

Keynote Lecture
**New standards for
analyzing astigmatic outcomes**

Thomas Kohnen



Financial disclosure:

T. Kohnen: *Consultant and Research* for Alcon, J&J, Lensgen, Oculentis, Oculus, Presbia, Schwind, Zeiss. *Consultant for* Allergan, Bausch & Lomb, Geuder, Med Update, Santen, Staar, Thieme, Ziemer.

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Setting standards for astigmatism analysis



Douglas D. Koch, MD, Thomas Kohnen, MD, PhD, FRCO

Astigmatism analysis is a complex topic. Analyzing astigmatic outcomes requires two elements: (1) scalar or non-vector analysis, since the magnitude of refractive astigmatism is a predictor of visual function, and (2) vector analysis, which, by recognizing that astigmatism is bivariate—that is, has magnitude and angle—is required to calculate astigmatic change. Stokes in 1849 was the first to recognize a fundamental principle of vector analysis of astigmatism: One must first double the angles to create vector values that enable correct analytical approaches.¹

A large number of methods of analyzing astigmatic change have been proposed in recent years. Those that follow the principles of double-angle bivariate analysis are accurate and provide valuable insights. Unfortunately, some methods of analyzing astigmatic change are not valid because they do not adhere to these principles, resulting in misleading analyses that fail to advance the science. Further complicating this area is the recent recognition that astigmatic data are not normally distributed.² New statistical approaches that account for this are required and are now available.

To address these issues, the editors of the *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery* initiated a working group to update and establish astigmatic reporting guidelines. The goal was to provide the basic elements of accurate reporting of astigmatic change, incorporating correct vector mathematics and statistical methodology. The guidelines are based on sound optical principles that avoid misleading results and allow authors, peer reviewers, and readers to easily understand, assimilate, and compare published reports of low-order astigmatic corrections.

Together with an international team of authors, we present the work in two parts. The first paper is an overview of

astigmatism, including definitions, measurement technologies, and sources of error and variability (page ***). The second paper describes our recommended methodology for analyzing astigmatic outcomes (page ***). This approach is based on the optics of corneal and lenticular astigmatism, as well as contemporary vector analysis and statistical approaches. We want to emphasize that what we propose is not exclusive, that is, that authors may wish to provide additional valid analyses to better characterize their outcomes. We believe that implementing these analytical and statistical methods will bring accuracy, consistency, and clarity to astigmatism reporting.

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1. Stokes GG. 1849. Meeting of the British association for the advancement of science. Transactions of the sections, notices and abstracts of miscellaneous communications to the sections. On a Method of Measuring the Astigmatism of a Collection of Eyes. 1849;10:1-11. Issue 1850. Biodiversity Heritage Library. Accessed January 2, 2025. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/11360121#page/2955/mode/1up>.
2. Hukulele JT, Wilson RR, Koch DD, Wang L. Astigmatism analysis and reporting of surgically induced astigmatism and prediction error. J Cataract Refract Surg. 2022;48(7):988-912. doi:10.1067/j.cats.2022.0007000707.

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Standards for Analyzing Astigmatic Outcomes

Part I: Astigmatism Basics

Part II: Recommended Statistical Methods

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Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery®



Acknowledgment

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In December 2020, The Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (JCRS) formed a committee to reach and publish a consensus on clear and accurate astigmatism reporting guidelines to benefit JCRS authors and all researchers. The committee consisted of clinicians and researchers with expertise in this area. Following a series of virtual meetings, several of the committee members prepared the two manuscripts -- one on background and the second on standards for analyzing astigmatism. In addition to the authors of this paper, we want to acknowledge and thank the other members of the committee who made important contributions to the concepts incorporated in the written result of this project: Graham D. Barrett (MD, Australia), Laure Gobin (PhD, Belgium), and David Smadja (MD, Israel).

Standards for Analyzing Astigmatic Outcomes Part I: Astigmatism Basics

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Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery®



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Standards for analyzing astigmatic outcomes: part I: astigmatism basics

Thomas Kohnen, MD, PhD, FEBO, Kristian Næser, MD, DSMC, Jack T. Holladay, MD, MSEE, R. Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD, Li Wang, MD, PhD, Adi Abulafia, MD, PhD, Douglas D. Koch, MD

Astigmatism is the difference between the orthogonal principal planes of minimal and maximal powers of a toric surface, lens, or refraction. Corneal astigmatism is a common condition, and studies indicate that over 60% of individuals have more than 0.50 diopters of astigmatism. Corneal astigmatism is measured in various ways, and measurements from different devices are usually not interchangeable because of variations in technology and the corneal regions that are imaged. The integrity of the ocular surface is critically important for accurately measuring corneal astigmatism. Optimizing the ocular surface before cataract surgery can significantly improve the accuracy of preoperative astigmatism measurements and refractive outcomes. It is advisable to obtain at least 2 or

preferably 3 measurements when measuring corneal astigmatism. When a discrepancy in astigmatism meridian and magnitude occurs between the measurements, it is advisable to settle or at least minimize this discrepancy by repeating the measurements after optimizing the ocular surface. Posterior corneal astigmatism is an important component of total corneal astigmatism. Lens tilt can also induce visually significant relative astigmatism and ideally should be accounted for in toric intraocular lens planning.

J Cataract Refract Surg. 2025; ■1-7. Copyright © 2025. Published by Wolters Kluwer on behalf of ASCRS and ESCRS.

Astigmatism analysis can be a complex, daunting, and sometimes contentious endeavor because of the complex nature of the topic, the variety of approaches available, and the shifting terminology. Over the past 3 decades, a variety of analytical methods have been proposed for predicting the residual refractive astigmatism after cataract and refractive surgery with the dual goals of guiding surgeons to provide optimal correction of astigmatism and enabling researchers to analyze and present outcomes of procedures that alter astigmatism. Although many of the new developments are helpful, the lack of general consensus on terminology and approach make it increasingly difficult to effectively compare and evaluate research in the area of astigmatism.

To bring clarity to the topic of astigmatism analysis for all current and future researchers, the *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery* formed a working group to (1) establish astigmatic reporting guidelines based on sound optical principles and (2) provide new astigmatism calculation tools that simplify the process and allow researchers to reliably calculate accurate and reproducible results.

DEFINING ASTIGMATISM

In a spherical (stigmatic or point-like) optical system, a point in the object space is focused as a point image. An object located in the far point is focused on the retina. Objects from any other positions are defocused.¹

In a regular astigmatic optical system, an object point is focused as 2 mutually perpendicular line segments delineating the Sturm interval.¹ Stated another way, astigmatism is the difference between the orthogonal principal planes of minimal and maximal powers of a toric surface, lens, or refraction. The curvature difference can be transformed to dioptric power using the radii of curvature and refractive indices of the refractive surface and surrounding media.² The optical effects of ocular astigmatism are blurring at all fixation distances because of a lack of point focus and, when corrected with cylindrical lenses, causes distortion in various meridians because of unequal magnification of the retinal image. Sphere and regular astigmatism are lower-order aberrations, correctable with spectacles or contact lenses. However, the optical quality of the human cornea is inferior to a diffraction-limited lens, with mean higher-order aberrations (also termed irregular

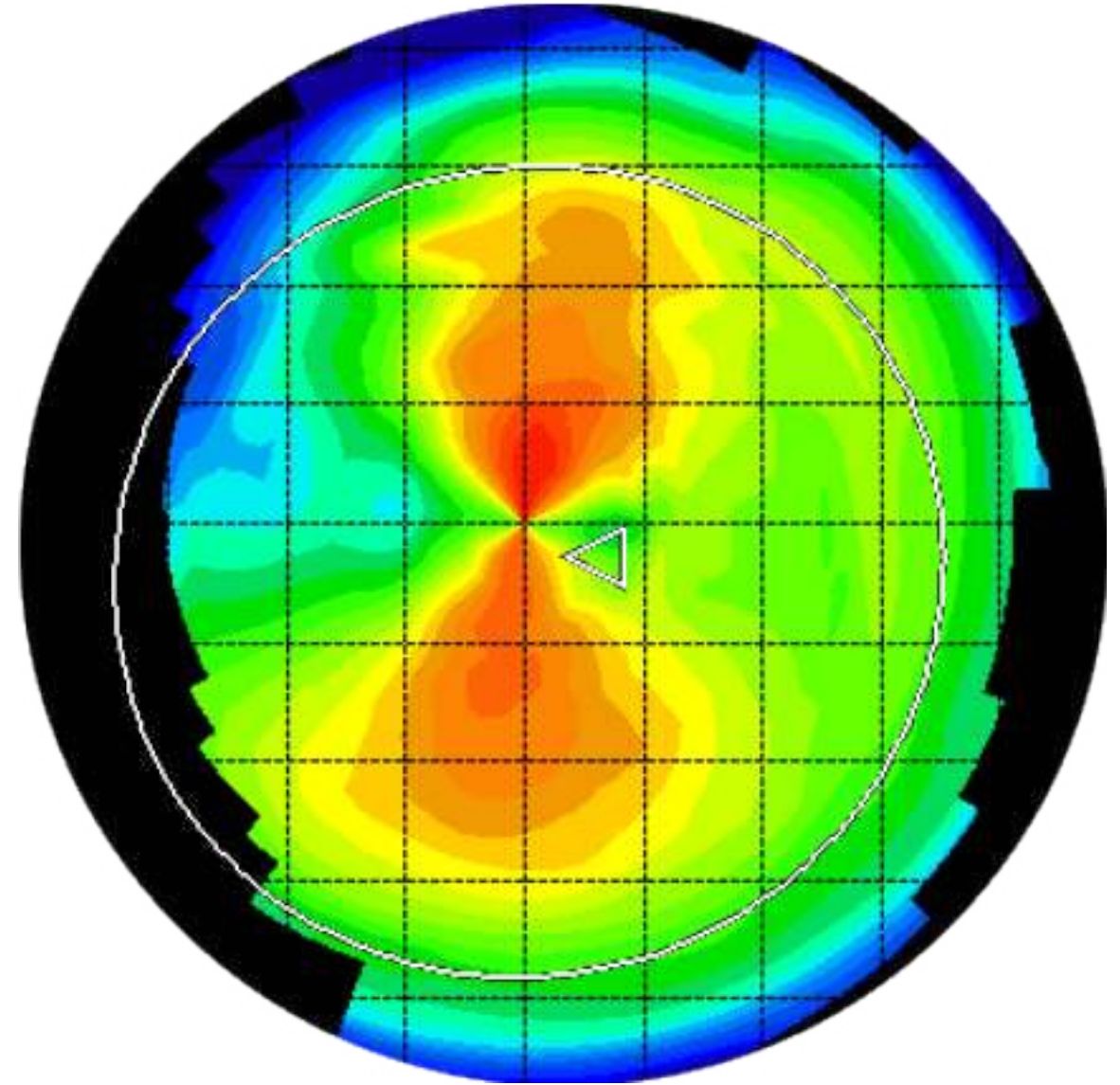
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From the Department of Ophthalmology, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany (Kohnen); Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas (Holladay); Wang, Koch; Department of Ophthalmology, Randers Regional Hospital, Randers, Denmark (Næser); Wills Eye Institute, Atlanta, Georgia (Stulting); Department of Ophthalmology, Shady Side Medical Center, Joliet, Illinois (Abulafia).

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Astigmatism



Corneal astigmatism: frequency

Prevalence of corneal astigmatism before cataract surgery

Teresa Ferrer-Blasco, PhD, Robert Montes-Mico, PhD, Sofia C. Peixoto-de-Matos, MD, Jose M. Gonzalez-Mejome, PhD, Alejandro Cervino, PhD

PURPOSE: To analyze the prevalence of corneal astigmatism in patients undergoing cataract surgery.

SETTING: University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain.

METHODS: Preoperative corneal astigmatism was measured before cataract surgery in patients having cataract surgery. The prevalence of corneal astigmatism was determined by the degree of astigmatism.

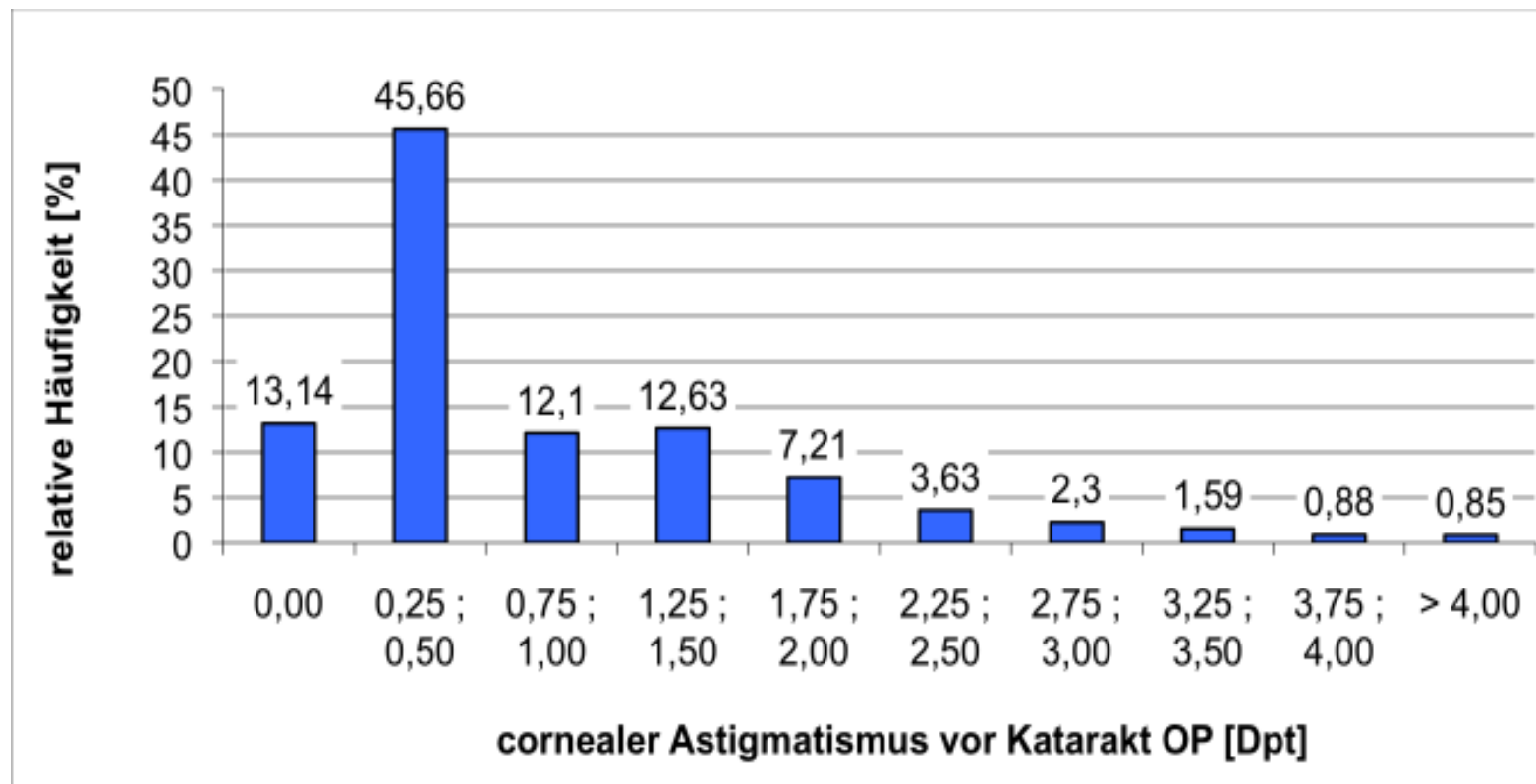
RESULTS: Refractive astigmatism was found in 45.66% of 1000 eyes. The prevalence of corneal astigmatism was 13.14% for 0.25 D, 45.66% for 0.50 D, 12.1% for 0.75 D, 12.63% for 1.00 D, 7.21% for 1.25 D, 3.63% for 1.50 D, 2.3% for 1.75 D, 1.59% for 2.00 D, 0.88% for 2.25 D, and 0.85% for 2.50 D.

CONCLUSIONS: Corneal astigmatism was found in 45.66% of 1000 eyes. The prevalence of corneal astigmatism was 13.14% for 0.25 D, 45.66% for 0.50 D, 12.1% for 0.75 D, 12.63% for 1.00 D, 7.21% for 1.25 D, 3.63% for 1.50 D, 2.3% for 1.75 D, 1.59% for 2.00 D, 0.88% for 2.25 D, and 0.85% for 2.50 D.

J Cataract Refract Surg 2009;35:70-5

Corneal astigmatism is a common refractive error that can be corrected by cataract surgery. The prevalence of corneal astigmatism before cataract surgery is not well known. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of corneal astigmatism before cataract surgery in a large sample of patients. The study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital. The prevalence of corneal astigmatism was determined by the degree of astigmatism. The results showed that the prevalence of corneal astigmatism was 45.66% in this study. The prevalence of corneal astigmatism was 13.14% for 0.25 D, 45.66% for 0.50 D, 12.1% for 0.75 D, 12.63% for 1.00 D, 7.21% for 1.25 D, 3.63% for 1.50 D, 2.3% for 1.75 D, 1.59% for 2.00 D, 0.88% for 2.25 D, and 0.85% for 2.50 D.

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58% ≤ 0,5D; 70% ≤ 1D
high astigmatism (>3D) rare!

Corneal astigmatism: measurements



Keratometer

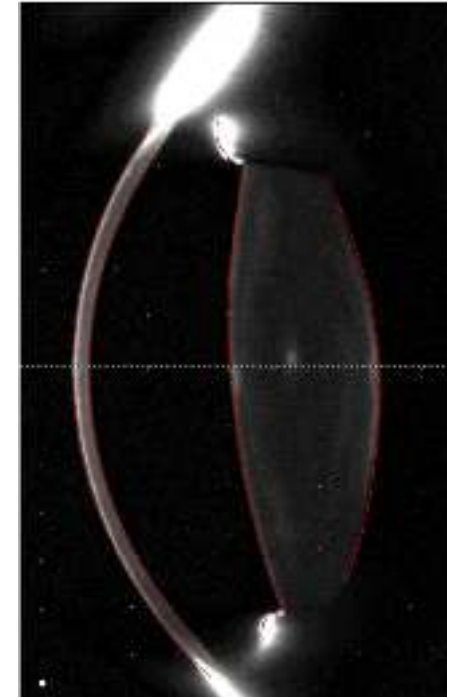
CT

Important for measurements:

- Measure 2 or 3 times to confirm results
- Prior ocular surface optimization (artificial tears)
- Measure anterior and posterior astigmatism if possible

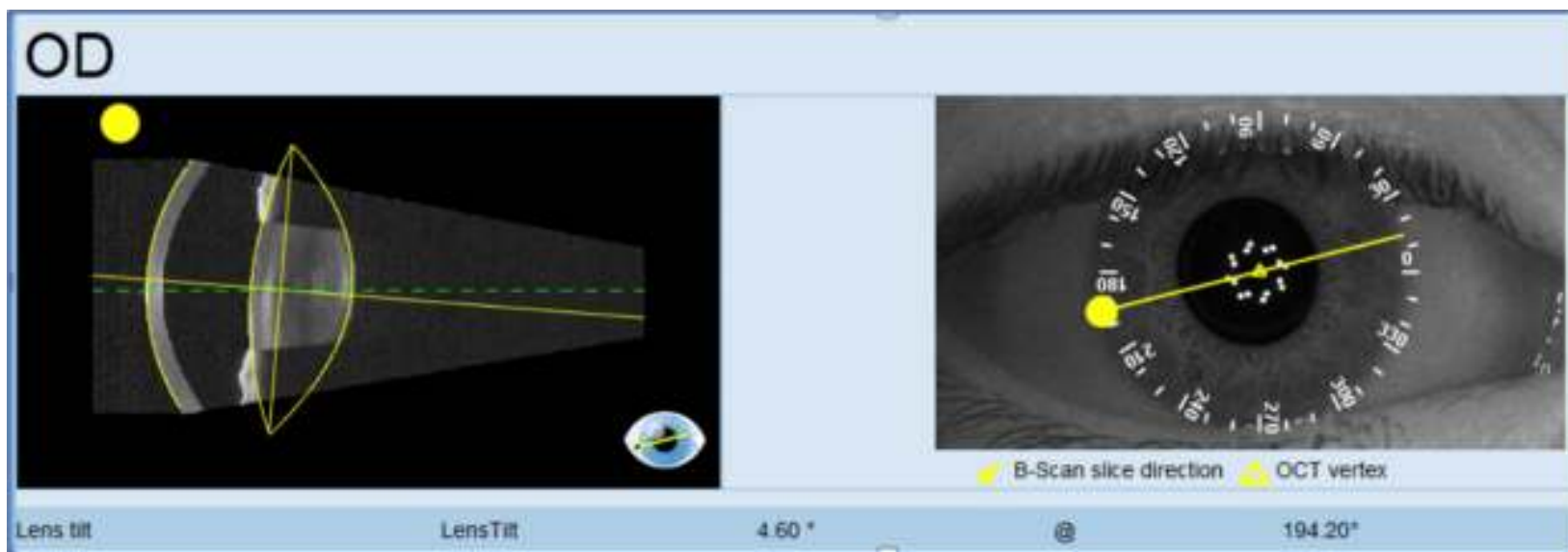
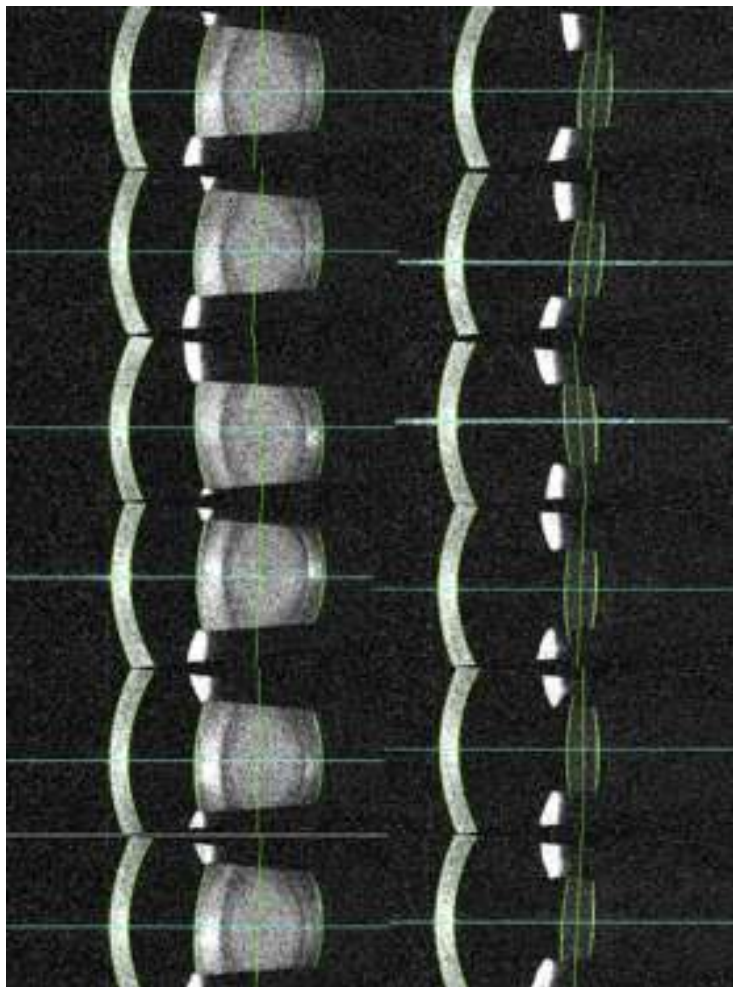
Studies on posterior corneal astigmatism

- The mean magnitude of CApost was appr. **-0.3 D**
 - Ho et al. (2009): -0.33 D (0.00–0.94)
n = 493, Scheimpflug imaging (Oculus Pentacam)
 - Koch et al. (2012): -0.30 D (0.01–1.10):
n = 715, Scheimpflug imaging (Ziemer Galilei DAS)
 - Tonn et al. (2014): -0.33 D $\pm$ 0.18
n = 3818, Scheimpflug imaging (Oculus Pentacam)



- Incoming parallel rays are refracted through the anterior and posterior corneal surface (*in accordance with Snell's law*)
 - with real refraction index numbers (1 for air, 1.376 for cornea, 1.336 for aqueous)
- refracted rays, instead of parallel rays, reach the posterior corneal surface

Lens tilt as an influence on astigmatism



What is known

REVIEW/UPDATE

Standards for analyzing astigmatic outcomes: part I: astigmatism basics

Thomas Kohnen, MD, PhD, FEBO, Kristian Næser, MD, DSMC, Jack T. Holladay, MD, MSEE, R. Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD, Li Wang, MD, PhD, Adi Abulafia, MD, PhD, Douglas D. Koch, MD

- Astigmatism is the difference between the two main orthogonal planes of a toric surface or lens
- Over 60% of people have more than 0.5 D of corneal astigmatism
- With more cataract and elective lens surgeries, predicting residual astigmatism has become crucial
- Despite many measurement methods, inconsistent terminology and approaches hinder comparisons

What this paper adds

- We suggest a consistent use of terminology and provide clear explanations and definitions for measuring astigmatism
- The integrity of the ocular surface is critically important for accurately measuring corneal astigmatism
- We provide clear and accurate astigmatism reporting guidelines based on sound optical principles

REVIEW/UPDATE

Standards for analyzing astigmatic outcomes: part I: astigmatism basics

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Standards for Analyzing Astigmatic Outcomes

Part II: Recommended Statistical Methods

JCRS

Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery®



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Standards for analyzing astigmatic outcomes

Part II: Recommended statistical methods

Douglas D. Koch, MD, Jack T. Holladay, MD, MSCE, Kristian Næser, MD, DSMC, Adi Abulafia, MD, PhD, Li Wang, MD, PhD, R. Doyle Swearing, MD, PhD, Thomas Kohnen, MD, PhD, FRSO

Surgically induced astigmatism (SIA) is the astigmatic component of the surgically induced refractive change. Vector prediction error (PVE) is the key criterion for assessing refractive surgery. PVE has 2 components: the vector difference between the postoperatively observed refractive astigmatism and the refractive astigmatism predicted from the preoperative error, vector. Astigmatic analysis of the SIA and PVE includes both spherical and toric analysis. The magnitude of refractive astigmatism is a preoperative function and a valuable component of astigmatic reporting. The vector method that provides accurate data should be adopted and reported with

discernible plots. Vector calculations can be performed independently relative to a reference meridian axis. Discernible plots with vector polygons and statistical analysis for astigmatism data can be obtained easily with the map-up program from the Wave-Induced Vector Graph Statistical Software using the free software (1). Periodic statistical forms for vector astigmatic outcomes, which is also available online.

J Cataract Refract Surg 2025; 51:4-6. Copyright © 2025 Published by Wolters Kluwer on behalf of ASCRS and ESCRS.

The second paper produced by the Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery astigmatism working group describes the recommended methodology for analyzing astigmatic outcomes. This approach is based on the optics of corneal and lenticular astigmatism, as well as contemporary vector analysis and statistical approaches.

The term “astigmatism” will be used throughout this section of the document to indicate regular astigmatism.¹⁻³ Surgically induced astigmatism (SIA) is the astigmatic component of the surgically induced refractive change (SIRC).⁴ The SIRC can be broken down into spherical equivalent and astigmatic (SIA) components. The spherical equivalent of a refraction is characterized by a single number. By contrast, astigmatism is characterized by both a quantity and a direction.⁵ As will be discussed below, astigmatic analysis of the SIA includes both univariate and bivariate analysis.

Regular astigmatism can be expressed in plus, minus, or cross-cylinder format. The plus format is used for this communication. A toric refractive surface is characterized by its orthogonal principal meridians of maximal and minimal power. The magnitude of astigmatism M ($M \geq 0$) is the

absolute difference in power between these principal meridians. The direction of astigmatism θ is defined as the meridian of most positive (or least negative) power. The astigmatism M along (or meridian θ) is symbolized as (M @ θ).

NONVECTOR METRICS

The magnitude of the refractive astigmatism—irrespective of direction—is a predictor of visual function. Therefore, comparing the magnitudes of preoperative and postoperative astigmatism or residual postoperative astigmatism from multiple independent datasets, independent of astigmatic direction, is a valuable component of astigmatic reporting. Depending on the datasets, these values should be reported: (1) mean and median refractive astigmatism with SDs and ranges and (2) percentages of eyes with postoperative refractive astigmatism (or vector astigmatism as a substitute) within certain discrete intervals, typically 0.25 diopter (D), 0.50 D, 0.75 D, 1.00 D, and ≥ 1.0 depending on the dataset. Statistical comparisons of these percentages can be performed using the McNemar test for dependent datasets.⁶

Although the goals of refractive (corneal) surgery and cataract surgery with toric intraocular lenses (IOLs) are the

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From the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN (D.K., J.H., K.N., A.A., L.W., R.D.S., T.K.); University of California, Irvine, CA (D.K.); University of California, San Francisco, CA (J.H.); University of California, Los Angeles, CA (K.N.); University of California, San Diego, CA (A.A.); University of California, San Diego, CA (L.W.); University of California, San Diego, CA (R.D.S.); University of California, San Diego, CA (T.K.).

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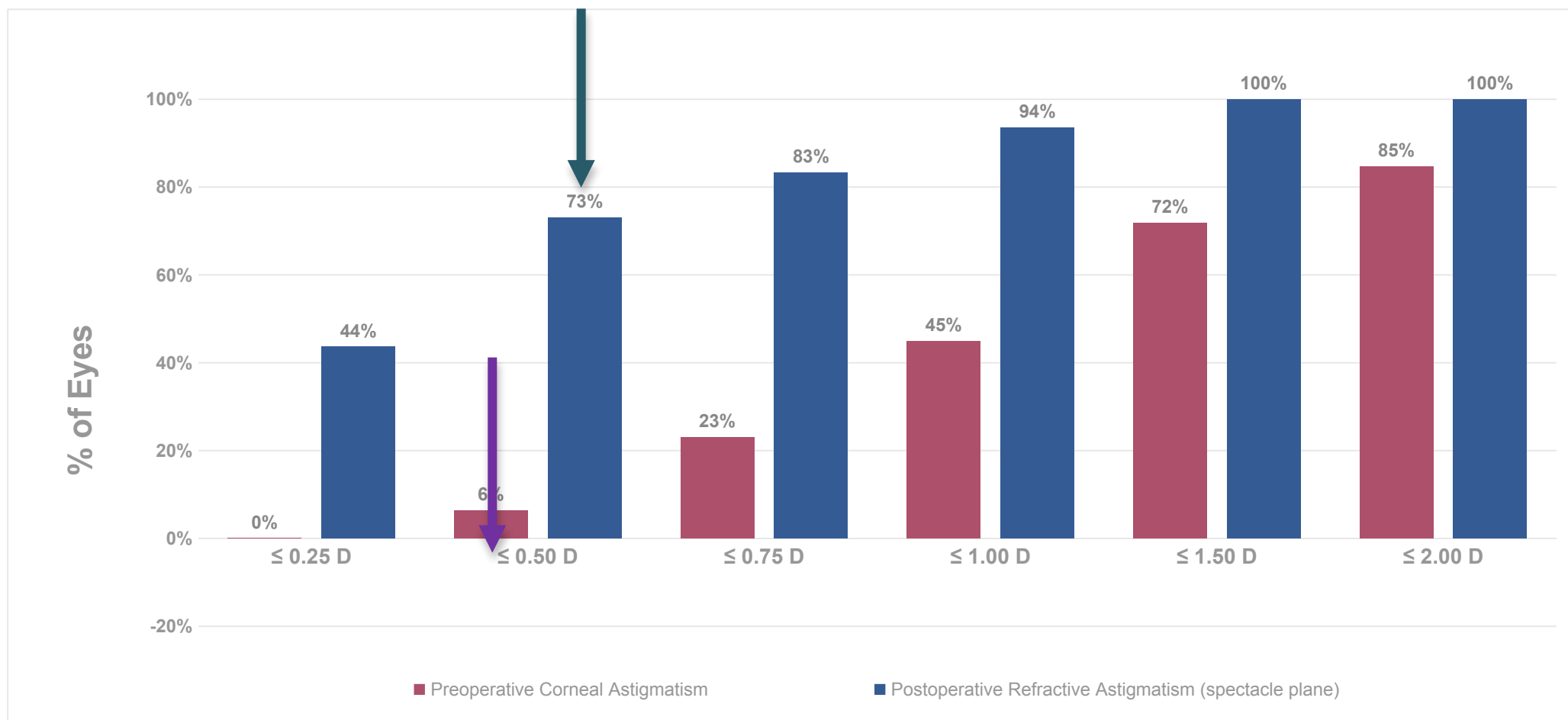
Analyzing astigmatic outcomes

- 1. What do we want to know?
 - How well does the patient see...uncorrected vision
 - But it is affected by spherical error so not specific enough
 - Actual amounts of residual astigmatism: ***scalar values***
 - How accurate are the outcomes compared to the predicted: ***vector prediction error***

Analyzing astigmatic outcomes

- 2. What do we want to know?
 - Refractive astigmatism: ***scalar values***
 - % of eyes with $\leq 0.25, 0.5, 0.75$ D etc.
 - Especially useful for procedures that target 0 astigmatism, eg, LASIK

Figure 1: Cumulative histogram of dioptric bins



Analyzing toric IOL astigmatic outcomes

- How accurate is the formula for hitting the predicted targets?
 - More complicated for toric IOLs
 - The target is not zero due to 0.75 D IOL steps at IOL plane

Analyzing astigmatism outcomes

- Complicated!
- Astigmatism has 2 variables:
 - Power or magnitude
 - Meridian or axis
 - You don't get reliable information by analyzing either in isolation
 - Bivariate analysis is mandatory

What variables should we analyze?

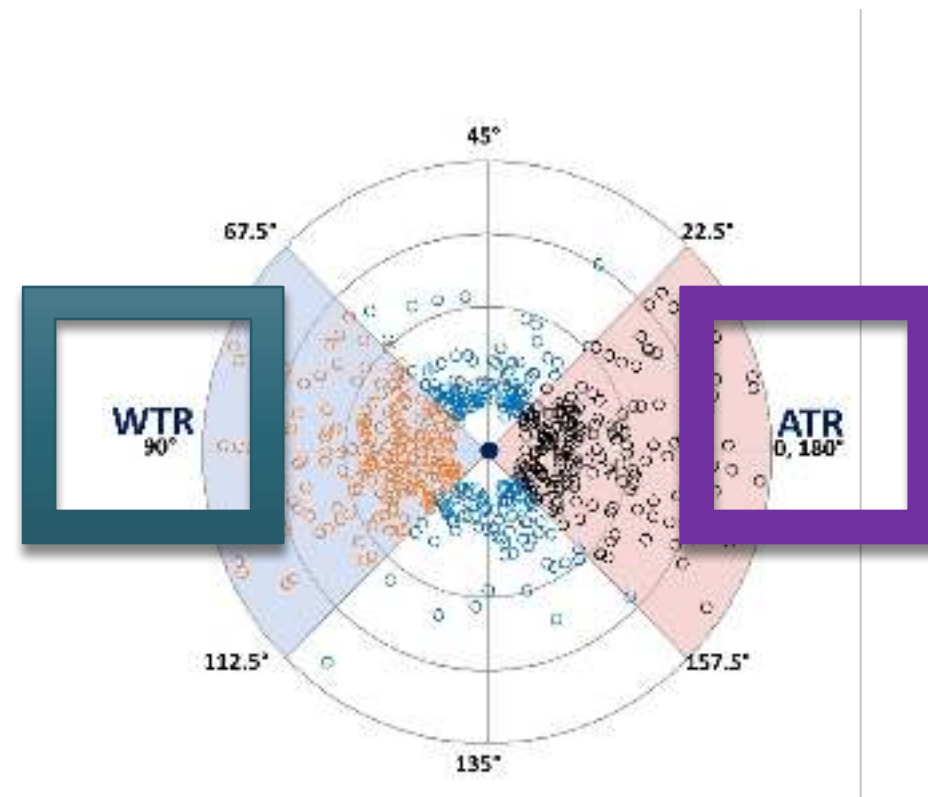
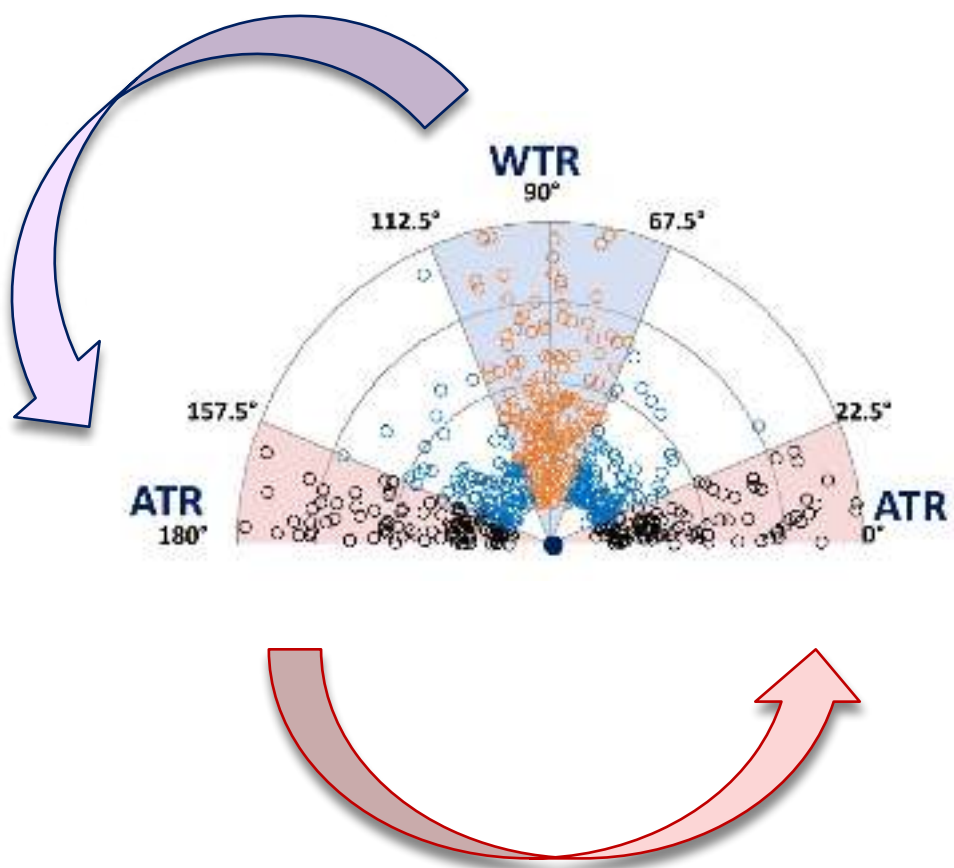
3. We want to compare the magnitude and angle of the postop refractive astigmatism to predict:

- ***Vector prediction error***
- Vector difference between "Actual" and "Predicted"
- This describes the true accuracy of the formula/procedure
- Critical data in order to refine formula and procedures to improve outcomes

To analyze astigmatism

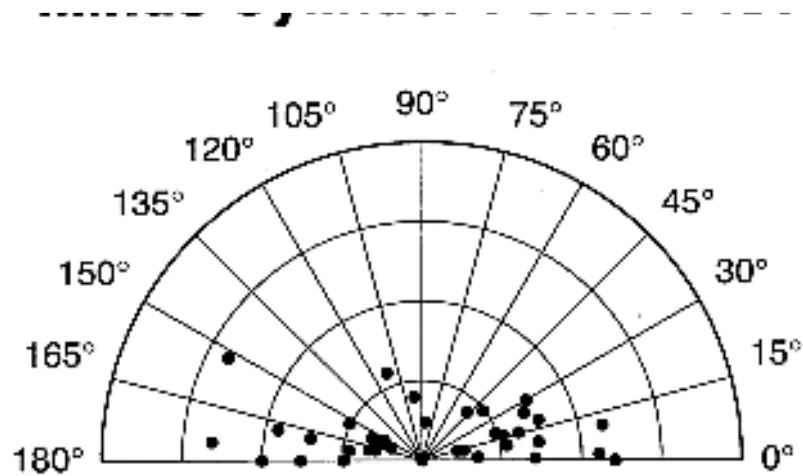
- Break it down into cartesian values:
 - $x = C \cdot \cos(2 \cdot \alpha)$
 - $y = C \cdot \sin(2 \cdot \alpha)$
- Perform calculations on x and y separately
- Reassemble x and y into the astigmatic value in conventional notation

Single-angle vs. double-angle plots



Same exact data points

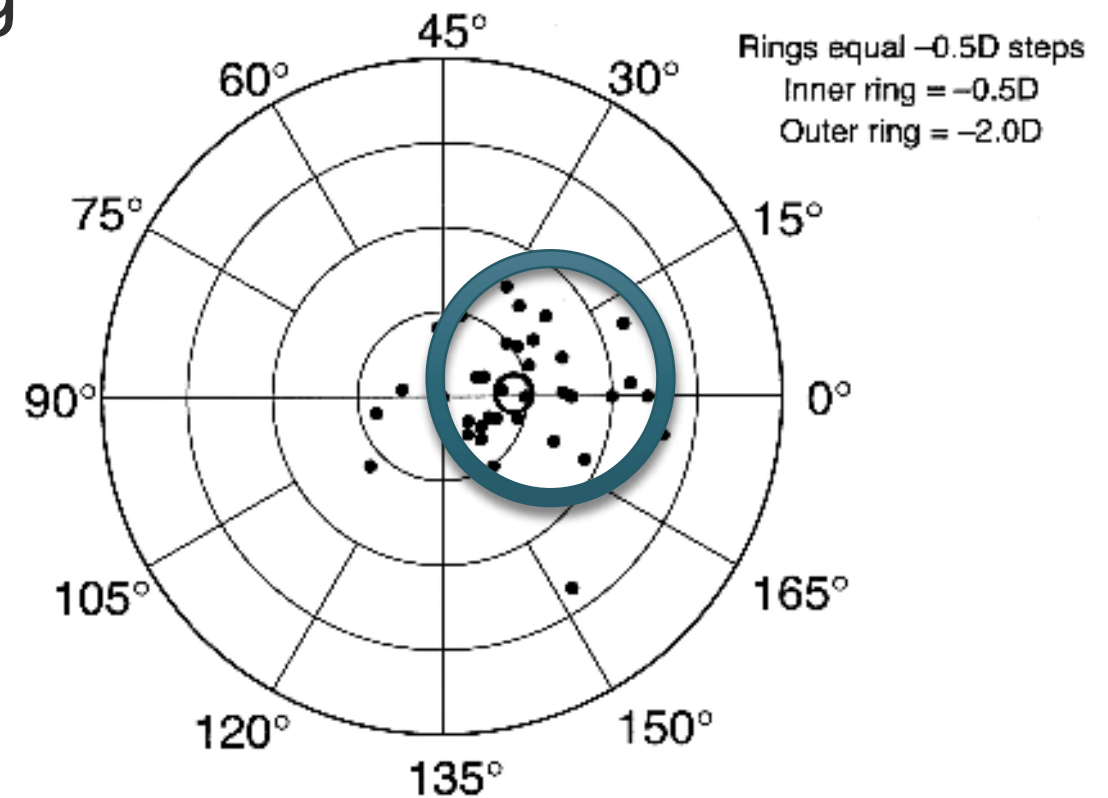
Single angle plot



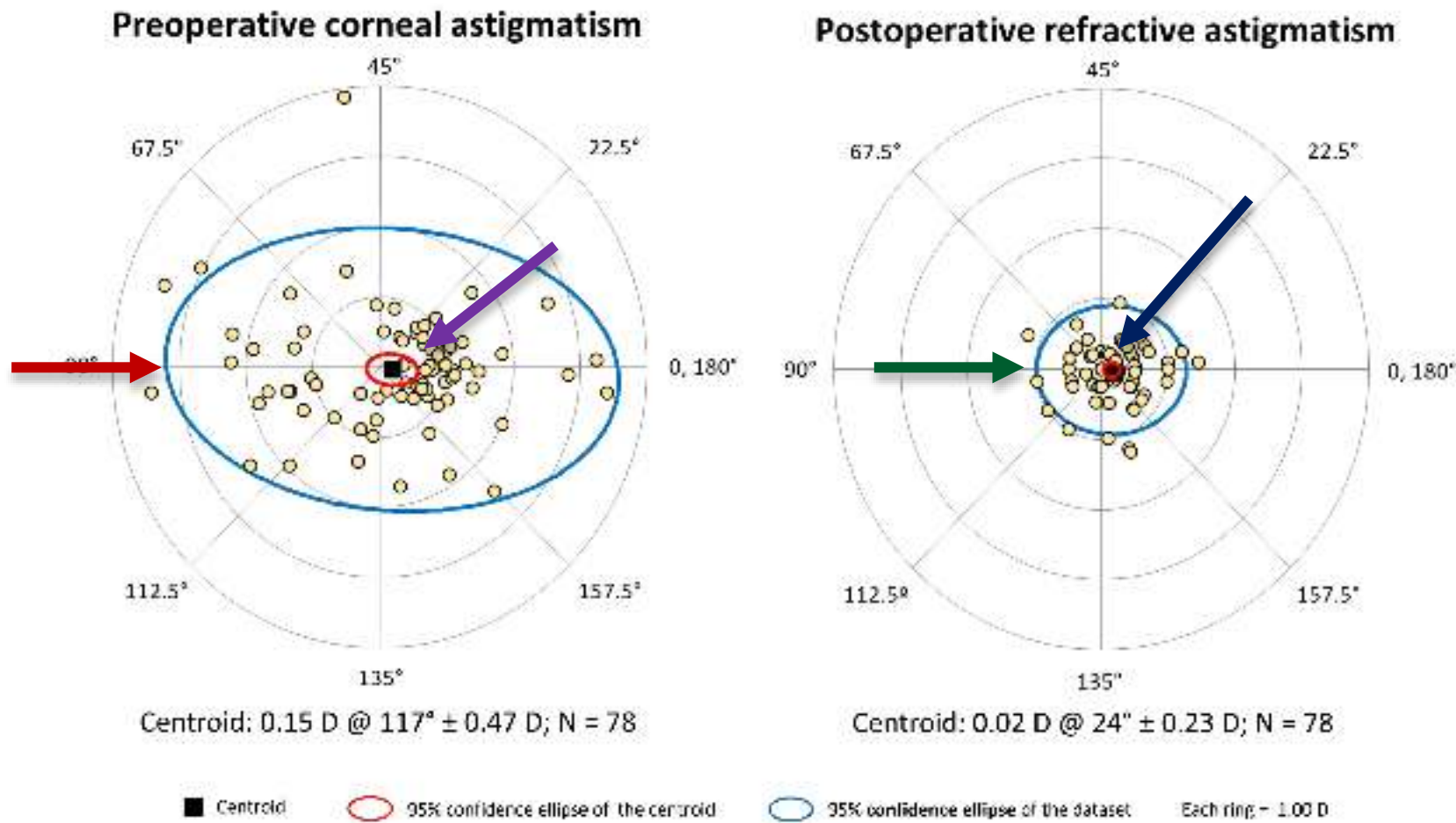
Each ring
= 0.5 D

- Looks like phoropter
- But hard to really know what the data show

Double angle plot



Example of pre- and postop data

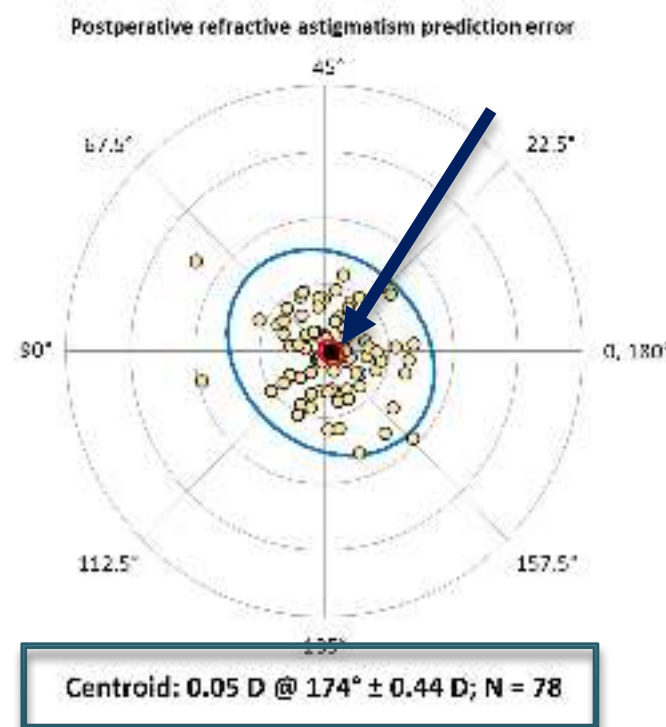
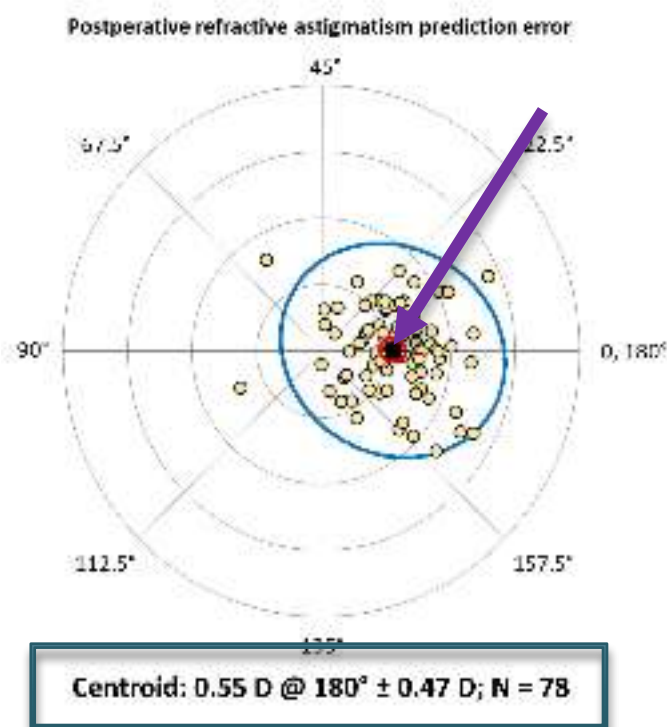


What about statistical analysis

- You can have a mean error—centroid--of zero and a huge spread (large confidence ellipse)
- You can have a small spread but a large mean error
- Only the **vector prediction error** takes both into account

Example comparing formulas

Toric IOL
calculation
based on
anterior Ks



Toric IOL
calculation
with Abulafia-
Koch

■ Centroid ○ 95% confidence ellipse of the centroid ○ 95% confidence ellipse of the dataset Each ring = 0.50 D

Why can't we analyze power & angle separately?

- Because it gives incorrect answers

ARTICLE

Rethinking the optimal methods for vector analysis of astigmatism



Douglas D. Koch, MD, Li Wang, MD, PhD, Adi Abulafia, MD, Jack T. Holladay, MD, Warren Hill, MD

Purpose: To evaluate the accuracy and usefulness of certain methods of analyzing astigmatic vectors.

Setting: Culien Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

Design: Case samples.

Methods: Using 2 sample cases for analysis of corneal surgically induced astigmatism and an actual toric intraocular lens (IOL) case, univariate analyses from the ASSORT program were compared to double-angle plots of preoperative and postoperative astigmatism and prediction errors.

Results: Certain univariate figures for analyzing the 2 sample cases were misleading. For the toric IOL case, some of the key outcome vectors were inaccurate.

Conclusions: ASSORT's univariate analysis of astigmatic vectors can be unpredictably erroneous and misleading. Recommended vector analyses should include double-angle plots with centroids and confidence ellipses of preoperative and postoperative astigmatism and the prediction errors, along with means and standard deviations of these vector magnitudes.

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Statistics: new insights in bivariate analysis

- Data are not normally distributed
- Requires different stats than have been used in the past
- Holladay et al: R Project for Computing (Rand Wilcox)
- Instead of ellipse: convex polygon to display the data

ARTICLE

Astigmatism analysis and reporting of surgically induced astigmatism and prediction error

Jack T. Holladay, *MIT, MSSE*, Rand R. Wilcox, *PhD*, Douglas D. Koch, *MIT, MS*, Li Wang, *MIT, PhD*

Purpose: To provide a standard for determining the validity (i.e., when applied to the consecutive judgments, results in the prediction error (PE) and to specify statistical methods for evaluating selected search algorithms. The 1984 task increase covered the type of

Settings: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, and University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Design: Retrospective consecutive case series

Methods: We studied a total of 1000 subjects undergoing knee arthroscopy. Arthroscopy was performed in 10 forms, as were two arthroplasty approaches. Arthroscopy with one or multiple incisions and arthroplasty, the latter in total knee arthroplasty and the latter in total hip arthroplasty. Pre- and postoperative arthroscopy were performed in seven subjects in the knee arthroplasty. The results were compared. Since there was no difference between the two groups, we compared the two groups. The results were compared. Since there was no difference between the two groups, we compared the two groups.

Results: The mean values for the vector-spreadable pathogens PEAs were not different for the 3 females and 3 males. The Borrelia and Leishmania titers were statistically superior to the vector controls for 3 females (0.75, 1.0, and 1.25) in both high and low humidity.

Conclusions: For just estimation and better understanding of mean FE mean values and SDs are useful, but require conformity large datasets to demonstrate a statistical difference, whereas weighting percentages in 0.25 divisions (8 steps from 0.05 to 0.25, 0.25 to 0.50, 0.50 to 0.75, 0.75 to 1.00) using the McNemar test for a P value. Double-angle plots are especially useful to visualise estimable weight FEAs and a 95% confidence interval, and a 95% confidence interval, which also helps to compare.

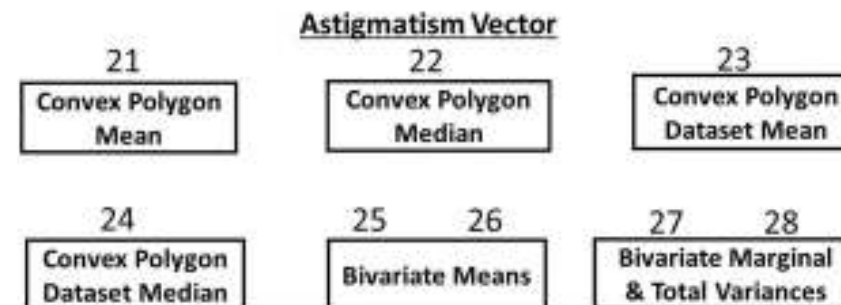
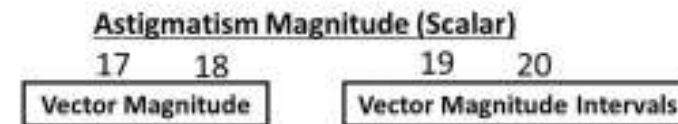
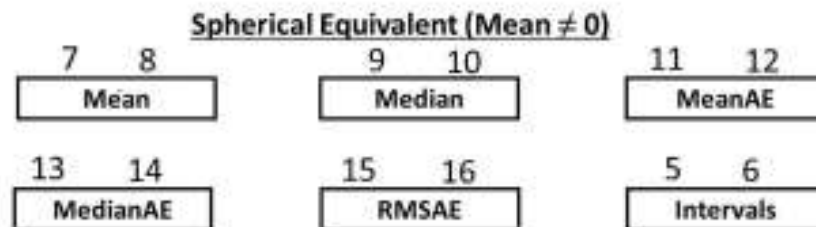
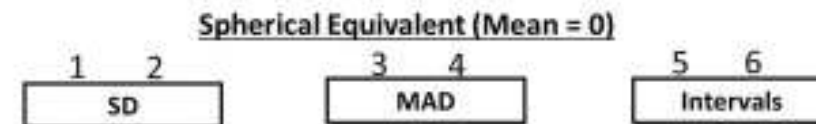
J. Clin. Med. 2022, 11, 2552. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm11152552> Copyright: © 2022 by the author(s). Published by MDPI on behalf of the European Association of Endocrinology (EAEN).

Wrap-up function in R

1

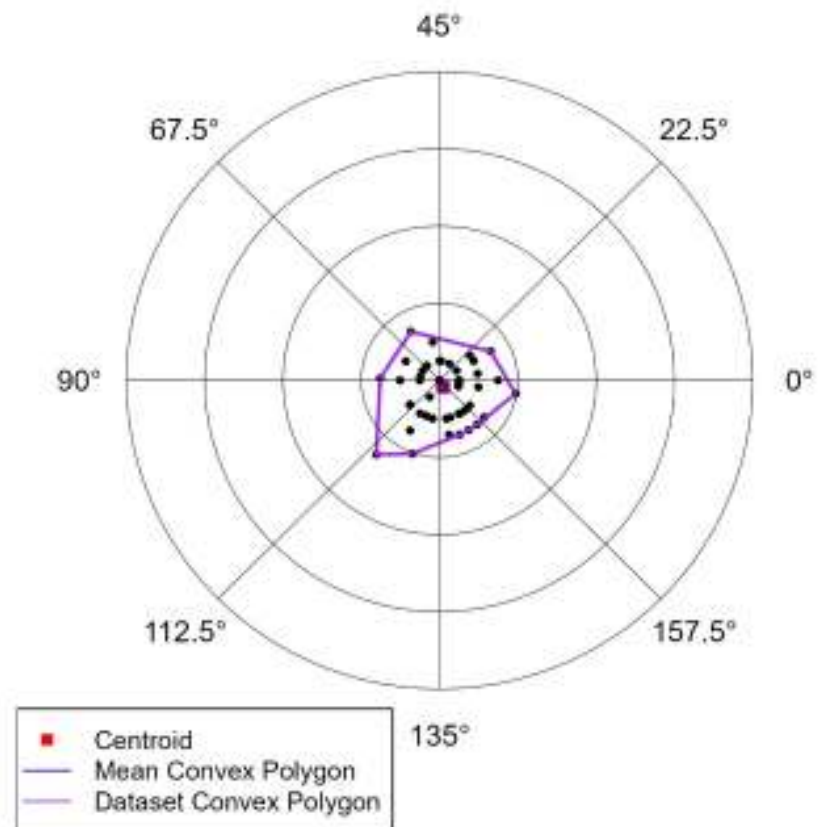
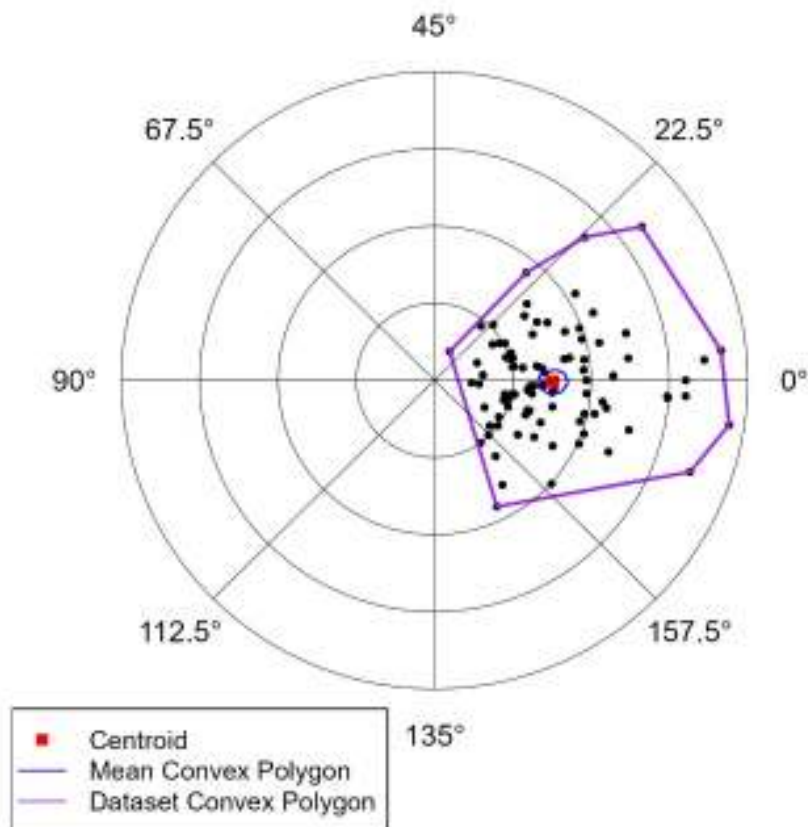
- Simplify the use of 28 functions
- Perform analysis in a batch mode
- Only need to upload data once for all analyses:
 - IOL power calculation
 - Astigmatism analysis

Statistics of Prediction Error



Mean Convex Polygon Preop_Corneal_Astig

Mean Convex Polygon Postop_MR_astig



Spherical equivalent prediction analysis in intraocular lens power calculations using Eyetemis: a comprehensive approach

Yotam Kan-Tir, PhD, Adi Abulafia, MD, PhD, David Zadok, MD, Thomas Kohnen, MD, PhD, Giacomo Savini, MD, Kenneth J. Hoffer, MD, Yuval Benjamini, PhD

Purpose: To compare 5 different datasets, using Eyetemis, an online analytical tool designed for assessing the spherical equivalent prediction errors (SEQ-PE) of intraocular lens (IOL) power calculation formulas after cataract surgery.

Setting: Institutional.

Design: Retrospective case series.

Methods: The study comprised 2 distinct datasets of patients who had undergone successful cataract surgery. Dataset 1 includes standard eyes, whereas Dataset 2 includes eyes with biotoculus. An online tool was used for SEQ-PE analysis across the 2 datasets, adhering to ISO standards for evaluating accuracy based on biasness and precision. The tool incorporates robust *t* tests for comparing the trimmed mean of the data, adjusting for heteroscedasticity. IOL constants in Dataset 1 were optimized for the comparison of Hoffer Q, Holladay 1, SRK/T, Haigis, and Barrett Universal II (BUI) formulas. In Dataset 2, IOL constants from the IOLCalc website were used for the comparison

of the BUI and its designated KCV version (Barrett TrueK Keras-10000 (TrueK KCV)).

Results: For Dataset 1, the trimmed mean SEQ-PE values of all formulas were not significantly different from zero. BUI had superior precision and accuracy compared with all other formulas, except from Haigis ($P < .05$). For Dataset 2, BUI's trimmed-mean SEQ-PE was significantly different from zero (0.59 diopters [D], $P < .01$), unlike the TrueK (KCV) (0.12 D, $P = .10$). In addition, TrueK (KCV) exhibited enhanced precision and accuracy relative to BUI ($P < .01$).

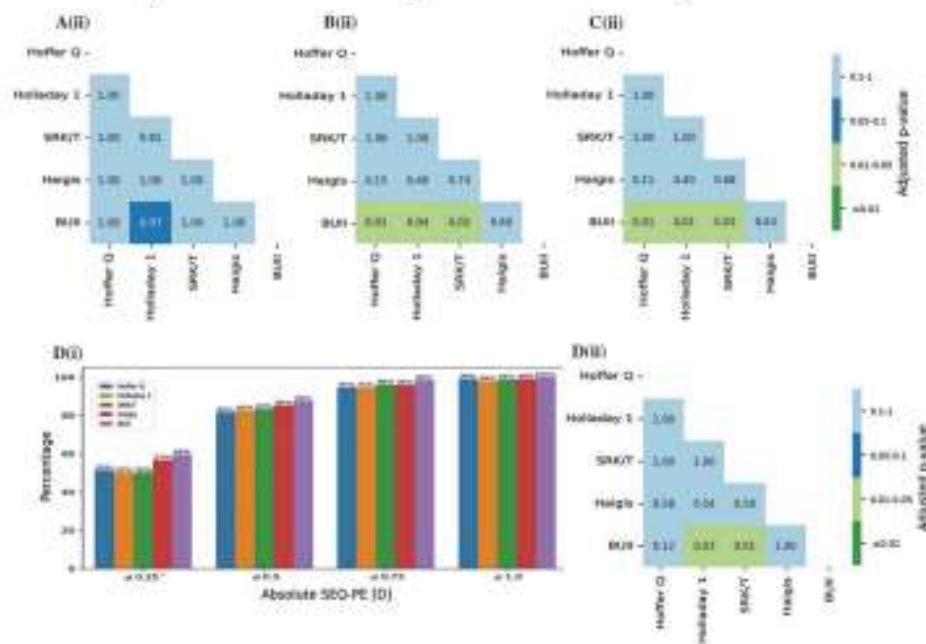
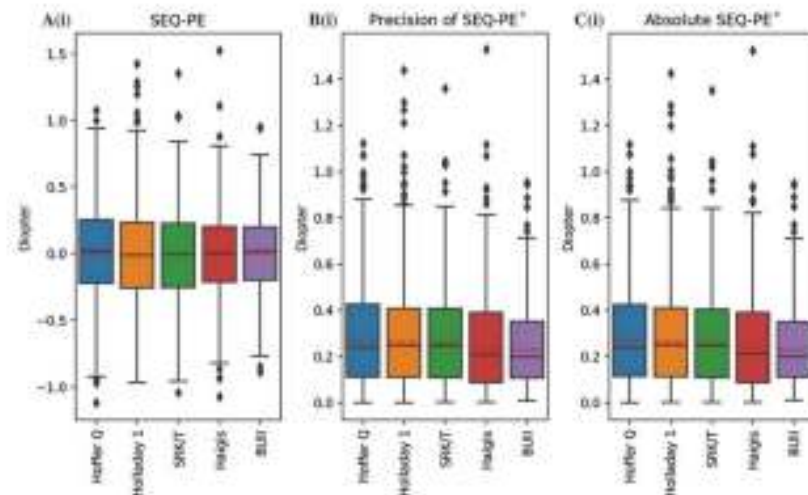
Conclusions: The online analysis tool provides a streamlined approach for assessing the prediction accuracy of SEQ refractive error surgery, effectively evaluating biasness, precision, and overall accuracy through the use of advanced statistical methods.

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Evaluating and comparing prediction accuracy of intraocular lens (IOL) power calculations after cataract surgery are essential for improving the outcomes in clinical practice and for enabling researchers to make significant advancements in the field. It has been more than 4 decades since Hoffer KJ introduced a systematic approach to evaluate the precision of IOL power calculation formulas, methods, and instruments in the field of ophthalmology.¹ Since then, many publications and updates focusing on various methodologies for analysis and reporting outcomes have been published.^{2–9}

Optimal analysis and comparison of postoperative spherical equivalent prediction errors (SEQ-PEs) pose considerable challenges. One challenge is the heteroscedasticity of the data, a condition where the dependent variable (SEQ-PE) exhibits unequal variance for different values of independent variables, such as total length and keratometry. The heteroscedastic nature of these data was discussed at length by Holladay et al, who advocated that it should be addressed by applying advanced statistical solutions, such as robust *t* tests.^{10,11}

Another challenge is constant optimization that leads to a zero mean SEQ-PE in the analyzed data sample, a process



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Y. Kan-Tir and A. Abulafia contributed equally to this work.

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2

An online analysis tool for SEQ-PE & astigmatism assessment

- Provides a streamlined approach for evaluating SEQ-PE and astigmatism
- Analysis adheres to the ISO standards for Accuracy, encompassing both "trueness" and "precision"
- Utilizes robust t-tests (univariate and bivariate) to compare the trimmed-mean of data, accounting for heteroscedasticity
- Includes standard threshold tests to ensure comprehensive analysis



Summary: Analysis of astigmatic outcomes

- **Scalar** values for magnitude of astigmatism
- **Vector** prediction errors
 - Double-angle plots for display and further analysis
 - Centroids and convex polygons
 - Stats using R **1** or Eyetemis **2**
- JCRS committee submitted 2 position papers to establish these guidelines

Standards for analyzing astigmatic outcomes

Part II: Recommended statistical methods

Douglas D. Koch, MD, Jack T. Holladay, MD, MSEE, Kristian Næsser, MD, DSMC, Adi Ahluf, MD, PhD, Li Wang, MD, PhD, R, Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD, Thomas Kohnen, MD, PhD, FRCO

What is known

- Astigmatism analysis requires both scalar and vector outcomes
- Vector prediction error is key to assessing changes from corneal or lens procedures
- Vector analysis uses double-angle plots, doubling axes or meridians
- Astigmatic data often deviate from normal distribution and need non-Gaussian methods

What this paper adds

- We present a full method to analyse astigmatic outcomes using both scalar and vector values
- We suggest statistical tools suited for both normal and non-normal data
- Two calculation tools are introduced to simplify and standardise astigmatism analysis
- These are the recommended methods for reporting in JCRS

Setting standards for astigmatism analysis (editorial)

Standards for Analyzing Astigmatic Outcomes

Part I: Astigmatism Basics

Part II: Recommended Statistical Methods

June 2025 issue

JCRS

Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery®



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Thank you for your attention and the invitation to Egypt

Thomas Kohnen



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Chair: Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Kohnen, FEBO