

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu, \sigma|x) = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \right)^n \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)$$

So our null hypothesis is  $\mu = 0$ , our alternative hypothesis is  $\mu \neq 0$ . We can then write the likelihood ratio test as

$$\begin{aligned} \log \lambda &= -2 \log \left( \frac{\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu_0, \sigma|x)}{\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu, \sigma|x)} \right) \\ &= -2 \log (\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu_0, \sigma|x)) + 2 \log (\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu, \sigma|x)) \end{aligned}$$

We can write

$$\log (\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu_0, \sigma|x)) = \sup \log (\mathcal{L}(\mu_0, \sigma|x)) = \sup \left( -\frac{n}{2} \log (2\pi\sigma^2) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)$$

Now maximizing over  $\sigma$  we have

$$\frac{d}{d\sigma} \left( -\frac{n}{2} \log (2\pi\sigma^2) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) = 0$$

we get

$$\hat{\sigma}_0^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu_0)^2$$

and so

$$\log (\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu_0, \sigma|x)) = \sup \log (\mathcal{L}(\mu_0, \sigma|x)) = \left( -\frac{n}{2} \log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}_0^2) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \mu_0)^2}{2\hat{\sigma}_0^2} \right) = -\frac{n}{2} (\log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}_0^2) + 1)$$

Now in the case where we can float  $\mu$  we have

$$\log (\sup \mathcal{L}(\mu, \sigma|x)) = \left( -\frac{n}{2} \log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\hat{\sigma}^2} \right) = -\frac{n}{2} (\log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) + 1)$$

with

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \hat{\mu})^2$$

So our likelihood ratio is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &= -\frac{n}{2} (\log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}_0^2) + 1) + \frac{n}{2} (\log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) + 1) \\ &= \frac{n}{2} (\log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) - \log (2\pi\hat{\sigma}_0^2)) \\ &= \frac{n}{2} \log \left( \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\hat{\sigma}_0^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{n}{2} \log \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu_0)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}_i)^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Further simplifying this noting  $\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu_0)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x} + \bar{x} - \mu_0)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + n(\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2$  we can write above as

$$\lambda = \frac{n}{2} \log \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + n(\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \right) = \frac{n}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{n(\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \right) = \frac{n}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{(\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right)$$

The right formula is the same as the t-test and so will follow the t-distribution.

In the case where we had sampled from a different gaussian we see that on average we have

$$\lambda = \frac{n}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right)$$

This deviation will grow linearly with the number of samples. Now finally, how do we quantify this into human terms. We need one more important thing: Wilk's theorem.

Wilk's theorem states that if a hypothesis  $h_0$  with  $p_0$  unknown(floated) parameters and an alternative hypothesis  $h$  with  $p$  unknown(floated) parameters. Then under some general conditions and when the null hypothesis is true the likelihood ratio  $-2 \log \lambda$  converges to a  $\chi^2$  distribution with  $\nu = p - p_0$  degrees of freedom in the limit of  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , or in other words

$$-2 \log \lambda \sim \chi_\nu^2$$

Now in the scenario above we had one free parameter with the null hypothesis  $\sigma$  and two free parameters with the alternative hypothesis  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  consequently  $\nu = 1$  or in this case

$$-2 \log \lambda = \frac{n}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right) \sim \chi_1^2$$

Now recall that a  $\chi_1^2 = \frac{(E-O)^2}{\sigma^2}$  consequently we have

$$-2 \log \lambda = \frac{n}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right) \sim \frac{E - O}{\sigma_\mu^2}$$

which means that  $\sigma_\mu$  occurs when

$$\sigma_\mu \rightarrow 2 \log \lambda(\mu + \sigma_\mu) - 2 \log \lambda(\mu) = 1$$

This is how we get uncertainties on parameters, its all Wilks' theorem.

In this case, we can Taylor expand  $\log \lambda$  about  $\mu = \mu_0$  (this is known as a Wald expansion) to get an analytic form. This gives us

$$2 \log \lambda \approx n \left( \frac{(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right) \sim \frac{E - O}{\sigma_\mu^2}$$

or in other words we get the well known uncertainty on the mean scales as  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$  ie  $\sigma_\mu = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$