

## LA-UR-21-26639

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Title: Statistical Testing for MCNP

Author(s): Zukaitis, Anthony J.  
Forster, Robert Arthur Iii  
Picard, Richard Roy

Intended for: MCNP 2021 User Symposium, 2021-07-12/2021-07-16 (Los Alamos, New Mexico, United States)

Issued: 2021-07-13

---

**Disclaimer:**

Los Alamos National Laboratory, an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, is operated by Triad National Security, LLC for the National Nuclear Security Administration of U.S. Department of Energy under contract 89233218CNA000001. By approving this article, the publisher recognizes that the U.S. Government retains nonexclusive, royalty-free license to publish or reproduce the published form of this contribution, or to allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes. Los Alamos National Laboratory requests that the publisher identify this article as work performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy. Los Alamos National Laboratory strongly supports academic freedom and a researcher's right to publish; as an institution, however, the Laboratory does not endorse the viewpoint of a publication or guarantee its technical correctness.

# Statistical Testing for MCNP

Anthony J Zukaitis XCP-3

Art Forster XCP-3

Rick Picard CC6-6

July 13, 2021

# Background - Ideology

- Statistical testing is used when exact answers cannot be replicated
- The sampling distribution of the mean of a variable will be normally distributed
- Compare tallies from two random number sequences ( random card )
- Use a specific tally as ensemble via bins

# Testing

Tally bins should be well converged

- Valid Confidence Intervals
- Regular Tallies: Std. err  $\leq 0.05$
- Point detectors: Std. err  $\leq 0.1$
- VOV  $< 0.1$  recommended but not always available.

# StatsTools

Ideology encapsulated into two Python tools

- Python Dependencies: MCNPTools, scipy
- do\_mctal\_stats.py
- do\_meshtal\_stats.py

## do\_mctal\_stats.py

```
bash-4.2$ do_mctal_stats.py --help
usage: do_mctal_stats.py [-h] --new NEW --ref REF
      --tally TALLY [--err ERR] [--pcrit PCRIT] [--report]
```

### optional arguments:

```
-h, --help      show this help message and exit
--new NEW       New mctal file
--ref REF       Reference mctal file
--tally TALLY   Tally number to process
--err ERR       Allow values equal or less than this relative error
                 ( default: 0.05 )
--pcrit PCRIT   Critical pvalue to use for statistical tests
                 ( default: 0.005 )
--report        Report bin by bin analysis
```

# Statistical Significance

- Statistically probable measurements
- Validation "Good"="Not Bad"
- Critical levels for probability 0.05, 0.01, 0.005



# Statistical Tests

- $Z^2, \log P$  summed ( both follow  $\chi^2$  distributions )
- $Z, P$  binned ( Std. normal vs uniform )
- $Z, P$  Kolmogorov Smirnov ( erf vs linear )

# Z-Values

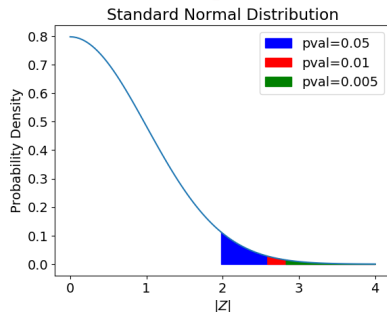
The Z-value statistic of normally distributed values follow a standard normal distribution.

- $Z_i = \frac{x_i - y_i}{\sqrt{s_{x_i}^2 + s_{y_i}^2}}$
- $x_i$  is the tally result obtained via one random number sequence
- $y_i$  is the tally result obtained via a different sequence
- $s_{x_i, y_i}$  is the standard deviation
- $Z_i \approx 0$  values are thrown away ( not statistically different )

The standard deviation is computed from the MCNP estimated standard error

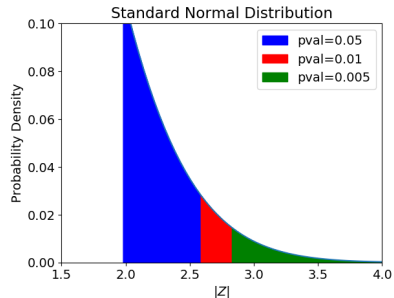
# P-Values

- $P$ -value defines the probability of a measured  $Z$  or higher
- $P = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \text{erf}(\frac{|Z|}{\sqrt{2}}))$



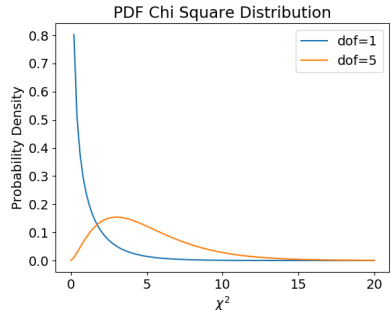
# P-Values

- $P$ -value defines the probability of a measured  $Z$  or higher
- $P = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \text{erf}(\frac{|Z|}{2}))$



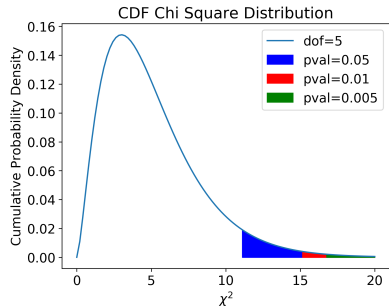
# Chi squared background

- $Z_i$  is normally distributed
- $\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N Z_i^2$
- $dof = NN =$  number of bins
- Then  $\chi^2$  follows a chisquare distribution



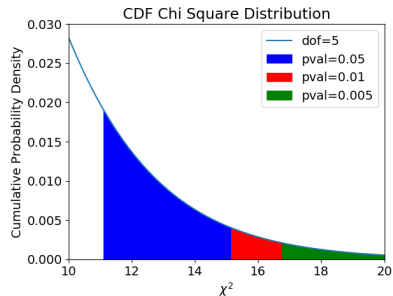
# Chi squared background

- p-values define the probability of a measured  $\chi^2$  or higher



# Chi squared background

- $p$ -values define the probability of a measured  $\chi^2$  or higher



# Chi squared summed testing

- $\chi^2 = \sum_i^N Z_i^2$
- $\chi^2 = -2 \sum_i^N \log(2 * P_i)$
- From each computed and  $\chi^2$  a p-value can be computed with respect to the  $\chi^2$  distribution



# Chi squared binned testing

- specify a number of bins (  $n_{bins}=21,20$  ) for  $Z,P$
- prepare histogram bins for  $Z,P$
- Compute bin boundaries such that the volumes of the bins are equal.

# Chi squared binned testing

- $O_j$  is the number of  $Z, P$  within bin  $j$
- $\chi_j = \frac{(O_j - E_{exp})^2}{E_{exp}}$
- $\chi^2 = \sum_j^{nbins} \chi_j$
- A p-value can be computed for this  $\chi^2$

# Kolmogorov-Smirnov $Z, P$ values testing

- Construct CDF of sorted  $Z, P$  values
- Construct corresponding CDF
  - CDF for  $Z$  is  $\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{Z}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$
  - CDF for  $P$  is  $P$  ( linear ).
- Look for largest separation between the two
- This distance is the d-value
- Compute corresponding p-value

# Test Problem bas-01

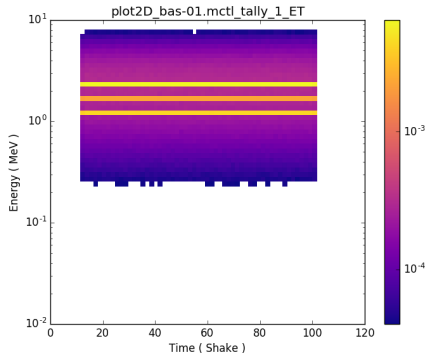
```

SDEF POS=0 0 0 RAD=D1 ERG=D2 TME=D3
c
SI1  0 1          $ RAD distribution
SP1 -21 2
c
SI2  S 21  22     $ ERG distribution
SP2   1  2.
SP21 -3          $ Watt spectrum
SI22 L  1.1 1.5 2.0 $ Discrete lines
SP22   2  1  3.
c
SI3  H 10 100     $ Pulse
SP3   0  1
c
F1:N 1           $ ERG and TME tallies
E1  1E-2 63ilog 10
T1  5 63i 110
c
F11:N 1         $ ERG Only
E11 1E-2 255ilog 20

```

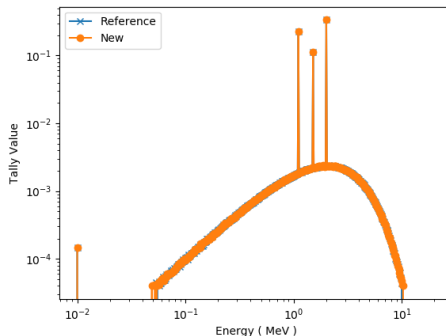
# Test Problem bas-01 - Surface Tally 1

- Time - Uniform pulse distribution
- Energy - 3 lines + Watt Spectrum
- Space - Spherical  
Volume  $r = 1 \text{ cm}$



# Test Problem bas-01 - Surface Tally 11

- Energy - 3 lines + Watt Spectrum



# Test Problem bas-01

```
Processing tally: 11
Nonzero scores: 256 Z Critical: 2.6600674686174592
Warning! LargeZ: 2.815806122121412 valref: 0.0029065 valnew: 0.002975 errref: 0.0059 ernew: 0.0
Warning! LargeZ: 2.829843781428351 valref: 0.0011837 valnew: 0.0012276 errref: 0.0092 ernew: 0.0
Total scores                : 257
Usable scores                : 196
Unusable scores              : 60
Unusable matching zero scores : 1
Unusable matching nonzero scores: 0
```

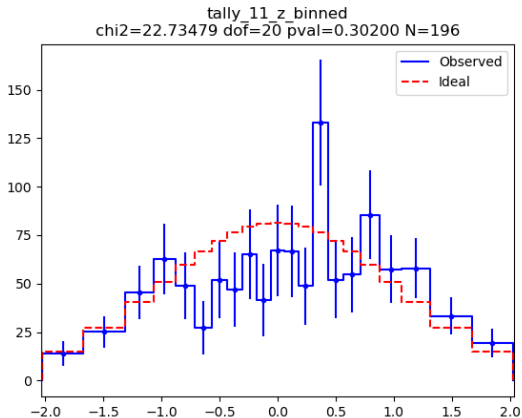
# Test Problem bas-01

```
Ref scores with errors <= 0.05 : 196
New scores with errors <= 0.05 : 197
Errors outside crit ratio      : 3.0 count: 0
Minimum non zero error over all ref data: 0.0004
Minimum non zero error over all new data: 0.0004
zspace_binned: scores: 196 chisq: 22.73479444149072 dof: 20 pvalue: 0.30200355809947327
z_summed_test: chisq: 225.5458350589523 dof: 196 pvalue: 0.07261966846939263
zspace_ks: scores: 196 D: 0.11914784582184068 pvalue: 0.006993056520287106
pspace_binned: scores: 196 chisq: 15.836734693877549 dof: 19 pvalue: 0.6681419596523805
pspace_summed: scores: 196 chisq: 440.42402210482635 dof: 392 pvalue: 0.04584767913524263
pspace_ks: scores: 196 D: 0.10042705348936298 pvalue: 0.03572416809095569
```



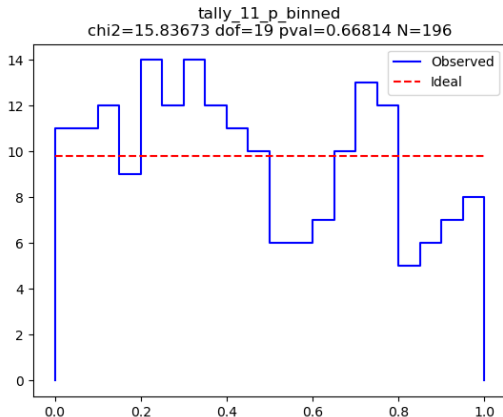
# Test Problem bas-01

## Surface Tally 11 - Z binned



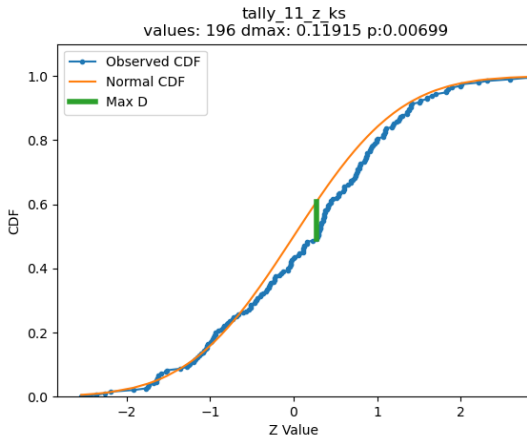
# Test Problem bas-01

## Surface Tally 11 - $P$ binned



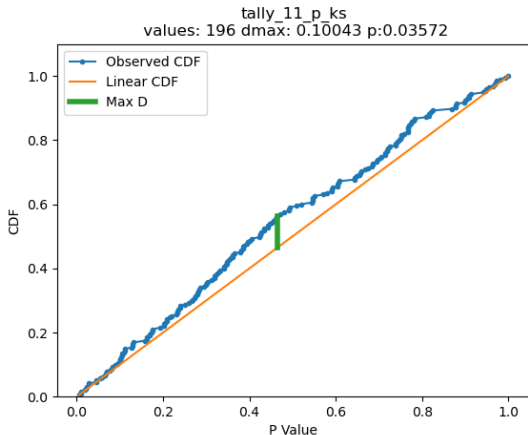
# Test Problem bas-01

## Surface Tally 11 - Kolmogorov Smirnov



# Test Problem bas-01

## Surface Tally 11 - Kolmogorov Smirnov



# Test Problem bas-01 modified

```
Basic Source in a Sphere
100  0  -1  IMP:N=1  $  inside sphere
999  0   1  IMP:N=0  $  outside world
```

```
1 SO 1
```

```
print
MODE N
NPS 1E7
PRDMP 2J +1
```

```
c
SDEF POS=0 0 0 RAD=D1 ERG=D2 TME=D3
```

```
c
SI1  0 1          $ RAD distribution
SP1 -21 2
```

```
c
SI2  S 21 22      $ ERG distribution
SP2   1.01 2
```

```
SP21 -3          $ Watt spectrum
SI22 L 1.1 1.5 2.0 $ Discrete lines
SP22  2  1 3.05
```

```
c
SI3  H 10 100     $ Pulse
SP3   0  1
```

```
c
F1:N 1           $ ERG and TME tallies
```

```
E1  1E-2 63ilog 10
T1  5 63i 110
```

```
c
E11 1E-2 255ilog 20
```

```
$ ERG Only
```

UNCLASSIFIED

Managed by Triad National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

# Test Problem bas-01 modified

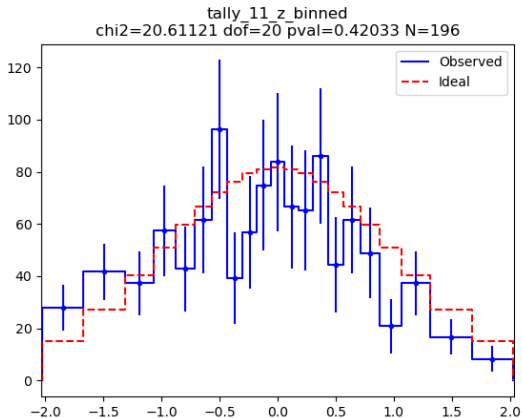
Total scores	:	257
Usable scores	:	196
Unusable scores	:	60
Unusable matching zero scores	:	1
Unusable matching nonzero scores	:	0
Ref scores with errors $\leq 0.05$	:	196
New scores with errors $\leq 0.05$	:	197
Errors outside crit ratio	:	3.0 count: 0
Minimum non zero error over all ref data	:	0.0004
Minimum non zero error over all new data	:	0.0004

# Test Problem bas-01 modified

```
Minimum non zero error over all new data: 0.0004
zspace_binned: scores: 196 chisq: 20.61121148274366 dof: 20 pvalue: 0.4203251973217062
z_summed_test: chisq: 298.8060630841057 dof: 196 pvalue: 3.0624173630059094e-06
Failure! Z Summed pvalue < pcrit 3.0624173630059094e-06 0.005
zspace_ks: scores: 196 D: 0.13856774091732865 pvalue: 0.000958291677962661
Failure! KS normal pvalue < pcrit 0.000958291677962661 0.005
pspace_binned: scores: 196 chisq: 26.04081632653061 dof: 19 pvalue: 0.12905571066264981
pspace_summed: scores: 196 chisq: 521.3030690394801 dof: 392 pvalue: 1.2590408950300071e-05
Failure! P Summed pvalue < pcrit 1.2590408950300071e-05 0.005
pspace_ks: scores: 196 D: 0.1034116844159888 pvalue: 0.0280643749049152
```

# Test Problem bas-01 modified

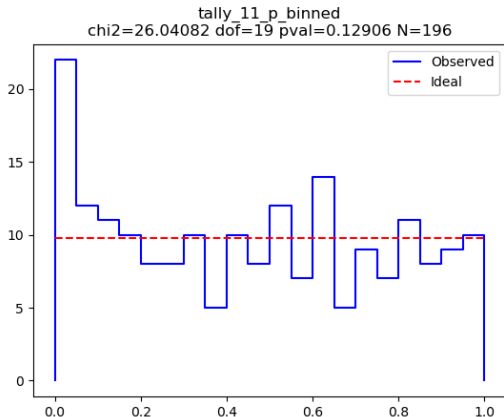
## Surface Tally 11 - Z binned





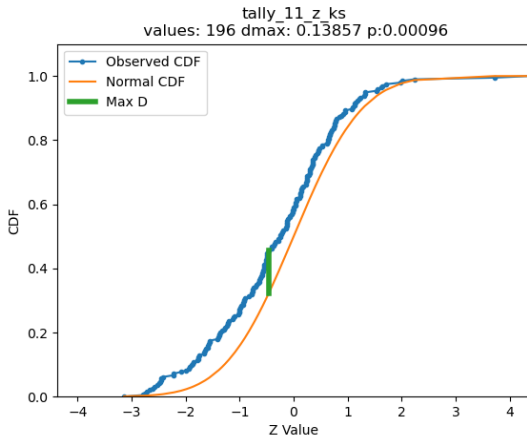
# Test Problem bas-01 modified

## Surface Tally 11 - $P$ binned



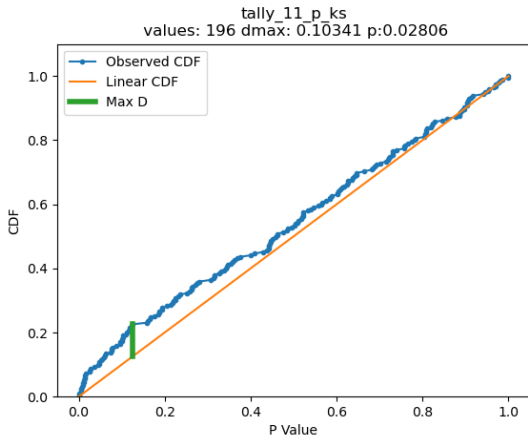
# Test Problem bas-01 modified

## Surface Tally 11 - Z Kolmogorov Smirnov



# Test Problem bas-01 modified

## Surface Tally 11 - $P$ Kolmogorov Smirnov



# Test Problem bas-01 –report option

Processing tally : 11

...

Binname	Ref Val	Ref Err	New Val	New Err	Z-Value	P-Value	CI	Analysis
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----	----------

E0	1.495e-04	0.02590	1.489e-04	0.02590	-0.10979	0.91258		ValidCIs
E1	6.400e-06	0.12500	6.700e-06	0.12220				Both invalid
E20	1.520e-05	0.08110	1.520e-05	0.08110				Exact Nonzero
E41	4.050e-05	0.04970	4.120e-05	0.04930	0.24479	0.80662		ValidCIs
E42	3.970e-05	0.05020	4.240e-05	0.04860				Valid new, invalid ref
E62	1.021e-04	0.03130	1.021e-04	0.03130				ValidCI Exact Values
E74	1.777e-04	0.02370	1.618e-04	0.02490	-2.72811	0.00637		ValidCIs LargeZ

## Future work

- Is  $P$  sensitive enough?
- Added statistical tests
- Distribute with MCNPTools
- Variance reduction testing
- Particle physics testing