

An Alternative Measures of Moments Skewness Kurtosis and JB Test of Normality

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ABSTRACT

If we know the statistics of central tendency and dispersion, we still cannot nature a complete design about the distribution. About these measures we should know more information's of skewness and kurtosis, which are enables us to have a design the distribution. However, there is evidence that they may response poorly in the presence of non-normality or when outliers arise in data. We examine the performances of popular and frequently used measures of skewness (β_1), kurtosis (β_2) and Jarque–Bera test of normality that they may not perform and we anticipates in the existence of non-normality or outliers. In this paper, firstly, we develop robust measures of moments and we formulate a new statistics of skewness and kurtosis which we name robust skewness (ϕ_1) and robust kurtosis (ϕ_2). Again, in this paper, we modify Jarque–Bera test of normality, which we label Robust Jarque–Bera (RJB). These measures should be fairly robust. The effectiveness of the proposed measures is investigated by simulation approach. The results demonstrate that the newly proposed skewness (ϕ_1), kurtosis (ϕ_2) and RJB test outperform the skewness, kurtosis and Jarque–Bera test of normality when a small percentage of outliers are present or absent in the data.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The learning of central tendency and dispersion provides us with variable information involving to the central value as well as the variability of the distribution. Unfortunately, these measures fail to exhibit how the observations are given and accumulated about the central value of the distribution. The arrangements and accumulation of the observations establish the characteristics of the distribution with respect to its shape and pattern [1]. By shape characteristics of a distribution, we refer to the level of these two characteristics what is known as the measures of skewness and kurtosis respectively. Skewness and kurtosis can help us to visualize the asymmetry and peakedness of a frequency distribution. The theoretical and practical background of various measures of moments, skewness and kurtosis are documented in several books [2–11] and journal articles [12], to name but a few. Among them the absolute measures of skewness are not calculate for comparing two series. On the other hand, Prof. Karl Pearson's coefficient of skewness is baffled to calculate, if mode is ill-defined as well as skewness for moderately asymmetrical distribution give limit is ± 3 . In practice, these limits are rarely attained. Again, Bowley's coefficient of skewness is depend only on the central 50% of the data as well as based upon moments, coefficient of skewness (S_k) is depends on β_1 and β_2 , but $S_k = 0$ if either $\beta_1 = 0$ or $\beta_2 = -3$. Since, β_2 cannot negative, $S_k = 0$ if and only if $\beta_1 = 0$. However, the most popular location and scale estimators are the mean and standard deviation, which is known to be extremely sensitive to outliers. Although mean, variance and covariance are the most frequently used summary measures of univariate and multivariate PDFs, we occasionally need to consider higher moments of the PDFs, such as the second, third and the fourth moments. Now, the r th moment about the mean (μ) is defined as

$$r\text{th moment} : E(X - \mu)^r, r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

The second, third and fourth moments of a distribution are often used in studying the “shape” of a probability distribution, in particular, its **skewness**, S (i.e., lack of symmetry) and **kurtosis**, K (i.e., tallness or flatness), are defined as

One measure of skewness is defined as $\beta_1 = \mu_3^2 / \mu_2^3$

A commonly used measure of kurtosis is given by $\beta_2 = \mu_4 / \mu_2^2$

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Here we define a most popular and commonly used goodness of fit Robust Jarque and Bera [13] test for normality, which utilized the information of the skewness and kurtosis, is formulate by

$$JB = n \left[\frac{\beta_1^2}{6} + \frac{(\beta_2 - 3)^2}{24} \right]$$

In that case the value of the JB statistic is expected to be 0. Under the null hypothesis that the data set is normally distributed, JB showed that asymptotically (i.e., in large samples) the JB statistic follows the chi-square distribution with 2 degrees of freedom. If the computed p value of the JB statistic in an application is sufficiently low, which will happen if the value of JB is very different from 0, one can reject the hypothesis that the data are normally distributed. But if the p value is reasonably high, which will happen if the value of the statistic is close to 0, we do not reject the normality [13,14].

Since μ 's sensitive to outliers from the underlying distribution, the resulting skewness (β_1) and kurtosis (β_2) can be affected by outliers. In particular, the JB test is sensitive to outliers because of that. In this paper, to overcome the sensitivity of departures from normal distribution, we focus on finding a novel and straightforward measure of skewness, kurtosis and JB statistic. We label its robust skewness (ϕ_1), robust kurtosis (ϕ_2) and robust Jarque-Bera (RJB) test for normality which are introduced in Section 2. The properties of these new measures are illustrated in Section 3 with a real-life data. The performance of the proposed measures is investigated in Section 4 through a Monte Carlo simulation experiment.

2. PROPOSE ROBUST MODIFICATION OF MOMENTS SKEWNESS KURTOSIS AND JB STATISTIC

The presence of a small proportion of outliers in a sample can have a large distorting influence on the sample mean and the sample variance. It is well known that these classical estimators, optimal under the normality assumption, are extremely sensitive to atypical observations in the data. Since the measures of skewness and kurtosis are based on mean and variance, it's also sensitive to outliers. There exist several measures of robustness of an estimator [15,16], but in this paper, the decile mean (DM) will be used. This is rich tool that summarizes several aspects of the robustness of an estimator. A survey on DM is given by [1]. Now we define DM as

$$DM = \frac{D_1 + D_2 + \dots + D_9}{9}$$

where D_1, D_2, \dots, D_9 are 9 decile from grouped or ungrouped data. Therefore, we develop robust measures of moments, skewness, kurtosis and JB statistic of normality test.

2.1. Robust Moments

In statistics, moments are certain constant values in a given distribution, it's obviously fall under descriptive statistics. Because of this nature, the moments help us to establish the nature and form of the underlying distribution. Consider a variable X , assuming values x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , and then the r^{th} raw moment of a variable X about any point A is defined by

$$\lambda'_r = DM(x_i - A)^r, r = 1, 2, \dots$$

The first-four raw moments about the value A are defined as

$$\lambda'_1 = DM(x_i - A) = DM(x_i) - A = DM_x - A$$

$$\lambda'_2 = DM(x_i - A)^2$$

$$\lambda'_3 = DM(x_i - A)^3$$

$$\lambda'_4 = DM(x_i - A)^4$$

Replacing A by DM_x in the above expression, we will get the central moments are defined as

$$\lambda_1 = DM(x_i - DM_x) = DM(x_i) - DM_x = DM_x - DM_x = 0$$

$$\lambda_2 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^2$$

$$\lambda_3 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^3$$

$$\lambda_4 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^4$$

In general, the r^{th} central moment is defined as

$$\lambda_r = DM(x_i - DM_x)^r, r = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus, it is to be significant that you can compute an infinite number of moments for a given distribution, but in practice, we need only four moments to investigate the form and characteristics of a distribution.

2.1.1. Relation between raw moments and central moments

Recall that

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1 &= DM(x_i - DM_x) \\ &= DM(x_i - A + A - DM_x) \\ &= DM(x_i - A) - DM(DM_x - A) \\ &= DM(x_i - A) - (DM_x - A) \\ \lambda_1 &= \lambda'_1 - \lambda'_1 \\ \lambda_2 &= DM(x_i - DM_x)^2 \\ &= DM(x_i - A + A - DM_x)^2 \\ &= DM(x_i - A)^2 + DM(DM_x - A)^2 - 2DM\{(x_i - A)(DM_x - A)\} \\ &= DM(x_i - A)^2 + (DM_x - A)^2 - 2DM(x_i - A)(DM_x - A) \\ \lambda_2 &= \lambda'_2 + \lambda'^2_1 - 2\lambda'_1\lambda'_1 \\ \lambda_2 &= \lambda'_2 - \lambda'^2_1\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_3 &= DM(x_i - DM_x)^3 \\ &= DM(x_i - A + A - DM_x)^3 \\ \lambda_3 &= \lambda'_3 - 3\lambda'_2\lambda'_1 + 2\lambda'^3_1\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_4 &= DM(x_i - DM_x)^4 \\ &= DM(x_i - A + A - DM_x)^4 \\ \lambda_4 &= \lambda'_4 - 4\lambda'_3\lambda'_1 + 6\lambda'_2\lambda'^2_1 - 3\lambda'^4_1\end{aligned}$$

In general, $\lambda_r = \lambda'_r - {}^rC_1\lambda'_1\lambda'^{r-1}_1 + {}^rC_2\lambda'_2\lambda'^{r-2}_1 - \dots + (-1)^r\lambda'^r_1, r = 1, 2, \dots$

Thus the formula enable us to find the moments about any point, once the decile mean (DM_x) and the decile mean (DM_x) are known.

2.1.2. Effect of change of origin and scale on moments

Let $y_i = \frac{x_i - A}{h}$, where A and h are origin and scale respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow x_i - A &= hy_i \\ \Rightarrow DM_x &= A + hDM_y\end{aligned}$$

Now the r^{th} raw moments of x about any point A is given by

$$\lambda'_r = DM(x_i - A)^r = DM(hy_i)^r = h^r DM(y_i)^r = h^r \lambda'_r(y)$$

And the r^{th} moment of x about decile mean (DM_x) is

$$\lambda_r = DM(x_i - DM_x)^r = DM(A + hy_i - A - hDM_y)^r = h^r DM(y_i - DM_y)^r = h^r \lambda_r(y)$$

Thus the r^{th} moment of the variable x about decile mean (DM_x) is h^r times the r^{th} moment of the variable y about decile mean (DM_y).

2.2. Robust Skewness and Robust Kurtosis

Literally, skewness means “lack of symmetry” as well as kurtosis means “convexity of curve.” We study skewness and kurtosis to have an idea about the shape and pattern of the curve. The robust measures of skewness and kurtosis may also be obtained by making use of the proposed robust moments. A relative measure of robust skewness denoted by ϕ_1 , is define as follows:

$$\phi_1 = \frac{\lambda_3^2}{\lambda_2^3}$$

The value of ϕ_1 shall be zero for a perfectly symmetrical distribution. It is obvious from the above formula that a distribution will be positively or negatively skewed according as the value of λ_3 is positive or negative.

The most important measure of robust kurtosis is ϕ_2 , defined as

$$\phi_2 = \frac{\lambda_4}{\lambda_2^2}$$

For normal distribution $\phi_2 = 3$. In other words, if $\phi_2 - 3 > 0$, the distribution is leptokurtic; if $\phi_2 - 3 < 0$, the distribution is platykurtic; if $\phi_2 - 3 = 0$, the distribution is mesokurtic.

2.2.1. Prove that ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are invariant to the changes in origin and scale of measurement

Proof: Let $\phi_1(x)$ and $\phi_2(x)$ denote the values of ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 calculated from a set of observations x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n pertaining to a variable X.

$$\text{Now, } \phi_1(x) = \frac{\lambda_3^2(x)}{\lambda_2^3(x)} \text{ and } \phi_2(x) = \frac{\lambda_4(x)}{\lambda_2^2(x)}, \text{ Where } \lambda_r = DM(x_i - DM_x)^r$$

Let Y be a transformed variable assuming values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n .

Now, suppose $y_i = \frac{x_i - A}{h}$, where A and h are origin and scale respectively.

$$\text{Since, } \lambda_r(x) = h^r \lambda_r(y), r = 1, 2, \dots$$

The corresponding phi values are as follows:

$$\phi_1(y) = \frac{\lambda_3^2(y)}{\lambda_2^3(y)} \text{ and } \phi_2(y) = \frac{\lambda_4(y)}{\lambda_2^2(y)}$$

Hence the proof.

2.2.2. For any set of values x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , prove that $\phi_2 \geq 1 + \phi_1$

Proof: Let us recall that

$$\lambda_2 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^2, \lambda_3 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^3, \lambda_4 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^4$$

Consider the following expression

$$\begin{aligned} & DM \left\{ a(x_i - DM_x)^2 + b(x_i - DM_x) + c \right\}^2 \geq 0 \\ \Rightarrow & a^2 DM(x_i - DM_x)^4 + b^2 DM(x_i - DM_x)^2 + c^2 + 2ab DM(x_i - DM_x)^3 \\ & + 2ac DM(x_i - DM_x)^2 + 2bc DM(x_i - DM_x) \geq 0 \\ \Rightarrow & a^2 \lambda_4 + b^2 \lambda_2 + c^2 + 2ab \lambda_3 + 2ac \lambda_2 + 0 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Choosing $a = 1$, $b = -\lambda_3/\lambda_2$ and $c = -\lambda_2$, the above expression becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda_4 - \frac{\lambda_3^2}{\lambda_2} - \lambda_2^2 \geq 0 \\ \Rightarrow & \phi_2 \geq 1 + \phi_1 \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

2.2.3. For any set of values x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , prove that $\phi_2 \geq 1$

Proof: Let us recall that

$$\lambda_2 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^2, \lambda_4 = DM(x_i - DM_x)^4$$

Consider the following expression

$$\begin{aligned} & DM \left\{ a(x_i - DM_x)^2 + c \right\}^2 \geq 0 \\ \Rightarrow & a^2 DM(x_i - DM_x)^4 + c^2 + 2ac DM(x_i - DM_x)^2 \geq 0 \\ \Rightarrow & a^2 \lambda_4 + c^2 + 2ac \lambda_2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Choosing $a = 1$ and $c = -\lambda_2$, the above expression becomes

$$\lambda_4 - \lambda_2^2 \geq 0$$

Hence, $\phi_2 \geq 1$.

2.3. Robust Jarque–Bera (RJB) Test of Normality

AS a result, and following the measures of robust skewness (ϕ_1) and robust kurtosis (ϕ_2) discussed earlier, for a normal PDF $\phi_1 = 0$ and $\phi_2 = 3$, that is a normal distribution is symmetric and mesokurtic. Therefore, a simple test of normality is to find out whether the computed values of robust skewness (ϕ_1) and robust kurtosis (ϕ_2) depart from the norms of 0 and 3, is defined by-

$$RJB = n \left[\frac{\phi_1^2}{6} + \frac{(\phi_2 - 3)^2}{24} \right]$$

It follows that the value of the *RJB* statistic is estimated to be 0. Under the null hypothesis of normality, *RJB* is distributed as a chi-square (χ^2) statistic with 2 degrees of freedom. If the *p* value is reasonably high, which will happen if the value of the statistic is close to 0, we do not reject the normality. But if the computed *p* value of the *RJB* statistic in an application is sufficiently low, which will happen if the value of *RJB* is very different from 0, one can reject the hypothesis that the data are normally distributed.

3. REAL DATA EXAMPLES

In this section, we apply some recognized graphs, classical and our newly proposed measures as well as tests on real data sets to make out the data are normal or not. Let us first consider the weight of a bag of carrots data, which is taken from [17]. This data consists of 12 observations. When we apply usual outliers’ detection method (Med-MAD) [18,19], we notice that this data does not hold any outlier. The outcome of graphical, classical and newly proposed measures and tests for this data are given below:

Since, the original data set is free from outliers we watch from Figure 1 that the type of the density plot is positively skewed distribution as well as QQ-plot are reasonably normal in shape.

From Table 1 reports the data are positively skewed and platykurtic normal shape based on both classical and proposes estimators. Any more notice that the inference of classical and propose JB tests results are same. But it is worth mentioning that Hogg and Tanis [17] used only graphical two tests and announced that the data is normal.

Now judge another data set, the diameter of individual grains of soil, such as porosity, data has taken as of [17], which contains 30 observations. In the beginning, we make sure outliers by usual method (Med-MAD) [18,19]; it detects 2 outliers (cases 6 and 14). Original data and deleting these outliers we verify the normality of the data set by graphical as well as analytical tests of normality, which results has publicized below:

In Figure 2 gives the two conclusions: one the density and QQ plots indicate the data set is positively skewed and normal characteristics when the data contain outliers, another graphs look negatively skewed and non-normal pattern because of free from contamination.

From Table 2 demonstrate that the classical measures μ_3 , β_1 and β_2 suggest that the data set is positively skewed and platykurtic as well as the classical JB test declare that the data set is normal when outliers presence in the data set. On the other hand, when extreme values present in the data set my newly proposed robust estimators λ_3 , ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 advice that the data set is negatively skewed and platykurtic as well as my newly proposed RJB test identify non-normality. It is to be important that both tests speak out non-normality when the data set free from unusual observations. But it is notified that Hogg and Tanis [17] utilized only graphical two tests and certified that the data is normal. Since the classical measures and JB test fail to discover the actual nature and shape of the data distribution, we recommend that our newly proposed measures and RJB test are more efficient and robust for correct inference.

Again, we assume a real data; the weight of packaged product data is taken from [17], which is consists of 100 observations. Initially, we confirm outliers by usual method (Med-MAD) [18,19]; it detects 6 outliers (cases 29, 50, 70, 71, 75 and 81). We test out the normality of the data set by graphical and analytical methods, which results have shown below:

From Figure 3 demonstrate that the data display positively skewed and non-normal because the points do fall far from a straight line in QQ-plot when the data contain extreme values. Conversely, we show that the data exhibit negatively skewed and normal for the reason that the points do drop over the straight line in QQ-plot when the data set is free from outliers.

From Table 3 shows that the classical statistics μ_3 , β_1 and β_2 hint that the data are positively skewed and leptokurtic as well as the classical JB test recognize non-normal pattern when outliers present in the data set. Alternatively, our newly proposed statistics λ_3 , ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 tell that the data is negatively skewed and platykurtic as well as RJB test has given exact identification when the data set hold outliers. Moreover, both the classical and proposed measures and tests have given right finding after removing outliers. But it is noteworthy that Hogg and Tanis [17] used only graphical two tests and licensed that the data is normal. Thus, we explain that the classical measures and JB test baffle to determine actual inference when extreme observations present in the data set. On the other hand, our newly proposed measures and RJB test have given correct inference when outliers present in the data set or absent.

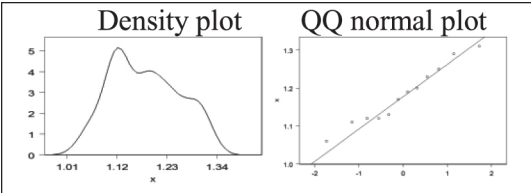


Figure 1 | A graphical comparison of normality.

Table 1 | Four measures result of the weight of a bag of carrots data.

	μ_3/λ_3	β_1/ϕ_1	β_2/ϕ_2	JB/RJB Value	p-Value	Remarks
Classical	0.000087	0.0457	1.9797	0.5246	0.7692	Normal
Proposed	0.000080	0.0539	1.8303	0.6898	0.7082	Normal

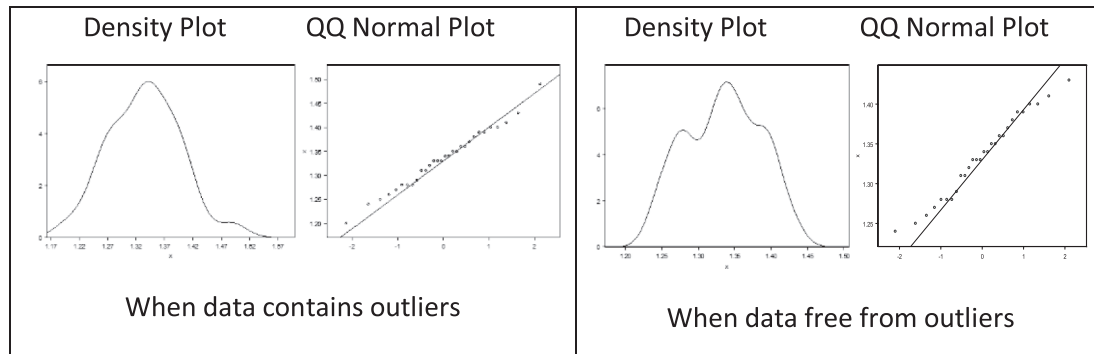


Figure 2 | A graphical comparison of normality when data hold outliers and not.

Table 2 | Four measures of the diameter of individual grains of soil, such as porosity, data with outliers (WO) and without outliers (WOO).

	μ_3/λ_3		β_1/ϕ_1		β_2/ϕ_2		JB/RJB Value		p-Value		Remarks	
	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO
Classical	0.000031	-8.053 e^{-006}	0.0166	0.0037	2.941	2.044	0.0057	1.0659	0.997	0.586	Normal	Not normal
Proposed	-0.00001	-8.559 e^{-006}	0.0075	0.0067	1.919	1.794	1.4606	1.6970	0.482	0.428	Not normal	Not normal

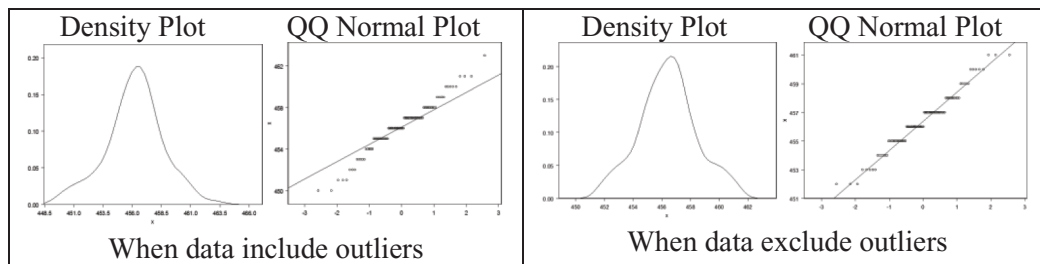


Figure 3 | A graphical comparison of normality when data have outliers and not.

Table 3 | Four measures of the weight of packaged product data with outliers (WO) and without outliers (WOO).

	μ_3/λ_3		β_1/ϕ_1		β_2/ϕ_2		JB/RJB Value		p-Value		Remarks	
	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO	WO	WOO
Classical	2.688	-0.6001	0.0352	0.0054	3.442	2.933	0.836	0.0179	0.658	0.9910	Not normal	Normal
Proposed	-1.015	-0.7407	0.0120	0.0164	2.650	2.670	0.512	0.4297	0.774	0.8066	Normal	Normal

4. REPORT OF MONTE CARLO SIMULATION STUDY

In this section, we report a Monte Carlo simulation study which is aim to compare the performance of the newly proposed robust measure of moment (λ_3), skewness (ϕ_1) and kurtosis (ϕ_2) with other popular and commonly used classical same measures. We also verify the sound power comparison of my newly proposed RJB test and classical JB test. We simulate data under not normal as well as normal from uniform distribution. In my simulation experiment, we have taken different sample sizes, $n = 50, 100, 200, 500$ and 1000 . Each experiment is run 10,000 times and the tests consequences are given below.

From Table 4 shows that the classical measure μ_3 , β_1 and β_2 give higher percentage for normal when the data sets are not normal. The classical normality test JB, the rejecting power of alternative hypothesis (H_1) is very high when alternative hypothesis (H_1) is true. Alternatively, the proposed measure λ_3 , ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 give very low percentage for normal when the data sets are not normal. The proposed normality test RJB, the rejecting power of alternative hypothesis (H_1) is very low when alternative hypothesis (H_1) is true.

From Table 5 reports that the classical measure μ_3 , β_1 and β_2 give very low percentage for normal when the data sets are normal. The classical normality test JB, the rejecting power of null hypothesis (H_0) is very high when null hypothesis (H_0) is true. Conversely, the proposed measure λ_3 , ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 give very high percentage for normal when the data sets are normal. The proposed normality test RJB, the rejecting power of null hypothesis (H_0) is very low when null hypothesis (H_0) is true.

Analyzing the above discussion, we demonstrate that the proposed measures and test give right outcome when the data set is normal and not normal. So over all we can say that the proposed measures and test are better than any other measures and tests to check the normality.

Table 4 | Performance comparison under not normal.

	Power (In Percentage)			
	μ_3/λ_3	β_1/ϕ_1	β_2/ϕ_2	JB/RJB
n = 50				
Classical	13.39	13.39	13.39	13.39
Proposed	1.31	1.31	1.31	1.31
n = 100				
Classical	19.64	19.64	19.64	19.64
Proposed	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97
n = 200				
Classical	27.58	27.58	27.58	27.58
Proposed	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053
n = 500				
Classical	31.89	31.89	31.89	31.89
Proposed	0.0019	0.0019	0.0019	0.0019
n = 1000				
Classical	37.49	37.49	37.49	37.49
Proposed	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004

Table 5 | Performance comparison under normal.

	Power (In Percentage)			
	μ_3/λ_3	β_1/ϕ_1	β_2/ϕ_2	JB/RJB
n = 50				
Classical	7.60	7.60	7.60	7.60
Proposed	93.47	93.47	93.47	93.47
n = 100				
Classical	11.81	11.81	11.81	11.81
Proposed	98.89	98.89	98.89	98.89
n = 200				
Classical	18.99	18.99	18.99	18.99
Proposed	100	100	100	100
n = 500				
Classical	34.03	34.03	34.03	34.03
Proposed	100	100	100	100
n = 1000				
Classical	39.68	39.68	39.68	39.68
Proposed	100	100	100	100

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, to sum up the whole aforesaid discussion, our main objectives was to propose a new robust measures of moments, skewness, kurtosis which represent the data better than any others existing tools. We also propose a new statistic of Jarque–Bera test of normality, so that it can correctly identify right inference than any others existing tests. Both cases we have seen that irrespective of the presence of outliers or not, our newly proposed robust measures of moments, skewness, kurtosis and RJB test performs better than other classical measures and tests for different sample sizes. Note that our proposed measures fulfill the various properties and conditions which we proved in Appendices. Mention that all existing graphical and analytical measures and test of normality fail to identify appropriate outcome for real data sets and small to moderate sample sizes when outliers present in the data sets. Not only that, both the real-life data and simulation study demonstrate that our newly proposed robust moments, robust skewness, robust kurtosis and RJB test of normality have given more actual sound results in a variety of situations and hence can be recommended to use an effective measures and test.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare they have no conflicts of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Md.Siraj-Ud-Doulah conceived and designed the study, analyzed the data, interpretation of the data and wrote the manuscript. The final version of the manuscript was reviewed and approved by the author.

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