



Math for the people, by the people.

degrees of freedom

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The number of *degrees of freedom* of a <http://planetmath.org/Distribution3distribution> is the number of parameters that are used to the value of the distribution and are either known or assumed to be independent.

The following use degrees of freedom:

- chi-squared random variable
- chi-squared statistic
- F distribution
- non-central chi-squared random variable
- t distribution

Remark: The number of *degrees of freedom* has also a physical meaning related to the possible directions of motion of the system.