

# **A Test for Genetic Association that Incorporates Information about Deviation from Hardy-Weinberg Proportions in Cases**

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# Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium

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- Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium is one of the most important principles in population genetics.
- Consider a locus with two alleles: A and a
- Let p be the frequency of allele A in the population.  $q = 1 - p$  the frequency of allele a.
- The H-W Proportion: The frequencies of three possible genotypes AA, Aa (or aA), and aa are  $p^2$ ,  $2pq$ , and  $q^2$ , respectively.

# Hardy-Weinberg Proportion

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- Several programs exist to test whether SNP genotypes are in HWP.
  - Pearson's Chi-square test: compares observed genotype frequencies to expected genotype frequencies under the HWP assumption. Important assumption for this test is large sample size (not the total but in each cells).
  - Fisher's exact test: Accurate but computationally intensive.
  - Recently, MCMC methods have been proposed which are quite accurate.
- References: Guo and Thompson (1992) Biometrics, 48:361  
Wigginton et al. (2005) AJHG, 76:887-893

# Case-Control Study and HWP

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- Case-Controls study design has been a work-horse of association studies.
- Cases are subjects with disease of interest and controls are subjects without the disease.
- HWP is assessed in control subjects as a quality control tool (Graffelman and Camarena 2008; Gomes et al. 1999, Tapper et al. 2005, Hosking et al. 2004).
- Typically, SNPs that are not in HWP in controls are removed for genetic association studies.

# Cases and HWP

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- Departure of genotypic frequencies from HWP in cases may provide additional evidence of association between a genetic marker and disease (Feder et al. 1996; Nielsen, Ehm, and Weir 1998; Jiang et al. 2001; Czika and Weir 2004; Wittke-Thompson, Pluzhnikov, and Cox 2005).
- If the SNP is causal or in LD with causal mutation, it is likely to show departure from HWP.
- We used exact test to test for the HWP in cases.

# Linkage Disequilibrium

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- Linkage Disequilibrium (LD) is an association (correlation) between the genotypes at two or more loci.
- Disease phenotype and marker genotype(s) association is found due to proximity of putative disease locus and the marker locus.

# Why perform an association study?

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- Locate causal variants in the genome.
- Estimate attributable risk due to causal variants.
- To predict clinical outcomes using associated variant  
→ prediction, treatment response

# Case-Control Association study

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- Traditionally, regression (GLM) based approaches are used to assess genetic association between SNPs and disease.
- Logarithm of odds is modeled as linear function of predictor variables. A likelihood ratio test can be performed to assess significance of beta coefficient.

$$\ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_k x_k + e$$



# Case-Control Association study

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- We propose combining these two test statistics: logistic regression association test and test for departure from Hardy-Weinberg proportions.
- Both tests provide information about association between SNPs and disease.
- These two tests use different aspects of datasets.
- The two tests are statistically correlated.
- Only cases are used in HWP proportion test.
- Both cases and controls are used in logistic regression.

# Tail Strength Measure

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- Consider  $m$  null hypotheses and let the associated p-values be  $p_i, i=1, \dots, m$
- The global hypothesis is that all the individual hypothesis hold simultaneously
- Let  $p_{(1)} < p_{(2)} < \dots < p_{(m)}$  be the ordered p-values. Then, the tail strength measure (Taylor and Tibshirani, 2006) is defined as

$$TS(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( 1 - p_{(i)} \frac{m+1}{i} \right)$$

# Tail Strength Measure

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- Note that under null hypothesis (global), each  $p_i$  is uniformly distributed so that the ordered p-values follows a beta distribution with mean  $i/(m+1)$ .
- Hence, TS has expected value zero under the null hypothesis.
- TS is closely related to FDR approach to multiple hypothesis testing. Using this property, they also derived asymptotic distribution of TS when  $m$  (the number of hypotheses) are large.
- TS is also closely related to area under ROC.

# Tail Strength Measure

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- TS calculates the linear combination of the difference between ordered p-value and its expected value.
- It gives more weight to the smaller p-values so that it is more sensitive to deviations in the tail.
- When TS approaches one, it implies smaller p-values than one would expect by chance which indicates evidence against global null hypothesis.
- TS would be more powerful than each of its component tests.

# Hypothesis for HWP and Logistic Regression

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- We are interested in two hypothesis
- $H_{01}$  = There is no association between SNP and disease
- $H_{02}$  = SNP genotypes are in Hardy-Weinberg proportions

Let  $p_1$  be the p-value obtained for testing  $H_{01}$  based on logistic regression (we used likelihood ratio test)

Let  $p_2$  be the p-value obtained for testing  $H_{02}$  (based on Exact HWP test)

# Tail Strength Measure

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- We can not use the asymptotic distribution as we have only two hypotheses.
- Let  $p_{(1)}$  and  $p_{(2)}$  be ordered p-values. The tail strength measure is

$$TS(p_1, p_2) = \frac{1}{2} \left( (1 - p_{(1)}) \times 3 + \left( 1 - p_{(2)} \times \frac{3}{2} \right) \right)$$

- The range of TS is  $[-1.25, 1]$  because  $0 < p_{(1)} < p_{(2)} < 1$

# Tail Strength Measure

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- Because  $p_{(1)}$  and  $p_{(2)}$  follow beta distribution, using a bivariate transformation we can derive explicit formula for probability density function of TS

$$f_{TS}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{8}{27} \left( \frac{5}{2} + 2x \right), & \text{if } x \in [-1.25, 0.25], \\ \frac{32}{27} (1-x), & \text{if } x \in (0.25, 1.00]. \end{cases}$$

- For observed value  $TS^*$ , the exact p-value formula is

$$p\text{-value} = P(TS > TS^*) = \int_{TS^*}^1 f_{TS}(x) dx.$$

# Tail Strength Measure

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- In TS, p-values are compared to the expected p-value.
- In many situations, median-based estimators are more robust to extreme observations.
- Because we are concerned with small p-values, median-based tail strength measure may be more robust.
- Therefore, we developed a tail strength median measure, TSM.



# Tail Strength Median Measure

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- In the TSM. Linear combination of differences between p-values and corresponding median values under null hypothesis are considered.
- The median values of  $p_{(1)}$  and  $p_{(2)}$  are  $1-1/\sqrt{2}$  and  $1/\sqrt{2}$ , respectively. Therefore, TSM is

$$TSM(p_1, p_2) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \left( 1 - p_{(1)} \times \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}-1} \right) + \left( 1 - p_{(2)} \times \sqrt{2} \right) \right)$$

# Tail Strength Median Measure

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- The probability density function of TSM is

$$g_{TSM}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2\sqrt{2}(\sqrt{2}-1)(\sqrt{2}+x)}{\sqrt{2}+1}, & \text{if } x \in [-\sqrt{2}, 1-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}], \\ \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}+1}(1-x), & \text{if } x \in (1-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 1.00]. \end{cases}$$

- For observed value  $TSM^*$ , the exact p-value formula is

$$p\text{-value} = P(TSM > TSM^*) = \int_{TSM^*}^1 g_{TSM}(x) dx.$$

# Tail Strength Median Measure

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- Because the joint distribution of  $p_{(1)}$  and  $p_{(2)}$  is not symmetric, it may be more appropriate to use TSM.
- Compared to TS, TSM assigns more weight to the smaller p-value and less weight to the larger p-value.
- TSM also has similar relationship to FDR, if one uses median values instead of mean values in FDR.

# Permutation Approach for p-value

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- The exact p-values of tail strength measure and tail strength median measure are simple and straightforward to compute.
- Deviations of underlying assumptions might lead to either conservative or liberal the p-values based on the explicit formulas.
- Therefore, we devised a permutation based test to assess significance of TS and TSM.

# Permutation Approach for p-value

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- For each permutation step, we resample the SNP values by using genotype frequencies of the entire data set (cases and controls) but keep all other covariate values unchanged.
- By re-sampling SNP values from both cases and controls, there is no association between SNP and disease status.
- For each permutation step, we calculate TS and TSM and p-value is defined as proportion of TS or TSM values that are greater than observed TS or TSM.

# Simulation Study: Model 1

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- The two SNPs,  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , were simulated under the assumption of HWP in the population.
- Minor allele frequencies for  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , were 10% and 40%, respectively.
- Given the values of SNPs  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  (coded as additive model), the disease status was simulated using

$$\text{Logit } (P(Y = 1)) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2.$$

# Simulation Study: Model 1

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- We simulated 500 cases and 500 controls.
- Even though, we simulated SNPs with HWP in the original population, in case population genotypes may not be in HWP.
- We simulated six scenarios: Different odds ratios for SNPs and whether or not second SNP is observed.

# Simulation Study: Model 1

Data sets	$\beta_0$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	SNP2
Data 1	-2.0	0.3(OR=1.35)	$1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ (OR=1)	Observed
Data 2	-2.0	0.3(OR=1.35)	$1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ (OR=1)	Unobserved
Data 3	-2.0	0.3(OR=1.35)	0.3(OR=1.35)	Observed
Data 4	-2.0	0.3(OR=1.35)	0.3(OR=1.35)	Unobserved
Data 5	-2.0	0.5(OR=1.65)	0.3(OR=1.35)	Observed
Data 6	-2.0	0.5(OR=1.65)	0.3(OR=1.35)	Unobserved



# Results (Model 1): Average p-values based on 100 replicates

Data sets			TS		TSM	
	p-logit	p-HWE	Empirical TS p-values	Exact TS p-values	Empirical TSM p-values	Exact TSM p-values
Data 1	0.0099	0.0264	0.0006	0.0009	0.0006	0.0009
Data 2	0.0135	0.0257	0.0007	0.0010	0.0008	0.0011
Data 3	0.0130	0.0288	0.0008	0.0012	0.0009	0.0013
Data 4	0.0147	0.0254	0.0009	0.0012	0.0009	0.0013
Data 5	0.0044	0.0261	0.0004	0.0006	0.0004	0.0006
Data 6	0.0041	0.0246	0.0004	0.0005	0.0004	0.0006

# Results (Model 1): Power comparison based on 100 replicates

Panel	Data sets	Power for logistic model			Empirical powers			Exact powers		
		0.01	0.005	0.001	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.01	0.005	0.001
TS	Data 1	0.67	0.54	0.26	1.00	1.00	0.80	1.00	1.00	0.73
	Data 2	0.51	0.32	0.16	1.00	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.98	0.63
	Data 3	0.63	0.43	0.22	1.00	1.00	0.76	1.00	0.96	0.56
	Data 4	0.49	0.40	0.21	1.00	1.00	0.67	1.00	0.99	0.58
	Data 5	0.86	0.85	0.66	1.00	1.00	0.90	1.00	1.00	0.87
	Data 6	0.87	0.83	0.63	1.00	1.00	0.93	1.00	0.99	0.92
TSM	Data 1	0.67	0.54	0.26	1.00	1.00	0.81	1.00	0.99	0.73
	Data 2	0.51	0.32	0.16	1.00	0.99	0.74	1.00	0.98	0.63
	Data 3	0.63	0.43	0.22	1.00	0.99	0.76	1.00	0.95	0.57
	Data 4	0.49	0.40	0.21	1.00	1.00	0.66	1.00	0.97	0.57
	Data 5	0.86	0.85	0.66	1.00	1.00	0.89	1.00	0.99	0.87
	Data 6	0.87	0.83	0.63	1.00	0.99	0.93	1.00	0.99	0.92

# Simulation Study: Model 2

- We simulated data from a lung cancer model (Spitz et al. 2007).

<b>Risk factor</b>	<b>Coefficients of logistic model</b>	<b>Prevalence</b>
Intercept	-0.7173	
SNP	0.3(OR=1.35)/0.5(OR=1.65)	
Smoking	2.3(OR=9.97)/0.0(OR=1)	21.0%
Emphysema	0.7561(OR=2.13)	35.0%
Dust exposure	0.3067(OR=1.36)	21.0%
Asbestos exposure	0.4109(OR=1.51)	23.7%
Family history	0.3859(OR=1.47)	7.1%
Hay fever	0.4047(OR=1.50)	9.0%
Pack-years		
28-41.9	0.2219(OR=1.25)	25.0%
42-57.4	0.3747(OR=1.45)	25.0%
>=57.5	0.6151(OR=1.85)	25.0%

# Simulation Study: Model 2

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- We simulated two models: general lung cancer model and lung cancer model for current smokers
- All the odds ratios used for simulation are from Spitz et al. paper.
- For current smoking model, cigarette smoking odds ratio was 1.0.
- Prevalence of risk factors was used from various published papers.
- 500 cases and 500 controls were simulated.

# Results (General): Average p-values based on 100 replicates

Data sets			TS		TSM	
	p_logit	p_HWE	Empirical TS p-values	Exact TS p-values	Empirical TSM p-values	Exact TSM p-values
$\beta = 0.3$ (OR=1.35)						
(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.0135	0.0287	0.0008	0.0012	0.0009	0.0013
(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.0079	0.0247	0.0006	0.0007	0.0006	0.0007
(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.0057	0.0272	0.0006	0.0007	0.0006	0.0006
$\beta = 0.5$ (OR=1.65)						
(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.0069	0.0278	0.0005	0.0007	0.0005	0.0007
(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.0005	0.0251	0.0003	0.0003	0.0002	0.0003
(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.0002	0.0241	0.0003	0.0003	0.0002	0.0002



# Results (Smokers): Average p-values based on 100 replicates

Data sets			TS		TSM	
	p_logit	p_HWE	Empirical TS p-values	Exact TS p-values	Empirical TSM p-values	Exact TSM p-values
$\beta = 0.3$ (OR=1.35)						
(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.0124	0.0274	0.0007	0.0011	0.0008	0.0011
(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.0049	0.0228	0.0004	0.0005	0.0004	0.0005
(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.0058	0.0242	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005
$\beta = 0.5$ (OR=1.65)						
(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.0049	0.0255	0.0003	0.0005	0.0003	0.0005
(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.0007	0.0251	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.0001	0.0263	0.0003	0.0003	0.0002	0.0003

# Results (Smokers): Power comparison based on 100 replicates

Panel	Data sets	Powers for logistic model			Empirical powers			Exact powers		
		0.01	0.005	0.001	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.01	0.005	0.001
TS	$\beta = 0.3$ (OR=1.35)									
	(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.57	0.46	0.20	1.00	1.00	0.78	1.00	0.99	0.61
	(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.89	0.69	0.49	1.00	0.99	0.93	1.00	0.99	0.90
	(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.80	0.74	0.51	1.00	1.00	0.91	1.00	1.00	0.88
	$\beta = 0.5$ (OR=1.35)									
	(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.83	0.79	0.55	1.00	1.00	0.87	1.00	0.99	0.76
	(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.98	0.98	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99
	(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	1.00	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99
	TSM	$\beta = 0.3$ (OR=1.35)								
(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)		0.57	0.46	0.20	1.00	1.00	0.76	1.00	0.96	0.61
(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)		0.89	0.69	0.49	1.00	0.99	0.92	1.00	0.99	0.91
(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)		0.80	0.74	0.51	1.00	1.00	0.91	1.00	1.00	0.90
$\beta = 0.5$ (OR=1.65)										
(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)		0.83	0.79	0.55	1.00	1.00	0.96	1.00	0.99	0.89
(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)		0.98	0.98	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99
(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)		1.00	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99



# Simulation Study: Type 1 error

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- We simulated data sets under the null hypothesis that SNP is not associated with the disease.
- The simulation model for this was identical to that for models 1 and 2, except that the beta coefficient for the SNP was zero (OR=1).
- We simulated 10,000 replicates, each with 500 cases and 500 controls.

# Results (type 1 error): Average p-values based on 100 replicates

Model	Data sets	Type I error probability											
		p-values for logit model				Exact p-values for TS				Exact p-values for TSM			
		0.05	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.05	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.05	0.01	0.005	0.001
1	Data 1	0.0505	0.0108	0.0058	0.0010	0.0391	0.0069	0.0034	0.0009	0.0394	0.0068	0.0032	0.0009
	Data 2	0.0519	0.0094	0.0051	0.0008	0.0391	0.0083	0.0048	0.0008	0.0388	0.0083	0.0046	0.0008
	Data 3	0.0452	0.0091	0.0044	0.0009	0.0373	0.0065	0.0035	0.0002	0.0369	0.0067	0.0033	0.0002
	Data 4	0.0457	0.0083	0.0042	0.0005	0.0371	0.0072	0.0037	0.0003	0.0377	0.0068	0.0039	0.0003
	General												
	(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.0546	0.0104	0.0058	0.0013	0.0402	0.0072	0.0029	0.0006	0.0397	0.0073	0.0029	0.0006
	(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.0520	0.0107	0.0058	0.0011	0.0453	0.0088	0.0039	0.0006	0.0451	0.0088	0.0037	0.0006
2	(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.0537	0.0106	0.0049	0.0013	0.0418	0.0092	0.0050	0.0013	0.0406	0.0095	0.0049	0.0012
	Current smokers												
	(0.81, 0.18, 0.01)	0.0549	0.0103	0.0051	0.0010	0.0368	0.0075	0.0040	0.0008	0.0375	0.0075	0.0040	0.0010
	(0.49, 0.42, 0.09)	0.0498	0.0096	0.0048	0.0002	0.0448	0.0092	0.0053	0.0006	0.0440	0.0093	0.0052	0.0006
	(0.25, 0.50, 0.25)	0.0491	0.0104	0.0057	0.0011	0.0514	0.0094	0.0046	0.0009	0.0513	0.0094	0.0045	0.0009

# Real Data Application

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- We applied the approach to two real data sets.
- Prostate Cancer (Cheng et al. 2007): These authors investigated role of toll-like receptor 4 in prostate cancer.
- Sample size is 506 cases and 506 controls. We used the SNP, rs10759932, which is most significantly associated risk factor with the disease.
- P-value from regression approach was used from paper. We calculated exact HWP p-value and TS and TSM p-values.

# Real Data Application

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- Head and Neck Cancer (Neumann et al. 2005): We investigated role of methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) 1298AC/CC genotypes with H and N cancer.
- Sample size is 537 cases and 545 controls. We used the SNP, MTHFR A2198C, which is most significantly associated protective factor with the disease.
- P-value from regression approach was used from paper. We calculated exact HWP p-value and TS and TSM p-values.

# Real Data Application

Diseases	SNPs	Genotypes	Cases	Controls	p-values	p-HWE	Exact TS p-values	Exact TSM p-values
Prostate Cancer	rs10759932	TT	370	358	$6.00 \times 10^{-03}$	$2.41 \times 10^{-02}$	$4.33 \times 10^{-04}$	$4.35 \times 10^{-04}$
		CT	117	143				
		CC	19	4				
Head and Neck Cancer	A1298C	AA	328	274	$4.00 \times 10^{-04}$	$7.89 \times 10^{-04}$	$8.41 \times 10^{-07}$	$9.01 \times 10^{-07}$
		AC	199	240				
		CC	10	31				
		AC+CC	209	271				

# Discussion

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- We proposed an approach to assess genetic association that can include information about deviation of genotypic frequencies from the expected Hardy-Weinberg proportions in the case population.
- The proposed method is more powerful than the traditional approach.
- The two measure TS and TSM perform approximately similar.

# Discussion

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- The genotypes in cases may NOT be in the Hardy-Weinberg proportions because of several reasons such as penetrance of SNP, allele frequency etc.
- The test is not applicable in such situations.
- The genotypes in controls subjects may also NOT be in the Hardy-Weinberg proportions (which could also indicate association).
- Our test can include HWP deviations in controls too.
- Genomewide significance may have very high significance and may not need this approach.

# Permutation Test

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- To examine performance of permutation test, we picked one replicate.
- OR = 1.65 and genotype frequencies (.49, .42, .09).
- Permuted logistic p-values, permuted HWP test p-values, permuted TS or TSM Vs exact TS or TSM (from formula).
- P-values are approximately uniformly distributed for logistic and HWP test(?)
- TS and TSM distributions are quite accurate.



# Permutation Test

