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A SHORT PROOF OF STECK'S RESULT ON TWO-SAMPLE SMIRNOV STATISTICS

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Let there be two independent random samples of sizes m and n respectively from a continuous population. Let R_i denote the ranks of the first sample in the ordered combined sample. Suppose $b = (b_1, b_2, \cdots, b_m)$ and $c = (c_1, c_2, \cdots, c_m)$ are two increasing sequences of integers such that $i-1 \leqq b_i \leqq c_i \leqq n+i+1$. Denote by $N(b; c)$ the number of ways the event $\{b_i < R_i < c_i, i = 1, 2, \cdots, m\}$ can occur in the ordered combined sample. It is well recognized that $N(b; c)$ determines the null distribution of Smirnov statistics in the two-sample case. In a recent paper [1], Steck has established that

$$N(b;c) = \det(d_{ij})_{m\times m} \tag{1}$$

where

$$d_{ij} = \binom{c_i - b_j + j - i - 1}{j-i+1}_+ .$$

Here
$$\begin{aligned} \binom{y}{z}_+ &= 0 \quad \text{if} \quad z \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad y < z \quad \text{or if} \quad z < 0 \\ &= 1 \quad \text{if} \quad z = 0. \end{aligned}$$

His proof, which is long and difficult to follow, consists of checking that the determinant satisfies the recurrence relations and boundary conditions required by $N(b; c)$. In this note, we provide a direct elementary proof.

Let $T_i = R_i - i$, $u_i = b_i - i + 1$ and $v_i = c_i - i - 1$. Then

$$\{b_i < R_i < c_i, i = 1, 2, \cdots, m\} \Leftrightarrow \{u_i \leqq T_i \leqq v_i, i = 1, 2, \cdots, m\}$$

and therefore $N(b; c)$ represent the number of vectors $(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_m)$ which satisfies the following:

(i) x_i's are integers,
(ii) $0 \leqq x_1 \leqq x_2 \leqq \cdots \leqq x_m \leqq n$,
(iii) $u_i \leqq x_i \leqq v_i$ $i = 1, 2, \cdots, m$.

Clearly, we can write

$$N(b;c) = \sum_{x_1=u_1}^{v_1} \sum_{x_2=y_2}^{v_2} \cdots \sum_{x_{m-1}=y_{m-1}}^{v_{m-1}} \sum_{x_m=y_m}^{v_m} 1 \tag{2}$$

with $y_i = \max(u_i, x_{i-1})$, $i = 2, 3, \cdots, m$. Note that

$$\begin{vmatrix} \binom{x_m-u_m}{0}_+ & \binom{x_{m-1}-u_m}{1}_+ & \cdots & \binom{x_1-u_m}{m-1}_+ \\ 0 & \binom{x_{m-1}-u_{m-1}}{0}_+ & \cdots & \binom{x_1-u_{m-1}}{m-2}_+ \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \binom{x_1-u_{m-2}}{m-3}_+ \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \binom{x_1-u_1}{0}_+ \end{vmatrix} = 1. \tag{3}$$

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