

# Economics 103 – Statistics for Economists

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Lecture 17

## Last Time

Confidence Interval for Population Mean:

$$\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qnorm}(1 - \alpha/2) \times \sigma / \sqrt{n}$$

Based on Assumptions:

1. The population standard deviation  $\sigma$  was known.
2. The population is normally distributed (bell-shaped).

## Today

What if population is normal but  $\sigma$  is unknown?

We Don't know  $\sigma$ . What to use instead?

$$\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qnorm}(1 - \alpha/2) \times \sigma / \sqrt{n}$$

What about Sample Standard Deviation  $S$ ?

$$P\left(-2 \leq \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \leq 2\right) = 0.95 \text{ ???}$$

Not Quite!

Although  $(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/(\sigma/\sqrt{n}) \sim N(0, 1)$ ,  $S \neq \sigma$ . In fact,  $S$  is an **estimator** of  $\sigma$  so it is a **random variable**!

# What is the sampling distribution?

Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$\boxed{\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \sim ???}$$

## First Step

What is the sampling distribution of  $S$ ?

# What is the Distribution?



Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . What is the distribution of this sum?

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2$$

- (a)  $\chi^2(n)$
- (b)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- (c)  $N(0, 1)$
- (d)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2/n)$
- (e)  $\chi^2(1)$

## Towards the Sampling Dist. of $S$

If  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 \sim \chi^2(n)$$

Now:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 =$$

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$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 = \left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) \left[ \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 \right]$$

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Anything look familiar?



## Sampling Distribution of Sample Variance

Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . Then whereas

$$\left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) \left[ \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 \right] \sim \chi^2(n)$$

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$$\left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) \left[ \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \right] = \left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) S^2 \sim \chi^2(n-1)$$

Ultimately, we will use this fact to work out the sampling distribution of  $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/S$ , but for now let's take a detour...

## 95% CI for Variance of Normal Population

We know that:

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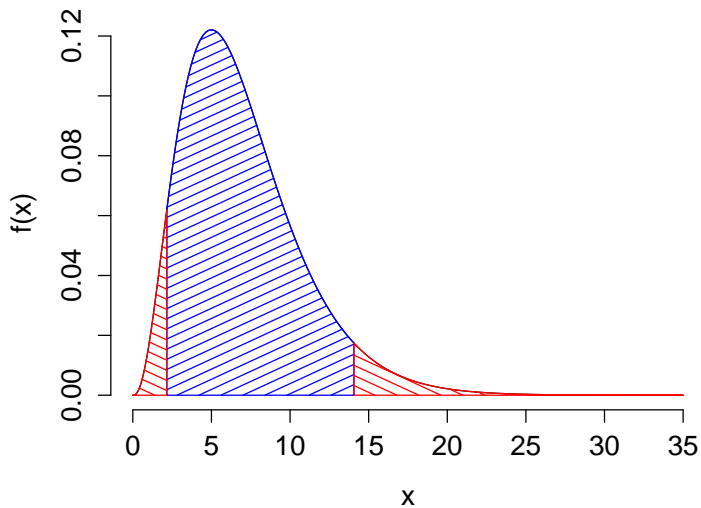
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Although there are many choices for  $a, b$  that would work, a sensible idea is to put 2.5% in each tail...





What R command should I use to calculate  $a$ ?



$$P \left[ a \leq \left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) S^2 \leq b \right] = 0.95$$

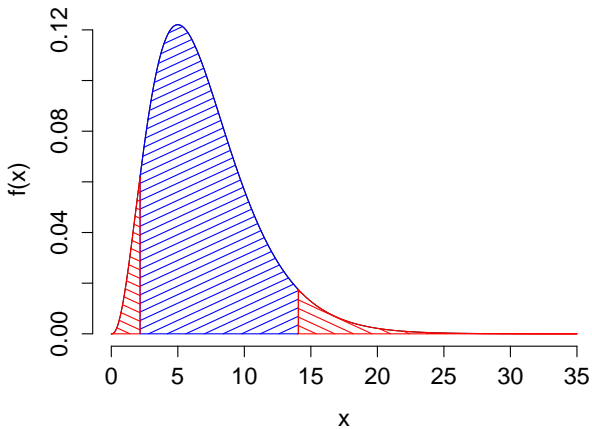
- (a) `qchisq(0.95, df = n - 1)`
- (b) `qchisq(0.025, df = n)`
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What R command should I use to calculate  $b$ ?



$$P \left[ a \leq \left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) S^2 \leq b \right] = 0.95$$

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a = qchisq(0.025, df = n - 1)
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This CI is *not* symmetric: it *doesn't* take the form  $\hat{\theta} \pm ME$ !

## Example: 95% Confidence Interval for Normal Variance

$X_1, \dots, X_{100} \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . Here  $n - 1 = 99$ , hence



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95% CI for  $\sigma^2$  is  $[3.3, 5.8]$ . What values are plausible?

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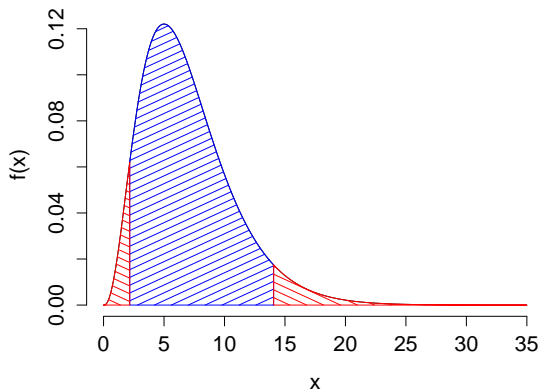
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The actual population variance in this case was 4

## Arbitrary Confidence Level: $(1 - \alpha)$



```
a = qchisq( $\alpha/2$ , df = n - 1)
```

```
b = qchisq( $1 - \alpha/2$ , df = n - 1)
```

## CI for Normal Variance

`a = qchisq( $\alpha/2$ , df = n - 1)`

`b = qchisq( $1 - \alpha/2$ , df = n - 1)`

$$P \left[ a \leq \left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) S^2 \leq b \right] = 1 - \alpha$$

$$P \left[ \frac{a}{(n-1)S^2} \leq \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \leq \frac{b}{(n-1)S^2} \right] = 1 - \alpha$$

$$P \left[ \frac{(n-1)S^2}{b} \leq \sigma^2 \leq \frac{(n-1)S^2}{a} \right] = 1 - \alpha$$

## CI for Normal Variance

Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and let:

$$a = \text{qchisq}(\alpha/2, \text{df} = n - 1)$$

$$b = \text{qchisq}(1 - \alpha/2, \text{df} = n - 1)$$

Then,

$$\left[ \frac{(n-1)S^2}{b}, \frac{(n-1)S^2}{a} \right]$$

is a  $100 \times (1 - \alpha)\%$  confidence interval for  $\sigma^2$ .

## End of Detour

We want to know the Sampling Distribution of  $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/S$  and we just saw that:

$$\left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) S^2 \sim \chi^2(n-1)$$

How can we use this fact to help us?

## What is the Sampling Distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/S$ ?

This slide is just algebra:

$$\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} =$$

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## Distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/\sigma$



Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $\bar{X}_n$  is the sample mean.

Then the sampling distribution of  $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/\sigma$  is

- (a)  $t(n)$
- (b)  $t(n - 1)$
- (c)  $\chi^2(n)$
- (d)  $\chi^2(n - 1)$
- (e)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- (f)  $N(0, 1)$
- (g)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2/n)$
- (h)  $F(n, n - 1)$

## Distribution of $(n - 1)S^2/\sigma^2$



Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $S^2$  is the sample variance.  
Then the sampling distribution of  $(n - 1)S^2/\sigma^2$  is

- (a)  $t(n)$
- (b)  $t(n - 1)$
- (c)  $\chi^2(n)$
- (d)  $\chi^2(n - 1)$
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- (f)  $N(0, 1)$
- (g)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2/n)$
- (h)  $F(n, n - 1)$

# What is the Sampling Distribution?



Suppose  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$  independent of  $Y \sim \chi^2(n - 1)$ . Then the sampling distribution of  $Z / \sqrt{Y / (n - 1)}$  is

- (a)  $t(n)$
- (b)  $t(n - 1)$
- (c)  $\chi^2(n)$
- (d)  $\chi^2(n - 1)$
- (e)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- (f)  $N(0, 1)$
- (g)  $N(\mu, \sigma^2/n)$
- (h)  $F(n, n - 1)$



## What is the Sampling Distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/S$ ?

From three slides back:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} &= \frac{\left( \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \right)}{\sqrt{\left[ \frac{(n-1)S^2}{\sigma^2} \right] / (n-1)}} \\ &= \end{aligned}$$

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Strictly speaking, need to show that numerator and denominator are independent, but you can take my word for it!

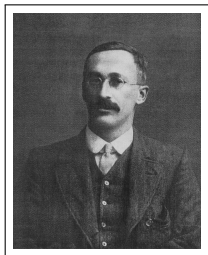
## Punchline: Sampling Distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu)/S$

If  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , then

$$\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \sim t(n-1)$$

# Who was “Student?”

“Guinnessometrics: The Economic Foundation of Student's t”



*“Student” is the pseudonym used in 19 of 21 published articles by William Sealy Gosset, who was a chemist, brewer, inventor, and self-trained statistician, agronomer, and designer of experiments ... [Gosset] worked his entire adult life ... as an experimental brewer for one employer: Arthur Guinness, Son & Company, Ltd., Dublin, St. James's Gate. Gosset was a master brewer and rose in fact to the top of the top of the brewing industry: Head Brewer of Guinness.*

## Three Key Sampling Distributions

Suppose that  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . Then:

$$\left( \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} \right) S^2 \sim \chi^2(n-1)$$

$$\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \sim t(n-1)$$

## CI for Mean of Normal Distribution, Popn. Var. Unknown

Same argument as we used when the variance was known, except with  $t(n - 1)$  rather than standard normal distribution:

$$P\left(-c \leq \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \leq c\right) = 1 - \alpha$$

$$P\left(\bar{X}_n - c\frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \mu \leq \bar{X}_n + c\frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = 1 - \alpha$$

$$c = \text{qt}(1 - \alpha/2, \text{df} = n - 1)$$

$$\boxed{\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qt}(1 - \alpha/2, \text{df} = n - 1) \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}}$$



# Comparison of CIs for Mean of Normal Distribution

$100 \times (1 - \alpha)\%$  Confidence Level

$$X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

Known Population Std. Dev. ( $\sigma$ )

$$\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qnorm}(1 - \alpha/2) \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Unknown Population Std. Dev. ( $\sigma$ )

$$\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qt}(1 - \alpha/2, \text{df} = n - 1) \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}$$

# Standard Error vs. Estimator of Standard Error

## Standard Error

Recall that the standard deviation of the sampling distribution of an estimator is called the *standard error* ( $SE$ ) of that estimator.

## Example: Standard Error of the Mean

$$SE(\bar{X}_n) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(\bar{X}_n)} = \sigma/\sqrt{n}$$

## Estimator of Standard Error of the Mean

Whereas  $\sigma/\sqrt{n}$  *is* the standard error of the mean,  $S/\sqrt{n}$  is an *estimator* of this quantity:  $\widehat{SE}(\bar{X}_n) = S/\sqrt{n}$

# Writing the CIs in terms of Actual and Estimated SE

$100 \times (1 - \alpha)\%$  Confidence Level

$$X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid } N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

Known Population Std. Dev. ( $\sigma$ )

$$\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qnorm}(1 - \alpha/2) \textcolor{red}{SE}(\bar{X}_n)$$

Unknown Population Std. Dev. ( $\sigma$ )

$$\bar{X}_n \pm \text{qt}(1 - \alpha/2, \text{df} = n - 1) \textcolor{red}{\widehat{SE}}(\bar{X}_n)$$

## Comparison of Normal and $t$ CIs

**Table:** Values of  $qt(1 - \alpha/2, df = n - 1)$  for various choices of  $n$  and  $\alpha$ .

$n$	1	5	10	30	100	$\infty$
$\alpha = 0.10$	6.31	2.02	1.81	1.70	1.66	1.64
$\alpha = 0.05$	12.71	2.57	2.23	2.04	1.98	1.96
$\alpha = 0.01$	63.66	4.03	3.17	2.75	2.63	2.58

Recall that as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $t(n - 1) \rightarrow N(0, 1)$

In a sense, using the  $t$ -distribution involves making a “small-sample correction.” In other words, it is only when  $n$  is fairly small that this makes a practical difference for our confidence intervals.

# Am I Taller Than The Average American Male?

Source: Centers for Disease Control (pg. 16)

Assuming the population is normal,

$$\bar{X}_n \pm qt(1 - \alpha/2, df = n - 1) \widehat{SE}(\bar{X}_n)$$

What is the approximate value of  
 $qt(1-0.05/2, df = 5646)$ ?

Sample Mean	69 inches
Sample Std. Dev.	6 inches
Sample Size	5647
My Height	73 inches

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{SE}(\bar{X}_n) &= s/\sqrt{n} \\ &= 6/\sqrt{5647} \\ &\approx 0.08\end{aligned}$$

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What is the ME for the 95% CI?

$$ME \approx 0.16 \implies 69 \pm 0.16$$