

Sample averages converge to population averages { example $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{P} \mu$ }.

What about the distributions of sample averages? Do they converge to anything?

In general, the actual distribution of any specific sample variable (statistic) $\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}(X_1, \dots, X_n, n)$ will have an actual distribution $q(\hat{\theta}) \equiv P[\hat{\theta} \in [\hat{\theta}, \hat{\theta} + d\hat{\theta}]]$, so $\hat{\theta} \sim q$ in principle is a function of $f(X)$ and sample size n . For example we calculate

- If $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) \equiv f(X) \rightarrow \bar{X}_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2/n) \xrightarrow{(*)} \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu) \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and $\frac{n\hat{\sigma}^2}{\sigma^2} \equiv \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi_{n-1}^2$
- If $X \sim \chi_1^2 \equiv f(X) \rightarrow \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu) \sim \sqrt{n}(\chi_n^2/n - 1)$

In general the sample distribution is not calculable even for known $f(X)$. Thus,

the next best thing is to examine whether it converges anywhere as $n \rightarrow \infty$...

A sequence of random $\{Z_1, \dots, Z_n\}$
with distributions $q_i(Z_i) \equiv P[Z_i \in [Z_i, Z_i + dZ_i]]$
converges in distribution to Z as $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$Z_n \xrightarrow{d} Z$$

if $q_i \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} q$ where $q(Z) \equiv P[Z \in [Z, Z + dZ]]$
is the distribution of Z

(*) In case $q(Z)$: degenerate $\{P[Z=c] \equiv 1\}$ then $Z_n \xrightarrow{d} c$ which equivalent to $Z_n \xrightarrow{P} c$
Thus whenever $Z_n \xrightarrow{d} c$, it means automatically that $Z_n \xrightarrow{P} c$ { a result of not great practical significance.