

χ^2 -distribution

It was initially discovered by Helmer in 1875 and was again defined independently in 1900 by Karl Pearson, who gave this notation also.

If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are n independent normal variates with means $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n$ and variances $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \dots, \sigma_n^2$, then the standard normal variates are

$$Z_i = \frac{X_i - E(X_i)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X_i)}} = \frac{X_i - \mu_i}{\sigma_i} \quad ; i=1, 2, \dots, n$$

The sum square of a standard normal variates is known as χ^2 -variate with n degree of freedom, i.e.

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{X_i - \mu_i}{\sigma_i} \right)^2$$

and its probability density function is given by

$$f(\chi^2) = \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} ; 0 \leq \chi^2 < \infty$$

Derivation of χ^2 -distribution

If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are n independent normal variates with means $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n$ and variances $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \dots, \sigma_n^2$, then the

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{X_i - \mu_i}{\sigma_i} \right)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i^2, \text{ where } Z_i = \frac{X_i - \mu_i}{\sigma_i}$$

Since X_i 's ($i=1, 2, \dots, n$) are independent, so Z_i 's ($i=1, 2, \dots, n$) are also independent, then the moment generating function of χ^2 about origin is

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\chi^2}(t) &= E[e^{t\chi^2}] \\ &= E\left[e^{t \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i^2}\right] \\ &= E\left[e^{t(Z_1^2 + Z_2^2 + \dots + Z_n^2)}\right] \\ &= E\left[e^{tZ_1^2} e^{tZ_2^2} \dots e^{tZ_n^2}\right] \\ &= E(e^{tZ_1^2}) \cdot E(e^{tZ_2^2}) \dots E(e^{tZ_n^2}) \\ &= M_{Z_1^2}(t) \cdot M_{Z_2^2}(t) \dots M_{Z_n^2}(t) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n M_{Z_i^2}(t) \\ &= [M_{Z_1^2}(t)]^n \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{Z_i^2}(t) &= E(e^{tZ_i^2}) \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tZ_i^2} f(Z_i) dZ_i \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tZ_i^2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}Z_i^2} dZ_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tZ_i^2 - \frac{1}{2}Z_i^2} dZ_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(1-2t)Z_i^2}{2}} dZ_i \\
 &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(1-2t)Z_i^2}{2}} dZ_i \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(1-2t)Z_i^2}{2}} dZ_i
 \end{aligned}$$

put $\frac{(1-2t)Z_i^2}{2} = T$

$$Z_i = \sqrt{\frac{2T}{1-2t}}$$

$$dZ_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{2T}{1-2t} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{2dT}{1-2t} \right) = \frac{dT}{\sqrt{2T(1-2t)}}$$

If $Z_i \rightarrow 0$ then $T \rightarrow 0$ and $Z_i \rightarrow \infty$ then $T \rightarrow \infty$, so

$$M_{Z_i^2}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-T} \frac{dT}{\sqrt{2T(1-2t)}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} \sqrt{1-2t}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-T} T^{-\frac{1}{2}} dT$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} \sqrt{1-2t}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-T} T^{\frac{1}{2}-1} dT$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} (1-2t)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} (1-2t)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \sqrt{\pi}$$

$$= (1-2t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{\chi^2}(t) &= [M_{Z_i^2}(t)]^n \\
 &= [(1-2t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}]^n = (1-2t)^{-n/2} = \left(1 - \frac{t}{\frac{1}{2}}\right)^{-n/2}
 \end{aligned}$$

which is the m.g.f. of gamma variate with parameters $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{n}{2}$.

Hence by uniqueness theorem of m.g.f. the

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{X_i - \mu_i}{\sigma_i} \right)^2$$

is a gamma variate with parameters $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{n}{2}$. Then the probability differential function of χ^2 is

$$\begin{aligned} dP(\chi^2) &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}}{\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} d\chi^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} d\chi^2; \quad 0 \leq \chi^2 < \infty \end{aligned}$$

Properties of χ^2 -distribution

proved

(1) Moment generating function

The moment generating function about origin is

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\chi^2}(t) &= E(e^{t\chi^2}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{t\chi^2} f(\chi^2) d\chi^2 \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{t\chi^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} d\chi^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} \int_0^\infty e^{t\chi^2 - \chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} d\chi^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-(1-2t)\frac{\chi^2}{2}} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} d\chi^2 \end{aligned}$$

put $(1-2t)\frac{\chi^2}{2} = T$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{2T}{(1-2t)}$$

$$d\chi^2 = \frac{2dT}{(1-2t)}$$

If $\chi^2 \rightarrow 0$ then $T \rightarrow 0$ and $\chi^2 \rightarrow \infty$ then $T \rightarrow \infty$, so

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\chi^2}(t) &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-T} \left(\frac{2T}{1-2t} \right)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \left(\frac{2dT}{1-2t} \right) \\ &= \frac{2^{\frac{n}{2}}}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} (1-2t)^{n/2}} \int_0^\infty e^{-T} T^{\frac{n}{2}-1} dT \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} (1-2t)^{n/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} = (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

The r^{th} moment about origin is

$$\mu'_r = \frac{\partial^r}{\partial t^r} [M_{\chi^2}(t)]_{t=0}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}\mu'_1 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [M_{\chi^2}(t)]_{t=0} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [(1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}}]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[-\frac{n}{2} (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}-1} (-2) \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[n (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}-1} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[n (1-0)^{-\frac{n}{2}-1} \right] = n = \text{Mean}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu'_2 &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} [M_{\chi^2}(t)]_{t=0} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \{M_{\chi^2}(t)\} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[n (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}-1} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[n \left(-\frac{n}{2} - 1 \right) (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}-2} (-2) \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[2n \left(\frac{n}{2} + 1 \right) (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}-2} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[\cancel{2} n \frac{(n+2)}{\cancel{2}} (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}-2} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \left[n(n+2) (1-0)^{-\frac{n}{2}-2} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= n(n+2)\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Variance} &= \mu_2 = \mu'_2 - \mu_1'^2 \\ &= n(n+2) - n^2 \\ &= \cancel{n^2} + 2n - \cancel{n^2} = 2n\end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\text{Variance} = 2(\text{Mean}) \quad (\text{since mean} = n)$$

(2) Mode Mode is that value of the variate for which $f(\chi^2)$ is maximum.
i.e., mode is the solution of

$$f'(\chi^2) = 0 \text{ and } f''(\chi^2) < 0$$

Therefore

$$f'(\chi^2) = \frac{d}{d\chi^2} f(\chi^2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\chi^2} \left[\frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \sqrt{\pi}} \frac{d}{d\chi^2} \left[e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[e^{-\chi^2/2} \left(\frac{n}{2} - 1 \right) (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-2} + (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} e^{-\chi^2/2} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right) \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(n-2)}{2} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-2} = \frac{1}{2} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-2}}{(\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}} = \frac{1}{(n-2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-2 - \frac{n}{2}+1} = \frac{1}{(n-2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\chi^2)^{-1} = \frac{1}{(n-2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \chi^2 = (n-2) = \text{mode value}$$

(3) Coefficient of Skewness

Karl Pearson's Coefficient of Skewness is

$$S_k = \frac{\text{Mean} - \text{Mode}}{\text{S.D.}}$$

$$= \frac{n - (n-2)}{\sqrt{2n}} = \frac{n - n + 2}{\sqrt{2n}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2n}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}$$

(4) Additive property The sum of independent χ^2 -variables is also a χ^2 -variate. In other words, if $\chi_1^2, \chi_2^2, \dots, \chi_k^2$ are k independent χ^2 -variables with n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k degree of freedom respectively, then the $\chi_1^2 + \chi_2^2 + \dots + \chi_k^2$ is also a χ^2 -variate with $n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_k$ degree of freedom.

Proof If $\chi_1^2, \chi_2^2, \dots, \chi_k^2$ are k independent χ^2 -variables with n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k degree of freedom respectively, then their mgfs are

$$M_{\chi_1^2}(t) = (1-2t)^{-n_1/2}$$

$$M_{\chi_2^2}(t) = (1-2t)^{-n_2/2}$$

$$\dots$$

$$M_{\chi_k^2}(t) = (1-2t)^{-n_k/2}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{(\chi_1^2 + \chi_2^2 + \dots + \chi_k^2)}(t) &= E[e^{t(\chi_1^2 + \chi_2^2 + \dots + \chi_k^2)}] \\
 &= E[e^{t\chi_1^2} \cdot e^{t\chi_2^2} \cdot \dots \cdot e^{t\chi_k^2}] \\
 &= E(e^{t\chi_1^2}) \cdot E(e^{t\chi_2^2}) \cdot \dots \cdot E(e^{t\chi_k^2}) \\
 &\quad (\text{Since } \chi_1^2, \chi_2^2, \dots, \chi_k^2 \text{ are independent}) \\
 &= M_{\chi_1^2}(t) \cdot M_{\chi_2^2}(t) \cdot \dots \cdot M_{\chi_k^2}(t) \\
 &= (1-2t)^{-n_1/2} (1-2t)^{-n_2/2} \cdot \dots \cdot (1-2t)^{-n_k/2} \\
 &= (1-2t)^{-(n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k)/2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Which is the m.g.f. of χ^2 -variate with $(n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k)$ degree of freedom. Hence by uniqueness theorem of m.g.f., $\chi_1^2 + \chi_2^2 + \dots + \chi_k^2$ is also a χ^2 -variate with $n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k$ degree of freedom.

proved

(5) Limiting property

χ^2 -distribution tends to a normal distribution as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof We know that the mean and variance of χ^2 -distribution with n degree of freedom is given by

$$E(\chi^2) = n \text{ and } \text{Var}(\chi^2) = 2n$$

then we define a standard χ^2 -variate

$$Z = \frac{\chi^2 - E(\chi^2)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(\chi^2)}} = \frac{\chi^2 - n}{\sqrt{2n}}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_Z(t) &= E(e^{tZ}) \\
 &= E\left[e^{t\left(\frac{\chi^2 - n}{\sqrt{2n}}\right)}\right] \\
 &= E\left[e^{\frac{t\chi^2}{\sqrt{2n}} - \frac{nt}{\sqrt{2n}}}\right] \\
 &= E\left[e^{\frac{t\chi^2}{\sqrt{2n}}} \cdot e^{-t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}}\right] \\
 &= E\left[e^{\frac{t\chi^2}{\sqrt{2n}}} \cdot e^{-t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}}\right] \\
 &= e^{-t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} E\left[e^{\frac{t\chi^2}{\sqrt{2n}}}\right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= e^{-t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} M_{\chi^2}\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2n}}\right)$$

$$= e^{-t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} \left(1 - \cancel{t} \cdot \frac{t}{\sqrt{2n}}\right)^{-n/2}$$

$$= e^{-t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} \left(1 - t\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right)^{-n/2}$$

taking log both the sides

$$\log M_Z(t) = -t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{n}{2} \log\left(1 - t\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right)$$

$$= -t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{n}{2} \left[-t\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}} - \frac{t^2}{2} \left(\frac{2}{n}\right) - \frac{t^3}{3} \left(\frac{2}{n}\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right) - \dots \right]$$

$$= -t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} + \left[t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} + \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t^3}{3} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right) + \dots \right]$$

$$= -\cancel{t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} + \cancel{t\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}} + \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t^3}{3} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right) + \dots$$

$$= \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t^3}{3} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right) + \dots$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \log M_Z(t) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t^3}{3} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right) + \dots \right]$$

$$= \frac{t^2}{2} + 0 + \dots$$

$$= \frac{t^2}{2}$$

Therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_Z(t) = e^{t^2/2}$$

which is the m.g.f. of standard normal variate. Hence by uniqueness theorem of m.g.f., standard χ^2 -variate tends to standard normal variate as $n \rightarrow \infty$. In other words, χ^2 -distribution tends to normal distribution as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Features of χ^2 -Curve

Proved

The Curve

$$f(\chi^2) = \frac{1}{2^{n/2} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} e^{-\chi^2/2} (\chi^2)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}; \quad 0 \leq \chi^2 < \infty$$

has the following main features:

- (1) The distribution has no parameter and its shape depends upon the degree of freedom.
- (2) When the degree of freedom is less than 2, i.e. $n \leq 2$, the density decreases very fast. $(n-2)$ is the mode value of the distribution. So for $n > 2$, it is always positively skewed. For $n=2$ it is exponential distribution.

- (3) Skewness decreases or the distribution becomes more and more symmetrical as the number of degree of freedom (n) increases.
- (4) The curve starts tangentially from the origin ($\chi^2=0$) rises to the maximum value (where χ^2 takes mode value) and then falls slowly to become again tangential at ∞ . The curve has no mode value for $n=1$

