -value** :

$$p_{\text{ideal}} = \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \text{Critical region} \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}) \right).$$

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**Analytically tractable  $p$ -value** :

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... paying a price in power<sup>1</sup>.

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1. Jewell *et al.* 2022, Chen *et al.* 2022, Liu *et al.* 2018, Fithian *et al.* 2017.



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- Both  $p_{\text{ideal}}$  and  $p_{\text{tractable}}$  control the selective type I error for clustering.

# Independence setting (I)

Gao, Bien and Witten 2022

## Framework

Consider the model

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{MN}_{n \times p}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{I}_n, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_p), \quad (\text{indep})$$

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$p$ -value for  $(H_0)$  under (indep) (Gao, Bien and Witten 2022)

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}\|_2 \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}\|_2 \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}), \right. \\ \left. (\text{p-GBW}) \right)$$

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where  $\pi_\nu^\perp = \mathbf{I}_n - \nu \nu^T / \|\nu\|_2^2$  and  $\text{dir}(\nu) = \nu / \|\nu\|_2 \mathbb{1}\{\nu \neq 0\}$  for all  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .

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$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) &= \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_2 \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_2 \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}), \right. \\ &\quad \left. \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{X} = \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu) \right), \quad (\text{p-GBW}) \end{aligned}$$

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The extra conditioning event allows to rewrite :

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}), \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{X} = \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu)\} &= \\ \{\|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_2 \in \mathcal{S}_2(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}), \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{X} = \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu)\}. \end{aligned}$$

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Gao, Bien and Witten 2022

$p$ -value for  $(H_0)$  under (indep) (Gao, Bien and Witten 2022)

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_2 \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_2 \mid \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_2 \in \mathcal{S}_2(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}), \right. \\ \left. \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{X} = \pi_\nu^\perp \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu) \right).$$



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Strategy to derive a tractable form of  $p(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\})$

- $\mathbf{X}^T \nu \sim \mathcal{N}_p(0_p, \sigma^2 \|\nu\|_2^2 \mathbf{I}_p)$  under (H0),

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Theorem 1 in Gao, Bien and Witten 2022

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = 1 - \mathbb{F}_p(\|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_2; \sigma \|\nu\|_2, \mathcal{S}_2(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}))$$

where  $\mathbb{F}_p(t; c, \mathcal{S})$  denotes the CDF of a  $c\chi_p$  random variable truncated to the set  $\mathcal{S}$ .

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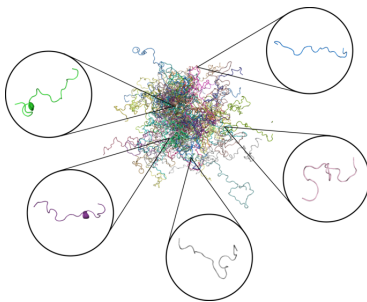
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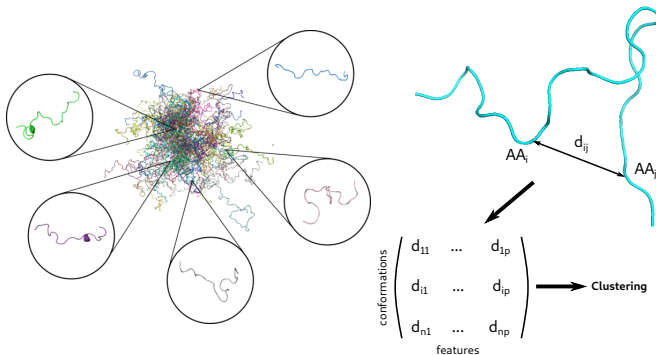
# Independence is usually unrealistic

Example : clustering of flexible protein structures



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Example : clustering of flexible protein structures



# Ignoring dependency prevents selective type I error control

- Simulate  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}_p, \mathbf{\Sigma})$  with  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  *dependent*.

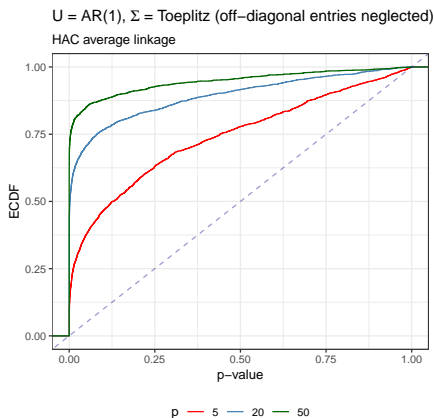


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# Arbitrary dependence setting

## General strategy (I)

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Consider the model

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In this model,  $\mathbf{X}^T \nu \sim \mathcal{N}_p(0_p, \mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2})$  under (H0), where  $\mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2} = \nu^T \mathbf{U} \nu \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ .

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### Candidate $p$ -value for (H0) under (dep)

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) &= \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_{\mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_{\mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}), \right. \\ &\quad \left. \pi_{\nu}^{\perp} \mathbf{X} = \pi_{\nu}^{\perp} \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}_{\mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \text{dir}_{\mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu) \right) \end{aligned}$$



# Arbitrary dependence setting

## General strategy (II)

Candidate  $p$ -value for  $(H_0)$  under (dep)

$$p_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} \mid \right. \\ \left. \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}), \pi_{\nu}^{\perp} \mathbf{X} = \pi_{\nu}^{\perp} \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \text{dir}_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu) \right).$$

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$$(i) \quad \mathbf{A} = c \mathbf{V}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2} \text{ for some } c > 0 \stackrel{(H_0)}{\Leftrightarrow} \|\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}\|_{\mathbf{A}} \perp \text{dir}_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}),$$

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where  $\mathcal{CS}(n)$  is the class of compound symmetry positive definite matrices :

$$\mathcal{CS}(n) = \left\{ (a - b)\mathbf{I}_n + b\mathbf{1}_{n \times n} : a \geq 0, -\frac{a}{n-1} < b < a \right\}.$$

# Arbitrary dependence setting

Post-clustering inference for  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{CS}(n)$

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$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{I}_p \otimes \nu^T)(\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \mathbf{U} - (\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \mathbf{U})\mathbf{A}_\mathbf{x}^\top (\mathbf{A}_\mathbf{x}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \mathbf{U})\mathbf{A}_\mathbf{x}^\top)^\dagger \mathbf{A}_\mathbf{x}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \mathbf{U}))(\mathbf{I}_p \otimes \nu),$$

$$\mathbf{A}_\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{\mathbf{x}\nu}^\perp (\mathbf{I}_p \otimes \pi_\nu) \\ \mathbf{I}_p \otimes \pi_\nu^\perp \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\pi_\nu = \mathbf{I}_n - \pi_\nu^\perp, \quad \mathbf{x}_\nu = \text{vec}(\pi_\nu \mathbf{x}) \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_{\mathbf{x}\nu}^\perp = \mathbf{I}_{np} - \mathbf{x}_\nu^T \mathbf{x}_\nu / \|\mathbf{x}_\nu\|_2^2.$$

# Arbitrary $\mathbf{U}$ structures

Candidate  $p$ -value for  $(H_0)$  under arbitrary  $\mathbf{U}$

$$p_{\Gamma}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}} \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}} \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}), \right. \\ \left. \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}}^{\perp} \mathbf{X} = \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}}^{\perp} \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}(\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}) = \pm \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}) \right),$$

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where  $\|\boldsymbol{\nu}\|_{\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{x}}}^2 = \boldsymbol{\nu}^T \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{\nu}, \quad \forall \boldsymbol{\nu} \in \mathbb{R}^p.$

## Proposition

The quantity  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}}(\mathbf{x})\|_{\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{x}}}$  follows  $\mathbf{x}$ -a.s. a  $\chi_1$  distribution under  $(H_0)$ . Moreover,

$$p_{\mathbf{r}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = 1 - \mathbb{F}_1 \left( \|\mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\nu}\|_{\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{x}}}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{x}}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) \right),$$

where  $\mathbb{F}_1(t, \mathcal{S})$  is the cumulative distribution function of a  $\chi_1$  random variable truncated to the set  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{x}}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\})$  is a scale transformation of  $\mathcal{S}_2$ .



# Arbitrary $\mathbf{U}$ structures

Candidate  $p$ -value for  $(H_0)$  under arbitrary  $\mathbf{U}$

$$p_{\Gamma}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}}} \left( \|\mathbf{X}^T \nu\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}} \geq \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}} \mid \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}), \right. \\ \left. \pi_{\nu}^{\perp} \mathbf{X} = \pi_{\nu}^{\perp} \mathbf{x}, \text{dir}(\mathbf{X}^T \nu) = \pm \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu) \right),$$

where  $\|\nu\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}}^2 = \nu^T \Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} \nu, \quad \forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .

## Proposition

The quantity  $\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\nu}(\mathbf{x})\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}}$  follows  $\mathbf{x}$ -a.s. a  $\chi_1$  distribution under  $(H_0)$ . Moreover,

$$p_{\Gamma}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = 1 - \mathbb{F}_1 \left( \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}}, \mathcal{S}_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) \right),$$

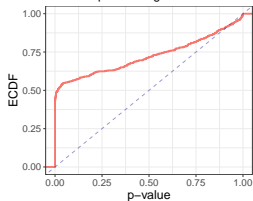
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- Assessing whether  $p_{\Gamma}(\mathbf{X}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\})$  controls the selective type I error is a challenging problem, as it requires understanding the behavior of the null distribution of  $\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\nu}(\mathbf{x})\|_{\Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}}^2 = \bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\nu}(\mathbf{x})^T \Gamma_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} \bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\nu}(\mathbf{x})$ .

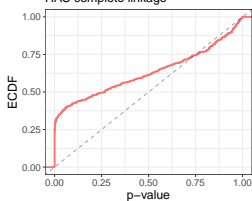
# Arbitrary $\mathbf{U}$ structures

Numerical simulations suggest the unsuitability of  $p_{\Gamma}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\})$

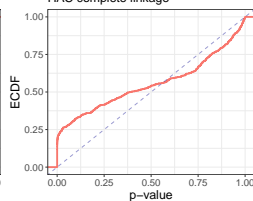
(a)  $\mathbf{U} = \text{Diagonal}$   
HAC complete linkage



(b)  $\mathbf{U} = \text{AR}(1)$   
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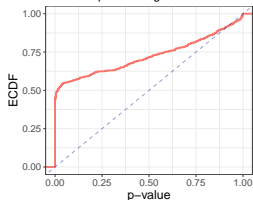
(c)  $\mathbf{U} = \text{AR}(2)$   
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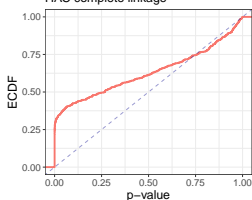
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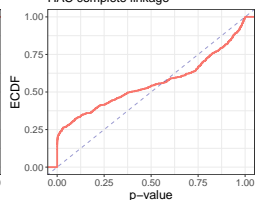
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## Conclusion

Defining a tractable  $p$ -value that ensures the selective type I error control requires the conditioning on events that are *independent* of the test statistic.

# Estimation of unknown parameters

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Let  $\mathbf{X}^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{MN}_{n \times p}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}, \mathbf{I}_n, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_p)$  and consider

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Theorem 4 in Gao *et al.* 2022

If  $\hat{\sigma}$  is an estimator of  $\sigma$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_{H_0^{\{\mathcal{G}_1^{(n)}, \mathcal{G}_2^{(n)}\}}} \left( \hat{\sigma}(\mathbf{X}^{(n)}) \geq \sigma \mid \mathcal{G}_1^{(n)}, \mathcal{G}_2^{(n)} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X}^{(n)}) \right) = 1, \quad (\sigma \text{ over-est})$$

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→ Gao et al. propose an estimator  $\hat{\sigma}$  that satisfies ( $\sigma$  over-est) under mild assumptions on  $\{\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .



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→ How to extend the notion of **over-estimation** to matrices?

**Loewner partial order**  $\succeq$

Let  $A, B$  be two Hermitian matrices.  $A \succeq B$  if and only if  $A - B$  is positive semidefinite (PSD).

Remark : If  $A = \hat{\sigma} \mathbf{I}_p$  and  $B = \sigma \mathbf{I}_p$ , the condition  $A \succeq B$  becomes  $\hat{\sigma} \geq \sigma$ .

## Over-estimation of $\Sigma$ for known $\mathbf{U}$

Let  $\mathbf{X}^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{MN}_{n \times p}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}, \mathbf{U}^{(n)}, \Sigma)$  with  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)} \in \mathcal{CS}(n)$  and consider

$$p_{\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}; \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\}) = 1 - \mathbb{F}_p\left(\|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_{\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}; \mathcal{S}_{\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\mathbf{x}, \{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2\})\right)$$

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Let  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{CS}(n)$  and  $\hat{\Sigma}(\mathbf{X}^{(n)})$  be a positive definite estimator of  $\Sigma$  such that

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→ We propose an estimator  $\hat{\Sigma}$  that satisfies  $(\Sigma \text{ over-est})$  under mild assumptions on  $\{\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}\}$  and for several common models of dependence  $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}$ .

Thank you for your attention !

- Preprint : <https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.11822>,
- R package PCIdep at <https://github.com/gonzalez-delgado/PCIdep/>.

## References

- **Independence setting** : L. L. Gao, J. Bien, and D. Witten. Selective inference for hierarchical clustering. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 0(0) :1–11, 2022.
- **Extension to  $k$ -means** : Y. T. Chen and D. M. Witten. Selective inference for  $k$ -means clustering. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 24(152) :1–41, 2023.
- **Extension to feature-level test** : B. Hivert, D. Agniel, R. Thiébaud, and B. P. Hejblum. Post-clustering difference testing : Valid inference and practical considerations with applications to ecological and biological data. *Comput. Statist. Data Anal.*, 193 :107916, May 2024.
- **Alternative estimation of  $\sigma$**  : Y. Yun and R. Foygel Barber. Selective inference for clustering with unknown variance. arXiv.2301.12999, 2023.

<https://gonzalez-delgado.github.io/>

# Truncation sets

## Independence setting

$$\hat{\mathcal{S}}_2 = \{\phi \geq 0 : \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x}'_2(\phi))\}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{x}'_2(\phi) = \mathbf{x} + \frac{\nu}{\|\nu\|_2^2} \left( \phi - \|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_2 \right) \text{dir}(\mathbf{x}^T \nu), \quad (2)$$

## Arbitrary dependence setting

$$\hat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} = \left\{ \phi \geq 0 : \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \in \mathcal{C} \left( \mathbf{x}'_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}(\phi) \right) \right\}, \quad (3)$$

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## Lemma (scale transformation)

$$\hat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}} = \frac{\|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_{\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2}}}{\|\mathbf{x}^T \nu\|_2} \hat{\mathcal{S}}_2 \quad (5)$$

## Asymptotic over-estimator of $\Sigma$

Let  $\mathbf{X}^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{MN}_{n \times p}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}, \mathbf{U}^{(n)}, \Sigma)$ .

For a given estimator  $\hat{\Sigma}(\mathbf{X}^{(n)})$  of  $\Sigma$ , assessing whether  $\hat{\Sigma}(\mathbf{X}^{(n)}) \succeq \Sigma$  asymptotically strongly depends on how the sequences  $\{\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  grow up to infinity.

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Estimator candidate

$$\hat{\Sigma} = \hat{\Sigma}(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{n-1} (\mathbf{X} - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^T \mathbf{U}^{-1} (\mathbf{X} - \bar{\mathbf{X}}), \quad (\text{estimator})$$

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→ Assumptions on  $\{\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  to ensure that (estimator) a.s. asymptotically overestimates  $\Sigma$ ?

# Assumptions on $\mu^{(n)}$

Assumptions 1 and 2 in Gao et al. 2022 (*Assumption 1*)

For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there are exactly  $K^*$  distinct mean vectors among the first  $n$  observations, i.e.

$$\left\{ \mu_i^{(n)} \right\}_{i=1, \dots, n} = \{ \theta_1, \dots, \theta_{K^*} \}.$$

Besides, the proportion of the first  $n$  observations that have mean vector  $\theta_k$  converges to  $\pi_k > 0$ , i.e.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}\{ \mu_i^{(n)} = \theta_k \} = \pi_k, \quad (\text{as-1})$$

for all  $k \in \{1, \dots, K^*\}$ , where  $\sum_{k=1}^{K^*} \pi_k = 1$ .



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Besides, the proportion of the first  $n$  observations that have mean vector  $\theta_k$  converges to  $\pi_k > 0$ , i.e.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}\{ \mu_i^{(n)} = \theta_k \} = \pi_k, \quad (\text{as-1})$$

for all  $k \in \{1, \dots, K^*\}$ , where  $\sum_{k=1}^{K^*} \pi_k = 1$ .

◇ If  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)} = \mathbf{I}_n$ , this is the only requirement to ensure asymp. over-estimation of  $\Sigma$ .

# Assumptions on $\mu^{(n)}$

## Assumptions 1 and 2 in Gao et al. 2022 (*Assumption 1*)

For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there are exactly  $K^*$  distinct mean vectors among the first  $n$  observations, i.e.

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- ◇ If  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)} = \mathbf{I}_n$ , this is the only requirement to ensure asymp. over-estimation of  $\Sigma$ .
- ◇ For **general**  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$ , the quantities

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{l,s=1}^n \left( \mathbf{U}^{(n)} \right)_{ls}^{-1} \mathbb{1}\{\mu_l^{(n)} = \theta_k\} \mathbb{1}\{\mu_s^{(n)} = \theta_{k'}\}$$

are also required to **converge with explicit limit** as  $n$  tends to infinity.

## One more assumption on $\mu^{(n)}$ for non-diagonal $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$

Assumption on  $\mu^{(n)}$  for non-diagonal  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$  (*Assumption 2*)

If  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$  is non-diagonal for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , for any  $k, k' \in \{1, \dots, K^*\}$ , the proportion of the first  $n$  observations at distance  $r \geq 1$  in  $\mathbf{X}^{(n)}$  having means  $\theta_k$  and  $\theta_{k'}$  converges, and its limit converges to  $\pi_k \pi_{k'}$  when the lag  $r$  tends to infinity. More precisely,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n-r} \mathbb{1}\{\mu_i = \theta_k\} \mathbb{1}\{\mu_{i+r} = \theta_{k'}\} = \pi_{kk'}^r \xrightarrow[r \rightarrow \infty]{} \pi_k \pi_{k'}. \quad (\text{as-2})$$

We are asking the proportion of pairs of observations having a given a pair of means to approach the product of individual proportions (as-1) when both observations are far away in  $\mathbf{X}^{(n)}$ .

# Assumptions on the sequence $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

## Assumption on $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (Assumption 3)

Every superdiagonal of  $(\mathbf{U}^{(n)})^{-1}$  defines asymptotically a convergent sequence, whose limits sum up to a real value. More precisely, for any  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $r \geq 0$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (U^{(n)})_{ii+r}^{-1} = \Lambda_{ii+r}, \quad \text{where} \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda_{ii+r} = \lambda_r \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \lambda_r = \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Moreover, for each  $r \geq 0$ , the sequence  $\{(U^{(n)})_{ii+r}^{-1}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies any of the following conditions :

- (i) It is dominated by a summable sequence i.e.  $\left| (U^{(n)})_{ii+r}^{-1} - \Lambda_{ii+r} \right| \leq \alpha_i \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  
with  $\{\alpha_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} \in \ell_1$ ,
- (ii) For each  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , it is non-decreasing or non-increasing.

# Some admissible dependence models for $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

## Remark 1 (Diagonal)

Let  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . If the sequence  $\{\lambda_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is convergent, then the sequence  $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies Assumption 3.

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## Remark 2 (Compound symmetry)

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $b \neq a \geq 0$ . If  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)} = b\mathbf{1}_{n \times n} + (a - b)\mathbf{I}_n$ , where  $\mathbf{1}_{n \times n}$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix of ones, then  $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies Assumption 3.

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## Remark 3 (AR( $P$ ))

Let  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$  be the covariance matrix of an auto-regressive process of order  $P \geq 1$  such that, if  $P > 2$ ,  $\beta_k \beta_{k'} \geq 0$  for all  $k, k' \in \{1, \dots, P\}$ . Then, the sequence  $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies Assumption 3.

# Numerical simulations

## Three dependence settings

- (a)  $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}_n$  and  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is the covariance matrix of an AR(1) model, i.e.  $\Sigma_{ij} = \sigma^2 \rho^{|i-j|}$ , with  $\sigma = 1$  and  $\rho = 0.5$ .
- (b)  $\mathbf{U}$  is a compound symmetry covariance matrix, i.e.  $\mathbf{U} = b + (a - b)\mathbf{I}_n$ , with  $a = 0.5$  and  $b = 1$ .  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is a Toeplitz matrix, i.e.  $\Sigma_{ij} = t(|i - j|)$ , with  $t(s) = 1 + 1/(1 + s)$  for  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- (c)  $\mathbf{U}$  is the covariance matrix of an AR(1) model with  $\sigma = 1$  and  $\rho = 0.1$ .  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is a diagonal matrix with diagonal entries given by  $\Sigma_{ii} = 1 + 1/i$ .



# Numerical simulations

## Global null hypothesis

Let  $n = 100$ ,  $\mu = \mathbf{0}_{n \times p}$ , and set  $\mathcal{C}$  to choose three clusters. Then, randomly select two groups and test for the difference of their means.

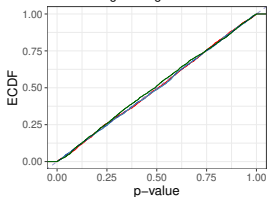
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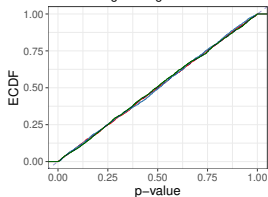
(a)  $U = I_n$ ,  $\Sigma = \text{AR}(1)$

HAC average linkage



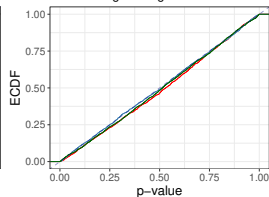
(b)  $U = b + (a - b) I_n$ ,  $\Sigma = \text{Toeplitz}$

HAC average linkage



(c)  $U = \text{AR}(1)$ , Sigma = Diagonal

HAC average linkage



p — 5 — 20 — 50

# Numerical simulations

## Conditional power

Conditional power = probability of rejecting the null for a randomly selected pair of clusters given that they are different.

Let  $\mu$  divide the  $n = 50$  observations into three true clusters, for  $\delta \in [4, 10.5]$  :

$$\mu_{ij} = \begin{cases} -\frac{\delta}{2} & \text{if } i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor, \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}\delta}{2} & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor < i \leq \lfloor \frac{2n}{3} \rfloor, \\ \frac{\delta}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \forall j \in \{1, \dots, p = 10\},$$

# Numerical simulations

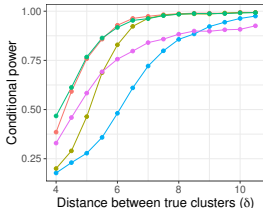
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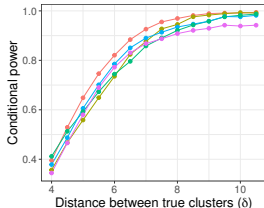
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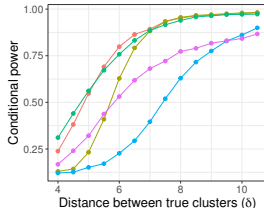
(a)  $U = I_n, \Sigma = \text{AR}(1)$



(b)  $U = b + (a - b) I_n, \Sigma = \text{Toeplitz}$



(c)  $U = \text{AR}(1), \Sigma = \text{Diagonal}$



Clustering — HAC average — HAC centroid — HAC complete — HAC single — k-means

# Numerical simulations

Let

$$X \sim \mathcal{MN}_{n \times p}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{U}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}). \quad (\text{dep})$$

For  $n = 500$  and  $p = 10$ , we simulated  $K = 10000$  samples drawn from (dep) in settings (a), (b) and (c) with  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  being divided into two clusters :

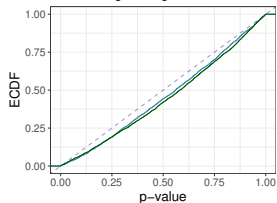
$$\mu_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{\delta}{j} & \text{if } i \leq \frac{n}{2}, \\ -\frac{\delta}{j} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \forall j \in \{1, \dots, p\},$$

with  $\delta \in \{4, 6\}$ .

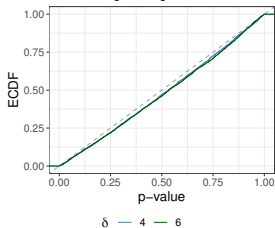
For HAC with average linkage we set  $\mathcal{C}$  to chose three clusters. Then, we kept the samples for which (H0) held when comparing two randomly selected clusters.

# Numerical simulations

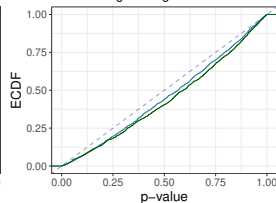
(a)  $U = I_n, \Sigma = \text{AR}(1)$   
HAC average linkage



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HAC average linkage



(c)  $U = \text{AR}(1), \Sigma = \text{Diagonal}$   
HAC average linkage



# Hierarchical clustering of Hst5

Hst5 ensemble simulated with Flexible-Meccano (FM)<sup>2</sup> and filtered by SAXS data<sup>3</sup>

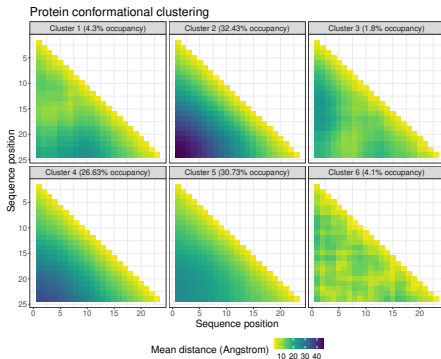
- $n = 2000$  conformations
- Featured by pairwise Euclidean distances of 24 amino acids  $\Rightarrow p = 276$
- No temporal evolution in FM simulation :  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)} = \mathbf{I}_n$
- $\Sigma$  unknown to be estimated



## Strategy

Hierarchical clustering with average linkage, find 6 clusters.

# Hierarchical clustering of Hst5



Pairwise  $p$ -values corrected for multiplicity (BH)

Cluster	1	2	3	4	5
2	$2.187589 \cdot 10^{-4}$				
3	$3.039844 \cdot 10^{-11}$	$1.41 \cdot 10^{-3}$			
4	$1.070993 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.300540	$2.98464 \cdot 10^{-4}$		
5	$3.038979 \cdot 10^{-16}$	0.093018	$6.015797 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.105446	
6	$1.729616 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.010612	$9.290826 \cdot 10^{-9}$	$2.105 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$5.624624 \cdot 10^{-5}$