

[CLT] The **chi-squared distribution** with parameter n is the distribution of the sum of the squares of n independent standard normal random variables.

Let S_k be the sum of k independent chi-squared random variables with parameter 8. Find the limit as $k \rightarrow \infty$ of

$$P(8k \leq S_k \leq 8.01k).$$

$$S_1 = X_1^2 + \dots + X_8^2, \quad X_i \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$S_k = k \cdot (X_1^2 + \dots + X_8^2), \quad k \geq 1$$

$$E(S_1) = \sum_{i=1}^8 E(X_i^2) = \sum_{i=1}^8 \text{Var}(X_i) = 8$$

$$\text{Var}(S_1) = 8^2$$

According to Central Limit Theorem:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{8k - 8k}{8 \cdot \sqrt{k}} < \frac{S_k - \mu}{8 \cdot \sqrt{k}} < \frac{8.01k - 8k}{8 \sqrt{k}} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(0 < Z < \frac{0.01k}{8 \sqrt{k}} \right) \approx \frac{1}{2}$$

The mean of the chi-squared distribution is

$$E[Z_1^2 + \dots + Z_8^2],$$

where Z_i 's are independent standard normals. Applying linearity and using the fact that $E[Z_i^2] = \text{Var} Z_i = 1$, we find that the mean of the chi-squared distribution is 8. The variance of the chi-squared distribution is not as straightforward to calculate explicitly; let's call it σ^2 .

The sum S_k has mean $8k$ and variance $k\sigma^2$. Therefore, its typical values are close to $8k$, with fluctuations on the order of $\sigma\sqrt{k}$. Since $0.01k$ is much larger than $\sigma\sqrt{k}$ when k is large (and since the normal distribution is symmetric), approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the mass is between $8k$ and $8k + 0.01k$.

Theorem (Central Limit theorem)

Suppose that X_1, X_2, \dots , are independent, identically distributed random variables with mean μ and finite standard deviation σ , and defined the normalized sums $S_n^* = (X_1 + \dots + X_n - n\mu)/(\sigma\sqrt{n})$ for $n \geq 1$.

For all $-\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(a < S_n^* < b) = \mathbb{P}(a < Z < b),$$

where $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. In other words, the sequence S_1^*, S_2^*, \dots converges in distribution to Z .

Write

$$\begin{aligned} U_n &= \sqrt{n} \left(\frac{\bar{Y} - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i - n\mu}{\sigma} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i, \quad \text{where } Z_i = \frac{Y_i - \mu}{\sigma}. \end{aligned}$$

Because the random variables Y_i 's are independent and identically distributed, $Z_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, are independent, and identically distributed with $E(Z_i) = 0$ and $V(Z_i) = 1$.

Since the moment-generating function of the sum of independent random variables is the product of their individual moment-generating functions,

$$m_{\sum Z_i}(t) = m_{Z_1}(t) \times m_{Z_2}(t) \times \dots \times m_{Z_n}(t) = [m_{Z_1}(t)]^n$$

and

$$m_{U_n}(t) = m_{\sum Z_i} \left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \right) = \left[m_{Z_1} \left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right]^n.$$

By Taylor's theorem, with remainder (see your *Calculus II* text)

$$m_{Z_1}(t) = m_{Z_1}(0) + m'_{Z_1}(0)t + \frac{m''_{Z_1}(\xi)}{2}t^2, \quad \text{where } 0 < \xi < t,$$

and because $m_{Z_1}(0) = E(e^{0Z_1}) = E(1) = 1$, and $m'_{Z_1}(0) = E(Z_1) = 0$,

$$m_{Z_1}(t) = 1 + \frac{m''_{Z_1}(\xi)}{2}t^2, \quad \text{where } 0 < \xi < t.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} m_{U_n}(t) &= \left[1 + \frac{m''_{Z_1}(\xi_n)}{2} \left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^2 \right]^n \\ &= \left[1 + \frac{m''_{Z_1}(\xi_n)t^2/2}{n} \right]^n, \quad \text{where } 0 < \xi_n < \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\xi_n \rightarrow 0$ and $m''_{Z_1}(\xi_n)t^2/2 \rightarrow m''_{Z_1}(0)t^2/2 = E(Z_1^2)t^2/2 = t^2/2$ because $E(Z_1^2) = V(Z_1) = 1$. Recall that if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = b \quad \text{then} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{b_n}{n} \right)^n = e^b.$$

Finally,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} m_{U_n}(t) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[1 + \frac{m''_{Z_1}(\xi_n)t^2/2}{n} \right]^n = e^{t^2/2},$$

Exercise

Define $f_n(x)$ to be n when $0 \leq x \leq 1/n$ and 0 otherwise, and let ν_n be the probability measure with density f_n . Show that ν_n converges to the probability measure ν which puts of all its mass at the origin.

Suppose $I = (a, b)$ is a continuous interval. If I contains the origin, then the terms of sequence $\nu_1(I), \nu_2(I), \dots$ are equal to 1 for large enough n , since all of probability mass of ν_n is in the interval $[0, \frac{1}{n}]$ and eventually $[0, \frac{1}{n}] \subset I$. If I does not contain the origin, then the terms of sequence $\nu_1(I), \nu_2(I), \dots$ are eventually equal to 0 for the same reason. $\nu_n(I)$ converges to $\nu(I) \Rightarrow \nu_n$ converges to ν

Definition (Convergence of probability measures on \mathbb{R})

A sequence ν_1, ν_2, \dots of probability measures on \mathbb{R} converges to a probability measure ν on \mathbb{R} if $\nu_n(I) \rightarrow \nu(I)$ whenever I is an interval satisfying $\nu(\{a, b\}) = 0$, where a and b are the endpoints of I .