

Class 3a: Review of concepts in Probability and Statistics

Business Forecasting

Roadmap

Last set of classes

- Types of data
- How to describe data
 - With visualizations
 - With summary statistics

This set of classes

- How to evaluate estimators
- How to build confidence intervals
- How to test hypothesis

Motivating Example

1. You run a bunch of Airbnbs
2. Should you invest more in cleaning?
3. Can you get higher price if your cleanliness score exceeds 4.5?
4. Get a sample of listings and compare the price of
 - Those with cleanliness score below 4.5 (dirty)
 - and above 4.5 (clean)

Show entries

id	review_scores_cleanliness	price	clean
40032982	3	1023	Dirty
21962322	4.5	4500	Dirty
41841538	4.5	380	Dirty
624813934659858771	3.4	1350	Dirty
47030021	4.29	684	Dirty

Showing 1 to 5 of 200 entries

Previous 2 3 4 5 ... 40 Next

Motivating example

In statistical language:

- **Population:** Entire group we want to learn about, impossible to assess directly
 - All listings of Airbnb in Mexico City
 - Ideally we would like to know the entire distribution of prices
- **Parameters:** Number describing a characteristic of the population
 - We want to know mean price of clean μ_c and dirty μ_d apartments
- **Sample:** Part of the population we have data for
 - We have a sample of 200 listings
- **Goal:** What we want to learn about the population?
 - Is $\mu_c > \mu_d$? If yes, by how much?
 - But we do not know μ_c and μ_d
 - We will try to guess it using an estimator and a random IID sample

What is a random sample?

- **At random:** A sample is random if each member of the population (each listing) has an equal chance of being selected. This process of selecting is called *drawing* from a population or a sample.
- **Random Variable: P_i :**
 - Random variable describing the observation i . Before drawing the sample, we don't know its value: it could be any price from the distribution.
- **Random Sample** is a collection of random variables $\{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n\}$
- **Observed Value: p_i :**
 - Once we observe a specific outcome for the random variable, it becomes a realized value, or p_i . It's no longer a random variable but a constant from our sample.

Before Drawing the Sample

Random Variables P_i (Before Drawing)	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8
Selected Listings IDs								
Realized Values p_i (After Drawing)								

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After Drawing the Sample (Sample 1)

Random Variables P_i (Before Drawing)	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8
Selected Listings IDs	8451	9015	8161	9085	8268	1622	1933	3947
Realized Values p_i (After Drawing)	120	150	800	200	1400	110	1800	900

What is a random sample?

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After Drawing the Sample (Sample 2)

Random Variables P_i (Before Drawing)	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8
Selected Listings IDs	3145	3773	6721	3373	2102	5365	4453	3621
Realized Values p_i (After Drawing)	260	420	500	2120	800	1450	120	809

What is a random sample?

- **Random Variable: P_i :**
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After Drawing the Sample (Sample 3)

Random Variables P_i (Before Drawing)	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8
Selected Listings IDs	4971	2684	6331	3999	1995	4582	1478	1633
Realized Values p_i (After Drawing)	150	980	3450	220	120	853	2353	1244

What is a random sample?

- **IID (Independent and Identically Distributed):**
 - **Independent:** The selection of one unit (P_i) doesn't affect the selection of another (P_j)
 - **Identically Distributed:** All units P_i come from the same distribution.

Estimators

- **Intuition**

- It's our method of guessing the parameter based on the data we have
- A function of random variables in our sample $\hat{\theta} = f(P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n)$
- Given its random nature, we can analyze its statistical properties
- Examples we have seen:

- $\hat{\mu}_c = \bar{P} = f(P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n) = \frac{\sum_n P_i}{n}$
- $s_c = g(P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - \bar{P})^2}$

- It cannot contain any unknown quantities (like σ or μ_p)

- **Point Estimate:**

- A single number computed from the realized sample data $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$
 - $\bar{p} = f(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) = \frac{\sum_n p_i}{n}$
 - No longer random

Example: Estimator

- Suppose we want to know average price of the apartment in Mexico City, but we don't have data for the whole population.
- We take a sample of 8 listings and calculate the average price.

Before Drawing the Sample

Random Variables P_i (Before Drawing)	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8
Selected Listings IDs								
Realized Values p_i (After Drawing)								

Estimator: $\hat{\mu} = \frac{P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + P_5 + P_6 + P_7 + P_8}{8}$

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Point estimate: $\frac{p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4 + p_5 + p_6 + p_7 + p_8}{8} = 685$

Example: Estimator

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After Drawing the Sample (Sample 2)

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Estimator: $\hat{\mu} = \frac{P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + P_5 + P_6 + P_7 + P_8}{8}$

Point estimate: $\frac{p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4 + p_5 + p_6 + p_7 + p_8}{8} = 809.875$

Example: Estimator

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After Drawing the Sample (Sample 3)

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Estimator: $\hat{\mu} = \frac{P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + P_5 + P_6 + P_7 + P_8}{8}$

Point estimate: $\frac{p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4 + p_5 + p_6 + p_7 + p_8}{8} = 1171.25$

Estimators

- The mean price in our sample is $\bar{p}_c = 1245.43$ MXN
- This is our point estimate
- Can't really say how close this one number (point estimate) is to the true mean price in Mexico City without knowing the population
- But we can say how good our method of guessing (estimator) is by looking at its sampling distribution

Estimators

- **Sampling distribution** is the distribution of the estimator calculated from multiple random samples drawn from the same population.

<https://www.zoology.ubc.ca/~whitlock/Kingfisher/SamplingNormal.htm>

Expectation of an estimator

- A good estimator should be unbiased:

$$E[\hat{\theta}] = \theta$$

- Where θ is some parameter and $\hat{\theta}$ is its estimator
- This should be true for any value of θ
- The sampling distribution should be centered at the parameter's value
- Intuitively, on average the estimator should give us the parameter's value
- When I take a many,many,many samples of apartments and calculate mean price in each sample
 - The average of these means should be super close to the true mean price in Mexico City

$$Bias(\hat{\theta}) = E[\hat{\theta}] - \theta$$

- Bias of an estimator is a difference between its expectation and the parameter
- Lets look at a couple of estimators and check if they are biased or not

Example 1: Estimator = 570

Expectation

- Consider some random variable X_i with unknown mean $E(X_i) = \mu$
- We want to estimate this mean
- The estimator: $\hat{\theta}_1 = 570$
- Expected Value: $E(\hat{\theta}_1) = 570$
- Bias: $E(\hat{\theta}_1) - \mu \neq 0$ if $\mu \neq 570$ (biased)

Example 2: Estimator = X_i

Expectation

- Consider some random variable X_i with unknown mean $E(X_i) = \mu$
- We want to estimate this mean
- The estimator: $\hat{\theta}_2 = X_i$
- Expected Value: $E(\hat{\theta}_2) = E(X_i) = \mu$
- Bias: $E(\hat{\theta}_2) - \mu = 0$ (unbiased)
- Is it a good estimator?

Example 3: Estimator = $(3X_1 + X_2)/5$

Expectation

- Consider some random variable X_i with unknown mean $E(X_i) = \mu$
- We want to estimate this mean
- The estimator: $\hat{\theta}_3 = \frac{3X_1 + X_2}{5}$
- Expected Value: $E(\hat{\theta}_3) = \frac{3}{5}E(X_1) + \frac{1}{5}E(X_2) = \frac{3}{5}\mu + \frac{1}{5}\mu = \frac{4}{5}\mu$
- Bias: $E(\hat{\theta}_3) - \mu = \frac{4}{5}\mu - \mu = -\frac{1}{5}\mu$ (biased)

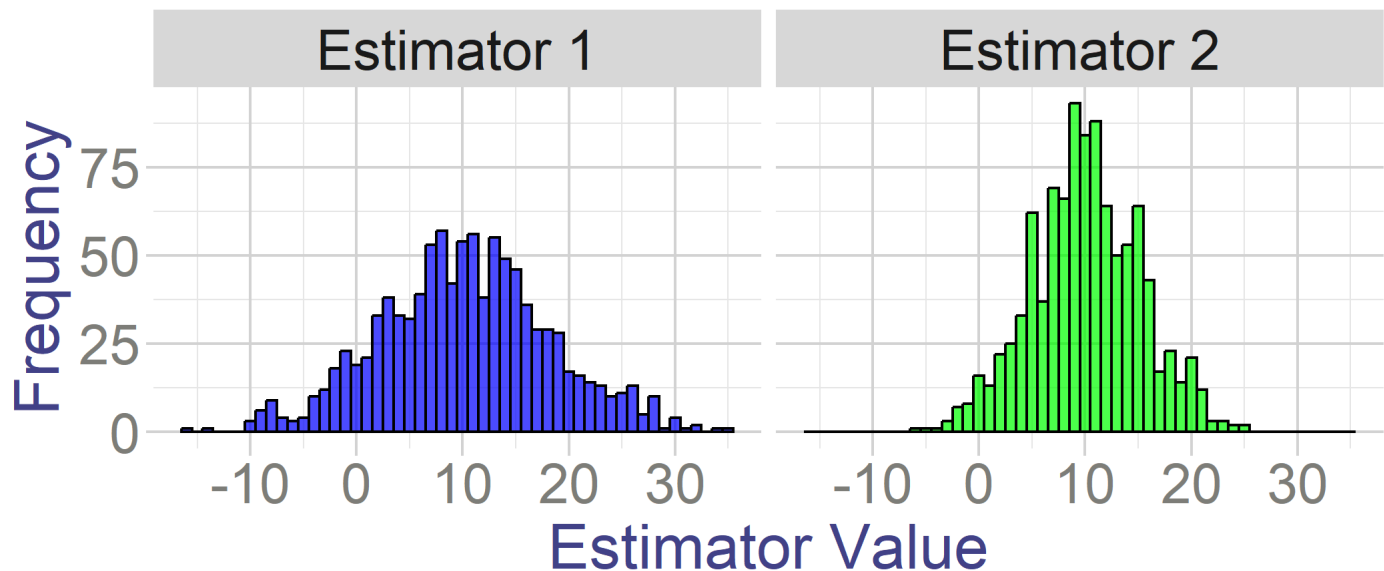
Example 4: Estimator = $\frac{\sum X_i}{n}$

Expectation

- Consider some random variable X_i with unknown mean $E(X_i) = \mu$
- We want to estimate this mean
- The estimator: $\hat{\theta}_4 = \frac{\sum_n X_i}{n}$
- Expected Value: $E(\hat{\theta}_4) = E\left(\frac{\sum_n X_i}{n}\right) = \frac{\sum_n E(X_i)}{n} = \frac{\sum_n \mu}{n} = \mu$
- Bias: $E(\hat{\theta}_4) - \mu = 0$ (unbiased)

Variance of the estimator

- Good estimator is unbiased
- But how do we choose among unbiased estimator?
 - Suppose we sample IID from $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu = 10, \sigma = 10)$
 - Imagine you don't know the mean is 10, and you try to estimate it:
 - Estimator 1: $\hat{\mu}_1 = (3X_1 + X_2)/4$
 - Estimator 2: $\hat{\mu}_2 = (X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4)/4$
 - An estimator is more **efficient** if it has a smaller variance



Variance of the estimator

- Variance of an estimator is defined as:

$$Var(\hat{\theta}) = E[(\hat{\theta} - E[\hat{\theta}])^2]$$

- We want the estimator to have low variance!
- Estimator with the lower variance is more efficient
- In the example above

$$var(\hat{\mu}_1) = var\left(\frac{3X_1 + X_2}{4}\right) > var\left(\frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4}{4}\right) = var(\hat{\mu}_2)$$

- Relative efficiency of the two estimators is the ratio of their variances

$$Eff_{\hat{\mu}_1, \hat{\mu}_2} = \frac{var\left(\frac{3X_1 + X_2}{4}\right)}{var\left(\frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4}{4}\right)} = \frac{\frac{10}{16}}{\frac{4}{16}} = \frac{5}{2}$$

Variance of estimators

Example 1: Estimator = 570

- $Var(\hat{\theta}_1) = E[(\hat{\theta}_1 - E[\hat{\theta}_1])^2] = E[(570 - E[570])^2] = 0$

Example 2: Estimator = X_i

- $Var(\hat{\theta}_2) = E[(X_i - \mu)^2] = \sigma^2$

Example 4: Estimator = $\frac{\sum X_i}{n}$

- $Var(\hat{\theta}_4) = E\left[\left(\frac{\sum X_i}{n} - \mu\right)^2\right] = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$

Example 3: Estimator = $\frac{3X_1 + X_2}{4}$

- $Var(\hat{\theta}_4) = E\left[\left((3X_1 + X_2)/4 - \mu\right)^2\right] = \frac{10\sigma^2}{16}$

Side note

- In all previous cases of estimators we assumed an independent sample
- Suppose that X_1 and X_2 are **not independent**
- Example: daily sales of two products in the same store
- What is $E(X_1 + X_2)$
- What is $var(X_1 + X_2)$?
- What about $var(X_1 - X_2)$?

Biased Estimator = $s_b^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n}$

- Consider the estimator: $\hat{\theta}_6 = s_b^2$
- We are trying to estimate σ^2

$$E[\hat{\theta}_6] = E[s_b^2] = E\left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n}\right] = \frac{(n-1)\sigma^2}{n}$$

- So:

$$Bias(\hat{\theta}_6) = E[\hat{\theta}_6] - \sigma^2 = -\frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

- We are underestimating the variance
- The sample variance estimator (divided by $\frac{1}{n-1}$) is unbiased:

$$E[\hat{\theta}_7] = E[s^2] = E\left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}\right] = \frac{(n-1)\sigma^2}{n-1} = \sigma^2$$

Mean Squared Error

Mean Squared Error (MSE) is a summary measure of how good an estimator is:

$$MSE(\hat{\theta}) = E[(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2]$$

- The lower MSE, the better the estimator
- It summarizes both the bias and the variance:

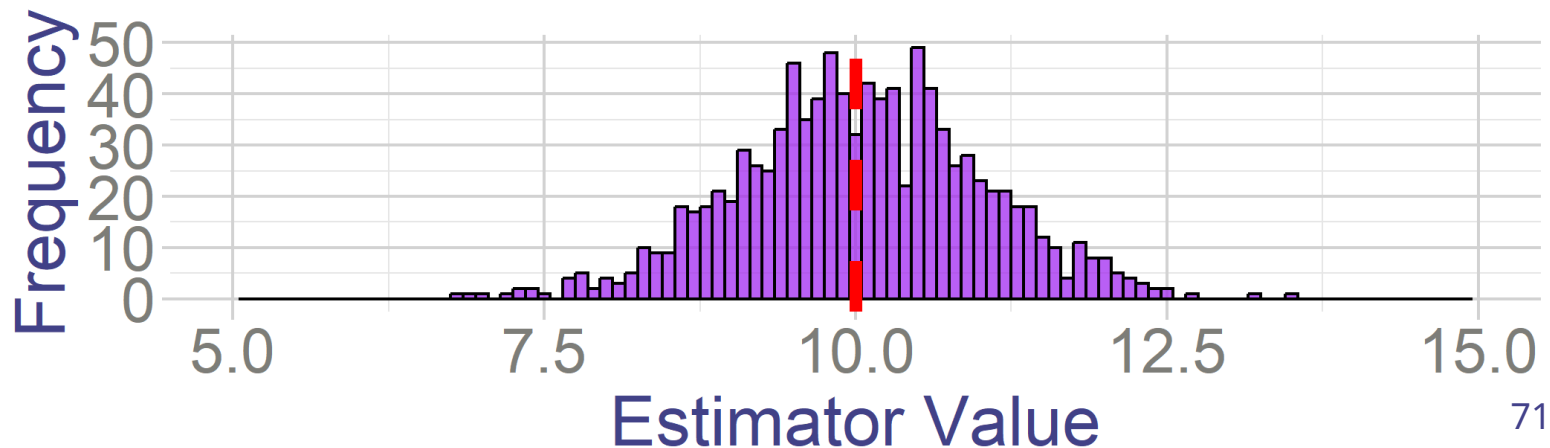
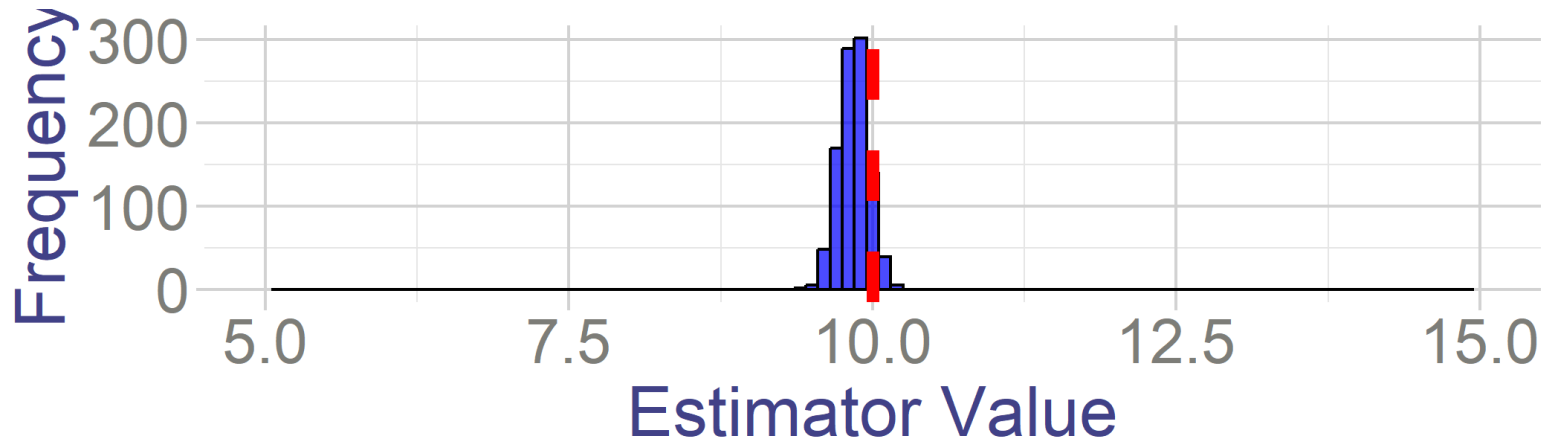
$$\begin{aligned} MSE(\hat{\theta}) &= E[(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2] \\ &= E[(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}) + E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2] \\ &= E[(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2 + 2(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta) + (E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2] \\ &= E[(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2] + E[2(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)] + E[(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2] \\ &= E[(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2] + \underbrace{2(E[\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta})])(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)}_{=0} + E[(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2] \\ &= \text{var}(\hat{\theta}) + \text{Bias}(\hat{\theta})^2 \end{aligned}$$

- If estimator is unbiased, then

$$MSE(\hat{\theta}) = \text{var}(\hat{\theta})$$

Trading Bias for Variance

- Suppose you want to estimate customer's income to know who to target.
- Red line shows the true value
- Which of the estimators would you prefer?



Mean Squared Error of sample mean (optional)

- $\frac{3X_1+X_2}{4}$ is worse than $\frac{X_1+X_2}{2}$?
- Both estimators have the form of $\hat{\theta} = \sum_n c_i X_i$ with $n = 2$
 - They have different weights c_i or in vector form $\mathbf{c} = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$, with $\sum_i c_i = 1$
 - Sample mean is the best because for any n and \mathbf{c} such that $\sum_i c_i = 1$:

$$\underset{\mathbf{c}}{\operatorname{argmin}} E[\underbrace{(\sum_n c_i X_i - \mu)^2}_{MSE}] = \{\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{1}{n}\}$$

Mean Squared Error of sample mean (optional)

And hence

$$\underbrace{\min_{\mathbf{c}} E[(\sum_n c_i X_i - \mu)^2]}_{MSE} = E[(\frac{\sum_n X_i}{n} - \mu)^2]$$

- That is, for any estimator of μ of the form $\hat{\theta} = \sum_n c_i X_i$, sample mean has the lowest MSE!
 - Having different c_i than $\frac{1}{n}$ would increase the MSE

Sampling Distribution

- We know how to determine the mean and the variance of the estimator
- Can we say anything about the distribution of the estimator?
- In case of sample mean, yes!
- That's what **Central Limit Theorem** is about, the most exciting theorem in statistics!

Central Limit Theorem

- Suppose X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are **i.i.d** variables drawn **at random** from a distribution with mean μ and standard deviation σ
- Let $S_n = \sum_n X_n$.
 - Note that: $E[S_n] = n\mu$ and *st. dev.* $(S_n) = \sqrt{n}\sigma$
- Let $\bar{X}_n = \frac{\sum_n X_n}{n}$
 - Note that: $E[\bar{X}_n] = \mu$ and *st. dev.* $(\bar{X}_n) = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$
- Let $Z_n = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}}$
 - Note that: $E[Z_n] = 0$ and *st. dev.* $(Z_n) = 1$
- **Central Limit Theorem** says that **for large n**:

$$S_n \sim \mathcal{N}(n\mu, \underbrace{\sqrt{n}\sigma}_{st.dev.}) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{X}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{Z}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

- In large samples, sample mean is normally distributed with mean μ and st. dev. $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$

- The original distribution of X_i does not matter (but outliers make convergence longer)
- Larger n , tighter distribution around the mean
- Smaller σ , tighter distribution around the mean



Chapter 3: Probability Distributions
 sufficiently large number of i.i.d.
 random variables is approximately
 normally distributed. The larger the
 sample, the better the approximation.

Change the parameters α and β to
 change the distribution from which to
 sample.

$\alpha = 1.00$ 

$\beta = 1.00$ 

Choose the sample size and how
 many sample means should be
 computed (draw number), then press
 "Sample." Check the box to display
 the true distribution of the sample



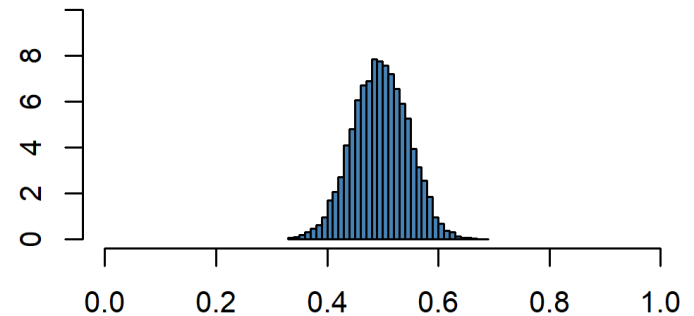
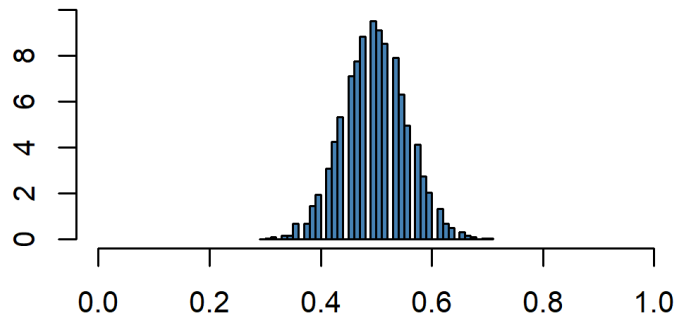
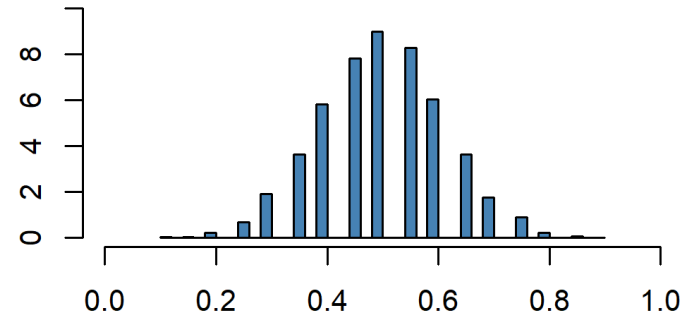
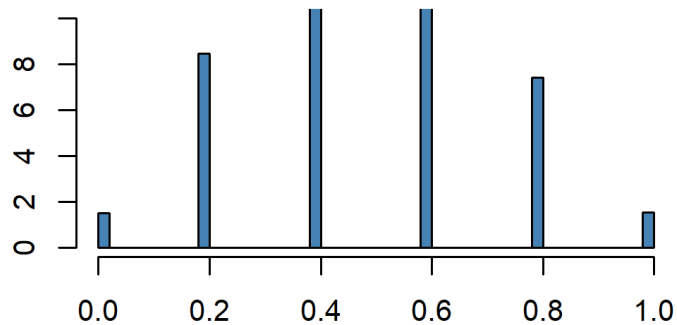
average

count

Source: [<https://seeing-theory.brown.edu/probability-distributions/index.html#section3>]

What if it's a discrete variable?

- Let $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p = 0.5)$. Here is the distribution of \bar{X}_n :



- What is the standard deviation?
- $\sigma_{\bar{X}} = \sqrt{\text{var}(\bar{X}_n)} = \frac{\sigma_X}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{\sqrt{p(1-p)}}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{0.5}{\sqrt{n}}$

Central Limit Theorem

What happens if some assumptions are not respected?

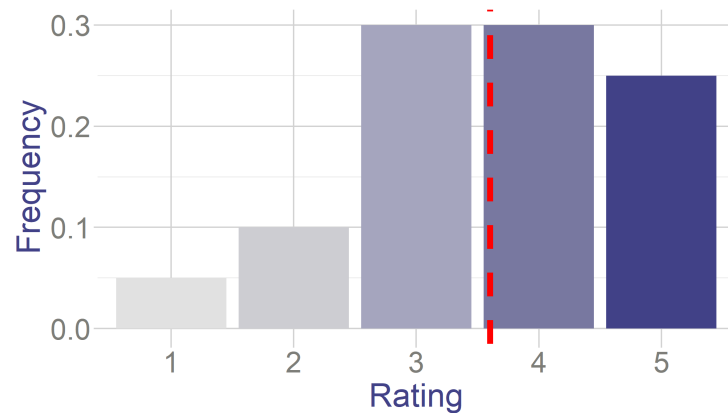
- **Random draws** means that each member of the population has equal chance of being selected
- Keep in mind that some values occur more often in the population than others
- More members with this value - higher chance of this value being sampled

Example

- Imagine you are evaluating a new skincare product to determine how people like it (on scale 1-5)
- However, you can only access online reviews
- The mean rating you calculated is 2.5
- Is it low because people don't like or because of other reason?

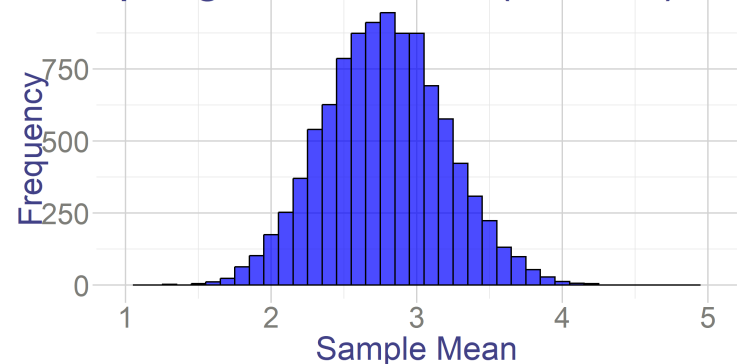
Central Limit Theorem

Suppose that this is the true distribution:

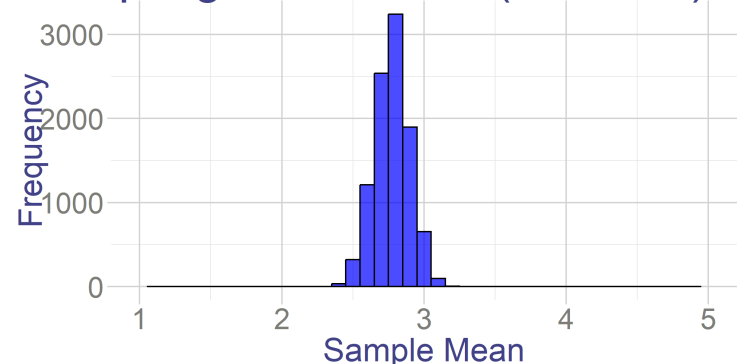


- But people who post online are more likely to be unhappy
- Suppose you are twice more likely to post if your rating is 1 or 2
- **Sample is not at random** from the population of customers
- Sampling distribution of the mean would look like this:

Sampling Distribution ($n = 10$)



Sampling Distribution ($n = 100$)



It's not centered at the correct value,
no matter n !

Central Limit Theorem

Example 2 What happens if some assumptions are not respected?

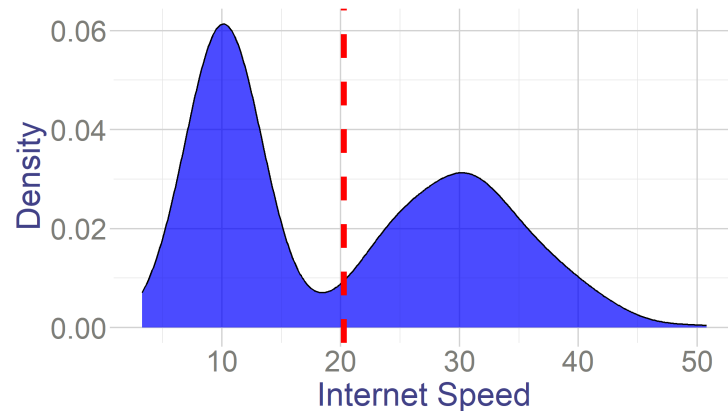
- IID means one draw does not change likelihood of other draws

Example

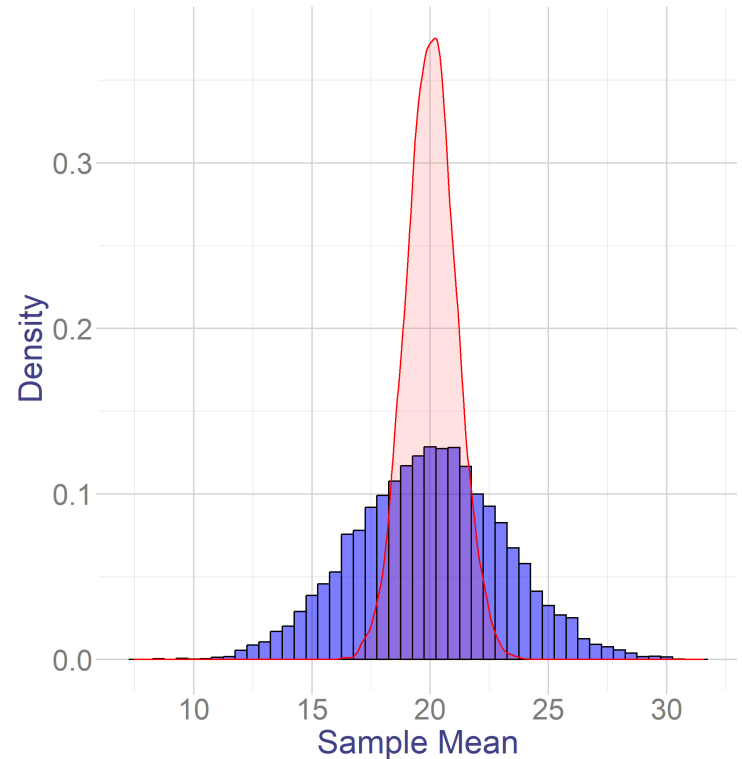
- Suppose you want to learn what's an average speed of internet in CDMX
- You choose at random the first apartment to measure the speed
- For the rest of the observations, you stay in the same building and measure at neighbors apartments

Central Limit Theorem

Suppose that this is the true distribution of speed:



- Speed across neighbors in the same building is likely correlated
- Observations are **not independent**
- Sampling distribution of the mean would look like this:



Sample Type ■ Correlated ■ Independent

Variance is wider than implied by CLT!

Normal Distribution

Consider the event that a customer who opened the DiDi app will call the car. Suppose X and Y represent the events that a customer calls a car in Cancun (X) and Puerto Vallarta (Y) respectively.

- X and Y are Bernoulli variables with probabilities 0.4 and 0.6 respectively
- Suppose you have a random (iid) sample of 100 customers opening the app from Cancun and 80 from Puerto Vallarta.
- What is the probability that more than 100 people will call the car?

Reminders

If $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ and c is a constant, then $X + c \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu + c, \sigma)$

If $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ and c is a constant, then $cX \sim \mathcal{N}(c\mu, |c|\sigma)$

If $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma_1)$ and $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma_2)$, then $X + Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2})$

What if I don't know σ

- Suppose that sales in stores are normally distributed with mean 200 and with unknown variance
- I want to take a sample of 80 stores and I want to know the probability that the average sales in a sample will be greater than 220

$$P\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{80} X_i}{80} > 220\right)$$

Ok, I know that according to central limit theorem

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{80} X_i}{80} \sim N\left(200, \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{80}}\right)$$

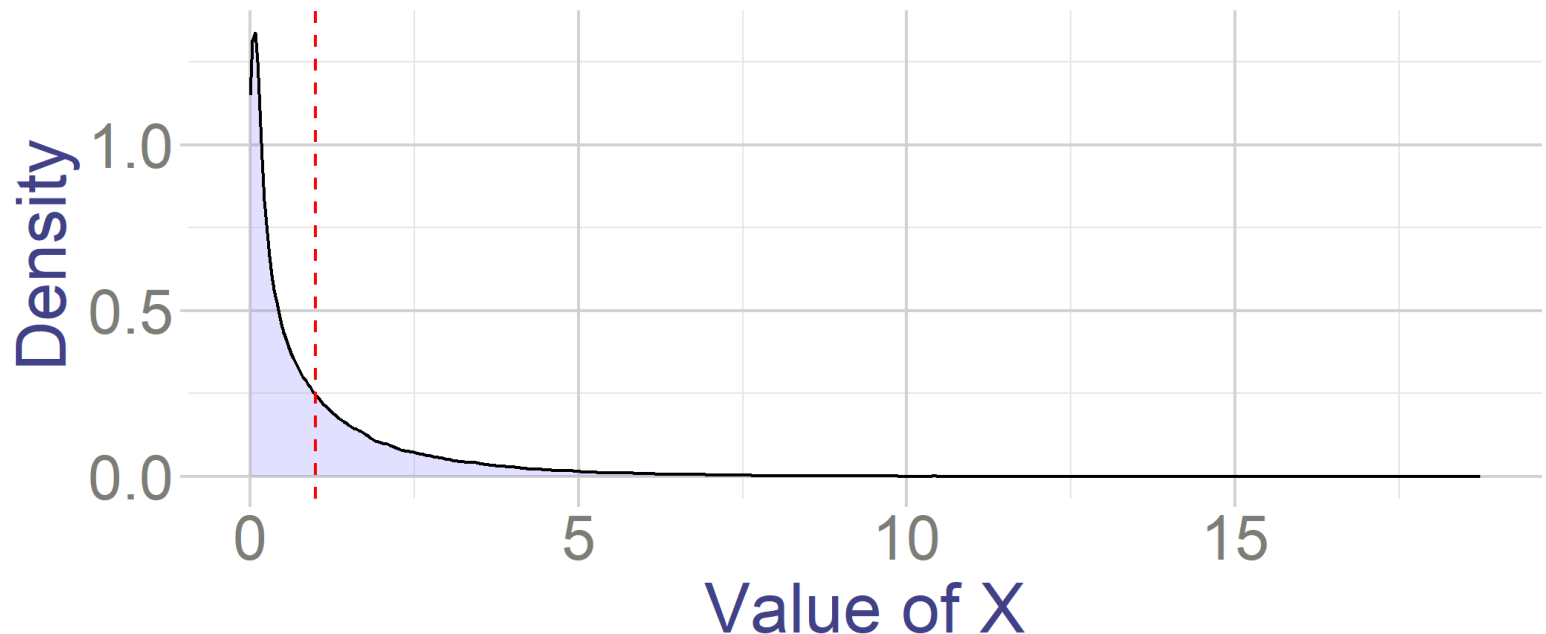
- But if I don't know σ how can I use it?
- We can use the sample standard deviation instead to estimate σ
- Since it is just an estimate, it adds uncertainty
- But if you have big sample, then you are really good at estimating standard deviation and the error is small
- So the distribution will still converge to normal, but you will need a bit more observations (say 50 rather than 40)

Standard deviation

- Great, sample means have normal distribution in large samples
- Can we say something about the standard deviation?
- If X_i is normal, then yes! Standard deviation will have **chi-square** distribution

From Normal to Chi-Square

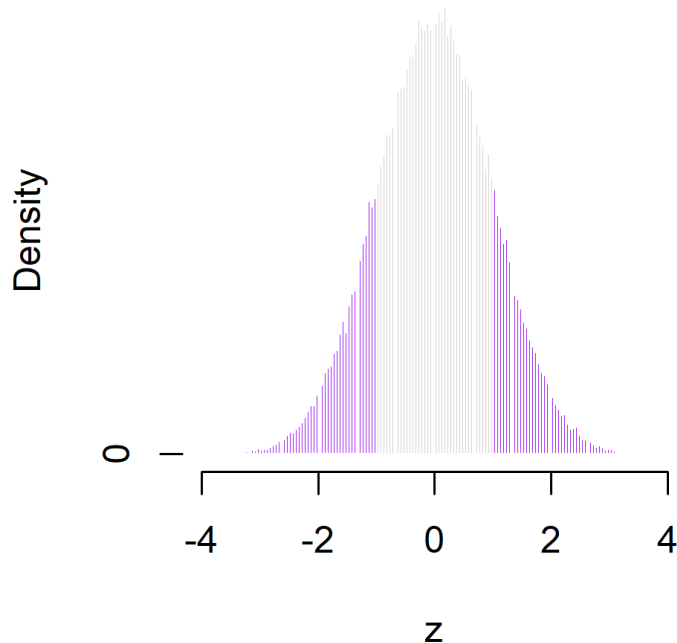
- We start with the standard random normal distribution $N(0, 1)$.
- The transformation $X = Z^2$ gives rise to the Chi-Square distribution with 1 degree of freedom $\chi^2(1)$.
- The expectation of $\chi^2(1)$ is $E[X] = E[Z^2] = \text{Var}(Z) + E[Z]^2 = \text{Var}(Z) = 1$
- The variance of $\chi^2(1)$ is $\text{var}(X) = 2$



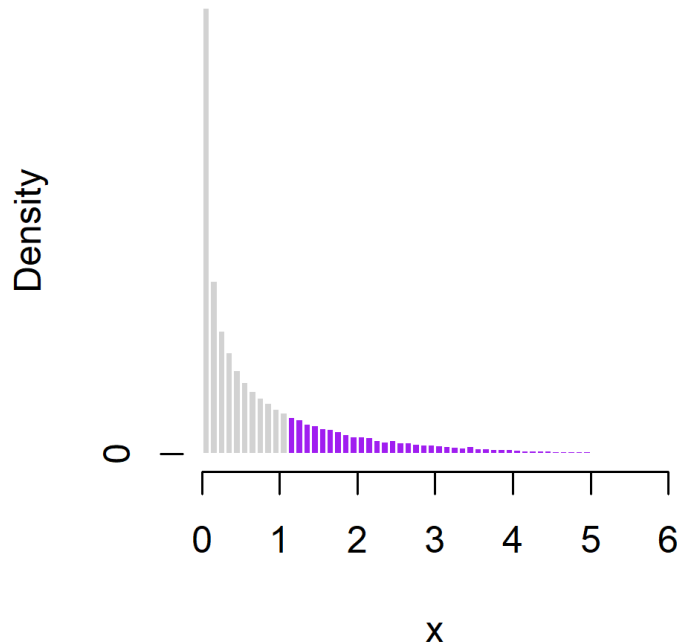
Visualizing the Connection

- The shaded areas represent probability that $X = Z^2 > 1$
- Where $X \sim \chi^2(1)$ and $Z \sim N(0, 1)$
- Shaded areas are the same in both graphs

Standard Normal

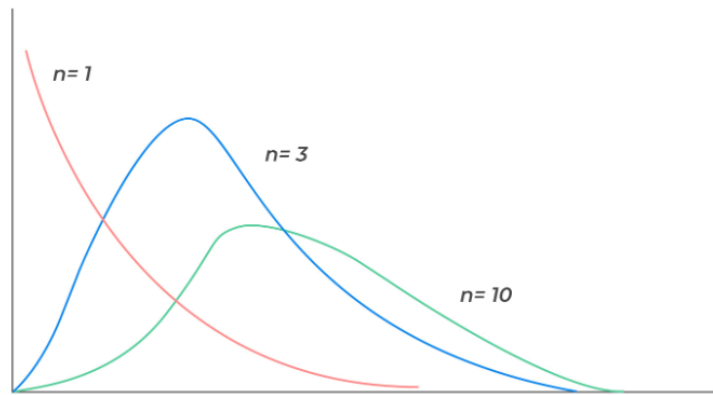


Chi(1)



Chi-Square and the Sum of Random Normals

- More generally, sum of n iid squared standard normal variables is distributed as Chi-Square with n degrees of freedom
- $\sum_n Z^2 \sim \chi^2(n)$
- The expectation of $\chi^2(n)$ is $E[X(n)] = E[\sum_n Z_i^2] = \sum_n \text{Var}(Z_i) = n$
- The variance of $\chi^2(n)$ is $\text{var}(X) = 2n$



- Why the shapes converges to normal with large n ?
- Because of CLT - it's sum of random variables

Exercises:

- Review Exercises:
 - PDF 3: 1,2,3,4,6,7(b),9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16
- Homeworks
 - Lista 00.1: 6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
 - Lista 00.2: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,16,17,18,19,