

ON THE INFINITE DIVISIBILITY OF THE VON MISES DISTRIBUTION

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Abstract

It is shown, by use of a Bochner-type condition for infinite divisibility, that the von Mises distribution is infinitely divisible for some values of the concentration parameter k , certainly for $k < 0.16$.

1. Introduction

An angular random variable X , centred without loss of generality about 0, has the von Mises distribution if its probability density function (p.d.f.) is of the form

$$(1) \quad f(x) = \{1/2\pi I_0(k)\} \exp(k \cos x), \\ x \in (-\pi, \pi], \quad k > 0.$$

This distribution depends on a single parameter k , the *concentration parameter*. Its characteristic function (c.f.), defined (as with any distribution on the circle) only for integer values of the argument t , is

$$\phi(t) = E(e^{itx}) = I_t(k)/I_0(k).$$

Here $I_t(k)$ denotes the Bessel function of order t with imaginary argument. For a detailed account of the von Mises distribution and its properties see, for example, Mardia (1972).

In a recent paper by the present author (Lewis, 1975), it was asserted that the von Mises distribution was infinitely divisible (i.d.) at any rate for sufficiently small values of the concentration parameter k . The proof given was however no valid, since the key inequality on which it rested, given below as (3), was not shown to hold uniformly with respect to k . The object of the present paper is to give a valid proof of the assertion, and to show additionally that the range of values of k for which the infinite divisibility property holds good extends certainly to $k = 0.16$.

2. A Bochner-type condition for infinite divisibility

We first establish, as a particular case of a theorem due to Johansen (1966), a necessary and sufficient condition for the infinite divisibility of an even distribution (whether on the line or the circle). For present purposes, let $\phi(t)$ be real-valued, and therefore even, c.f. on the circle, and suppose further that it is strictly positive for all integer values of t . Write

$$2) \quad \lambda(t) = -\ln \phi(t).$$

Clearly $\lambda(t)$ is real, even and non-negative \forall integer t , and $\lambda(0) = 0$. Then a necessary and sufficient condition for $\phi(t)$ to be i.d. is

$$3) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j (\lambda_{i0} + \lambda_{j0} - \lambda_{ij}) \geq 0$$

\forall integer n ; \forall real a_1, \dots, a_n ; \forall integer-valued $t = (t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n)'$, where λ_{ij} denotes $\lambda(t_i - t_j)$ for short; or equivalently, if

$$4) \quad m_{ij} = \lambda_{i0} + \lambda_{j0} - \lambda_{ij},$$

the matrix

$$5) \quad M = \{m_{ij}\}$$

is non-negative definite $\forall n$, \forall integer-valued t . To keep the present paper self-contained we give a proof of this result, but would emphasise that it can be derived as a particular case of theorem 2 of Johansen (1966), p. 305, combined with Johansen's inequalities 2 and 3 of lemma 1 (ibid).

ϕ will be i.d. if and only if $\{\phi(t)\}'$ is a c.f. $\forall r > 0$,

and this condition is equivalent to the condition that

$\{\phi(t)\}'$ is a c.f. $\forall r \in (0, r^*]$ for any positive r^* however small, since a distribution with c.f. $\{\phi(t)\}'^s$ for any $s > r^*$ can be generated as the convolution of distributions whose c.f.s. have the form $\{\phi(t)\}'$ with $r \in (0, r^*]$. Write $h(t) = \{\phi(t)\}'$. By Bochner's theorem, h is a c.f. if and only if, for any positive integer n , for any vector $c = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n)'$ of complex quantities, and for any vector $t = (t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n)'$ of integers,

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n c_i \bar{c}_j h(t_i - t_j) \geq 0.$$

Since h is a real-valued and even, this condition reduces, on putting $c_j = a_j + ib_j$, $c_0 = a + ib$, to

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n (a_i a_j + b_i b_j) h(t_i - t_j) \geq 0$$

$$\forall n, \forall \text{ real } a; b, \forall t,$$

or equivalently to

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j h(t_i - t_j) \geq 0$$

$$\forall n, \forall \text{ real } a, \forall t.$$

That is, ϕ is i.d. if and only if, given any positive integer n , any vector a of real quantities a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n , any vector t of integers t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n , there exists a positive r^* (which may depend on n, a, t) such that

$$(6) \quad \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \{\phi(t_i - t_j)\}^r \geq 0 \quad \forall r \in (0, r^*].$$

Suppose that ϕ is i.d. Then, from (6),

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \exp(-r\lambda_{ij}) \geq 0$$

or

$$\left(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i\right)^2 - \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j (1 - e^{-r\lambda_{ij}}) \geq 0 \quad \forall n, a, t, \forall r \in (0, r^*].$$

In particular, taking $a_0 = -(a_1 + \dots + a_n)$,

$$g(r) \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j \{(1 - e^{-r\lambda_{0i}}) + (1 - e^{-r\lambda_{0j}}) - (1 - e^{-r\lambda_{ij}})\} \geq 0$$

$$\forall a_1, \dots, a_n; t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n; \forall r \in (0, r^*].$$

Now $g(r)$ is a continuous and differentiable function of r , and $g(0) = 0$, hence $g'(0) \geq 0$, i.e. (3) is a necessary condition for ϕ to be i.d.

Suppose that (3) holds. Then ϕ is i.d. For, given any positive integer n , any vector a of real quantities a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n , and any vector t of integers t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n , the expression on the l.h.s. of (6)

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \{\phi(t_i - t_j)\}^r$$

is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j e^{-r\lambda_{ij}} \\ & \geq \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j (1 - r\lambda_{ij}), \text{ since } e^{-x} > 1 - x \text{ for } x > 0, \\ & = \left(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i \right)^2 - r \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \lambda_{ij} = \psi(r), \text{ say.} \end{aligned}$$

If $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i \neq 0$, $\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \lambda_{ij} = 0$, $\psi(r) > 0 \quad \forall r$;

if $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i \neq 0$, $\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \lambda_{ij} \neq 0$, $\psi(r) \geq 0$ for $r \in (0, r^*]$

where

$$r^* = \left(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i \right)^2 / \left| \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n a_i a_j \lambda_{ij} \right|;$$

and finally if $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i = 0$, $\psi(r)$ is equal to

$$r \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j (\lambda_{i0} + \lambda_{j0} - \lambda_{ij}),$$

which, for any $r > 0$, is non-negative from (3).

Thus in all cases condition (6) is satisfied, i.e. (3) is a sufficient condition for ϕ to be i.d.

3. Main result

We now particularise to the von Mises distribution (1).

THEOREM. *The von Mises distribution is infinitely divisible for some values of the concentration parameter k , certainly for $k < 0.16$.*

PROOF. The c.f. of the distribution is

$$(7) \quad \phi(t) = I_t(k)/I_0(k) \quad (t = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots),$$

which is even (w.r.t. t) and strictly positive $\forall k > 0$, \forall integer t . For non-negative integer t we have

$$I_t(k) = \frac{(\frac{1}{2}k)^t}{t!} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\frac{1}{4}k^2}{1!(t+1)} + \frac{(\frac{1}{4}k^2)^2}{2!(t+1)(t+2)} + \dots \right\},$$

thus

$$\ln I_t(k) = -t\xi - \ln t! + f_t \quad \text{where}$$

$$(8) \quad \xi = \ln(2/k) \text{ and}$$

$$(9) \quad f_i = \ln \left\{ 1 + \frac{\frac{1}{4}k^2}{1!(t+1)} + \frac{(\frac{1}{4}k^2)^2}{2!(t+1)(t+2)} + \dots \right\}.$$

Clearly $f_0 > f_1 > f_2 > \dots$ and

$$(10) \quad 0 < f_i < \ln \exp \frac{\frac{1}{4}k^2}{t+1} = \frac{k^2}{4(t+1)}.$$

We have $\lambda(t) = -\ln\phi(t) = t\xi + \ln t! - f_i + f_0$. For the application of condition (3) we can without loss of generality take t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n to be respectively $0, 1, \dots, n$. In the notation of (4),

$$(11) \quad m_{ij} = 2\xi \min(i, j) + \ln \frac{i!j!}{|i-j|!} - f_i - f_j + f_{i-j} + f_0.$$

The quadratic form in (3), Q say, can be written as

$$Q = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)M(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)';$$

suppose that instead of the arbitrary vector (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) we use equivalently the arbitrary vector $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) = \mathbf{u}'$, given by

$$(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)' = T(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)'$$

where T is the non-singular $n \times n$ matrix

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Then } T^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & \dots & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$Q = \mathbf{u}'(T^{-1})'MT^{-1}\mathbf{u},$$

i.e.,

$$(12) \quad Q = \mathbf{u}'\mathbf{H}\mathbf{u}$$

where $\mathbf{H} = (T^{-1})'MT^{-1}$. The typical term h_{ij} of this matrix \mathbf{H} is given by

$$(13) \quad h_{ij} = m_{ij} - m_{i-1,j} - m_{i,j-1} + m_{i-1,j-1} \\ (i = 1, \dots, n; \quad j = 1, \dots, n)$$

where m_{i0} and m_{0j} are to be taken as zero, consistently with (4). From (11) and (13),

$$(14) \quad h_{ii} = 2\xi + 2(f_0 - f_1) = \theta_0, \text{ say,}$$

and for $i \neq j$, writing $|i - j| = d$,

$$(15) \quad h_{ij} = \ln\left(\frac{d+1}{d}\right) - (f_{d-1} - 2f_d + f_{d+1}) = \theta_d, \text{ say.}$$

H is a Toeplitz (or Laurent) matrix (see, for example, Grenander and Szegő (1958)), with all elements on the pairs of diagonals $|i - j| = d$ having the same value θ_d . We have to show that H is non-negative definite uniformly w.r.t. n , i.e. that there exists a $k^* > 0$ independent of n such that the quadratic form $Q = \mathbf{u}'H\mathbf{u}$ satisfies condition (3) (with u 's read for a 's) $\forall k \in (0, k^*]$. In considering the sign of Q as \mathbf{u} varies, it is convenient to adjoin any suitable norming equation on the u 's, and we shall choose

$$(16) \quad \mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i^2 = 1.$$

We require the four following lemmas.

LEMMA A. Suppose $\mathbf{u}' = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ is a vector of real quantities, with $\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u} = 1$. Write

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-p} u_i u_{i+p} = s_p \quad (p = 0, 1, \dots, n-1).$$

Then for $p = 1, 2, \dots, (n-2)/2$ [n even] or $(n-1)/2$ [n odd], the point (s_p, s_{n-p}) cannot lie outside the square in the (s_p, s_{n-p}) plane with vertices $(1, 0), (0, 1), (-1, 0), (0, -1)$; and if h_1, \dots, h_{n-1} are any real quantities,

$$|h_p s_p + h_{n-p} s_{n-p}| \leq \max(|h_p|, |h_{n-p}|).$$

For even n and $p = n/2$, the corresponding result is

$$|h_p s_p| \leq \frac{1}{2} |h_p|.$$

PROOF. In Schwarz's inequality

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \beta_i\right)^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i^2$$

take

$$\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n = u_1, \dots, u_{n-p}; \quad u_{n-p+1}, \dots, u_n$$

and

$$\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n = u_{1+p}, \dots, u_n; \quad u_1, \dots, u_p,$$

then
$$(s_p + s_{n-p})^2 \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n u_i^2 \right)^2 = 1;$$

similarly, take the same α 's and

$$\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n = u_{1+p}, \dots, u_n; \quad -u_1, \dots, -u_p$$

then

$$(s_p - s_{n-p})^2 \leq 1.$$

The extreme values of $h_p s_p + h_{n-p} s_{n-p}$ are attained when a straight line of the parallel system $h_p s_p + h_{n-p} s_{n-p} = \text{constant}$ passes through a vertex of the square with vertices $(\pm 1, 0), (0, \pm 1)$.

LEMMA B. *Suppose that $H = \{h_{ij}\}$ is a real $n \times n$ Toeplitz matrix with elements $h_{ij} = h_d$ for $|i - j| = d$. Suppose that a non-increasing sequence of positive constants g_1, \dots, g_{n-1} exists, $g_1 \geq g_2 \geq \dots \geq g_{n-1} > 0$, such that*

$$|h_p| \leq g_p, \quad p = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1.$$

Then if Q is the quadratic form $u'Hu$, where $u'u = 1$,

$$|Q - h_0| \leq 2\{g_1 + g_2 + \dots + g_{(n-1)/2}\} \quad (n \text{ odd})$$

or

$$\leq 2\{g_1 + g_2 + \dots + g_{(n-2)/2}\} + g_{n/2} \quad (n \text{ even}).$$

PROOF. Since $Q = h_0 + 2(h_1 s_1 + h_2 s_2 + \dots + h_{n-1} s_{n-1})$, the result follows from Lemma A.

LEMMA C. *The $n \times n$ Toeplitz matrix H with $h_0 = 1$, $h_d = 1/Cd$ ($d = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$), is positive definite for C sufficiently large, certainly for $C \geq 2(1 + \ln 2) = 3.386$.*

PROOF. Given $n - 1$ quantities $\rho_1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_{n-1}$, write

$$\begin{aligned} A(z) &= 1 + \sum_{d=1}^{n-1} \rho_d (z^d + z^{-d}) \\ &= B(y), \quad \text{where } y = z + z^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

$B(y)$ is a polynomial in y of degree $n - 1$. A theorem of Wold's (Wold (1954), p. 154; Kendall and Stuart (1968), p. 415) states that $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{n-1}$ can be the autocorrelations of a moving average of extent n of some random series, if and only if $B(y)$ has no real zero of odd multiplicity in the interval $-2 < y < 2$. We shall show that, when $\rho_d = 1/Cd$ and $C \geq 2(1 + \ln 2)$, $B(y)$ satisfies this condition. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(z) &= 1 + \frac{1}{C} \sum_{d=1}^{n-1} \frac{z^d + z^{-d}}{d}, \\
 (17) \quad A'(z) &= \frac{1}{C} \sum_{d=1}^{n-1} (z^{d-1} - z^{-d-1}) = \frac{(z^{n-1} - 1)(z^n - 1)}{C(z-1)z^n}, \\
 B'(y) &= \frac{(z^{n-1} - 1)(z^n - 1)}{Cz^{n-2}(z-1)^2(z+1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We now show that $B(y) > 0$ for $y \in (-2, 2)$. Write $z = e^{2i\theta}$, $y = 2 \cos 2\theta$; the θ -interval $(0, \pi/2)$ maps into the y -interval $(-2, 2)$. If $B(y) = F(\theta)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 F\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) &= B(-2) = A(-1) = 1 - \frac{2}{C} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \dots + \frac{(-1)^n}{n-1}\right) \\
 &\geq 1 - \frac{2}{C} \quad \text{for } n > 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Also from (17)

$$\frac{dF(\theta)}{d\theta} = -\frac{4}{C} \frac{\sin(n-1)\theta \sin n\theta}{\sin \theta} = -\frac{2}{C} \frac{\cos \theta - \cos(2n-1)\theta}{\sin \theta},$$

hence

$$\frac{C}{2} \left\{ F(\theta) - F\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right\} = \int_{\theta}^{\pi/2} \frac{\cos u}{\sin u} du - \int_{\theta}^{\pi/2} \frac{\cos(2n-1)u}{\sin u} du.$$

For $0 < \theta \leq u \leq \pi/2$, $\sin u$ is positive; hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{C}{2} \left\{ F(\theta) - F\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right\} &\geq \int_{\theta}^{\pi/2} \frac{\cos u}{\sin u} du - \int_{\theta}^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{\sin u} du \\
 &= -\int_{\theta}^{\pi/2} \tan \frac{u}{2} du = 2 \left[\ln \cos \frac{u}{2} \right]_{\theta}^{\pi/2} = -\ln 2 - 2 \ln \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \geq -\ln 2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $F(\theta) > 1 - 2/C - (2/C) \ln 2$. It follows that, if $C \geq 2(1 + \ln 2)$, $B(y) > 0 \forall y \in (-2, 2)$. Wold's theorem therefore applies, and H is a correlation matrix, and accordingly positive definite, for all $n \geq 2$.

LEMMA D. For the quantities f_0, f_1, f_2, \dots defined by (9),

$$|f_{d-1} - 2f_d + f_{d+1}| < \frac{u}{d(d+1)} \quad (d = 1, 2, \dots)$$

where

$$u = \frac{1}{4} k^2.$$

PROOF. Write

$$E_d = \exp(f_d) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{u^r}{r!} \frac{d!}{(d+r)!} \quad (d = 0, 1, \dots);$$

$\{f_d\}$, $\{E_d\}$ are decreasing sequences of positive quantities. Since $I_{d-1}(k) - I_{d+1}(k) = (2d/k)I_d(k)$, it follows that

$$(18) \quad E_{d-1} - E_d = \frac{u}{d(d+1)} E_{d+1}.$$

For any α, β satisfying $\alpha > \beta > 0$,

$$0 < e^\alpha - e^\beta = (\alpha - \beta) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2!} + \frac{\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2}{3!} + \dots \right).$$

This

$$> (\alpha - \beta) \left(1 + \frac{2\beta}{2!} + \frac{3\beta^2}{3!} + \dots \right) = (\alpha - \beta)e^\beta$$

and similarly $< (\alpha - \beta)e^\alpha$. Hence

$$(19) \quad \frac{e^\alpha - e^\beta}{e^\alpha} < \alpha - \beta < \frac{e^\alpha - e^\beta}{e^\beta}.$$

From (19), for $d \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} (f_{d-1} - f_d) - (f_d - f_{d+1}) &> \frac{E_{d-1} - E_d}{E_{d-1}} - \frac{E_d - E_{d+1}}{E_{d+1}} \\ &> -\frac{E_d - E_{d+1}}{E_{d+1}} = -\frac{u}{(d+1)(d+2)} \frac{E_{d+2}}{E_{d+1}}, \text{ from (18),} \\ &> -\frac{u}{(d+1)(d+2)} > -\frac{u}{d(d+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Again

$$\begin{aligned} (f_{d-1} - f_d) - (f_d - f_{d+1}) &< \frac{E_{d-1} - E_d}{E_d} - \frac{E_d - E_{d+1}}{E_d} \\ &< \frac{E_{d-1} - E_d}{E_d} = \frac{u}{d(d+1)} \frac{E_{d+1}}{E_d} < \frac{u}{d(d+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the required result.

Reverting to equation (15), we have, for $x > 0$,

$$x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \ln(1+x) < x,$$

hence for $d = 1, 2, \dots$

$$\frac{1}{d} - \frac{1}{2d^2} < \ln \frac{d+1}{d} < \frac{1}{d};$$

it follows from Lemma D that

$$(20) \quad \left| \theta_d - \frac{1}{d} \right| < \frac{1}{2d^2} + \frac{u}{d(d+1)}.$$

From (12), (14), (16) and (20) we can now write

$$Q = \theta_0 - C + u \begin{bmatrix} C & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} & \dots \\ 1 & C & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & 1 & C & 1 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} u$$

$$+ u' \begin{bmatrix} h_0 & h_1 & h_2 & h_3 & \dots \\ h_1 & h_0 & h_1 & h_2 & \dots \\ h_2 & h_1 & h_0 & h_1 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} u$$

where $h_0 = 0$ and

$$|h_p| \leq \frac{1}{2p^2} + \frac{u}{p(p+1)} \quad (p = 1, 2, \dots, n-1).$$

The constant C is at choice; assign it the value $2(1 + \ln 2)$, then by Lemma C the third term on the right of the equation is positive. By Lemma B, the modulus of the fourth term

$$\leq 2 \left\{ \frac{1}{2 \cdot 1^2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2^2} + \dots + \frac{u}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{u}{2 \cdot 3} + \dots \right\}$$

$$< \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2u \text{ whatever the value of } n.$$

Hence

$$Q > 2\xi + 2(f_0 - f_1) - 2(1 + \ln 2) - \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \frac{1}{2}k^2$$

$$= 2 \left\{ \ln \frac{I_0(k)}{I_1(k)} - \left(1 + \ln 2 + \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \frac{1}{4}k^2 \right) \right\}$$

$$= 2 \left\{ \ln \frac{I_0(k)}{I_1(k)} - (2.51562 + \frac{k^2}{4}) \right\}.$$

This last expression has a unique positive zero $k^* = 0.161$, and is positive for $k \in (0, k^*)$. Q is thus uniformly positive w.r.t. n , and the von Mises distribution infinitely divisible, for all values of k in this range.

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