

$$\boxed{X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)} \text{ --- } \rightarrow X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$$

Suppose X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n is a random sample from a normal population. We have seen that we should use the sample mean \bar{X} to estimate the population mean μ and the sample variance S^2 to estimate the population variance σ^2 .

\bar{X} and S^2 are random variables.

\$ 64,000 question

How are \bar{X} and S^2 distributed ? The answer is given by the following considerations

Any linear combination of Independent normal random variables is again normal

so \bar{X} is normal. Since $E(\bar{X}) = \mu$ and $V(\bar{X}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$ we have

$$\bar{X} \sim N\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right)$$

Suppose Z, Z_2, \dots, Z_n are independent standard normal random variables. Then

$$Z_1^2 + \dots + Z_b^2 \sim \chi^2(n) \quad (*)$$

Chi-squared with n degrees of

$$\text{Now} \quad Z_i = \frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \sim N(0, 1)$$

So

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 \sim \chi^2(n)$$

Now replace μ by its estimation \bar{X} Rule of thumb - *every time you replace a quantity by its estimator you lose one degree of freedom in the chi-squared distribution*

So by the “rule of thumb”

$$Y = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \sim \chi^2(n-1)$$

$$\text{Now } S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

So $Y = \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2$ and we obtain the critical

$$\frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \sigma \chi^2(n-1) \quad (**)$$

Remark

This isn't a proof because we used “the rule of thumb” but the result is true

Bottom Line

Theorem

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random Sample from a normal population with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Then

- (i) $\bar{X} \sim N\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right)$
- (ii) $\frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \sim \chi^2(n-1)$
- (iii) \bar{X} and S^2 are independent.

The above statement is on exact statement but if we take a large sample ($n > 30$) from any population with mean μ and variance σ^2 we may assume

Theorem (Cont.)

to a good approximation that the population has $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ distribution and we have by CLT

Theorem

If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n is a large ($n > 30$) random sample from any population with mean μ and variance σ^2 then

- (i) $\bar{X} \approx N(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$
- (ii) $S^2 \approx \chi^2(n-1)$
- (iii) \bar{X} and S^2 are approximately independent. (then are not independent unless the population is normal.)