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of the sample median approaches 1 [4

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32.1.3. *The method of least squares:*

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32.1.4. Propagation of errors:

Consider a set of n quantities $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\theta_1 \quad \dots \quad \theta_n)$ and a set of m functions

Rejecting H_0 if it is true is called an error of the first kind. The probability for this to occur is called the *significance level*

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observed with the actual data. For example, if α is defined such that large values

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communicate as objectively as possible the result of the experiment;

provide an interval that is constructed to cover the true value of the parameter with a specified probability;

provide the information needed by the consumer of the result to draw conclusions about the parameter or to make a particular decision;

draw conclusions about the parameter that incorporate stated prior beliefs.

With a sufficiently large data sample, the point estimate and standard deviation (or for the multiparameter case, the parameter estimates and covariance matrix) satisfy essentially all of the following goals. For data sample size 343 (single)-3419 (each)-332d

32.3.1. *The Bayesian approach:*

Suppose the outcome of the experiment is characterized by a vector of data

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If a parameter is constrained to be non-negative, then the prior p.d.f. can simply be set to zero for negative values. An important example is the case of a Poisson variable which counts signal events with unknown mean

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This is illustrated in Fig. 32.3: a horizontal line segment $[x_1(\theta - \alpha), x_2(\theta - \alpha)]$ is drawn for representative values of θ . The union of such intervals for all values of θ , designated

ratio ordering

Table 32.1: Area of the tails α outside δ from the mean of a Gaussian distribution.

α (%)	δ	α (%)	δ
31.73	1σ	20	1.28σ

We can set a one-sided (upper or lower) limit by excluding above $+\delta$ (or below $-\delta$). The values of α for such are half the values Table 32.1.

In addition to Eq. (32.43), α and δ are also related by the cumulative distribution function for the χ^2 distribution,

$$\alpha = 1 - P(\chi^2; \nu) \quad (32.44)$$

for $\chi^2 = (\delta/\sigma)^2$ and $\nu = 1$ degree of freedom. Table 32.1(b) gives α for $\nu = 1$ and δ/σ from 0 to 10.

For multivariate measurements of, say, p parameter estimates $\hat{\theta} = (\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_p)$

log-likelihood functions $\ln L_i(\theta)$, then the combined log-likelihood function is simply the sum,

$$\ln L(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \ln L_i(\theta)$$

Table 32.3: Lower and upper (one-sided) limits for the mean ν of a Poisson

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