

DGP:  $X_{11}, \dots, X_{1n_1} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} N(\theta_1, \sigma_1^2)$  independent of  
 $X_{21}, \dots, X_{2n_2} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} N(\theta_2, \sigma_2^2)$

Now we don't assume we know  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$  and we use the sample variances to estimate them.

$$S_1^2 := \frac{1}{n_1 - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (X_{1i} - \bar{X}_1)^2, \quad S_2^2 := \frac{1}{n_2 - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (X_{2i} - \bar{X}_2)^2$$

Under  $H_0: \theta_1 - \theta_2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\hat{\theta}_1 - \hat{\theta}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}} \sim T_{df} ? \quad \text{But no...}$$

↑  
degree of freedom

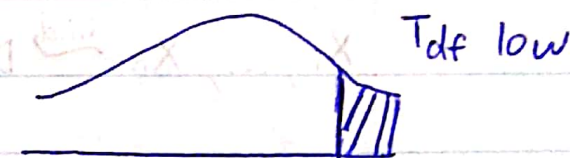
This was pointed by Behrens (1929) and Fisher (1935). Because they discovered this distribution, it's called the Behrens - Fisher distribution (and this is called the Behrens - Fisher problem).

$$\frac{\hat{\theta}_1 - \hat{\theta}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}} \sim \text{Behrens Fisher}(\dots)$$

In 1946 / 1947 Welch and Satterthwaite found a T approximation which is very good and still used today:

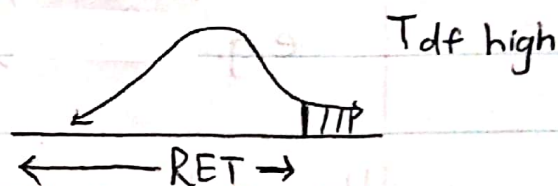
$$df = \frac{\left( \frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{\frac{S_1^4}{n_1^2(n_1-1)} + \frac{S_2^4}{n_2^2(n_2-1)}}$$

Using this  $T_{df}$  is known as Welch's T-test or "unequal variance T test".



(male)  $n_1 = 10$ ,  $\bar{X}_1 = 70.5$ ,  $S_1 = 2.07$

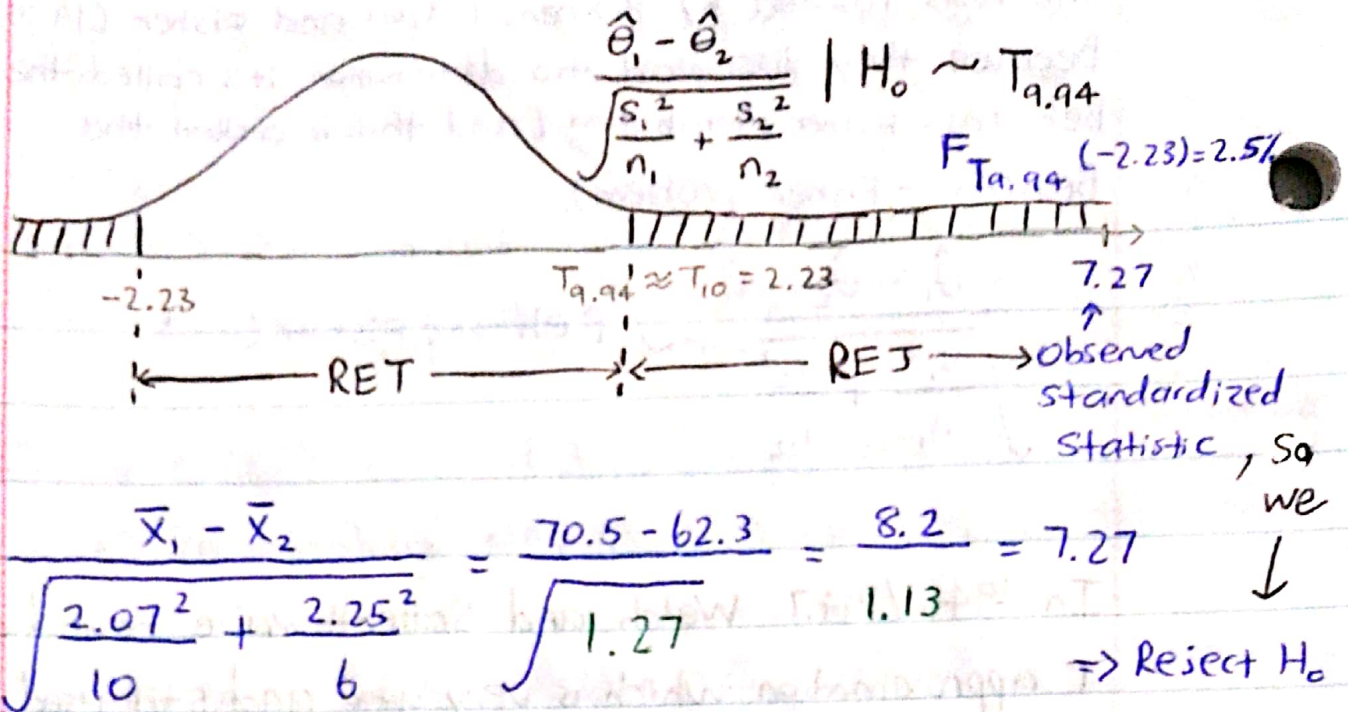
(female)  $n_2 = 6$ ,  $\bar{X}_2 = 62.3$ ,  $S_2 = 2.25$



$$\frac{\hat{\theta}_1 - \hat{\theta}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}} \sim T_{df} \rightarrow df = \frac{(1.27)^2}{\frac{2.07^4}{10^2(9)} + \frac{2.25^4}{6^2(5)}} = \frac{1.62}{0.163} = 9.94$$

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{2.07^2}{10} + \frac{2.25^2}{6}} = \sqrt{1.27} = 1.13$$





Midterm 1  $\uparrow$

Midterm 2  $\downarrow$

$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{DGP}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_K)$  where  $K$  is # parameters

We've previously seen estimators  $\hat{\theta} = w(X_1, \dots, X_n)$

e.g.  $\hat{\theta} = \bar{x}$ ,  $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum (X_i - \bar{x})^2$

How did we get this function  $w$ ? Where did it come from? There are many strategies to create estimators.

We know the DGP and we know which  $\theta$ 's we want to estimate. We now need an algorithm to generate  $w$ . The first we'll study is called "Method of Moments" (MM) and it was used by Karl Pearson in the late 1890's.

Def The  $k^{\text{th}}$  moment of a R.V. is  $E[X^k]$ .

The first moment is  $\mu_1 := E[X]$ , the second is  $\mu_2 := E[X^2]$ , etc.  
we define the "sample moments" as:  $\hat{\mu}_k := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k$

The first sample moment is the "sample average" (sample mean),

$$\hat{\mu}_1 = \frac{1}{n} \sum X_i = \bar{X}$$

Pearson's idea is to "match moments to parameters". If...

$$\mu_1 = \alpha_1(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$$

$$\theta_1 = \gamma_1(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$$

$$\mu_2 = \alpha_2(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$$

$$\text{and } \theta_2 = \gamma_2(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$$

$$\vdots$$
$$\vdots$$

$$\mu_k = \alpha_k(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$$

$$\theta_k = \gamma_k(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_j^{\text{MM}} = \gamma_j(\hat{\mu}_1, \dots, \hat{\mu}_k)$$

MM pretty much always gives you an estimator. But it is rarely a "great" estimator and sometimes produces totally wrong answers.

$$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} N(\theta_1, \theta_2)$$

$$\uparrow$$
$$\uparrow$$

we want the MM estimators for both  $\theta_1(\mu)$  and  $\theta_2(\sigma^2)$  in the i.i.d. normal DGP.

$$\theta_1 = E[X] = \gamma_1(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \mu_1 \Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_1^{\text{MM}} = \hat{\mu}_1 = \bar{X}$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = \theta_2 = \gamma_2(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \mu_2 - \mu_1^2 \Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_2^{\text{MM}} = \hat{\mu}_2 - \hat{\mu}_1^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum X_i^2 - \bar{X}^2 = \hat{\sigma}^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\sigma}^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum (X_i^2 - 2X_i\bar{X} + \bar{X}^2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum X_i^2 - \frac{1}{n} 2\bar{X}(\sum X_i) + \frac{1}{n} n\bar{X}^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum X_i^2 - \bar{X}^2 \end{aligned}$$



$X_1, \dots, X_n$  i.i.d.  $\text{Bin}(\theta_1, \theta_2)$  both  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  unknown  
 We want to estimate both  $\theta_1$  (which is commonly denoted  $n$ ) and  $\theta_2$  (which is commonly denoted  $p$ ).  
 Ecologists love this estimation problem because it's part of the "capture - recapture" problem to estimate population size of wildlife.

Each data point is the result of catching a certain # of fish in a time interval (e.g. 1 hr of fishing).  
 Once you catch a fish you re-bait and re-cast.  
 Every time a fish encounters the hook it's a  $\text{Bern}(\theta_2)$  that it bites and you catch it.

$\theta_2$  is the propensity to bite and  $\theta_1$  is the # of individual fish-hook encounters in the time period (e.g. 1 hr).

Let's develop MM estimators for both  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ .

Solve for  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$

$$E[X] = \mu_1 = \alpha_1(\theta_1, \theta_2) = \theta_1 \theta_2 \Rightarrow \theta_1 = \frac{\mu_1}{\theta_2}$$

$$\mu_2 = \text{Var}[X] + \mu_1^2 = \theta_1 \theta_2 (1 - \theta_2) + \theta_1^2 \theta_2^2 = \alpha_2(\theta_1, \theta_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \theta_1 \theta_2 - \theta_1 \theta_2^2 + \theta_1^2 \theta_2^2 \\ &= \frac{\mu_1}{\theta_2} \theta_2 - \frac{\mu_1}{\theta_2} \theta_2^2 + \frac{\mu_1^2}{\theta_2^2} \theta_2^2 \\ &= \mu_1 - \mu_1 \theta_2 + \mu_1^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mu_2 = \mu_1 - \mu_1 \theta_2 + \mu_1^2 \quad // \text{ solve for } \theta_2$$

$$\mu_2 - \mu_1^2 - \mu_1 = -\mu_1 \theta_2$$

$$\theta_2 = \frac{\mu_1^2 + \mu_1 - \mu_2}{\mu_1} = \frac{\mu_1 - (\mu_2 - \mu_1^2)}{\mu_1}$$

$$\theta_1 = \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_1 - (\mu_2 - \mu_1^2)} = \frac{\mu_1^2}{\mu_1 - (\mu_2 - \mu_1^2)}$$

$$\hat{\theta}_1^{MM} = \frac{\hat{\mu}_1^2}{\hat{\mu}_1 - (\hat{\mu}_2 - \hat{\mu}_1^2)} , \quad \hat{\theta}_2^{MM} = \frac{\hat{\mu}_1 - (\hat{\mu}_2 - \hat{\mu}_1^2)}{\hat{\mu}_1}$$

$$= \frac{\bar{x}^2}{\bar{x} - \hat{\sigma}^2} \quad , \quad = \frac{\bar{x} - \hat{\sigma}^2}{\bar{x}}$$

$$n=5, \bar{x} = \langle 3, 7, 5, 5, 6 \rangle \Rightarrow \bar{x} = 5.2, \hat{\sigma}^2 = 2.64$$

$$\hat{\theta}_1^{MM} = \frac{5.2^2}{5.2 - 2.64} = 10.56, \quad \hat{\theta}_2^{MM} = \frac{5.2 - 2.64}{5.2} = 0.49$$

$$n=5, \bar{x} = \langle 3, 7, 5, 11, 6 \rangle \Rightarrow \bar{x} = 6.4, \hat{\sigma}^2 = 10.56$$

$$\hat{\theta}_1^{MM} = \frac{6.4^2}{6.4 - 10.56} = -9.8, \quad \hat{\theta}_2^{MM} = \frac{6.4 - 10.56}{6.4} = -0.56$$

Obviously,  $n$  can't be negative and  $p$  must be a probability so these estimates are nonsensical. MM estimators are sometimes really bad... but they make for a nice place to start...