

(3) Chi squared distribution

Let X and Y be independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$ random variables.

Define $Z = \min\{X, Y\}$. Show that $Z^2 \sim \chi_1^2$, i.e. show that the pdf of Z^2 is given by

$$f_{Z^2}(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot z^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot e^{-\frac{z}{2}} \cdot \mathbf{1}_{\{z>0\}},$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(Z < z) &= 1 - P(Z \geq z) = 1 - P(\min\{X, Y\} \geq z) = 1 - P(X \geq z \wedge Y \geq z) \\ &= 1 - P(X \geq z) P(Y \geq z) = 1 - \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\int_z^\infty e^{-s^2/2} ds \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$f_Z(z) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_z^\infty e^{-s^2/2} ds \left(-e^{-z^2/2} \right) = \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-z^2/2} \int_z^\infty e^{-s^2/2} ds$$

$g: \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ : z \mapsto z^2$ has got two right inverses, namely

$$h_-: (0, \infty) \rightarrow (-\infty, 0) : u \mapsto -\sqrt{u} \quad \text{and} \quad h_+: (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty) : u \mapsto \sqrt{u}$$

$h_-^{-1}(u) = -\frac{1}{2} u^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ and $h_+^{-1}(u) = \frac{1}{2} u^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, hence for all $u \in \mathbb{R}^+$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Z^2}(u) &= f_Z(\sqrt{u}) \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} + f_Z(-\sqrt{u}) \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-\frac{u}{2}} \int_{\sqrt{u}}^\infty e^{-s^2/2} ds \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} + \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-\frac{u}{2}} \int_{-\sqrt{u}}^\infty e^{-s^2/2} ds \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} u^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{u}{2}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-s^2/2} ds = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} u^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{u}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus, } f_{Z^2}(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} u^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{u}{2}} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}^+}(u)$$